UPROAR PRODUCTION NOTES

KEY INFORMATION:
Film Title: Uproar

BRIEF SYNOPSIS:
A 17 year-old teenager is forced to clamber off the fence he has actively sat on all his life to stand up for himself, his whānau (family) and his future.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:
Dunedin, 1981. The Springboks are touring New Zealand, sparking nationwide protests. Josh Waaka, 17, is a square peg in the round, rugby-obsessed hole that is St Gilbert's College. He discovers a passion for acting as well as a greater awareness of his Māori heritage, a combination that ultimately sends him careening headlong into conflict with his oppressive environment when he is exposed for going on a protest march. Under pressure from home and school to conform, Josh's frustrations come to a head when he films a drama school audition tape that ends with a haka, speaking powerfully to the person Josh truly is. Josh's mother sees the video and they reconcile, and in the final school rugby match of the season, Josh stages a protest and is joined by his family. Through sharing his true voice, Josh has started his family on the journey towards healing.

LONG SYNOPSIS:
Dunedin, 1981. The Springboks are touring New Zealand, sparking nationwide protests. Josh Waaka, 17, is a square peg in the round, rugby-obsessed hole that is St Gilbert's College. When Madigan, Josh's English teacher, recommends he audition for drama school, Josh sees a way to escape his oppressive environment…until his mum Shirley finds him a position in the First XV alongside his brother Jamie. Josh continues to rehearse in secret for the audition.

Josh meets Samantha, the leader of an anti-tour group. Samantha's pride in her taha Māori (Māori side) inspires Josh and he joins their protest march, landing him on the front page of the local newspaper. Narrowly missing expulsion, Josh doubles down on rugby training. He misses his audition, but when a racially motivated attack is committed by St. Gilbert's students, Josh's anger and frustration manifests in a powerful haka.

Madigan shows the tape to Shirley, and she and Josh reconcile. The final arrives and Josh stages a peaceful protest on the field. Shirley and Jamie join him, uniting their whānau. Josh has not had to leave; instead he has stayed and embraced his true self, and in doing so, has started his family on the journey towards healing.

CREW:
Writer: Hamish Bennett, Sonia Whiteman
Director: Paul Middleditch & Hamish Bennett
Producer: Emma Slade, Angela Cudd, Sandra Kailahi
DOP: María Inés Manchego NZCS
Score/Composer: Karl Sölve Steven
Editor: Carly Turner

KEY CAST:
Josh Waaka – Julian Dennison
Shirley Waaka – Minnie Driver
Samantha – Erana James
Madigan – Rhys Darby
Jamie Waaka – James Rolleston

JOSH WAAKA PLAYED BY JULIAN DENNISON
Julian stars as a lead in A24s upcoming film *Y2K*, A screenplay by Evan Winter and Directed by Kyle Mooney. He has starred in the Legendary/Warner Bros franchise *GODZILLA VS. KONG* alongside Millie Bobby Brown and Brian Tyree Henry, which opened to monster numbers this past year launching the resurgence of the box office. He also just starred as the lead villain in *CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES 2* opposite Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn, which released #1 for Netflix this past November.

Previously, Julian starred as 'Firefist' in Fox's *DEADPOOL 2* alongside Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin and Zazie Beetz. This was straight off his work as the co-lead opposite Sam Neill in Taika Waititi's award-winning film *HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE.* After 23 awards and a critically acclaimed Sundance reception in 2016, *HFTWP* became the highest grossing film in New Zealand film history. Julian's stand out performance landed him his first win for best actor at the New Zealand Film and TV Awards.

Julian burst onto the scene at the age of nine with his first feature film *SHOPPING* for writer/directors Mark Albiston and Louis Sutherland. The film was accepted by both the Berlin International Film Festival and Sundance. Julian won a best supporting actor award for his work in the film at the New Zealand Film and TV Awards that year. The next year, Julian followed it up with *PAPER PLANES* opposite Sam Worthington.

SHIRLEY WAAKA PLAYED BY MINNIE DRIVER
Minnie Driver first came to the attention of audiences and critics alike in 1995 for her critically acclaimed performance in *Circle of Friends*, in which she starred with Chris O'Donnell. She went on to earn Oscar and Screen Actors Guild nominations, both in the category of Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role for Miramax's award-winning feature, *Good Will Hunting*, directed by Gus Van Sant. In 1998 she was honoured with ShoWest's prestigious Female Star of Tomorrow for her work.

Driver was most recently seen in Searchlight Pictures' upcoming biopic, *Chevalier*. Based on the life of the titular French-Caribbean musician Chevalier de Saint-Georges, the film is directed by Stephen Williams and also stars Samara Weaving, and Kelvin Harrison Jr. Driver was also recently seen in 20th Century Fox's *Rosaline*, a comedic retelling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* told from the point of view of Romeo's ex, Rosaline. On the small screen, Driver was most recently seen in the second season of Amazon's critically acclaimed series *Modern Love* based on the NYTimes column of the same name. Shortly thereafter, she was seen starring in Amazon's musical *CINDERELLA* written and directed by Kay Cannon and based on the fairy tale of the same name. The film also stars Camilla Cabello, Billy Porter, Pierce Brosnan, James Corden and Idina Menzel.

Driver starred in three seasons of ABC's hit comedy, *Speechless*. The series followed a family with a special-needs child and the challenges they face together. Amongst her other notable television credits, Driver appeared as the unforgettable, "Dahlia Molloy" on the critically acclaimed FX television series, *The Riches*. An audience favourite, Driver received an Emmy and Golden Globe nomination for her role. She also made several guest appearances on NBC's *Will & Grace*, as "Lorraine Finster," a critic and fan darling.

Driver hosts her iHeart podcast *Minnie Questions with Minnie Driver* which premiered in March 2021. She also released her memoir, *Managing Expectations: A Memoir in Essays* on May 3, 2022. The memoir discusses Minnie's life in which she explores navigating the depths of failure, fighting for success, discovering the unmatched wonder and challenge of motherhood, and wading through immeasurable grief. An activist and philanthropist for causes that involve environmental preservation and animal well-being, Minnie divides her time between LA and London.

MADIGAN PLAYED BY RHYS DARBY
Rhys Darby is an actor, writer, podcaster and stand-up comedian from New Zealand. Darby is most recognisable as "the gentleman pirate", Stede Bonnet in the hit MAX show *Our Flag Means Death*, playing opposite old mate Taika Waititi as Blackbeard.

Darby first captured US audiences as Murray, the loveable, but ultimately inept manager in HBO's *Flight of the Conchords*. He has gone on to star in a plethora of TV and film roles, from *Yes Man* and *Pirate Radio* to Nigel in the Jumanji reboots. On the small screen he has brought his talents to animations like *Voltron Legendary Defender* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja*
Turtles, and shows like TBS' *Wrecked*, *The X Files* and *Lemony Snicket.*
Darby also has a habit of popping up in Waititi's films including *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *What we do in the Shadows* and the upcoming *Next Goal Wins*.

Darby is never far from his stand-up roots. His stand-up has been described as a sensational blend of sound effects, characterizations and askew observations. His career has taken him from his homeland of New Zealand, to the U.K. and beyond. He has performed his unique brand of humour in places as far flung as Iceland to the Falkland Islands, and in festivals from sell out shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to Montreal's Just for Laughs.

Rhys has five stand-up specials', *Imagine That!* (2008), *It's Rhys Darby Night!* (2011) and *This Way to Spaceship*, (2012) and *I'm a Fighter Jet* (2017) and *Mystic Time Bird* (2021). *This Way to Spaceship* was based on his debut novel of the same name, "A loosely autobiographical end of world companion" in 2012. It was number 1 in the international charts for 7 weeks.

Darby's second book, this time for kids, was released in Australia and New Zealand in October 2018. It is called *The Top Secret Notes of Buttons McGinty*. Darby wrote it for his then 8 year old son, a reluctant reader, and has been thrilled to hear from kids and parents that they love it! He went on to release another two Buttons books, which thrilled his legions of junior fans.

Rhys' love of the weird is seen in his stand up and writing, and for ten years he has had first a radio show, then a podcast on cryptozoology, *The Cryptid Factor*. Darby was thrilled when approached by Spotify to do a podcast about aliens, *Aliens like Us*. A regular attendee of alien conferences and star gazer, it was a dream come true.

A prolific voice over artist, kids all over the world hear him in *Voltron: Legendary defender, Spirit, TMNT, Boss Baby, Jake and the Neverland Pirates* and many more. He also lends his voice to animated films like *Trolls, Teen Titans Go, 100% Wolf* and *Mosley.*
In between his huge adventures Darby is based in Los Angeles with his family where they like to hike, eat tacos and explore the world.

SAMANTHA PLAYED BY ERANA JAMES
Erana James was recently seen in the second season of the Amazon series *THE WILDS*, created by Sarah Streicher, where she played one of the lead roles, Toni Shalifoe, and the Stan Australia series *BAD BEHAVIOUR*. She will next be seen in Josephine Stewart Te-Whiu's New Zealand feature *TE MOTU* and Hamish Bennett and Paul Middleditch's upcoming feature *UPROAR* with Minnie Driver, Rhys Darby and Julian Dennison.

Erana made her feature film debut playing the lead role of Laura Chant in the NZ film *THE CHANGEOVER*, alongside Timothy Spall, Melanie Lynskey, Lucy Lawless and Nicholas Galitzine, which screened as part of the Alice nella Citta sidebar at the Rome Film Festival in 2017, the 2018 Sydney Film Festival and the 2018 Bucheon International Film Festival in South Korea. Co-directed by Miranda Harcourt and Stuart McKenzie, the film was adapted from the novel of the same name.

Erana has guest starred in the Australian series *MY LIFE IS MURDER* alongside Lucy Lawless, and *PLAYING FOR KEEPS*, both for Network 10. She also starred in the New Zealand comedy series *GOLDEN BOY* alongside James Rolleston and Lucy Knox's short film *HOT MOTHER* which premiered at the 2020 Berlinale International Film Festival.

Erana is of Māori heritage. Her iwi are Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei and Waikato Tainui.

JAMIE WAAKA PLAYED BY JAMES ROLLESTON
Straight out of Opotiki, James Rolleston achieved a remarkable amount in a short time.
In 2009 filmmaker Taika Watiti came to town, and as a 12 year old James was cast as the lead in *Boy*; which, when released in 2010, was a sensational hit in the box office, not only in New Zealand but also overseas.
James emerged on Television as the cheeky bright adolescent face of Vodafone. The high profile and successful Vodafone campaign ran for several years.

The Vodafone campaign opening commercial portrayed James as a film star with the ambition to work in LA with Cliff Curtis, who also featured in the Commercial. This scenario was becoming a reality for James. In 2014, he co-starred with Cliff on the feature, *The Dark Horse*. In the same year, James was lead in *The Dead Lands*, another New Zealand Feature Film that was entirely Te Reo Maori. It was for these performances James won the Best Supporting actor in 2014 and was nominated for Best Actor.

James success continued, playing leads in two new New Zealand Features, *The Rehearsal* and *Pork Pie*.

None of this had come easy and could not have happened without the wonderful support from his family and Community.
Added to this support, James had worked extraordinarily hard to achieve such success – on scripts, one entirely in Te Reo Maori, on upskilling his elocution, on his fitness, on preparing for auditions, on his professional development, and on developing and maintaining relationships within the Industry. Senior actors, producers and directors all wanted to help James not only because they saw his potential but they saw how he enthusiastically responded to opportunities he was given and, to be honest, they all liked him because he was so authentic. He had been sheltered from the worst of how fame could change people.
The two days after receiving the deserved accolades at the New Zealand Premiere of *The Rehearsal* James' world dramatically changed. Back in his beloved Eastern Bay of Plenty, he was in a horrific car accident while coming home from catching up with his mates at rugby training. James was driving. He was very seriously injured.
James took on the responsibility to tell his story to other young people. It is a message of gratitude for opportunities, to grasp chances as they can literally open doors to the world's

stage but primarily he wanted to encourage them to think carefully before acting in any rash way.
James made his first public appearance after the accident, presenting the Supreme Award at the Attitude Awards. Attitude Films documentary followed his recovery, a project that offered him the chance to upskill as a documentary writer and editor.
In 2018 James completed the shooting of *The Breaker Upperers*, a New Zealand comedy film, produced by Ainsley Gardiner, one of the producers on *Boy.*
After a stint on *Shortland Street* he went onto to shoot two seasons of *Golden Boy*, where he played an All Black who was the favourite son of a small town . Then in 2019 he played Freddie in Paul Murphy's Feature *Dirty Lowdown Criminals* where once, again, James demonstrated his comedic ability.
In 2022 he played Gabriel, the fragile and wounded follower of the beloved Māori matriarch Whina. James has recently featured as the narrator and presenter of the documentary *When Bob Came to Town*, a respective look at the influence that reggae music has had on the culture of Aotearoa.

ABOUT THE CREW

PAUL MIDDLEDITCH (Co-Director)
Paul Middleditch is an award-winning director, who has made five feature films and is regarded as one of the top performance/action TV Commercial Directors in the world. At the age of 19, Middleditch's first short film *Light of the Blade* won Best Direction at the Clermont - Ferrand International Film Festival. His first feature, *Terra Nova*, won the first film prize in Montreal and Best of Festival at the Edinburgh Film Festival. His second feature, *A Cold Summer*, premiered in competition at the Rotterdam Film Festival, and earned him an Australian Film Institute nomination for Best Director. Together, these two features travelled to sixty festivals worldwide.

Paul is Australia's most awarded commercials Director, over 300, with 8 Cannes Lions, 4 of which are gold, and numerous International and National awards to his credit. He was "Director of the Decade" for two decades running, and has continually upheld a Number One Director World Ranking on Best Ads on TV, with Carlton Draught's 'Big Ad' being awarded the Best Beer Ad of All Time. His work has featured at the Super Bowl for 6 consecutive years and he is one of the few Australian creatives to have appeared on the cover of Shots Magazine. As an art lover, he is proud to say that he has a work in the permanent collection at MOMA.

HAMISH BENNETT (Co-Director)
Hamish Bennett is a New Zealand Māori writer/director (Te Arawa, Patuharakeke, Kāi Tahu). His first feature, *Bellbird* (2019), described by Variety as "exquisitely tuned" and by Screen International as a "deeply felt slice-of-life delight", had its world premiere as one of 12 films in competition at the 2019 Sydney International Film Festival. It picked up several awards, including Best Screenplay at Macao International Film Festival. Hamish has been a school teacher for over 20 years, and continues to juggle part-time teaching with his writing and directing commitments. *Uproar* is Hamish's second feature film.

MARÍA INÉS MANCHEGO (Director Of Photography)
María Inés Manchego is an award-winning cinematographer based between the USA and Aotearoa (New Zealand). With a master's degree in cinematography from the American Film Institute, she has garnered recognition for her work in drama, documentary, and commercials. Her films, including *"Ani", "Hush", 'Pulp,", "Love story", "Vermilion," ''Maui's Hook,"* and *"Mothers of the Revolution," have* been featured at international film festivals.

JOHN HARDING (Production Designer)
John Harding has had a versatile and varied career, not only as one of New Zealand's most respected theatre designers, but as a film and television designer, art director and costume designer.

He was Production Designer on Gaylene Preston's TV series *Hope and Wire* in Christchurch, Tom Scott's *Rage* and *Home by Christmas,* also *Predicament and Tangiwai* and was the Costume and Culture Designer on James Cameron's epic *Avatar.* John worked for five years on *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy in many design and art director roles. He also designed and developed miniature sets, native costumes and weapons for Peter Jackson's *King Kong* and more recently some Costume designs for *The Hobbit* trilogy. Also design work on *Mad Max, Master and Commander,* the BBC/New Zealand *Kidnapped* and many more.

John's professional theatre career includes the touring productions of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Chicago, Rocky Horror, Mamma Mia, Les Miserables* and *West Side Story*. Also *School of Rock, Anastasia* and *The Pirate Queen*. He designed and directed *My Brilliant Divorce* at Downstage Theatre.

KARL SÖLVE STEVEN (Music Score)
Karl Sölve Steven is a multi-award winning New Zealand/Swedish composer best known for *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a #@%!*, *The Justice of Bunny King*, *Bellbird* and *Come to Daddy* (starring Elijah Wood). His score for *Come To Daddy* was celebrated by reviewers (Variety, Rue Morgue, Film Music Magazine), won the APRA Screen Music Award for Best Music in a Feature Film, and was among the Film Music Institute's Best Scores of 2020. His long-form work has aired on BBC One, Acorn, Viaplay, Netflix, Seven Network, and BBC America.

CARLY TURNER (Editor)
Carly Turner has been in post-production for 19 years, starting out editing children's TV and documentaries in Australia. She moved to assistant editing when pursuing a career in feature dramas and assistant editing for several large budget US films, including Best Editing Oscar Winner Hacksaw Ridge.
She then returned to editing with some of her latest drama credits including: *The Legend of Baron To'a* (Madman Films), *Cousins* (Netflix), *Good Grief* (AMC), *Kāinga* (MIFF), and most recently *Uproar.*

MISCELLANEOUS
Genre(s):Comedy, Drama
Run time: 1hr 49min 51sec
Date of completion: July 2023
Country of origin: New Zealand
Language(s): English & Māori
Shooting Format: Arri RAW LogC3
Aspect Ratio: 2.39:1
Film Colour: DCI P3 D60
Sound: 5.1

PRESS RELEASE
https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/news/principal-photography-underway-feature-film-one-winter-julian-dennison-minnie-driver-and-rhys

MEDIA CLIPPINGS
https://deadline.com/2022/05/paul-middleditch-hamish-bennett-julian-dennison-minnie-driver-james-rolleston-kiwi-rugby-drama-one-winter-1235025596/

https://www.screendaily.com/news/new-zealand-shoot-starts-on-one-winter-blue-fox-to-show-first-footage-at-afm-exclusive/5175398.article

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/spy-uk-star-minnie-driver-rolls-into-nz-for-shooting-of-one-winter/WRPVEQ4FJLP7BL2KK4S6YCFVTU/

https://collider.com/one-winter-cast-julian-dennison-minnie-driver-erana-james-james-rolleston/

https://www.thewrap.com/julian-dennison-one-winter-new-zealand-coming-age-movie/

https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/1981-springbok-tour-movie-set-be-filmed-city