

# Te Po Uriuri

(The Enveloping Night)

Presskit



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# Production Notes

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Director/Writer Toby Mills  
Producers Norman Elder and Toby Mills  
Production Company Independent and General Productions Limited

14 minutes B&W and Colour Dolby Digital

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## Log Line

A young warrior becomes dangerously obsessed when his lover, a high born Chief's daughter, marries her arranged husband.

## Synopsis

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Te Po's birth-right is that of a Puhi (high born virgin). Secretly she has been courting Awatea unbeknown to her own people.

Awatea watches as his lover Te Po, marries an aging Rangatira by inter-tribal arrangement. He becomes enraged and that night stalks through the forest to claim Te Po before her marriage is sealed.

Memories of their secret meetings fuel his resolve, but he arrives too late. He discovers the couple consummating the marriage. Despair evolves into madness as all sense of reason is lost. He kills the Rangatira and flees into the night with Te Po.

## Director/Writer Toby Mills

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After graduating from Otago University with B. PhysEd and BA degrees Toby turned to the world of drama. He attended the NZ Drama School then formed a theatre company, Te Rakau Hua o te Wao Tapu. This became the most successful Theatre in Education touring company in New Zealand bringing strong bi-cultural understanding and imagery to the youth of the country.

After researching his genealogy for a year Toby attended the South Seas Film and Television School. Then under the umbrella of his own production company, Tawera Productions, Toby has gone on to produce and direct numerous documentaries and commercials for national broadcast. He also uses his extensive multi-media skills to produce Curriculum Resources for the Ministry of Education.

Toby's heritage plays an integral role in all his work. This is effectively demonstrated in his first drama *Te Po Uriuri* – The Enveloping Night.

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# Director's Comments

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This film is inspired by a Shakespearean sonnet.

Sonnet 147

My love is as a fever, longing still  
For that which longer nurseth the disease;  
Feeding on that which doth preserve the ill,  
The uncertain sickly appetite to please.  
My reason, the physician to my love,  
Angry that his prescriptions are not kept,  
Hath left me, and I desperate now approve  
Desire is death, which physic did except.  
Past cure I am, now reason is past care,  
And frantic mad with evermore unrest;  
My thoughts and my discourse as mad men's are,  
At random from the truth vainly expressed;  
For I had sworn thee fair, and thought thee bright,  
Who art as black as hell, as dark as night.

Ko taku aaroha me he kirikaa, e matenui tonu ana, moona e aahuru roa tonu ana i te mate.

E whaangaitia ana ki te mea e tohu ana i te mate.

Kia makonatia te hiakai rangirua matemate.

Ko taku take, ko te kai aahuru o taku aaroha, e riri ana inaa mo aana whakaritenga i whakaririkatia, kua whakarere i a au, a, ka au te moorearea kua tautoko ko te poo he mina, na te rauora I awere.

Kua pahure taku orange, kua pahure taku takenga.

E manawawera ana i te whakariuka ano.

Ko ooku whakaaro me taku kauhau, me he tangata poorangi, e ahu poka mai ana i te tika, he whakapehapeha te whakahua;

Ina kua whakataua e au, he tootika koe, kua whakaaarotia ha maarama koe, ko koe e tino pangopango ana, e Poo kerekere ana.

This is the seed that spurns *Te Po Uriuri*. Shakespeare's poetic/lyrical qualities evident in his written word draw me to another language - my own.

To me this sonnet explores as its central theme, the intensity of love passion and how this can become so overpowering that all sense of self becomes lost. We find ourselves delving into the dark world of jealousy, obsession, violence and malevolence, we become lost from ourselves.

*Te Po Uriuri* is one such story. Set in the same time when Shakespeare was alive. Our emotional centre, the heart, becomes the central focus. We explore the theme of how we place this emotion of love into the physical body of the heart.

The heartbeat drives us through the film - until there must be silence.

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# Credits

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## Cast

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<b>Awatea</b>	Wetini Mitai
<b>Te Po</b>	Wairemana Campbell
<b>Te Atakura</b>	Wi Kuki Kaa
<b>Te Pura O te Rangiatea</b>	Mina Mitaingatai
<b>Ngaru Nui</b>	Ngatai Rangihau
<b>Ngaru Roa</b>	Raemona Pene
<b>Ngaru Paewhenua</b>	Corrina Gage
<b>Tribal Members</b>	Te Maataarae i o Rehu Performance Group Tuhou Rangi Performance Group

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## Crew

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<b>Director/Writer</b>	Toby Mills
<b>Producers</b>	Norman Elder and Toby Mills
<b>DOP/Associate Producer</b>	Waka Attewell
<b>Production Designer</b>	Guy Moana
<b>Editor</b>	Ken Sparks
<b>Music</b>	Moana Maniapoto Hirini Melbourne Richard Nunns

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