

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington Region 48 Hour Film Festival guidelines

Respect for our people, our land and our stories

As a UNESCO-recognised Creative City of Film, Wellington is proud to support a screen sector that is inclusive, sustainable, and grounded in best practice. We're especially excited to champion emerging filmmakers and student productions — your creativity is the future of our industry, and we're thrilled to see it flourish in our film-friendly city.

We encourage all productions, big and small, to approach their work with care and respect — for the land, for local communities, and for the unique character of each place. Together, we can ensure that filmmaking in the Wellington Region continues to thrive in a collaborative, responsible, and inspiring way.

Screen Wellington understands the fast-paced nature of this event, which is why we have waived the permit requirement for filming in public places. However, there are still important considerations. The story matters — we encourage you to think about the story you are telling and how you are telling it to ensure the values of the people, place, and worldview are upheld.

Ko au ko te taiao, ko te taiao ko au
I am my environment, and my environment is me

Taiao surrounds us — it is deeply spiritual and connects people, places and stories. Filming should honour the values and history of the land and respect the kaitiaki and mana whenua.

We wish all the participants a weekend of safe and successful filmmaking.

If you have any questions throughout the weekend, please call Harriett Guy between 9am-6pm on 022 622 9183 or Tanya Black on 021 34 1973 outside of those hours.

General guidelines:

- The Health & Safety of your crew and the public is crucial, more information on your responsibilities and recommended paperwork can be found on 48-hours' [website](#)
- Please be courteous to the public and do not impede them

- If you are filming in front of a business, get permission from them and make sure you do not block customers from entering the premises
- The road corridor includes everything from property boundary to boundary—the road, footpaths, berms, and grassed areas. Filming on the road, obstructing traffic, or attempting to control traffic without proper traffic management is illegal. Always try to get your shot from the footpath, without obstructing the walkway for pedestrians
- If filming a moving vehicle from the footpath, the vehicle must follow all NZTA road rules
- Consider filming content of a disturbing nature on private property. If this is not possible, make sure it is obvious to the public that it is a filming activity
- If your film involves prop weapons, screaming, or simulated violence, you must inform the Police. Call 04 381-2000 and ask for the ‘Communications Centre’ to log your activity
- Noise generated by the activity must be kept to a reasonable level
- No noise or light pollution in residential areas between 10pm and 6am
- All rubbish must be cleared and removed from the site and the area left in condition as found
- If you wish to use a drone your pilot must be aware of and comply with [Civil Aviation Authority](#) rules and log your flight with [Airshare](#)
- Fires and flares are prohibited
- Filming in Masterton and Lower Hutt will require signage informing filming is taking place
- No filming on DOC land, GWRC parks/ reserves
- No filming on Mana Whenua Sites and Areas of Significance

Filming in parks/reserves/gardens:

- Do not disturb, damage or remove from a public place any soil, sand, gravel, rock, plants, fish, animals (including eels), or any naturally occurring thing
- Do not interfere with or damage any assets i.e. signage, fencing, bridges, traps
- Do not drive, stop, stand or park any vehicle in any park/reserve other than on any roadway or in any car park provided for the purpose

Location specific conditions:

Botanic Garden/ Otari –Wilton’s Bush/ Bolton Street Cemetery/ Truby King House

- Stay on paths, keep out of forest/bush areas & keep off garden beds, especially where it appears there may be nothing in the garden
- There is to be no persons or equipment on any of the garden beds
- No props to be attached to any trees, buildings, heritage features or other fixed structures
- No climbing onto rocks in any of the rock gardens

- No trees to be climbed
- No drone filming
- No vehicles to enter gardens (public parking only). No reserved parking.
- No painting or marking of any paths, roads or surfaces
- All sites are smoke/ vape free areas

- **Botanic Garden**
 - **No filming permitted:** Centennial Entrance, Main Gates, Begonia House, near Picnic Cafe and its patrons, Treehouse Visitor Centre and Balcony and the duck pond area
 - If filming in the Discovery Garden there is to be no filming of children
- **Otari-Wilton's Bush**
 - Please do not block the canopy walkway or the decking area around Moko
 - **No filming permitted:** Visitor Centre and surrounding deck area, and Leonard Cockayne Centre and surrounding deck area
- **Bolton Street Cemetery**
 - **No filming permitted**
- **Truby King House**
 - **No filming permitted:** The house and its immediate environs
 - Appropriate respect to be shown on and around the Mausoleum
 - Please do not climb on or attach anything to brickwork.
 - No entry behind any barrier fences
- **Wellington Waterfront**
 - No vehicles to access Wellington City Waterfront at any time.
- **Marine Drive, Days Bay**
 - **No filming permitted:** Marine Drive and Marine Bay

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