

## TARATOA STAPPARD (writer-director) BIO – May 2023

I was born in Aotearoa New Zealand and I live in London. My father was English and my mother is Māori (Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa me Ngāti Tūwharetoa).

My first feature film project, **MĀRAMA**, is a Māori Gothic revenge story, set in Victorian England, 1859. The project is at early funding stage with NZ/Aus producers, Sweetshop & Green and UK producers, Zephyr Films (Chris Curling & Anya Ryzhenkova). My script has received the following development support:

2019 \_ [Edinburgh I.F.F. Talent Lab](#)

\_ B.F.I. Early Development Award (to treatment)

2020 \_ [imagineNATIVE](#) Indigenous Screenwriting Intensive, supported by Netflix

2021 \_ [Toronto I.F.F. Writers' Studio](#)

\_ [Black List New Zealand Project](#)

\_ x2 rounds of Development Funding from the New Zealand Film Commission

2022 \_ [Zurich I.F.F. 'Academy'](#) for emerging filmmakers

2023 \_ selected as an 'Official Project' for the [Berlinale Co-Production Market](#)

My TV series, **TAUMANU**, is in early development; introducing the origin stories and early adventures of the Māori sisters in my latest short film, **TAUMANU (Reclaim)**, which I wrote and directed in 2021 for NZ On Air, Te Māngai Pāho and TVNZ.

My next short, **WAHINE DIVA**, set in Vienna, 2022, is inspired by my mother's personal history as a Māori opera singer.

In 2020, I received a [John Brabourne Award](#) to write **EMKHATSINI**, inspired by the world of my short film of the same name, which I made in the Kingdom of Eswatini, a.k.a. Swaziland. EMKHATSINI is an alternate afterlife road trip movie that journeys from Eswatini to the wild coastline of Mozambique. *A feel-good story about dying... and surviving.* I was awarded the 'Final Draft' Fellowship which funded me to develop EMKHATSINI in the 2022 [Stowe Story Labs Writers' Retreat](#) in Cambria, California.

My short films have screened in festivals including Angers, Aspen, Berlin, Busan, Edinburgh, Encounters, Foyle, BFI London and Māoriland as well as being acquired for broadcast on BBC2, BBC3, Film4, SVT and Canal+.

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