

2007 Official Selection – Generation
57th Berlin International Film Festival
Official Selection – International Competition
2007 Tampere Film Festival

HAWAIKII

Written by Tere Harrison



PRESS KIT

A father and daughter take their first steps into a foreign world.

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

PRODUCTION NOTES

Writer	Tere Harrison
Director	Mike Jonathan
Producer	Libby Hakaraia
Production Company	Chain of Title Films Ltd

35mm Dolby Digital Colour 11 mins 1:1.185

LOGLINE

A story of a young girl's attempt to find her identity in a new world and her father's efforts to support her.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Hawaikii

For a young Maori girl it's the first day at school, first day without the security of her parents. Raised with Māori culture as her basis she is about to enter a foreign environment with little or understanding of their culture nor they of hers.

The anxiety of surviving or being accepted in this foreign world is so high that she suffers withdrawal.

For someone so young she is aware of adult things such as poverty and stress. She understands her family's lack of material wealth and the economic limitations they live within.

Her father is a hard working man who provides as best as he can for his family but money is always tight. Employed as a railway worker he and his family live in a railway cottage in a railway community. He has been raised in the old ways of Maori culture and raises his children accordingly.

This family is not wealthy but they have something more valuable than money, they have love for each other and a love for their culture and its stories.

No Hawaikii oku tipuna
(My ancestors descended from Hawaikii)

FESTIVAL AWARDS

2006 Best Short Drama Award – ImagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts Festival, Canada

2006 Pure Source Mud Award for Excellence in Drama – Magma Short Film Festival, Rotorua, New Zealand

2006 Park Road Post Award for Best Overall Film – Magma Short Film Festival, Rotorua, New Zealand

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

2006 ImagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts Festival, Canada

2006 Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand

2006 Telecom New Zealand International Film Festival, New Zealand

2006 Short Fuse Film Festival – Moving Image Centre, New Zealand

2006 Magma Short Film Festival, Rotorua, New Zealand

2007 Official Selection – Generation, 57th Berlin International Film Festival, Germany

2007 Official Selection – International Competition, Tampere Film Festival, Finland

2007 Giffoni Film Festival, Italy

2007 Taipei Film Festival, Taiwan

2007 Official Selection – International Children's and Youth Film Competition – 53rd Oberhausen International Shortfilm Festival, Germany

2007 Vladivostok International Short Film Festival 'Pacific Meridian', Russia

2007 Palm Springs International Short Fest, USA

2007 Louis Vuitton International Film Festival, Hawaii

2007 Hawaii Lahaina Film Festival, Hawaii

2007 Hana Film Festival, Hawaii

2007 Molokai Film Festival, Hawaii

2007 Mill Valley Film Festival, USA

2007 Show Me Shorts Film Festival, New Zealand

2007 Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, Canada

2007 Prague Short Film Festival, Czech Republic

2008 Santa Barbara International Film Festival, USA

2008 Alaska Native Film Festival, USA

2008 Cleveland International Film Festival, USA

2008 Palm Springs Festival of Native Art, USA

2008 Film and Video Showcase of the First Peoples' Festival PRÉSENCE AUTOCHTONE, Canada

Maori culture today

Every culture has its stories and its heroes. In recent years Maori culture has also had its share of anti heroes on the big screen and none more so than Jake the mus in *Once Were Warriors*. Whilst this film reflected the very real pressures on Maori families who have lost their cultural connections, the alcoholism, violence and child abuse it is not the experience of all families.

The portrayal of a strong Maori father in the media is a rarity. *Hawaikii* is based on a true story and for many Maori and non Maori this portrayal of a proud father who cherishes his wife and children will resonate.

WRITERS NOTES

I was seven or eight when given a school project "*build something that shows transport in your family*" I remember the strain of watching my fellow classmates talk about holidays in boats and planes even a family car, for me this wasn't a reality. Our main forms of transport were public buses, trains or the rusty old Holden Kingswood.

The realisation that my whanau (family) weren't wealthy was a sad and harsh reality for a young child.

I remember waiting for my Dad's but one look at his weary body told me I couldn't add my troubles to his. I began to withdraw at school and my confidence waned.

Finally I waited up especially late for Dad. I climbed on his knee and blurted out my dilemma. He didn't say a word, just listened as I released my problems to his heart.

Oh the joy the next morning when I found a koha (gift). It wasn't just a school project nor was it an answer to a child's problem it was a lesson of love, an ancient love.

The pride on my face, my peers' faces and my teacher's face as I took my place at school has remained with me to this day. I understood that love and cultural pride were more expensive than any material possession and my whanau were wealthy.

No Hawaikii oku tipuna
(My ancestors descended from Hawaikii)

-Tere Harrison
Ngati Porou, Ngati Kahungunu

HAWAIKI

Hawaikii is a wonderous place for Maori it is both real and mythical. Often referred to as the homeland, from where the old ones came in great voyages, it is also where Maori say our spirits return. From birth to death, Hawaikii holds a surreal and real place in our culture.

Ki Hawaikii nui, Hawaikii roa, Hawaikii pamamao

(The old Hawaikii, The long Hawaikii, the distant Hawaikii)

Director BIOGRAPHY – Mike Jonathan

Date of Birth – 20th March 1974

Born – Taumarunui, North Island, New Zealand

Bio

Mike has worked in the television Industry for the past 12 years as a DOP, Editor and Director. He has worked in all aspects of production for local and overseas television networks. Mike specializes include Documentaries, reality, shows, music videos, commercials and Drama. Mike is the director of his Rotorua based company Haka Boy Films and aim's to generate more overseas film and television productions to be made in New Zealand. As an indigenous filmmaker from Tainui/Te Arawa Tribes of New Zealand he is passionate about sharing Maori stories to the world. Hawaikii is Mike's directing debut, it certainly won't be his last.

Filmography

Hawaikii is Mike Jonathan's first short film.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES – WHENUA & CHAIN OF TITLE FILMS

WHENUA FILMS LTD was started in 2005 by Cliff Curtis and Ainsley Gardiner. Cliff, a talented character actor, came home from Hollywood with the expectation that after ten years away the Maori Film Industry would be flourishing with a diverse range of characters for him to play! The reality inspired him to start a company devoted to creating a home for indigenous storytelling, that would in turn encourage an aspect of the industry informed by tikanga Maori –Maori culture.

Ainsley Gardiner was in the process of securing funding for Taika's second short, *Tama Tu*, and was also inspired to change the direction of Maori filmmaking in NZ.

Whenua Films Ltd's business plan is 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 our own failure as indigenous peoples to take steps to ensure the survival of the rich heritage that it ours. This includes supporting different narrative and stylistic structures that arise from who and what we are.

The company is currently post producing its first feature film and developing 2 other features as well as executive producing 3 short films. The aim is to fast track writing in creatively and culturally relevant environments, effectively infusing the script with the principles that will be followed through from its development to its production.

CHAIN OF TITLE FILMS LIMITED was set up by Libby Hakaraia, Tere Harrison and Mike Jonathon in 2005 to produce HAWAIKII.

It is the culmination of three creative people who identified fully with the script for *Hawaikii* as a part of their individual childhoods.

PRODUCER BIOGRAPHY

Libby Hakaraia is of **Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Toa Rangatira** and **Te Ati Awa** descent. She has a background in radio and television journalism and current affairs before beginning work in television documentaries 10 years ago.

Libby has directed or produced 14 prime time documentaries in New Zealand including two award winning programmes. In recent years Libby has directed and produced a number of different series for television including 26 episodes on finding ones Maori roots (Tatai Hono) for Maori Television. This is Libby's first role in film.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BIOGRAPHIES

AINSLEY GARDINER is of **Te Whanau-A-Apanui, Ngati Pikiiao** and **Ngati Awa** descent. She began her involvement in film in 1995 with the Avalon Film and TV production course. The course included work placement with Kahukura Productions, one of NZ's most prolific film production companies. She maintained a close affiliation with them including producing many of the company's projects, which has seen her emerge as one of New Zealand's most promising young producers.

As well as producing 3 features before she was 28, she also produced a 26 episode comedy for television. She has also produced short films and worked on commercials, shorts and corporate videos in production and as an assistant director for other companies.

As a creative producer she is closely involved with script and story development as well as casting and talent development. She has recently directed a documentary "Turangawaewae - He Korero" and a technology series "Cyberworld" for the Maori Television Network. She is also currently developing her own scripts.

CLIFF CURTIS is of **Ngati Pikiiao of Te Arawa** descent. A graduate of New Zealand's premiere acting school, Toi Whakaari, Cliff's film career has been prolific. He has worked with New Zealand's and Hollywood's finest, from Vincent Ward, Lee Tamahori and Geoff Murphy locally, to Ted Demme, Frank Darabont and Martin Scorsese internationally.

His decision to return home was initially to continue his acting career making films from his own experiences and background. What has transpired is that his skills as an actor in character, story and script, and as a communicator and deal-maker better suited at this time to the generation of those sorts of projects.

KEY CAST

New Zealand
Tamahine
Papa
Mama
Hannah
Teacher

Orewa Wilson Lawrence
Te Kohe Tuhaka
Marama Emery
Hannah Tukapua
Lucy Cook

CREW

Writer	TERE HARRISON
Director	MIKE JONATHON
Producer	LIBBY HAKARAIA
Executive Producers	AINSLEY GARDINER & CLIFF CURTIS
Production Manager	HUIA LAMBIE
Producers' Assistants	LARA NORTHCROFT DALLAS O'NEILL
Crew Assistant	TIHINI GRANT
1 st Assistant Director	SONNY ARAHANGA
2nd Assistant Director	JUNE OSBOURNE
Continuity	MINA MATHIESON
DOP	MATT MEIKLE
Camera Operator	DANA LITTLE
Focus Puller	LEE ALLISON
Clapper Loader	KYLIE PLUNKETT
Video split	MICHAELA MCGUIRE
Gaffer	HINEKAA MAKO
Best Boy	MARK NEWNHAM
Lighting Assistants	CRAIG FERRAND CHRIS CHANDLER TAIPOUA ADAMS RYAN O'DONNELL
Key Grip	JENS NORMAN
Assistant Grip	CHRIS EMERRE
Sound Recordists	PAUL CHATTINGTON
Boom Operator	RICHARD MORRISON
Art Director	BEN WHALE
Art dept assistant	MARJORIE MARSHALL
Art dept runner	LISA LAWRENCE
Key Makeup	JAIME-LEIGH MCINTOSH
Makeup Assistant	MOANA SADLER
Wardrobe Mistress	ALICE BAKER
Wardrobe Assistant	LISA LAWRENCE
Locations Manager	HINEKAA MAKO
Catering	STEVIE RAE HORNE
Coffee	

Location	HAVANA
	NGAIO SCHOOL
	SILVERSTREAM RAILWAY MUSEUM
Camera Equipment	METRO FILMS
Grip Equipment	LOVE YOUR GRIP
Lighting Equipment	THE LIGHTIN' UP COMPANY
Vehicles	PAUL SAWTELL, FILM TRANSPORT CO
Editor	MICHAEL JONATHAN
Original Music	RIO HEMOPO & DAVE WHITEHEAD
Sound Editor	HAYDEN COLLOW
Sound Facilities	PARK ROAD POST
Re recording mix	MIKE HEDGES
Digital Imaging	PARK ROAD POST
Film Post Facilities	PARK ROAD POST
Telecine	PARK ROAD POST
DI Colourist	DAVID HOLLINGSWORTH
DI Facility Manager	Jon NEWELL
IQ online editor	VANESSA TAYLOR
2K scanning	NATALIE DEEKS
Facilities Co-ordinator	TRACEY BROWN