

MOKO



Presskit

Official Selection 2001:

Sundance Film Festival



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Production Notes

Writer: Jillian White
Director: Jillian White
Producer: Jillian White

Colour 10 minutes 35 mm 1:1.33 Dolby

Log Line

Although it is painful, it is a pain I can bear
Ahakoa, kei te mamae, kei te pai ahau

Synopsis

A ten minute documentary film that follows the journey of Maori Chief, Kingi Taurua receiving his full face Moko.

The film encapsulates the process, essence and renaissance of this ancient tradition.

About the Film

Moko (Maori facial tattoo) has been a Maori tradition since the beginning of time, becoming almost non-existent with the advent of colonisation.

In more recent years a renaissance has taken place in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Now, a ten minute documentary follows the journey of Nga Puhī Chief, Kingi Taurua, through his Moko. Kingi is filmed before, during and after the process.

The physical, spiritual and mental transformations are revealed in this visually exciting documentation.

Kingi Taurua, said he allowed the sacred ceremony to be filmed so Maori could be seen "in our element".

Producer/Director, Jillian White, said she wanted to document the process so more people could witness the beauty of the Maori culture.

"Maori representation on the screen, influences how we see ourselves and how our culture is viewed by others."

Credits

Crew

Writer, Director and Producer	Jillian White
Maori Advisor	Eruera Morgan
Camera	Norm Howard, Caroline Teh and Alberto Badymir
Sound	Jack Noser
Consultants	Chris Dudman, Norelle Scott and Raymond Hawthorne
Post Production Producer	Trevor Haysom
Editor	Norm Howard

The Director

Jillian White is a Maori woman film maker of Tuhoe, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Arawa and Ngati Porou descent.

She was a journalist in print, radio and television, before embarking on a Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts Degree - Majoring in Directing and Writing at Aucklands, UNITEC.

MOKO is the first film she has written, directed and produced. It was made as part of her final year of the BPSA.