



## David Geary

### *THE STRENGTH OF BOY – Māori movie writing grows up*

From Once Were Warriors and Whalerider to the Strength of Water and Boy... Welcome to my interesting world... David Geary (Ngā Mahanga, Taranaki), Senior Lecturer in Scriptwriting at the IIML - International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University of Wellington, analyses the critical and box office success of Taika Waititi's BOY, how far Māori movies have come, and where they're going.

*David Geary is an all-rounder, writing for theatre, film and television. He's also written fiction and poetry, acted and taught storytelling and scriptwriting from primary school to university and professional levels. He was a member of the 1983 Original Composition workshop. He went on to graduate as an actor from Toi Whakaari the New Zealand Drama School. He has written, co-written, collaborated and devised over twenty stage productions. Lovelock's Dream Run was published by Victoria University Press in 1993; Pack of Girls and The Learner's Stand by Playmarket in 2009. He has won the Adam Foundation and Bruce Mason Playwright Awards. In 2010, Mark Twain & Me in Maoriland premiered at the International Festival of the Arts, produced by Taki Rua Theatre.*

*David's television credits include Shortland St, Jacksons Wharf and Mercy Peak. He was the writer, co-producer and co-director of award-winning television documentary The Smell of Money. He's had three short films produced and worked in feature film development in New Zealand, Australia, and England. David's poetry has appeared in Turbine, the Listener, and 121 New Zealand Poems. His linked series of short stories A Man Of The People was published by VUP in 2003, and 'Gary Manawatu [1964-2008]: Death of a Fence-Post- Modernist' was selected for Six Pack Three and anthologised in The Penguin Book of Contemporary New Zealand Short Stories. His debut novel, Henare VIII – a gory story for boys, will come out with Huia in 2010.*