



REDEMPTION



A boy. A girl. A step too far...

PRESSKIT

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

Essential Information

Based on the original short story "Redemption" by Phil Kawana.

Writer	adapted for the screen by Tim Balme, Renae Maihi & Katie Wolfe
Director	Katie Wolfe
Producer	Rachel Jean
Production Company	Isola Productions (Film & TV Ltd)
Shooting format	RED
Technical Information	35mm, 1:1.85, Digital Master - 1:78 ratio
Running Time	17mins
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of completion	February 2010
Genre	Drama
International Sales	New Zealand Film Level 3, 119 Ghuznee Street Wellington Juliette Veber Email: juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

Log Line

A boy. A girl. A step too far...

Short Synopsis

Redemption is the dark and tender story of two Maori teenagers trying to find their way through personal hells. However, in this coming of age story, survival may not bring a happy ending.

Long Synopsis

Redemption is the dark and tender story of two Maori kids trying to find their way through personal hells. Teenagers Zig and Jaffa get totally wasted, and as always take the broken path from the house to Jaffa's shed to play *Redemption*. They have discovered a way to take the violence and pain in their young lives and transform it into pleasure, healing and ultimately love. *Redemption* is their favourite game; however, in this coming of age story, survival may not bring a happy ending.

Festivals

2010- 60th Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin– Generation 14 Plus, Germany
2010- Message Sticks Film Festival, Australia
2010- CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival, Canada
2010- Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand
2010- New Zealand International Film Festival, New Zealand
2010- *Best Short Drama, ImagineNative Film and Media Arts Festival, Canada*
2010- ImagineNative Film and Media Arts Festival, Canada
2010- Corona Cork Film Festival, Ireland
2010- Encounters Short Film Festival, UK
2010- Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden
2010- Leeds International Film Festival, UK
2011- Sundance Film Festival, USA
2011 Magma Film Festival, New Zealand

Director's Notes

Mihi atu ki nga kaipanui e hangai ana ki te kaupapa nei.

When I first read Phil Kawana's short story, I became haunted by it. How could something so terrible be so beautiful? Like many of Phil's stories from his two collections they are bleak, raw and most potently they are crafted in an authentic voice that makes you wonder - how does he know these things happen? Phil was born and raised under Maunga Taranaki, his books sit alongside other taonga in the display cabinet in Te Niho o te Atiawa at Parihaka pa. He is one of my favourite writers.

Pana Hema-Taylor came into acting through through a high school teacher who was able to introduce to Pana a skill and maybe a vocation that he could shine in. He took him away from a world of violence, crime, drugs and a predestined path as a gang member. Within moments of putting my first frame on Pana in the maori language soap opera **Whanau** I knew that he was something extraordinary. Here was Zig, a boy at 16 who already knows far too much, has seen far too much and most importantly radiates a freshness, a purity that is innate. And therein lies the two opposing forces of this story; corruption and purity; violence and aroha; isolation and intimacy; sacred and profane; tapu and noa. It is these opposing energies that craft this piece of cinema.

The performances in **Redemption** are startling and express an extraordinary relationship so purely based on aroha – its honesty and pureness underpinned by violence and pain. I hope to leave audiences as haunted as I was when I first came across **Redemption**.

Redemption is love story, a coming of age story, a Maori story, a Taranaki story. This is my first Maori film and the connection I have to the material has been with me many years. It is not my story but a story I connect to.

Ka whawhai tonu matou.

Producer's Note – Rachel Jean

Katie and I began this journey when we had just returned from the Sundance Film Festival where her first short film **This Is Her** gained a fantastic response.

While at Sundance a fabulous event happened – in a raffle I won a US\$25,000 prize in production, post production sound and digital services from NBC/Universal towards making a film. The only trick was that it must be used before the end of 2009. I made a deal with Katie that she could use it on a project that moved her, and one that would be most unlikely to find funds elsewhere. In other words - an exceptional, innovative, non-commercial film.

She chose **Redemption**.

As you can tell by reading her Director's Notes, this is a story that moved Katie from the first reading. My response to reading the script was similar. It is incredibly simple, so utterly tragic, and extremely beautiful. Redemption. I love the complexity of the word – liberation, yet freedom purchased with payment of sacrifice.

Being Maori herself, Katie has brought cultural specificity to the story but she has made this is a universal story of abuse, love, survival and finding redemption.

Director's Bio

Katie Wolfe is from Taranaki and is Ngati Tama, Ngati Mutunga and Pakeha.

She has been involved in the New Zealand performing arts and screen industries for the past 15 years. She has a BA majoring in English and Drama and also trained as an actor at Toi Whakaari, the New Zealand Drama School.

Katie's first short film *This Is Her* won her short filmmaker 2008 at the New Zealand Film Festival. Since its completion in May last year the film has been officially selected for Sundance, Edinburgh, Melbourne, Telluride, and New York Film Festivals. It won Best Audience Film Award at Prague Film Festival and Best Short Film at the St Tropez Antipodes Film Festival, as well as being a finalist in all short film categories at the NZ Qantas Film & TV Awards, winning best cinematography. The film was funded through the NZFC pod scheme under Combrío Shorts.

The New Zealand Drama School graduate has also become an award-winning theatre director with productions like *The Women*, (Chapman Tripp best new director), *Plenty* by David Hare, & the Catherine Downes written production of *The Case of Katherine Mansfield*.

Katie has now cemented herself as a director of television. She began directing for television on *Shortland Street*, which she consequently produced. She was the establishing director on TV 2's latest primetime drama *Go Girls*.

Producer: Rachel Jean

Rachel Jean has been producing drama and documentary for large and small screen for more than a decade. Working in New Zealand, for many of the leading production companies, she has spent time on the WIFT executive (Women in Film & TV Association) and has been on the SPADA executive committee (Screen Production and Development Association).

Her experience in production has ranged from short films, corporate videos, commercials, television drama and documentaries to feature film production.

In 1995 Rachel line-produced three one hour dramas, Niki Caro's *Plain Tastes*, Jonathan Cullinane's *Trifecta* and Jess Hobbs' *Overnight*, and was associate producer on another drama, Fiona Samuel's *Home Movie* which immediately proceeded being associate producer on Niki Caro's (*Whalerider*) first feature *Memory & Desire*.

During the last decade Rachel has produced a broad range of short films. *Old Bastards* directed by Niki Caro, *Black Bitch* directed by Annalise Patterson and *Testdrive* directed by Mark Summerville, were all funded by Creative New Zealand. *Headlong* directed by Simon Raby, *The Road Back* directed by Annalise Patterson and *Philosophy* directed by Geoffrey Cawthorn were funded by the New Zealand Film Commission.

Rachel also Executive Produced with Owen Hughes a Short Film Tender for the New Zealand Film Commission over two years, producing seven films; *Trust Me*, *Camping With Camus*, *Falling Sparrows*, *Watermark*, *The hill*, *Honey*, and *Waterwoman*.

Since then Rachel has produced a one-hour television drama for TV3, *Love Mussel* directed by Michael Hurst and starring Kevin Smith, 2 seasons (26 episodes) of a half-hour children's drama series *Secret Agent Men* for Greenstone Pictures, a 13 part drama series called 'The Market', and a 6 part half hour drama series *Ride With the Devil* both for TV2.

Rachel has recently become Head of Drama and Comedy for Mediaworks (TV3 & C4).

However Rachel is still committed to developing directors of drama, towards a long-term goal of feature film production, and currently has a few feature films in development with NZFC support.

Key Crew

BASED ON THE SHORT STORY
"Redemption" BY
ADAPTED FOR THE SCREEN BY

Phil Kawana

DIRECTED BY
PRODUCED BY
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
COSTUME DESIGNER
MAKE UP DESIGNER /
PROSTHETICS
EDITOR
ORIGINAL MUSIC
"PARADISE" WRITTEN &
PERFORMED BY

Tim Balme
Renaë Mahi
Katie Wolfe
Katie Wolfe
Rachel Jean
Ginny Loane
Miro Harre
Danielle Cormack
Davina Lamont

Lisa Hough
Joel Haines
Emma Paki

Cast

ZIG
JAFFA
CARLOS

Pana Hema-Taylor
Sera Henare
Karlos Drinkwater

Crew

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"Redemption" BY
ADAPTED FOR THE SCREEN BY

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PRODUCED BY
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PRODUCTION DESIGNER
COSTUME DESIGNER
MAKE UP DESIGNER /
PROSTHETICS
EDITOR
ORIGINAL MUSIC
"PARADISE" WRITTEN &
PERFORMED BY
PRODUCTION MANAGER
1st ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Tim Balme
Renaë Mahi
Katie Wolfe
Katie Wolfe
Rachel Jean
Ginny Loane
Miro Harre
Danielle Cormack
Davina Lamont

Lisa Hough
Joel Haines
Emma Paki

PRODUCTION ASST / RUNNER

Angela Eddy
Simon Ambridge
Eamon O'Sullivan
Anton Steel
Raluca Cozariuc

MAORI ADVISORS

CAMERA OP (25TH)
FOCUS PULLER
CONTINUITY
GAFFER/GRIP
BEST BOY
LIGHTING ASSISTANTS

SOUND RECORDISTS

BOOM SWINGERS

SET DECORATOR
PROPS STAND BY
PROPS BUYER
SCENIC ARTIST
CONSTRUCTION
GRAPHICS
WARDROBE ASST
MAKE UP ASSISTANTS

UNIT CATERING
CATERING
RED CAMERA & DATA
WRANGLER
DATA WRANGLER
ADDITIONAL CAMERA
EQUIPMENT
SOUND EQUIPMENT
GENERATOR

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER
PUBLICITY

WITH THANKS TO:

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TV3 / Mediaworks
Roger Grant
Olin Turrall from Toybox
Brenton Cumberpatch – Images &
Sound
Grant Baker – Images & Sound

DigiPost
Felicity Letcher

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
NBC / UNIVERSAL TEAM

William Davis
Te Kauhoe Wano
George Hennah
John Renata
Zohra Trinder
Paul Stevenson (Pablo)
Pez Zee
Mark Pritchard
Nick Roberts
Ande Schurr
Andrew Lovrin
Sam MacDonald
Blair Cameron
Adria Morgan
Grace Mok
Domini Calder
Brooke Austin
Paul Worley
Simon Elson
Phillippa King
Kate Wilcox
Daisy Ram
Grace Dombroski
Paul O'Halloran
Luscious Catering
Jae Ahn

Yuka Kotajima
Panavision & Rocket Rentals

Peter Kraan
Jeff Benton – Hooked on
Power
Vanessa McArthur
Rachel Lorimer

Nicole Hoey - CincoCine
Troy & Iona Ellery
Win Cozens
Kingsize Studios
Peter Barrett – RPM Pictures

Peter Roberts – RPM
Pictures
Rachel Lorimer
Chelsea Winstanley

Krista Boling
Susan Gosstrum
Kirsten Smith

Ron Silverman
Scott Hecker
Roy Seeger

Digital Services And Sound Post
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NBC UNIVERSAL

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CREATIVE NZ
