



# SNOW IN PARADISE



## PRESS KIT

*In the 1970's the world's biggest threat entered the world's smallest village  
and the Pacific was never the same again.*

**A short film by  
Nikki Si'ulepa & Justine Simej-Barton**

### INTERNATIONAL SALES

NZ FILM Lisa Chatfield  
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**NEW ZEALAND FILM**

# SNOW IN PARADISE

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION

**Title:** Snow in Paradise  
**Writer:** Nikki Si'ulepa  
**Co-Directors:** Justine Sime-Barton, Nikki Si'ulepa

**Producer:** Paul Sime-Barton  
**Associate Producer:** Ngaire Fuata  
**Production Company:** Tala Pasifika Productions  
**Executive Producers:** Tearepa Kahi, Quinton Hita  
Kura Productions

**Country of Production:** New Zealand  
**Shot on Location in:** Aitutaki, Cook Islands  
**Screening Format:** HDCam  
**Shooting Format:** HD  
**Screening Ratio:** 1:1.85  
**Sound:** Dolby Digital  
**Duration:** 8 minutes 27 seconds  
**Completion Date:** 2011

**INTERNATIONAL SALES:** NZFILM  
Lisa Chatfield  
lisa@nzfilm.co.nz  
tel. +644 382 7686  
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## FESTIVALS

2012 'Generation' Berlin Film Festival, Germany

## ONE LINER:

In the 1970's the world's biggest threat entered the world's smallest village and the Pacific was never the same again.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS:**

A snapshot of life on a remote, picturesque island in the south Pacific through the eyes of a young Polynesian girl. As she ventures out on her daily routine she encounters the familiar faces of her family and the small community that she loves. Like her, they are all unsuspecting of the devastating power that lies beyond the ocean reef in a nuclear testing facility. In one moment her world will change forever.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS:**

In an isolated community on a remote Pacific Island Inano is woken by her brother Tuakana who proudly displays his catch of fresh fish from the lagoon. As her family wakes up Inano prepares a meal of fresh fruit for her grandmother, Mama Moe.

Inano has been raised by a loving family and her life is simple and carefree. She checks on her younger brother who is preparing for another fishing expedition and with her Nana's blessing heads inland, lured by the sight of kite flying in the clear blue sky.

She passes the remains of the sacred stone *marae* that was once the centre of the cultural life of the community and feels a strange premonition – as if her ancestors are trying to warn her of impending danger.

She hurries away and reaches the highest point of the island where she joins a friend who is flying the kite. Together the two children look out onto the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean.

In the cook house Mama Moe is disturbed as she notices that plants and animals seem to be responding to a mysterious threat.

On the hill, Inano and her friend are shocked by a sudden terrifying explosion seen far in the distance. Inano runs in search of Mama Moe and finds her seeking refuge in the stone *marae*. A radio announcement informs the villagers that the French Ministry of Defence has successfully conducted an atmospheric test of a nuclear device.

Together in the *marae*, Inano and Mama Moe try to make sense of a strange snow-like powder that falls from the sky. They have no way of knowing that this is fallout from the nuclear test but they can sense that life in their island home has changed forever.

## Nikki Si'ulepa

## Writer / Co-Director

Nikki has worked in the Film and Television industry since 1995 in various areas both in front of and behind the camera. She fell into acting the year after she finished high school, landing a lead role in Ian Mune's feature film *Whole of the Moon*. Her performance in this film earned her Best Actress in a film, Giffoni Film Festival, Italy and Best Actress in the NZ Film and Television Awards 1996

After the movie she played a number of roles in television drama series and worked in production jobs on various film sets. Since 2005 Nikki has been Director / Reporter / Camera Operator for Television New Zealand's Pacific Island show, *Tagata Pasifika* where she has shot and directed two reality strands and a documentary about a woman's search for identity in the remote Pacific paradise, Rotuma. She's currently working on a third reality strand following Samoan Kilikiti (cricket) teams to their summer tournament.

- 2011 Actor - *Housebound*, NZ Feature Film (in production)
- 2011 Post Director – *Kapa Haka Kids 2*, Black Inc / Eyeworks, TVNZ Reality Series (in production)
- 2011 Director – *Marae Investigates / Waka Huia Xmas show*, TVNZ Xmas special
- 2011 Director / Camera Operator - *Road to the Big Sing*, *Tagata Pasifika*, Reality High School choir series
- 2011 Director / Location Camera & Sound - *Salat se Rotuma – Passage to Rotuma*, *Tagata Pasifika* / TVNZ Documentary
- 2011 Lead Supporting Actor, *Super City*, TV3 Comedy Series directed by Taika Waititi
- 2010 Director / Camera Operator - *Walk the Talk – Healthy Living Movement* – Reality weight loss series, *Tagata Pasifika*
- 2009 Continuity – Short Film '*The Pe'a*'
- 2003 Lighting Assistant – Short Film
- 2002 Lead Actress, *Good Hands Lima Lelei*, TVNZ Drama Series
- 1995 Camera assistant, *Tala Pasifika* Short Films series. He Taonga Films
- 1995 Lead Actress, *Whole of the Moon* - Feature Film directed by Ian Mune, Tucker Productions . Awarded Best Actress in a film, Giffoni Film Festival, Italy and Best Actress in the NZ Film and Television Awards

## Justine Simei-Barton

## Co-Director

Justine Fa'auma Simei-Barton was born in Porirua, Wellington. Her family are from the Samoan villages of Sasina and Solosolo. She has been a key figure in the emergence of a 'Pacific Voice' in New Zealand drama on both stage and screen. In recognition of her to contributions in these areas she was awarded the New Zealand Arts Council Senior Pacific Artist Award in 2007.

Over the last ten years her own production company, Tala Pasifika Productions has been involved in producing film & television drama from a Pacific Island perspective while helping young Pacific Islanders to enter the industry. Her work on the groundbreaking television drama *Matou Uma* earned her a nomination as Best Drama Director in the 2001 New Zealand Television awards. This drama, based on the experiences of a group of Pacific Island netball players was developed into the seven part drama series, *Good Hands- Lima Lelei* that was a finalist in the Best Drama Category of the 2005 NZ Screen Awards.

In 1987 Justine formed New Zealand's first Pacific Island drama company and directed a number of original devised works as well as a major out-door production of *Romeo & Juliet* which transposed the drama to a nineteenth century Samoan setting.

In 2000 she made the short film *Brown Sugar* as part of the *Tala Pasifika* series of short films produced by He Taonga Films. Justine was script development coordinator for this project that supported a group of young Pacific Island writers to make short films that screened on NZ television and at festivals in the Asia Pacific region.

Most recently Justine's short film *The Trophy* was selected for screening in competition at the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival. The film has also been an official selection for a variety of international festivals including the Rhode Island International Film Festival and the Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

She is currently working on her debut feature film *Fresh As* which in the final stage of development with New Holland Pictures and the NZ Film Commission.

### Filmography:

2008	<i>The Trophy</i>	Short Film,
2003	<i>Good Hands-Lima Lelei</i>	TV drama series (ep1-7)
2002	<i>Coming Home</i>	TV Documentary
2001	<i>Matou Uma</i>	TV Drama
2001	<i>The Overstayer</i>	TV Drama
2000	<i>Brown Sugar</i>	Short Film
1990	<i>Feu'u</i>	TV Documentary

## DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS

NIKKI SI'ULEPA      Writer / Co-Director

This story is about life. And how delicate it is and how easily it can be taken away in a single moment. The film is a small person's story that needs a big voice to be heard. I feel that story telling through film is the voice that speaks to the world and I hope that this film will not only speak for the small, beautiful, silent nations in the Pacific where my ancestors stories come from, but will speak to us all and is timely in a world whose conscience has been lost.

My plan of attack was to use real environments, real people, sounds, and heart, to obtain the films essence. The tropical paradise could be any small island in the Pacific – simple, exotic, raw, untainted, poor in economy, rich in family and life. My relationship to the Cook Islands is a personal one. My father and siblings are Cook Islands citizens and over the past twenty five years they have lived in Rarotonga. On my first visit to Aitutaki last year, I could not, and still cannot, describe the beauty of this Pacific paradise. I want the viewer to slip into a relationship with this island and these characters. This is a story that is being lived right now. It's a story that's survived the past. A story that will continue to be lived until we decide where, "life", situates on mankind's priority ladder. Life that is not only ours, but the life of our homes, our planet and who we share it with.

JUSTINE SIMEI-BARTON      Co-Director

The script immediately appealed to me for its fresh perspective on an issue that has haunted Pacific people for generations. The use of Pacific islands as a location for nuclear testing programmes is deeply imprinted on the collective memory of people throughout the Pacific. It is a legacy that challenges our story-tellers and I hope that this film may contribute to the process of healing.

As co-director I wanted to help Nikki develop an approach in which the political becomes intensely personal – as a young girl and her grandmother struggle to understand an event that is completely outside of their experience. I also hoped to emphasise the spiritual dimension of the story with the *marae* setting speaking of the powerful spiritual resources that Pacific people can draw on in time of trouble. The film gives a voice to the unseen victims of environmental destruction. It is a voice that urgently cries out not only against historical injustice of nuclear testing but also in response to the current threat of global warming.

## SCREEN CREDITS

**New Zealand Film Commission - Logo**

**Kura Shorts –logo**



**Tala Pasifika Productions**

**Filmed in Aitutaki, Cook Islands**

# SNOW IN PARADISE

## END CREDITS:

Cast:

Inano: Mereana Bishop

Tuakana: Michael Tatira

Mama Moe: Vainehuraorairai Mii Tupuna Eiariki Taamo  
Charlie

Api: Leonard Roa

Villagers: Teremoana Strickland  
Itu Dilynh Lorensoj Davey  
Matapurotu Riki  
Ngatokoitu Riki  
Pepe Teopu  
Stephen Doherty

Radio Announcer: Marine Janin

Screenplay: Nikki Si'ulepa  
Directors: Justine Simej-Barton  
Nikki Si'ulepa

Executive Producers: Tearepa Kahi  
Quinton Hita

Producer:	Paul Simeii-Barton
Associate Producer/Production Manager	Ngairu Fuata
Director of Photography/Camera operator	Waka Attewell
Art Director	Grace Mok
Costume Design	Larissa Lofley
Offline Editors	Debbie Matthews
Online Editor	Andrew Mortimer
Colourist	Paul Lear
VFX	Andrew Mortimer Dale Pretorius
Composer	John Gibson
Musician	Mark Dashper
Sound Design	Tom Miskin
Location Sound	Colleen Brennan
Foley	Narelle Ahrens
First Assistant Director	Neil James
Focus Puller	Michael Knudsen
Gaffer	Johnny Renata
Grip	Jim Rowe
Grip Assistants:	Ron Henry Peckham Maoate
Boom Operator	Will Reece
Data Wrangler	Fleur Putnam
Location Manager:	Michael Henry
Location Assistant:	Lawton Story



Cultural Advisor: Ngaakitai Pureariki

Cook Island Maori Translations Tere Te Ariki Tua  
John Utanga

Unit and Catering Maina Lodge – Aitutaki

Offline Editing Facility Post 4 (logo)

Post Production Facility Images & Sound  
Sound Mixer Tom Miskin  
Post Production coordinator Jane Anderson

Crew accommodation Maina Lodge – Aitutaki  
Aretai Beach Villas – Aitutaki  
Aquarius Hotel – Rarotonga

Arri Alexa Camera supplied by Queenstown Camera Company

Special Thanks to  
Margot Francis  
Leon Narbey  
Tagata Pasifika – TVNZ

Air Rarotonga Budget Rental - Rarotonga  
Aquila Rentals Aitutaki Mark Selwood – Time Frame Logistics (NZ) Ltd  
Jessie Sword – Cook Islands General Transport Ltd Ronnie & Lorette  
Si'ulepa

Tualeo'o Stephen Stehlin, The late Don Selwyn and He Taonga Films,  
Sima Urale, Sue Clarke & the Nicholas family, Fa'avae Gagamoe  
Makiuti Tongia, Afega Si'ulepa-Sa'ena, Tarita Pekepo Baquie and the  
Baquie clan  
Teariki Numanga, Guy Brinsdon, Gareth Pearce, Tuaine Rota, Mareo  
Siraky,  
Tuaine Fatiaki, Po'o Bishop, Katrina Petero, Brady and Kylee Williams

**'Te Reo Tupuna'**  
Vocalist Henry Ah-Foo Taripo  
Written by Rutera Taripo  
Valmutu Records  
HENZART ALBUM

International Sales by New Zealand Film Commission

Dolby Digital - logo

