



# Sonny My Older Brother

## **PRESS KIT**

Executive Producers TOM THUMB SHORTS STEVEN O'MAUGHER

CHRIS DUDMAN and POLLY FRYER

Producers MATT NOONAN and CHELSEA WINSTANLEY

Director of Photography ADAM CLARK

Production Designer SHAYNE RADFORD

Wardrobe Designer PAULINE BOWKETT Editor LUKE HAIGH

Written and Directed by TAMMY DAVIS







# Sonny My Older Brother

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# PRODUCTION NOTES

Production Company  
In association with

Curious  
Grouchy Films

Writer / Director  
Producers

Tammy Davis  
Matt Noonan  
Chelsea Winstanley  
Tom Thumb Shorts  
Steven O'Maughen  
Chris Dudman  
Polly Fryer

Executive Producers

Director of Photography  
Production Designer  
Costumer Designer  
Editor  
Sound Designer & Composer  
Casting Director

Adam Clark  
Shayne Radford  
Pauline Bowkett  
Luke Haigh  
Dick Reade  
Tammy Davis

Po  
Sonny  
Kylie  
Bin  
Mum  
Dad

Malachi Katene Pehi  
Avril Katene Pehi  
Zakaycia Winter  
Te Kaokao Kairimu  
Vivienne Hoeta  
Julian Arahanga

Country of Production  
Date of Completion  
Shooting Format  
Ratio  
Duration  
Genre

New Zealand  
2011  
35 mm Anamorphic  
235  
10 mins  
Drama

International Sales

[sales@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:sales@nzfilm.co.nz)





# THE FILM

## Logline

Por spends most of his days doing chores and hanging with his older brother, Sonny.

## Synopsis

Por likes to daydream. He dreams about all the cool things he and Sonny do, Swimming and climbing trees. When Sonny gets a hiding Por makes the decision to help his older brother with his chores as well.

## Background

Sonny, my older brother is based on a true story told from the point of view of the children. The events and ideas as a child growing up in rural New Zealand sparked the writing process which in turn was funded by The New Zealand Film Commissions' short film fund.

## A Filmmaker's Approach

I returned home to my home town of Raetihi to make this film. Raetihi is situated in the Central plateau of the north island of New Zealand.

I wanted this film to feel organic in its process. The script and filming would adapt to these conditions and the geographical restrictions or opportunities presented.

The casting would predominantly be of non-actors from the surrounding rural areas and all locations would reflect the story.

The film would be shot on 35mm anamorphic using a minimal crew. A child's view of the world to be expressed cinematically.

The project took a year of logistical and creative planning to achieve, with the director spending long periods on location, casting, scouting and prepping for the shoot.

The result is a film that expresses the softer side of human nature and our potential to hold onto one another.

# THE PRODUCTION

## Casting

The casting for the lead took place over a number of months in schools throughout the central plateau.

The call was for two young boys who lived and had grown up in the area.

After meeting and casting at all the primary schools in the area, two young brothers stood out. This is the first film for Avril and Malachi Pehi.

All other roles were filled by non-actors from Raetihi except the father who is played by Julian Arahanga.

## Shoot and Location

The film was shot on location in the small rural town of Raetihi. It occurred over five days during one of the coldest winters in recent history. The only location outside Raetihi was the Tokaanu hot springs.

The Auckland based crew travelled to the central plateau, New Zealand and filmed on location.

## Post Production

Luke Haigh from Curious Film edited the film and designed the credits and titles.

The film was scanned at The Film Lab with the digital intermediary done by Pete Ritchie at the Toy Box.

Dick Reade oversaw the sound design with Fran Kora writing and composing a song for the film.

The final sound mix took place at Park Road Post, Wellington.





# THE FILMMAKERS

## **TAMMY DAVIS – Writer / Director**

After a long stint as an actor on New Zealand's longest running drama and in the odd feature, I decided to direct my first short film *Ebony Society*. This film has gone on to win awards and be recognised around the world. With the success came the opportunity to once again direct. This came in the form of *Sonny*, my older brother. This is my second short funded by the New Zealand film commission.

Since then I have made two 90minute dramas for the Maori tv station directing plays with Takirua theatre company. All of this has encouraged me to continue to tell my own stories. I am currently working on a feature based on my first short and can't wait to join the likes of Taika Waititi, Barry Barclay and Merata Mita as a Maori features director.

## **MATT NOONAN – Producer**

At the impressionable age of 16 began working with some of New Zealand's most respected TV commercial directors including Roger Tompkins and Geoff Dixon, John Toon and Lee Tamahori, who went on to direct *Once Were Warriors* in 1994.

Matt quickly learned the production ropes by working in a variety of roles from assistant editor to production assistant, art department, best boy, assistant track layer and puppet grip.

In 1986, he worked as assistant editor to Jamie Selkirk on director Peter Jackson's first ever film, *Bad Taste*, and returned to work on Jackson's next feature *Meet the Feebles* in 1989. Selkirk went on to win an Academy Award for editing Jackson's third film in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. While working on *Bad Taste*, Matt was also inspired by the likes of producer Tony Hiles and legendary sound engineer Kit Rollings.

Today, Matt's experience as a producer extends from film and TV commercials to television, video clips, documentaries, short films and digital film.

After working on the third season of internationally acclaimed TV series, *The Ray Bradbury Theatre*, Matt moved briefly to London at the age of 21 but returned to Auckland soon afterwards, lured by the opportunity of working on mini-series such as *The Sound and The Silence*, *The Sinking of the Rainbow Warrior* and *Adrift*.

In the early 1990s, Matt began producing his first music videos with director Josh Frizzell, and went on to produce more than 25 clips over the next two years.

By now, Matt was focusing entirely as his talents as a producer, joining Black Stump Films to launch the company's Auckland office.

In 1997, he enjoyed his second stint in London, working as a line producer and producer in London, Glasgow and Cape Town.

Within three years, Matt was back in New Zealand to open his own company, Curious Film, in partnership with director and cinematographer Darryl Ward. Aged 30, Matt found himself running one of New Zealand's most promising production shops, producing music promos for some of New Zealand's best-known musicians including Bic Runga, Stellar, Dimmer and DJ Soane, and TV commercials for the region's top advertising agencies.

At Semaine de la Critique du Festival de Cannes 2011 the short film 'Blue' directed by Stephen Kang and co produced by Noonan picked up the Grand Prix. Blue has subsequently been invited to a host of A list festivals throughout the world.

Noonan produced the Cannes Lions 2010 Grand Prix winning Orcon television commercial, the campaign which at the New Zealand advertising awards became the highest ever award winning campaign, winning multiple golds, Grand Prix and Best in Show.

Matt has produced award-winning documentaries and short films such as the beautifully atmospheric Manganui, by director Summer Agnew, Rites of Courage and Uso, by director Miki Magasiva, who are both represented by Curious Film.

He was associate producer on digital feature 'Bikini Bandits: Curse of the Pirate's Bootie' and associate producer on the feature documentary 'Trouble is my Business', directed by Juliette Veber.

In 2009 Matt attended the producer's lab at Cinemart in Rotterdam and in 2010 he produced director Stephen Kang's second feature 'Desert' which was invited to the Pusan International Film Festival 2011 and was released theatrically in New Zealand on the 5th of May 2011 to great reviews.

## **CHELSEA WINSTANLEY – Producer**

Chelsea Winstanley has recently graduated from EAVE the European Audio Visual Entrepreneurs Producers workshops and is now pursuing a career in international co-productions. She has been involved in the film and Television industry for almost 10 years. She is an independent producer and part owner of StanStrong a production company established in 2007. Throughout her career she has produced and directed TV Series, Documentaries and Short Film. She has won and has been nominated for Media Peace Awards with her documentaries.

She coproduced her first short film in 2007 'Patu Ihu' and has since worked with some of the most influential people within NZ's film and television industry. As a producer Chelsea has made several short films including 'Meathead' Official competition Cannes 2011, 'Ebony Society' Sundance, Berlin 2011 and 'Taku Rakau E' Imaginative 2010 and most recently 'Sonny My Older Brother' - her second collaboration with filmmaker Tammy Davis. Chelsea has worked on feature films in various production roles including the highest grossing NZ film of all time Taika Waititi's 'Boy', Anthony McCarten's 'Show of Hands' and Etienne Chatiliez 'L'oncle Charles'. She is currently producing the short film 'NightShift' a NZ Film Commission premiere short film.

Chelsea is the NZ principal producer for feature film JOJO Rabbit with writer director Taika Waititi and is developing the screenplay The Wickedest Of Men with Marcus Pointon. She has been an executive board member of Nga Aho Whakaari - the industry guild representing Maori working in Film and Television. She has sat on the governance board of WIFT - Women in Film and Television NZ. In 2009 Chelsea won the Woman to Watch at the WIFT Film and Television Awards.

### **LUKE HAIGH - Film Editor**

Born in England, Luke moved to New Zealand in the early 00's. Since 2003 he has edited various projects including hundreds of TV commercials, documentary, music videos for artists such as The Finn Brothers, Anika Moa & Six60 and award winning short films.

His credits include short film BLUE (2011) directed by Stephen Kang which was awarded the 50th Semaine De La Critique Grand Prix Canal + Du Meilleur Court Metrage Best Short Film at Cannes Film Festival 2011.

USO (2006) directed by Miki Magasiva screened at Polyfest, Hawaii and Raindance Film Festivals. His work with long time collaborator Summer Agnew on the documentary THE KAPITI ART PROJECT culminated in it being a finalist for Best Documentary at the 2009 Qantas Film & Television Awards. He is also credited as editor for TV commercials for Orcon 'Together Incredible' featuring Iggy Pop and Canon 'Photochains' both of which were Cannes Lion Grand Pix 2010 winners.

Luke's latest body of work are SWANSONG a short film directed by Kirsty Cameron and also SONNY a short film directed by Tammy Davis.

### **DICK READE - Sound Designer & Composer**

Dick Reade has over 40 years experience in the Film and Television Industry, Started work in 1970 as a 17 year old technical trainee with NZBC, spent 18

in lighting department before joining sound department, has continuously worked in the New Zealand film and television industry as a field recordist and post production mixer, on projects as varied as video production, music recording and mixing, cd production, live television to feature films. Currently working from studios in Te Atatu Dick has been Nominated for an Emmy for his 5.1 mixing for the Discovery Channel and was awarded the 2007 SPADA / Onfilm Industry Champion Award for outstanding achievement in his field, and 2011 AFTA award for best sound in a feature.

### **ADAM CLARK – Director of Photography**

Adam Clark has been shooting films in New Zealand for over 15 years. He is the director of photography for all of Taika Waititi's films and has worked with Geoff Murphy and Vincent Ward. His credits include, Two Cars One Night, and the top grossing film Boy.







# FULL CREDIT LIST

Writer / Director

Producers

Executive Producers

Tammy Davis

Matt Noonan

Chelsea Winstanley

Tom Thumb Shorts

Steven O'Maughar

Chris Dudman

Polly Fryer

## CAST

Po

Sonny

Kylie

Bin

Mum

Dad

Malachi Katene Pehi

Avril Katene Pehi

Zakaycia Winter

Te Kaokao Kairimu

Vivienne Hoeta

Julian Arahanga

## PRODUCTION

1st AD

Continuity

Director of Photography

Focus Puller

Clapper Loaders

Gaffer

Gaffer

Grip

Grip Assistant

Sound Recordist

Boom Operator

Production Designer

Art Dept Assistant

Costume Designer

Make Up Artist

Chris Short

Hayley Abbot

Adam Clark

Charles Edwards

Jimmy Best

Jerry Mauger

Henare Mato

Tom Davis

Jason KereKere

Dick Reade

Jacob Reading

Shayne Radford

Peter Kearney

Pauline Bowkett

Vanessa Chester

Unit Manager	Taungaroa Emile
Safety Officer	Penny Morisey
Catering supplied by	Angel Reid
Casting Director	Tammy Davis
Production Manager	Dan Higgins
Production Assistant	Chris Henry
Production Runner	Cody Packer
Rushes Runner Auckland	Alex Uganecz
Accountant	Vivienne Welham
Legal	Sarah Noonan
Storyboard Artist	Ali Cowley
Research / Creative Assist	The Team @ Curious Film
Stills Photographer	Taika Waititi, Summer Agnew
Behind the Scenes	Harley Pokai
	Nicholas Holloway
Camera Equipment	Panavision NZ Ltd
Grip / Lighting Equipment	Jerry Rig
Mini Jib	Miles Murphy
Crane	Love your Grip
SplashBag	Murray Milne
Radios	The Radio Company
Insurance	Crombie Lockwood (NZ)
Film Editor	Luke Haig
Offline Edit Facility	Curious Film Ltd
Flame Artist	Leon Woods
Online Facility	Curious Film
Credit Design	Suneil Narsai
Composition, Sound Design	Fran kora
Stereo Sound Mix, Tracklay, Foley	Dick Reade

## POST PRODUCTION

Film Stock  
Film Processing

Kodak Film  
Film Lab Limited

DI Online Facility  
Film Scanning & Recording Manager  
DI Colourist  
Online Facilities Manager

TOY BOX  
Pete Richie  
Pete Richie  
Kim Evans

Sound / Laboratory Services  
Sound Re-recording Mixer  
Post Production Coordinator  
Head of Sound  
Senior Re-recording Mixer  
Facilities Manager

Park Road Post Production  
Tim Chaproniere  
Nina Kurzmann  
John Neill  
Gilbert Lake  
Nina Kurzmann

Film Out Facility  
Scanning & Recording Facility  
Film Scanning & Recording Manager  
Film Scanning & Recording Supervisor  
Film Scanning & Recording Technician

Park Road Post Production  
Weta Digital  
Pete Williams  
Nick Booth  
Daniel Ashton

NZ Film Commission Short Film Manager

Lisa Chatfield

Music

'Sonny'  
Written and Performed by Fran Kora





