

# ***Mungau Dain, Villager Star in Pacific Island Film, Dies at 24***

By Mike Ives

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Mungau Dain, a tribal villager from Vanuatu who starred in “Tanna,” an Oscar-nominated film about his Pacific island homeland, died on Jan. 5 at a hospital in Port-Vila, the country’s capital. He was 24.

Jimmy Kawiel, a former official at the tourism department in Tafea Province, which includes Mr. Dain’s home island, Tanna, confirmed the death. He said the cause was an infection, which was not immediately treated, that Mr. Dain had developed after cutting his leg in Port-Vila on New Year’s Eve.

Martin Butler, one of the two directors of “Tanna,” said Mr. Dain had traveled to Port-Vila because he was seeking work as a fruit picker in Australia or New Zealand.

“Tanna,” filmed mostly in Mr. Dain’s tribal village and the surrounding jungle, chronicles the fate of two star-crossed lovers who rebel after one is steered into an arranged marriage. The cast is made up of villagers from the area, all untrained as actors, and many play themselves.

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