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**ACADEMY AWARD 2005 NOMINATION – BEST SHORT FILM LIVE ACTION**

**Awards:** Best Short Film - Panorama Section: Berlin Film Festival 2004  
Best Drama - Aspen Film Festival 2004  
Prize of the Cinema Jury Oberhausen 2004  
Claiborne Pell Award Jury Prize - Newport Film Festival 2004  
Best short film - Hamburg Short Film Festival 2004  
Best short film - Seattle Film Festival 2004  
Best live action short film - Melbourne International Film Festival 2004  
Best International Short Film – Seagate Foyle Film Festival 2004  
Audience Award – National Geographic's All Roads Festival 2004  
AFI Grand Jury Prize – American Film Institute 2004  
Best Film Otago Film Festival 2003  
Best Performance/Best Technical Contribution/Best Script -  
New Zealand Film Awards 2003  
Best Editing – Drifting Clouds Film Festival 2004  
Best Dramatic Short – Wairoa Maori Film Festival 2005

PRESSKIT



# two cars, one night

written and directed by taika waititi

**SCREENING ENQUIRIES**

Hayley Weston, Film Festival & Marketing Executive  
New Zealand Film Commission Email: [hayley.weston@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:hayley.weston@nzfilm.co.nz)

**NEW ZEALAND FILM**

## PRODUCTION NOTES

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Director  
Producers  
Production Company

Taika Waititi  
Ainsley Gardiner, Catherine Fitzgerald  
defender films limited

DCP

5.1 Surround

B+W

11mins

1:1.85

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## LOGLINE

Love is found in the most unlikely of places.

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## SHORT SYNOPSIS

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A tale of first love.

While waiting for their parents, two boys and a girl meet in the carpark of a rural pub. What at first seems to be a relationship based on rivalry soon develops into a close friendship. We learn that love can be found in the most unlikely of places.

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## SYNOPSIS

Romeo and his brother, Ed, sit in the car waiting for their parents to come out of the pub. This is their world, a place inhabited by adults and alcohol. The night passes slowly.

It is in this environment that we also meet Polly, an eleven-year-old girl who arrives with her parents. She too is made to wait in the car while they go into the pub, maybe even to drink with Romeo and Ed's mum and dad. She has been to this pub before, but never encountered the two brothers.

Romeo, restless and bored, decides to make contact with the girl. Like any nine-year-old male, he uses his wit and charm to impress and get to know her. He chips away at her defences until she becomes more interested in him. Eventually Romeo makes his way from the comfort of his own car to the carpark, to Polly's window, then into her car. They share a moment where she lets him inspect her "diamond" (plastic) ring.

Polly's parents return from the pub, ending the children's time together. Romeo leaves the car and says his goodbyes, but not before Polly gives him the gift of the ring. The car pulls off into the night, leaving the question; will these two ever meet again?

**WHAT FOLLOWS ARE THE ORIGINAL PRESS NOTES  
FOR 'TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT', FROM 2006**

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## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

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There are a few moments in childhood that have a lasting impact. Not because they change the course of your life, or because they arrive with any great fanfare, in fact quite the opposite. Those are moments where an unexpected joy is found in the everyday, a moment of beauty in the ordinary. TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT captures one of those brief moments.

The story, or rather the situation, has some personal significance for me as I have spent many nights as a child in the confines of a large Holden outside various pubs, waiting for adults to finish their business. For children, the dark world of grown-ups is a mysterious one. It is also very boring. You make your own fun, you invent games, you pick on each other, you pass the time, which can often be hours.

By nature, when faced with grim circumstances, we tend to look for the light, the warmth, the beauty in life. It is this mood, this feeling, I wanted to capture in the film. One small moment of beauty, happiness, or love, lives longer in the memory than a lifetime of sorrow. This brief but enduring encounter, is like a flower in a field of coal, small but beautiful, it stands out, leaving an impression on the mind. The children's meeting is a chance at something. Love, or even human contact, like a seed, searches for soil to grow. Sometimes it takes root, sometimes it doesn't, but it always has the potential to create something wonderful. That is life.

I do not seek to vilify adults or make presumptions about rural life. I want to show how human contact creates something special in a not so special environment.

Setting the story at Te Kaha pub, a place I have known since my childhood where I grew up on the East Cape of New Zealand's North Island, it seemed appropriate to also cast it in the area, using children from our tribe, Te-Whaanau-a-Apanui.

The cast, Rangi Ngamoki, Hutini Waikato, and Te Ahiwaru Ngamoki, were found at the same school, Te Kura Kaupapa Maaori o Maraenui, about 20km from Te Kaha pub. Although the children had never acted before it became apparent in the auditions that they were naturals. We were lucky to have the skills of Nancy Brunning to help coach the kids, and during the shoot we were all amazed by their performances, how well they could hit marks and also their ability to take direction, process and use it.

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## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

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Taika is of **Te-Whanau-a-Apanui** descent and hails from the Raukokore region of the East Coast. He has been involved in the film industry for several years, initially as an actor, and now focusing on writing and directing.

Two Cars, One Night was Taika's first professional filmmaking effort and since its completion in 2003 he has finished another short "Tama Tu" about a group of Maori soldiers in Italy during World War 2. Tama Tu has also won many international short film awards during 2005 including: Best Fiction Short Film – Melbourne International Film Festival 2005; Best Live Action – Palm Springs International Short Film Festival 2005; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Audience Award – National Geographic All Roads Festival 2004 Special Jury Prize Honourable Mention – Panorama Berlin International Film Festival 2005; Jury Award - Aspen Shortsfest 2005 and Special Mention at Sundance 2005.

Taika is currently in production with his first feature film *Eagle Vs Shark* in Wellington, New Zealand. The film, Workshopped at the Sundance Director's and Screenwriter's Labs in July, *Eagle vs Shark* is a sweet slightly tragic tale about Lily, a hopeless optimist and an even more hopeless romantic.

*Eagle vs Shark* is being produced by Oscar nominee Ainsley Gardiner (*Two Cars*) and Cliff Curtis and stars Loren Horsley and Jemaine Clement. It is being made with finance from the NZ Film Commission.

As a performer and comedian, Taika has been involved in some of the most innovative and successful original productions seen in New Zealand. He regularly does standup gigs in and around the country and in 2004 launched his solo production, "Taika's Incredible Show". In 2005 he will stage the sequel, "Taika's Incrediblerer Show". As an actor, Taika has been critically acclaimed for both his Comedic and Dramatic abilities. In 2000 he was nominated for Best Actor at the Nokia Film Awards for his role in the Sarkies Brothers' film "Scarflies".

Taika is also an experienced painter and photographer having exhibited both mediums, in Wellington and Berlin, a fashion designer and currently preparing to direct the photography of a short film.

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## **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

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DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED was started by Taika Waititi and Ainsley Gardiner in 2003 to produce TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT. It already has a number of films in development and hopes to capitalise on the successes of this first film. The nature of the process, the spirit in which the film was shot and the subject matter that have been key to making TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT such a beautiful short are all key to the philosophies and aspirations of DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED.

DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED, primarily involved in the development of Taika and Ainsley's films is now working in tandem with AIO FILMS LTD. AIO FILMS LTD has been started, by Ainsley and the locally and internationally acclaimed actor Cliff Curtis, to create a home for indigenous storytelling. Their first production Tama Tu (also written and directed by Taika Waititi), is set to follow in the footsteps of Two Cars and has already played at the National Geographic's inaugural indigenous festival and is in official selection for Sundance in 2005.

With Two Cars now eligible for an Academy Award nomination, international attention is focussed on this exciting creative team and their companies.

[www.defenderfilms.co.nz](http://www.defenderfilms.co.nz)

[www.blueskin.co.nz](http://www.blueskin.co.nz)

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## PRODUCERS BIOGRAPHIES

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**AINSLEY GARDINER** is of **Te Whanau-A-Apanui, Ngati Pikiāo** and **Ngati Awa** descent. She began her involvement in film in 1995 with the Avalon Film and TV production course. The course included work placement with Kahukura Productions, and she maintained a close affiliation with them, which has seen her emerge as one of New Zealand's most promising young producers.

As well as producing 3 features before she was 28, she also produced a 26-episode comedy for television. She has also produced short films and worked on commercials, shorts and corporate videos in production and as an assistant director for other companies.

As a creative producer she is closely involved with script and story development as well as casting and talent development. She has recently directed a documentary "Turangawaewae – He Korero" and a technology series "Cyberworld" for the Maori Television Network. She is also currently developing her own scripts.

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**CATHERINE FITZGERALD's** extensive experience as a script consultant and dramaturge, film funding executive, film and broadcasting policy consultant, documentary producer/director and Film Festival manager led her to establish Blueskin Films Ltd in mid 2002.

Since then she has produced, two internationally acclaimed theatrical short dramas, a further two short dramas (in post production), a documentary, a digital feature film (also in post production) each of which profiles new film directing talent.

She has a slate of feature films in development focusing on award winning theatre and prose writers. She is committed to working with highly talented creatives to produce high quality films with broad international appeal.

**FESTIVAL SCREENINGS**

Sundance Film Festival, USA 2004  
Drifting Clouds Film Festival, New Zealand 2004  
Aspen Short Film Festival, USA 2004  
Oberhausen Short Film Festival, Germany 2004  
20th Annual Visual Communications LA. USA 2004  
Zagreb Film Festival, Croatia 2004  
Short Shorts, Japan 2004  
World Showcase Cinema, New Zealand 2004  
Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Fest. 2004  
Newport International Film Festival - Rhode Island 2004  
All Roads Film Project - National Geographic Society, USA 2004  
Cracow International Film Festival, Russia 2004  
Out Takes Short Film Festival, New Zealand 2004  
Sydney Film Festival, Australia 2004  
Athens International Film Festival, Greece 2004  
LA Film Festival, USA 2004  
Cine Vegas Film Festival, USA 2004  
Hamburg Film Festival, Germany 2004  
Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival, Korea 2004  
Melbourne International Film Festival 2004  
Brisbane Film Festival 2004  
Valladolid Film Festival, Spain 2004  
Planet Indigenous Film Festival, Toronto 2004  
Open Air Cinema, Berlin 2004  
Edinburgh Film Festival, Scotland 2004  
Aarhus Film Festival, Denmark 2004  
Sao Paulo Short Film Festival, 2004  
Dundee Contemporary Arts, Scotland 2004  
AFI, Los Angeles 2004  
Seagate Foyle Festival, Ireland 2004  
Mardi Gras Film Festival, Australia 2005  
ImageNation Film Festival, Canada 2005  
Flickerfest International Short Film Fest 2005  
Minimalen Short Film Festival, Norway 2005  
Cowichan Film Festival, Canada 2005  
Palm Springs Native American Film Festival, USA 2005  
Commonwealth Film Festival, UK 2005  
City Gallery Wellington, New Zealand 2005  
San Francisco International Film Festival, USA 2005  
Museum of Modern Art 'First Nations, First Features' New York, USA 2005  
Dubrovnik International Film Festival, Croatia 2005  
Message Sticks Film Festival, Australia 2005  
Terre en Vue-Land Insights Film Festival, Canada 2005  
Dream Speakers Film Festival, Canada 2005  
Aspen Film Fest, USA 2005  
Short Cuts Film Festival, India 2005  
Drifting Clouds Film Festival, New Zealand 2005  
Native American Showcase, Smithsonian Institute, USA 2005  
Warlpiri Film Festival, Australia 2005

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In the Bin Film Festival, Australia 2005  
ImageNATION-Redskins Come Home, Canada 2005  
Prague Short Film Festival, Czech Republic 2005  
Fusion Film Festival, USA 2005  
Brazilian Film Festival, Brazil 2005  
Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival, UK 2005  
Moviefone Short Film Festival, USA 2006  
Afrika Pacifika Festival, Australia 2006  
Mudfest, Australia 2006  
Martha's Vineyard Independent Film Festival, USA 2006  
Asia Society – New Zealand Short Films in New York, USA 2006  
Bemidji Film Festival, USA 2006  
Sami Film Festival, Norway 2006  
New Zealand Film Festival in China, 2006



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## CAST

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Romeo	RANGI NGAMOKI
Polly	HUTINI WAIKATO
Ed	TE AHIWARU NGAMOKI-RICHARDS
Koro	RIWAI WAKA
Tangata	DION WAIKATO
Extras	Taipua Adams, Rebecca Hampton, Regan Hei, Sidney Hei, Bronwyn Insley, Carol Insley, Maria Matchitt, Lorraine Ngamoki, Michael Toki-Pangari, Erina Paora, Duncan Patterson, Pat Puru, Paula Sampson, Mahia Richards, Burra Waititi

## CREW

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Writer/Director	TAIKA WAITITI
Producers	AINSLEY GARDINER & CATHERINE FITZGERALD
Executive Producer	VANESSA ALEXANDER
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant	LARRY PARR
Continuity	ABI KING-JONES
Acting Coach/Chaperone	NANCY BRUNNING
DOP	ADAM CLARK
Camera Operator	CHARLES EDWARDS
Focus Puller	ANGUS WARD
Clapper Loader	DUNCAN PATERSON
Gaffer	GRANT MCKINNON
Lighting Assistants	OBI KENOBI & TAIPUA ADAMS
Key Grip	MURRAY LOVE
Assistant Grip	MIKE TOKI-PANGARI
Sound Recordist	NICK MCGOWAN
Boom Operator	TAIPUA ADAMS
Art Director	SIMON HARPER
Makeup/Wardrobe	LOREN HORSLEY
Prop Vehicles	JIMMY GREAVES, BROOKE TERE & BURRA WAITITI
Catering	CATHERINE FITZGERALD & JULIAN ARAHANGA
Unit	REBECCA HAMPTON & ANNA HORSLEY
Coffee	TIM ROSE, HAVANA COFFEE
Location	TE KAHA HOTEL
Location Liaison	DAVE GASKILL, ALLY MCMAHON, TRISHA ROGERS, CORRINE VERSTRATEN & RUTAIA CAMPBELL
Camera Equipment	PANAVISION

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Grip Equipment	LOVE YOUR GRIP
Lighting Equipment	VOLCANO LIGHTING LTD
Vehicles	DARN CHEAP RENTALS, FILM TRANSPORT COMPANY
Editor	OWEN FERRIER KERR
Assistant Editor	KIRSTY MCDOWELL
Editing Facilities	GIBSON GROUP
Facilities Manager	REX POINTIER,
Visual Effects Supervisor	TIM CAPPER
Digital Imaging	WETA DIGITAL LIMITED, PETE WILLIAMS, NICK BOOTH, ROMAN GADNER
Composer	CRAIG SENGELOW
Vocalist	LISSA MERIDAN
Sound Editor	NICK MCGOWAN
Assistant Sound Editor	GLEN BULLEN
ADR Artiste	WI KUKI KAA
Atmos Vocalists	JULIAN ARAHANGA, TAMMY DAVIS, AINSLEY GARDINER, KINDER TE MOANA
Dolby Digital Mix	CHRIS BURT
Sound Facilities	INSIDE TRACK
Sound Negative	ATLAB, AUSTRALIA
Atlab Liaison	BRUCE MCARTHUR
Film Post Facilities	THE FILM UNIT LIMITED
Film Grade	LYNNE REED
Opticals	BRIAN SCADDEN
Film Post Liaison	SHARON LEAMY
Neg Matching Services	JAY BERRYMAN, UPPER DECK FILM SERVICES
Negative Matcher	RUSSELL LEWIS
Titles	WYNTER BLATHWAYT

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