

Whale Rider (PG)

On 14th May, six members enjoyed the emotionally powerful Whale Rider (PG).

Starring Keisha Castle-Hughes as Pai, the film tells the coming-of-age and culture clash story of Pai, a 12-year-old Māori girl, who has to convince her grandfather, Koro, that a thousand years of tradition can be overturned.

Written and directed by Niki Caro, based on the book by Witi Ihimaera, the film starts at the birth of Pai and her twin brother, who subsequently dies. It then moves forward twelve years, covering the turbulent familial relationships between Koro and his children, and the growing love between Koro and Pai, which is tested fully when Pai stands up to Koro to prove that a girl can lead the tribe.

Beautifully filmed and well acted, with touches of humour as well as pathos, this is a very good and award winning family film. The issues of patriarchy were explored in a sensitive way and the audience was left with a definite feel-good factor.