

Press Release - June 5th, 2024

The Vista Foundation 48Hours Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington City Finals

Date / time - Friday 5th July, 8pm

Venue - Embassy Theatre, 10 Kent Terrace, Mt Victoria, Wellington.

[Buy Tickets](#) on Eventfinda

[Trailer Link](#)



The Vista Foundation 48Hours is a cornerstone of the New Zealand film industry, running for 21 years and offering an exhilarating platform for both emerging and established filmmakers. The annual competition is NZ's largest guerrilla filmmaking event. Teams from all corners of New Zealand are tasked with writing, shooting, and editing a short film within a 48-hour window on 17th to 19th May, 2024.

In 2024, we had 570 teams register for the competition and 499 eligible films submitted. Nationwide there were 162 School teams and 86 Tertiary Teams involved, with 30 teams giving the solo/duo a go!

Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington City Finals will be held at the Embassy Theatre on July 5th, 2024. Screening the top 15 films and giving out awards to see which teams will rise to the national level. Tickets for the fun creative event are available on the Eventfinda website or via the 48Hours website.

Wellington had 181 teams this year and has seen year on year growth in competitors since 2021. This year the region had the highest turnout of teams in the country, surpassing Auckland and cracking a new record for the capital!

The awards are incredible this year with the Wellington teams getting a good shot at the national prizes.

The judges for the Wellington finals include City Manager Thomas Coppell, Mia Maramara, Armağan Ballantyne, Ben Powdrell, Ramon Te Wake, Rachel Fawcett, Chillybox (former 48Hours champions), Paloma Schneideman, Ngawaero Maniapoto, and Tihema Bennett.

City Manager Thomas Coppell said “I was so impressed with our region this year. Across all sections of the competition: from our rangatahi school teams, to those unfortunate or fortunate enough to be nominated for best Disqualified team, to the city finalists themselves; every one smashed it out the park. This year will be one of the most competitive city finals in recent memory. If you want to see the inspiring potential in our new and emerging grassroots filmmakers and storytellers you have to come along to our city finals event!”

Filmmakers are recognised with awards and ultimately vie for the prestigious title of Grand National Champion. The competition culminates in a spectacular Grand Finals event, which for the first time will be held at the Embassy Theatre in Wellington on 27th July.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington City Finalists

- after the flare - NITRO
- CATASTROPHIC - Kettle of Fish
- Front Yard - Twotors
- Gutted Couch - Kumara
- HEARTH - Silver Noodle Soup
- In the Hampers of Madness - ScAvengers
- Keepsake - Bus Stop Productions
- Lover's Got the Runs - Pixel Pixies
- Nightlight - Videoshop
- S(p)lash - Underwater Dreams
- Sweets - Disqualified Tim
- The Bureau - Infinity Pup
- The Crowning - Cinetrance
- The Lurhman Brothers - Berger King
- Walcom to New Zillund - Ugly Fruit
- YES, AND? - Kākāpō

Wellington Champion

Wellington Champion APEE
\$1000 Cash and \$1000 Hire voucher from Portsmouth Rentals
\$500 cash
x1 Screen Producers New Zealand Youth [Membership](#)

Wellington City Runners Up

Private Screening - a big screen showing in the Park Road Post Cinema of their film for up to 50 people

National Judges

The 2024 National Judging Panel includes Sir Peter Jackson, Dame Gaylene Preston, Elijah Wood, Mette-Marie Kongsved, Viva La Dirt League, Jess Hong, Jon Kroll, James Ashcroft, Damon Fepulea'i, Desray Armstrong, Jill McNab, Emma Slade, Brian and Julie Cadzow, Abba-Rose Vaiaoga-loasa and Stallone Vaiaoga-loasa.

National Awards and Prizes

Grand National Champion 2024 - Supported by WingNut Films

The Grand National Champion APEE
\$20,000 cash prize from WingNut Films
\$20,000 worth of post production services from [Park Road Post Production](#)
\$15,000 worth of gear hire from [Portsmouth Film Equipment Rental](#)
x1 Year [Digital Pigeon](#) Professional subscription (valued at US \$900 a year)
x1 one year Patron Subscription to [Letterboxd](#)

Grand National Runner Up - Supported by WingNut Films

\$5000 cash prize from WingNut Films
x1 Year [Digital Pigeon](#) Professional subscription (valued at US \$900 a year)
x1 one year Patron subscription to [Letterboxd](#)

15 (4th - 18th) Grand Finalists

x1 year [Digital Pigeon](#) Freelance subscription (valued at US \$300 a year)
x1 one year Patron subscription to [Letterboxd](#)

Best Solo/Duo Team - Chosen by Ant Timpson

\$1000 cash

Viva La Dirt League Best Comedy

\$2000 cash

Rubber Monkey Best Cinematography

\$3000 [Rubber Monkey](#) Rentals Voucher
[Atomos Shinobi 5.2" 4K HDMI Monitor](#) worth \$562
[SmallRig 4292 VB99 Pro Mini V Mount Battery](#) worth \$489
[DJI RS 3 Pro Gimbal Stabilizer](#) worth \$1189

Best School Team

\$1000 cash
\$1000 of [Ulanzi](#) gear from [Rubber Monkey](#)
Up to 10 youth/adult passes to [Hobbiton Movie Set](#)
2 x one year Patron subscription to [Letterboxd](#)

L'affare Incredibly Strange Award

\$1000 cash
[L'affare](#) prize pack

Dame Gaylene Preston & WIFT Best female/gender diverse director

\$1000 Cash (from WIFT) - judged by Dame Gaylene Preston
x1 year membership to [WIFT](#)

New Zealand Filmmaker's Collective Best Disqualified Award

Best disqualified award/trophy

\$200 prezzie card

Entry for the next competition

The Vista Foundation 48Hours is presented by The Vista Foundation, in association with Te Tuma Whakaata Taonga / New Zealand Film Commission. We are grateful for the support of these industry giants, along with the WingNut Group and many other generous sponsors. Their backing underscores the significance of 48Hours in the landscape of New Zealand filmmaking and sets many filmmakers on a path to success in the industry.

IMAGES LINK - [Media Photos 2024](#)

Quotes from Teams: “The best thing about the weekend was working with a new team of young filmmakers for their first 48-hour competition. It was incredibly rewarding to see each member of the team embracing new roles in the industry and discovering their passions. Witnessing their enthusiasm and dedication to learning and creating together was truly inspiring. It's moments like these that remind me of the excitement and potential within the filmmaking community, and it fills me with optimism for the future of the industry.”

“A massive buzz at the launch with splatter - They were probably going there somehow, someway regardless, but to get that genre started it all off with a literal roar.”

“We had so much fun spending time together, especially as young queer filmmakers filming in a young queer city. Protect queer art!”

Media Contact:

In first instance please contact:

Thomas Coppel - Wellington Regional Manager / Outreach Coordinator

0277411967

thomascoppel@outlook.com

Ness Patea - National Manager/Media

021 120 8597

vanessapatea@gmail.com