

SDGNZ Executive Biographies

PRESIDENT: Annie Goldson



Annie is a director/producer of documentaries, whose works are known as both politically engaged and formally innovative. Her best known documentaries include *Punitive Damage* (1999) and *Georgie Girl* (2002), a documentary on the life of Georgina Beyer. Other titles include *Sheilas: 28 Years On* (2004) and *Elgar's Enigma: Biography of a Concerto* (2006). She also produced *Pacific Solution: From Afghanistan to Aotearoa* (2005), which follows the story of Afghani boys who were on the MV Tampa and their journey to Auckland. Her documentaries have had theatrical releases in the US, Australia and New Zealand, have won over 40 awards at international festivals and have aired on PBS, HBO, Channel 4, TVNZ, ABC, ARD, SBS, Canalplus and elsewhere.

Annie received her PhD from the University of Auckland's Department of Film, Television and Media Studies and currently teaches there as an Associate Professor. She has been the Director of the biennial New Zealand International Documentary Conference since 1996 and is a trustee on the board of DOCNZ, the New Zealand International Documentary Film Festival. Annie is also a writer and has published widely, including articles in *The Listener*, *Landfall*, *Screen*, *Semiotext(e)* and *Social Text*. In 2006 her book *Memory, Landscape, Dad and Me*, together with a reissue of her 1994 film *Wake*, was published by Victoria University Publications and she has a second book on human rights and documentary under contract with Temple University Press.

She is currently in preproduction on *Tabu Soro: Murder in the Pacific* which received a commission from TV3.

AUCKLAND BOARD MEMBERS

Alex Lee



Alex is an entertainment lawyer by training. However, his first love has always been film and television. Since working as a writer/presenter on the Hong Kong prime-time current affairs show, *The World Today*, Alex has generated a broad base of experience in the industry.

In 1999, Alex was Executive Producer on his first self-funded feature film, *The Song of the Hunted*. Turning his eye to directing, Alex completed his Masters of Creative and Performing Arts at the University of Auckland. During this time he directed a number of short films, including *Present Perfect*, *Too Late*, *Samsara*, *Webbed* and *The Producer*.

After returning to work on productions for Radio Television Hong Kong and Un Nun Productions, Alex directed the Screen Innovation Fund short film *Wong Cha Cha* (2004), which premiered at the Asia NZ Film Festival Aotearoa. This was quickly followed by the documentary *Makara at Makara* (2004), which was co-Directed with Dan Shanan, and followed the desecration of Jewish graves and the response from the Jewish community. This film screened at the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival and the Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival.

Alex founded the talent agency Tsunami Management Limited (www.tsunamitalent.com) and runs Tamarillo Films Limited and Tamarillo Casting Limited, a casting agency. He also works with Timeline Productions Limited as a Director. He is a representative and correspondent for Israel's Channel 10 TV.

He is dedicated to supporting New Zealand filmmakers, and founded the Asia Film Festival Aotearoa as well as co-founding the DOCNZ Film Festival, an international documentary film festival that began in 2005. Alex is also a Trustee for the Asia New Zealand Film Foundation Trust.

Alex is currently producing the feature film *The Magician*, which has already secured New Zealand and Australian distribution, and co-Directing an independently funded feature documentary with the working title *Musical Chairs*.

George Andrews



George Andrews is one of New Zealand's most respected Directors and producers with a career in film and television in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom that spans more than thirty years.

Born in Wellington, he was educated at Victoria University (B.Com). He began his cinema career in London in 1965 as a screenwriter for the major film production company Associated British-Pathé in Wardour Street before returning to New Zealand to become a pioneer reporter and film Director for the first generation of New Zealand television current affairs programmes.

In the early 1970s he was back in London as a writer and production assistant for BBC-TV News and Current Affairs. He returned to New Zealand in 1973 where he has worked ever since as a prolific producer, director and writer of factual material for television, with a special interest in historical and Pacific subjects. He is a three-times winner of the best documentary award, and the first New Zealander to be made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to television.

His series have screened in Europe, Australia and Asia and at the London Film Festival. A former Head of Documentaries for Television New Zealand, he was also one of the founders of the independent TV3 network, now owned by Canwest.

George's credits include *Reaching for the Skies* (1990), a history of Kiwi aviation; *Nuclear Reaction* (1995), a documentary on New Zealand's journey to being nuclear free; *Out of the Dark* (1996), a documentary on the use of DNA and criminal profiling by

New Zealand police to trace a rapist; a history of New Zealand motoring, *Motormania* (1998); *Our Small World* (2000), a portrait of Tokelau; and *Made in Taiwan* (2006), the journey of two Polynesian television presenters to chase their DNA. George has also worked with eminent British Director David Lean on *Lost and Found* (1978), which follows Lean's discovery of one of James Cook's anchors in Tahiti.

Leanne Pooley



Leanne is one of New Zealand's most accomplished documentary filmmakers. Born and raised in Canada she immigrated to New Zealand in the mid-1980's and began working in the New Zealand television industry.

In 1992 she moved to England where she made documentaries for Britain's major broadcasters including BBC1, BBC2, ITV, Channel 4 as well as PBS in America. Her films featured on internationally acclaimed series such as *Everyman*, *Modern Times* and *40 Minutes*. Leanne's documentaries have screened in more than 100 countries, and include topics ranging from

genetics to the Pope.

Upon her return to New Zealand in 1997 Leanne established the independent production company Specific Films (www.spacific.co.nz). Leanne's credits include the Qantas Award winning film *Relative Guilt* (1999), *The Man Who Has Everything* (2001) for the American Discovery Network and *Kiwi Buddha* (2000), as seen on National Geographic. Her first feature-length documentary on choreographer Douglas Wright, *Haunting Douglas* (2003), has screened at festivals around the world.

Her most recent documentaries are *The Promise* (2006) about euthanasia campaigner Lesley Martin, and *Try Revolution* (2006), the story of how the 1981 Springbok Tour of New Zealand helped to bring down South Africa's apartheid regime. *The Promise* recently won 'Best Documentary' at the Air New Zealand Screen Awards.

Leanne has served as a judge for the International Emmy Awards and has published several articles on documentary filmmaking. She lives in Auckland with her husband and two children.

Mark McNeill



Mark has directed and more recently produced more than 40 hours of documentary over the last 15 years. The majority of this has screened on prime-time television in New Zealand, although his work has also been screened in the United States and the United Kingdom.

His debut to the directing world occurred in 1992 when he funded a trip to Mogadishu in Somalia to

film the Civil War by himself. Alone on a trip he describes as both “scary and exhilarating”, Mark returned with some of the first images of the escalating conflict and starvation in Somalia to screen on New Zealand televisions. This was quickly followed by work on *First Hand* (1992), the ground breaking series of half-hour documentaries where each programme was researched, shot and edited by one person.

Since then he has continued his fervor for innovative and engaging subject matters. In 1993 he made a documentary on recovered memory, a controversial topic that earned him friends and enemies, as well as the accolade of a Skeptics Society Bravo Award. He worked on three series of the award-winning *Epitaph* (1997, 1998, 2000) as well as the shamelessly populist smash-hit documentary *Kiwi Flatmates* (2000), which captured 67% of the Kiwi audience share at the height of its popularity. Mark’s work is punctuated by a fascination with the untold stories of New Zealand life, with documentaries ranging from the scientific search for the first New Zealanders to the marijuana industry, car thieves, bullies and burglars. Recent highlights include *Il Majorre — My Father’s War In Italy*, which won a Qantas Media Award for best documentary in 2002 and *Hidden in the Numbers* (2005-6), an offbeat series on statistics with comedian Radar.

He is currently finishing a series on the science and psychology of shopping called *Why We Buy*, and is about to start a four-part series about the Dunedin Longitudinal Study. Mark has been a member of the Screen Directors Guild since it started and on the subcommittee that organizes the New Zealand Screen Awards for the last two years.

Peter Bell



Born and bred in Auckland, Peter entered the music industry after studying at the University of Otago. He worked in radio for two years then the music industry for a year before the desire to direct set in. Turning to his interest in television for inspiration, he completed a post-graduate Diploma in Broadcasting at the University of Auckland.

Peter has directed across a wide range of genres and forms – from reality programmes to drama, music programmes to high-end documentaries.

He credits this wide range of creative output to a desire to learn about all elements of production. Peter has worked on documentary series such as, *Epitaph*, *Secret New Zealand*, *Taonga*, *The Zoo* and *Kid’s Hospital*, which won a Qantas Media Award for “Best Information Programme” in 2003. He has directed the documentaries: *Wrestling with the Angel: The life of Janet Frame* (2004), *What’s Your Verdict: Mark Lundy* (2005), *Do or Die: Lost in the bush* (2002) and *Do or Die: Lost at Sea* (2003). He has also worked on music programmes *Squeeze*, *Play it Strange* and *New Zealand Idol*. More recently, he completed the short film *The Last Words* (2006) and the documentary *Destiny in Motion* (2006).

Toa Fraser



Toa is one of New Zealand's most accomplished playwrights, whose recent move into directing is making waves across the industry. Born in Britain to a British father and Fijian mother, Toa has resided in New Zealand since 1989.

After graduating university, Toa's first play *BARE* premiered in 1998 to widespread critical acclaim. *BARE* won "Best New Play" and "Best New Playwright" at the New

Zealand Chapman Tripp Awards, and went on to rave reviews at the Edinburgh Film Festival. The same year, Toa was awarded *The Sunday Star Times* Bruce Mason Award for playwriting. 1998 also marked the debut of his second play, *No. 2*, which would eventually be turned into the multi-award winning feature film of the same name.

His third play *Paradise* premiered in 2001. Later this year he was awarded the University of the South Pacific's Writer in Residence fellowship, which he used to complete his first treatment of the screenplay for *No. 2*. Toa is also recognized as a talented screenwriter. More recently, he co-wrote *River Queen* with Vincent Ward.

2006 marked the release of Toa's directorial debut, *No. 2*, which won the World Audience Award at Sundance, as well as scooping four awards at the 2006 Air New Zealand Screen Awards.

WELLINGTON BOARD MEMBERS

Anna Cottrell

Anna is an experienced documentary Director and journalist, whose thoughtful and engaging works have gained her international recognition. Beginning her career as a journalist, Anna cut her teeth directing and producing current affairs journalism.



She has won the Beatty Award for TV Journalism for her documentary *One Child Policy* on China, the ITVA Silver Monitor Award for Best Documentary for her work on *The Baby Chase*, which focused on infertility, and she was a finalist in at the Banff International Television Documentary Festival for *Other People's Children*. Her more recent works include *Children of Gallipoli* (2002), which screens again at Anzac Cove in Turkey this year; *Out of the Shadows* (2003); *Pacific War Stories* (2003); and *The Whistle Blowers* (2004). She was also New Zealand producer on Tolga Ornek's international feature documentary, *Gallipoli* (2005). Her most recent documentary is *An Abbreviated Life* (2007).

Anna is active in her community. She is on a high school board, produces education programmes (including some for the web) and tutors occasionally at the Wellington Film School and Victoria University. She is currently working on a multi-cultural exhibition, called *The Migrating Kitchen* for the Pataka Gallery in Porirua.

Grant Campbell



Born in Wainuiomata, after a short stint tutoring mathematics at Victory University, Grant made his first, non-sexual, major mistake and entered the film industry. Like most black holes, he has been unable to escape its attraction, and has been what is laughably labeled 'professionally employed' ever since.

Becoming too fat and 'un-cool' to continue with special effects, and with a vague penchant for sleaze, he was inevitably drawn to producing. With *The Front Lawn*, he produced two award-winning short films: *The Lounge Bar* (1988) and *Linda's Body*. Returning to Wellington, he produced twelve broadcast documentaries for TopShelf, including *Shadow of Vietnam* and *Cinema of Unease*, Official Selection at Cannes (1996).

Belatedly realising that chicky-babes always go for the director, he switched codes, directing comedy television, *Skitz* and *TeleLaughs*, followed by two years originating and directing the TV consumer affairs hit *Target*.

As penance, Grant was induced to co-write and direct *Dirty Creature*, a short film produced by Peter Jackson and Vincent Burke. This was selected for the opening gala of the Toronto Short film festival (1997) and the prestigious Clairmont-Ferrard.

Grant is currently writing feature scripts, drinking heavily and completing a documentary with his brother Bryce about their grandmother, who was a vaudeville trick-cyclist in America in the 1920's.

Howard Taylor

Howard has worked in many genres, over many years, as editor, writer, director and producer. For the past decade he's concentrated on directing documentary. Recent credits include *Frontier of Dreams* (2005), *Coroners Inquest* and *Te Whiringa Taura o Whanganui*.



John Reid

John began his career in the film industry as an actor, graduating to directing in the early 70's. He was active in the formation of the Film Commission and 1978 when Kiwi films burst forth onto the international stage, John made his first feature *Middle Age Spread* - a comedy of middle class manners adapted from Roger Hall's play. This was followed by his second feature *Carry Me Back* (1982), also a comedy, cast on the far side of mateship and features a typical kiwi male who is dead but won't lie down. *Leave All Fair* (1985) was a ghost story about the relationship between Katherine Mansfield and her husband John Middleton Murray. 1995 he released *The Last Tattoo* set in Wellington during the American occupation of 1943.

He has also worked as a Director for television on series such as *Inside Straight*, *The Ray Bradbury Theatre* (1985), *The Legend of William Tell* (1998), *Duggan* (1999), and more recently *The Strip* (2002) as well as numerous television and cinema commercials.

John currently teaches filmmaking at the Wellington Film School.

EDITOR ADVISOR

Roger Grant



Over a long career in the television and film industry, ROGER GRANT has edited and supervised the post-production of many hours of live and animated television drama and a number of features, shorts and documentaries. In the 1990s he established New Zealand's first Avid facility, TopStory Productions, which serviced features, television

drama, documentaries and commercials. He subsequently relocated to Sydney where he established a Final Cut Pro editing facility for Yoram Gross-EMTV, a leading animation producer, with whom he spent several years as editor and post manager. In 2005 Roger returned to Auckland and established Conbrio Media to work in High Definition feature and television post-production. Additionally, as an Executive Producer, Roger is currently jointly responsible for the production of a slate of short films for the New Zealand Film Commission.