

# Watermark

In Competition Rotterdam International Film Festival 2002



## Presskit



TEL: 64 4 382 7680 FAX: 64 4 384 9719 PO BOX 11 546 WELLINGTON

LEVEL 2 THE FILM CENTRE 119 JERVOIS QUAY WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND  
[www.nzfilm.co.nz](http://www.nzfilm.co.nz) [marketing@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:marketing@nzfilm.co.nz)

---

# Production Notes

---

Director	Damon Fepulea'i
Writer	Damon Fepulea'i and Savage
Producer	Liz DiFiore
Production Company	GodZone Productions

Colour	12 minutes	35 mm	1:1:85	Dolby Digital
--------	------------	-------	--------	---------------

---

## Log Line

---

A young girl discovers that sometimes what you are looking for is different to what you find.

---

## Synopsis

---

Ten-year-old Megan is exploring the mangroves when she has a surprise encounter with Penina. Both girls are shy and their efforts to become friends are soon ruined by Penina's surly older brother Gordon who demands Megan leave. When Penina tries to defend her new friend, her brother bullies her into submission.

Alone again, Megan continues on her adventure and wades out into the deep mud of the mangrove channels with a spear that she has made. As she attempts to spear a fish, she puts the barbed metal spearhead through her foot, trapping herself in the deep mud. The watermarks on the mangroves that surround her show the high tide level, well above her head, and as the tide slowly begins to rise around her, so does her realisation that she is in mortal danger.

As the day drifts on in the quiet mangrove the tide continues to rise ever higher and Megan's hopes of being rescued grow slimmer. Just when all seems lost, hope floats by in the form of Gordon and Penina. Gordon's confrontational nature however only makes a bad situation worse. Megan's pride does not allow her to ask them for help. When the two children leave, they are still unaware of her predicament.

Later on, Penina's intuition leads her to realise that something is not right. Like Megan, she must find her own courage, if she is to break from her brother's overbearing influence and go back to help her. But by that time it may already be too late.

---

# Director's Biography

---

**Damon Fepulea'i** studied in Auckland where he gained a diploma in Television and Film production. He has worked as an editor cutting numerous commercials, television programmes, documentaries and dramas. He also has directed and produced live to air children's television shows.

Damon has experimented with drama made on digital video and *Watermark* marks his directorial debut of a short film. He also co-wrote the film with his long time friend Savage and they used a lot of their own personal experiences as children growing up and playing around mangrove swamps. He is currently in the early stages of making another short film and working towards a feature.

---

# Producer's Biography

---

**Liz DiFiore** produced *Watermark* as part of on-going project her company GODZONE Pictures is involved in the development of new writers and directors in New Zealand. Their goal is to create interesting feature film projects that reflect the NZ psyche and also reach an audience in New Zealand and Internationally. Other NZ shorts she has produced include *Mananui*, *Letters about the Weather*, *Playing Possum* and *D.O.T. Matrix*.

Liz has had a wealth of freelance film and television drama experience in New Zealand, line-producing and production managing numerous films including Harry Sinclair's new feature *Toy Love*, and Garth Maxwell's feature *When Love Comes* (Sundance and Toronto 99).

---

# Credits

---

## Cast

<b>Megan</b>	Olivia Tennent
<b>Penina</b>	Helena Ikitoelgi
<b>Gordon</b>	Branagh Dennison
<b>Fisherman</b>	Grant Hawke

## Crew

<b>Director</b>	Damon Fepulea'i
<b>Writers</b>	Damon Fepulea'i and Savage
<b>Producer</b>	Liz DiFiore
<b>Executive Producers</b>	Frame Up Films
<b>Directory of Photography</b>	Rhys Duncan
<b>Editor</b>	Nick Smith
<b>Music</b>	Jason Smith and Alan Maharry
<b>Art Director</b>	Savage