

2020

## About the Cover

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### Recommended Citation

(2020) "About the Cover," *Antipodes*: Vol. 34: Iss. 2, Article 2.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/antipodes/vol34/iss2/2>

## Cover Image

The cover image shows a still frame from *Boy*, the 2010 film directed by the New Zealand Māori filmmaker Taika Waititi. *Boy* was the highest-grossing domestic film in New Zealand at the time, only surpassed by Waititi's 2016 comedy *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*. This comedy-drama follows the coming-of-age story of ten-year old Alamein, nicknamed "Boy," who grows up with his younger brother, Rocky, his cousins, and friends in Waihou Bay in the 1980s. His father, also Alamein, left the family after the boys' mother died in childbirth. In his absence, Boy imagines his father in various fantastically heroic or pop-star roles, but upon Alamein's return to Waihou Bay in search for his buried loot, Boy must come to terms with the reality of his father's failings and bad choices. The still image features, from left to right, Te Aho Aho Eketone-Whitu as Boy's younger brother, Rocky, James Rolleston as Boy, and Taika Waititi as their father, Alamein, playing war on the beach in a moment of spirited camaraderie.

Taika David Cohen, known as Taika Waititi, is an internationally successful New Zealand film and television director, producer, screenwriter, actor, and comedian who has worked in New Zealand, Australia, and the United States. His films include *Two Cars, One Night* (2003), *Eagle vs. Shark* (2007), *What We Do in the Shadows* (2014), *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* (2016), *Thor: Ragnarok* (2017), *JoJo Rabbit* (2019), and the forthcoming *Next Goal Wins* (2021) and *Thor: Love and Thunder* (2022). He has also written and/or directed several television series, including *Flight of the Conchords*, *What We Do in the Shadows*, *Wellington Paranormal*, and *Reservation Dogs*.

In 2020, Waititi's film *JoJo Rabbit* was nominated for two Academy Awards: Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay. Taika Waititi was the first Māori person to receive an Academy Award in the screenplay category. He honors his Māori heritage by employing Indigenous advisers and creatives for film and television projects and by performing the Welcome to Country ceremony before filming. He also regularly supports Māori and other Indigenous directors, serving as producer on such films as *The BreakerUpperers* (2018), *Baby Done* (2020), and *Night Raiders* (2021).

### Image credit:

Boy image courtesy of Whenua Films and the New Zealand Film Commission.