THERE ONCE WAS AN ISLAND:

TE HENUA E NNOHO

PRESS AND DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

# Main Contact:

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# This document contains:

# Full contact details

# Rights and publicity information

# Complete list of film awards

# Synopsis

# Director’s statement, bio & filmography

# Complete list of film screenings & festivals

# Cast & Credits

**Contact Information:**

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| *Publicity and interviews* Briar March [briarmarch@gmail.com](mailto:briarmarch@gmail.com)+ 64 9 810 9056 + 64 22 317 2531  *Screening information and rights*  Lyn Collie On the Level Productions 1N, 6 Burgoyne St, Grey Lynn, Auckland 1021, New Zealand [takuufilm@gmail.com](mailto:takuufilm@gmail.com) + 64 9 360 4275 (office) + 64 21 52 7339 (Cell) | *Distribution (US)*  On the Level Productions 1N, 6 Burgoyne St, Grey Lynn, Auckland 1021, New Zealand  [takuufilm@gmail.com](mailto:takuufilm@gmail.com) + 64 9 360 4275 (office) + 64 21 52 7339 (Cell)  *Distribution (excluding US)* Journeyman Pictures 4 High Street, Thames Ditton, Surrey, UK, KT7 0RY e. films@journeyman.tv mailto:films@journeyman.tv www.journeyman.tv http://www.journeyman.tv/ t. +44 208 398 4616 |

**Publicity Materials**

Press, reviews and still images can downloaded from our website: http://www.thereoncewasanisland.com/media/

**Rights information**  
*There Once was an Island* has complete clearances for all on-screen content.

**Original Languages**English, Takuu, Tok Pisin

**Prizes**  
Jury Grand Prix, FIFO (Tahiti)

Jury Grand Prix, Cinema Planeta (Mexico)

Leipziger Award, Dok Leipzig, (Germany)

Best Film, Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival (Malaysia)  
Best International Documentary, Cinemambiente (Italy)

Best Documentary, Jameson Cinefest Miskolc International Film Festival, (Hungary)              
Best Documentary, Raindance Film Festival (London)  
Public Prize, Festival International du Film de Groix

Documentary – International Award, Rome International Film Festival (USA)  
Programmers Choice Natural Facts Award, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival (USA)  
Award for Best Development Message, Millennium International Documentary Film Festival (Belgium)

Sustainable Development Award, One World (UK)  
Best Editing Documentary/Factual, New Zealand Qantas Film and Television Awards  
Finalist, Pare Lorenz Award, IDA (International Documentary Association) (USA)

Honourable Mention, Wild & Scenic Film Festival (California, USA)  
Runner Up, Best Political Film, AOF (USA)  
Special Mention, Cape Winelands Film Festival (South Africa)  
Finalist Best Documentary, Documentary/Factual, 2010 New Zealand Qantas Film and Television Awards (NZ)  
Finalist Best Cinematography, Documentary/Factual, 2010 New Zealand Qantas Film  and Television Awards (NZ)

**Logline**  
The impact of climate change forces three Pacific islanders to consider leaving their homeland and culture forever.

**100-word synopsis**  
What if you had to leave your home forever? Takuu, a tiny atoll in Papua New Guinea, contains the last Polynesian culture of its kind.  Facing escalating climate-related impacts, including a terrifying flood, community members Teloo, Endar, and Satty, take us on an intimate journey to the core of their lives and dreams. Will they relocate to war-ravaged Bougainville - becoming environmental refugees - or fight to stay? Two visiting scientists investigate on the island, leading audience and community to a greater understanding of climate change.  
  
**200-word Synopsis 1**  
What if your community had to decide whether to leave their homeland forever and there was no help available? This is the reality for the culturally unique Polynesian community of Takuu, a tiny low-lying atoll in the South Western Pacific. As a terrifying tidal flood rips through their already damaged home, the Takuu community experiences the devastating effects of climate change first hand. In this verite-style film, three intrepid characters Teloo, Endar and Satty, allow us into their lives and their culture and show us first hand the human impact of an environmental crisis. Two scientists, oceanographer John Hunter and geomorphologist Scott Smithers, investigate the situation with our characters and consider the impact of climate change on communities without access to resources or support. Intimate observational scenes allow Teloo, Endar and Satty to take us on their personal journeys as they consider whether to move to an uncertain future in Bougainville or to stay on Takuu and fight for a different, but equally uncertain, outcome. This film gives a human face to the direct impacts of climate change in the Pacific, challenging audiences everywhere to consider their own relationship to the earth and the other people on it

**200-word Synopsis 2**  
Four years in the making, There Once was an Island: Te Henua e Nnoho is the story of a Pacific Island community in Papua New Guinea – their unique way of life and their fight to preserve what really matters in the face of climate change, including a terrifying flood.  
  
Takuu atoll is an idyllic home to articulate, educated people who maintain a 1200 year-old culture and language with pride - but all is not well in paradise. Takuu is disintegrating and when two scientists arrive to investigate, the people realise their attempts to preserve the atoll are currently making the situation worse.  
  
We follow Satty, Endar, Teloo and their families as they must decide what matters most – body or soul. As a huge flood rips through the island, destroying homes and gardens, each family struggles with the reality of the atoll’s situation. With limited communication or support, can they justify staying and risking physical safety to maintain all that makes them who they are, or must they become environmental refugees, leaving for a very different life in neighbouring Bougainville, still rife with violence after a 10-year civil conflict?  
  
Ultimately “There Once was an Island” is about what makes us who we are and what we all stand to lose as climate change unfolds.

**Director’s Statement**  
*There Once was an Island* is extremely topical and discusses an issue of global importance. It is also a character-driven story told in an observational cinematic style, in contrast to other more science driven, or journalistic films addressing climate change. It has wide appeal because climate change affects all of us, but also because it shares the characters’ life experiences in a way that people everywhere can relate to and respect.  Takuu’s plight draws attention to the situation of other people in the Pacific and in coastal areas elsewhere who will soon face similar problems. In addition to being an important record for all Pacific peoples, this film will help preserve the way of life and cultural identity of a unique Polynesian culture. The Takuu community have stressed to us that they feel they do not have a voice and we hope that through this film we have given them one.

**Director bio**  
Briar is a documentary filmmaker and Fulbright scholar. Her films have been broadcast on major television networks, released in commercial cinemas, and regularly exhibited in international film festivals. She has received over 30 international awards for her directing, producing, editing, and cinematography. Her filmography includes two feature length documentaries, *There Once Was an Island: Te Henua e Nnoho* (2010), and *Allie Eagle and Me* (2004) (link to: www.allieeagleandme.com), and four shorts: *Smoke Songs* (link to: www.smokesongs.com) (2011), *Michael & His Dragon* (2010), *Sick Wid It* (2010), and *Promenade* (2011). Briar has an MFA from Stanford University and a BFA from the University of Auckland.

**Director Filmography**  
  
*2011: Smoke Songs, 22 minutes, (format) (short documentary)*

Blackfire: a Native American punk-rock band with a message attempt to transfer their dark history of forced relocation, racism, and human rights violations, into a form of creative expression and youth empowerment.

Role: Director, Producer, Editor, Cinematographer

Selected Screenings: SF Indi Fest Documentary Film Festival, Angelus Student Film Festival, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Ashland Independent Film Festival, DOXA Film Festival, Mountain Film Festival, New Zealand International Film Festival, Bumpershoot Film Festival, Nextframe Student Film Festival, First Youth Film Festival, Starz Denver Film Festival, UNAFF Film Festival.

Awards: “National Finalist” Student Academy Awards (USA) “Nominee” IDA (International Documentary Association) David L.Wolper Student Awards (USA), “Finalist” Angelus Student Awards (USA), “Audience Award,” SF Indi Documentary Film Festival, (USA)

*2010: There Once was an Island: Te Henua e Nnoho, 80 min, (feature documentary)*  
  
*2010: Promenade, 5 min, 16 mm (short documentary)*  
Promenade is a nostalgic yet incisive glance at America’s iconic coming of age ritual...the high school prom. In front of the lens, teenage whimsy takes on unexpected depth as young women prepare to launch themselves into a golden, imagined future.  
Role: Director, producer, editor, cinematography  
  
*2010: Sick Wid It, 11 min, HD, (short documentary)*  
Seen through the eyes of Antoine Sawyer, a talented TURF dancer, Sick Wid It explores how one dance style, born on the rough streets of Oakland, is providing youth an outlet to express themselves on the dance floor and in life.  
Role: A film by Ryan Malloy and Briar March  
Screenings: Stanford University, New Zealand International Film Festival (Dunedin), Newport International Film Festival  
  
*2010 Michael and His Dragon, 5 min, 16 mm, On the Level Productions (short documentary)*  
A young Iraq veteran’s experience with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder).  
Role: Director, producer, editor, cinematography  
Funding: Kodak Grant, Stanford University Film Society  
Screenings: Stanford University Fall Film screening, California; Sehsüchte International Film Festival, Berlin; Stanford University Film Festival; VisionFest, New York; New Zealand International Film Festival, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin  
Awards: Winner Best Documentary Short - Sehsüchte Int. Film Festival  
Winner Best Documentary Short – Stanford University Film Festival  
  
*2006: Departure and Return, 60 min, DV*  
The final journey of the Rainbow Warrior told through the eyes of six women activists  
Role: Executive producer, editor and second camera  
Funding: The Screen Innovation Production Fund  
Screening and Awards: Media Peace Awards, finalist, (2006); New Zealand International Film Festival, official selection (2006); Documentary Channel, Sky TV New Zealand  
  
*2004: Allie Eagle and Me, 54 min, DV*  
One artist’s astonishing journey from lesbian separatism to celibate Christianity, seen through the lens of a young filmmaker. www.allieagleandme.com  
Role: Director, producer, editor and second camera  
Funding: The Screen Innovation Fund, Arjay Trust, Creative Communities  
Screenings: Corban’s Art Center, Auckland (2005); New Zealand International Documentary Film Festival, Auckland, Wellington, (2005); City Gallery, Wellington (2005); Waiheke Cinema, Auckland (2005); AK05 Festival, Auckland (2005); Oceania International Film Festival, Tahiti, (2005); New Zealand International Film Festival, Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, Christchurch, (2004); Waitakere Hall, Auckland (2004); Going West Festival, Auckland (2004); Chrysalis Seed Trust screening, Christchurch, (2004); Suitor Gallery, Nelson, (2004)  
Broadcasts: Arts Channel, Sky TV, (2005), (2006)  
Distributors: Contemporary Arts Media, Australia; Roadshow, New Zealand

**Previous Screenings**

(for a completely up to date list of screenings please see our website: http://www.thereoncewasanisland.com/screenings/

*World Premiere*FIFO Film Festival, Tahiti, 26 January 2010

*Select television screenings*

*2010*

France – ARTE, France TV

Germany - ARTE

Asia-Pacific – ABC Australia

The Netherlands – NCRV

New Zealand – Rialto Channel, SKY

*2011*

Ireland – TG4

Scotland – Mac TV

Middle East – Al Jazeera Network

Russia – Digital Access

Inflight – Inflight Productions

*2012*

USA – PBS Pacific Heartbeat

Korea - Daehan

Turkey - Al Jazeera

Portugal - TVI

UK - Inflight

*Theatrical Screenings*

Schaubuehne Lindenfels, Leipzig (Germany)

Auckland, Dunedin, New Plymouth, Wellington, Waiheke Island (New Zealand)

Denver (USA)

Boca Raton (USA)

IslandAID Melbourne and Byron Bay (Australia)

*Festival Participation*  
*2010*  
FIFO, Tahiti (January)  
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Montana, USA (February)  
One World Prague, Czech Republic (March)  
The Belgrade Short Film and Documentary Festival, Serbia (April)  
Atlanta Film Festival 365, Georgia, USA (April)  
Festival of the South Pacific (French Preview screening), (May)  
Millennium International Documentary Film Festival, Belgium (June)  
Festival du Carbourg, France (June)  
New Zealand International Film Festivals, Auckland, Wellington,  
Christchurch, Dunedin, NZ (July)  
Avignon Fringe Festival, France (July)  
AOF (Action on Film Festival), Pasadena, USA (July)  
Jameson Cinefest Miskolc International Film Festival, Hungary (Sept)  
Hamburg International Film Festival, Germany (Sept)  
Raindance, London (October)  
Starz Denver, Colorado, USA (October)  
Hawaii International Film Festival, Honolulu, Hawaii (October)  
Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, Arkansas, USA (October)  
UNAFF, Palo Alto, USA (October)  
Ojai Film Festival (October)  
Dok Leipzig, Germany (October)  
Bergen International Film Festival, Norway (October)  
Humandoc, Poland, (October)  
Films from the South (October)  
One World Bratislava, Slovak Republic (November)  
Margaret Mead Documentary Film Festival, New York (November)  
This Human World, Austria (November)  
IDFA, The Netherlands (November)

*2011*  
Wild and Scenic (January)  
Gothenburg International Film Festival, Sweden (January)  
FIPA, France (February)  
Eko Oko, Bosna and Herzegovina (March)  
Portland Oregon Women’s Film Festival (March)  
Cape Winelands Film Festival, South Africa (March)  
Cinema Planeta, Mexico (March)  
Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Greece (March)

Ankara International Film Festival, Turkey (March)  
Movies that Matter, The Netherlands (March)  
Docudays, Ukraine (March)  
Cleveland International Film Festival (March)  
Movies that Matter, Calgary (March)  
Tiburon Film Festival, USA (April)

Dortmund/Cologne Frauen Festival (April)

Titanic Film Festival, Hungary (April)  
Global Social Change, Bali (April)

Uist Eco Film Festival, Scotland (April)  
Planete Doc, Poland (May)  
Human Rights Arts and Film Festival, Australia (May-June)

Reel Earth Film Festival, New Zealand (May)  
Green Film Festival, South Korea (May)  
Docutalk, Nepal (May)

Awake, Arise, Accomplish, USA (May)  
CinemAmbiente Environmental Film Festival, Italy (June)  
The Village Doc Festival, Italy (June)  
Guth Gafa International Documentary Film Festival, Ireland (June)  
Indigenous Film at the Gardens, USA (July)

2011 Scottish Islands Expedition Screening, Scottish Inner Hebrides (July)  
Ischia Film Festival, Italy (July)  
Margaret Mead Film Festival (Australian Museum), Australia (August)  
Globians Doc Fest, Germany (August)

International Insular Film Festival, France (August)  
Global Development Matters, USA (August)

Films for Thought, Australia (August)

Rome International Film Festival, USA (September)

Stadtteilkino Stuttgart, Germany (September)

CineMigrante Film Festival (September)

Entemostra Film Festival, Italy (September)

Take One Action Film Festival, Scotland (September)

3 Continents Film Festival, South Africa (September)

Reykjavik International Film Festival, Iceland (September/October)

Nuremberg International Human Rights Film Festival, Germany (September/October)

Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada (September/October)

Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, USA (October)

Film Festival Siirretyt/Displaced, Finland (October)

Taiwan International Ethnographic Film Festival, Taiwan (October)

Ojo cojo Film Festival, Spain (October)

Planet in Focus Environmental film Festival, Canada (October)

IX Doclisboa – International Film Festival, Portugal (October)

International People Film Festival (ânûû-rû âboro festival), New Caledonia (October)

Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, USA (October)

Doc Lounge Lund, Sweden (October)

Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival, Malaysia (October)

Indonesia International Environmental Film Festival, Indonesia (October)

Cuenca Film Festival, Spain (October)

Movies that Matter Film Festival, Netherlands (November)

American Conservation Film Festival, USA (November)

Doc Lounge Oulu, Finland (November)

Amnesty International Film Festival, Canada (November)

Festival Des Libertes, Belgium (November)

Fundacion De Cultura Ciudad De Cuenca, Spain (November)

Criterio Ambiental Film Fest (CRAFF), Finalnd (November)

Helsinki Refugee Film Festival, Finland (November)

Doc Lounge Aarhus, Denmark (December)

Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival, Papua New Guinea (December)

*2012*

Doc Point Helsinki, Finland (January)

Docs Barcelona, Spain (January)

Ecofalante Environmental Film Festival, Brazil (January, March)

ATMOS, France (February)

International Film and Water Events (February)

Salt Spring Film Festival, Canada (March)

San Francisco Asian American Film Festival, USA (March)

DC Environmental Film Festival, USA (March)

ATMOS, France (March)

Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival, Canada (April)

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA (May)

Etonnants Voyageurs Film Festival, France (May)

El Documental del Mes, Spain (June)

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| **Full Cast and Credits**  **Director** Briar March  **Producer** Lyn Collie  **Editors** Prisca Bouchet Briar March  **Cinematography** Briar March  **Sound Recording** Jeffrey Holdaway  **Music** The Sound Room Mark Smythe  **Co-Producers** Briar March Kelly Anderson Mark Foster  **Executive Producer** Annie Goldson  **Associate Producer** Zane Holmes  **Onscreen Participants** Faith Endar Adu Teloo Fakatutufenua Satty Puaria John Hunter Scott Smithers  **Additional Camera** Lyn Collie Zane Holmes  **Underwater Camera** Rod Pearce  **Additional Sound** Zane Holmes  **Cutdown Editor** Bill Toepfer | **Production Managers** Lyn Collie Briar March Zane Holmes  **Translators** Rose Tione Faith Endar Adu George Tefuarani Sio Tommy  **Cultural Advisor** Richard Moyle  **Research** Briar March Thomas Gleeson  **Graphics** Dan Mace  **Colourist** Stevie Hight  **Sound Mix** Craig Matruschka Daniel Nathan  **Online Editor** Alastair Tye Samson  **Post Production** Toybox Images and Sound Liquid Studios  **Production Assistants** Andrew Chung Sylvia McClunie Sarah Lawrence Gaelen Macdonald Pramen Prasad Rose Tione Lisha Wetherill  **Editing Assistants** Andrew Chung Glenn Horan | T**echnical Advisors** Andrew Chung Chris Edwards Jeffrey Holdaway  **Legal Advice** Matt Emery - Matt Emery Legal Tim Riley - Dominion Law  **Insurance** Aon Mahony Trendall and Jack (Crombie Lockwood (NZ) Ltd)  **Health and Travel Insurance** Sandra Grant of Health and Travel - underwriters Vero and Mike Henry  **Accommodation** The Airways Hotel - Port Moresby Peter Mildner - Port Moresby The Kuri Resort - Buka The extended family of the Ariki Avo, Takuu Atoll/The Mortlocks  **Transport** Air Niugini The MV Barbarian - skipper Rod Pearce The MV Sankamap Qantas  **Travel Arrangements** Kristel Coldicutt - House of Travel Adnan Bharmal - Signature Travel  **Import and Export Entry** Marty Whiteman - Advanced Customs  **Special Thanks** Sony New Zealand (Shane Ormsby and David Colthorpe) John Hudson and Max Adams of the Sunday Programme - TVNZ, Panasonic New Zealand (Pete Fullerton), Robbers Dog Films, Images and Sound (Paul Fairless and Grant Baker), Rocket Rentals (Scott Webster), Cinestuff, Oxfam New Zealand (Nick Braxton) Next Technology, DOCNZ, Fish 'n' Clips (Emma Maurice), Thomas Parkinson, Cynthia Kane and Joy-Marie Scott at ITVS, Jim Robins of the National Research Office Papua New Guinea, The New Zealand Police stationed in Buka, Sio Tommy, Sini Avo, Jane Tommy, Karaho Avo, Thierry Jutel, Sione Paasia, Olin Turrell at Toybox, Rowan Wernham |

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