

KARIN WILLIAMS

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Biography

Karin Williams is an award-winning producer, journalist and filmmaker with extensive experience working in the Pacific Islands, New Zealand and United States. She was born in Aotearoa, the daughter of a Cook Islands Maori father from Aitutaki and a *pakeha* mother descended from five generations of British settlers in Christchurch. Karin began her career as a reporter on the island of Rarotonga and went on to work for broadcast networks in New Zealand and the USA.

Karin has produced a wide range of projects including prime-time specials and series for PBS, America's national public broadcasting service, and short feature films in Los Angeles. National US credits include: *Fixing Juvie Justice* (2013), a documentary on alternative justice initiatives in Auckland and Baltimore for National Geographic; *The Meaning of Food* (2005), a PBS series exploring food and cultures in America; and *Skin Stories* (2003), featuring indigenous Pacific Islands tattoo traditions in Samoa, Hawai'i and Aotearoa. Freelance work includes projects for CNN, NBC, Reuters, Court TV and Discovery. With Multinesia Productions, her independent production company, Karin produced video projects for a wide range of clients, including Screen Actors Guild's President's National Task Force for American Indians, Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Los Angeles and Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council in Alaska.

Her work has earned dozens of honors including five regional Emmys and a Peabody Award for television production. Karin's films have screened at festivals around the world, including Hawai'i International Film Festival in Honolulu, National Geographic All Roads Film Festival in Washington DC, and the Native American Film & Video Festival at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York.

For the past decade Karin has worked with native tribes and first nations in Alaska and Canada to document a grassroots tribal environmental justice movement in the Yukon River basin, which has become a global model for ecosystem protection. She wrote, directed and produced four films about this effort, which have screened at film festivals in Mexico, Italy, London, Canada and around the USA.

Shoots have taken her to remote and extreme locations: filming at 40-below in native Athabascan villages inside the Arctic Circle, shooting traditional tattoo artists in Samoa, interviewing U.S. and Vietcong war veterans in the Vietnam highlands, working with homicide detectives in Los Angeles, and filming at Te Kooti Rangatahi, a *marae*-based youth court in Auckland.

Karin recently moved home to Auckland after a decade living in Los Angeles. She is currently completing her first book, a narrative non-fiction history of first European contact at the island of Rarotonga.