

THE NEW ZEALAND SCREEN AWARDS

The New Zealand Screen Awards recognise excellence in the screen industry and honour the special skills and unique talents of the companies and individuals who create, produce, and perform in screen content in New Zealand.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility period:

FOR TELEVISION ENTRIES: First NZ broadcast between **1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025**

FOR FILM ENTRIES: First NZ broadcast or theatrical release between **1 July 2023 – 30 June 2025**

PLEASE NOTE: 2 YEAR ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR FILM ENTRIES APPLIES TO THIS YEAR (2025) ONLY

Entries open: 30th June 2025
Entries close: 8th August 2025
Entry fee: \$165 + GST (\$189.75 total) per submission

1. The entry fee must be paid in full for each entry before it can proceed for judging. Payment can be made via the entry portal. If a network or a production company requires an invoice, this can be requested via awards portal. Payment terms are: Net 7 days. No submission will proceed for judging until payment has been received. If you would like to discuss the payment process please contact nzsawards@janda.co.nz
2. Eligibility of an entry will be confirmed by the NZSA scrutineer and only submissions deemed to be eligible will progress to judging.
3. For a Category to proceed to judging, a minimum of three (3) eligible entries is required.
4. In the event that less than three (3) eligible entries are received in any given category, the New Zealand Screen Awards (NZSA) reserves the right to move the entry to another category if deemed eligible by the NZSA scrutineer. In the event an alternative category cannot be found, the entry fee will be refunded minus a \$25.00 administration fee
5. The decision of the judges is final and under no circumstances will debate or correspondence be entered into.

6. All entries must be submitted online via the New Zealand Screen Awards entry portal and full video links entered either from **Vimeo or YouTube ONLY**. Dropbox, OnDemand or any other links cannot be accepted.
7. Programme, Feature and performance entries will be considered for one (1) Category only. The exceptions are:
- Best Māori Programme
 - Best Reo Māori Programme
 - Best Pasifika Programme

Programmes entered into the above categories may be submitted into any other suitable category – up to a limit of two (2) categories in total per entry.

8. Co-Productions

If you are entering a programme or feature film that is a co-production with another production company or network from outside of New Zealand, in addition to all other eligibility criteria, the production should have:

- An NZ production company and production office involved
- Been shot or partially shot in New Zealand
- Some NZ cast
- Some NZ crew

9. Late entries: The NZSA reserves the right to approve or deny a deadline extension request, as well as determine its length if granted. Any entry presented after the deadline will be subject to an additional fee of \$50 + GST (\$57.50) per submission.
10. Only copyright owners have the right to determine which of their programmes will be submitted for entry into the competition for either Programme, Performance or Craft categories. Organisations or individuals who do not hold copyright ownership of a programme or feature film **must obtain and prove consent** from the copyright owner during the submission process within the NZSA entry portal. **Note: You will be asked for proof of consent in the form of a signed letter or verifiable email.**
11. For programme or feature film entries, any New Zealand organisation or individual (i.e. a network, production company, online platform, producer, director or writer) may submit a programme or feature for entry as long as they have permission from, or are, the copyright owner.
12. For performance entries. Any New Zealand organisation or individual (i.e. a network, production company, online platform, producer, director, performer, agent, manager or writer) may submit a performance for entry. If the entry is not submitted by the performer, consent must be obtained from the performer before a submission is made and consent must be obtained from the Copyright owner.

SECTION 2 - PROGRAMME, FEATURE AND PERFORMANCE ENTRIES ELIGIBILITY AND DEFINITIONS

All Programme, Feature and Performance entries submitted **MUST:**

1. Have been originally created for television, streaming or theatrical release including by way of example, terrestrial television, New Zealand cinema or film festival release (national or international), satellite television or digital platform including any streaming and on-demand services available in New Zealand.
2. Comply with the specific category requirements as described in Section 3: Category Definitions
3. Have been produced or co-produced by a New Zealand organisation and must have an NZ organisation listed on the online entry form. For co-productions see General Eligibility point eight (8).
4. Any entrant that lists in its official credits more than one production company is considered to be a co-production and may be submitted as long as the entry adheres to the guidelines around co-productions in General Eligibility point eight (8).
5. All production companies including the entrant company if applicable, must be credited on the entry form, and notified. The NZSA will not verify this information prior to a nomination and assumes no responsibility for incorrect or omitted information. It is the nominator's responsibility to ensure ALL information, especially relevant credits, is correct when the submission is made. Any changes to submissions after deadline (including names or production companies) will incur an admin fee of \$75+ GST) per change.
6. The entering organisation assumes full responsibility for notifying any production partners of the submission.

If you are entering a series, please submit only one (1) episode per category entry. Entries can be any length, however, if your episode is under 15 minutes please submit two (2) episodes representative of the series. For feature films please submit the full exhibited version of the film.

7. In the event an eligible programme or film is submitted by more than one entrant, it is up to the entrants to decide which submission should progress, and to communicate the decision with the NZSA Project Manager. Submissions can only be made by New Zealand production companies. In the event a co-production between a New Zealand based company and an overseas company is entered, the production should be entered by the NZ partner. Only one submission may be made. Duplicate entries will not be refunded.

Guidelines specific to performance entries:

8. The same performer may be submitted for performances in different programmes or features, but they must be entered as individual submissions.
9. More than one performer from the same programme or feature may be submitted but they must be entered as individual submissions.
10. Performances of characters in non-scripted programmes (e.g. variety shows etc.), animated characters, cameo characters, and voice-over narration are not eligible.

SECTION 3 – CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise stated:

- The complete episode, programme or feature film should be submitted unedited for judging purposes (commercials omitted where appropriate).
- If you are entering a series, the episode or programme should fit a minimum format length of 15-minutes
- If you are entering a feature film, the film should be at least 70 minutes in duration
- If you are entering a single feature documentary, it should be at least 40 minutes in duration, and not part of a series.
- If you are entering a short film, the film should be no more than 40 minutes in duration

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS

All entries must adhere to the general, programme and performance eligibility criteria as set out in sections one (1) and two (2).

1. Best Drama Series

- A scripted/narrative production made for television or a digital/streaming platform in which theme, storyline and main characters are presented under the same title, with the intention to develop a storyline beyond a single episode i.e. a 'series' or 'mini-series'. Can be Drama or Comedy-Drama.

2. Best Feature Film

- A scripted/narrative production in any genre made for exhibition in a cinema or exclusively commissioned by a streaming platform, in which theme, storyline and main characters are presented under the same title with the intention to develop the story to its conclusion in a single feature length presentation. The presentation should be 70 minutes or longer in duration. The film should have been exhibited at least once to a ticket buying public (Cinema Exhibition or Film Festival - local or international) or had its first play on a streaming service within the eligibility period.

3. Best Short Film

- A dramatic or documentary production in any genre in which theme. Storyline and main characters are presented under the same title with the intention to develop the story to a conclusion. The film should be no longer than 40 minutes in duration and have been premiered at either a film festival (National or International), or other official cinema

related event, or had its first play on a digital platform or streaming service available in New Zealand within the eligibility period.

4. Best Comedy Programme

- Any programme devoted primarily to comedy. For example, a sketch comedy show, a sitcom, a parody, or stand-up comedy special.

5. Best Factual Series

- A factual presentation providing an in-depth analysis of a specific subject or point of views supported by evidence and informed commentary, on any subject. Can include expert advice or an emphasis on contemporary lifestyle interests such as cooking, travel, architecture, home improvement, renovation, gardening, and outdoor pursuits.
- The programme must be part of a series.
- The programme may employ partial re-enactment, stock footage, stills, animation, stop-motion or other techniques, as long as the emphasis is on fact and not fiction.

6. Best Documentary - Series

- A factual presentation providing an in-depth analysis of a specific subject or point of view supported by evidence and informed commentary, on any subject.
- The programme can be part of a series.
- The programme's first play should have been on either a terrestrial New Zealand television station, a digital or streaming service available in New Zealand OR in a Cinema in New Zealand as a theatrical release for ticket buying public or part of a local or international film festival, within the eligibility period.

7. Best Documentary - Feature

- A factual feature presentation providing an in-depth analysis of a specific subject or point of view supported by evidence and informed commentary, on any subject.
- The film's first play should have been in a Cinema in New Zealand as a theatrical release for ticket buying public, as part of a local or international film festival or had its first play on a streaming platform within the eligibility period, or onto a streaming service.

8. Best Reality Series

- A series that either follows the actions of or elicits actions from members of the general public in order to fulfil the central premise of the programme.
- The concept for the programme can be from an international format or have originated in New Zealand.

9. Best Current Affairs Programme

- A current affairs programme or current affairs magazine programme which offers analysis of important political and social events or issues of the present time.
- Entries may cover a range of current news, investigative reports and/or human-interest topics.
- If the entry is an episode of a multi-part story, each segment must be a straight run without internal editing of programme content (commercials omitted).

10. Best Children's Programme

- Any programme intended for a young audience (under 16) that is either:
- Animation: A programme in which animation figures in no less than 75% of the programme. This may include fiction or nonfiction.
- Factual: Any non-fiction programme devoted primarily to inform a young audience (ie documentaries, magazine shows etc).
- Non-scripted entertainment: Any non-fiction program devoted primarily to entertain a young audience, in which theme, storyline and main characters are presented under the same title over multiple episodes.
- Scripted entertainment: A fictional production (comedy, drama, or sitcom) intended for a young audience in which theme, storyline and main characters are presented in with a series or feature length format.

11. Best Māori Programme

- A Māori programme is one that makes a conscious effort to reveal something of the past, present or future Māori world. It can be from any genre and should be aimed at a primarily Māori audience.
- To ensure an authentic Māori perspective for a designated Māori television programme, at least three (3) of the five (5) key roles of Executive Producer, Producer, Director, Writer, Feature Talent must be of *Māori* descent.
- The programme must contain some use of Te Reo Māori, either spoken by the presenter and/or guests or as part of the on-screen graphics.

12. Best Reo Māori Programme

- A Reo Māori programme is one that is primarily aimed at a Māori speaking audience with a majority of Te Reo Māori dialogue and may cover any subject or genre.
- To ensure an authentic Māori perspective for a designated Māori television programme, at least three (3) of the five (5) key roles of Executive Producer, Producer, Director, Writer, Feature Talent must be of *Māori* descent.

13. Best Pasifika Programme

- A Pasifika programme is one that makes a conscious effort to reveal something of the past, present or future Pasifika world. It can be from any genre and should be aimed at a primarily Pasifika audience.
- To ensure an authentic Pasifika perspective for a designated Pasifika television programme, at least three (3) of the five (5) key roles of Executive Producer, Producer, Director, Writer, Feature Talent must be of *Pasifika* descent.
- The programme must contain some use of a Pacific Island language either spoken by the presenter and/or guests or part of the on-screen graphics.

14. Best News Coverage

- Continuing coverage of a breaking news story in either a regularly scheduled news broadcast or as a special bulletin or breaking news broadcast.
- Entries may be live coverage and/or continuing coverage in a regularly scheduled newscast, aired within an eight (8) day period following a major news story.
- While entries may include some file footage or previously produced reports, the emphasis is on continuous coverage of a major breaking news story.
- Entries may be drawn from a single broadcast or a series of broadcasts and may include background and analysis along with new developments in an ongoing story.
- Submissions may contain up to five (5) as aired segments of continuous programming as a single compile no longer than 30 minutes.
- Each segment must be a straight run without internal editing of programme content and must be presented in chronological order.
- The emphasis of this category is coverage of hard news stories rather than human interest or current affairs stories.

15. Best Sports Programme

- A programme or series covering sports in general, sports related topics, a sports news programme or a one-off sporting special event.
- Entries that cover a Live Sporting Event are not eligible and should be entered into Best Live Event coverage.

16. Best Live Event Coverage

- A one-time event created for or covered by a Live Television Broadcast. For example, Awards shows, Sporting Events, Parades, one off Concerts/Variety Shows.
- Entry may not be live coverage of a major breaking or on-going news story, These entries must be entered into BEST NEWS COVERAGE (Category 12) – they will not be accepted into Best Live Event Coverage.
- Entry must be 50-90 minutes in length.

17. Best Entertainment Programme

- Any programme devoted primarily to entertainment with scripted or unscripted dialogue.
- For example: Magazine shows, quizzes, game shows, talent shows, music specials and all general entertainment programmes.
- This can either be a one-off TV special or a series.

18. Best Director: Documentary/Factual Series

- Awarded for excellence in the supervision of the filming of a factual or documentary series.

19. Best Director: Documentary Feature

- Awarded for excellence in the supervision of the filming of a documentary feature.

20. Best Director: Drama Series

- Awarded for excellence in the supervision of the filming of a Drama or Comedy Drama series.

21. Best Director: Drama Feature

- Awarded for excellence in the supervision of the filming of a Drama or Comedy Drama Feature.

PERFORMANCE SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS (INDIVIDUAL AWARDS)

22. Best Actress in a Series

- A female individual's performance in a narrative/scripted programme. For example, a drama / comedy drama series
- The same performer may be submitted for different programmes as separate, individual submissions.
- More than one performer from the same production may be submitted as separate, individual submissions.

- For actors working on long running multi-storyline series, nominators may provide a compile of scenes in which the actor features, material should only include scenes relevant to the nominee and be no more than 30 minutes in length. Alternatively, nominators may submit one episode where the actor is featured throughout.

NOTE: If a compile is submitted ALL clips in the compile MUST be from episodes that were aired within the eligibility period.

- The performer must appear in at least 10% of the total running time of the episode in order to be eligible. Please submit the episode in which the performer has the most screen time.
- Entrants must also provide a .jpg headshot or a still of the performer.

23. Best Actress in a Feature

- A female individual's performance in a feature film.
- The same performer may be submitted for different programmes or Films as separate, individual submissions.
- More than one performer from the same production may be submitted as separate, individual submissions.
- The performer must appear in at least 10% of the feature.
- Entrants must also provide a .jpg headshot or a still of the performer.

24. Best Supporting Actress in a Series

- A female individual's performance in a supporting role in a narrative/scripted programme. For example, a drama / comedy drama series
- The same performer may be submitted for different programmes as separate, individual submissions.
- More than one performer from the same production may be submitted as separate, individual submissions.
- For actors working on long running multi-storyline series, nominators may provide a compile of scenes in which the actor features, material should only include scenes relevant to the nominee and be no more than 30 minutes in length. Alternatively, nominators may submit one episode where the actor is featured throughout.

NOTE: If a compile is submitted ALL clips in the compile MUST be from episodes that were aired within the eligibility period.

- Please submit the episode in which the performer has the most screen time.
- Entrants must also provide a .jpg headshot or a still of the performer.

25. Best Supporting Actress in a Feature

- A female individual's performance in a supporting role in a feature film.
- The same performer may be submitted for different programmes as separate, individual submissions.
- More than one performer from the same production may be submitted as separate, individual submissions.
- The performer must appear in at least 10% of the feature.
- Entrants must also provide a .jpg headshot or a still of the performer.

26. Best Actor in a Series

- A male individual's performance in a narrative/scripted programme. For example, a drama / comedy drama series
- The same performer may be submitted for different programmes as separate, individual submissions.
- More than one performer from the same production may be submitted as separate, individual submissions.
- For actors working on long running multi-storyline series, nominators may provide a compile of scenes in which the actor features, material should only include scenes relevant to the nominee and be no more than 30 minutes in length. Alternatively, nominators may submit one episode where the actor is featured throughout.

NOTE: If a compile is submitted ALL clips in the compile MUST be from episodes that were aired within the eligibility period.

- Please submit the episode in which the performer has the most screen time.
- Entrants must also provide a .jpg headshot or a still of the performer.

27. Best Actor in a Feature

- A male individual's performance in a feature film.
- The same performer may be submitted for different programmes as separate, individual submissions.
- More than one performer from the same production may be submitted as separate, individual submissions.

- The performer must appear in at least 10% of the feature.
- Entrants must also provide a .jpg headshot or a still of the performer.

28. Best Supporting Actor in a Series

- A male individual's performance in a supporting role in a narrative/scripted programme. For example, a drama / comedy drama series
- The same performer may be submitted for different programmes as separate, individual submissions.
- More than one performer from the same production may be submitted as separate, individual submissions.
- For actors working on long running multi-storyline series, nominators may provide a compile of scenes in which the actor features, material should only include scenes relevant to the nominee and be no more than 30 minutes in length. Alternatively, nominators may submit one episode where the actor is featured throughout.

NOTE: If a compile is submitted ALL clips in the compile MUST be from episodes that were aired within the eligibility period.

- Please submit the episode in which the performer has the most screen time.
- Entrants must also provide a .jpg headshot or a still of the performer.

29. Best Supporting Actor in a Feature

- A male individual's performance in a supporting role in a feature film.
- The same performer may be submitted for different programmes as separate, individual submissions.
- More than one performer from the same production may be submitted as separate, individual submissions.
- The performer must appear in at least 10% of the feature.
- Entrants must also provide a .jpg headshot or a still of the performer.

30. Reporter of the Year

- Open to journalists who make a regular appearance in a news bulletin, current affairs programme or current affairs magazine programme. Entries can be for a feature story broadcast episodically or for a body of work broadcast over time.
- Entrants should provide material that either shows the continuous feature story or examples of regular bulletins i.e. a compile. If a compile is submitted, the material

should only include content relevant to the nominee and be no longer than 30 minutes in length. All materials submitted must have been broadcast within the eligibility period

31. Best Presenter: Entertainment

- A host, co-host, regular presenter of a magazine show, game show, comedy show, talk show, lifestyle programme, reality or factual series who has/have shown excellence in the performance of their role/s.
- Entrants should provide material that shows either one continuous performance or examples of regular performances – i.e. a compile. If a compile is submitted, the material should only include content relevant to the nominee and be no longer than 30 minutes in length. Any material included must have been broadcast within the eligibility period.

32. Best Presenter: News and Current Affairs

- A host or regular presenter of a News Broadcast Current Affairs Show or Factual Series, who has shown consistent excellence in the performance of their role.
- Entrants should provide material that either shows one continuous performance or examples of regular bulletins i.e. a compile. If a compile is submitted, the material should only include content relevant to the nominee and be no longer than 30 minutes in length. Any material included must have been broadcast within the eligibility period.

33. Screen Personality of the Year (*now includes Film and Television*)

- Finalists in this category are selected by the NZSA organisation in association with the category sponsor if relevant - no entries are sought.
- Voting for this award will be through Public vote (100%)

34. Screen Legend

- Awarded to a screen (film or television) professional, programme or organisation who/that has made a significant contribution to the screen industry in New Zealand over the span of their career/broadcast.

This award is a special honour given at the discretion of the Screen Awards Committee and no entries are sought. Suggestions are invited by interested parties (to nzsawards@janda.co.nz) however individuals may not nominate themselves.

35. Best Editing: Documentary / Factual - Series

- Awarded for excellence in the preparation of the final version of a documentary series or factual series, determining length and order of shots and scenes for inclusion.

36. Best Editing: Documentary - Feature

- Awarded for excellence in the preparation of the final version of a documentary feature film determining length and order of shots and scenes for inclusion.

37. Best Editing: Drama - Series

- Awarded for excellence in the preparation of the final version of a Drama or Comedy Drama series, determining length and order of shots and scenes for inclusion.

38. Best Editing: Drama - Feature

- Awarded for excellence in the preparation of the final version of a Drama or Comedy Drama feature film, determining length and order of shots and scenes for inclusion.

39. Best Camerawork: Documentary / Factual - Series

- Awarded for excellence in camera work in the making of a documentary series, factual programme or series, reality series or news coverage.

40. Best Camerawork: Documentary - Feature

- Awarded for excellence in camera work in the making of a documentary feature.

41. Best Director: Multi Camera

- Awarded for excellence in the supervision of the filming of a live sporting event, parade, awards show, variety show or ceremony as a one-off TV special.

42. Best Cinematography: Drama Series

- Awarded for excellence in camera work in the making of a TV Drama or Comedy Drama Series.

43. Best Cinematography: Feature Film

- Awarded for excellence in camera work in the making of a Feature Film.

44. Best Contribution to a Soundtrack: Series

- Awarded to an individual, group or team for excellence in soundtrack or sound design for a drama series or documentary series.
Please note that licensed music is not eligible.

45. Best Contribution to a Soundtrack: Feature

- Awarded to an individual, group or team for excellence in soundtrack or sound design for a feature film, or feature documentary.
Please note that licensed music is not eligible.

46. Best Original Score - Series

- Awarded to an individual, group or team that has created original composition(s) for a drama series or documentary series.
- Original songs may contribute to the total amount of the original composition.
- Candidates for nomination eligibility is limited to the composer(s) of the original score, responsible for the conception and execution of the work as a whole.

47. Best Original Score - Feature

- Awarded to an individual, group or team that has created original composition(s) for a feature film, feature drama, or feature documentary.
- Original songs may contribute to the total amount of the original composition.
- Candidates for nomination eligibility is limited to the composer(s) of the original score, responsible for the conception and execution of the work as a whole.

48. Best Post Production Design - Series

- Awarded for excellence in post production design for a drama series or documentary series.
- This could include the work of visual designers, colourists, vfx artists and graphic designers.
- Nominators should include the role of the nominee in their submission e.g. Colourist, VFX Artist etc.

49. Best Post Production Design - Feature

- Awarded for excellence in post production design for a feature film.
- This could include the work of visual designers, colourists, vfx artists and graphic designers.
- Nominators should include the role of the nominee in their submission e.g. Colourist, VFX Artist etc.

50. Best Production Design - Series

- Awarded for excellence in art direction or production design for a drama series.
- This could include the work of production designers and/or art directors and/or set decorators if applicable.

51. Best Production Design - Feature

- Awarded for excellence in art direction or production design for a feature film.

- This could include the work of production designers and/or art directors and/or set decorators if applicable.

52. Best Costume Design - Series

- Awarded for excellence in original clothing design or costume sourcing and creation for a drama series.

53. Best Costume Design - Feature

- Awarded for excellence in original clothing design or costume sourcing and creation for a feature film.

54. Best Makeup Design - Series

- Awarded for excellence in makeup design and application for a drama series.

55. Best Makeup Design - Feature

- Awarded for excellence in makeup design and application for a feature film.

56. Best Script: Series

- Awarded for excellence in the development and writing of an original script for a narrative for a drama or comedy/drama series.
- Writers of both original and adapted scripts are eligible. Candidates for nomination eligibility is limited to the writer(s) of the original script or the writer(s) credited with adapting the original source material
- Entrants must submit the final script in PDF form – not the broadcast episode.

57. Best Script: Feature

- Awarded for excellence in the development and writing of an original script for a feature film.
- Writers of both original and adapted scripts are eligible. Candidates for nomination eligibility is limited to the writer(s) of the original script or the writer(s) credited with adapting the original source material.
- Entrants must submit the final script in PDF form.

Agreement to the Terms and Conditions and Eligibility Criteria

By selecting agree and submitting a nomination within the online portal, you comply with the following terms and conditions regarding programme and/or performance entries.

- I certify that I am an authorised person to make the nomination(s) and I am either the copyright owner or I have gained the permission of the programme copyright owners for the submission.
- I agree to the terms and conditions and eligibility criteria and all programme and performance entries adhere to the terms set out in section one (1) two (2) and three (3) of this document
- I agree all entries must be received by 8th August 2025.
- By entering a nomination, you acknowledge any clips submitted may be included in a broadcast or live stream of the New Zealand Screen Awards ceremony.