

PIKOWAE



Presskit



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Production Notes

Writer	Vanessa Rare
Director	Vanessa Rare
Producer	Adrienne Rikihana
Production Company	Ngawaka Productions

Colour	12mins	35mm	1:1:85	Dolby Digital
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Log Line

Two men, a dodgy car deal, and sacred land.

Director's Notes

Synopsis

Rua and Petree enter the Desert Road as the sun begins to drop in the sky, heading for Pikowae – a central North Island town. They're intending to pick up a car - and make a run for it – easy money, no problem.

Arriving at the sign post for PIKOWAE, they wait for the other party to arrive. As the sun falls, tensions arise - two men who don't know each other very well, stuck in the middle of nowhere. The deal's taking too long and Petree's got ulterior motives. Rua, a very cool and collected man, lets Petree wallow in his own anger.

As they wait, in the dark and cold of the Central Plateau, an old man walks out of the darkness and asks to wait in their car. With him comes a scent of older and hidden things. What angered Petree beforehand now becomes fear. Then the old man disappears into the night. Petree convinces Rua it's time to get out of this creepy place.

But when they try to leave, the land and its spirits won't let them go. Not until the price is paid.

Sacred land... or Tapu, as Maori put it.

This is a world where ritual and prayer is the only formidable respect that will pave our way. Respect of where we are standing. Respect for the events of the past. Respect for whatever immortal spirit waits for the ignorant.

For the ignorant, there is no turning back once tapu is broken. It can only bring about a fate that doesn't hear "sorry", there is no reverse, just the outcome of old.

And so...

Rua needs to do a run into the desert to pick up a car. No questions, don't want to know if it's dodgy. It's a quiet understanding between Rua and his car man. It's an expensive car so there will be a big pay at the end of the job.

Petree's happy. He's been included as the 2nd driver and it's a quick and easy earn. One days drive, then back home before night fall. But is that all that's on Petree's mind...

Rua knows Petree can be a loose cannon. He's young, lippy, arrogant and impatient.

Once things don't go according to plan, Petree reacts under the pressure of the job going wrong. But he's confident because he's still got his back up plan.

Director's Notes cont...

Rua knows something is amiss, but calmly continues to play the cat and mouse game with Petree.

What Petree is unaware of is exactly where they are, or more to the point, what land they are standing on and the secrets it holds.

Director's comments

"So long as I can touch people's lives with my stories and images, I'm happy, and I'll continue to search for enlightenment enabling me to do this in a unique way".

Director's biography

DIRECTOR: Vanessa Rare
TRIBES: Tamatera, Tamatepo,
Tuwhakairiora

Vanessa has a background in acting, her first film being the lead in a feature in 1989, called Ruby and Rata. She then went on to do another feature in 1990, called Te Rua. She has always had a love of acting.

In 1994 Vanessa's interests went beyond acting into the writing arena. She studied for 2 years at Auckland University doing Literature and Television & Film.

Director's biography cont....

Needing to go further into the world of film-making, Vanessa did two 12 week courses on Screenplay which brought about the making of her first short film "Koa means Joy", which she wrote and directed in 1997.

Upon realising how important it was for Maori to be able to tell their own stories, Vanessa continued to write scripts. Bringing her to her next project, "The Blue Line", a half-hour drama written for a Television series called "Mataku", which she also directed.

Then came a very important project to Vanessa's heart - "Pikowae". A film that all told, took 2 years to complete and was to be shot on 35mm, on location in the Central North Island desert in New Zealand. This is something that Vanessa longed to do ever since her decision to write and direct. To be able to capture the New Zealand environment on 35mm film, partnered with a thriller short film.

Since then, Vanessa has made another "Mataku" drama called "The God Child". This series will be broadcast on New Zealand Television in October 2002.

Vanessa is intrigued by the thriller genre and very passionate about the mystique that lies within this genre. She also enjoys writing what she directs and believes that if one is able to take the story from the screenplay and enhance it on screen, that the job has been done well. And the enhancement comes from the emotion that is written on the page.

Credits

Cast

Rua	Calvin Tuteao
Petree	Karl Drinkwater
Manu Kai-Kiko	Robin Kora

Crew

Screenplay Written and Directed by	Vanessa Rare
Producer	Adrienne Rikihana
Executive Producer	THE Film Ltd
	Trevor Haysom
Director of Photography	Paul Samuals
Editor	Pat Monaghan
Art Director	Clayton Ercolano
Sound Design	Chris Burt
Music	Frank Marinthe
First Assistant Director	Andrew Sorenson
Sound Recordist	Dave Madigan
Wardrobe/Make-up	Peter Sweeney
Key Grip	Sean Ambler
Lighting Director	Marc Mateo
Stop Motion Camera	Dan Monaghan
	Ulric Raymond
Stills	Kirsty Griffin