

When the Man Went South

Press Kit

FEATURE FILM: Drama, Comedy

DURATION: 83min

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY

Alex Bernstein

PRODUCED BY

Agent Ogden & Villiami T. Halapua

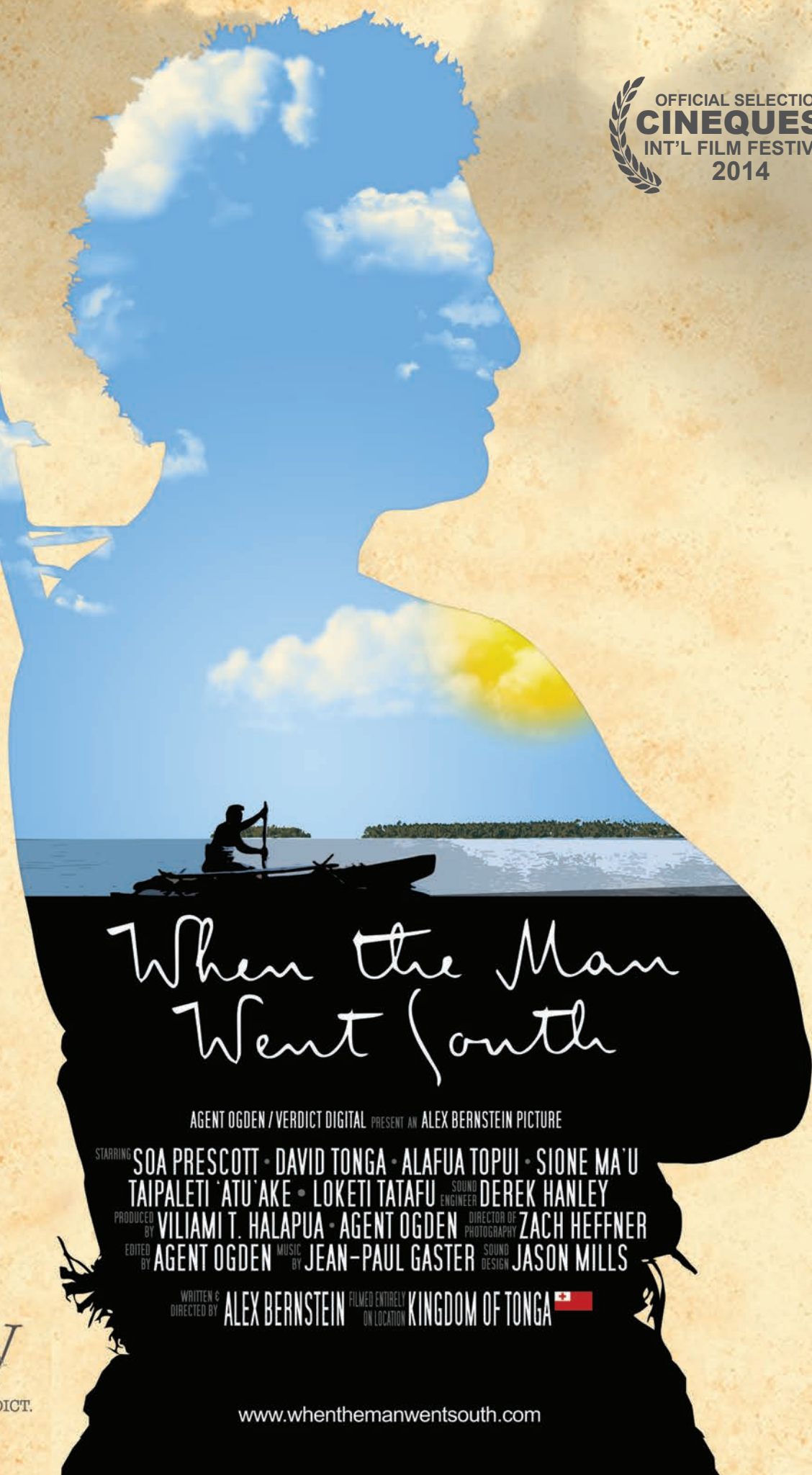
TRAILER

whenthemanwentsouth.com/trailer

San Francisco, CA

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When the Man Went South

AGENT OGDEN / VERDICT DIGITAL PRESENT AN ALEX BERNSTEIN PICTURE

STARRING SOA PRESCOTT · DAVID TONGA · ALAFUA TOPUI · SIONE MA'U
TAIPALETI 'ATU'AKE · LOKETI TATAFU SOUND ENGINEER DEREK HANLEY
PRODUCED BY VILIAMI T. HALAPUA · AGENT OGDEN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ZACH HEFFNER
EDITED BY AGENT OGDEN MUSIC BY JEAN-PAUL GASTER SOUND DESIGN JASON MILLS

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ALEX BERNSTEIN FILMED ENTIRELY ON LOCATION KINGDOM OF TONGA 



AGENT OGDEN VERDICT.

www.whenthegowentouth.com

WHEN THE MAN WENT SOUTH, the first feature film shot in Tonga

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - *When the Man Went South*, the first feature film shot entirely in the Kingdom of Tonga (South Pacific), had its World Premiere on March 7, 2014 at the Cinequest International Film Festival in San Jose, CA. With a small budget, a script and no cast, the five man team set out to Tonga to produce a film that is both dramatic and deceptively humorous.

FILM DESCRIPTION (Short)

The film follows the story of a young Tongan Hunter named Flying Fox (Soa Prescott), who sets out on journey to become a man. Along his path he meets two warring villages and tries to mediate peace between the two groups. He takes the lessons home with him, where unexpected trouble puts Flying, and all he has learned, to the test.

FILM DESCRIPTION (Long)

Before white men set foot on the islands of Tonga, a young hunter named Flying Fox (Soa Prescott) hunted and fished, providing for his village. Considered a top candidate to replace the current and aging Headman, Singing Whale, Flying Fox is instructed to journey south, to learn the ways of the world, to better himself and to one day return equipped to take the helm as village leader. Flying Fox heads south in search of understanding, leaving his village and his love, Dawn (Jasmine Hapihau) behind. Flying Fox finds himself amidst two villages at war, villages whom it turns out have been at war for so long, neither side can remember why. Unable to watch the folly of war drag on and on, Flying Fox attempts to mediate their differences. As Flying Fox returns home, instead of a warm welcome, a troubling event in the village puts Flying Fox to the test with everything he's learned.

FILM DESCRIPTION

A visually dazzling story of one man's journey that, step by step, reveals itself as an allegory for the absurdity of human nature.

SUMMARY

Five filmmakers took a script to the Kingdom of Tonga to produce a feature film shot entirely on location with a local cast of non-professional actors. It was shot over the course of 30 days in many of Tonga's naturally stunning landscapes. The film was shot entirely on the Canon 5D MKIII and Canon lenses. The film was then finished in San Francisco, CA on Final Cut Pro. Post-production consisted of original music composed by Jean-Paul Gaster of Clutch and a final sound mix by 2014 Grammy Nominated sound Engineer, Jason Mills.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

With a small budget, the plan for When the Man Went South was to tell an organic story, one that I think is universal. And one that says more than just the sum of the actions of the characters who move about in it. It's the first ever Tongan language feature film and in fact it's the first feature film to be shot entirely in Tonga. The Kingdom of Tonga, an archipelago in the South Pacific, is still developing and infrastructure there is basic, which makes it a difficult location for filming.

Although the Narrator of the story suggests as the movie begins that this is an actual oral tradition story, it isn't. It's a story of fiction, though prior to sitting down to write I spent a good deal of time researching the Kingdom of Tonga and its oral tradition stories. Making When the Man Went South was a special experience. When you set out to make a movie by dropping yourself in an under-developed country that's floating somewhere in the South Pacific, a country that half the world hasn't even heard of, you have a sense that you're starting a unique journey. But I wasn't prepared for the ways we would touch other people's lives, and the ways they would touch ours. I treasure the time I spent in Tonga and the people who made it special. I'll always be indebted to them. I hope our movie entertains you, and makes the people of Tonga proud.

Alex Bernstein
Writer/Director

The Challenge

(Story behind the story)

When *The Man Went South* was shot entirely in the Kingdom of Tonga, a small island chain in the South Pacific. Its remote location, harsh summer weather and island environment made for a difficult film making challenge. Every conceivable "don't do" in independent film making was stacked into the making of this film. From casting to recording sound, *When The Man Went South* was faced with a difficult situation at every turn. "This was a lesson in film making that I will pass to anyone that will listen," said Writer/Director Alex Bernstein.

About the Cast

The biggest challenge for the film was casting. As we arrived in Tonga with a thirty day production schedule, rumor of the film spread quickly through the small country. Folks trickled in to our bungalows with interest in playing a part and we dropped whatever we were doing to pull up table for a reading. Within the first week the film was cast. Soa Prescott, a 20 year old native of Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa, was cast in the main role of Flying Fox. A member of a local acting club, he was the only cast member with any previous acting experience. "There is not a person on the entire planet that could have nailed the part of Flying Fox better than Soa. He is absolutely perfect and we were very lucky to find him," said writer/director Alex Bernstein.

"Soane Prescott's brilliant depiction of Flying Fox is a dynamic blend of drama and comic genius. The first movie shot in Tonga, *When the Man Went South* is creative storytelling at its finest."

--Cinequest Film Festival

Eighteen main parts were cast and a total of forty-five filled out the rest of the cast. The 90-page script was performed and shot in twenty-three consecutive days in locations along Tonga's awe-inspiring landscapes.

The social culture of the Island also aided in casting. When the island electrician stopped by to make a repair he was asked to read for a part and was subsequently cast as Red Bird, one of the Western Village hunters. All four of the bungalows' staff (Nutau, Vanila, Big Pesi and Little Pesi) played parts in the film. Our driver, an affable local character, doubled as Singing Whale, the Headman of Fly Fox's Village. We needed to fill parts and at the same time the people of Tonga came forward with great enthusiasm to contribute to the film in any way they could. "I am so proud of my people. They came together and supported our project from day one to the very last second of filming," said producer Villiami T. Halapua.

For a large group of people that had never been a part of filmmaking, they were astonishingly dedicated. At times, the cast sometimes doubled as crew, helping carry props or gear. If a scene called for fish, the next morning at seven a.m., fish arrived (a lot of fish). "We could have very easily left with nothing. The people of Tonga made this film. I am still in shock at how they came together and gave us their undivided cooperation," said Sound Engineer Derek Hanley.

"An amusing adventure and playful tale; simultaneously containing immense wisdom about human nature, war and peace, and full of low brow humor." --*FilmThreat.com* (4.5 out of 5 stars)

Finding locations to shot the film was not an issue since the locals led us to places rarely visited and had most likely never been photographed. "Tonga is a cinematographers dream. "In every direction was a postcard composition of aqua blue ocean, reef, and cliffs," said Director of Photography Zach Heffner. "That made my job pretty easy."

"I think deep down, we knew what we were doing, but we really piled up every 'don't' in filmmaking all in one film," said producer/editor Agent Ogden. "I'll be the first to admit that we were extremely lucky to have pulled this off without any major problems along the way."


KINGDOM OF
TONGA



Team Profile



The five filmmakers, (L to R): Agent Ogden (producer/editor), Villiami T. Halapua (producer), Alex Bernstein (writer/director), Derek Hanley (sound engineer) and Zach Heffner (director of photography) hail from the San Francisco Bay Area. This project is the first that the five have collaborated together.

Full Res, production stills, film screen captures and additional crew photos located at:
http://whenthemanwentsouth.com/media/press_kit_photos.zip



Crew Profiles



Alex Bernstein - WRITER/DIRECTOR

Alex is originally from San Mateo, CA and now lives in San Francisco. His previous short films have been screened at the 2010 SF Independent Film Festival and the 2011 DIY Film Festival. He's also a former script coordinator in L.A. for shows including Friends and The Nanny.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1064131/>



Agent Ogden - PRODUCER/EDITOR

AO's 2004 documentary "Never Been Done", accumulated nine top festival awards, including the Newport Film Festival, Houston Int'l Film Festival and X-Dance. He has also produced and directed many live concerts from James Blunt to Maryland Rockers, Clutch. In 2005, he launched MHD (now Paladia) from Vail, CO and is also the man behind the very peculiar psychedelic live Primus show visuals.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1551060/>



Villiami T Halapua - PRODUCER

With Villiami's (Taua) ability to command respect in Tonga, he led the production making sure every detail of the script was carried out, from language to wardrobe. Villiami (Taua) is originally from Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga and currently resides in Palo Alto, CA. This is Taua's first film.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm5795415/>



Zach Heffner - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

After retiring from a professional lacrosse career, Heffner spun his photography degree and started Verdict Digital, focusing on bringing beauty and creativity to corporate video. Heffner brings a fantastic eye for composition. This is Zach's first full length feature.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm5795404/>



Derek Hanley - SOUND ENGINEER

With four years active duty in the Air Force and four years in the Army National Guard, Derek is a military medic turned filmmaker. As a self taught editor and cinematographer, he relocated to San Francisco, CA in 2012 to partner with Heffner and Verdict Digital as technical director. This is Derek's first feature film.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm5795405/>

Credits

Cast

Narrator **Villiami T. Halapua**
Flying Fox - *Peka* **Soa Prescott**
Yellow Leaves - *Lauenga* **David Tonga**
Ant - *Lo* **Alafua Topui**
Slow Bat - *To'ohi* **Sione Ma'u**
Clever Eel - *Take* **Kelepi Fonohema**
Throws Left - *Tolohema* **Vaka Peau**
Wet Foot - *Va'eviku* **Kite Fatai**
Dawn - *Mafoa Ae Ata* **Jasmine Hapihau**
Gecko Lizard - *Moko* **Kamaloni Afu**
Two Palms - *Ua'i Paame* **Taipaleti 'Atu'ake**
Spry Porpoise - *Tu'utu'u* **'Isileli Vaea**
Singing Whale - *Tofua'a* **Loketi Tatafu**
Red Bird - *Kula* **Kamelieli Fatai**
Skipjack **Afasa Loni**
Swiftlet **'Ilisapesi Uitalia**
Home Village Boy **Fiula Afu**
Alejandro **Barnie Duncan**
Felipe **Kevin Keys**
Hermit Crab **Himself**
Home Village Extras **Fangafua Hausia**
Tala-O-Falefa Kefu
Siokapesi Mateialona
Vanila Peau Sr.
Peni Topui
Pulei Tauheluhelu
Sione Ng. Fatai
Afuhia Afu
East Village Extras **Sunia Peau**
Talilotu Topui
Linga Tauheluhelu
Tufilotu Uitalia
Luisa Tauheluhelu
Fihinoa Afu
Mele Falepapalangi
Salote Falepapalangi
'Ilima Falepapalangi
Tapualei Falepapalangi
Ana Peau
Monalisa Topui
Helen Topui
'Unaloto Falepapalangi
West Village Extras **Vanila M. Peau**
Sesika Afu
Lata Afu

Crew

Writer / Director **Alex Bernstein**
Producers **Agent Ogden**
Taua Halapua
Director of Photography **Zach Heffner**
Editor **Agent Ogden**
Technical Supervisor **Villiami Halapua**
Original Music **Jean-Paul Gaster**
Derek Walls
Agent Ogden
Field Sound Engineer **Derek Hanley**
Final Sound Engineer **Jason Mills**
Studio Engineer **Sean McAdam**
Foley **Agent Ogden**
Sound Design **Jason Mills**
Costumes **Villiami T. Halapua**
Stevie Cater
Ma'Ata Halapua
Props **Sitiveni Fehoko**
Farmers **Pila Hehea**
Tupou Hehea
Production Assistants **Alafua Topui**
Kamaloni "Loni" Afu
Vaka Peau
Drivers **Loketi Tatafu**
Taipaleti 'Atu'ake
Sione Ngungutau
Fisherman **Falakiki Falemaka**
Guides **Sione Manu**
Kamaloni "Loni" Afu
Catering **Aa'ata Halapua**
Naite Ma'Aka-Hausia
Ilisapesi Uitalia
Siokapesi Mateilona
Collator **Megan Foote**
Tongan Translation **Villiami T. Halapua**
Spanish Translation **Ana Lynch**
Carol Palacio
New Zealand Casting **Miranda Rivers**

Credits

Speical Thanks

His Majesty
King Tupou VI

The people of the
Island of 'eua

The Hideaway, Tufuvai Village, 'Eua
Naite Ma'aka-Hausia
'Ilisapesi Uitalia
Siokapesi Mareilona
Vanila M. Peau
Sione Ngungutau Fatai

Utu'one Bed and Breakfast
Enselina Muller & Staff

Dupincia Lodge
Tom Tu'polotu
Ana Tu'polotu

Tonga Visitor's Bureau
Simata Palu
Sina Tupou

Boat Charter
Deep Blue Diving

Phil Bernstein
Arlene Bernstein

Geoff Carr

Ma'ata Halapua