

SOUTH SEAS FILM SCHOOL

Y003EE

SON OF SAMMOA

DIR. LAMAN TIME DOP. AIMEE ADAMS EDIT. ZION POVEY

a story of self-love.

Sypnosis

Son of Samoa takes you through the journey of Tatau.

Identity is explored in a way physically, spiritually and mentally that most have not endured. In this doco, dir. Laman discusses his disconnection from family, community and wavering relationship with himself.

With supporting voices, Tamoko/Tufuga artist Inia Taylor, speaks on the importance of belonging and how to navigate that through cultural traditions. Bonni Tamati, a Pacific art advocate also expresses her love for self-discovery and how love within oneself can help spread love around you.

This is a story of hope, a story shared for all, a story of self-love.

Director's Statement.

This documentary is a coming of age story.

Through the journey of Tatau, a message of self love is explored from the struggle of self identity to the embracing of cultural heritage. This is a story on learning how to love parts of yourself that no else ever has. This is the Sun of Samoa

I want people to see a connection between self love and cultural identity.

I want people to understand this journey is not a standard but an avenue for people to learn how to bring happiness in to their world.

I want people to see themselves in these stories.

I want my Samoan people to be encouraged to look past the prejudice and learn to love and appreciate our heritage.

I also love the idea of being a vessel for cultural traditions to continue living onward.

Inia Taylor



Based in Helensville, Northwest of Akl, Inia Taylor is an advocate for Maori and Samoan culture. Initially working as an Art director in the film industry for years, Inia eventually followed another of his passions of Tamoko/Tatau. Being one of the only artists of Maori descent, to carry on the Samoan tradition of Tatau.

Inia opened his tattoo shop Moko Ink about 30 years ago as a practice not only for traditional Tamoko and Samoan Tatau to stay alive but as a spiritual medium for anyone willing to withstand 'the au'. Having had a close relationship with Su'a Sulu'ape Paulo a Samoan Tufuga/Tattoo artist (One of the first Samoan Tufuga/artist to bring traditional tatau over to NZ) Inia has widely supported the movement of Tatau and keeping traditions alive.

In the Son of Samoa documentary, Inia Taylor speaks on his journey as a Maori man and the struggles to feel wanted. "You need to have that sense of belonging and not only that but fitting in."

Bonni Tamati



Born and raised in Christchurch NZ, now residing in Central Akl, Bonni Tamati has supported her Pasifika people for decades.

Growing up with the world of Tatau alongside Su'a Sulu'ape Paulo, Her family have gone to superior limits to keep culture alive. Her father having participated in a live showing of Tatau process in theatre around the 80s and her parents collectively creating a pacific art program for young polynesian individuals to remember their roots.

In the Son of Samoa, Bonni shares words of encouragement she believes everyone should live by. "When I talk to my daughter who is also dutch, I say... you're 100% Samoan and 100% Dutch, that's the Samoan way that I've been taught."

Director of Photography Aimee Adams



Aimee Adams has a keen eye for detail. Born and raised in Akl, NZ she spends her time listening to music and shooting film photography.

Aimee understands the patience and determination it takes to bring a beautiful film to life, having worked on many a project, shes learnt the ins and outs of a camera like a wizard.

Aimee Adams was chosen to be Director of Photography for Son of Samoa after collaborating with the director on a project in 2023 based on his grandmother.

Seeing how graceful and intuitive Aimee is, Laman Time decided she was the perfect fit to take the helm of this passion project.

Camera Assist Hsarhoo Moo



Hsarhoo Moo is a young aspiring filmmaker born in Thailand, and raised in a refugee camp.

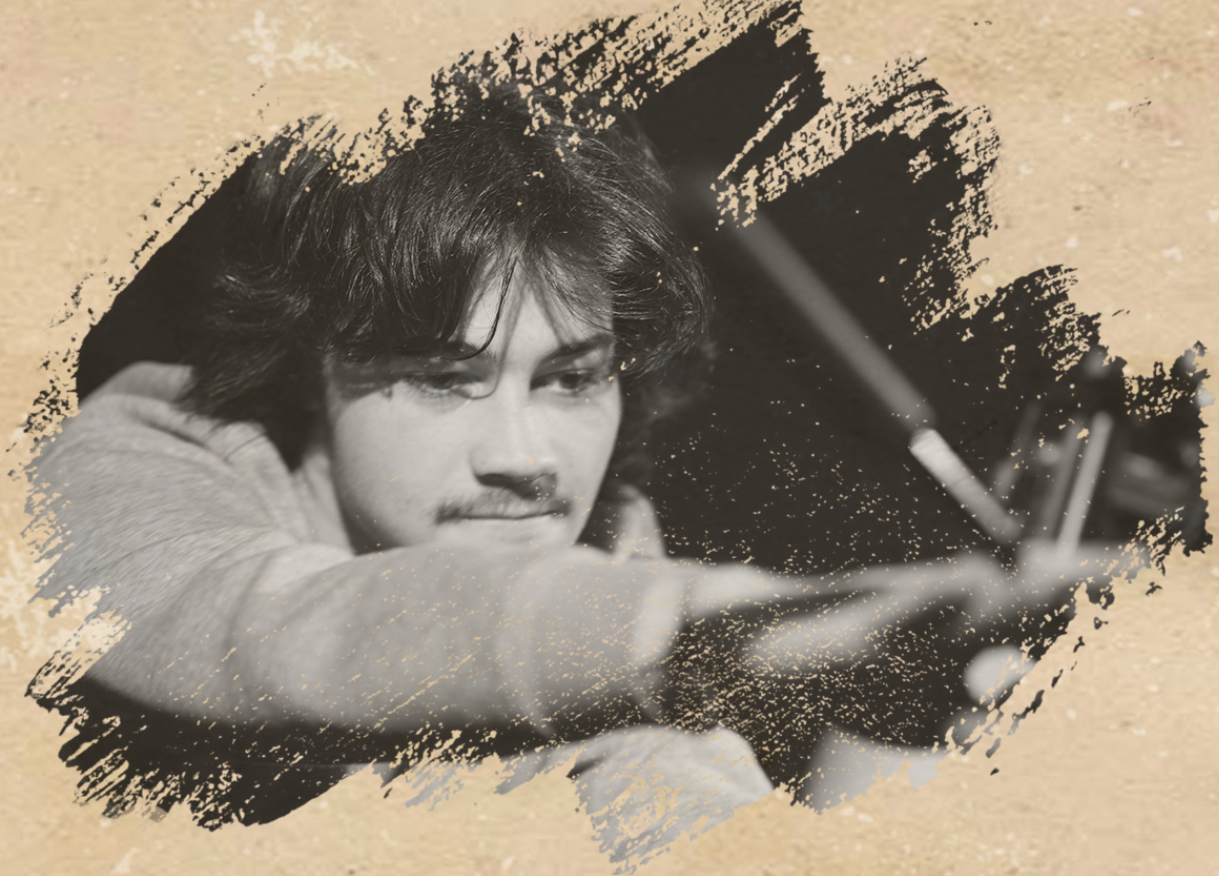
He moved to Aotearoa in his early adolescence for a better chance of pursuing his passion for the arts. From sketching on any piece of paper he could find as a kid to making short films and music videos with his peers, Hsarhoo decided to specialize in Camera, Lighting and Audio for his Diploma in Film Production and TV at South Seas Film and Television School.

He hopes to one day tell the stories he has heard from his family and show the beauty of his homeland to capture the way it is and portray the way he imagines it to be.

After working with Hsarhoo on a project in early 2023, Laman Time decided to reach out in hopes of collaborating once again, on the Son of Samoa.

Lighting

Alfie Saunders



Alfie Saunders is a 20-year-old aspiring filmmaker born in Manchester England and raised in Auckland New Zealand.

He has a strong and growing passion for visual storytelling and cinematography. Growing up with photography in the family, his love for capturing beautiful and interesting images has only gotten bigger within his two years at south seas film school.

With his completion of the film and content creation level 5 course last year he was eager to continue to gain more knowledge and experience within the creative world.

After spending the months together collaborating on group projects, Aimee and Laman felt the need for Alfie's swift film knowledge.

Lighting Assist Joey Leung



Joey Leung a phenom behind the camera and in her own league that also has a firey passion for Dance.

Having an incredibly accurate eye for detail, Joey understands the science behind lighting like no other. Joey was happy to join the Son of Samoa team and help light interviews of Laman's family that didnt end up being used in the final film (due to the change in direction of the story).

Although Joey and Laman walk very different paths, the two love to talk food and movies which ultimately led to the collaboration on this passion project.

Joey having spent her year at Southseas Film School studying Camera, Lights and Audio she was chosen to work on many projects which narrowed her availability down to one day on the set of Son of Samoa.

Lighting Assist #2

Chris Jackson



Chris Jackson based in Central Akl, NZ is an artistic individual with a passion for all things Camera, Lighting and Audio.

With a massive love for the arts having a background in music, Chris also understands the science behind lighting better than the hairs on his head.

Interested in pursuing film after completing his Diploma in Film and TV and Southseas Flim School, Chris was a perfect fit to help bring the studio ideas of the Son of Samoa to life with the direction of Aimee.

Having been selected to work on a multitude of projects, Chris was only available to work on Son of Samoa, for one day.

Behind The Scenes

Jacinth Ong



Jacinth Ong grew up in Singapore where her passion for creative arts and storytelling started from a young age. Her interest continued to grow when she enrolled into a design school.

It was there she discovered storytelling through the form of media and fell in love with it. Upon graduation, she has worked on multiple projects and jobs that improved her expertise on directing, videography and editing.

Over the years, she solidified her interest in post-production and decided to pursue further studies to advance her skills and knowledge. The hands-on approach at South Seas Film school allowed her to branch out her post-production skills such as editing short form drama and documentary, creating graphical assets, animation and color grading.

With her experience, passion and strong work ethic, she hopes to build up more skills and expertise in post-production and have a fulfilling career.

Audio Harosson McTaggart



Harosson McTaggart is a multi-talented artist. Born and raised in Tokoroa, NZ. Harosson loves spending his time drawing, making short films and playing games.

Once a commission artist re-creating amazing anime characters and worlds Harosson makes a keen effort to keep sets fun with his charming smile and humorous jokes.

Harosson's spent his year at Southseas specializing in Camera, lights and audio. He enjoys the profound nature and using his many skills which is the ability to provide beautiful mahi in a mirage of projects.

Aimee and Laman decided Harosson is the chosen one when it came to choosing a soundee for the utmost gut-wrenching and skin-curdling 'au' tapping sounds.

Editor Zion Povey



Zion Povey Born and raised in South Akl, NZ. Zion is a magician on the keys bringing ideas to life.

His passion for video games has brought him to Southseas where he can take his skill for making online content to create industry standard pieces of art.

Zion Povey proves that silence can be deadly with his quick and renowned arsenal of Avid, Premiere, After Effects and Davinci.

Laman believed in Zion and his abilities as he respects indigenous culture and loves his own Maori people.

Director/Producer Laman Time



Laman Time is an aspiring Documentary Film Maker with a passion for stories from the outspoken. Silent but violent, his approach to storytelling comes from a place of struggle and hopes to find similarities between his subjects.

A background in editing and creative writing, Laman values the intimate intricacies that can be often overlooked in the creative arts and society as a whole.

Often misunderstood, Laman spends most of his time learning and sharing the importance of self-love and improvement.

With a Diploma in design and animation, Laman is committed to further developing his skills in contribution to the film industry. Currently a freelance creative, Laman is looking to gain experience in any way he can.

Press Release

Son of Samoa

Son of Samoa

a story of self-love.

This documentary is about self-love. Laman who has spent majority of his life feeling distant and lost, from himself, his people and his culture, shares his journey of ups and downs with love of oneself.

It begins with the process of Tatau. The tradition proves a step of loyalty and commitment to the Samoan culture and people.

We see Laman endure the long process of Pe'a/Malofie for approximately 25-30 hours with the support of cultural advocates Inia Taylor and Bonni Tamati. Intertwined into one story, we discuss the importance of belonging over tradition.

From physically receiving 'the au' to the reason why Laman wanted the blessing, we come to learn that the bearing of patterns is not what is important, but the message behind receiving Tatau.

Laman having struggled with mental health and attempted suicide he wants to be a vessel for self-love through cultural identity.

For more information please contact:

Director/Producer

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Essential Information

Technical Specifications

Format: 1080-P 25

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Language: English, Samoan, Maori.

Genre: Documentary

Country: New Zealand

Running Time: 00:10:14

Date of Completion: December 2023

Any Enquires Contact:

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Credits

Son of Samoa

A story of self love

Director of Photography

Aimee Adams

Editor

Zion Povey

Camera/Lighting/Audio

Hsarhoo Moo

Alfie Saunders

Harosson McTaggart

Joey Leung

Chris Jackson

BTS

Jacynth Ong

Director/Producer

Laman Time

Special thanks to

Inia Taylor

Bonni Tamati

And thanks to

Randwick Park Skatepark

Otara Flea Market

Avondale Sunday Market

Fuimaono Family

Time-Taotua Family

Kalim Simeon-Bennett

Mafo'e Joshua Fuimaono

Su'a Lopeti Toma & Team

Marilyn Kolhase

Jimmy Ma'ia'i - Auckland Museum

Kelly Boyed - Screen Auckland

Adam and Janneane - Adam Design

Sacha Handsaker

Taulua Moimoi + Husband

Jonathon Vanderhoon

Matt Meikle

Giselle Ilaoa

Ben Playfair

Cody Len

Nemo Burkhard

Doco 2023

Term1 A1

Iwi / Mana Whenua

Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki - Tribal Trust

Ngāti Maru Rūnanga - Trust

Ngāti Pāoa Iwi - Trust/Board

Ngāti Tamaoho - Trust

Ngāti Tamaterā - Settlement Trust

Ngāti Te Ata/Te Ara Rangatu o

Te Iwi o Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua

Ngāti Whanaunga Incorporated

Te Ahiwaru - Waiohua

Makaurau Marae Māori Trust

Te Ākitai Waiohua Iwi Authority

Waikato - Tainui/Te

Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ Son of Samoa

What was your main inspiration behind your doco?

Having spent most of my life feeling lonely, invisible and struggling to love myself, (to the point of attempted suicide) I wanted to share a message of perseverance and love through cultural identity and with the process of tatau in hopes I can help anyone who feel the same

How did you become a subject in your doco?

I believe it is more important to act on such beliefs in cultural preservation and self-love, rather than to only speak on it. I also wanted to take the slight opportunity to receive the blessing from my father to receive tatau.

Who is your target audience?

Anyone who wants to feel comfortable in their own skin but more specifically Polynesian people.

Where do you see this movie in the future?

I hope to see it in film festivals and accessible sites like youtube not for monetary purposes but to uplift the hearts of the outspoken around the world.

Are Pasifika stories something you will continue telling in your career?

I believe in putting effort into my community first will not only make me stronger, but also empower any peoples around me.

How did you pick your crew for this?

I enjoyed working with Aimee Adams and Hsarhoo Moo throughout the year and loved the mahi they bring and respect they had during our previous projects. I was also able to make friends with Alfie Saunders, Harosson McTaggart and Zion Povey. We were happily able to collaborate ideas and visions.

How does your culture influence your ability to love yourself?

For me, growing up I never understood the connection between my self-hate and disconnection between my people. I am slowly learning to love the parts of myself no one else ever has which I believe have been influenced by other parties and am now starting to feel whole again. I also hope others can do the same.

What emotion do you want to convey to the audience?

I want viewers to feel warm and appreciated. To feel hope for a better tomorrow and understand that my story is a vessel in support of the message that is self-love and help direct us in a positive direction.



