

A FILM BY
CHRISTOPHE CORDIER & HERETU TETAHIOTUPA

PATUTIKI





PATUTIKI

The Guardians of Marquesan Tattoo

ETHNOLOGICAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Running Time:
55 minutes

*Directed, Written, Produced, Cinematography, Edited, & Music
by:*

Christophe Cordier & Heretu Tetahiotupa

Produced By:

Michael Alezrah & Nelly Decuyper
L'Association Patutiki

Production Companies:

Les Studios Hashtag
Eka Eka Productions
L'Association Patutiki
with France TV



LOGLINE

With tattoo declared illegal by church & state in the early 1900's, the last of the "black-skinned" Marquesan elders find clever ways to guard their dying people's Polynesian history, leaving a cultural puzzle of art and belief to be uncovered by future generations.

SYNOPSIS

The world's first film directed, written, and produced by a native Marquesan, Heretu Tetahiotupa. It's Christophe Cordier's first film as well. Witness how a remote Southern Pacific islander people rediscover and celebrate their nearly lost identity by uncovering the cultural puzzles left behind through *patutiki*, the art of Marquesan tattoo,

The stories etched on their Polynesian skin document their history. Unlike other Polynesian societies, Marquesans created an artistic symbolism by which to tell their people's stories, their way of seeing the world and human kind's place in it. In 1920, 97% of their population was decimated, only 2000 survived. With tattoo declared illegal by church and state, the last of the "black-skinned" elders found unique ways to guard their dying people's precious history.

OUR STORY

Heretu Tetahiotupa: “When I tell people where I’m from, they don’t know the Marquesas Islands, yet they have our tattoos. The world’s attraction to Marquesan tattoo is mostly aesthetic, but *patutiki* is more than distinctive design, . . . it unlocks a spiritual vocabulary that unifies nature and spirit. Each motif offers a key to how the ancients perceived the world. This explains in part why people are innately drawn to these symbols. For more than a thousand years, prior to commencing tattoo, master tattoo artists and shamans connected to the spirit of our ancestors, and through the ritual of *patutiki*, transferred *mana*. This is what we re-create in our documentary.”

Christophe Cordier: “ With the increasing popularity of Marquesan tattoo motifs throughout the world, I thought maybe we could start by giving the Marquesas their due credit and how it was preserved. Under threat from church and state, the elder islanders found clever ways to preserve *patutiki*, their belief system, and hid it for future generations to discover. As a result, against all odds, the motifs of *patutiki* prevail, . . . not only in the Marquesas, but around the world. This is an important aspect we demonstrate in *Patutiki*.



THE FILMMAKERS

Heretu Tetahiotupa

Raised as far away from television and the movies as one could possibly be, Heretu grew up in a secluded Marquesan bay, fishing for his dinner, riding horseback to a neighbouring bay for bread. Born in the midst of a Marquesan cultural renaissance, the island was a flood of rediscovered music, dance, sculpting, tapa, and tattoo. Heretu was particularly drawn to music, proving a gifted singer and overall musician. That's how he came to meet Christophe.

Christophe Cordier

Raised in Northern France, he found a way to combine his love for music, video, and exotic culture—enlisting as a middle-school music teacher for French Overseas Territories. He immersed himself in the culture of each remote location he was assigned, finding and developing local bands, composing music, producing their first albums, directing their music videos. With Heretu, they founded the Marquesas' first music festival.

Patutiki, is Heretu's and Christophe's first feature length project and first documentary. *Eka Eka* mean “extraordinary bliss.”



PRODUCER, Michael Alezrah

Co-founder of Les Studios Hashtag, Mike, a Tahitian entrepreneur with endeavors in entertainment, sports, real estate, wellness centers, and restaurants, this is his second feature film venture. His ability to solve problems, make things happen, and find the right balance between art and finance shepherd *Patutiki* to its highest quality.



PRODUCER, Nelly Decuyper

Co-founder of Les Studios Hashtag, Nelly, also a Tahitian entrepreneur, and also her second experience supporting a feature film, is the force responsible for dotting *Patutiki's* "i's" and crossing its "t's." She remains the liaison between legal and ledger, connecting and coordinating the dots.



CULTURAL CONSULTANT, Teiki Huukena

Now retired of the French Foreign Legion, he is the author of 2 books about *Patutiki*, the art of Marquesan tattooing and is considered as an expert about the Marquesan iconographic art, the *Matatiki*. His researches on these subjects led him to write articles published in scientific publications. He initiated the Patutiki documentary project and became president of the Patutiki Association, whose objective is to list Marquesan symbols as UNESCO World Heritage and intangible cultural heritage.





ACCOLADES

Reviews—French Language

“For a first-time movie, it’s a success! . . . this film should prevail as a reference for French Polynesian [filmmaking].”

Mustapha Kessous, LE MONDE, FRANCE

“We love it immensely”

Aude Dassonville, TELERAMA, FRANCE

“A pure documentary masterpiece!”

Pierre Carpentier, MEDIAPART, FRANCE

Awards—Marquesan Language

2019 Audience Prize

International Film Festival Oceania Documentaries (FIFO)

Tahiti

2020 Official Entry Maoriland Film Festival—Native Peoples, Global Films, New Zealand.

2020 Official Selection - Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

Le Monde

Télérama

MEDIAPART



CREDITS

*Directed, Written, Produced,
Cinematography, Edited,
and Music by:*

**Christophe Cordier
Heretu Tetahiotupa**

Produced by:

**Michael Alezrah
Nelly Decuyper
L'Association Patutiki**

Co-Produced by:

**Sydelia Guirao
France TV**

Executive Producer

Michael Alezrah

Visual Effects

Lucid Dream

Historical Consultants

**Teiki Huukena
Edgar Tetahiotupa
Marie-Noëlle Ottino
Pierre Ottino**



CAST

Interviewees (in order of appearance)

TIA IHOPU
LUDO PUHETINI
TEIKI HUUKENA
PASCAL PATI
TUTANA TETUANUI-PETERS
VOHI HEITAA
MIKARA HIKUTINI

TETUAIARIA KAIHA
AHITIRI TEIKITUTOUA
EDGAR TETAHIOTUPA
TOTI TEIKIEHUPOKO
IOPUTONA HIKUTINI
MATIA PAVAOUAI

Villagers (in alphabetical order)

AUGUSTE AH-SCHA
TUATAI AH-SCHA
TIETOUA AKA
HIRIATA BONNO
ANNABELLA ELLIS-HUUKENA
PIERRE GENDRON
LAURE HATUUKU
CASSILDA HEIMATAKUA
KEHUATUA HOKAHUMANO
TAKIHIA HOKAHUMANO
TEIKIMOEAUA HUUKENA
VEHINEKEUAUA HUUKENA-LINAGE
MATIKI KAUTAI
PERINA KOHUEINUI
LIONEL LE CORRE
JULIEN MOTAHU
KANIVE OHOTOUA

KEVIN OTTO
ALEXIS PAHUATINI
JOHANNA ALEXIS PAHUATINI
AHUURA PAPA
HOMAI PAUTEHEA
TEIKIKAIHEI PAUTU
MARIE-LOUISE PUHETINI
TEVAI RAVIER
TAPETA SALMON
MARIE-ROSALIE TAATA
ANTOINE TAVITA
TEMAROHOA TAVITA
RACHEL TEIKIHAA
THOMAS TEIKIHAA
KIMI TEIKITEETINI
KIHA TEIKITOHE
TEAKI TEIKITOHE
TEPOEA NETI TEMANUPAEURA

Narrators (Marquesan and French)

PIERRE TEIKITOHE
HERETU TETAHIOTUPA

Dancers (in alphabetical order)

MARIE-YOLINDA BANGELINA
GABRIEL BARSINAS
TEHIA EPETAHUI
VAIHIKI EPETAHUI
TEOTURO FALCHETTO
OLIVIER FIU
STEVENS GENDRON
AUTINI HAITI
TEMEHEA HAITI
ESPERANCE HUUKENA
TUPEA PAUTU
TEANI POU

CYRILLE TAATA
YOAN TAUPOTINI
HOPUATA TEIKITEETINI
HUEIKI TEIKITEETINI
HEIRANI TEIKITOHE
REVAHEI TEIKIUNUATUA
JAMES TEKOHUOTETUA
MELODIE TEKOHUOTETUA
OUMATI TEKOHUOTETUA
UHIMAI TETO
TIFANNY TUTEINA



Tattoo & Tattoo Make-up:

**Teiki Huukena
Heretu Tetahiotupa
Louis Ramon Bonno
Sonia Favere
Felix Fii**

**Makalio Folituu
Mikara Hikutini
Ludovic Puhetini
David Tamarii
Basil Tohiaki
Roo Tissot
Moana Butscher
Daniel Moutarde
Fara Taupotini**

Drone & Still Photographer:

Lionel Gouverneur

Production Coordinators:

Nelly Decuyper

Set Design & Construction:

**Teiki Tetahiotupa
Pita Hokahumano
Moetai Huioutu
Teikimoeatua Huukena
Ronald Tihoni
Sicard Tristan**

Post Production Supervisor:

Eric Rigney

UHD Online & Color Grade:

**Hedio Lobo
Cayrol Deyn**

Sound Supervisor:

Kami Asgar, 424 Post

Sound Mixing:

Christophe Hantzen

Robert Chen

Teddy Salas





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CHRISTOPHE CORDIER & HERETU TETAHIOTUPA

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LES STUDIOS HASHTAG, EKA EKA PRODUCTIONS, & L'ASSOCIATION PATUTIKI WITH FRANCE TV PRESENT PATUTIKI

DIRECTED, WRITTEN, PRODUCED, EDITED BY CHRISTOPHE CORDIER & HERETU TETAHIOTUPA PRODUCED BY MICHAEL ALEZRAH, NELLY DECUYPER & L'ASSOCIATION PATUTIKI

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LUCID DREAM

CO-PRODUCED BY SYDÉLIA GUIRAO, & FRANCE TV

US POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR ERIC RIGNEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MICHAEL ALEZRAH



Voice Actors: English Language Version

Sisa Grey, Narrator and Female Voices

Hearing Sisa's auditions, the filmmakers thought her name had been mistakenly applied under the performances of other actresses. Such is the range and diversity of Sisa. A veteran of several television series, Sisa also recorded voices for Disney's *Moana* and Sony Pictures' *Aloha*.



Joseph "Joe" Fanene, Male Voices

Joe's vocal talent brought solemnity to the words of the interviewees he covered. The subtle changes in his voice made for a profound set of performances. Joe also has appeared in several television series.



Loa Greyson, Male Voices

As a singer-songwriter, Loa made numerous television appearances, including *The Voice*. Born into a musical family, Loa began his music career in Hawaii with a Polynesian R&B vocal group before his solo career in California. Loa's respectful demeanor carries over into his performances.

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**Christophe Hantzen
Robert Chen
Teddy Salas**

ENGLISH VERSION

Supervisor:

Eric Rigney

Voice Casting

Arianna Trames

ADR Recordists:

**Brian Smith
Aaron Hasson
Cayrol Deyn**

ADR Editor:

Erin Oakley

Sound Assistants:

**Tim Tucherello
Ed Martinez**

