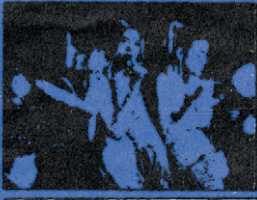


LAST NIGHT WAS A MOVIE

A campus guide to

Whānau Mārama: New Zealand

International Film Festival 2024



Venue Information

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland
7 – 18 August

The Civic
Corner Queen St & Wellesley St, Auckland CBD

Hollywood Avodale
20 St Georges Rd, Avondale

ASB Waterfront Theatre
138 Halsey St, Wynyard Quarter

Otago Christchurch
15 August – 1 September

Lumière Cinemas
26 Rolleston Ave

Hoyts EntX
617-649 Colombo St

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington
31 July – 12 August

Embassy Theatre
10 Kent Tce, Mt Victoria

Roxy Cinema
5 Park Rd, Miramar

Light House Cinema Cuba
29 Wigan St, Te Aro

Otago Dunedin
14 – 25 August

Regent Theatre
17 The Octagon

Key to Screening Information

A Auckland **W** Wellington **C** Christchurch **D** Dunedin

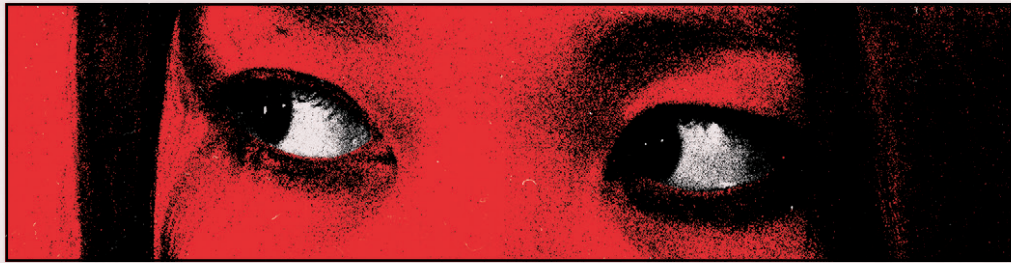
NZIFF 2024 will also be screening in six other centres across the motu:
Hamilton, Tauranga, Napier, New Plymouth, Masterton and Nelson

NAU MAI HAERE MAI

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CURATED BY AMANDA JANE ROBINSON
DESIGNED BY JARED McONIE (IG: @jared.online)
AND THE REST OF THE NZIFF 2024 TEAM





THE GEN Z

HORROR RENAISSANCE



Horror Films Are Having A Moment

Since the pandemic, horror films have roughly doubled their share at the US box office, with Gen Z as the fastest growing audience. Horror has always been a vehicle for cinema to discuss taboo subjects, and with an increased diversity in the filmmakers telling these stories, the genre's reign looks like it's here to stay. Here are our top horror picks from the NZIFF 2024 programme.



NZIFF24



HORROR



GASLIGHT

Birdeater

Directed by Jack Clark, Jim Weir

A W C

This Australian debut marks the arrival of incredibly promising new directing talents as a bride-to-be tags along to her fiancé's stag do from hell. An audacious, rollicking deep dive into power, control and the rituals of toxic masculinity.



GATEKEEP

Cuckoo

Directed by Tilman Singer

A W C D

Equal parts picturesque, creepy and batshit crazy, with a stunning performance from *Euphoria*'s Hunter Schafer in her first feature lead role, this riotous horror flick proves to be raucously entertaining and refreshingly unpredictable.



GIRLBOSS

Grafted

Directed by Sasha Rainbow

A W C

Mean Girls meets *Face/Off* to absolutely wild results in Sasha Rainbow's gory and uniquely Kiwi black comedy about a Chinese student who finds a new way of achieving popularity one body at a time.



The Substance

Directed by Coralie Fargeat

A W C D

Direct from wowing audiences at Cannes, Coralie Fargeat's magnificent shocker closes out this year's festival in style and lays down her marker to take the crown as the new queen of carnage with this wildly entertaining feminist body-horror feast.





Whether you're a filmmaker, a playwright, a musician or a gamer, some of the best, most creatively enriching experiences can come from hanging out with your friends, throwing ideas around and trying shit out. If that's the energy you're looking for, check these films out at NZIFF 2024.

HAVING FUN MAKING → ART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

MY FIRST FILM

Directed by Zia Anger

A W

A young filmmaker recounts the story of directing her first feature in Zia Anger's enthralling, deeply personal inquiry into the growing pains inherent to creation and collaboration.



GRAND THEFT HAMLET

Directed by Pinny Grylls, Sam Crane

A W

Pinny Grylls and Sam Crane bring the brutality of *Grand Theft Auto* to the world of Shakespeare – or is it the other way around?

ALIEN WEAPONRY:

Directed by Kent Belcher

A W C D

Even if you're not a fan of heavy metal, you can't help but admire Alien Weaponry. If not for their rise to fame on an international scale, then for being the first band of the genre to sing in te reo Māori.

KUA TUPU
TE ARA

THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF IBELIN

Directed by Benjamin Ree

A W C D

Winner of multiple awards at Sundance this powerful and heartwarming documentary reveals an outwardly introverted gamer's vibrant secret cyberlife following his death from a degenerative muscular disease.





The coming of age genre is continually reinvented with each new generation, and this year's selection of youth-focused films feel especially fresh.

NZIFF 2024 brings us portraits of teens causing trouble at a girls boarding school in 1950s Aotearoa, trying and failing to look cool in front of skateboarders, entering supernatural suicide pacts, falling in love with their best friend, attempting to get cast in a reality dating show, going hiking with your dad and his best friend, and taking an *Alice in Wonderland*-style trip through the crumbling American empire.

Teenage Dream



Humanist Vampire Seeking Consenting Suicidal Person **A W C D**

Directed by Ariane Louis-Seize

A sensitive vampire meets a depressed teenage boy in this deadpan romantic comedy about two loners connecting. *Amélie* for goth girls, Ariane Louis-Seize's debut feature is an endearing tale of life, death, love and blood.

Explanation for Everything **A W**

Directed by Gábor Reisz

A lovesick young student accidentally becomes a right-wing cause célèbre when he fails his exam in this sharp Hungarian satire which recalls the incisive social critiques of the Romanian New Wave.

The Sweet East **A W C**

Directed by Sean Price Williams

A psychedelic journey through a warped America, this contemporary picaresque follows a high school runaway as she navigates oddities, dangers and delights on the road to nowhere, from cinematographer-turned-director Sean Price Williams.

We Were Dangerous **A W C D**

Directed by Josephine Stewart-Te Whiu

Winning the Special Jury Prize at SXSW this year, Josephine Stewart-Te Whiu's electric debut launches our festival with a fiery trio of delinquent schoolgirls railing against the colonial system in 1950s New Zealand.

Didi **A W C D**

Directed by Sean Wang

Sensitive and funny, this semi-autobiographical film follows 13-year-old Chris Wang as he grows up in diaspora, flirting through AOL emojis and navigating family life, with beautiful small details that feel painfully realistic and true to life.



Wild Diamond **A W**

Directed by Agathe Riedinger

French director Agathe Riedinger, in her stunning feature-length debut, brings to life a unique heroine in Liane, a young woman obsessed with the glittery world of social media and reality TV fame.



Good One **A W**

Directed by India Donaldson

A 17-year-old grows disillusioned with her father as they take a hike through the Catskills in this incisive minimalist drama from debut feature filmmaker India Donaldson.



IT'S GIVING...

QUEER LIVES ON SCREEN

Films for the girls, gays and theys abound in this year's programme. A few of our favourites not already mentioned elsewhere in this guide include an A24 horror about two queer suburban teenagers bonding over a cancelled supernatural TV show, a trans superhero parody comedy, and a Vietnamese-Filipino romantic drama about two coal miners who were lovers.

I SAW THE TV GLOW

Directed by
Jane Schoenbrun

A W C D

Gunge, goons, and girls with unbreakable psychic bonds are your new late-night obsession in this unsettling fable about what happens when you get offered a chance at a fantasy, but choose to settle for reality.

THE PEOPLE'S JOKER

Directed by
Vera Drew

A W C D

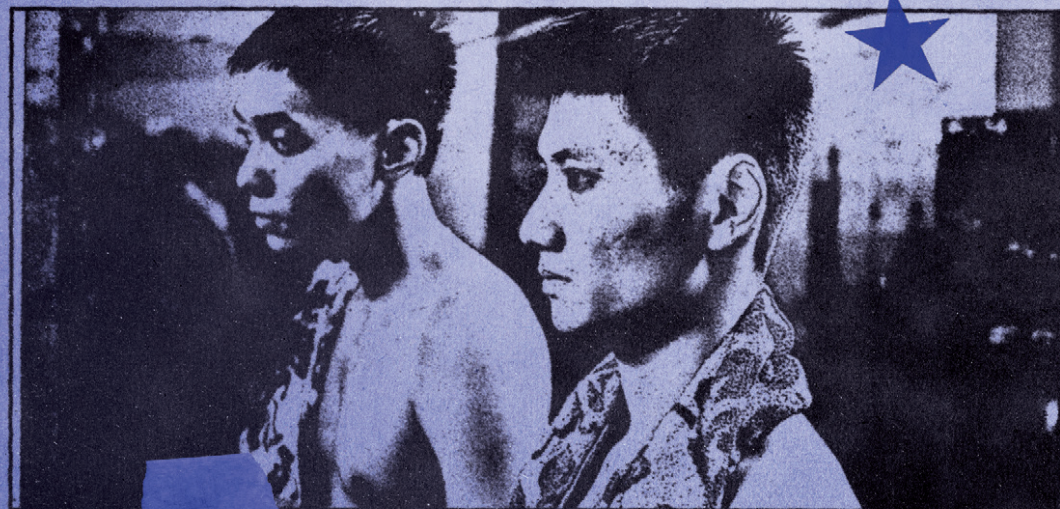
Vera Drew lays her soul bare with this fever-dream of a DC Universe parody that takes us through the trippiest and most monumental moments of her life and gender realisation.

VIỆT AND NAM

Directed by
Trương Minh Quý

A W

A bold and atmospheric queer romance about two coal miners who find love deep in the bowels of the earth, this stunning feature from upcoming young Vietnamese filmmaker Trương Minh Quý was beautifully shot on 16mm film.



Date: 2/26

DISPATCHES FROM A WORLD IN CRISIS

It's dire out there. Every day a new trauma, a new tragedy. The films highlighted here attempt to address the darkness around us, drawing attention to injustices the world over, from the refugee crisis to unsolved murders to climate change-induced catastrophic weather events, from settler-colonial racism here in Aotearoa to the settler-colonial occupation of Palestine.



GREEN BORDER A W C D

Directed by Agnieszka Holland

Brutal, enraging and heartrending, Polish writer-director Agnieszka Holland's controversial take on the Polish-Belarusian border crisis serves as a startling call to arms in the face of a little-seen humanitarian crisis.



TO A LAND UNKNOWN A W

Directed by Mahdi Fleifel

This urgent, vibrant and incredibly topical debut feature from Palestinian filmmaker Mahdi Fleifel follows two refugee cousins stranded in Athens as they strive to hustle and scam their way to a new life in Germany



THE SPEEDWAY MURDERS A W C

Directed by Luke Rynderman, Adam Kamien

On Friday, November 17, 1978, four young employees of Indiana fast food chain Burger Chef went missing after closing up shop for the night. Two days later, their bodies were found in a rural county 32 kilometres away. The case remains unsolved to this day, largely due to the police's mismanagement of evidence. First-time filmmakers Luke Rynderman and Adam Kamien present a stylistically unique and visually stunning feature that delves into the case while shifting away from the traditional true crime documentary format.

FLOW A W

Directed by Gints Zilbalodis

Direct from wowing audiences at Cannes, this immersive animated wonder from Latvian director Gints Zilbalodis tells the surreal tale of an unlikely group of animals who must overcome their differences to survive a great flood.

THE HAKA PARTY INCIDENT A W C

Directed by Katie Wolfe

In 1979, group of young Māori and Pasifika activists sought to stop Pākehā students at the University of Auckland performing a parody of haka each capping week. Unfortunately, the consequences for those activists were severe – many were convicted of crimes. Director Katie Wolfe uncovers this largely forgotten event in our history with interviews from both in this resonant and thought-provoking documentary.

NO OTHER LAND A W C D

Directed by Basel Adra, Hamdan Ballal, Yuval Abraham, Rachel Szor

Filmed in Palestine between 2019 and 2023, *No Other Land* is documentary film performing its calling. An urgent and irresistible reminder as to why we choose to understand the world, and others, through cinema.



GRAND THEFT HAMLET (2023)

A W

Review by Trevor Pronoso

"F**k, we've got the police trying to stop us. You can't stop ART, motherf**kers!"

Those were the words director Sam Crane shouts as his custom avatar in *Grand Theft Auto Online* gets brutally gunned down by swarms of cops whilst shooting a promotional video/casting call for any interested online players willing to help them produce William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* inside the satirically realistic three-dimensional, open-world, action-adventure video game. Alongside fellow actor and close friend, Mark Oosterveen, and Sam's wife and documentary filmmaker, Pinny Grylls, the trio couldn't make this endeavour so simple yet so axiomatically opposed in its synthesis of theatre and video games through the film's title: *Grand Theft Hamlet*.

Yet the film reveals a hidden truth obvious to us who are familiar with the joys of experiencing *Red vs. Blue*, of reading through heinous fan-made *Sonic the Hedgehog* webcomics, of joining *Minecraft SMP (Survival Multiplayer)* servers, of being on the receiving end of racist/sexist ad hominem in a *Counter Strike* lobby, of watching hours upon hours of "game theories" on YouTube, of attending Travis Scott or Eminem's *Fortnite* concert: video games consistently facilitate unpredictable and decentralised forms of social organisation independent from the developers' intended objectives, however positive or negative the experience may be for both parties. The rules of the game—however basic or complicated the series of algorithmic actions and agency it offers the user—become manipulated and warped in a way that transcends the linear experience of simply pressing a button on a controller and initiating a mind-numbing feedback loop. Lucky for us, the most magnificent mixture of pain, pleasure, and hilarious foibles of peer to peer interactions concocts itself in this awkwardly endearing film.

Session times, tickets and event details can be found at nziff.co.nz

Trevor Pronoso is currently a media student at the University of Auckland and Craccum's unofficial "film editor". His current obsessions are films of Jean-Luc Godard, Straub-Huillet, Ken Jacobs, and Lav Diaz. He has yet to see Citizen Kane, but has seen Jeanne Dielman close to three times.



THE SPEEDWAY MURDERS (2023)

A W C

Review by Guy van Egmond

In 1978, four teenage employees of a Burger Chef in Speedway, Indiana, disappeared during a closing shift. Their bodies were found two days later; shot, stabbed and beaten. Police bungled the crime scene, no one was ever prosecuted, and the case remains open. The Burger Chef murders are fertile ground for yet another exploitative true-crime drama, with morbid crime-scene photos, traumatised relatives on camera and an unsatisfying finale. *The Speedway Murders* approaches this formula a little differently.

The film opens with all the halogen romance and suspense of an 80s thriller, and a driving soundtrack that settles you in on the edge of your seat. The camera tracks inside the diner and we meet the Burger Chef staff themselves: Jayne, Danny, Ruth, and Mark—not as grainy photos labelled ‘Victims’, but as living, laughing people. They all feature in this film, as much as any ex-detective. The four well-cast actors (including kiwi Davida McKenzie) give voice to their outrage and reproach how the case was handled, poking holes in each theory and fun at the rumour mill that surrounds their deaths.

The two halves of the film play out as a classic suspense: with stark, chiaroscuro lighting and a brilliant soundscape; and as a documentary: pulling together interviews with eyewitnesses, law enforcement and followers of the case. It sags in tempo somewhat in the later second act, but new evidence and a tempo shift pulls it together for a punchy final climax. The film is thrilling, often tragic, and even a little snarky, but always sincere and with the people at its heart. Because it takes such a different approach to the case and the genre, *The Speedway Murders* is one for crime nuts and sceptics alike. It’s factual and heartfelt, but doesn’t sacrifice that delicious eeriness and spook that we turn to true-crime for. For real die-hards, the directors Luke Rynderman and Adam Kamien will be in attendance in Auckland and Wellington for a Q&A and in Wellington, a panel discussion on the ethics of true-crime media.

Session times, tickets and event details can be found at nziff.co.nz

Guy van Egmond is a writer and filmmaker (when he finds the time to), who is just dipping a toe into the quicksand that is critiquing. Other hours of the day he fills up as a second-year student studying a BA in Anthropology, Creative Communication and Film Production, or he can be found making fried rice.

NZIFF's Official

"Last Night Was a Movie"

Playlist

Starburned and Unkissed

Caroline Polachek
(*I Saw the TV Glow*)

Emotions

Brenda Lee (*Humanist Vampire Seeking Consenting Suicidal Person*)

Our Love

Al Hazan ft. The Starr Sisters
(*The Sweet East*)

Kai Tangata Alien Weaponry

(*Alien Weaponry: Kua Tupu Te Ara*)

Working for the Knife

Mitski (*My First Film*)

Stop Talking

Motion City Soundtrack (*Didi*)

*Not yet available on Spotify

Smalltown Boy

Vyvyan Wyld
(*The People's Joker*)

Lost Cool

Holy Fuck, Lucia Tacchetti
(*The Substance*)



Scan the code using
the Spotify app



What Your Favourite Movie Snack Says About You...

Lollies

You romanticise your life as if it was a
Wes Anderson film

A child at heart

Choc-top

Ohhhhh, you have MONEY

You DEFINITELY finish your snacks
before the trailers even end

Black coffee

Your favourite movie directors are probably
Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese or
Christopher Nolan

You preferred *Oppenheimer* over *Barbie*

Popcorn

Playing it safe I see?
You're into the classics

Cola

Full of energy
You use Letterboxd religiously

Potato chips

You probably say "this is my
favourite part" a thousand times when
you watch a movie with someone

Like the sound the chips make,
you probably never shut up during
a movie screening

puzzles

N	R	O	T	C	E	R	I	D	W	S	A	I	Z
I	A	S	N	A	C	K	S	E	F	L	O	W	E
K	G	J	I	D	R	O	F	O	C	A	T	A	P
E	X	E	O	C	O	L	E	A	I	N	S	M	R
M	T	N	P	K	W	R	O	R	R	O	H	E	O
M	H	E	C	O	E	U	K	E	P	I	W	N	B
A	K	U	K	P	B	R	C	U	C	T	O	I	L
R	C	M	A	C	K	N	R	K	C	A	B	C	E
G	E	N	R	E	I	B	E	I	O	N	S	A	M
O	H	F	A	N	F	T	W	G	M	R	O	T	I
R	B	R	K	L	A	V	I	T	S	E	F	R	S
P	A	O	R	A	E	T	O	A	P	T	A	X	T
G	J	H	U	M	G	F	E	R	O	N	B	C	A
F	E	R	N	A	N	I	M	A	T	I	O	N	F

- ANIMATION
- AOTEAROA
- CAST
- CINEMA
- CREW
- CUCKOO
- DIRECTOR
- FESTIVAL
- FLOW
- GENRE
- HORROR
- INTERNATIONAL
- JOKER
- PROBLEMISTA
- PROGRAMME
- SNACKS
- TICKET

who am i?

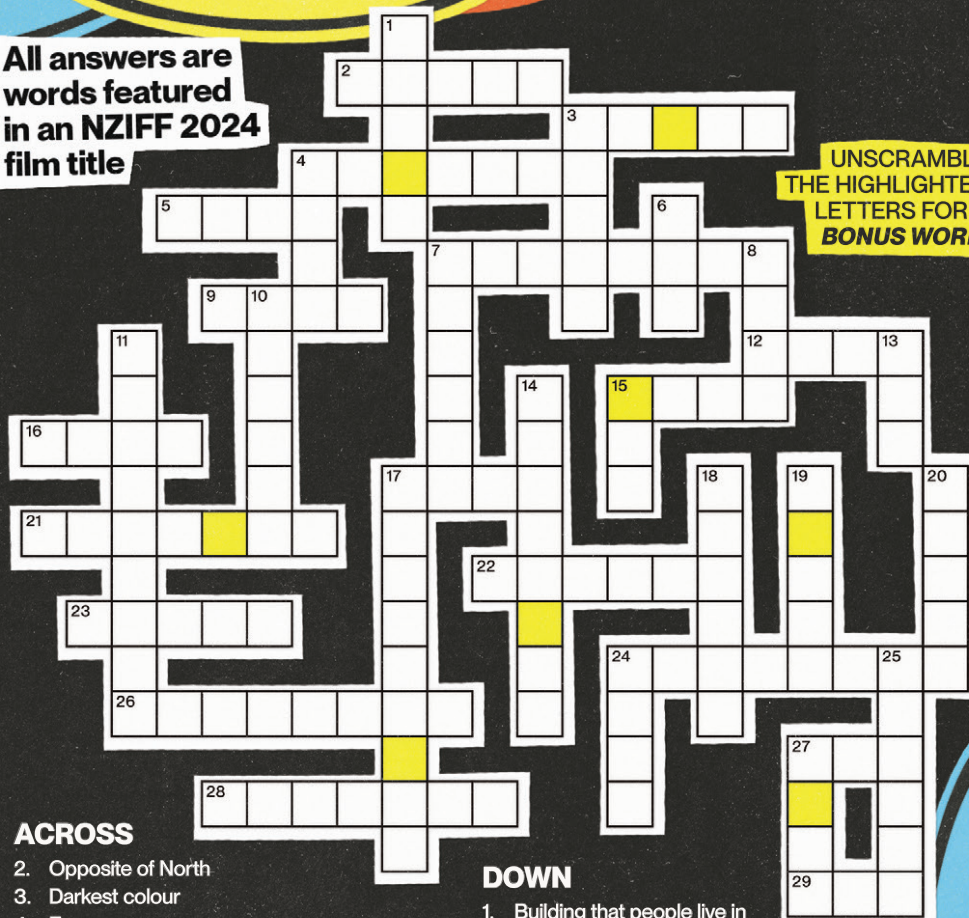
I was born in Whangārei in 1955. I was raised in West Auckland and attended St Stephen's School, a boarding school for Māori boys, and the University of Auckland. In the 1970s I was part of Māori activist group Ngā Tamatoa. I participated in the Springbok tour protests and the 2004 foreshore and seabed hīkoi. I was elected to parliament in 2005 as the Māori Party candidate for the seat of Te Tai Tokerau. I went on to lead the Mana Party and was in office until 2014. I spoke at Waitangi 2024 addressing the National government's proposed legislation regarding the Treaty of Waitangi and te reo Māori. I feature in NZIFF 2024 film *The Haka Party Incident*. Who am I?

I was born in Trenton, New Jersey in 1998. I made my acting debut in 2019 as a high school student in an award-winning television series. I also co-wrote an episode of this series. In 2019 I was in a brief relationship with Spanish singer Rosalía. In 2021, Time named me in its Next list of "100 emerging leaders who are shaping the future". In 2022 I became the global brand ambassador for Shiseido Makeup and also appeared in a *Girl in Red* music video. In February 2024 I was arrested in New York City while at a Jewish Voice for Peace protest advocating for a ceasefire in Palestine. I play the lead in NZIFF 2024 film *Cuckoo*. Who am I?

Answers: Hone Harawira, Hunter Schafer

All answers are words featured in an NZIFF 2024 film title

UNSCRAMBLE THE HIGHLIGHTED LETTERS FOR A BONUS WORD!



ACROSS

2. Opposite of North
3. Darkest colour
4. Error
5. Baked good sometimes iced or decorated
7. Junction where you may walk from one side of the road to another
9. Sudden, violent, unlawful overthrowing of a government
12. Large-scale artistic work
15. Movement of water downstream
16. Religious man who lives in a monastery
17. Boys or men in relation to their parents
21. Looking quickly and furtively at something
22. Celestial body in orbit around the sun
23. Playing card typically featuring a jester
24. Rationalist outlook attaching prime importance to people
26. Road or track used for motor car racing
27. Musician Brian
28. Patella
29. French for 'the' when followed by a plural

DOWN

1. Building that people live in
3. Beauty's partner
4. List of dishes available in a restaurant
6. Thick liquid substance that does not dissolve in water
7. Slender bird or type of clock
8. Steady radiance of light
10. To travel faster or further than
11. Likely to cause trouble or harm
13. Intercourse
14. Unable to relax
15. Soft fruit with sweet dark flesh and many small seeds
17. Bigfoot
18. Traditional Japanese straw floor mat
19. Extraterrestrial
20. Opposite of day
24. Māori ceremonial performance
25. Trousers that only reach to the knee or thigh
27. Profoundly immoral or wicked

STUDENT DISCOUNT!

We offer student discounts on NZIFF tickets in every city!

Hot tip: daytime sessions are usually cheaper. We also have five-trip passes available at discounted rates for students:

Auckland

\$85 for 5 films
...that's just \$17 a ticket!

Wellington

\$80 for 5 films
...that's just \$16 a ticket!

Christchurch

\$75 for 5 films
...that's just \$15 a ticket!

Dunedin

\$70 for 5 films
...that's just \$14 a ticket!

Five-trip passes are flexible – you can use them for one ticket to five films, or five tickets to one film, or a mix! Basically, if you get four friends together and use a multi-trip pass to go see a film, you'll save \$\$\$

PLUS if you get a group of 20 or more people together to any one session, email amanda@nziff.co.nz for an exclusive additional discount.



Head over to nziff.co.nz
to book your tickets or
visit your local box office



Keep in touch...

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NZFilmFestival



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@nziff24



Letterboxd

Whānau Mārama is on Letterboxd: @NZIFF

See reviews from other members, stay up to date on our latest blog posts, and check out past NZIFF programmes.

We can't wait to see your reviews! Make sure to tag #NZIFF2024



**SKIP CLASS
AND GO TO THE
MOVIES INSTEAD**



Whānau Mārama
New Zealand International
Film Festival