

INVERCARGILL LICENSING TRUST HELPS TO MAKE MOVIE

THE moving tale of a Maori warrior and British soldier forging an unimaginable bond during the land wars of 1846 is about to be filmed in Southland.

Oku Tuakana, My Brothers, written by young Invercargill film writer and director Matt Inns, is expected to take two weeks to shoot.

Inns, 19, shot to fame as a filmmaker after winning two prestigious awards, the platinum award for best short film drama at the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival and second overall at the International Indie Film Competition, Florida USA, for his film *The Flying Monk* made last year.

Inns is fulfilling a lifelong dream in making movies. He started his career at just 6 years when he would make films on the family's home video camera. The story of *Oku Tuakana, My Brothers* actually evolved from a tale inspired by World War II. "I originally wrote it about a German and Kiwi soldier. Then when it came to making it into something I realized it would be easier to make it about New Zealand filming it in New Zealand rather than trying to make it look like Italy. So we changed the setting to the land wars."

Filming begins on July 12 at Cosy Nook, between Colac Bay and Orepuki, with battle scenes shot at Daffodil Bay, Sandy Point, on July 18. Musket training takes place this weekend at the Invercargill Rifle Range, where actors who will be included in the battle will learn how to shoot.

Despite receiving accolades for his first short film, the Southern Institute of Technology student is still highly dependent of the ongoing support of Southlanders and businesses.

The Invercargill Licensing Trust has donated \$16,000 to the Southern Filmmakers Trust which is supporting this endeavour - a commitment, Inns said, that has allowed the film to be made. "Right from the first meeting they(the ILT) were supportive the whole way. They understand its not just about one person. It's using such a massive talent base from Southland - from crafts people, to horse riders, to musket users and the whole crew. It really gives everybody here a chance to express their talents."

ILT chairman Alan Dennis said it was great to have a project which brought together different people within the community. "Films like this prove that we have the expertise here to take on great projects and show how we can really put this region on the map. The Invercargill Licensing Trust has great confidence in this venture. We are excited about the involvement of so many of the cities people and we hope it proves to be a successful project."

This Sunday, cast members will receive musket training so they are well prepared for the battle scene which will be shot at Daffodil Bay on July 18. It is hoped this *Oku Tuakana, My Brothers* will be successful at more prestigious film festivals and if so, Inns is hoping to complete a longer length film. "I want to graduate to full length feature films as quick as I can. There's not really a future in short films – they serve more as a stepping stone."

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