

The Speaker



PRESSKIT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

Juliette Veber - NZ Film - PO Box 11 546 - Wellington - New Zealand
Tel +64 4 382 7686 - Fax +64 4 384 9719 - juliette@nzfilm.co.nz

N E W Z E A L A N D F I L M

Essential Information

Director	Tearepa Kahi
Writers	Tearepa Kahi & Savage
Producer/s	Quinton Hita and Tearepa Kahi & Savage
Production Company	Fat Cap Films

Technical Information:

Film Ratio	35mm, 1:1.85
Sound	Dolby Digital
Video Format	SP Beta/ Digi Beta or 35 mm
Running Time	14 mins
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of completion	December 2005
Sales	Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission email juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

Log Line

To speak and be heard you need MORE THAN WORDS.

Short Synopsis

A political tagger's midnight marauding gets his younger brother caught by the police. But saying, "I'm sorry" are words best said with action.

Film Festival Screenings

2006 Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival – Market Screening, France
2006 International Filmfestspiele Berlin – Official Selection Panorama, Berlin Germany
2006 Message Sticks Film Festival, Australia
2006 Moving Image Centre-Home-grown Programme, New Zealand
2006 Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia
2006 Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand
2006 Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia
2006 Vladivostok International Film Festival, Russia
2006 ImagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival, Canada
2006 Ourense Film Festival, Spain
2006 Show Me Shorts Film Festival, New Zealand
2007 27th Louis Vuitton Hawaii International Film Festival

Director's Biography – Tearepa Kahi

Waka: Tainui

Iwi: Ngati Paoa, Waikato

Occupation: Producer, Director, Writer

Tearepa Kahi was introduced to the arts via Maori theatre. Maori theatre existed in high schools, Marae, theatres and prisons. Two years on the road as an actor/ facilitator gave way to study at Auckland University. While finishing off his degree in New Zealand History and Maori, Tearepa worked as both an actor and also a production assistant on a Maori children's television programme.

Once production of the series was completed Tearepa was on his way to directing his first documentary. Seven years later, with numerous nominations for Best documentary and Best Maori Programme, he later graduated into a new facet of his passion – Nga Purakau/ Maori stories – with drama.

Tearepa is an executive member of Nga Aho Whakaari (National Body of Television and Film), a key creative in marketing and branding, and currently produces, directs and writes kaupapa Maori programmes for television and film in Aotearoa. He is currently developing a new short film and a feature film.

Filmography

'The Speaker' is our first project in film.

Director's Notes – 'The Speaker'

'FORESHORE AND SEABED'

2005 in New Zealand was election year.

The National party had been making little traction on Labour's command of Government for some time, but in election year, tactics and strategies are euphemisms for desperation and desperation knows no limit when it comes to securing public votes.

Don Brash (leader of the National Party) initiated his strategy with a speech in Orewa. His speech focused on the inequality and predilection on behalf of the current Government (Labour) towards 'race based funding' (or Maori favouring policy) as well as a call for our Nation's founding document – The Treaty of Waitangi – to be shelved.

Orewa is the first graphic word/ image screened in The Speaker.

'CROWN'

General public responded and National stock soared meaning Labour were forced to both adapt and adopt.

Labour reacted by retracting their stance towards Maori and a current claim by a Taranaki Iwi/ Tribe (Ngati Apa) was dismissed from court at Prime Minister Helen Clark's behest. The crux being; Maori should not have legal standing to lodge land claims on the Foreshore or Seabed. Furthermore, that this area of Aotearoa should belong to the 'Crown'.

'HIKOI KI PAREMATA'

A Hikoi (march) consisting of over one hundred thousand people (people participated at various legs of the march) was initiated and we walked from Te Reinga (Far North) and on to every main centre on the way to Paremata/ Parliament.

When we arrived at the Beehive (Government House), Prime Minister Helen Clark stationed her back towards the twenty thousand people outside her office window and chose instead to make comment about a sheep named Shrek.

Hikoi is the opening title track in The Speaker.

"WALLACE STICK"

Steven Wallace was a young man who was shot four times by a police officer in Waitara whilst in a drunken state and wielding a golf club.

In 2005, the police commission found that there was nothing wrong with the officer's action or conduct. In 2005 Irene Asher dialled the New Zealand emergency phone line telling the operator she was not safe. Irene was sent a taxi that arrived 3 hours later. Her body has yet to be recovered.

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS AND THE SEA SHORE"

The best tag I've ever witnessed was National's 'Beaches IWI – KIWI Billboard' (election campaign). The message claimed Labour acted on behalf of Maori, whereas National worked in the best interests of all New Zealanders. The billboard was successful in that it persuaded the general public from the issue and the truth: Labour dismissed justice by overturning a court ruling giving Ngati Apa the clearance to further their land claim and National tagged the message.

But if our 'Beaches' are to be preserved then Maori need to remain as kaitiaki, as they have for the last two thousand years. IWI = ALL.

"SIGN THE ROCK"

Tagging has become an urban menace in each city centre in New Zealand. Artists are outnumbered by light weights who run around placing their meaningless initials on city walls - young kids trying to talk but saying nothing.

Our Speaker journeys against a back drop which incorporates degrees of all these elements in 2005 New Zealand. He is a small time tagger who feels political frustration and tries to communicate to the masses but can't find the words speak to his own brother. He seeks revenge for his brother but as he moves around each corner, he learns small lessons which transform a potentially destructive into a triumphant apology.

THE SPEAKER

Tearepa Kahi

Production Company – Fat Cap Films

Fat Cap Films is a production company formed specifically for 'The Speaker'. The company was formed by the writers and producers of the film, Savage and Tearepa Kahi.

Quinton Hita joins us courtesy of his company Kura Productions and Tearepa Kahi joins us courtesy of his company, Arepa Creations.

Producer Biographies – Quinton Hita, Savage and Tearepa Kahi

QUINTON HITA

Quinton Hita started his career with a job writing copy for Kia Ora FM, a provincial Maori radio station, one of many local tribal stations he has worked with in his decade long career in the media. This led to a job presenting the bi-lingual youth music show Mai Time on Television New Zealand's TV2, his foray into television.

After Mai Time, Quinton was approached by Harper Collins to write a book teaching Maori language to beginners – Q's Course in Maori was the result. Shortly afterwards, he joined Pukana, a 100% Maori language show for children, where for three years, he worked as a presenter, writer, and te reo Maori consultant. While working on Pukana, Quinton became the youngest ever person to be appointed to the board of the Maori Language Commission, the government body charged with regeneration of te Maori Language. He completed a six-year term as the board's youth representative.

Quinton took time off throughout this period to act in three films, culminating in a two year core cast role on South Pacific Picture's (Whale Rider) Shortland Street, where he eventually traded in his acting hat for that of writer and Maori

script editor. Quinton still works in that capacity today, as well as language consulting in all areas of te reo Maori

His most recent venture is Kura Productions, a joint venture between Quinton and South Pacific Pictures, which recently produced the Māori language-based game show – Kupuhuna. He is currently producing a 50-episode preschooler's television series for Maori Television, and a second series of Kupuhuna.

SAVAGE

Savage was co-writer and art director of the short 'Watermark' (Fepulea'i; 2001) which appeared at numerous festivals across Europe and won three awards including Best New Zealand Short film at the Drifting Clouds Film Festival Wellington, NZ. He studied Philosophy, Film, and Media at the University of Auckland and is co-founder and first President of the New Zealand republican movement, a group aiming to remove the British monarchy from Aotearoa New Zealand's constitution. He is currently on the organization's National Executive. 'The Speaker' marks a shift in his writing toward more overt political drama.

TEAREPA KAHU

(Aforementioned)

Cast

Kapene	ROPATA MATTHEWS
Pera	TU ITI RAPNA
Crown - Old Man	MICHAEL VAN CASSIN
JZA - Tagger	JARROD RWAIRI
Keisha	MAMA TERE
Cops	PETER LEE ALISTAIR TOTO DAVID KAY RYAN PARMMENT

Crew

Writers	SAVAGE & TEAREPA KAHI
Director	TEAREPA KAHI
Producer	QUINTON HITA TEAREPA KAHI SAVAGE
Executive Producers	WHENUA FILMS AINSLEY GARDINER CLIFF CURTIS
Production Manager	TE O KAHURANGI WAAKA
Production Assistant	HUIA ORR
1 st Assistant Director	TAMATI TE NOHOTU
3 rd Assistant Director	JAMES RATIHI
Continuity	MARY-JANE BETHELL
DOP	RHYS DUNCAN
Camera Operator	TARX MARRISON
Focus Puller	KENT BELCHER
Clapper Loader	ABBY MOUNTER
Gaffer	PAUL EVERSTON
Best Boy	CHRISTIAN DUNN
Grip	JOSHUA CREEKS
Sound Recordists	AARON DAVIES MARK STOREY
Boom Operator	ROY TAOHO

Art Director	ANNABELLE RYBURN
Sets	SAVAGE GRAEME CUNNINGHAM
Artists	D.T D.L.T KAWARIKI MORGAN EMMA RYBURN FELIPE PERUCICH
Photo Developing	HANAFINS HENDERSON MALL
Sign Graphics	SPANDEX NEW ZEALAND
Makeup and Wardrobe	ANGELA JONES
Location Manager	KELVIN MCDONALD
Location Supplies	MISSY RIKA
Catering	JONI TE WAA
Videographer	RYAN PARMMENT
Camera Equipment supplied by	PANAVISION
Vehicles supplied by	HENDERSON RENTALS
Film Stock	FUJIFILM
Editor	DAVID TOKIOS
Post Production Film Processing	PARK ROAD POST
Track Laying	DICK READE
Sound Mix Facility	PARK ROAD POST
Sound Design	DICK READE
Original Composition/Arrangements	DJ ALI
Script Editors	T.F. TAMATI TE NOHOTU

