



## DOCNZ SUMMIT 2007

### Currency & Convergence

24 - 26 September 2007

#### Speakers' Biographies (alphabetically):

**Cass Avery**, *Producer of Documentaries, Greenstone Productions*

Cass works as a producer for Greenstone Pictures, the multi award-winning television and film production company based in Auckland. Greenstone is a prolific producer of world class programmes across a wide range of genres - factual series, drama, documentaries, entertainment and studio shows. Many have screened around the world. Founded in 1994, Greenstone has its own experienced and passionate team of producers, writers, directors and production personnel.

**Bruno Barrett-Garnier**, *Senior Sound Engineer and Designer Digisound, Composer*

Bruno's career in the audio industry spans fifteen years, during which time he has created sound tracks for, film, television, radio and advertising. He's won numerous awards including the WWP International Film Festival 'Best Music Score', for his work on the NHNZ Documentary Wild Horses Return to China, (2005), 'Best Sound' at Drifting Clouds (2003) for Turangawaewae / A Place To Stand, Bronze Axis for 'Best Sound Track' on the Suzuki Jiminy TVC (1999) and created the sound track for Dave Likes Art, winner of a Silver Axis for Best Cinema (2003). Bruno graduated with a Bachelor of Music from Victoria University in 1992 and has held senior positions at two of New Zealand's top audio companies, Wellington based Marmalade Audio and Auckland based Digipost. Bruno also worked in Singapore as Senior Sound Engineer and Sound Designer at Song Zu (1995-1997). He is currently Senior Sound Engineer and Sound Designer at Digipost and composes music for his company soundnut.co.nz

**Ewa Bigio**, *Managing Director Smiley Film Distribution and World Sales*

Ewa Bigio is the Founding and Managing Director of Smiley Film Distribution and World Sales Ltd, a boutique sales agency representing award-winning documentaries from all corners of the world, including the 79th Academy Award winner The Blood of Yingzhou District. Smiley World Sales has a selective catalogue that focuses on social issues, politics and human interest stories. Representing the majority of the titles and filmmakers on an exclusive world-wide basis, Smiley's acquisition policy is underpinned by Ewa's belief in the potent power of cinema to instigate positive social change. A former lawyer and graduate of Auckland University Law School, Ewa's varied business background encompasses real estate and the fine arts. Coming on board DOCNZ in its inaugural year Ewa was responsible for devising a marketing strategy which would build interest for the fledgling festival within the business sector. In 2006, Ewa helped launch and chaired the festival's first major industry initiative, the DOCNZ Pitching Forum which was a launching pad for 12 local and international projects; a number of which have successfully obtained funding as a result. Ewa was a guest of Holland Film last year to IDFA in Amsterdam and this February was invited to attend the AIDC as a buyer on the DOCUMart panel.

**John Davies**, *Arkles Film Distribution*

John worked as a General Manager at the Daybreak Pacific from 2000 till 2003. During this tenure they were producing five feature films. He is now Managing Director of Arkles Entertainment a theatrical distribution company founded to initially release the output of Daybreak Pacific and of smaller New Zealand theatrical films. *After the wedding*, *Beyond the Sea* or *Junebug* are a few of well known films on his distribution list. Since 2005 John is

a Managing Director and mid-owner of the Academy Cinema the only independent art house cinema in Auckland.

**Joost Den Hartog**, *Conference Director, Australian International Documentary Conference*

Joost is born and raised in Zeeland, the Netherlands. Currently he is the Director of the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC), the international annual gathering for factual content producers, broadcasters and media distributors in Australia. Prior to AIDC Joost worked for The FORUM for international co-financing of documentary, the co-financing market of the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (IDFA). Joost has worked for the Toronto Documentary Forum and the Tribeca Film Institute in New York. Joost is a board member of the Media Resource Centre, based in Adelaide, South Australia.

**Richard Driver**, *Owner/Programmer - Documentary Channel, New Zealand*

Richard is currently the owner and programmer of the Documentary Channel, a pay TV service carried on New Zealand's Sky digital platform. His documentary-making experience stretches back to 1990 when he directed and produced his first independent documentary, Hokonui Todd, a political portrait of African statesman Sir Garfield Todd. Over the past seventeen years he has specialized as a producer of factual television. His company Visionary has produced a diverse range of programmes, from travel and reality series to factual series and documentaries. His CV includes international awards and film festival screenings from Berlin, Chicago, New York and Melbourne. Locally he has been the recipient of several television and media awards. His most recent documentary Love, and Speed & Loss won the three top Documentary awards at this year's 2007 Air New Zealand Screen Awards.

**Amanda Duthie**, *Executive Producer, Arts, Entertainment & Comedy, ABC - Australia*

Amanda Duthie is an Executive Producer at ABC, recently producing television programmes *The New Inventors*, *At the Movies*, *JTV*, *JTV Live* and *JTV Saturday*.

**Glenn Elliot**, *Butobase Productions*

Butobase was formed by Glenn Elliot and Julia Parnell. They're based in a cluttered but well-appointed office space along Auckland's K Rd. They're charging on with a fistful of other projects including *The Relocated Mountains* which was pitched at last year's DOCNZ Summit. The documentary secured co-production funding from MTS, NHK (Japan) and ITVS (USA). It follows a Kurdish refugee named Sirwan as he travels back to Iraq.

**Trevor Graham**, *Commissioning Editor Documentary, SBS Independent, PODLOVE series*

Trevor is currently Commissioning Editor Documentary for SBS Independent, Australia. He is also an acclaimed Australian documentary producer and director whose films have won numerous national and international film and television awards. In 1995, *Aeroplane Dance* won a Silver Hugo at the Chicago International Film Festival, and the Royal Anthropological Society's distinguished Basil Wright Prize. In 1997 *Mabo - Life of an Island Man* won the AFI for Best Documentary, the NSW Premier's History Award and the NSW Premier's Award for Best Screenplay. In 1999 he co-directed an interactive CD-ROM and website for Film Australia, *Mabo - The Native Title Revolution*. Throughout his career he has produced and directed films for Channel 4, BBC, PBS, ABC and SBS. Titles include *Land Bilong Islanders* (1989), *Aeroplane Dance* (1993), *Sugar Slaves* (1994), *Punchlines* (1993), and *Mystique of the Pearl* (1995).

**Joel Haines, Composer**

Joel Haines is one of New Zealand's most respected Composers and Musicians. Born in Auckland in 1983, Joel's prodigious talent saw him in hot demand from a young age as a session guitarist for leading jazz, rock and pop groups. His proficiency in contemporary genres, as well as his ability to write orchestral scores makes Joel an extremely versatile composer. Joel's immense Musical & Composing talents were showcased on his nationwide tour with brother Nathan Haines and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, playing Joel's compositions. Composing music for documentaries, television, films and television commercials (brands include TVNZ, Mercedes C class, Coke, MasterCard, Sanitarium and Sony) is Joel's passion. Joel formed Genyus Soundtracks Ltd in 1999, which has gone from strength to strength with his ability to create the visions of producers and directors alike, resulting in fast turnaround results and extremely happy clients. Genyus Soundtracks is one of the best in the industry for Sound Design; Joel's talent in this area is exceptional. Joel has recently composed the latest TV2 Channel ID music and is currently scoring the extremely popular television series *Outrageous Fortune*.

**Screen Production and Development Association (SPADA)****Cynthia Kane, Programme Manager, ITVS**

Cynthia Kane is Programme Manager for ITVS International and the International Media Development Fund. She began her career as an actress and has appeared in film, theatre and television across the U.S. In 1999 she joined Sundance Channel where she worked in Acquisitions and as the Documentary Programmer. During her tenure, Cynthia championed the celebrated series *The Staircase* as well as the Emmy-award winning documentary, *In Rwanda we say, the family that does not speak die*. Instrumental in the creation of DOCday, she also programmed world cinema and produced on-air specials such as *In Short: Witness*, and *Not Every Picture Tells a Story*. Prior to Sundance she worked in programming and acquisitions at Showtime Networks. She took last year off to work in development on a series of documentaries including *Who's Afraid of Lynne Stewart?*, *Ice People* and *Tasting Terra Madre* while continuing as a consultant for Sundance Channel, Cactus Three, LINK TV and iThentic: Made-for-Mobile.

**Deborah Lawler-Dormer, Director, Media and Interdisciplinary Arts Centre (MIC)**

Video artist, Curator and Organizer, Deborah has headed the Moving Image Centre of Auckland for the last 10 years, having in that time has worked to promote and support a dynamic and growing culture of media-arts practise in Auckland and New Zealand. Supporting an environment of innovation in which the fusion of art and technology are developed and nurtured, Deborah has organized countless exhibitions, workshops, symposia and screenings, as well as hosting many international visitors. MIC is a "drop-in" resource/access centre for artists, designers, programmers and filmmakers and is an environment in which cross-fertilisation between new media, art, audio and performance occurs.

**Fiona Lawson Baker, Documentary Assessor, SBS Independent Australia**

Fiona has an Honours degree in Psychology. She began her television career at the BBC in London, where she gained experience across a broad range of factual television genres, current affairs, and science and interactive specials. Returning to Australia to gain an insight into the Australian television industry, Fiona attended AFTRS. She is now working at SBS.

**Carole Lee Dean, President and CEO, From The Heart Foundation**

As President and CEO of From The Heart Productions, from 1992, Carole produced over 100 television programs, including the popular cable program, *HealthStyles*, where she

interviewed some of the biggest names in the industry including, Dr. Deepak Chopra, Dr. Weil and Dr. Caroline Myss. A sought-after international speaker, Carole is currently touring the U.S. with her popular books, "The Art of Film Funding: Alternative Financing Concepts" teaching filmmakers how and where to find funding. In 1992 Carole created the Roy W. Dean Grant Foundation in honor of her late father, Carole currently manages this foundation. To date Carole's grant and mentorship programs have provided filmmakers with millions of dollars in goods and services and have played an instrumental role in creating important documentary films and establishing the careers of some of the industry's most talented filmmakers.

**Phillip Nelson**, *Managing Director LIC International*

Philip Nelson has worked in the film and television industry since 1976. Currently he is M.D. of LIC, the largest importer of documentaries into China. 70% of these are screened on LIC's daily primetime timeslot on 102 channels. LIC also distributes a VCD/DVD label and publishes books. LIC is also involved in documentary production in China and other countries. Prior to LIC, he spent 6 years at Film Australia as Director, Sales and Marketing, 11 years at SBS-TV in various program sales, merchandising and program acquisitions positions, and, 5 years at the AFC.

**Clare O'Leary**, *Strategic Analyst, NZ On Air*

Clare is developing NZ On Air's digital strategy as the production and broadcasting industry faces radical change with the roll out of digital television and local content grows on multiple delivery platforms. She works across the industry to ensure NZ On Air is geared up for the transformations taking place.

**Julia Overton**, *Documentary Investment Manager Film Finance Corporation Australia*

Highly experienced and respected producer Julia Overton is Film Finance Corporation's Documentary Investment Manager. She was previously a development executive for the Australian Film Commission (2001-2005) and an impressive and multi-faceted track record as a producer, encompassing feature films, television drama, short drama and documentary. Overton was involved in the development and production of a diverse slate of projects, including Oscar winner *Harvie Krumpet*, the short feature *Jewboy* which was selected for Cannes 2005 and Sundance 2006, and the 2005 Lexus IF Awards winner for best documentary and AFI award-winner for best director in documentary - *Jabe Babe*. In addition to her work in Australia, Overton has worked in British television (London Weekend Television) and in North America (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation).

**Larry Parr**, *General Manager Programming, Maori Television (TBC)*

Larry Parr has an extensive background in television and film, having produced and directed a string of documentaries, drama and movies. He joined Māori Television as Commissioner in 2005 before later moving into the role of Head of Programming.

**Marcel Rawady**, *DVD Project Manager, Madman Films*

Marcel began working for Madman Entertainment, a leading Australian entertainment, distribution and Rights Company, in early 2005. Madman has licensed and distributed a vast array of films and was one of the first DVD companies in Australia to release documentaries to the consumer market. Titles in Madman's catalogue include *Bowling for Columbine*, *Dig*, *The Corporation*, *McLibel*, *The Weather Underground*, *Lost in La Mancha*, *The Take* and *Control Room*. As an independent distributor, Madman has released some of the world's finest documentaries and aims to continue to release works by lesser known filmmakers, whose documentaries deserve a wider audience. More recently Madman has had significant success with the ground-breaking Aboriginal language feature, *Ten Canoes*, and achieved Australia's third highest-selling DVD of 2006, *Kenny*.

**Leonard Retel Helmrich, Filmmaker**

Leonard Retel Helmrich is a Dutch filmmaker of Indonesian origin. Graduated from the Netherlands Film Academy in Amsterdam, Helmrich has directed several award-winning documentaries in his homeland of Indonesia. This workshop offers documentary and fiction filmmakers the rare opportunity to learn from the award winning director. In 2004, he won the Joris Ivens Award at IDFA (Amsterdam) as well as the top documentary award at the Sundance Film Festival (in 2005) for his film *Stand van de maan (Shape of the Moon)*. His most recent film *Promised Paradise* has played to packed houses and won critical acclaim.

**Sharon Roobol, Producer, Al Jazeera International**

Sharon Roobol represents Al Jazeera International, the 24-hour English-language news and current affairs channel, headquartered in Doha, which will start broadcasting globally later this year. Al Jazeera's programming output will be largely commissioned from independents, providing film-makers with an unequalled opportunity to produce people-driven films to a worldwide audience. Sharon is responsible for commissioning and acquiring documentaries from the Asia region for AJI's *Witness* programme and will also be looking for longer-form documentaries and Special Series for the channel. Sharon previously produced news and long form current affairs programming for ABC Australia's Europe Bureau, as well as working for the ABC and the Nine Network at Parliament House in Canberra.

**Dan Shanana, DOCNZ Co-founder and Director**

Born in Haifa, Israel, Dan Shanana settled in New Zealand in 2003. He founded *Timeline Productions Limited*, a film company making documentaries for broadcasters, festivals, and private and corporate client ([www.timelineprods.com](http://www.timelineprods.com)). He has made several documentaries including *Ma-kara at Makara*, *A Stage of Mind*, and is now in production of a new feature length documentary, *Musical Chairs* (working title). Dan is a Co-Founder, Director and Trustee of DOCNZ Trust with its critically acclaimed flagship DOCNZ International Documentary Film Festival. Recently, Dan was a guest of the German government at Dok Leipzig 2006.

**Phill Simmonds, Simmonds Brothers, SPADA 2006 New Film-maker of the Year**

Phill and his brother Jeff Simmonds grew up in Hawkes Bay, where they experimented with stop motion animation on a Super 8 movie camera. They have been creating animations for almost ten years, progressing from simple animations for the internet to their most recent 35mm film project, *A Very Nice Honeymoon*, a ten minute animation for the big screen funded by the New Zealand Film Commission. The Simmonds Brothers have developed a unique and highly efficient system of producing 100% hand-drawn animation which they call 'documation'. Their first short film, *Pearl, Florrie and the Bull*, screened at the Telecom 2004 New Zealand International Film Festival. *The Paslode Story*, an eight minute documation premiered at STUBBIES 2005. This year the Simmonds Brothers completed an animated series for Māori Television, *Rasta Rangī*; at the same time two of their documations were selected for the Telecom New Zealand International Film Festival.

**Sky Sitney, Director of Programming, Silverdocs International Documentary Film Festival**

Sky is Director of Programming for SILVERDOCS, America's most 'talked about' documentary festival; a joint alliance between The American Film Institute and Discovery Communications. As former Programming Director at The Newport International Film Festival Sky was a key contributor in helping Newport become one of the leading regional Festivals of its kind. She has served as the Film Programmer at the New York Underground Film Festival and was Co-Founder and Curator for the on-going series Fresh Film at the Anthology Film Archives in New York. Sky has also held industry positions at C-Hundred

Film Corp. and Fine Line Features. In addition to her extensive programming experience, she is a doctoral candidate in Cinema Studies at New York University, where she has taught film courses and is completing a dissertation on the subject of documentary film.

**Glenn Usmar**, *Television Manager, NZ On Air*

Glenn is responsible for overseeing the television-based activities of NZ On Air, including the development of policy and the assessment of television funding applications. He manages the television team. Television funding accounts for around 60% of NZ On Air's funding budget. He has extensive and varied experience in New Zealand and overseas, both in public and commercial broadcasting. Previously he was the Programme Manager for Sky TV's Rialto Channel.

**Lois Vossen**, *Vice-President, ITVS*

Lois is Vice President of ITVS an independent television service which funds and presents award winning dramas and documentaries on public television. She is also Founder and Series Producer of *Independent Lens*, an Emmy Award Winning series aired weekly on PBS. Prior to this she was Director of Broadcast Distribution & Communications at ITVS where she directed the presentation of more than 250 documentaries and dramas on public television. She has been associate managing director of the Sundance Institute, lab manager of the renowned Sundance Screenwriters, Filmmakers and Playwrights Labs, and she programmed the Sundance Cinematheque at Robert Redford's Sundance Resort. She also worked with the acclaimed director Philip Kaufman on the documentary *Wild East*. *Independent Lens* has won a string of awards including three Emmys, and three Sundance Film Festival Awards, a Du Pont Columbia Broadcast Journalism Award and George Foster Peabody Award.