



**PRESS RELEASE
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Funding for film festivals and awards shows announced

Five New Zealand film festivals and the New Zealand Screen Awards have been given a financial boost by the New Zealand Film Commission.

The Commission today announced funding allocations for its 2006 Festivals and Awards Programme. Almost \$132,000 will be distributed to the organisers of the film festivals and the New Zealand Screen Awards.

The recipients are:

Telecom New Zealand International Film Festival	\$40,000
New Zealand Screen Awards	\$40,000
Wairoa Maori Film Festival	\$15,000
Federation of Film Societies annual programme	\$15,000
Documentary New Zealand Film Festival	\$15,000
Fringe Film Festival	\$ 6,750

“As always it was difficult to make the final decisions. We had applications requesting a total of more than \$236,000. Unfortunately we could not fund them all,” chief executive Ruth Harley said.

“We are pleased that those we have chosen will enhance debate among New Zealand film goers and give them an opportunity to see films they might not otherwise have seen,” she says.

The purpose of the Commission’s Festivals and Awards Programme is to provide financial assistance to film festivals that will enhance the film-going experience of New Zealanders while, at the same time, give New Zealand film makers much needed exposure.

The programme also provides financial assistance towards the cost of awards events that recognise and reward achievement in all aspects of feature film production.

Ends

For more information contact Ruth Harley, chief executive on 04 382 7680

ABOUT THE NZFC

The New Zealand Film Commission's main purpose is to invest in the development, production, marketing and sales of New Zealand films, both domestically and internationally.

It does this through:

- *Direct financial support for script development and production of projects that meet funding criteria.*
- *Sales and marketing activity – particularly through the promotion of New Zealand films at major international markets and festivals.*
- *Professional development by facilitating and funding relevant opportunities for script writers, directors and producers.*
- *Support for NZ film industry infrastructure such as guilds, associations and film festivals.*

Last year the NZFC invested \$19.3 million into the NZ film industry.

The NZFC was established in 1978. It is based in Wellington and has a dedicated staff of 17.