

Oka! – The Greatest Musical Act of the Last 50,000 Years

An Essay on a film by Lavinia Currier

by Geoffrey Clarfield (September 2014)

Part One – The Jungle Comes to My Living Room

It is an unusual gift to have discovered a film about a marvelously remote place and its indigenous people that you have visited, and then come home and watch a drama that was filmed there on location, utilizing so many of the local people that you met on your journey, in color, on your living room screen. So when *Oka!*, a film produced and directed by Lavinia Currier, was finally released on DVD, I hurried to find a copy. I had already seen an online Vimeo on how she made the film and now, in reverse order, it was time to see the dramatic film itself.

Some months ago I wrote an article in *New English Review* (March 2014, “