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McConnell, G., 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

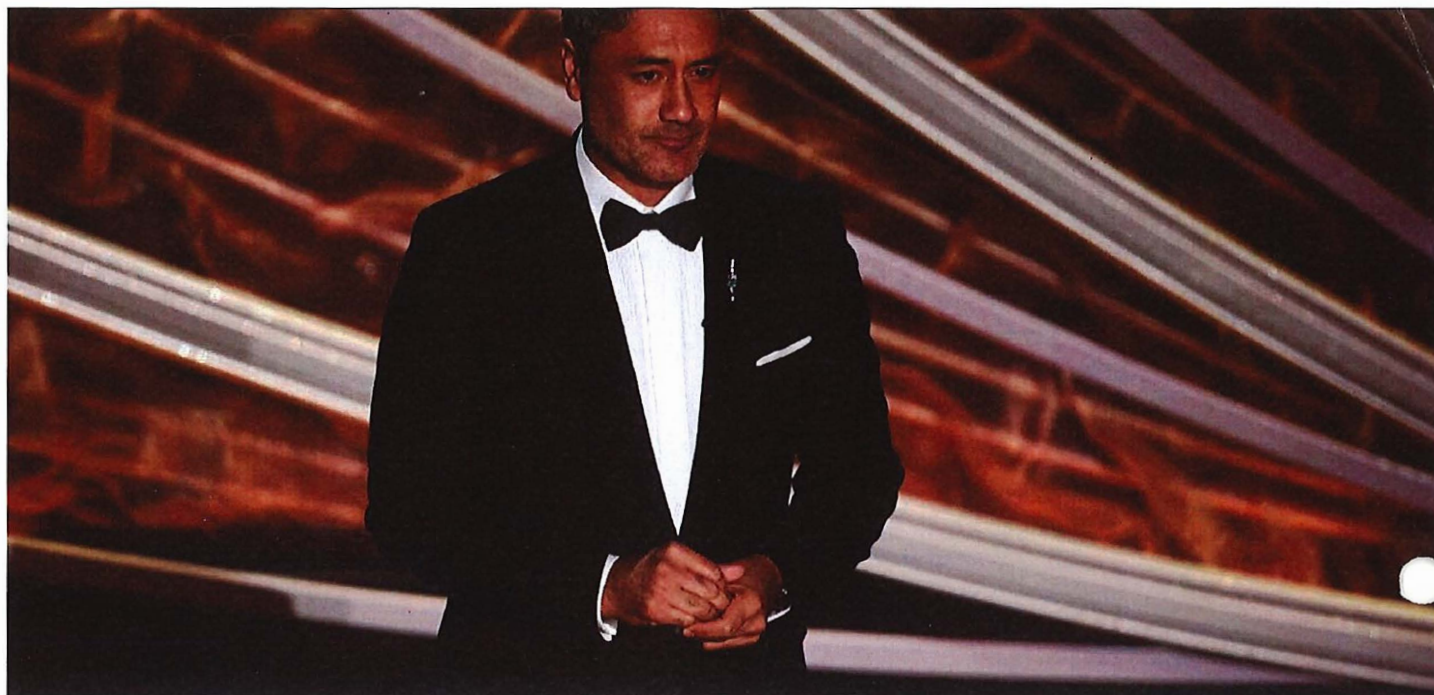
At the Oscars Taika Waititi has won Best Adapted Screenplay for his film JoJo Rabbit ...



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.

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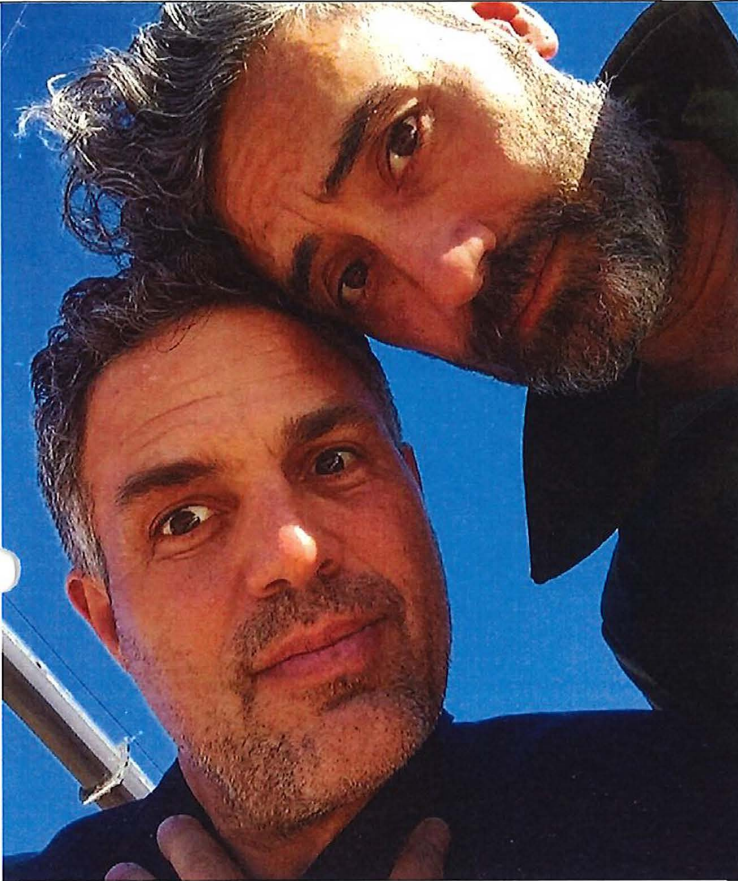
ROBYN EDIE/STUFF

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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HAANA HOWARD/STUFF

Richard Taylor has won five Oscars.

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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