

KAU FAITO'O: Traditional Healers of Tonga

Ostraff, Melinda (University of Victoria, Provo, Utah)

A film by Melinda Ostraff

This film documents the ancient traditional art form of healing and attempts to capture the very essence of being a healer in a changing environment. Traditional healers are shown collecting, preparing and administering herbal remedies that have been passed down from generation to generation. Healers discuss where, why and how they gained their knowledge and why they choose to carry on age-old customs and practices despite the fact that Tonga is becoming a nation increasingly dependent on western medicine. Tonga's traditional healers are adapting their practices to fit niches left by western medicine such as prenatal care and physical therapy. (Film)