

Needles and Glass



Presskit



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Production Notes

Writer
Directors
Producers

Susan Thrasher
Miranda Harcourt and Rawiri Paratene
Mathew Low, Glenis Giles, Di Oliver-Zahl

Colour 11 minutes 35mm 1:1.85 Dolby Digital

Log Line

A fleeting memory holds the key to the past.

Co-director's biography

Miranda Harcourt

Diploma in Professional Drama, Toi Whakaari:
NZ Drama School

Synopsis

1948: A dying woman calls for a nurse. While ministering to the needs of the elderly patient, Sister Helena remembers watching her own mother die when she was 10. At the same time, Rua Kenana, a Maori prophet, visited her parent's farm. He brought his many wives and children to trade with the local Pakeha farmers.

Helena recalls the colours and sounds of these visitors. They contrast sharply with the never-ending parade of bereavement she has experienced since that day, first as a daughter and now as a nurse.

Yet the watchful nurse, who cares so tenderly for her patients has a secret, and her precious box of trinkets holds the key to that secret.

Based on a short story by Dame Fiona Kidman

Miranda is one of New Zealand's best known faces in the performing arts. Since graduating from Toi Whakaari she has explored all aspects of the performing arts, winning awards as an actor, a short film director and a stage director. She has worked extensively with the deaf community on self-devised theatre and with prison inmates on stage and screen.

Her long list of acting credits includes stage-work in all New Zealand's professional theatres (Verbatim, Arcadia, Skylight, A Doll's House, True), many series, dramas and documentaries on screen including Shortland St, Clare, Gloss and Cover Story. Hers is a familiar voice on radio and with her mother Dame Kate Harcourt, Miranda has toured all over the country with Flowers From my Mother's Garden, commissioned for the International Festival in 1998 and written by Stuart McKenzie.

Voiceover, her first short film as a director, won Best Short Film at the NZ Film and Television Awards. At the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards in 1998 she won Best Production for Much Ado About Nothing, her foray into stage directing.

Co-director's biography cont...

Since then she has directed at the Auckland Theatre Company, Downstage and Toi Whakaari.

She is perhaps best-known for her work with prison inmates on screen and stage in *Verbatim*, by William Brandt, co-devised by Brandt and herself, in which verbatim accounts of violent crime were knitted together in a searing 6-character monologue. Miranda has toured with *Verbatim* to prisons, theatres and festivals in the UK, the USA, Hong Kong and Australia, garnering rave reviews.

Toi Whakaari is pleased to welcome Miranda back into the school as Head of Acting. Since her time as a student at the school she has traveled many roads and picked up untold skills. The staff and students at the school look forward to benefiting from her knowledge.

Co-director's biography

Rawiri Paratene

Rawiri first stint at directing was *TE MOEMOEA* by Patricia Grace. It was part of the *E Tipu e Rea* series - a ground breaking series of Maori dramas made in 1989. The other directors were Don Selwyn who directed 'Variations on a theme...' a script he wrote; Riwia Brown who directed her own 'Roimata'; Joanna Paul who directed 'Eel' by Hone Tuwhare and Lee Tamahori who directed his first drama 'Thunderbox' by Bruce Stewart.

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TE MOEMOEA was the first drama recorded in Te Reo Maori and starred Zac Wallace and Temuera Morrison. When it aired it was simulcast with an English dub that played on National Radio.

Rawiri found the experience so scary he steered clear of directing for a while – that was until producer Matthew Low approached him with the script for *NEEDLES AND GLASS*. Rawiri found the story and the prospect of working alongside Miranda Harcourt so irresistible he couldn't turn it down.

Rawiri is currently developing another short film which he hopes to direct next summer.

MA TE WA Co-producer's Film Productions biography

MA TE WA FILM PRODUCTIONS

Ma Te Wa Film Productions - established in 1999 to develop Needles and Glass into a theatrical short. Adapted for the screen by Susan Thrasher from the remarkable short story by Fiona Kidman, Ma Te Wa has endeavoured to gather film industry professionals to bring this subtle human tale to the screen in a uniquely individual and beautiful way. Ma Te Wa is proud to be associated with Oliver Giles in this production, and also recognises its directors, Miranda Harcourt and Rawiri Paratene. Noteworthy is the heroism of Miranda Harcourt who has worked with tireless commitment and enviable youthful zest in the creation of the film.

The production company title 'Ma Te Wa' is a Maori term, incomplete of itself, but deriving specific meaning in a fuller context: "Ma Te Wa ka mohio ai tatou - In time we will understand".

Ma Te Wa producer, Mathew Low, was born and educated in Rotorua. Beginning his career in the media industry at TVNZ, part of the Kimihia Scheme, in the studio cameras and location film departments. Mathew has continued his involvement in the industry, as a news cameraman, short film maker, and now as producer for Ma Te Wa Film Productions. Mat considers himself 'Learner extraordinaire' on Needles and Glass, although admitting to not always being a straight A student! As part of the Talent Development initiative, Mat considers the opportunity provided by the NZ Film Commission for emerging Kiwi filmmakers a critical linchpin in our industry's ongoing success and uniqueness. He supports, wholeheartedly, the efforts (and bravery) to develop young inexperienced filmmakers into mature storytelling talent.

Mat would like to extend his warmest gratitude to everyone involved in the realisation of Needles and Glass

Co-producer's biography

OLIVER GILES PRODUCTIONS

Di Oliver and Glenis Giles were asked to join Ma Te Wa in the making of Needles and Glass due to the original production partner withdrawing from the project in the final hour.

Glenis and Di have been working in the independent film industry together and separately for fourteen years. They are well versed in film and television production. Between them they have produced twenty short films, documentaries, an Arts and Book TV programme, an interactive documentary, worked in various capacities on several feature films, commercials, and television dramas. Glenis is a founding member of the Wellington Fringe Film Festival. She has production managed several long running TV dramas while Di has specialized in new media technology and is currently completing her Masters of Communication at Victoria University.

Di and Glenis continue to work together developing feature films and enjoy supporting emerging film makers.

Credits

Cast

Helena	Perry Piercy
Young Helena	Amohia Dudding
Mrs Hardcastle	Glenis Levestam
Doctor	Tim Gordon
Mrs McGlone	Kathy McRae
Rua's Wives	Waimihi Hotere Olivia Falconer-Robinson Kayte Ferguson Fiona Collins
Rua's children	Alysha Collins-Wilson LeviKenny-Collins Jordan Faifai-Collins Zachariah Collins-Wilson Hiria Bell
also appearing	John Wraight Kirk Torrance Kirstie O'Sullivan

Crew

Writer	Susan Thrasher
Directors	Miranda Harcourt and Rawiri Paratene
Producers	Mathew Low, Glenis Giles, Di Oliver-Zahl
Cinematographer	Sharon Hawke
Production Design/Composer	Andrew Thomas
Editors	Emma Haughton and Richard Hobbs
Sound designer	Tim Prebble

Credits cont

Crew

Music composed and performed by	Andrew Thomas
Production manager	Karl Zohrab
1 st ad	Seamus Cooney
2 nd ad's	Angie Meiklejohn
	Max Kelly
Production assitant	Brendon Hornell
Production trainee	Ginger Flaws
Location manager	Peter Tonks
Unit manager	Bernadette Cooney
Continuity	Flora Wallace
Focus puller	Sandy-Lee Bell
Clapper loader	Jason Pipi
Gaffer	Kimberly Porter
Best boy	James Gray
Lx/Grip asst	Whare Davis
Grip	Graeme Tuckett
Stand-by props	Wayde Beckman
Art dept assitants	Tolis Papazoglu
	Andy Irving
Sound recordist	Paul Chattington
Boom operator	Sam Spicer
Wardrobe	Sarah Aldridge
Stand-by w/d	Kirsten Steele
Make-up	Paula Young

Credits cont

Crew

Make-up asst	Kirsty Fromont
Make-up asst	Lydia Sotheran
Stills photographer	Neil Pardington
Caterers	New City Restaurant
Safety officer	Maurice Lobb
Stock	Kodak NZ Ltd
Editing facilities	Kahukura Productions 2D Films
Post production sound	Tim Prebble, Substation
Dialogue editor	Polly McKinnon
Neg matcher	Upper Deck
Laboratory	The Film Unit
Colour grader	Lynne Seaman
Opticals	Brian Scadden
Sound mix	John Neill John Boswell
Title design and graphics	Luke Wood, Eyework Design

THE PRODUCERS WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Staff and Students Toi Whakaari – NZ Drama School
Preston*Laing Productions, Lower Hutt Hospital, Wingnut Films
Acting Safe, l’Affaire, Nic Smillie, Costume Cave
Theatrical Costume Hire, Robyn Payne, Joy Payne, Chris Webb
Eyework Design, Kate Harcourt, Stuart McKenzie, Catherine Fitzgerald