



THE WORD

written and directed by Quentin Parr

PRESSKIT

love is not free

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

PRODUCTION NOTES

Director	Quentin Parr
Producer	Simon Ranginui
Production Company	Revolution Productions
Genre	Sci-fi Drama
Language	English/Maori with English subtitles

35mm Dolby Digital Colour 19 mins Wide Screen

LOGLINE

Love is not free

ONELINER

In a futuristic world where social divisions are enforced by the state, a boy finds himself caught in between the haves and the have nots.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In the year 2010, the barrier between the have and the have nots has become physical. Tama (13) is from the right side of the tracks. He is searching for love and truth on the other side, only to find it is being used as a weapon against him.

SYNOPSIS

In a post-apocalyptic world ruled by marshal law, the barrier between the rich and poor has become physical and enforced by the state. Tama (13), the son of a prominent politician, visits his illegitimate half brother Tahu (15) in the designated C Blocks, a place where the poor and working class live in an imprisoned existence.

Where Tama is free to roam, Tahu, his friends and family are confined to the C Blocks and are subject to a constant state presence (with helicopters and surveillance). Tahu is the most important thing in Tama's life, but the unforgiving environment of Tahu's impoverished world is not ready to accept someone from the outside. This is mirrored by the state's unwillingness to accept the humanity of the C Blocks.

In a cruel twist of fate, the two worlds conspire to keep Tama and Tahu apart, reminding us that many victims of war are subject to a division that they themselves have transcended.

FESTIVALS

2008 Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand
2008 Dreamspeakers '08, Edmonton, Alberta
2008 Talking Stick, New Mexico
2008 imagineNative + Media Arts Festival, Canada

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Word is a coming of age story for this generation.

The feeling I wanted to evoke with *The Word...* is one of confusion. My aim was to represent a world that I believe the youth of today have to contend with.

Many of the physical barriers within the film are barriers that exist in the hearts and minds of people today. By making them physical, the world became something that appeared futuristic but is in fact contemporary.

The point being that even within the godless, immoral world we are creating, love will always seek to bind itself to the same type of love.

Love is not free.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Quentin Parr is a second generation filmmaker, who has spent his life growing up on film sets, in edit suites and production offices. It was inevitable that he would eventually find his calling in the industry but it is only in the last 5 years that Quentin has developed a passion for directing.

Starting at the bottom as a production runner, Quentin tried his hand at many different roles from Grip Assist to Unit, eventually creating a name for himself as a 3rd and 2nd Assistant Director. Throughout these years he attended University (Victoria and Auckland). Majoring in film, Quentin was inspired by a script writing paper run by Shuchi Kothari at Auckland University in 2000. From then on he became passionate about creating characters, and placing them in narratives that demanded the best or worse from them. Quentin says: "I grow so close to all my characters that I often dread putting them through difficult situations, but the whole process is addictive".

After having his second child in 2003, the life of a poor writer didn't pay the wages and through good timing and good friends Quentin found himself directing "Cyber World", an info tech show for Maori Television. This eventually led to more directing in television from road shows to music television. During this process, Quentin became hungry to work in drama and the opportunity to develop characters into real life through working with actors.

Since completing production on *The Word...*, Quentin has gone on to direct *True School* a feature length documentary paralleling the history of hip-hop in New Zealand and the U.S. (shot in New York, L.A. and New Zealand).

Quentin is currently working on his own feature film script as well as developing three other feature films for his production company, Revolution Productions. He is also the proud father of four children.

CAST

Tama	RHYS CASTLE-HUGHES
Tahu	MICHAEL KANARA
Ishmael King	AHMEN MAHAL
Tu	RIRIA HOTERE
Governor Tamaki	GORDON TOI
Sam Glover	SARA WISEMAN
Kaea	WAIARIKI GRACE

CREW

Writer/Director	QUENTIN PARR
Producer	SIMON RANGINUI
Executive Producer	CATHERINE FITZGERALD
DOP	RHYS DUNCAN
Art Director	BEN WHALE
Music	OLMECHA SUPREME
Score	JOEL HAINES