

Best Fiction Short Film – Melbourne International Film Festival 2005
1st Prize, Short Film Competition – Stockholm International Film Festival 2005
1st Place, Best Live Action – Palm Springs International Short Film Festival 2005
2nd Place Audience Award – National Geographic All Roads Festival 2004
Special Jury Prize Honourable Mention – Panorama Berlin International Film Festival 2005
Jury Award - Aspen Shortsfest 2005
Coopers Award for Best Film –Flickerfest 2006



Tama Tū

Written and Directed
By Taika Waititi

PRESSKIT



Even at war...boys will be boys.

www.tamatu.co.nz

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

PRODUCTION NOTES

Director
Producers
Production Company

Taika Waititi
Cliff Curtis & Ainsley Gardiner
aio films limited

35mm Dolby Digital Colour 18mins 1:2.35

LOGLINE

Even at war...boys will be boys.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Tama Tū (Sons of Tū: The God of War)

6 Maori Battalion soldiers wait for night to fall in the ruins of a ruined Italian home. Forced into silence they keep themselves amused like any boys would, with jokes and laughter. As they try and ignore the reminders of war around them, a tohu (sign) brings them back to the world of the dying.

They gather to say a karakia (prayer) to unite their spirits before they head back into the dark of war.

28 (Maori) Battalion

Every culture has its stories and its heroes. For us, the men of the 28 (Maori) Battalion are legendary. These were soldiers who owed no allegiance to a flag but fought and died in their thousands because they were warriors at heart. When they fought they fought for their own lands and their own families, and whilst they encountered racism from their own within the army, their name and their faces became legendary on both sides of the War.

There have been numerous books written and documentaries made on the 28 (Maori) Battalion. *Tama Tū* is the first drama told of our men and that war. What's more, it is not a typical, sombre war story. It captures the humour and heart of these soldiers as well as the tragedy of the time. It is a tribute to all of those soldiers of 28 Battalion who were lost and to the mana (status) and lives of those who were not. It is a film made by us for them that we now take to the world in their honour.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This is not a film about war, it is a film about the vitality of life.

With *Tama Tū*, I wanted to capture the feeling that in the darkest of situations there are some events that stand out, brief moments that show how we humans seek out the light, the joy in life, regardless of our surroundings or situation.

The story of the soldiers is simple. They are a bunch of young men, all Maori, from rural New Zealand (possibly some are related), who have a special bond, strengthened by their character, their culture and each other. They are a tight unit, they know each other and care for each other, they are brothers, but most of all, they are young boys.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Taika is of Te-Whanau-a-Apanui descent and hails from the Raukokore region of the East Coast. He has been involved in the film industry for several years, initially as an actor, and now focusing on writing and directing.

As a performer and comedian, Taika has been involved in some of the most innovative and successful original productions seen in New Zealand. He regularly does stand-up gigs in and around the country and in 2004 launched his solo production, "Taika's Incredible Show". In 2005 he will stage the sequel, "Taika's Incrediblerer Show". As an actor, Taika has been critically acclaimed for both his Comedic and dramatic abilities. In 2000 he was nominated for Best Actor at the Nokia Film Awards for his role in the Sarkies Brothers' film "Scarflies".

He currently has 3 feature films in development. He will be attending the Sundance Writers Lab in January 2005 with *Choice*, a feature loosely based on the hugely successful *Two Cars, One Night*.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES – AIO & DEFENDER FILMS

AIO FILMS LTD was started in early 2004 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.

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

Aio Films Limited'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 developing 3 first features, including Taika Waititi's, due to start production in 2005. 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.

DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED was started by Taika Waititi and Ainsley Gardiner in 2003 to produce TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT. The nature of the process, the spirit in which the film was shot and the subject matter that has been key to making TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT such a beautiful short are all key to the philosophies and aspirations of DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED.

DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED, primarily involved in the development of Taika and Ainsley's films, is now working in tandem with AIO FILMS LTD.

With *Two Cars, One Night* an Academy Award nominee 2005, international attention is focussed on this exciting creative team and their companies.

PRODUCERS BIOGRAPHIES

AINSLEY GARDINER is of **Te Whanau-A-Apanui, Ngati Pikiāo** 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 Pikiāo 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.

FESTIVAL AWARDS:

2004 2nd Place Audience Award - National Geographic All Roads Festival, USA
2005 Best Fiction Short Film - Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia
2005 Honourable Mention in Short Film Making - Sundance Film Festival, USA
2005 Special Jury Prize, Honourable Mention, Panorama - Berlin Film Festival, Germany
2005 Special Jury Prize - Aspen Shortsfest, USA
2005 Linda Mabalot New Director's/New Visions Award - VC LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA
2005 1st Place, Best Live Action – Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, USA
2005 Honourable Jury Mention – St Tropez Film Festival, France
2005 1st Prize, Short Film Competition – Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden
2006 Coopers Award for Best Film at Flickerfest 2006 – Flickerfest, Australia
2006 Audience Choice Award – Magma Short Film Festival, Rotorua, New Zealand

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

2004 National Geographic All Roads Festival,
2005 Berlin International Film Festival, Panorama Section, Germany
2005 Sundance Film Festival-Official Selection, USA
2005 Martha's Vineyard Independent Film Festival, USA
2005 Message Sticks Film Festival, Sydney, Australia
2005 Worldwide Film Festival, Toronto Canada
2005 Melbourne International Film Festival – Official Selection, Australia
2005 Hawaii International Film Festival, Hawaii
2005 VC LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA
2005 Indianapolis International Film Festival, USA

2005 Aspen Shortsfest, USA
2005 Museum of Modern Art-Sundance Screening, New York, USA
2005 Newport Beach Film Festival, USA
2005 Los Angeles Film Festival, USA
2005 Heard Museum Film Festival, USA
2005 Montreal International Film Festival, Canada
2005 The New Zealand Film Festival, New Zealand
2005 Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia
2005 Motovun Film Festival, Croatia
2005 Cinema Jove, Spain
2005 Provincetown Film Festival, USA
2005 Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand
2005 Edinburgh International Film Festival, Scotland
2005 Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA
2005 Palm Springs International Film Festival, USA
2005 Mill Valley Film Festival, USA
2005 Indigenous Film and Arts Festival, USA
2005 Aarhus Film Festival, Denmark
2005 Taipei Golden Horse Festival, Taiwan
2005 ImagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival, Canada
2005 Leeds International Film Festival, UK
2005 Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden
2005 Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival – Curta Cinema 2005, Brazil
2005 Prague Short Film Festival, Czech Republic
2006 First Night Film Program – Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
2006 Flickerfest International Short Film Festival, Australia

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS CONTINUED:

2006 Moviefone Short Film Festival, USA
2006 River Run International Film Festival, USA
2006 Portland International Film Festival, USA
2006 Afrika Pasikika Festival, Australia
2006 Aarhus Festival of Independent Film, Denmark
2006 Weeneebeg Aboriginal Film & Video Festival, Canada
2006 San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, USA
2006 Ashland Independent Film Festival, USA
2006 The Cinematic Pacific Film Festival, Honolulu
2006 Sami Film Festival, Norway
2006 Embassy Film Festival, Tokyo, Japan
2006 Montreal First People's Film and Video Festival, Canada
2006 March to Victory: Honouring the Maori Battalion, The New Zealand Film Archive
2006 New Zealand Film Festival, China
2006 San Diego Asian Film Festival, USA
2006 Screen on the Green – Queenstown Jazz Festival, New Zealand
2006 Magma Short Film Festival, New Zealand
2006 All Roads Film Festival, National Geographic, USA
2006 Native Cinema Showcase, USA

CAST

New Zealand

TAMMY DAVIS

TAUNGAROA EMILE

ROB MOKARAKA

JAROD RAWIRI

MARK RUKA

TE KOHE TUHAKA

Germany

JEREMY RANDERSON

CREW

Writer/Director

TAIKA WAITITI

Producers

AINSLEY GARDINER & CLIFF CURTIS

Executive Producer

LITTEJAB PRODUCTIONS

Production Manager

PHIL PINNER

Producers' Assistants

ELISE FRANCIS

HUIA LAMBIE

Production Coordinator

KRISTEN ROWE

Production Assistants

AINSLIE ALLEN

LEROY CRAWFORD

EILEEN GREY

CATHERINE KERR

WILLIE RIKI

MAT STEELE

Post Prod. Assistant

SHANNON LEEF

1st Assistant

ANTON STEEL

3rd Assistant Director

JUNE OSBOURNE

Continuity

VERONIQUE LAWRENCE

DOP

ADAM CLARK

Camera Operator

CHARLES EDWARDS

Focus Puller

PHIL SMITH

Clapper Loader

GARTH MICHAEL

Gaffer

ANTONY FARRELL

Best Boy

BYRON SPARROW

Lighting Assistants

JAMIE COUPER

BILLY WEEPU

GLEN AYRTON

Key Grip

MELISSA RIRINUI

Assistant Grip

MURRAY LOVE

Sound Recordists

FERAND PEEK

	CHRIS HILES
Production Designer	KAYNE HORSHAM
Art Director	SVEN WIIG
Props Buyer	DONNA PEARMAN
Standby Props	BRETT LARSEN
Painters	TROY HANNETT
	RUBEN ALLEN
Art Dept Assistants	MEIHANA DURIE
	VINCENT DECABISOLE
	MIKE MURPHY
Art Dept Runner	JEFF GOLDFINCH
Key Makeup	FRANKIE KARENA
Makeup Assistant	ANGELA MOOAR
Wardrobe Mistress	REBECCA HAMPTON
Wardrobe Assistant	JESS REEDY
Military/Weapons Advisor	MALCOLM (JOE) EVANS
Military Training	ALBIE WIRITANA
Armourer	BRAD MCMILLAN
Animals supplied by	HERO ANIMALS LIMITED
Animal Trainers	JAMES DELANEY
	CAROLINE GIRDLESTONE
Uniforms Supplied by	JEREMY RAE
	NICK BATES
Location Manager	RACHAEL ROPATA
Catering	PHILM PRODUCTIONS
	HUIA LAMBIE
Coffee	CAFFE L'AFFARE
Location	WELLINGTON HOSPITAL
Location Liaison	MARK HUGHES
	CARLHAM LATTIMORE
Mainzeal Site Liaison	JOHN PENGALLY
	GRANT TAYLOR
	JOHN MATAPARAE
Nikau Construction	JOHN PAUL STIL
	JOHN & DIANA STIL
Videographer	TARA DURRANT
Camera Equipment	PANAVISION
Grip Equipment	LOVE YOUR GRIP
Lighting Equipment	THE LIGHTIN' UP COMPANY
Vehicles	PAUL SAWTELL, FILM TRANSPORT CO
Accommodation	PORTLAND TOWERS HOTEL

Paint supplied by	RESENE PAINTS
Editor	PETER BURGER
VFX Supervisor	TIM CAPPER
3D Graphics Artist	TIM CAPPER
Original Music	RIKI GOOCH
Sound Editor	DAVE WHITEHEAD
Dolby Digital Mix	DAVE WHITEHEAD
Sound Facilities	PARK ROAD POST
Sound Negative	
Digital Imaging	WETA DIGITAL LIMITED
	PETE WILLIAMS
	NICK BOOTH
Film Post Facilities	PARK ROAD POST
