

HISTORY / ARTS

Restoration of the silent classic Moana

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Ninety years ago American filmmaker Robert Flaherty decided to follow his hugely successful Inuit documentary *Nanook of the North* with another one set in faraway places - this time in exotic Samoa.



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Moana followed the life of the young son of a tribal chief, and captured on film the villagers' daily lives - fishing, making garments, singing and dancing. Originally *Moana* was a silent film, with a soundtrack added later by Robert and Frances's daughter Monica.



Photo: Supplied

Now it's undergone a massive restoration project. Lynn Freeman talks to Samoan-New Zealand film-maker Makerita Urale and to Diane Pivac from Nga Taonga Sound and Vision on the eve of the restored *Moana's* first public screening. She also talks to film restorer Bill Posner about the process of reviving such and old film.

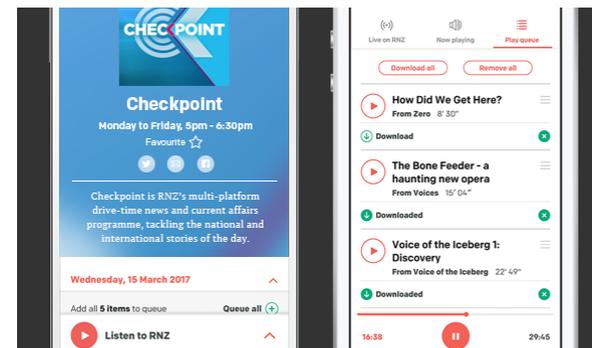
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