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IT'S A FIRECRACKER: FUNDING, FEMALE FILMMAKING & FELLOWSHIPS

1 message

WIFT NZ <office@wiftnz.org.nz>

5 November 2025 at 06:18

Reply-To: office@wiftnz.org.nz

To: Janey Hughes <janey@intouchtalent.nz>

Web version

www.wiftnz.org.nz**E-News 5 November 2025**

Kia ora Janey,

Funding, Female Filmmaking and Fellowships

Kia ora e te whānau!

I have some rather shocking news for you - IT'S NOVEMBER ALREADY!! There is no sugar-coating the irrefutable truth that Christmas is coming, but your WIFT E-Newsletter is here to help dull the pain and remind us all that women are spectacular and the women who help tell the stories of Aotearoa and beyond personify that.

I was reminded of that fact so many times these past few weeks. Watching the women of Pike; the two women living with this horrific tragedy and fighting for justice still, and the women who helped tell their story for the big screen - actors, writers, DPs, crew - mana wāhine on full display.

Pike River went straight to Number One on it's opening weekend and the film's phenomemal screenwriter Fiona Samuel MNZM has been announced as the 2025 Katherine Mansfield Menton Fellow.

We also welcome the work of debut director Chelsea Winstanley with her stunning documentary *TOITŪ: Visual Sovereignty* about to land in cinemas. She chats with your WIFT E-News Editor about her mission to showcase Māori artists - especially wāhine Māori artists - making history.

And we have witnessed the birth of an insta-star! As our very own inimitable WIFT Executive Director Patricia Watson demands our attention AND our nominations for the upcoming WIFT Awards - ignore her at your peril!

Dive right in, let's together celebrate all that's good in the world, and stay safe out there.

KRxx

UPCOMING EVENTS



Co-Productions: An In-Depth Dive with the NZFC

November 12

Auckland

This comprehensive presentation demystifies the concept of co-production and the 18 co-production arrangements, breaking down the practical benefits and requirements of official co-productions versus unofficial co-productions. You'll gain clarity on how these agreements work, which opportunities could align with your project, and how to leverage them effectively.

Click [HERE](#) for more details.



Framing The Film: The Unit Stills-Producer Collaboration

November 12

Wellington

Great stills don't just happen. They require planning, collaboration, and understanding their value from day one.

Join us for an insight into the crucial relationship between unit stills photographers and producers, featuring Matt Grace (Pike River, Time Bandits, The Rings of Power) and **Vicky Pope** (Producer, Pike River, Went Up the Hill, Savage).

Head [HERE](#) for all the details..

WIFT NZ News



5 November 2025

WIFT NZ Icon Patricia Watson Makes Instagram Debut for WIFT Awards!

You don't need me to tell you that the wonderful WIFT Award's Nominations are open for business - and if you don't take my word for it, then obviously you'll take the indomitable WIFT Executive Director Patricia Watson's! Patricia has entered the Instagram chat on the [@wiftnz](#) account with her ... [read more >](#)



5 November 2025

FEATURE INTERVIEW: Chelsea Winstanley Shares Her TOITŪ: Visual Sovereignty Journey

“It needed to be captured”. That’s what debut feature director and longtime Wiftie Chelsea Winstanley knew deep in her heart when she began to document the Toi Tū Toi Ora exhibition at the Auckland Art Gallery. That journey would take her all the way to the Venice Biennale where the ... [read more >](#)



5 November 2025

NZFC Funding Webinars: Register Now

Join the upcoming NZFC webinars to ask questions and share feedback on funding pathways. The team will review recent changes to funding guidelines—what’s working and what’s not—and share updates, including information about our new production grants and our innovation strand. Head of Funding, Ainsley Gardiner and Development Lead, Esther Cahill-Chiaroni ... [read more >](#)



5 November 2025

WIFT NZ Wahine Toa Nicole Horan Takes Home MWDI Māori Businesswomen’s Overall Supreme Award 2025

CEO and producer Nicole Horan of Hi Mama Productions has won the MWDI Māori Businesswomen’s Overall Supreme Award 2025. This highly coveted accolade celebrates outstanding achievements, innovation, and leadership within te ao pakihi Māori (the Māori business world). Hi Mama Productions, a leading Māori-owned film and television production company, was ... [read more >](#)



5 November 2025

Fiona Samuel MNZM: Katherine Mansfield Menton Fellow 2025

We’re delighted to congratulate Fiona Samuel MNZM, announced as the 2025 Katherine Mansfield Menton Fellow! An award-winning writer, director, and 2012 Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi Laureate, her work has shaped the way women’s stories are told on stage and screen. Her film Pike River has just been released in ... [read more >](#)



5 November 2025

NYWIFT Masterclass Series: The Documentary + Docu-Series Masterclass

You’re invited to the next virtual NYWIFT Masterclass Series The Documentary + Docu-Series Masterclass: From Seed to Stream: The Art and Architecture of Non-Fiction Storytelling. This dynamic three-night virtual program led by award-winning filmmaker Yvonne Russo will guide participants from the heart of an idea to a streamer-ready pitch. Over ... [read more >](#)



5 November 2025

WIFT Winners at 48 Hours Film Comp 2025

WIFT Winners at the Vista Foundation 48 Hours Film Comp 2025! Tied Runner Up: "Maybe Daddy" by Jovial Entertainment Members part of this team: Isla McLeod, Malinna Liang, Renaye Tamati Grand Finalists: Baby Girl by Pixel Pixies Members part of this team: Francesca Mackenzie iTROLL by Permanently Confused Members part of this team: ... [read more >](#)



5 November 2025

Last Call for Final 2025 Actors Workshop Wellington: Vicky Yiannoutsos

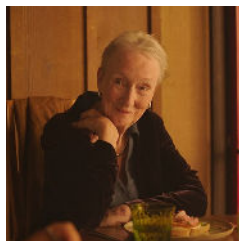
Time to book the last weekend actors intensive workshop with Vicky Yiannoutsos for the year, in Wellington! The workshop will be held on the weekend of November 22-23 and Vicky will work on: Strengthening acting muscles Deepening authentic connection Improving sight-reading skills This weekend workshop trains actors to create believable ... [read more >](#)



5 November 2025

WIFT Winners at the Show Me Shorts Film Festival

Congrats to both our Wiftie winners at the fabulous Show Me Shorts - in a sea of men they shine out. NZ on Air Best Music Video: Jessica Todd for Aua Atu Rā – Marlon Williams Script to Screen Best Screenplay: Alex Farley for Wild Nights, Wild Nights! [CLICK HERE ... read more >](#)



5 November 2025

Ticket Giveaway: New Film "Familiar Touch"

We have a WIFT Ticket Giveaway - Your chance to win one of 5 double passes to see a fabulous film hitting cinemas on November 13 called Familiar Touch. A triple award-winner at the Venice Film Festival's Horizons Competition, Familiar Touch is a coming-of-old-age story that belongs to us all. ... [read more >](#)

Calls for Submissions

NZFC: News Funding Pathways & New Website!

The NZFC is delighted to share some new funding opportunities available to filmmakers. Whether you're exploring fresh technologies, new methodologies, or unique audience experiences, the NZFC team is eager to hear from you, champion fresh perspectives, and support you along your filmmaking journey. As always, the NZFC remains committed to ... [read more >](#)

5 November 2025

Submissions Now Open for MIFF 2026

Calling filmmakers worldwide - especially YOU our beloved WIFT storytellers - submissions are now open for MIFF 2026! Following a record-breaking MIFF 2025, submissions are now being taken for the 74th edition of the Melbourne International Film Festival, taking place from Thursday 6 to Sunday 23 August 2026. Be part ... [read more >](#)

5 November 2025

Whakaata Māori Seeks Short Proposals for Fluent Te Reo Māori Audiences

Whakaata Māori is seeking short proposals that deliver engaging, culturally resonant, and entertaining content that predominantly serves fluent te reo Māori audiences, especially rangatahi and whānau, with the goal of promoting te reo Māori in everyday life, supporting active learners in their language journey, fostering confident Māori identity among rangatahi, ... [read more >](#)

22 October 2025

On our Radar



NZ On Air: Year in Review

Year in Review 2024-2025 Each year NZ On Air is required to report to Parliament on their activities and achievements as a crown entity. This is done through their Annual Report. This year, with new instructions from Government, the Annual Report is a very simple word document. But because they ... [read more >](#)

5 November 2025



SPADA ANNOUNCES 30TH CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

It's just under three weeks until the 30th Spada Conference, with screen sector discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities across Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November. Spada is delighted to share more detailed information about speakers and sessions for this year's anniversary event at The Pullman Hotel in Auckland - and ... [read more >](#)

5 November 2025



Content London Announces Full Agenda

Content London has published its full agenda, which is set to showcase opportunity across the global entertainment business, with more than 200 speakers in 80 sessions over four days. You can view the agenda by [CLICKING HERE](#). This year's event will continue to focus on how delegates can navigate, survive ... [read more >](#)

5 November 2025

Work Opportunities

Social Media Editor: TVNZ

Auckland (Hybrid)

Creative Producer: Public Realm - Auckland Live

Tātaki Auckland Unlimited

Executive Producer

Stuff/Three News: Auckland

Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Media and Creative Technologies

The University of Waikato

Kaikōmihana Huapāho | Content Commissioner

Whakaata Māori, East Tamaki, Auckland

College Production Director - Expressions of Interest

ACG Education: Karaka, Auckland

Cinema & Cafe Supervisor who loves movies & hospitality

Penthouse Cinema & Cafe: Brooklyn, Wellington

Senior News & Media Advisor

Christchurch City Council

Exhibitions Content Developer

Museum of Transport & Technology: Auckland

LOTR Tour Guide

Pure Glenorchy: Queenstown

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