Auckland, New Zealand’s largest city, is home to some 85,000 Samoans and many other Pacific Islanders. For many of them, New Zealand/Aotearoa is their country of birth. Others have migrated here with their families as children or youngsters. Auckland-Samoans today predominantly live in suburbs like Otara and Mangere as part of the city’s lower socio-economic areas. Some of them, however, have achieved higher social status in their adopted society. But whether poor or well-off, all share a common and often conflicting identity linking them with their cultural roots in the Western Pacific.

Addressing contemporary issues of ethnic identity, migration and cultural heritage in the Pacific, this film follows up Tyrone Laurenson ad Michael Alofa from Auckland travelling to Samoa to perform at the annually held Teuila Festival in Apia as members of a cultural group from New Zealand/Aotearoa.

Tyrone, a police inspector, was born and raised in Auckland, but over the years he visited his family in Samoa frequently. Michael, on the other hand, came to New Zealand/Aotearoa with his family as an 8-year-old and has made a career in the security industry. He now returns to Samoa for the very first time after 20 years.

As the film shows, Tyrone and Michael know each other from work and leisure time activities. Yet each of them has individual expectations for the trip. What are their experiences in Samoa? And, in their innermost, where do these New Zealand-Samoans belong and feel at home?

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