

T.M. HORO MANAGEMENT

Poroaki Merritt-McDonald

Actor



Ethnicity: Māori European
Iwi: Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāiterangi, Ngāti Pūkenga, Ngāti Kauwhata, Rangitāne, Ngā Rauru
Height: 5' 8" / 175cm
Eye Colour: Brown
Hair Colour: Brown
Location: Auckland
Age: 23
Social:



Background

Big Girls Don't Cry : 'Poroaki Merritt-McDonald is perfectly cast as he becomes a character that helps conflict ensue as it becomes immersed in the movie's story line. I liked Merritt-McDonald's extremely on-point and vulnerable performance which helps to create a male characterisation with emotions that are paralleled to the female ones.'

Film-Book.com

Poroaki Merritt-McDonald is a rising star in New Zealand's entertainment industry, known for his powerful performances in *Muru*, *Savage*, *Kairākau*, *The Gone* and now *Big Girls Don't Cry*.

His breakthrough came in *My Brother Mitchell*, igniting a passion for storytelling that has defined his career. His role in *Muru*—a \$5M production—resonated deeply, while *Savage* (\$3.2M) earned global recognition at major film festivals. *The Gone*, a NZ-Ireland crime drama, expanded his reach through Acorn TV and Prime Video.

Beyond acting, Poroaki is the New Zealand Youth Ambassador for FestPAC 2024, dedicated to uplifting indigenous narratives. With his growing international presence, he is set to shape the future of New Zealand cinema.

Poroaki is also signed to CSM Management in Australia.

[Uno Mag Article](#)

[Creative NZ](#)

Resume

AWARDS

2014: Kapa Haka - Won best leader for Kapa Haka Group - Regionals

FEATURE FILM

Year	Production	Part	Production Company	Director
2026	Big Girls Don't Cry	Diggy	POP Film	Paloma Schneideman
2024	Matewa Media and Walt Disney Animation Studios	Bruno (Lead)	Encanto	Tweedie Waititi
2022	Muru	Rusty (Lead)	Jawbone Pictures	Te Arepa Kahi
2020	Savage	Red	Domino Films	Sam Kelly

SHORT FILM

Year	Production	Part	Production Company	Director
2016	My Brother Mitchell	Todd Karehana (Lead)	Jump Film & TV LTD	Todd Karehana

TELEVISION

Year	Production	Part	Production Company	Director
2026	Baddies (post production)	TBC	Brown Sugar Apple Grunt	
2024	Untold Tales of Tūteremoana	Tamatea	Tūteremoana Productions Limited	Hiona Henare
2024	Kōkā	Harry	Awa Films Limited	Kath Akuhata-Brown
2024	The Gone Season 1 & 2	Ginge	Southern Light Films	Peter Burger, Hannah Quinn
2024	Shortland Street	Kane Tapsell (Guest)	South Pacific Pictures	
2023	Kairākau Season 2	Tarakawateipu - Old (Guest)	Velvet Stone Media	Julian Arahanga

THEATRE

Year	Production	Part	Production Company	Director
2020	Little Black Bitch	Rangi (Lead)	Tuatara Collective	Jason Te Mete

PRESENTING-EVENTS

Year	Production	Part	Production Company	Director
2024	Hawaii FestPAC 2024	NZ Youth Ambassador	FestPAC	

TRAINING

Year	Production	Part	Production Company	Director
2020	SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company		Shakespeare Globe Theatre Group	

Skills

Accent

American - Urban / Māori / Pacific Islander

Dancing

General movement / Break Dancing / Hip Hop / Maori

Driving

Go-karting

Horse

Horse riding

Language

Te Reo Māori

Māori

Kapa Haka / Kapa Haka - Māori Weaponary

Singing

Pop

Sports

Volleyball / Basketball / Boxing / Kapa Haka / Rugby Union / Running/Jogging / Ten Pin Bowling / Touch
Football

Water Sports

Body Surfing / Kayaking / Snorkelling / Swimming / Waka Ama

Contact

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