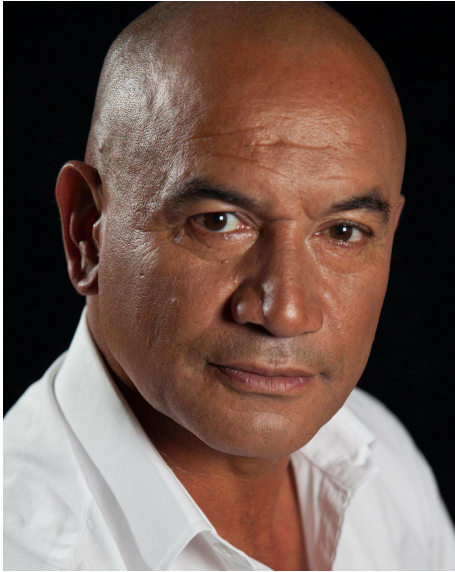


Profile

Temuera Morrison MNZM

Vitals



Gender Male
Age Range 45 - 59
Height 173cm
Base Location Auckland
Available In Auckland, Christchurch, International, Queenstown, Wellington
Skills Actor, Corporate, Presenter, Voice Artist
Eye Dark Brown
Memberships SAG/AFTRA

Agent

New Zealand Agent The Robert Bruce Agency
Phone [+64 \(0\)9 360 3440](tel:+64(0)93603440)
Email talent@robertbruceagency.com
Agent Web robertbruceagency.com

Australian Agent The Robert Bruce Agency (Aus)
Phone [+61 \(0\)406 009 477](tel:+61(0)406009477)
Email assist@robertbruceagency.com
Agent Web robertbruceagency.com

Credits

Type	Role	Production	Company	Director
2020				
Television	Boba Fett	The Mandalorian S2 (Post-production)	Fairview Entertainment (US) for Disney+	Various
Feature Film	Peter Bartlett	Occupation Rainfall (Post-production)	Occupation Two Productions (AU)	Luke Sparke
2019				
Feature Film	Eddie Jones	The Brighton Miracle	Eastpool Films (AUS)	Max Mannix
Feature Film	Powell	Dora and the Lost City of Gold	Paramount Players (US)	James Bobin
Feature Film	Warfield (Voice)	Mosley (Animation)	Huhu Studios (NZ)/China Film Animation	Kirby Atkins
2018				
Television	Te Rangi (4 x eps)	Frontier (2016 -) S3	Take the Shot Productions (CA)	Various
Feature Film	Peter Bartlett	Occupation	Sparke Films	Luke Sparke

Feature Film	Tom Curry	Aquaman	DC Comics	James Wan
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2017

Feature Film	Chief Toi (Voice)	Moana (Te Reo Maori)	Matewa Media Trust/Walt Disney Animation	Ron Clements/John Musker
Television	Jack Te Pania (Voice)	Barefoot Bandits - Series 2	Mukpuddy Animation	Ryan Cooper, Tim Evans, Alex Leighton

2016

Television	Wikkanak	Dawn	MGM Television (US)	Robert Stromberg
Feature Film	Chief Tui (Voice)	Moana	Walt Disney Animation Studios	Ron Clements/John Musker
Television	Bill Mercer	This is Piki (post production)	Tuturu Pictures Ltd	Kiel McNaughton

2015

Feature Film	Madden	Hard Target 2 (post-production)	1440 Productions UK Ltd	Roel Reine
Feature Film	Warden Mourdain	SFV1 (post-production)	SFV1 Movie Pty Ltd	Shane Abbess
Feature Film	Grandfather/Tamihana Mahana	MAHANA	The Patriarch Ltd	Lee Tamahori
Television	Anaru Waipiti	Tatau (in Production)	Touchpaper Television/South Pacific Pictures	Wayne Yip
Television	Jack Te Pania (Voice)	Barefoot Bandits TV Series	Mukpuddy Animation	Ryan Cooper, Tim Evans, Alex Leighton

2014

Television	Host	Happy Hour (in post-production)	Pango Productions	Taika Waititi, Kiel McNaughton, Jessica Sanderson
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2013

Feature Film	Papa	Mt Zion	Small Axe Films	Te Arepa Kahi
Television	Himself	The Life and Times of Temuera Morrison (TV Mini-Series)	Eyeworks / Black Inc. Media	Paul Thompson
Television	Himself (1 Ep - The Five Fetts)	Words with Warrick (TV Mini-Series - Talk Show)	The Star Wars Corporation	

2012

Feature Film	Hemi Crane (Lead)	Fresh Meat	The Gibson Group	Danny Mulheron
Television	Jack Te Pania	Missing Christmas (TV Movie Animation)	Mukpuddy Animation	Ryan Cooper / Tim Evans
Television	Jack Te Pania (Voice)	Barefoot Bandits - Christmas Special	Mukpuddy Animation	Ryan Cooper, Tim Evans, Alex Leighton
Video	Ramusan	Scorpion King 3: Battle for Redemption	Universal 1440 Entertainment	Roel Reine

2011

Feature Film	Abin Sur	Green Lantern	Warner Bros. Pictures	Martin Campbell
Television	Himself	1st Look (Talk Show - interviewee The Green Lantern)		
Television	Doctore (2 Eps)	Spartacus: Gods of the Arena	Pacific Renaissance	Various

2010

Feature Film	Kereama (co-Lead)	Tracker	Eden Films / Digit Films Limited	Ian Sharp
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2009

Feature Film	Briggs	Couples Retreat	Universal Pictures	Peter Billingsley
Feature Film	Damo	The Marine 2	Twentieth Century Fox	Roel Reine
Television	Don Sandovate	The Immortal Voyage of Captain Drake	Voyage Productions	David Flores

2008

Feature Film	Rua (as an Adult)	Rain of the Children	Wayward Films	Vincent Ward
Television	Narrator	The Reluctant Hero	Desert Road Television	Steven O'Meagher
Television	Dr. Hone Ropata (Reprised role 23 Eps)	Shortland Street	South Pacific Pictures	Various
Television	Narrator	The Reluctant Hero	Desert Road Television	Steven O'Meagher
Television	Wiremu	Time Trackers	South Pacific Pictures/Atantis (Canada)	Various

2007

Television	Temuera (Himself)	Star Wars at 30		
Television	Himself	G4 Presents Star Wars at 30 (Telemovie)	G4 Media	

2006

Television	Temuera (Himself)	Bro Town (Ep: Know Me Before You Haunt Me)	Firehorse Films	Ali Cowley
Voice Over	Boba Fett (Voice)	Star Wars:Empire at War	Lucasfilms	George Lucas

2005

Feature Film	Commander Cody	Star Wars Episode iii The Revenge of the Sith	Lucasfilms	GeorgeeLucas
Feature Film	Te Kai Po	River Queen	Silverscreen Films	Vincent Ward
Television	Host	The Tem Show	Greenstone Pictures	
Television	Host	Mataku (Series 4)	South Pacific Pictures	Various
Voice Over	Boba Fett / Jango Fett (Voices)	Star Wars:Battlefront II	Lucasfilms	George Lucas
Voice Over	Delta 38 (Voice)	Star Wars:Republic Commando	Lucasfilms	George Lucas

2004

Feature Film	Snakehead	The Beautiful Country	Dinamo Story	
Feature Film	Runi	Blueberry	A.J.O.Z. Films	Jan Kounen
Television	Host	Mataku (Series 3)	South Pacific Pictures	Various
Voice Over	Republic Infantry/Republic Officer (Voices)	Star Wars:Battlefront	Lucasfilms	George Lucas

2003

Television	Host	Mataku (Series 2)	South Pacific Pictures	Various
2002				
Feature Film	Jango Fett	Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones	Lucasfilm	George Lucas
Television	Host	Mataku (Series 1)	South Pacific Pictures	
Voice Over	Jago Fett (Voice)	Star Wars: Bounty Hunter	LUcasfilms	George Lucas
2001				
Feature Film	Will Bastion (Lead)	Crooked Earth	Communicado Productions	Sam Pillsbury
Television	Tito Ihaka (Lead)	Ihaka: Blunt Instrument (Telemovie)	Columbia TriStar Productions Pyt Ltd	
2000				
Feature Film	Major Rasul	The Vertical Limit	Columbia Pictures Corporation	Martin Campbell
Television	Himself	Mai Time (1 Ep, Guest Interview)		
1999				
Feature Film	Jake Heke (Lead)	What Becomes of the Broken Hearted	South Pacific Pictures	Ian Mune
Feature Film	Tim	Little White Lies	Rutherford Films	
Television	Himself	The Panel (Talk Show, 1 Ep)	Network Ten	
Video	The Hangman	From Dusk till Dawn 3: The Hangman's Daughter	Miramax USA	
1998				
Feature Film	Alf Winters (Lead)	Never Say Die	Everard Films	Geoff Murphy
Feature Film	Jaeger	Seven Days Seven Nights	Walt Disney	Ivan Reitman
Television	Himself	Guess Who's Coming to Dinner	Greenstone Pictures	
1997				
Feature Film	Mr Juliano (Lead)	Speed 2: Cruise Control	Fox Pictures USA	
Television	Himself	The Making of "Speed 2: Cruise Control"	Sam Hurwitz Productions	
1996				
Feature Film	Azazello	The Island of Dr. Moreau	New Line Cinema	
Feature Film	Axel (co-Lead)	Barb Wire	Polygram Filmed Entertainment	
Feature Film	Carrigan (co-Lead)	Whipping Boy	JNP Pty Ltd	
Feature Film	Manu	Broken English	Communicado Productions	
Television	Anaru	Cover Story	The Gibson Group	
1995				
Document	Narrator	New Zealand at War		

1994

Feature Film	Jake Heke (Lead)	Once Were Warriors	Communicado Productions	Lee Tamahori
Television	Dr Hone Ropata (Core Cast)	Shortland Street	South Pacific Pictures	Various

1993

Feature Film	Language Advisor/Maori Cast	The Piano	Jan Chapman Productions	Jane Campion
Television	Dr Hone Ropata (Core Cast)	Shortland Street	South Pacific Pictures	Various

1992

Television	Dr Hone Ropata (Core Cast)	Shortland Street	South Pacific Pictures	Various
Television		Billy T James Show	Isambard Productions	

1990

Television	Mark Mason	Shark in the Park II (1 Ep)	The Gibson Group	
Television	D. S. Harris	The Grasscutter (Telefeature)	Finlayson Brewer Productions	

1988

Feature Film	Young Cop	Mauri	Awatea Films	Merata Mita
Television	Sean	Gloss III	TVNZ	Various

1987

Television	Sean	Gloss II	TVNZ	Various
Television	Maru	Adventurer	Gatetarn	

1986

Television	Selwyn Broadhead (Lead)	Seekers (10 Eps)	TVNZ	Various
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1984

Feature Film	Tony	Other Halves	Finlayson-Hill Productions	John Laing
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1983

Television	Street Kid	Mortimers Patch	TVNZ	
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1972

Feature Film	Rangi	Rangi's Catch	Childrens Film Foundation	Michael Forlong
Television	Irikura (Lead)	Irikura	Aroha Films	
Document	Presenter	Warriors		
Document	Presenter	Not Just a Domestic-The Update	Greenstone Pictures	
Document	Presenter	Not Just a Domestic	Greenstone Pictures	

Training

Dates	Institution	Course	Field of Study
2007	Cine Asia Award Recipient	for Services to Copyright Enforcement	
1999	Nokia Film and Television	Winner Best Actor in a Feature	

	Awards	Film for WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKEN HEARTED
1996	The New Zealand Order of Merit (NZOM) Recipient	for Services to Drama
1994	New Zealand Entertainment Awards	Winner Entertainer of the Year
1994	New Zealand Film and Television Awards	Winner Best Actor in a Feature Film for ONCE WERE WARRIORS
1986	GOFTA Awards	Nominee Best Supporting Actor in Film OTHER HALVES

Notes

TEMUERA MORRISON, of Te Arawa, Ngati Maniapoto and Ngati Rarua descent, is one of New Zealand's foremost actors and something of a cultural icon in New Zealand.

He won New Zealand television immortality thanks to the first episode of long-running soap Shortland Street, after a nurse told his character he was no longer in Guatemala. Morrison's role as Jake the Muss in Once Were Warriors proved the actor was no joke. Critics called him "extraordinary" and "engagingly terrifying".

Temuera grew up in Rotorua, being the only boy in a family of six girls. Performance was in his blood: his father Laurie "never stopping singing", including time in the quartet of brother Howard Morrison. Temuera's mother came from a King Country farming family. At family get-togethers, the Morrison kids knew they might be called up at any moment to do a song, a haka, or a speech. Tem's kapa haka skills would win him a national award and see him performing overseas, including when landmark exhibition Te Māori went to the United States.

At the age of 11, he was cast as Rangi in Rangi's Catch, after director Michael Forlong spotted him performing to tourists in Rotorua. Originally made for British television in 1972, Rangi's Catch also played on Kiwi cinema screens in a shortened version. Morrison played one of four children chasing a pair of escaped convicts. Dominion reviewer Catherine de la Roche excitedly labelled it "one of the best children's films ever made".

In the 80s, after a number of years of clerical jobs, Morrison got a place on a training scheme in performing arts launched by his uncle Howard, after pretending he wasn't related.

In 1984 he won a small role as a Rastafarian street kid in an episode of Mortimer's Patch, after being recommended by cast member (and mentor) Don Selwyn. Bigger roles followed in the offbeat drama Seekers (as a brash real estate agent) and period co-production Adventurer (as a Māori chief). On the big screen, he was nominated for a GOFTA award for his smooth-talking street kid in interracial romance Other Halves.

Three years passed before Temuera's career jumped into second gear. 1987/88 saw him interviewing elders while reporting for Koha and Waka Huia; playing a sleazy cop in Merata Mita's Mauri, alongside Don Selwyn; speaking Te Reo in pioneering Māori drama series E Tipu e Rea, and joining the second season of Gloss as Kerry Smith's love interest, a journalist who seemingly dies and then returns. Temuera was running himself ragged; in-between Gloss episodes he was also doing a breakfast show on Aotearoa Radio with Jay Laga-aia, and flying to Dunedin for TV's The Grasscutter.

Amidst of it all came Morrison's first starring role in a movie: as a sceptical journalist on the run, in lighthearted 1988 thriller Never Say Die. Director Geoff Murphy overruled opposition from some of his producers to cast Morrison, after noting the self-deprecating quality of his screen test. The Listener's Helen Martin felt his acting showed "a lot of style".

In 1992 he began a three year stint on new soap Shortland Street, playing ladies' man Dr Ropata. He got the role while helping out behind the scenes on Jane Campion's The Piano. The soap bought him enduring fame thanks to a line of dialogue he didn't actually say: in the first episode he was delivering a baby using an unorthodox method when nurse Carrie Burton (Lisa Crittenden) told him "you're not in Guatemala now, Dr Ropata". Years later the character returned to the show for six weeks to mark the show's 4000th episode; Ropata was briefly named Shortland's CEO.

During his time on the street, it was announced he'd play the part of the tough, violent Jake Heke in a movie based on Alan Duff's novel Once Were Warriors. The filmmakers had considered prisoners and gangmembers, before deciding only an actor could handle the part. After three months bulking up with help from his agent Robert Bruce, and friend Kevin Smith, Temuera added nine kilograms to his frame. But many still considered him too lightweight to play Jake. "Everyone thought I'd screwed up when I cast him," director Lee Tamahori later admitted. During rehearsals, Temuera worried they were right. "I was the big gamble".

When Once Were Warriors began a highly successful global release, critics rushed to praise him (and co-star Rena Owen). "You don't often see acting like this in the movies" (Roger Ebert in the Chicago Sun-Times); "Extraordinary ... I can't recall when I last saw a performance boiling with such psychological and physical menace." (Neil Jillett in The Melbourne Age). The Wall Street Journal and The Seattle Journal both compared his performance to that of Marlon Brando, but Temuera was more modest. "It's Beth's story. My role in it

was to provide the misery."

When he reprised his Warriors role in 1999 sequel *What Becomes of the Broken Hearted?*, Temuera snared his second NZ Film best actor award. With the character of Jake attempting to break out of the cycle of violence, *Broken Hearted* saw him moving far beyond the easy charm of earlier roles. The successful sequel reunited him with Grasscutter director Ian Mune; 26 years before, the two had acted together in *Rangi's Catch*.

In the period between the two Warriors movies, Temuera went places Kiwi actors have rarely gone. He played ex-partner to Pamela Anderson in *Barb Wire*, boarded a renegade ship for *Speed, 2*, was villain alongside Cliff Curtis in *Six Days Seven Nights*, and befriended Marlon Brando while playing his right-hand Dog Man in *The Island of Dr Moreau*. The latter encounter provides a memorable chapter in Temuera's 2009 autobiography *From Haka to Hollywood*.

Logie nominated tele-movie *Ihaka: Blunt Instrument* was based on a series of books by Paul Thomas. Morrison starred in the tongue in cheek tale as a bad boy Māori cop, hunting a killer in Sydney.

2001 feature *Crooked Earth* saw Morrison back in Aotearoa. He played a military man returning home to bury his father, who faces off against his drug-dealing brother (Lawrence Makoare) over stolen land. Sam Pillsbury (*The Scarecrow*) directed. *Variety* found the film's combination of political and thriller elements "handsomely mounted and compelling".

Since *Crooked Earth*, Temuera's career has alternated Kiwi roles — including hosting duties on Māori supernatural series *Mataku*, and variety show *Happy Hour* — with doses of the Star Wars myth. In 2002's *Attack of the Clones* he played bounty hunter Jango Fett, and a cavalcade of cloned warriors. He went on to do voice work for a number of Star Wars video games, and joked it was "the only movie you can be in for two seconds and be famous."

In 2004 Temuera played a Native American Indian in offbeat western *Blueberry*, and joined Nick Nolte and Kiwi cinematographer Stuart Dryburgh in *The Beautiful Country*, in which a Vietnam war child searches for his GI Dad.

Soon after, he appeared in troubled period epic *River Queen*. Temuera played rebel chief Te Kai Po, in a role partly inspired by Titokowaru. Po was "one of the best characters I've ever had the chance to play". Director Vincent Ward said Temuera had helped rally the extras. "He leads with a sense of charisma". The same year (2005) saw the launch of talk show *The Tem Show* on Prime. The guest list included George Lucas and Sam Neill.

Anglo-NZ movie *Tracker* began filming in October 2009. Temuera co-starred with Ray Winstone (*Sexy Beast*), as a framed Māori seaman who Winstone's character tries to bring in to the authorities. He also joined TV's *Spartacus*, as trainer of the gladiators, and donned purple make-up for the opening scene of *Green Lantern*.

In March 2012 he began work on locally-shot hit *Mt Zion*. He was nominated for an NZ Film award for his role as conservative father to a wannabe musician (Stan Walker). October saw the release of splatter comedy *Fresh Meat*, with Temuera as the arrogant head of a modern-day Māori family with cannibalistic tendencies. The following year he featured in his own reality show, *The Life and Times of Temuera Morrison*.

Mahana (2016) marked his first collaboration with director Lee Tamahori since *Once Were Warriors*. Based on Witi Ihimaera's novel *Bulibasha*, the film follows two families who are longtime adversaries in the world of competitive shearing. Temuera plays Tamihana, dominating head of the Mahana family. At the 2017 Rialto NZ Film Awards, he was nominated for Best Actor.

In the same period, he was among the voice cast of Disney's animated hit *Moana*. He also turned to directing, shooting short film *The Lost Pearl in Tahiti*. Temuera described making the romance as a "bloody nightmare". As he told website *Flicks*, "sometimes I had no one to make the movie. "Okay, who's on the crew today?" "Uh." "Where's my cameramen?" The result was still deemed worthy to screen at the 2016 NZ International Film Festival.

After playing a grandfather in *Mahana*, Temuera was happy to take on a more physical role in 2018 sci-fi action film *Occupation* (and its 2020 sequel). This time he was an ex prisoner fighting an alien invasion in an Australian town. He stayed on in Australia to work on Marvel hit *Aquaman*, playing the father to Jason Momoa's aquatic hero.

In 2019 he starred as Australian rugby coach Eddie Jones in World Cup docudrama *The Brighton Miracle*.
- based on NZOnScreen Profile, written by Ian Pryor