



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **New Screen Industry Collaborations to Spark in the Capital**

**12-13 November, InterContinental Hotel, Wellington**

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Key issues affecting the future of New Zealand's screen industry will be examined in the capital this week at the SPADA (Screen Production and Development Association of New Zealand) conference held in Wellington on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 November.

"This year's conference comes after a challenging year economically and is all about getting ahead on trends, ideas and the latest on what's happening here and internationally," says SPADA's Chief Executive, Penelope Borland.

"Some wonderful collaborations have sprung from the SPADA Conference resulting in new projects with talented New Zealanders connecting with industry leaders from all over the world. Our conference delegates are the generators of so many of New Zealand's film, television and digital projects, and employers of talented production teams; so much of the future of New Zealand's screen industry rests on the ability of our audience to get new projects off the ground."

The SPADA Conference brings together international and national screen industry speakers. It includes plenary sessions, workshops and masterclasses covering producing, creating, financing and distribution. SPADA is the industry body that represents New Zealand's independent film and television practitioners on all issues affecting the business and creative aspects of screen production.

From the creative minds of the Academy Award-winning Weta Workshop comes *The WotWots*. Producer **Jan Haynes**, Visual Effects Supervisor **Trevor Brymer**, Director **Theo Baynton** and Designer **Daniel Falconer** will discuss their stunning animation series for pre-schoolers and reveal what's what with *The WotWots*.

**Matthew Weiner**, series creator and executive producer of this year's Emmy Award winner for Outstanding Drama *Mad Men*, is the keynote speaker for the conference. *Mad Men* – described as near to genius as TV gets - is set in the world of advertising on New York's Madison Avenue, is a multi-layered 1960s period drama. Since its inception *Mad Men* has garnered a slate of awards including last year's Emmy and two consecutive Golden Globes for Best Television Drama Series. Weiner was an executive producer and writer for the critically acclaimed television series *The Sopranos*.

**Graeme Mason**, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Film Commission, is stepping straight off the plane from the American Film Market to share the latest on market trends and conditions with New Zealand Producer **Dave Gibson** (*Aftershock, The Insiders Guide to Love*) Managing Director of the Gibson Group. Graeme also shares his observations, thoughts and vision for the New Zealand film industry and the New Zealand Film Commission.

Media commentator **Derek Fox** and New Zealand film maker and television producer **Tainui Stephens** will take part in the session chaired by Colin James, with television networks, looking at the topic of *How Far is Te Reo Maori from Mainstream Prime Time?*

New Zealand television producer **Julie Christie** will give this year's John O'Shea Memorial Address. Founder and Chief Executive of Eyeworks New Zealand and Australia, Julie has achieved most of her international success with unscripted formats including *The Chair, Miss Popularity* and *Treasure Island*. Julie received the 2006 SPADA Independent Producer of the Year Award.

Co-production is one of the themes of this year's conference with specific reference to arrangements with the United Kingdom and Australia.

Australian producer **Antony I. Ginnane**, who has produced, co-produced and executive produced 60 feature films, TV movies and mini-series, will discuss Australian/New Zealand co-productions – how do we make more?

UK producer **Gareth Wiley**, winner of this year's Golden Globe for Best Picture Comedy for *Vicky Christina Barcelona*, is attending the conference. Gareth has worked extensively with Woody Allen (*Vicky Christina Barcelona, Scoop, Match Point, Cassandra's Dream*). Gareth is currently an executive producer of the NZ/UK co-production *Tracker* currently shooting in Auckland. The producing team includes New Zealand executive producer and SPADA President Richard Fletcher (*Under the Mountain*), New Zealand producer Trevor Haysom (*In My Father's Den*) and UK producer David Burns. *Tracker* directed by the UK's Ian Sharp, stars Ray Winstone (*Sexy Beast*) and Temuera Morrison (*Once Were Warriors*).

Other international guests include German director **Andreas Dresen**, whose feature *Cloud 9* was selected for the 2008 Cannes Film Festival Un Certain Regard section and is currently screening in the German Film Festival, and **Carey Kyler**, Vice President of Television Programming and Commissioning at the Travel Channel.

Park Road Post Production Masterclasses include Film Scoring with director **Jonathan King** and composer **Victoria Kelly**. Jonathan and Victoria worked together on the New Zealand feature film *Under the Mountain* based on the children's novel by Maurice Gee. LA based film animation artist Academy Award nominee **John Stevenson** will present the 3D Animation Masterclass. John was at the helm of Dreamworks latest animation concept *Kung Fu Panda*.

The conference also includes South Pacific Pictures' Big Pitch pitching competition held during the Screenrights' Lunch.

On Friday evening at the TVNZ sponsored dinner hosted by the Minister for Broadcasting, Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman, the SPADA New Filmmaker of the Year, the SPADA Independent Producer of the Year, and the SPADA/Onfilm Industry Champion will be announced.

SPADA Industry Awards are supported by the following sponsors: New Filmmaker of the Year (**Principal sponsor**: Park Road Post Production, **Sponsors**: Panavision, FACB, Kodak, Stage and Screen and Air New Zealand); Independent Producer of the Year sponsored by Crombie Lockwood/MTJ's; and SPADA/Onfilm Industry Champion.

The SPADA Conference is supported by the following sponsors: **Principal Sponsor** NZ Film Commission, **Premium Sponsors** TVNZ, Park Road Post Production and Wellington City Council, **Key Sponsors** New Zealand On Air, Te Puni Kōkiri, Screenrights, TV3, **Sponsors and Supporters** Crombie Lockwood/MTJ, Film Finances, FIUA, Fujifilm, Fulcrum Media Finance, Havana, Images & Sound, Māori Television, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, Onfilm, ScreenHub, South Pacific Pictures, Stage and Screen, The Film Archive, Voyage Affaires: and SPADA's **Premiere Partner** Telecom.

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