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McConnell, 2020

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Taika Waititi is 22nd Kiwi to win an Oscar

Glenn McConnell · 14:57, Feb 11 2020

5m 0s

Oscar winner Taika Waititi and Chelsea Winstanley talk to Lisa Owen

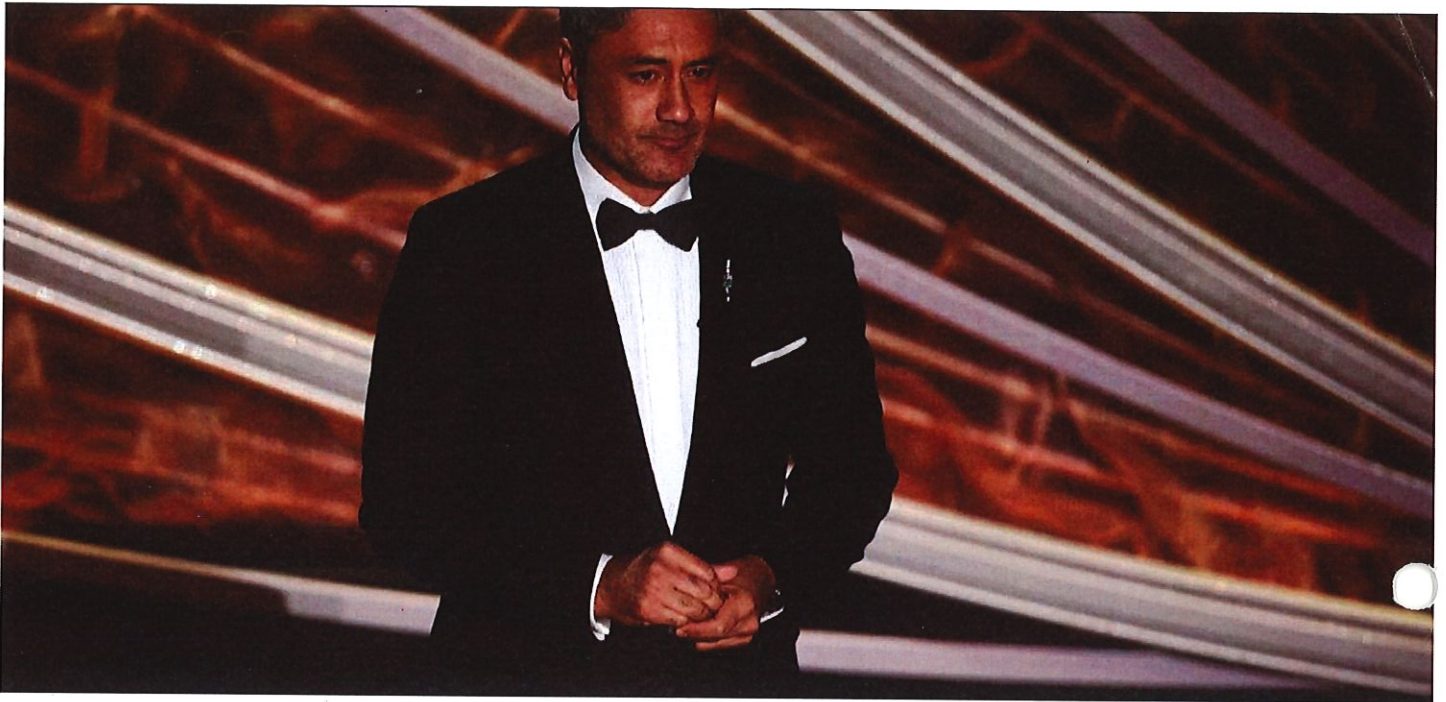
At the Oscars Taika Waititi has won Best Adapted Screenplay for his film JoJo Rabbit. ...



At the Academy Awards on Monday, Taika Waititi dedicated his win to all budding indigenous filmmakers, artists and storytellers, as he became the first indigenous person to win the Oscar for Best Writing - Adapted Screenplay.

Waititi is thought to be the second Māori, and first person from Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, to win an Oscar.

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CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Taika Waititi dedicated his Academy Award to "indigenous kids" across the world.

He follows Ngāi Tahu sound engineer Hammond Peek, who won for Best Sound Mixing in 2003 and 2005 for *The Return of the King* and *King Kong*.

Waititi has won the award for Best Adapted Screenplay at both the Academy Awards and the Baftas.

1m 30s

Kiwi Taika Waititi wins Oscar for best adapted screenplay

The New Zealander won best adapted screenplay for *Jojo Rabbit*, dedicating it to indigenous children around the world wanting to get into the arts.



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Oscars 2020: Who will win at the Oscars? It's all in the numbers

At the Baftas last week (the British version of the Oscars), [Waititi used his acceptance speech to joke about Britain's colonial history](#). He said it was "very cool" to receive the award, "coming from the colonies".

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At the Academy Awards, the director was more formal – [later saying it was a rare occasion where he was "lost for words"](#).

RICHARD SHOTWELL/AP

Taika Waititi, winner of the award for best adapted screenplay for Jojo Rabbit, is the third Māori to receive an Academy Award.

At the awards, he thanked his mother before dedicating the Oscar to "indigenous kids" across the world.

"I dedicate this to all the indigenous kids in the world who want to do art and dance, and write stories, we are the original storytellers and we can make it here, as well," he said.

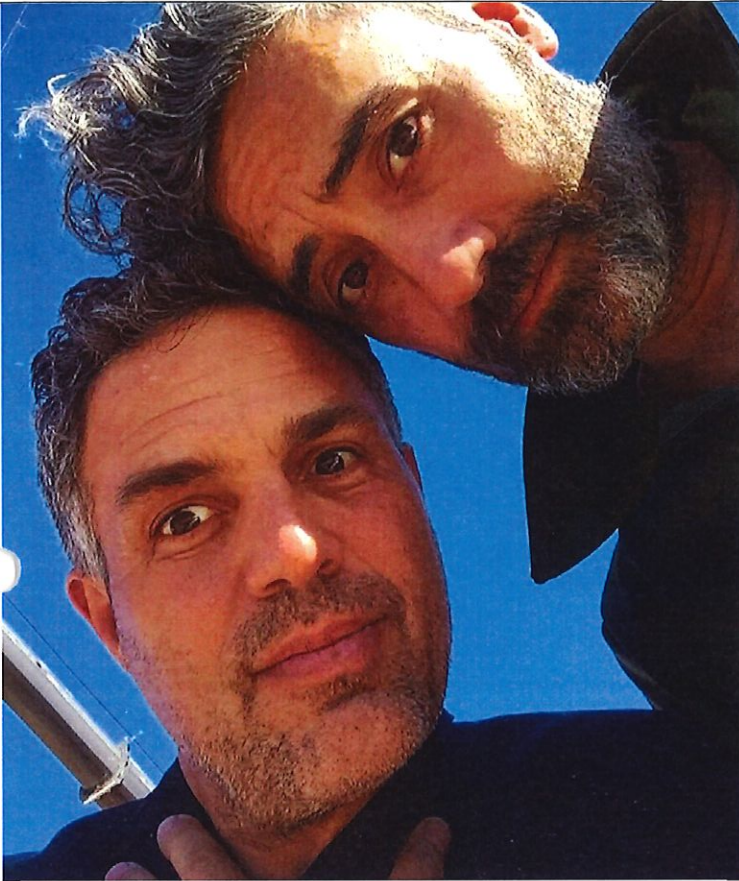
ROBYN EDIE/STUFF

Hammond Peek, of Ngai Tahu, has won two Oscars.

Waititi's win was praised by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Monday afternoon. At a press conference, she took a moment to say how "incredibly proud" she and the country was of his work.

"I don't see many movies, but I've seen that one and not many people could pull off an amazing film like that," she said.

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Earlier this week I was finally able to watch @jojobbitmovie...it's another masterpiece by @taikawaititi 🍿

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Since 1980, 22 New Zealanders have won Oscars and many more have been nominated.

Keisha Castle-Hughes was nominated for Best Actress in 2003 for her role in *Whale Rider*. She was the first indigenous person ever nominated in that category. At 13, and acting in a Māori film, she was also the second Māori nominated for an Oscar.

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Richard Taylor has won five Oscars.

HAANA HOWARD/STUFF

With five Oscars, Richard Taylor holds the most Academy Awards for a New Zealander. He won the awards for visual effects, makeup and design during the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and for *King Kong*.

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truthsayer22

203 days ago

I'm not Maori.

But I am indigenous.

I was born here, as were some of my ancestors..

Reverse racism is an evil thing, thinking you are special or have more rights than others. Just because some of your ancestors emigrated here earlier than others.

I also am Tangata Whenua

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Critical mash

204 days ago

well deserved! such a hardcase creative talent. good man

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Chesterbtw

204 days ago

Russell Crowe is Ngati Porou apparently. Hopefully a reliable Maori source would be able to confirm his whakapapa but if so that would put Taika in third place. Yeeh bro.

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anon

203 days ago

Russell Crowe doesn't want to be seen as a NZer. NZ doesn't want him, and Ausi doesn't want him either (and they always claim NZers who have "made it" as their own).

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Taus

204 days ago

An inspiration to all, well done Waititi!

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DavidCorner;

204 days ago

the other person was part of peter jackson's crew for lord of the rings though and they were directed by peter and fran give Taika credit

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rjt37

203 days ago

So you want to build up some irrelevant part of his personal achievement by pulling some other guy's achievement down? I doubt TW would be up for that. Neither winner deserves to have their achievement mucked about by such motley hangers-on.

This isn't a win for the public, politicians or media to claim for kiwis, NZ, or indigenous people. It is one man's hard work, talent and vision being recognised and rightly so. If he wants to acknowledge others as part of that, then fine. He is the only one who has the right to do so.

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**Rastus**

204 days ago

Mmmmm, on the other side of the coin the saying goes 'respect should not be just given, respect should be earned' and I suppose that goes for 'everyone'???

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204 days ago

Respect should be given first and only denied if a person shows bad character.

[Share](#) [Report](#)**JWUL004**

204 days ago

Totally agree.

[Share](#) [Report](#)**Rosa83**

204 days ago

Very creative movie and a great watch. Highest accolades

[Share](#) [Report](#)**highace**

204 days ago

I would have had more respect for him if he said, "It's for NZers"

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204 days ago

His personal achievement - its not NZs

[Share](#) [Report](#)**Minnie mouse**

204 days ago

I feel my eyes slowly rolling. I always find it funny that those who have (or probably have) no experience with being indigenous themselves feel they can judge what others experience. I loved his acceptance speech

[Share](#) [1 reply](#) [Report](#)**truthsayer22**

203 days ago

The latest buzz word for the perpetually aggrieved, indigenous.

[Share](#) [Report](#)**Unholypenguin**

204 days ago

when you get your oscar you can thank nz.

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204 days ago

Great achievement of his talent and hard work over the years and good advice as everyone is indigenous to somewhere.

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204 days ago

So just wondering where exactly Castle-Huges is indigenous to? Born in Australia to a Maori mother and an Anglo Australian father. Now I'm confused. Is she indigenous to Australia, NZ or England? Or is she indigenous just because she is part maori?

[Share](#) [2 replies](#) [Report](#)**Rosa83**

204 days ago

Ask NZ Stats to clarify your confusion around category definitions?

[Share](#) [Report](#)**Minnie mouse**

204 days ago

There's no such thing as part maori. Either you identify as maori or you don't. She is indigenous to her iwi, her whakapapa and her tipuna who came from Aotearoa

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[3 replies](#) [Report](#)**thumdownifuagree**

204 days ago

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I used to work at quite a prestigious law firm in Auckland. 90% pakeha, the rest were Asian, except one "maori" who got there only because he went to the "right school" (Auckland Grammar).

There were three guys in the team who were only there because their parents knew one of the partners in our team - mostly old school connections. Their marks at uni were not that flash. One girl spent her uni years shagging and drinking and barely graduated at Otago uni. If they went through the normal application process, none of them would've got an interview.

A maori or pacific islander would never have got the same opportunity in the same context. They don't have the old school or sporting or client connections to know these people in positions to make these decisions. There was a fourth guy who was an intern because his parents knew partners. The guy didn't even know if he wanted to be a lawyer once he finished uni.

That kind of "white privilege" is real and I've seen it with my own two eyes.

The Academy Awards has a long history of this kind of privilege and shut doors. Taika Waititi is an inspiration to others without the same opportunities in hollywood. It's hard for anyone but much harder for minorities.

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Chesterbtw

204 days ago

Thank you. Some Maori will struggle to do something as easy as ordering a coffee in a cafe due to racism. Imagine someone getting angry at the mere sight of you.

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William_ChCh

204 days ago

always has to be about race or gender... how about just focusing on talent for once

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Curlyhair

204 days ago

The two aren't mutually exclusive, Waititi's comment is about race not being a barrier to talent being recognised

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Snow y

203 days ago

And if it isn't why did he bring it up?

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CarolynD

204 days ago

I thought Russell Crowe considers himself an Australian. Congratulations to all these people, anyway.

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Simple Ton

204 days ago

He does. We can count ourselves lucky the author didn't try to shoehorn 'pavlova' in somewhere.

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Minnymouse

204 days ago

Brilliant achievement. Pity about bringing racism into his comments.

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Curlyhair

204 days ago

He's just hoping his example breaking through in a white-dominated industry can be an inspiration to others like him to follow in his footsteps. It's telling how many find that idea problematic...

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Kiwi

204 days ago

The amount of people who cannot make sense of that is the crux of the issue.

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truthsayer22

203 days ago

I saw a Korean person get 5 or 6 Oscars. No mention of racism or old boys network by him?

Perhaps its time to move on eh?

Relentlessly negative is such a horrible way to bring up your children.

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Chesterbtw

204 days ago

Wrong bro. Maori are primarily Maori. Some Maori will subscribe to being kiwi for various reasons and that's cool but most Maori will not affiliate with the term Kiwi. Its cool though because people are allowed to be whatever they want to be. Some Maori dont want to upset Pakeha so they will say they're Kiwi. I'm the same with my Pakeha family. I won't tell them how I feel about the term Kiwi because I don't want to upset them. Now, the term Kiwi was created by Pakeha people and it is the controlling characteristics of the term Kiwi that doesn't sit well with Maori. So when you for example say that you thought we were all kiwis, you are really saying that Maori can't be themselves and that our accomplishments are not achieved because of who we are.

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jay pritchard

203 days ago

Maybe I should have said are we not all New Zealander's we live in the same country

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MoeGreeneSpecial

204 days ago

Fantastic result for a Kiwi regardless of race or gender

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2 replies Report



thumdownifuagree

204 days ago

Get your facts right, he didn't say that.

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Catteeya 1

204 days ago

@thumdown - actually he did and has, a lot.....eg 9/4/2018 Stuff article. I have major respect for his talent, but that chip, not so much.

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Karmageddon

204 days ago

You'd think so. Sadly Taika's track record evidences is that he brings race into the conversation all the time which is a massive turnoff. Wish he'd lose that chip on his shoulder and celebrate the fact that like all of us his ancestry is a rich tapestry of peoples from near and far. He just happens to have a better tan than me. And before everyone gets on their high horse I have maori ancestry too (from my great, great grandmother) And ashkenazi ancestry from a grandfather. Different percentages but broadly similar mongrel mix. Mongrel and proud. Taika should be too. Afterall, isn't there strength in diversity?

Share 2 replies Report



Chesterbtw

204 days ago

What are you on about? He has a chip on his shoulder? That's absurd. Look in the mirror.

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Kiwi

204 days ago

Interesting that your experience in life should be the template for everyone. Not all people have the same good fortune.

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Chesterbtw

204 days ago

It means a lot to Maori because we do it tough in nz. That's why Taika said what he said.

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