



Rudall Hayward's 1927 silent movie

(Tinted - 103 minutes - Exempt)

Local story of love and war ★ Local setting & cast

Enhanced by live organ music played by

Chris Hainsworth

International Film Accompanist

Thursday 3 March at 7:30 pm

Whakatane Little Theatre

ONE SHOW ONLY – BOOKING ADVISED

TICKETS: Adult \$20, Group 6 or more \$15 per person, Child \$5
from 'The Good Life' 196 The Strand, Whakatane & door.

INFO: (07) 308 0215

Summer Arts
Festival

THE FILM ARCHIVE
Ngā Kaitiaki Ō Ngā Taonga Whiriāhua The New Zealand Film Archive



WHAKATANE DISTRICT
COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

★★★ See over for more details ★★★

The Te Kooti Trail, 1927

Scenario, direction, photography: Rudall Hayward. Adapted from the story by Frank H. Bodle
General assistants: Oswald Caldwell, R L Lees & the citizens of Progressive Whakatane
Interiors courtesy of Tornquist Studios, Auckland.

With: Jasper Calder, Billie Andreasson, Arthur Lord, Eric Yandall, Edward Armitage, Te Pairi Tuterangi,
H Redmond, Mary Kingi, Tina Hunt, AP Warbrick, J Tennant, J Warner, Tom McDermott, Arapeta Tuati,
Tipene Hotene

35mm, tinted, 103 min @ 18fps, Exempt

This screening in Whakatane of *The Te Kooti Trail*, presented by the Whakatane District Community Arts Council, in association with the New Zealand Film Archive, will be enhanced by live organ music played by Chris Hainsworth. Though classically trained, Chris is also keen on popular music and accompanying silent movies. He has twice performed at the Saint Tropez Antipodean Film Festival and in 2008, following successful performances in London and Paris; he was invited to accompany a silent film at the Wroclaw International Film Festival in Poland. Chris has played in Whakatane on numerous occasions during his career. The most recent concerts were 'Bach to Bacchus' in 2008 and 'Organ in the Park' in 2010.

Rudall Hayward (1900-1974), one of New Zealand most prolific film makers who began to make films in the 1920s, was fascinated by what he called "our rough-hewn story" and believed that material from the period 1840 to 1870 would make films equally as fascinating as any from the American West. Adapted from a newspaper serial written by Frank Bodle, *The Te Kooti Trail* was based on the account of the sacking of Mill Farm at Te Poronu (towards the river from the monument on the Whakatane - Taneatua road) related in volume 2 of James Cowan's *The New Zealand Wars*. Hayward made much of the fact that the film was taken from the official accounts and went to great lengths to ensure its accuracy.

To finance the film Hayward established Whakatane Films Ltd, a syndicate of local businessmen. Altogether £900 was raised and the film was shot on location in seven weeks from early September 1927. The entirely amateur cast was recruited locally. Lead roles were decided by the player's physical resemblance to the character to be portrayed while smaller roles were given to shareholders in Whakatane Films.

The Te Kooti Trail has received undue notoriety for causing New Zealand's first home-grown censorship

controversy. The film's release was delayed by the censor WH Tanner (at the request of Maui Pomare, then acting Minister of Internal Affairs) for a special screening to Maori MPs and elders of the Ringatu Church to ensure it did not offend Maori sensibilities. As a result two inter-titles were changed.

Hayward was incensed by what he saw as political intervention; however he used the incident to maximise publicity. The famous by-line *Stopped by the N.Z. Film Censor! Because of its Amazing Historic Realism – then released because it proved to be the truth. Filmed as it actually happened!* quickly appeared.

Billed as New Zealand's "greatest production", *The Te Kooti Trail* had its world premiere at the Strand Theatre, Auckland on 17 November 1927. The film was favourably received and screened throughout New Zealand. Later it formed part of the National Film Library, however, it was only rarely screened until recently.

A nitrate* print of *The Te Kooti Trail* was part of the Film Library's archive collection transferred to the Film Archive in 1984. At that time decomposing sections of nitrate were removed and transferred to safety film. Subsequent preservation work was carried out as need and finance dictated. With support from UNESCO, the last of the nitrate was transferred in 1994 and the preservation process was completed. In 2000 the Film Archive won the Haghefilm Award and the full restoration was achieved. This gloriously restored, tinted print of *The Te Kooti Trail* premiered at Le Giornate del Cinema Muto, Italy in 2001, aptly concluding the celebration of Hayward's centenary putting him among his international peers.

Early in 2003 a special whanau screening for the descendants of characters, actors and personnel involved in the film was held at Te Hokowhitu-a-Tumatauenga Marae, Whakatane.

* Early films used cellulose nitrate stock, which was not only highly inflammable but sometimes burst into flame spontaneously. It was also chemically unstable and liable to decay rapidly.

You are invited to form a group of six or more adults and save 25% (\$15 not \$20).
Get tickets from 'The Good Life', 196 The Strand, Whakatane from 16 February, or post your order with a cheque made out to "Whakatane District Community Arts Council" to: Film screening, C/- PO Box 132, Whakatane 3158. A stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Enquiries to: (07) 308 0215