

# The Hill

Sundance Film Festival 2002



# Presskit

**NEW ZEALAND FILM**

COMMISSION

TE TUMU WHAKAATA TAONGA



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# Production Notes

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Writer	Brett Ihaka
Director	Tainui Stephens
Producer	John A Givins
Production Company	Livingstone Productions

Colour	10 minutes	35 mm	1:1:85	Dolby Digital
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## Log Line

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Eddie and Duane have a need for speed ...

## Synopsis

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Eddie is a 10 year old boy with a skateboard and a dream to speed down one of the steepest hills in town; much to his father's displeasure.

Duane is a teenager who lives next door to Eddie. He didn't just dream of speeding down the steepest hill - he did it; and ended up in a wheelchair because of it.

When Eddie and Duane meet at the base of the hill they realise they both want the same things - but for different reasons.

## Director's Biography

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### Tainui Stephens.

Ko Whangatauatia te pae maunga  
Ko Karirikura te moana  
Ko Ahipara Kâmehameha te marae  
Ko Te Ôhâki tôku tûrangawaewae  
He uri ahau nô Te Rarawa iwi  
Me ônâ peka o Ngâti Moetonga  
Te Rokekâ...

Tihe Mauriora!

In 1980 after an undistinguished spell at university, Tainui Stephens served as an investigating officer for the then Race Relations Conciliator, Hiwi Tauroa. In 1984 Tainui started work in television as a reporter/researcher for the weekly Mâori magazine series KOHA. He stayed with TVNZ for 17 years as a director, producer and executive producer with programmes like MARAE, WAKA HUIA and MAI TIME. Documentaries he has made include *MÂORI BATTALION MARCH TO VICTORY*, *WHEN THE HAKA BECAME BOOGIE*, *ICON IN b MINOR* and *THE NEW ZEALAND WARS*.

Tainui Stephens is now an independent radio and TV producer and director. He is broadcasting and cultural advisor to industry groups and the Mâori Language Commission. *The Hill* is his first film.

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# Producer's Notes

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*The Hill* is a modern hip-hop fable of life and death written by Brett Ihaka. It is an urban Māori story, and most of the production team, cast and crew were Māori.

The auditions for *The Hill* revealed some marvellous Māori acting talent. Most parts were easily cast. The role for the boy Eddie however, proved difficult. Director Tainui Stephens chose to visit some Kura Kaupapa (reo Māori immersion schools) on the off-chance a suitable boy could be found. A meeting with Stacey Tūkariri at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Manurewa convinced the director that the experienced kapa haka boy would be the Eddie we needed.

The production ran smoothly and was only disrupted by a lot of fog. Experienced AD's Carey Carter and Neil James ensured a well oiled and enjoyable shoot. Editor David Tokios lent his impeccable rhythm and skills to the cut as did the well tuned ears and chops of Chris Burt in the mix. Experienced DOP Sharon Hawke, gave the film its cool blue look, and NZ Hip-hop legend DLT, provided the cool soundtrack. All, overseen by the inimitable Johnny Givins and Livingstone Productions.

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# Credits

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## Cast

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<b>Eddie Heketa</b>	Stacey Tukariri
<b>Sam Heketa</b>	Patrick Kake
<b>Duane Heremia</b>	Tearepa Kahi
<b>Jennifer Reid</b>	Catherine Stephen
<b>Sione</b>	Ben Rees
<b>Ra</b>	Thomas Kiwi
<b>Jimmy</b>	Bryson Campbell

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## Crew

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<b>Director</b>	Tainui Stephens
<b>Writer</b>	Brett Ihaka
<b>Producer</b>	John A Givins
<b>Executive Producers</b>	Frame Up Films
<b>Directory of Photography</b>	Sharon Aroha Hawke
<b>Editor</b>	David Tokias
<b>Soundtrack</b>	DLT
<b>Art Director</b>	Rob Bavin