

Short film stars waiting for Hollywood's call

by Jo Lewis

Hollywood may beckon three Te Kaha kids who starred in an internationally award-winning short film.

The film, *Two Cars, One Night*, filmed in the east coast town of Te Kaha by director Taika Waititi last year, has done exceptionally well overseas.

It won the Panorama Best Short Film title at the Berlin Film Festival this year and best drama at this year's Aspen Shortsfest — making it eligible for next year's Oscar nominations.

Rangi Ngamoki, 10, Hutini Waikato, 9, and Te Ahiwaru Ngamoki-Richards, 9, stars of the film, are excited about the prospect of travelling to the Oscars next year.

"That would be cool," says Rangi, who plays Romeo in the film.

The three children, who attend Maraenui School on the east coast, enjoyed filming the movie and want to pursue acting in the future.

Te Ahiwaru says the best part about it all is "being famous".

Rangi also likes being famous

and has even been asked to sign a few autographs.

The film had its world premiere at the Auckland and Wellington Film Festivals in 2003.

Two Cars, One Night is a story of first love where Romeo (Ngamoki) and his brother Ed (Ngamoki-Richards) sit in a car waiting for their parents to come out of the pub.

Romeo gets bored and decides to make contact with Polly (Waikato), an 11-year-old girl he has never met, who was also made to wait for her parents outside the pub.

He tries to impress her and finally she gets interested in him.

Romeo leaves the comfort of his own car and goes to Polly's car where they share a moment before her parents return and end the time they shared together.

Rangi won best performance in a short film at the New Zealand film awards last year and is currently being considered for a part in a New Zealand TV series. The film is showing at the Melbourne film festival in Australia.

Waititi is based in Wellington and working on his third film.



TE KAHA STARS: Te Ahiwaru Ngamoki-Richards, Rangi Ngamoki and Hutini Waikato.

Planet FM: Radio for minority groups

by Jo Lewis

In a city where just under one-third of the population are not native English speakers, one radio station is providing programming for minorities.

Planet FM is one frequency shared by many cultures, religions and other minority groups who are not represented on the airwaves of the many mainstream Auckland radio stations.

It is the only multilingual sta-

tion in Auckland, providing 143 different programmes in 52 languages.

"It's a lovely, lovely mix," says Planet FM broadcast manager Terri Byrne. "A model United Nations without the grief."

Planet FM, broadcast on 104.6FM, provides the facilities for community groups to broadcast their own language and music, and express their own culture in their own way, says Byrne.

"Unlike any other radio we don't determine the content."

According to figures reported by Statistics New Zealand in 2001, 31% of people living in the Auckland region did not have English as their first language.

The AUT-based Planet FM has only four staff members and community volunteers who raise money to pay for the programmes they run.

Byrne says people have come up with "weird and wonderful" ways to raise money for the individual shows.

The programmes allow community groups to discuss issues that are important to them in a way that they will understand. Community groups are behind a majority of the shows and each show addresses a specific audience.

Some of the programmes on the radio include *Koli Tala'aho* (news in Tongan), *Radio Zeri Yt* (Albanian), *Muththamil Sangam* (South Indian), *Domo I Viti* (Fijian), *The House of Noizz* (Euro Rock) and *Echo Radio* (Netherlands).

The station started broadcasting on a temporary licence in 1987. It gained a full-time licence for an AM frequency in 1989.

The station switched to a more powerful FM frequency in 2000, allowing it to broadcast across the region.

Byrne says their programming schedules are full and they even have a long waiting list. They never fail to put on a new programme, especially if it is in a new language or is something else they are not already broadcasting.

Byrne says the station reflects the multi-cultural society in which we live.

"People can turn on the radio and hear things that are familiar to them," says Byrne.

The station hopes to have archive material available on the internet in future because at present it is not able to replay shows because of a full programme.

The first criterion for getting a show on Planet FM is whether a group is already represented in the media — if not, that works in its favour.

Byrne says she doesn't see radio as a jukebox but as a communication medium.

In a speech to a conference on The New Future for Public Broadcasting, in Wellington last year, Byrne said: "In community-access broadcasting, the people are at the centre of the process and there is no editor."

"Public conversation is allowed to flourish in all its colours and voices. [Access radio] is the sole provider of an unmediated community voice."

Alternative Hamilton radio show breaks boundaries

by Dean Campbell

What do international media celebrities Michael Moore and Noam Chomsky have in common with Hamilton? They're two of the personalities who feature in a lively current affairs radio programme hosted by Raglan's Aaron Moorar.

Moorar compiles the weekly show *Under the Radar* for Raglan Community Radio and it is repeated on Community Radio Hamilton.

American filmmaker Michael Moore, and linguist professor and author Noam Chomsky are among many recent media guests.

"What I do is often described as alternative media. I provide news and analysis that people don't normally get from mainstream media — but I think it's incredibly important," says Moorar.

He says mainstream media sets itself boundaries, but often the truth is beyond those boundaries.

The show also features interviews with New Zealand guests along with international media commentators.

Moorar was frustrated that you could read a story and still not understand an issue at the end of it.

He found only a few journalists who discovered what is behind the issue.

"I wanted to hear this stuff, so I thought 'I'll have to play it myself'."

The show has been playing on Community Radio Hamilton for two months and before that it played on Hamilton's Recall FM. It is also broadcast on the new Radio Chomsky station in Auckland.



ON AIR: Eseta Funganitao, presenter of Toe e Kinikini e Fonua

PNC's big move for hip hop success

by Marcus Stickley

Sam Hansen left Palmerston North four months ago as a musical unknown.

Since his move to Auckland, Hansen, aka PNC, has had a number one radio hit, released a song on the critically-acclaimed *Breakin Wreckwordz* album, and secured appearances on albums by two of the country's biggest selling hip hop producers.

Hansen, now 20, focussed on basketball in his teens, representing Manawatu from the age of 12 to 16. Although he continued this

interest by playing for Awatapu College's senior team in his seventh form year, his passion for the sport waned.

He decided to develop his skills as a rapper and started rapping every Thursday night on a hip hop show on the Massey University station Radio Control.

Hansen made the decision to move to Auckland after rapper MC Muse from the Breakin Wreckwordz collective heard his demo and started emailing him.

Since the move, Hansen has joined Breakin Wreckwordz.

His track, *Day In A Life*, which

closes the collective's debut album, has been number one on 95bFM's top 10 and is set to appear on the latest of DJ Sirvere's platinum-selling *Major Flavours* compilation albums.

Hansen wrote the song before he moved north — something he says he had to do to make his dreams a possibility.

"I had to move to Auckland. It's hard to get things happening on a bigger scale from Palmerston North."

PNC will also feature on the next album of New Zealand's biggest hip hop artist, P-Money,

and the remix of Misfits of Science's NZ number one hit, *Fool's Love*.

"I've been lucky to have things happen really quickly," he says.

But success as a hip hop artist has not gone to his head.

"To live off it is still far away for me," he says.

Hansen's pace of life might have picked up but he has not forgotten his hometown.

"I miss it a lot. It's where my best friends are."

"But I've got to be in Auckland to get anything happening," he says.