

Official Selection in competition – Tampere Film Festival, Finland 2009
Official Selection- Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia 2009
Official Selection – Sprockets Toronto Film Festival for Children, Canada 2009

MOKOPUNA

Written and Directed
by Ainsley Gardiner



A potential friendship forces Mary to make a choice...

I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

Juliette Veber - NZ Film - PO Box 11 546 - Wellington - New Zealand
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NEW ZEALAND FILM

PRODUCTION NOTES

Director/Writer:	Ainsley Gardiner
Producer:	Glenis Giles
Production Company:	Whenua Films
Director of Photography:	Ginny Loane
Editor:	Dan Best
Sound Recordist:	Chris Hiles
Costume Design:	Amanda Neale
Post Production Sound:	Dick Reade
Screening Format:	35mm
Screen Ratio:	1:2.35
Length:	11mins
Year of Completion:	March 2009
Country of Production:	New Zealand
Language:	English
 Responsible for Sales:	 Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission, juliette@nzfilm.co.nz

11 mins / 35mm/ Colour/ Dolby Digital/ 1.2:35

LOGLINE

A potential friendship forces Mary to make a choice ...

ONE LINER

An encounter with a young Maori boy leads to a girl's curiosity about her cultural identity.

SYNOPSIS

Mary lives in middle class suburban New Zealand. After briefly befriending a young Māori boy at her school, she becomes curious about his culture and its relevance to her. But when he turns his curiosity onto her, it soon becomes clear that Mary is not quite ready to embrace her own roots.

FESTIVALS/AWARDS

2009 Tampere Film Festival, Finland
2009 Sprockets International Film Festival for Children, Canada
2009 Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand
2009 Dreamspeakers Film Festival, Canada
2009 'Best Short Film'- Dreamspeakers Film Festival, Canada
2009 Palm Springs Shortsfest, USA
2009 New Zealand International Film Festival, New Zealand
2009 Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia
2009 Giffoni Film Festival, Italy
2009 imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Canada
2009 Montreal First People's Film Festival, Canada

2009 Interfilm Berlin, Germany
2009 Corona Cork Film Festival, U.K.
2009 Encounters Short Film Festival, U.K.
2010 New York International Children's Film Festival, USA
2010 Viewfinders International Film Festival for Youth, Canada
2010 Magma Short Film Festival, New Zealand
2010 *Special Mention*- Magma Short Film Festival, New Zealand
2010 Cannes Cinephiles- Cinema des Antipodes, France
2010 Oi! Dunedin Mataraki Screenings, New Zealand
2010 Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand
2010 St Tropez Antipodes Film Festival, France
2010 Cinemagic Film Festival, Belfast
2011 Sukagawa Film Festival, Japan

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The word **MOKOPUNA** has two meanings in the Maori language. Firstly, it is the physical reflection of your face, secondly it is the word for grandchild or descendent. It suggests that we are a physical reflection of those who have gone before us.

The question at the heart of this story is captured in its dual meaning. How does one connect to all that have been before, how does one know who one is, and what it means to be that, when the face reflected in the mirror does not clearly show that? It is a story of literal reflections and my own emotional reflection to a time of my life when I first, and quietly, became aware of this curiosity in myself.

It is about that time of life when children cease to simply be, and start to question what it means to be. For Mary she does not consciously realise that her curiosity about Sam is about self-exploration. It is simply the first, non-momentous step in a life long journey to discover what it means to be Maori, to be Mary, and simply to be.

MOKOPUNA is a small and explicit story about the question of identity. I hope it is a film that will resonate with indigenous cultures around the world. Who are we? What does that mean? How do we fit in? But it is also a film that presents the same question to a non-indigenous, non-minority audience, searching for identity is a journey we all go on.

I hope this film encourages an audience to keep searching.

Ainsley Gardiner - Writer/Director

Ainsley has produced short and features films, television series, commercials and 3 children. As well as practical skills in production she has experience in script development and selection, editing and post production and a passion for creative producing. Mokopuna is her first foray into dramatic writing and direction.

In 2004 Ainsley established Whenua Films with Cliff Curtis; a production company founded on the premise that indigenous peoples have a story to tell and that proactive steps must be taken to ensure that these stories do not perish through neglect by the dominant cultures or through failure as an indigenous people to ensure the survival of their own rich heritage. In practice, she says, this means telling stories that come from the hearts of the storytellers.

Ainsley produced Taika Waititi's Oscar® nominated short "Two Cars One Night" and "Tama Tu" (Special Jury Prize at the Berlin Film Festival) and his first feature "*Eagle vs Shark*" in 2007, which pre-sold to Miramax for North American distribution.

After sitting in the producer seat for sometime now and having explored directing with the technology show "Cyberworld" and a documentary "Turangawaewae – A Place to Stand", Ainsley has embarked on her drama directing debut with this delightful story 'Mokopuna'. Filmed in Wellington during the windy month of October, Ainsley completed the film shooting prior to producing her third child! She has managed to fit it round presenting a programme of short films on Maori Television and other producing commitments.

"I came into this industry wanting to write and direct my own stories. I got a little side tracked with producing and 2 children and baby number 3 was threatening to postpone my aspirations yet again, so it was now or never really. Now that I've started though, I'm not sure I'll ever go back!"

www.whenuafilms.co.nz

Glenis Giles - Producer

Over the past nineteen years Glenis has worked in the independent film and television industry, as a producer, line producer and production manager. Her portfolio of work includes documentaries, film and television drama, children's television, commercials, music videos and theatrical short films. She has worked extensively in the production of television for youth and has produced ten theatrical short films including the successful and award winning short films *Song of the Siren*, *Shoes*, *Eau de la Vie*, *Room Tone* and *The Grocer's Apprentice*.

She co-developed and produced *Project Q* (finalist Japan Prize and Air NZ Screen Awards '06), a multi media childrens science series incorporating a 13 part television series, career DVD's and an interactive website. Entered in competition at The Banff Festival 2006.

In 2007 she produced the documentary '*Michael King – a moment in time*' with Director Clare O'Leary for the New Zealand International Film Festival. Glenis and Clare are involved with TVE a non profit organisation in London. With director Monika Ahuriri, they produced *Hope* a short film exploring the back-story as to why women have their children removed by the state and asks the question 'is there a better way'. *Hope* has screened as part of an international series with the theme "Women Count", produced by TVE (Television for the Environment) in association with BBC World. www.tve.org

Glenis continues to freelance in the industry, while developing her own projects. She is an active member of the New Zealand film industry. She Chaired the Wellington Fringe Film Festival, having been involved for nineteen of its twenty years. She produced a DVD for the 20th Anniversary of the Festival, a Fringe Retrospective of 20 films. She was a founding member of the WIFT Wellington executive, and is the current Wellington President (Women in Film and Television Inc).

"After so much television it's been fantastic to have this opportunity to work with Ainsley for Whenua Films on her first theatrical short and shooting on 35mm. It's a beautiful story that reflects a defining moment from her own upbringing and we look forward to seeing more of her work as a Director. We have been generously supported by many of our fellow film makers and their willingness to join us doing 'yet another short film' has been just fantastic."

glenis.g@paradise.net.nz

www.qteam.co.nz

Virginia "Ginny" Loane – Cinematographer

Virginia Loane (Ginny) is a director of photography who is fast gaining a reputation for mastering a diverse range of visual styles - working on exquisite high-end commercials, films, music clips and social documentaries.

Ginny's interest lies in projects that offer creative challenges and the opportunity to explore new creative avenues and subject matter. Recognized for her lateral creative approach, Ginny enjoys working closely with directors, supporting them in their professional and personal projects.

Last year she received two Qantas Film Awards for her work as DOP on *Song of Good* and Katie Wolfe's debut short film - *This is Her*. Ginny's other credits include the digital feature *Christmas*; and 35mm short films *Grandma*, *The Plant*, *We The Living*, and *Fog*, which premiered at the 2007 International Critics' week at Festival de Cannes.

Ginny has worked extensively as a DOP on commercials, music videos (including Goodshirt's clip 'Fiji Baby' for which she received the Kodak Best Cinematography Award) and has 12 years experience as a gaffer, working on feature films *River Queen*, *The Legend of Johnny Lingo*, *Snakeskin*, *River World*, and television series *Xena*, *Warrior Princess*.

Dan Best - Editor

Dan comes from a background in editing for television. Over the last fourteen years he's worked on a large variety of major productions for TVNZ, more recently including directing and producing prime time documentary stories for one of NZ's leading Current Affairs shows.

Dan has edited for a wide range of productions including comedy shows, short films, documentaries, live and recorded sports. As a Director he has guided network television productions in the fields of Current Affairs, Factual Reality and Sports.

Dan's editing work includes acclaimed documentaries such as the 'Sundays' coverage of the London Bombing, 'Assignments' look at the war in East Timor and the Prostitution Reform Bill, he also edited for McPhail and Gadsby's return seasons and more recently the short 'Groundhaus', a finalist in the 48hr Film festival.

'Mokopuna' is Dan's first film based drama as an editor.

Tina Cleary - Casting

My casting history spans over 17 years. During that time I've been lucky enough to cast and work on many NZ & International TV Dramas and Feature Films and I've cast too many commercials to remember! Some recent short films I've cast alongside 'Mokopuna' are 'Run,' 'Fog,' 'Choice Night' and 'Crossing The Line' directed by Peter Jackson. Recently I cast the Feature Film 'Second Hand Wedding' and the TV Drama 'Until Proven Innocent.'

A recent project of passion has been searching out young Maori children for the Feature Film 'The Volcano' by Taika Waititi, another Whenua Films project to be shot in 2009.

Working with Ainsley Gardiner is always a brilliant, creative, collaborative experience. She is one of the most intuitive directors I've worked with. Casting involved working with the angelic Loren Horsley to find great young actors who could fit Ainsley's brief.

It was unusual in that we were looking for that 'in between' ethnicity look for the lead girl. Often with casting you are looking to read a specific background in someone's face, so here was the challenge – to find someone who could come from many different places – who wasn't easy to read as either Maori or Pakeha. Our lead boy, in contrast, needed to read very clearly as Maori.

A beautiful film to cast and very rewarding to work on.

www.thecastingcompany.co.nz

MOKOPUNA CREDITS

Written and Directed by
Ainsley Gardiner

Producer	Glenis Giles Ainsley Gardiner
Cinematographer	Ginny Loane
Editor	Dan Best
Casting	Tina Cleary
Cast	
MARY	Francesca Morton
SAM	Haze Reweti
with	
MUM	Gentine Lupi
DAD	Julian Arahanga
NAN	Huia Lambie
LADY	Joan Foster
DOG	Nui
Co-producer	Pamela Harvey-White
Production Manager	Georgina Allison
Additional Editing	Taika Waititi
Sound Design	Dick Reade Tim Prebble
Assistant Sound Editor	Amy Barber
Music	Tom Dorman
1 st AD	Axel Paton
Cast Coach	Loren Horsley
Art Director	Simon Harper
Standby/Art Assistant	Cathryn Mazer
Wardrobe	Amanda Neale
Makeup	Frankie Karena
Camera Operator	Dave Garbet
Focus Puller	Charles Edwards
Clapper Loader	Andreas Mahn
Camera Assistant	Matt Henley
Gaffer	Adrian Hebron (Wookie)
Lighting Assistants	Saxon Ball Lee Scott
Key Grips	Murray Love Melissa Ririnui
Grip Assistant	Alan Morrison
Sound	Chris Hiles
Boom Operator	Tom Buys

Sound Assistant Tom Dorman
Continuity Veronique Lawrence
Continuity Trainee Theo Voiz
Makeup Assistant Bex Henley
Production Runner Rach Ropota
Unit Emma Davison
Caterers Nosh Catering

DI Post Facility Digital Post
Managing Director Garry Little
Online/Colourist Pete Williams
Titles/Dustbusting James Schoning
Sound Mix Facility Digital Post
Re Recording Mixer Bruno Barrett-Garnier

Post Laboratory Park Road Post
Sound Manager John Neill
Foley Recordist Robyn McFarlane
Foley Artist Caroline McLauchlin
Rushes Telecine Matt Wear
Lab Manager Brian Scadden

Scanning and Recording Weta Digital
Digital Imaging Manager Pete Williams
Digital Imaging Supervisor Nick Booth
Scanning & Recording Technician Daniel Ashton
Scanning & Recording Technician Stephen Roucher

Additional Cast

Bullies Hamish Johnson
Mathew Penman
Jackson Croft

School Children

Amelia Petrovich, Angus Morton, Daryl Rasmussen, Isla Graham,
Jacob Iwikau, James Shaw, Katie Musgrove, Kellee Candy,
Kezia Korshen, Leigh Rasmussen, Lucy McLean, Max Korshen,
Natalie Austin, Oska Rego, Rosie Graham, Ruby Moyes, Charlotte Wright

Stock Fuji Film
Lighting Truck Portsmouth
Grip Truck Love Your Grip
Camera Rubber Monkey/Panavision
Unit Intensive Care Unit
Locations Bridget & Alan Denham
Kate Faulks & Peter Lawson
Wadestown Junior School
Peter Pigou

THANKS TO:

Michelle Scullion, Larry Parr, Leonne Kassler, Dave Norris, Annie Frear,
Claude Dadsen, John Gilbert, John Bicknell, CBA, Ardy Matthews,
Chris Smailes, Sally Barrett & Bryan Gwilliam - Wadestown School,
Huia Lambie, Dallas O'Neill, Shannon Leef, Deighton Conder, Graeme Harvey,
Zoe and Matthew Harvey-White, Sally and Jono Morton, Steve and Lisa Reweti
Juliette Veber, Francene Blythe, Radio NZ National, Digital Post, Park Road Post

And as always the Wellington filmmaking community

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Cliff Curtis, Catherine Fitzgerald, Loren Horsley, Shuchi Kothari,
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SPECIAL THANKS TO

Mum, Dad and Bin
and for my girls, Mary, Paeumu and Amohaere
who will always know who they are.

International Sales NZ Film

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LOGOS: NZFC, SIPF, PORTSMOUTH, FUJI, NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

DOLBY, DIGIPOST, PARK ROAD POST

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