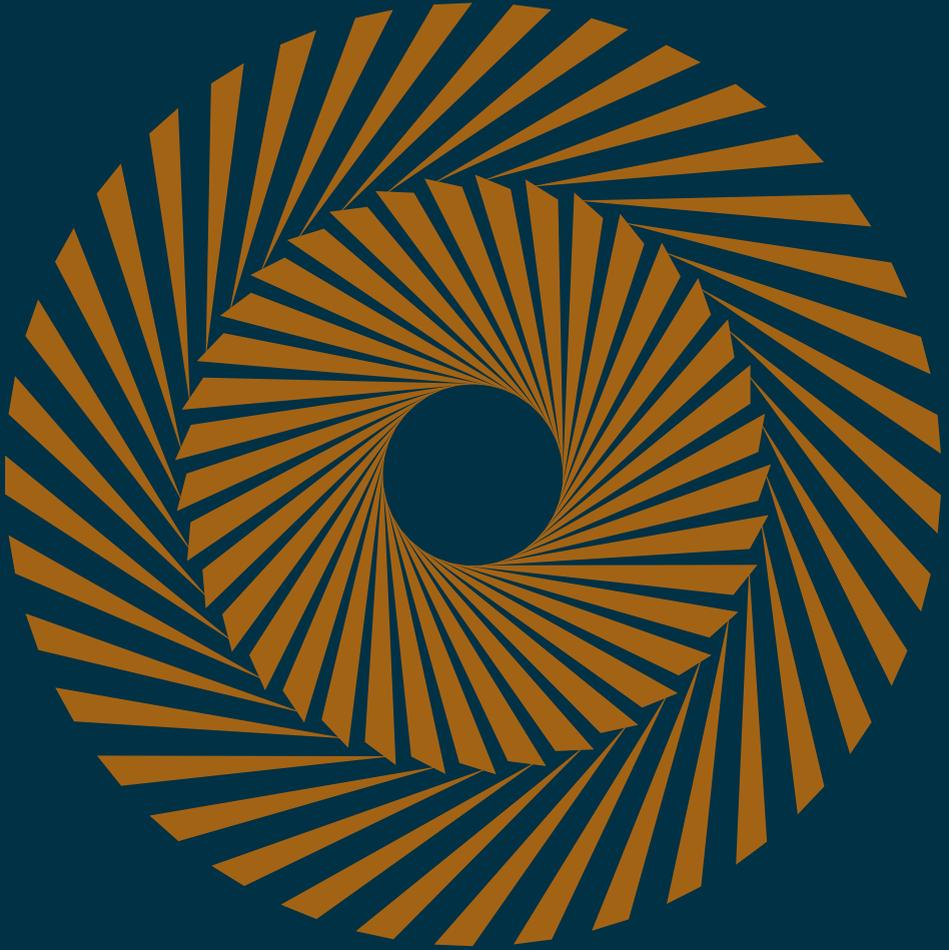


30th Spada Conference



#LOVELOCAL, GO GLOBAL
20 — 21 NOV 2025



30 years of powering
stories for New Zealand
and the world

Day One — Thursday 20 November

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| 8.00-5.30 | Registration Desk Open | LOBBY BY RESIDENCE |
| 9.00-10.00 | Mihi Whakatau / Official Welcome — MC: James Nokise NZ On Air John O’Shea Memorial Address — Stephen Stehlin | PRINCESS C |
| 10.00-10.30 | MORNING TEA (with the Kōawa Studios Coffee Cart) | REGATTA ROOMS |
| 10.30-11.30 | PLENARY SESSION — From Prediction to Reality: Navigating the Next Era of Screen Frances Valintine (CNZM, academyEX) last set the tone for Spada in 2016, exploring exponential disruption, AI, and the future of screen. Nearly a decade on, the world she forecast has arrived at speed. In this keynote Frances revisits her predictions and charts the next frontier for a sector in rapid transformation. | PRINCESS C |
| SPLIT SESSIONS | | |
| PRINCESS C | | PRINCES A |
| 11.30-12.30 | Innovating for Money and Audiences The path to profit, growth, and career longevity lies through audiences. Our panel discusses how understanding your audience can unlock elusive private investment. Panel: Paul Wiegard (Madman Entertainment), Jas McSweeney (Umbrella Entertainment), Dr David Court (Compton School). Moderator: Rosie Hole (Hinterland). | 11.30-12.30 Hook, Hold, Repeat: Capturing Rangatahi Attention Online A new generation of producers share how they craft bold, authentic stories for the fast-moving world of social media – connecting rangatahi with local content that resonates. Panel: Jessica Todd (Cable Maiden Prod.), Perrin Hastings (Director), Hope Papali’i (Producer). Moderator: Sheldene Seth (Able). |
| 12.30-2.00 | LUNCH Brought to you By Film Finances Australasia | REGATTA ROOMS |
| 2.00-2.45 | Crossing Borders, Building Worlds Co-productions are key to ambitious storytelling. As funding tightens and audiences expand, producers are looking offshore for scale and opportunity. This session explores what’s changing and how NZ-supported partnerships can go global. Panel: Poppy Dowle (Film Finances), Michele McDonald (Screen Australia), Emma Slade (Velvet Moss). Moderator: Jennifer Wilton (NZFC). | 2.00-2.45 Everyday Wellbeing for Producers: What Works and What’s Next Producers face unique pressures. This session explores strategies that support producers’ mental health on and off set, with insights from data, case studies, and real-world experiences. Panel: Kelly Lucas (ScreenSafe), Miranda Rivers (Casting/Mental Health First Aid), Emmett Skilton (Director/Actor), Kevin Denholm (Film Chaplain/Director). |
| 2.45-3.30 | PLENARY SESSION — Lights, Action, Impact A presentation and discussion of the high-level takeouts from recently completed research into the economic and cultural value of the screen production sector in New Zealand. This Mahi Tahi initiative from NZ On Air, NZ Film Commission and Te Māngai Pāho demonstrates how impactful our cultural storytelling really is, both at home and globally. | PRINCESS C |
| 3.30-4.00 | AFTERNOON TEA (with the Kōawa Studios Coffee Cart) | REGATTA ROOMS |
| 4.00-4.45 | PLENARY SESSION — Re-Inventing Content for the Digital First Age Join Steve Crombie , CEO and Founder of Totem Global, and TVNZ’s Chief News and Content Officer, Nadia Tolich , for an engaging conversation on the strategies and steps needed to adapt, innovate, and thrive in a digital-first content landscape. Moderated by Natalie Apostolou (C21 Media Aus/NZ Editor). | PRINCESS C |
| 4.45-5.00 | PRE-AWARDS BREAK | |
| 5.00-5.30 | The 27th Annual Spada Screen Industry Awards — MC: James Nokise Emerging Producer of the Year – Principal Sponsor: New Zealand Film Commission Independent Producer of the Year – Principal Sponsor: Gallagher Insurance Industry Champion Award – Principal Sponsors: Spada and The Data Book | PRINCESS C |
| 5.30-7.30 | Opening Night Cocktail Function | PRINCES LOUNGE & PRINCES TERRACE |
| 7.30 | CLOSE OF DAY ONE | |

Day Two — Friday 21 November

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|-----------------------|--|---|
| 8.00-2.30 | Registration Desk Open | LOBBY BY RESIDENCE |
| 9.00-10.00 | PLENARY SESSION — Transforming Together: Partnership Strategies for a New Screen Era The industry is under pressure from all sides, but one thing is clear – partnerships are key. It’s time to move beyond the old ‘us vs them’ mindset and work together. Hear from leading platforms and content producers on how great stories, collaboration, and connection will transform and shape the next five years. Panel: Debra Richards (Netflix), Bronwynn Bakker (Kevin & Co), Kelly Martin (South Pacific Pictures), Thomas Robins (Sky NZ Originals). Moderator: Natalie Apostolou (C21 Media Aus/NZ Editor). | PRINCESS C |
| 10.00-10.30 | MORNING TEA (with the Kōawa Studios Coffee Cart) | REGATTA ROOMS |
| SPLIT SESSIONS | | |
| PRINCESS C | | PRINCES A |
| 10.30-11.30 | In Conversation with J.P. Pomare Award-winning New Zealand author J.P. (Josh) Pomare (Ngā Puhi) takes the stage with fellow writer Kathryn Burnett to share his insights into IP ownership, screen adaptation rights, and building an international profile as a writer. | 10.30-11.30 Commissioners’ Roundtable (Booking form at Registration Desk) |
| 11.30-12.00 | PLENARY SESSION — 30 / 30 – In Conversation with Paul Wiegard Join Paul Wiegard , Co-Founder and CEO of Madman Entertainment, in conversation with Dr David Court , as he reflects on 30 years of Australia and New Zealand’s most progressive indie film distributor. Discover the story behind Madman Entertainment’s evolution, from releasing over 35 Oscar®-nominated films to launching DocPlay, a dedicated documentary streaming platform. | PRINCESS C |
| 12.00-2.00 | The Great Screenrights’ Lunch featuring the South Pacific Pictures BIG PITCH Competition with Special Guest Hon. Paul Goldsmith , Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage. | PRINCESS C |
| 2.00 | CLOSE OF THE 30TH SPADA CONFERENCE 2025 | |

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