



WARU

20th
Year!

Spring
Season
2019

Release: 2017

Cert (UK): 15, F

Country: New Zealand

Language: English and Maori

Runtime: 1 hour 26 mins

Directors : Chelsea Cohen, Ainsley Gardiner, Casey Kaa, Renae Maihi, Awanui Simich-Pene, Briar Grace Smith, Paula Whetu Jones, Katie Wolfe.

Writers: Ainsley Gardiner, Casey Kaa, Renae Maihi, Briar Grace Smith, Josephine Stewart-Tewhiu, Paula Whetu Jones, Katie Wolfe.

Cinematographer: Drew Sturge

Cast: Péter Rudolf, Bence Tasnádi, Tamás Szabó Kimmel

An eight year old boy - Waru - has been killed by the person supposedly caring for him. The local Maori community is devastated by the loss.



The producers of 'Waru', Kerry Warkia and Kiel McNaughton charged eight female directors with the remit to produce a ten minute vignette each, to be shot in real time in no more than one day; put together, each vignette is a chapter in the community's reaction. The sum of the result is 'a fascinating glimpse into New Zealand's contemporary Maori community, Waru brings a sense of dramatic, urgent realism to a story that plays out like a

suspenseful mystery' - Deborah Young, Hollywood Reporter.

We start with Charm, who is preparing the food for the mourners. 'Her stormy confrontation with Waru's sobbing young mother is truly anguishing, as the girl begs her to use supernatural powers to "bring my baby back"' - Deborah Young again. This is followed by Anahera, trying to deal with the loss at his school.

The central chapter is the Tangi (funeral), which concentrates on the ancestral traditions, with his two grandmothers, from different tribes, contending for his body. You will have to come along to see what the rest is about; 'Joined together, the shorts are a powerful chorus of female Maori voices united in finding a way to protect all that is vulnerable' - Gayle MacDonald, Globe and Mail.

