



EXECUTIVE BOARD 2011-2012

PETER BELL | President



Peter has worked in the screen industry for fifteen years. He stumbled upon this career after brief flirtations with the radio and the music industry. He likes telling ripping yarns in whatever form seems appropriate. Peter has directed across a wide range of genres

and forms – from reality programs to drama, music programs to high-end documentaries. He credits this wide range of creative output to a misguided desire to learn about all elements of production.

Peter has worked on a range of documentary series including *Beyond the Darklands*, *Missing*, *Epitaph*, *Secret New Zealand*, *Taonga*, *The Zoo* and *Kid's Hospital*. He has directed the documentaries: *Destiny in Motion* (2006), *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). He has also worked on music programmes *Squeeze*, *Play it Strange* and *New Zealand Idol*; oh and story lined on *Shortland Street* and directed a short film *The Last Words* (2006).

He is studying for a Masters in Screen Production in Screen Writing at Auckland University, because full-time work and three kids just don't keep you busy enough.

PETER ROBERTS | Editor Representative

Peter Roberts has been in the film and TV industry for over 30 years, the first seven of those in London, and two in Sydney. Trained in London film cutting rooms, working in TV commercials, broadcast documentary and children's programmes, he emigrated to NZ in 1986.

In New Zealand Peter took a job editing with TVNZ. Whilst at TVNZ he worked in many disciplines - film, cinetape, news, drama and sport, gaining wide experience. Peter also became an editors' delegate within the PSA.

After five years of corporate life he decided to return to freelancing, and also set up Broadway Post in partnership with VTR in Auckland, pioneering the first digital non-linear editing systems in New Zealand. Later, Peter set up RPM Pictures, a boutique HD and SD post-production house in Ponsonby.



PIETRA BRETTKELLY | Executive Board - Auckland

I am truly passionate about everything I do – the risks I've taken in making some of the documentaries exhibit either passion or craziness. With my background in Journalism, I have always been excited by stories that matter, the personal journeys that reflect a bigger issue.

Pietra's most recent success was being awarded Best Festival Documentary, Best Director and Best Editor at the Qantas Film and TV Awards 2009.

That film, her self-funded 2008 Sundance Film Festival award-winning documentary 'the art star and the sudanese twins' is screening in cinemas across Canada, and soon to be released in the US, and on networks around the world, after enjoying international success in competition at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Hotdocs, Toronto, Zurich International Film Festival, the Melbourne International Film Festival and Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival.

In 2003 her film 'Beauty Will Save the World' took her to Libya for that country's first ever beauty pageant and an interview with the "mad dog of the Middle East" Colonel Muammar Ghadaffi. The film premiered at the American Film Institute Film Festival in Los Angeles and later at Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, Toronto and IDFA in Amsterdam.

Pietra studied as a journalist at the Wellington Polytech School of Journalism and has developed these skills around film-making.



GRANT CAMPBELL | Executive Board - Wellington



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' 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.

SIMONE HORROCKS | Executive Board



American born, New Zealand raised, Simone studied film making in London, gaining a degree in Film, Photography and Photographic Arts from the University of Westminster. She worked for a number

of years behind the camera as a focus puller and camera assistant, before shifting her focus to writing and directing. She has written and directed several short films including SPINDRIFT, which won best Panorama Short Film at the Berlin Film Festival, INBETWEEN which premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival, and NEW DAWN which was commissioned to mark the launch of UK's Film Four Lab at the Edinburgh Film Festival. Writing commissions include ESCORTS for Tessa Ross at BBC television, LONDON STORIES for Mayavision International and PASAJELO for The Big Issue Film Unit.

Simone returned to New Zealand with her family in 2001. Her debut feature film AFTER THE WATERFALL opened in New Zealand cinemas in November of 2010. It gained 4/5 star reviews from The New Zealand Herald, The Otago Daily Times, Yahoo!XtraMovies, and the New Zealand Women's Weekly. AFTER THE WATERFALL has also screened in competition at Films by the Sea Int Film Festival and the Golden Rooster Hundred Flowers Film Festival in China .

Simone has recently returned from the South West of China, where she co-directed UNFORGETTABLE LOVE, a Chinese tele-feature for CCTV6, with writer Ms Wang Lin, and producer Mr Tan Ligeng, which will be broadcast in China later this year.

JANETTE HOWE | Executive Board - Auckland

Janette Howe attended the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA - Melbourne) majoring in documentary after a career as an Editorial Manager in book publishing. Her graduate film from VCA, *Hanging Out with Henry*, won the ATOM award for best tertiary documentary, screened at festivals and was commissioned by SBS. She then developed and directed *Maternity Unit* for SBS and was one of the directors for the first season of *Medical Emergency* for Channel 7. On returning to NZ she started a family and now has two children who often tag along to meetings and to edit suites!

She is a director of Caravan Productions Ltd, which has just produced the first co-production between Maori television and SBS – *Once Bitten*. She has just completed her MA at Auckland University directing *Dissenting Voices*, a film about the anarchists caught up in the 'anti-terror' raids, and received a University Blue award. Janette is the editor of TAKE magazine.

MARK MCNEILL | Executive Board – Auckland



Mark has directed and more recently produced more than 50 hours of documentary over the last 17 years. The majority of this has screened on prime-time television in NZ, although his work has also been screened in the USA and UK.

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 International and NZ televisions. This was quickly followed by work on *First Hand* (1992).

Since then he has pursued an interest in innovative and engaging subject matter. He made *Memories*, worked on three series of the award-winning *Epitaph* (1997, 1998, 2000) as well as directing the shamelessly populist smash-hit documentary *Kiwi Flatmates* (2000), which captured 67% of the Kiwi audience share. Mark's work is characterised 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.

His most recent effort was a six part series called *The Politically Incorrect Parenting Show*. The series was the highest rating show on New Zealand TV, on any channel for several weeks.

He is currently making a prime-time series based on the Dunedin Longitudinal Study called *The Science of Us*, a festival documentary about a unique collection of unknown 19th century photos called *Windows To The Past* and two primetime hours of documentary for the *Inside NZ* series for TV3.

REUBEN PILLSBURY | Executive Board – Auckland

Reuben Pillsbury made his first film, about his pet chicken Skippy at the age of 10. Although it never made the festival circuit, it was also never interfered with by Network Executives or Producers and therefore remains a favourite.

After years living as a successful artist in New York he realized that painting was too solitary and his urge for telling real stories had to be satisfied.

The last 10 years have been spent making tv series and documentaries. He won Best Reality Series for Henderson to Hollywood in the 2007 Air NZ Awards. He's been a nominee for directing at the Qantas Awards. He wrote, shot, directed and produced the first 2 series of the Lion Man – NZ's most successful international non-drama export. He was one of the directors on the BBC show *Castaway*. He made the acclaimed series *The Outsiders* for TVONE about truant Maori boys. And he shot, wrote and directed the soon to be released *Are You My Tribe* series featuring Mike Havoc.

Reuben is passionate about capturing authentic moments and moving an audience. One day he hopes to run tvnz, but for now he's passionate about raising the rates of pay for directors as he's tired of hearing from soundies that they would direct but the money just isn't good enough.



JOHN REID | Executive Board - Wellington

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 is in charge of production at the Wellington Film School. He was one of the founding members of the SDGNZ and is a past president.



DAN SALMON | Executive Board - Auckland

Dan Salmon is a multi-award winning documentary director and producer. He has directed and produced festival and television documentary, docudrama, short film and TVCs.

His directing credits include *Made in Taiwan*, which won the Grand Prix du Jury and Prix du Public at the Festival International de Film Documentaire Oceanien, the short film *Licked*, docudrama series *What If...? 2050* (director, writer, producer) which was awarded Best Director and Best Documentary series in 2002, the authorial documentary *Children of 1984*, the docudrama series *How to Spot a Cult*, and the architectural history series, *NZ at Home*.

Dan also produced *A Good Way to Die*, which won Best Popular Documentary at the 2007 Qantas Film and TV Awards. And his recent documentary *Dirty Bloody Hippies* (director) played to full houses and great reviews in the 2011 Documentary Edge Festival.

He has collaborated on a wide variety of film, TVC and drama. In 2010 he completed a Masters of Creative Writing at Auckland University, directed and co-produced the ten-part series *Vital Ingredients* and is continuing to make the long form documentary *Pictures of Susan*.

He is a past president of SDGNZ and lives in Auckland with three children and a collection of old boats, books and bikes.



HOWARD TAYLOR | Executive Board - Wellington



Howard arrived in New Zealand as a foundling at the tender age of 4. His parents

abandoned him here when, lost in a time warp, their craft broke down on a trip home to the galaxy Alpha Centauri. While hasty repairs were made, the likelihood of a successful return flight was in doubt and all excess weight had to be jettisoned, including Howard. His early adoption of human characteristics and personality was largely successful and he has managed to pass himself off as human virtually unchallenged. His exploration of this strange and exotic South Pacific culture has been disguised as a career path and his affectionate but detached view of humanity has been an asset in his documentary-making, particularly in the areas of social history and the arts. He may occasionally be caught gazing wistfully into space, and if you listen closely you might pick up that ending from one of his favourite films, The Rocky Horror Picture Show:

*“And crawling on the planets face,
some insects called the human race,
lost in time, lost in space
- and meaning.”*

More: www.htproductions.co.nz