

KAPAEMAHU

Press Kit

LOGLINE

The hidden history of four monumental stones on Waikiki Beach, and the legendary transgender healing spirits within them.



SYNOPSIS

Long ago, four extraordinary individuals of dual male and female spirit brought the healing arts from Tahiti to Hawaii. Beloved by the people for their gentle ways and miraculous cures, they imbued four giant boulders with their powers. The stones still stand on what is now Waikiki Beach, but the true story behind them has been hidden – until now. Narrated in an ancient Hawaiian dialect, Kapaemahu brings this powerful legend back to life in vivid animation, seen through the eyes of a curious child.

FILM DETAILS

Animation:

hand drawn and computer 2D animation
Adobe Animate, Photoshop, After Effects & Blender

Runtime:

8 minutes 28 seconds

Video Formats:

DCP
ProRes422HQ.mov
H.264.mp4

Audio

Stereo
5.1 surround sound

SOCIAL & CONTACTS

Website: kapaemahu.com

Trailer: https://youtu.be/iASTdTL_vAA

Instagram: [@kapaemahu](https://www.instagram.com/kapaemahu)

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/kapaemahu>

Twitter:: <http://twitter.com/kumuhina>

Film Team: kumuhina@yahoo.com

+1 808 629 9864

CREDITS

Written, Directed and Produced by

Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu

Dean Hamer

Joe Wilson

- - -

Animation Director

Daniel Sousa

- - -

Sound and Music

Dan Golden

- - -

Chant Composer and Chanter

Kaumakaiwa Kanakaole

- - -

Narrator

Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu

- - -

Chant Sound Producer

Shawn Pimental

- - -

Sound Mix

Phil Perkins

- - -

Executive Director for PIC

Leanne Ferrer

Kapaemahu is a co-production of Kanaka Pakipika with Pacific Islanders in Communications, with funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

FILMMAKERS

Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu



Kumu Hina is a Native Hawaiian teacher, cultural practitioner and filmmaker who uses digital media to protect and perpetuate indigenous languages and traditions. She began her film work as a protagonist and educational advisor for the award winning films *Kumu Hina* and *A Place in the Middle*, and received a National Education Association Human Rights Award, Native Hawaiian Educator of the year and White House Champion of Change for the groundbreaking impact campaigns associated with those films. Continuing her journey to the other side of the lens, Kumu

Hina produced the PBS/ARTE feature documentary *Leitis in Waiting* and award-winning short *Lady Eva* about her transgender sisters in the Kingdom of Tonga. Hina is also a transgender health advocate, burial council chair, candidate for the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and composer of "Ku Haaheo E Kuu Hawaii," the internationally-known anthem for the protection of Mauna Kea.

Filmography

Leitis in Waiting (2018)

Lady Eva (2017)

After Earth (2017)

The Bridge (2015)

A Place in the Middle (2015)

Ke Kulana He Mahu (2001)

Dean Hamer



Dean Hamer is a New York Times Book of the Year author, Emmy and GLAAD Media award-winning filmmaker, and National Institutes of Health scientist emeritus with a long history in communicating complex and controversial ideas to diverse publics. He formed Kanaka Pakipika with partner Joe Wilson and prior film subject Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu to produce an insightful series of films that have opened the eyes of the worlds to the lessons to be learned from Polynesia's unique approach to diversity and inclusion. He is

currently working on a book and museum exhibition based on Kapaemahu. Hamer is also the author of several best-selling nonfiction books including "The Science of Desire" and "The God Gene," has been a consultant for the BBC and Discovery channels, and his research has been featured in Time, Newsweek, and Science magazines and on Frontline and Oprah.

Filmography

The Rogers (2020)

Leitis in Waiting (2018)

Lady Eva (2017)

A Place in the Middle (2015)

Kumu Hina (2014)

Boy in a Dress (2011)

Out in the Silence (2009)

Thorn In Your Side (2008)

We Belong (2006)

The Preacher and the Poet (2006)

Otros Amores (2006)

That's Unfortunate (2005)

Joy Ride (2006)

Favela Surf Dreams (2005)

Joe Wilson



Joe Wilson is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker dedicated to telling stories that emanate from the voices of those on the outside. His feature and short films combine live action with animation to explore pressing social issues through innovative storytelling. Wilson's work has screened and won awards at festivals around the world including Berlin, Toronto and Tribeca, been viewed by millions of viewers on PBS, ARTE and

other international broadcasts, and has been supported by Sundance, Ford and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. *Kapaemahu* is his fifth film in collaboration with Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu. Previously, Wilson served as Director of the Human Rights at the Public Welfare Foundation and a Producer of Pacifica Radio's *Democracy Now*.

Filmography

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That's Unfortunate (2005)

Joy Ride (2006)

Favela Surf Dreams (2005)

Daniel Sousa



Daniel is an Academy Award-nominated animation director who uses the themes embedded in myths and legends to examine archetypes of human nature. Born on Cape Verde, he approaches filmmaking from a painter's perspective, focusing on the fragility of fleeting moments, memories and perceptions. His short films include *Feral*, which was supported by a Creative Capital Foundation grant and premiered at Sundance, and *Fable*, which won awards at festivals around the world. He recently completed animating several native legends for the four-part PBS special *Native America*, which weaves history and science with living indigenous traditions. Sousa has taught at the Rhode Island School of Design, Harvard University, The

Museum School, The Art Institute of Boston and the Animation Workshop in Denmark.

Filmography

Native America: Sacred Stories (5 episodes, 2018)

Feral (2012)

Drift (2009)

The Windmill (2007)

Fable (2005)

Minotaur (1999)

Carnal Ground (1994)

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am Kanaka – a native person descended from the original inhabitants of the islands of Hawai'i. Our survival as indigenous people depends on our ability to know and practice our cultural traditions, to speak and understand our language, and to feel an authentic connection to our own history.

That is why I wanted to make a film about Kapaemahu, and to write and narrate it in Olelo Niihau – the only form of Hawaiian that has been continuously spoken since prior to the arrival of foreigners. It is not enough to read about our history in an English language textbook, or to study our language in an American classroom. We need to be active participants in telling our own stories in our own way.

I am also mahu, which like many indigenous third-gender identities was once respected but is now more often a target for hatred and discrimination. I want our young people to understand that the ability to embrace both the male and female aspects of their spirit is not a weakness but a strength, a reason to rejoice not to fear.

Whether it is protecting Mauna Kea or Kapaemahu, I shall always believe in what historian S. M. Kamakau articulated in 1865 : He makemake ko'u e pololei ka moololo o ko'u one hanau, aole na ka malihimi e ao ia'u I ka moololo o ko'u lahui, na'u e ao aku I ka moololo I ka malihini.

“I want the history of my homeland to be correct. The foreigner shall not teach me the history of my people, I will teach the foreigner.”

~Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Honolulu, January 2020

AWARDS AND SELECTIONS

Tribeca Film Festival - *World Premiere and Special Jury Mention*
Animayo International Film Festival - *Grand Jury Prize (Oscar qualifying)*
Atlanta Film Festival - *Best Animated Short (Oscar qualifying)*
Foyle Film Festival - *Best Animated Short (Oscar Qualifying)*
Hiroshima International Animation Festival - *Special Jury Prize*
Nashville Film Festival - *Audience Award*
Outfest International LGBTQ Film Festival - *Audience Award*
imagineNATIVE - *Best Native Language Film and opening night film*
Rhode Island International Film Festival - *Best Animation Short*
Chicago International Children's Film Festival - *Children's Jury Award*
Boston International Kids Film Festival - *Best Foreign Language Film*
GAZE Film Festival - *Audience Award*
Bengaluru International Short Film Festival - *Best Animation*
Animation Chico - *First Prize*
Red Rock Film Festival - *Audience Award*
Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival - *Audience Award*
Nomade Land First Peoples Festival - *Best Animation*
Black Maria Film Festival - *Director's Choice Award*
Thessaloniki Animation Festival - *Silver Octopus*
New Zealand International Film Festival - *Special Jury Mention*
Ojai Film Festival - *Honorable Mention*
Annecy International Animated Film Festival
Ottawa International Animation Festival
Spark Animation
Anifilm Baku International Animation Festival
Animasyros International Animation Festival
Animafilm International Animation Festival
Animation Volda
Manchester Animation Festival
Sweaty Eyeballs Animation Festival
Sommets Du Cinema D'Animation Montreal
Palm Springs International ShortFest
Indy Shorts International Film Festival
Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia
HollyShorts Film festival
Show Me Shorts

PÖFF Shorts

International Short Film Festival Canton

Hawai'i International Film Festival

New Orleans International Film Festival

St Louis International Film Festival

Woodstock Film Festival

Heritage Film Festival

Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival

Montclair Film Festival

Woods Hole Film Festival

Naples Film Festival

Cucalorus Festival

Milwaukee Film Festival

Ojai Film Festival

Melbourne International Film Festival

Calgary International Film Festival

Huesca International Film Festival

Tirana Film Festival

Galway Film Fleadh

Liverpool Film Festival

Adelaide Film Festival

Evolution Mallorca Film Festival

Silk Road International Film Festival

LA Asian Pacific Film Festival

San Diego Asian Pacific Film Festival

Philadelphia Asian Pacific Film Festival

Boston Asian Pacific Film Festival

Wairoa Maori Film Festival

Pasifika Film Festival

Indigenous Film and Arts Festival

Native Lens Film Festival

Frameline San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival

Newfest New York LGBTQ Film Festival

LesGaiCineMad

Qfest St Louis

Seattle Queer Film Festival

Queer Screen Sydney Film Festival

Connecticut LGBT Film Festival

Everybody's Perfect Geneva LGBT Film Festival

Desperado LGBT Film Festival
Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival
Merlinka Queer Film Festival Belgrade
Chicago International Children's Film Festival
Zlin Film Festival
San Diego Kids Film Festival
Kuki International Film Festival for Children and Youth Berlin
Big Eyes Big Minds Singapore Children's Film Festival
Cinekids Amsterdam
Boston International Kids Film Festival
Chinh India Kids Film Festival
Ale Kino International Young Audience Film Festival