



RAWIRI PARATENE

Height: 180 cm Hair Colour: Brown Eye Colour: Dark Brown

BIOGRAPHY - RAWIRI PARATENE

Rawiri gained an international profile as an actor from his acclaimed performance as Koro (the Grandfather) in the iconic New Zealand feature 'Whale Rider' (dir. Niki Caro). But Rawiri is more than just an actor.

Thirty Eight years in the entertainment industry has seen Rawiri win acclaim as an actor, writer, director, producer and tutor in Theatre, Television, Radio and Film. Rawiri is renowned for his versatility:

Television appearances as a 'Play School' Presenter (1980 – 86); a Soap Opera Star (Joe Hudson – 'Shortland Street' – 2001 - 02), a Sitcom Star (Koro – 'Joe & Koro' NZ's first sitcom – 1976 - 78), a Sketch Comedy Star (5 series of 'More Issues' – 1990 - 93), winner of Best Actor in a teleplay he wrote ('Dead Certs' - 1996) attest to his versatility.

Rawiri is a pioneer of New Zealand Professional Theatre with appearances in Shakespeare, Musicals, Contemporary Dramas and Classics, Children's and Maori Theatre in theatres throughout New Zealand.

As well as 'Whale Rider', recent film credits include Pete Horn in Marvel Comics Film 'Man Thing' (Dir. Brett Leonard); Sachariah in the Universal Pictures Tele-film 'Attack of the Sabretooth' (Dir. George Miller); Mulla in 'What Becomes of the Broken Hearted' (Dir. Ian Mune) – the sequel to 'Once Were warriors'. In 2008 he won Best Performance in a short film for the title role in 'The Graffiti & Mr Tupaia'. About to be released is 'The Insatiable Moon' where Rawiri plays the lead role of Arthur, a street person who believes and behaves as if he is Jesus' little brother.

As a writer Rawiri was the Robert Burns Fellow at Otago University in 1983. He won a NZTV Award for Best Writer for his teleplay 'Erua' which also won Best Actor and Best Drama. He wrote 'Blue Smoke' for the NZ Festival of Arts in 2000. The musical comedy proved to be one of the hit shows of that festival. He won a Mobil Radio Award for "Proper Channels" which he also directed. He won the Maori Trustee's Writers Award for his first play 'Saturday Morning' back in 1976.

As a director his film & television credits include: 'Te Moemoea' for the groundbreaking series of Maori Dramas 'E Tipu E Rea' (1989) 'Te Moemoea' was the first drama to be broadcast in the Maori Language. A simulcast English dub played on National Radio when it went to air; The Short Film 'Needles and Glass' (co-directed with Miranda Harcourt - 2004) was invited to the Montreal Film Festival; He was a writer and director 'Korero Mai' which won the NZTV Award for 'Best Maori Programme' 2005.

Rawiri has produced three television documentaries including 'Te Pahu' which he co-wrote with director Merata Mita. 'Te Pahu' examined the fate of the Maori Drum which seemed to have disappeared.

He is a renowned speaker appearing at wide variety of functions and conferences including Keynote speaker at the ASSITEJ conference in Norway & Sweden in 1990, the Dreamspeakers Festival of Indigenous Film in Edmonton in 1992 and he was one of the Master of Ceremonies at the NZ Oscar Party at the Beverly Hills Hotel in 2004.

He also has considerable experience as a Drama Teacher and in 1999 - 2001 he was the Programme Manager of the Performance for camera Programme at Toi Whakaari – the New Zealand Drama School from which he was the first Maori Graduate in 1972. In 2005 he completed a Post Graduate Bachelor of Performing Arts in Acting - BPA (Acting).

As an administrator he was the Assistant Artistic Director of the Fortune Theatre in 1980 – 82. He was the Deputy chair of the Asia Pacific Film Festival which NZ hosted in 1996 and was the Deputy Chair of the New Zealand Film Commission 1992 -96. He was an Executive Producer of



the NZ Short Film Fund as one of the partners of Shorts Conbrio 2006 – 2008. He is currently a member of Te Paepae Ataata which funds development of Maori film makers.

Rawiri is particularly proud of his involvement as a co-deviser and lead actor in a project called 'Children of the Sea' – a series of theatre workshops in Sri Lanka for young survivors of the Tsunami and the ongoing crisis of civil war. From the workshops emerged a play based on Shakespeare's 'Pericles'. 'Children of the Sea' has been performed all over Sri Lanka and went to 2005 Edinburgh Festival where it won four awards including the coveted 'Fringe First' & 'Spirit of the Fringe' awards.

But the personal highlight for Rawiri came in 2009 when he played Friar Lawrence in Romeo & Juliet at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London, where he also played the villainous Theoclymenes in a new version of Euripides' Helen. He is planning to return there in 2011.

AWARDS

2008 NZ Film Award for Best Actor in Short Film – “The Graffiti & Mr Tupaia”

**2005 Fringe First & Spirit of the Fringe Awards at Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Co-Deviser/Lead Actor)
‘Children of the Sea’**

2005 NZ Television Award Best Maori Programme (Writer/Director) ‘Korero Mai’

2000 NZ Television Award Best Documentary (Writer) ‘Otara – Defying the odds’

1996 NZ Film & Television Award for Best Actor - Dead Cert (Hare)

1983 Winner of the Robert Burns Fellowship

1980 Winner Mobil Radio Award for 'Proper Channels' Radio Play (Production)

1980 Winner Mobil Radio Award for 'Proper Channels' Radio Play (Writing)

1976 Winner of the Maori Writers Award

FILM

2010 The Insatiable Moon

Character: Arthur

Director: Rosemary Riddell

Producer: Mike Riddell

2006 Bride Flight

Character: Old Mozie

Company: Curious Films

Director: Ben Sombogaart

Producer: Hanneke Niens

2005 Man Thing

Character: Pete Horn

Company: Samurai Pictures NZ Ltd / Warner Brothers

Director: Brett Leonard

2005 Attack of the Sabretooth

Character: Sachariah

Company: Film Brokers International

Director: George Miller

Producer: Tom Woosley



2004 Fracture

Character: Judge Broughton
Company: Kahukura Productions
Director: Larry Parr
Producer: Charlie McClellan

2002 Whale Rider

Character: Koro (Lead)
Company: South Pacific Pictures
Director: Niki Caro
Producer: John Barnett

2002 Crime Story

Character: Judge Broughton
Company: Kahukura Productions
Director: Larry Parr
Producer: Charlie McClellan

2002 The Legend of Johnny Lingo

Character: Island Chief
Company: Stable Productions Ltd
Director: Steven Ramirez
Producer: Tim Coddington

2000 Accidents

Character: Tamati
Company: James Wallace Production
Director: Paul Swadel
Producer: Matthew Horrocks

1999 The Day Morris Left

Character: Morris (Lead)
Company: James Wallace Production

1999 What Becomes of the Broken Hearted?

Character: Mulla Rota
Company: Sequel Productions/South Pacific Pictures
Director: Ian Mune

1993 Rapa Nui

Character: Priest
Company: TIG Productions
Director: Kevin Reynolds
Producer: Kevin Costner

1987 Footrot Flats: The Dog's Tale

Character: Voice of Rangī
Company: Maqpie Productions Ltd.



Director: Murray Ball
Producer: Murray Ball

1986 Arriving Tuesday (Co-Writer Rawiri Paratene)

Character: Riki
Company: Walker Films Ltd
Director: Richard Riddiford

The Legend of Pikari

Character: Pikari (Lead)
Company: Harlech Television

SHORT FILM

2007 The Graffiti of Mr Tupaia

Character: Mr Tupaia
Company: POP Film Limited
Director: Chris Dudman
Producer: Vicky Pope

TELEVISION

2006 Whanau - Series 1 - Director

Company: Cinco Cine Film Productions Ltd
Director: Rawiri Paratene

2008 Secret of Whales (Gesang der Wale)

Character: Amiri
Company: TeamWorx TV & Film GmbH
Director: Philipp Kadelbach

2005 Intrepid Journey's

Character: Series 3 Intrepid Traveller
Company: Jam TV
Producer: Dean Cornish

2004 Taonga

Character: King Tawhiao
Company: Greenstone Pictures
Director: Catherine Akuhata-Jones
Producer: Robin Shingleton

2003 Travel Channel Secrets Of... New Zealand

Character: Presenter

2002 Mataku

Character: Rawiri Williams
Company: South Pacific Pictures



Director: Peter Burger
Producer: Christopher Gist

2002 Hard Out

Character: Gran Pekapeka
Company: Screenworks
Director: Peter Burger
Producer: Jane Lindsay

2001 Love Muscle

Character: Matt Kutu
Company: Frame up Films
Director: Michael Hurst
Producer: Fiona Copland

2001 Shortland Street

Character: Joe Hudson (Core Cast 2001-2002)
Company: South Pacific Pictures

2000 Xena Warrior Princess

Character: Tazere
Company: Pacific Renaissance Pictures
Director: Rob Tapert

1999 Duggan II - 'Te Papa'

Character: Mita (Major Guest Role)
Company: Gibson Group
Director: John Laing
Producer: Dave Gibson

1991 Issues

Character: Various
Company: Isambard Productions
Director: Kathryn Burnett

1991 More Issues

Character: Various
Company: Isambard Productions

1990 The Rogue Stallion

Character: Brian
Company: Grundy Television Australia
Director: Henri Safran
Producer: Don Reynolds

1977 Joe and Koro

Character: Koro (Core Cast)



Laughinz

Character: Varous
Company: Isambard Productions

Queenie Pete

Character: Waka
Company: Zee Films Ltd
Director: Richard Riddiford

Playschool

Character: Presenter
Company: Television New Zealand

Just what the doctor ordered

Character: Presenter

Dead Cert

Character: Hare
Company: Frame up Films
Director: Ian Mune

Newsflash

Character: Eddie
Company: Gibson Group

THEATRE

2009 Helen

Character: Theoclymenes
Company: Globe Theatre
Director: Deborah Bruce

2009 Romeo and Juliet

Character: Friar Lawrence
Company: Globe Theatre
Director: Dominic Dromgoole

2007 Auckland Festival - Tuwhare

Character: Narrator
Company: Charlotte Yates Productions Ltd.

2006 Dr. Buller's Birds

Character: Keepa Te Rangihwinui
Company: Circa Theatre
Director: Nick Blake



2006 New Zealand International Arts Festival - Tuwhare

Character: Narrator
Company: New Zealand International Arts Festival

2004 The Whale Rider - On Stage

Character: Koro (Lead)
Company: Whale Rider Auckland Ltd
Director: Toby Gough
Producer: Logan Brewer

Decayed Decade

Character: Writer/ Performer
Company: Circa Theatre

Jacques Brel is Alive and Well

Character: Unspecified
Company: Mercury Theatre

Cowardy Custard

Character: Unspecified
Company: Mercury Theatre

Taming of the Shrew

Character: Tranio
Company: Mercury Theatre

The Wizard of Oz

Character: Tinman
Company: Mercury Theatre

The Gingerbread Man

Character: The Gingerbread Man
Company: Downstage Theatre

When you comin back Red Ryder?

Character: Teddy
Company: Mercury Theatre
Director: Mark Medoff

Sezqui Bansi is Deas

Character: Sezqui Bansi
Company: Fortune Theatre

Romeo and Juliet

Character: Romeo
Company: Fortune Theatre



Hot Water

Character: Riki
Company: Court Theatre

Pinocchio's Travelling Circus

Character: Pinocchio
Company: Mercury Theatre

Side by Side

Character: Narrator
Company: Court Theatre

Cabaret

Character: MC
Company: Mercury Theatre

Ground Level

Character: Koro
Company: Mercury Theatre

Joseph and his Amazing Technicolou Dreamcoat

Character: Joseph
Company: Mercury Theatre

Waiora

Character: John/ Hone

Home Fires

Character: Hone Kouka

Blue Smoke

Character: Hokepa

King Leah

Character: Gravedigger's boy/ Ghost
Company: Mercury Theatre

The Club

Character: Geoff
Company: Downstage Theatre

Aturo Ui

Character: Eva
Company: Circa Theatre

King Leah



Character: Edgar/ Poor Tom
Company: Mercury Theatre

Deathtrap

Character: Cliff
Company: Court Theatre

Foreskins Lament

Character: Clean
Company: Fortune Theatre

Macbeth

Character: Banquo
Company: Downstage Theatre

Merchant of Venice

Character: Antonio
Company: Downstage Theatre

Equus

Character: Alan Strang
Company: Mercury Theatre

Lost in the Stars

Character: Absolom
Company: Mercury Theatre

VOICEOVER

Once Were Warriors

Character: Narrator

SKILLS

Other Skills: Character voices, Comedy, Producing, Public Speaking, Script Writing, Tutor in Performing Arts, Voiceovers

VOCAL TALENTS

Languages: Te Reo and Tikanga Maori Fluent

Singing Styles: Various Singing Styles

