

# Awards 2024

THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY  
ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY



*Media release – EMBARGOED until 9.15pm, Thursday, 29 February 2024*

## **WIFT NZ Awards 2024 Winners**

Women In Film & Television (WIFT NZ) is delighted to announce the recipients for the 11 award categories of the WIFT NZ Awards 2024, held tonight at St Matthew-in-the-City, Auckland.

### **SAE Award for Outstanding Newcomer**

*Presented by Dr Suzette Major, Director SAE Institute, and Dr Maria Walls, Academic Dean, SAE Institute*

> to Marianne Infante for excellence in performance, and advocating for minority voices to be recognised on stage and screen.

### **Hinterland Woman to Watch Award**

*Presented by Sharon Menzies, Managing Director, Hinterland*

> to Abba-Rose Vaiaoga-loasa for her outstanding contribution producing and stimulating Pasifika stories in the screen industry.

### **South Pacific Pictures Award for Achievement in Film**

*Presented by Kelly Martin, Chief Executive, South Pacific Pictures*

> to Desray Armstrong (Te-Aitanga-a-Hauti, Ngāti Porou) for producing, and releasing three significant feature films within 18 months – *Coming Home in the Dark*, *Millie Lies Low* and *Juniper*.

### **Imagezone Entrepreneurship Award**

*Presented by Dean Thomas, Company Director and Stephen Baker, Sales Manager*

> to Chelsea Winstanley (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi te Rangi), an extraordinary businesswoman. Company director of This Too Shall Pass, and Matewa Media, which has released five Disney Films in Te Reo Māori. Chelsea is also company director of Ahi Collective.

### **Images & Sound Award for Success in Television and Digital**

*Presented by Narelle Ahrens, Foley Artist at Images and Sound*

> to Carly Turner for excellence in editing drama, most recently *Uproar*.

### **Professional Lighting Services Award for Unsung Heroine of the NZ Screen Industry**

*Presented by Julia Rutherford, Hire Manager, Professional Lighting Services*

> to Jane Anderson who as long-time Operations Manager at Images & Sound, provides invaluable support and guidance on a myriad of projects.

## **Queenstown Camera Company Craft Award**

*Presented by Chloe Smith, Producer, on behalf of Queenstown Camera Company*

> to Ashlee Fidow for breaking barriers and excelling as an in-demand stunt performer.

## **Wētā FX Creative Technology Award**

*Presented by Linda Shearer, Chief People Officer, Wētā FX*

> to Beck Veitch for excellence as a compositing supervisor and dedicated advocacy for women in VFX.

## **Te Māngai Pāho Te Reo Māori Champion Award**

*Presented by Larry Parr, Chief Executive, Te Māngai Pāho*

> to Mihingarangi Forbes (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Paoa), a trailblazer and torchbearer with an unfaltering focus on Māori and justice.

## **Warner Bros. Discovery Award for Moana Pasifika Excellence in the Screen Industry**

*Presented by Vicki Keogh, Senior Director of Commissioning (ANZ), Warner Bros. Discovery*

> to Ngaire Fuata, a founding Director and Producer at SunPix, the leader in Pasifika representation on mainstream television.

## **Great Southern Film & Television Award for Outstanding Contribution to the NZ Screen Industry**

*Presented by Cate Calver, Chief Executive Officer, Great Southern Film & Television*

> to Barbara Darragh, a pioneer in innovative costume design, a role model and inspiration for costume designers.

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(Notes continued...)

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## **NOTES FOR THE EDITOR:**

1. The WIFT NZ Awards were established in 2004 to recognise, celebrate and encourage the achievements of women in film, television and digital media.
2. Finalists were decided by a panel of Jill Macnab (Chair), Kath Graham, Alyx Duncan, Nicole Horan, Amanda Davison, Kathleen Anderson, Jasmin McSweeney, and Ve'a Mafile'o, with input from Sally Campbell and the various category sponsors.
3. Previous award recipients include Niki Caro, Ngila Dickson, Robyn Malcolm, Rachel Lang, Rhonda Kite, Janine Morrell-Gunn, Chloe Smith, Robin Scholes, Jane Wrightson, Stacey Morrison and Kelly Martin.
4. The event was MC'd by Kate Rodger, with a surprise performance by Luminata Voices, Auckland's chamber choir for women.
5. Apart from the category sponsors, the WIFT Awards are kindly supported by NZ On Air and FAT Lighting.
6. WIFT NZ receives operating grants from the New Zealand Film Commission and Foundation North.
7. The full list of finalists is:

## **SAE Award for Outstanding Newcomer**

Luana Barnes  
Marianne Infante  
Stephanie Damm-Logan  
Tioreore Ngatai-Melbourne

## **Hinterland Woman to Watch Award**

Abba-Rose Vaiaoga-Ioasa  
Angela Cudd  
Mia-Marama Henry-Teirney  
Morgan Leigh Stewart

## **South Pacific Pictures Award for Achievement in Film**

Alex Reed for *Mister Organ*  
Desray Armstrong for *Juniper*  
Paula Whetu Jones for *Whina*

## **Imagezone Entrepreneurship Award**

Chelsea Winstanley – Matewa Media, Ahi Collective, This Too Shall Pass  
Nanette Miles – Toybox  
Sharlene George – The Sweetshop

## **Images & Sound Award for Success in Television and Digital**

Bronwynn Bakker – producer – for her body of work, first broadcast between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023  
Carly Turner – editor – for her body of work first broadcast between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023  
Fiona Copland – producer – for *Kiri and Lou*

## **Professional Lighting Services Award for Unsung Heroine of the NZ Screen Industry**

Alice Shearman  
Billie Lusk  
Jane Anderson

## **Queenstown Camera Company Craft Award**

Ashlee Fidow – stunt performer  
Kirsty Griffin – stills photographer  
Maria Ines Manchego NZCS – director of photography

## **Wētā FX Creative Technology Award**

Beck Veitch – compositing supervisor  
Cushla Dillon – editor  
Kara Vandeleur – vfx producer

## **Te Māngai Pāho Te Reo Māori Champion Award**

Libby Hakaraia  
Mihingarangi Forbes  
Miriam Kamo

## **Warner Bros. Discovery Award for Moana Excellence in the Screen Industry**

Karin Williams  
Lisa Taouma  
Ngairu Fuata