

PATU IHU



PRESS KIT

A LIFE LESSON AND A GAME OF CARDS

A film by Summer Agnew

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
Tel +64 4 382 7686 - Fax +64 4 384 9719 - juliette@nzfilm.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND FILM



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Format:	35mm
Film Ratio:	2:35:1 (Cinemascope)
Sound:	Dolby Digital (SRD)
Video Format	Ratio: 16:9 Full Height Anamorphic
Running Time:	14mins 20secs (Plus credits)
Country of Production:	New Zealand
Date of completion:	2008
Director:	Summer Agnew
Producer:	Angela Littlejohn
Production Company:	Maxim Films Limited

Sales:	Juliette Veber
	New Zealand Film Commission
	Email juliette@nzfilm.co.nz
	Tel: +64 4 382 7686
	Fax: +64 4 384 9719

35mm / Colour / Dolby Digital (SRD) / 15mins / 2:39:1 (Cinemascope)

Logline

A life lesson and a game of cards.

Short Synopsis

A young man must confront the reality of death through the experiences of life.

Synopsis

To escape the sorrow of a tangi (funeral) a young boy finds refuge in a card game taught by his uncle.

The boy, now a young man, is confronted with the death of a loved one and explores his memory of the uncle's game.

For the boy, the tension and delight of the unusual game seem a welcome distraction from torment at the hands of his cousins, but when the tables turn on his uncle the boy is awakened to the possibility of loss.

The memory of the game and the lesson learned from his uncle provides the young man respite from the profound grief of his uncle's passing and allows him time to reconcile his feelings of loss and say farewell.

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

2007 SPADA Young Filmmaker of the Year- Summer Agnew (for his work developing 'Patu Ihu')

2008 New Zealand International Film Festivals

2008 MIC Homegrown, New Zealand

2008 Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand

2008 *Audience Choice Award*- Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand

2008 Matariki Film Festival, New Zealand

2009 Magma Short Film Festival, New Zealand

2009 Dreamspeakers Film Festival, Canada

2009 Hawaii International Film Festival, USA

2009 Show Me Shorts, New Zealand

2009 Corona Cork Film Festival, U.K.

2010 20th Annual Cinequest Film Festival, USA

2010 Soho International Film Festival, USA

2010 Athens Film festival, Greece

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

SUMMER AGNEW

In any culture a tangi (funeral) reminds us that the relationship between life and death is intricate. A tangi is when the living and the dead come together equally, in the whare nui (meeting house) to ensure the safe passage of the spirit of the deceased to the afterlife. Maori belief is that those who have died are always with the marae and that the recently dead are released into the care of the long dead. It is also a vital time for the living to mourn their loved one and for the spirit of the dead to be released from its earthy bindings.

Once the body is buried and mourning is completed the spirits return to the afterlife and the living are able to move out into the world where life continues with the knowledge that their loved one has moved on.

In *Patu Ihu* the communal scenario of the tangi is secondary to the personal narrative of the bond between a child and his uncle. The film focuses on the relevance of one person's loss of that bond and how they deal with that profound moment in their life, in a community where life and death are so intertwined.

I wanted the film to feel like a chance witnessing of a moment in the narrative of a life that is continuing to unfold, rather than the story of an event that defined a life. So the film is book-ended by images of the natural world, of life outside the immediate narrative of the film. It was important to me that Narks moved out into that world with his life continuing, even though our eye has moved away from him.

CREDITS

Director/Co Writer Summer Agnew

Summer Agnew grew up in a commune in Auckland's Waitakere ranges. After fleeing a conservative boys high school he graduated from the Elam School of Fine Art 2002. He was then awarded funding from the New Zealand Screen Innovation Production Fund to make the documentary film *Minginui*, which he filmed in collaboration with fellow Elam graduate Adam Luxton over a year and a half in Te Urewera. *Minginui* screened at the Brisbane International Film Festival 2005, the New Zealand International Film Festivals 2005, the DOCNZ film festival 2005, and in 2007 was exhibited at the Auckland Art Gallery auditorium as part of the public art programme.

In 2003 Summer founded the music video production entity www.thepyramidscheme.com in collaboration with 3D animator Dylan Pharazyn

and with the aim of pushing the technical boundaries of the medium and exploring the possibilities of modern filmmaking practice.

In 2006 Summer directed *Lets get Inventin* for TVNZ which won the Qantas New Zealand Television Award for Best Children's & Youth show in both 2006 and 2007, and was recently named the 2007 SPADA Young New Zealand filmmaker of the year.

Summer is passionate about film and is committed to a feature career bringing New Zealand stories and characters to an international audience.

Co- Writer Warren Beazley

Pouerua te Maunga
Ngatokimatawhaorua te Waka
Nukutawhiti te Tangata
Ngapuhi te Iwi
Pouerua is the Mountain
Ngatokimatawhaorua is the vessel
Nukutawhiti is the man
Ngapuhi is the tribe

Warren grew up in Kaikohe, a small town in rural Northland New Zealand. He has an interest in the social structures within the family unit and its surrounding communities. *Patu Ihu* was Warren's first attempt at writing while studying for a Bachelor of Arts and it brings to life a small piece of his childhood. *Patu Ihu* is a game that has been played by members of his family for at least 3 generations, and it has become somewhat of a right of passage within the family. Warren's wish is to continue to write to enrich people with his perspective on life.

Producer Angela Littlejohn

Prior to returning to New Zealand in 2000 Angela spent 15 years in the UK working in the Film and Television industry. For the last six years, she worked for Channel Four Television as Deputy Co-Production Executive for 'Film on Four' and Programme Finance Manager for 'Drama Series and Serials'.

During this period she was responsible for all production and financial matters relating to Channel Four's investment of up to 20 theatrical films a year, the majority of which were co-productions. Films included *Trainspotting*, *Brassed Off* & *Welcome to Sarajevo*. In 1997 she took responsibility for over 50 hours of TV drama commissioned by Channel Four, as well as the long running series *Brookside* & *Hollyoaks*.

Since returning to New Zealand, Angela has formed the production company Maxim Films with producer Rachel Gardner to develop an approach to film and television production that will result in a sustainable flow of feature films, digital

films, television drama, and documentaries for theatrical distribution and television broadcast, both in New Zealand and abroad.

As a producer, Angela co-produced the UK telefeature *Not Only But Always*, starring Rhys Ifans, which has been nominated for two BAFTA's in 2005 including Best Picture and Best Actor. Over the last two years she has Executive Produced six short films through the New Zealand Film Commission's short film fund scheme and has been developing a slate of feature film projects with both writers and directors.

Currently Angela is producing a 1 hour documentary *Disabled people can't dance* and a feature film *Show of Hands* directed by Anthony McCarten and in association with the NZ Film Commission and Television New Zealand.

Director Of Photography Ian McCarroll

Ian is an intuitive cinematographer with an exquisite eye for detail. After far too many years of tertiary study, Ian made the break into the film industry. Between focus pulling jobs on *The Frighteners* and *Lord of The Rings among others* Ian was continually shooting music videos for New Zealand's best bands. Since 1994 Ian has shot around 100 clips for musicians including Dimmer, The Checks, Nesian Mystik and the award winning Mint Chicks. He has shot scores of TVC's for clients such as Schweppes, Nike, Galaxy, Nintendo and Buick, however it is film where Ian's true passion lies and he has leant his talents to several shorts including *Knife Shift*, *Rope* and *Poroporoaki*.

This extensive body of work, often exploring minimal light scenarios has allowed Ian to perfect a low impact style of lighting a scene. As a result his work has an honest, natural feel that made him the ideal choice to film Patu Ihu.

Editor Peter Roberts

Peter has been in the film industry for over thirty years, having trained in London in the 1970's. Arriving to live in New Zealand 23 years ago he has since edited every kind of film and television project possible; features, television drama and documentary, short films and commercials. Peter was involved in setting up the first Avid editing suites in New Zealand in the early nineties, and in recent years Peter was the first editor in New Zealand to see an entire 35mm feature film, *50 Ways of Saying Fabulous* (2005) directed by Stewart Main, through a completely digital grade, and amongst the first to edit an HD drama series for television, *Rude Awakenings* (2007), directed by Geoff Cawthorn, Peter Berger and Garth Maxwell. He has three sons, two of whom are fully trained in the edit suite, but unfortunately are now travelling overseas.

Composer Max Scott

Max Scott took to music from an early age, recording his first songs at the tender age of 2 to cassette tape. Throughout the years the technology has changed but the desire to create has remained the same. He began writing music and doing

audio post-production for short films during his time at Auckland University, where he completed his Masters in Recording and Sound Design with First Class Honours in 2004. Max has also played various instruments in numerous bands since his teens and continues to do so today. He is currently working as a full time composer and Sound Designer at Liquid Studios where the work ranges from TVCs films to TV series.

Executive Producers Sarina Pearson & Shuchi Kothari

Shuchi Kothari is a screenwriter, producer and academic. She has written several films including the recent shorts *Clean Linen* (2006), and *Coffee & Allah* (2007). Her feature screenplay *Apron Strings* (co-written with Dianne Taylor) is currently in production in New Zealand.

Sarina Pearson is a producer and an academic. She became interested in film as an undergraduate at the University of California, Santa Cruz, went on to study at the University of Southern California, and completed her PhD in Film, Television and Media Studies at the University of Auckland where she is currently a lecturer. Sarina has produced both documentaries, including *A Taste of Place: Stories of Food and Longing* for TVNZ (2001), as well as dramatic short films including *Fleeting Beauty* (2004), *Clean Linen* (2006), and *Coffee & Allah* (2007).

FULL CREDITS

CAST

Young Narks

Kohonui Joshua Wilcox

Pakaru

Calvin Tuteao

Desiree

Merekatene Simpson

Jon Boy

Louis Kemara

Sissy

Noa Campbell

Older Narks

Taungaroa Emile

CREDITS

Director

Summer Agnew

Producer

Angela Littlejohn

Writers

Warren Beazley

Summer Agnew

Executive Producers

Shuchi Kothari

Sarina Pearson

Co-Producer

Chelsea Winstanley

1st Assistant Director Robyn Grace

Production Co-ordinator Desray Armstrong

Director of Photography

Ian McCarroll

Focus Puller

Brendan Holster

Clapper Loader

Sam Bailey

Video Split

Daphne Groves
Pickups DOP
Andy McGeorge
Behind the Scenes
Scott Lee
Stills Photographer
Dominic Fryer
Sound Recordist
Aaron Davis
Additional Sound
Jeffrey Holdaway
Continuity
Lydia Sakshi
Gaffer
Gilbert Lawrence

Best Boy
Merlin Wilford
Electricians
Sam Jellie
Kerry Peck
Production Designer
Miro Harre
Props Standby
Elliott Naimie
Art Dept Assistant
Allan Tripp
Construction
Brian Gravatt
Graphics
Simon Elson
Costume Designer
Lucy McLay
Make Up Artist
Carla Banks
Production Runner Georgia Horgan
Chaperone
Tui Walters
Set Runner
Michael Robins
Unit Manager
Robert Johnston
Editor
Peter Roberts
Sound Designer
Max Scott
Foley Artist & Music
Matt Scott
Catering
Otiria Rugby Club

Security
Nga Puhi in Action
Lighting
FAT Lighting
Casting facilities
Catch Casting
Camera
Panavision
Film Stock
Fuji Film
Film Processing
Film Lab Limited
Telecine Transfer
Digi Post
Rental Cars
Henderson Rentals
RT's
Radio Waves
Editing Facility
RPM Pictures
Sound Design Studio Liquid Studios

Digital Scanning& Recording
Nick Booth, Pete Williams
WETA Digital
Film Laboratory
Park Road Post Production
Upper Deck Film Services
Reiner Schoenbrunn
Laboratory Coordinator Peter Amies
Laboratory Liaison
Andy Wickens
Colour Grader
Lynne Reed
DI Client Manager
Jon Newell
HD Colourist
David Hollingsworth
Sound Mixer
John Boswell
Park Road Producer Wendy Cuthbert
Facilities Coordinator Peti Nohotima
Visual Effects Facility
Perceptual Engineering
Flame Operator
Mike Robinson
Titles Design
Dylan Pharazyn
Negative Matching

Upper Deck Film Services
Reiner Schoenbrunn
Sara King
Credits
Wynter Blathwayt

Extras

Chyvonne Johnstone, Taungaroa Emile Jnr, Emily Cherrington, Mary Toi , Mary Owen, Emma Hou,

Teawe Wharerau, Uncle Wayne, Kera Cherrington, Libby Harris, Shiralee Beazley, Pieta Harris, Nikki Dawn Harris and Carlie Harris

“ **Nga Puawai O Ngapuhi** ” written by Piripi Cope Performed by Whanau of Otiria Marae

**In association with
the Short Film Fund of the
New Zealand Film Commission**

