

Electronic Press Kit
EMBRACE

A short film by Thomas Webster



INTRODUCTION

TITLE: Embrace

ASPECT RATIO: 2.35

FORMAT: 1080p 25 FPS

AUDIO: Stereo

DURATION: 15 Minutes

COUNTRY: Aotearoa (New Zealand)

PRODUCTION COMPANY: South Seas Film and TV School



ABOUT

'Embrace' is an artistically driven short film written and directed by Thomas Webster. In this story we are taken into the world of our protagonist "Anahera." A young Māori female in her early 20's, who is an MMA fighter preparing for a title fight. The bond with her mother "Maia", is one that encourages her drive and determination to her training and hoped success. Their relationship is rooted in aroha and strength. During our time exploring Anahera's journey to her title fight we are tackled with Maia's terminal illness. That challenges Anahera's choice to stay and care for her mother on the day of her title fight, or to dive into the challenge with her mother's blessing and mana binding them together even more. Embrace is a film about connectivity to self, strength, aroha and grief.



SYNOPSIS

'Embrace' is a story about a young MMA fighter Anahera who is preparing for an upcoming title shot, while caring for her terminally ill mother Maia.





WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Thomas Webster

Thomas Webster, is a kiwi born and raised aspiring writer and director of kiwi stories. With a vast range of experience from a young age through to his late 20s in performance as an on stage theatre actor, singer and dancer. Thomas's background in the creative world does not fall short of experience. As a child, he was fully immersed in the world of film and its history, quickly teaching himself as he approached his early twenties that this was the career he wanted to expand and succeed in.

Growing up surrounded by strong female figures, being heavily whānau based and growing up in the diverse suburb of Beach Haven , Tamaki Makurau; Toms observations as a young adult have inspired his determination to tell stories that connect to this upbringing and the culture of Aotearoa.

In hopes to form diverse film crews in the future, of all backgrounds, ethnicities and stories, his main objective is not only to write and direct film but make an impactful change in the production process with an open mind and inclusivity.

His debut short film “Embrace” is the first of many, one that he hopes can speak to audiences with authentic story telling.





DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JERI OPORTO

Ever since Jeri had her first camera she has loved creating mini films with her siblings and taking photos of them at their sports events.

The idea of creating stories through visuals inspires her to gain further experience studying at Yoobee South Seas. Jeri has a great eye for mis en scene and will go the extra mile to produce the work the director has envisioned.

Jeri has graduated from a Bachelors of Visual Effects at Auckland University of Technology which provided invaluable experience on what goes behind in post production.

From this she has learned now to create different perspectives of how people perceive the world and form it down to one frame to create a story.

One aspect she loves about filmmaking is being able to collaborate with the minds of creatives and together create beautiful stories of people's past experiences and/or stories created by their imaginations.



PRODUCER

NOVA HEY

Nova Hey is an aspiring TV and Advertising Producer from Auckland who has just finished studying at South Seas Film School in 2022. He loves the creative process of moving from script to screen and bringing teams of creative people together.

Having participated around Almanac Studios, AV Events, GFC Films, Three/Discovery in various capacities, he has recently secured work at SKY with a view to move further into creative advertising in New Zealand and internationally moving forward, Nova is hoping to grow his portfolio of work and influence in the production sphere.



ASSOCIATE PRODUCER and COMPOSER LAURA MACKEY

Laura is a 2014 and 2017 graduate from South Seas Film & TV school where she specialised in Production Design and Management.

Spending the past 5 years in and out of the film industry as a production secretary, assistant and set assistant, while also simultaneously keeping involved with independent projects with local creatives.

Her latest project as prod sec on the newly established co-production series "The Gone" was an opportunity for Laura to work amongst some incredibly talented professionals and gain valuable experience, this also offered a scope to be able to analyse where she wanted to sit in the world of film.

While having a career in production, Laura's ultimate constant has been music.

From a young age being surrounded by sound from her father and being involved in the arts at a young age, Laura's pursuing in film sparked the idea of making the two passions co-exist and began to teach herself how to compose, produce and master; also writing and producing her own music as a songwriter.

With composing influences, Lisa Gerrard, Hans Zimmer, Stephan Rennicks, this original score is formulated around spiritual findings. With synth, bass and strings rising and falling to our characters moments, we are able to expand the film's narrative and introduce a whole new journey.

Laura hopes to work with director/writers who have an authentic story to tell and elevate the world of storytelling through the medium of music.

CREW AND TALENT



POST

Editor - Jordan Jackson
Stills/BTS - Laura Mackey
Composer - Laura Mackey

CAMERA

1st Camera - Jeri Oporto
2nd Camera - Sarah Shepard
1st AC - Jess Sewell
2ndAC- Finn Kadd

PRODUCTION

Producer - Thomas Webster/
Nova Hey
Associate Producer - Laura Mackey
1st AD - River Evans
2nd AD - Lorenzo Smalley

TIKANGA SCRIPT ADVISORS

As a production, we have gone through the respectful process to honour our tikanga Māori.

From the very early stages of the draft script process we have had extensive involvement from industry professionals and whānau members within our community, ensuring research has been substantial throughout the process.

With the blessing of our advisors involved, this story was produced with respect and acceptance.



TIKANGA ADVISORS

Paula Whetu Jones

Rei Samuel

Emma Waimarie Rawson Te Patu

Laura Mackey





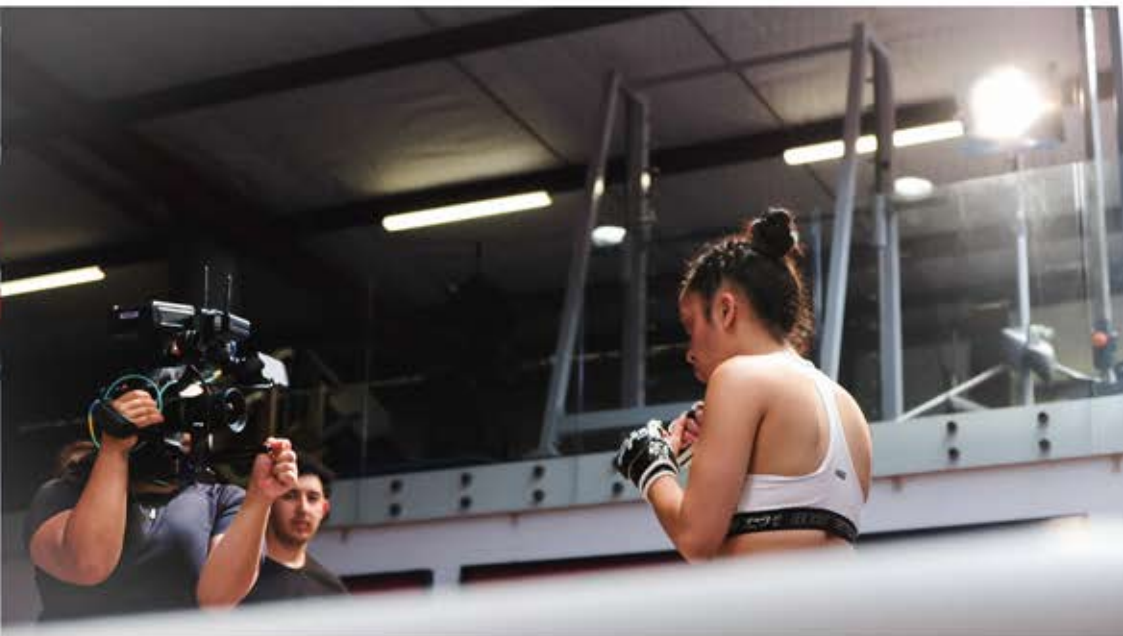


EDITOR JORDAN JACKSON

Jordan has always loved film and TV and has spent a significant amount of his time with his friends and family making short films for youtube and social media. Jordan worked as a freelance videographer for some time before enrolling in Yoobee South Seas. He hoped that he could gain a better understanding of visual storytelling and gain the skills required to take on bigger projects. Jordan graduated from Yoobee South Seas with a diploma in Film and TV Production specialising in Post Production which has made him fluent in the Adobe suite, Avid and Divinci Resolve.

Jordan has learnt to take the puzzle pieces of uncut footage and arrange them so that the director's vision can be fully realised. He has an eye for detail and a comprehensive knowledge of media including social, commercial and traditional entertainment. This gives him a wide range of areas to pull inspiration.

Jordan is currently working for a combat sports broadcasting company (CSN) and a marketing agency where he is planning, shooting and editing content weekly. He is enthralled by film and TV, this is in part due to his ability to work with creative people and create content that can have a lasting emotional impact on the viewer.





AUDIO MIXER

Anne - Marie Groves



GAFFER

Hamish Graham



SECOND CAM OP/BOOM

Sarah Sheperd



1ST AC.B CAM

Finn Kaad



1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA

Jess Sewell



1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

River Evans







SPECIAL THANKS

Fiona Samuel . Kate Cresswell . Matt Meikle . Sonia Heidman . Jamie Irvine . Murray Keane
Hera Dunleavy . Minh Nguyen . Ruth Dudding . Sacha Handsaker . Maria Tempete
Tonie Hands . Henry Jiao . Ashley Powell . Finn Kaad
Ross and Deborah Webster

South Seas Film and Television School & Yoobee Colleges
“Carz” Carwyn Morrison . Jason Suttie . Preston Te Moni . Joseph Whittington

Elite Thai Kick Boxing Gym

Paula Whetu Jones . Rei Samuel . Emma Waimarie Rawson - Te Patu

