

Press Release: Announcing the Winners from the Vista Foundation 48Hours 2025.

The Vista Foundation 48Hours is presented by The Vista Foundation, in association with Te Tuma Whakaata Taonga / New Zealand Film Commission.



The Vista Foundation 48Hours Grand Finals

**7pm, October 25th, 2025
Embassy Theatre, Wellington.**

Grand National Champion 2025 - Supported by WingNut Films

Grounded by Positive Barry. (Wellington team) - [LINK](#)

A young ladybird learning to fly discovers that sometimes in life you need a helping hand... or eight.

National Grand Champions Announced for the 2025 Vista Foundation 48Hours!

After another whirlwind weekend of creativity, chaos, and cinematic brilliance, the winners of the 2025 Vista Foundation 48Hours National Awards have been announced!

This year's competition saw thousands of filmmakers from across Aotearoa take on the challenge of writing, shooting, and editing a short film in just 48 hours. The results were nothing short of spectacular — showcasing the incredible talent, diversity, and storytelling power of filmmakers across the motu.

Taking out the National Grand Champion title for 2025 is Positive Barry with their film Grounded - a duo team of Chris Callus and Adam Reynolds. A standout entry that wowed judges with its creativity, technical execution, and emotional impact.

Quote from Vista Foundation 48Hours National Manager Vanessa Patea:

“The audience reaction to Positive Barry's film was off the charts! It really reflected all the hard mahi the team has put in. We are all very impressed that a duo team can create an endearing animation of such high calibre in just 48 hours.”

Grand National Runner Ups 2025 - Supported by WingNut Films

Spoiler Alert by Rabid Aunt Jean. (Christchurch team) - [LINK](#)

An avid reader's fun is spoiled by a stranger passing by, causing a revenge plan to ensue.

Maybe Daddy by Jovial Entertainment. (Auckland team) - [LINK](#)

At a raucous speed dating event, a single mother is blindsided by the reappearance of an old flame whose wild assumptions spiral into chaos, and his inability to let go forces her into a frantic bid to escape.

In a rare outcome, the National Grand Runner-Up title was awarded as a tie this year, with both Maybe Daddy by Jovial Entertainment and Spoiler Alert by Rabid Aunt Jean earning equal acclaim from the judging panel.

Made up of leading New Zealand filmmakers and industry professionals, the judging panel praised the high calibre of work across all finalists, noting that the standard of storytelling and filmmaking craft continues to rise each year.

This year marks another exciting chapter in the 48Hours legacy, proudly supported by the Vista Foundation, which continues to champion emerging talent and celebrate the vibrant spirit of Aotearoa's film community.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners, finalists, and everyone who took part in the 2025 Vista Foundation 48Hours.

National Awards Winners

For full list of prizes please see our website - [LINK](#)

National Champion 2025 - Supported by WingNut Films

Grounded by Positive Barry - Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington

National Runner Up - Supported by WingNut Films - Tied!

Maybe Daddy by Jovial Entertainment - Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

Spoiler Alert by Rabid Aunt Jean - Ōtautahi / Christchurch

National Best Cinematography - Supported by Rubber Monkey in partnership with SONY, Atomos, and SHURE.

Cinematographer: Rob Romero for Midnight Sunburn by Every Last Bastard

Best Solo/Duo Team - Chosen by Ant Timpson

Solo Creator: Adam Rowland for MOTHER by Awkward Animations

Viva La Dirt League Best Comedy

Spoiler Alert by Rabid Aunt Jean

National Best Sound Design - Supported by Rubber Monkey in partnership with Deity

Sound Designer: Julian Kirgan Báez for Ritual by Videoshop

National Best School Team - Supported by Digital Pigeon and Rubber Monkey in partnership with Deity and SmallRig

Misplaced Death by Dennistrie - [LINK](#)

Dame Gaylene Preston and WIFT Outstanding Female / Gender Diverse Filmmaker

Hannah Taylor for Morgan's Organs by Pastafarian Productions

National Best Director

Director: Ian Sweeney for Spoiler Alert by Rabid Aunty Jean.

National Best Performer

Kalyani Nagarajan in iTROLL by Permanently Confused

National Best Script

Writers: Malinna Liang, Isla Macleod for Maybe Daddy by Jovial Entertainment

National Best Production Design

Production Designers: Felix Elliot, Luke Grierson for Singularity by Felix & Luke's Excellent Team

National Best Editing

Editor: Chester Travis for I MetaMan by An Evening With

National Best Animation judged by WētāFX

Solo Creator: Hannah Taylor for Morgan's Organs by Pastafarian Productions

National Best Original Score/Song

Composers: Holly Wright & Michael Stevenson for Once Upon a Time, There Was You by Angle3 Pictures

National Incredibly Strange Award

Two Minutes, One Cup by Anxious Tummy

National Best Disqualified

Respect for the Dead by 18th Circle

4 (4th - 17th) Grand Finalists, including Sir Peter Jackson's Wildcards

Once Upon a Time, There Was You by Angle3 Pictures - Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

MOTHER by Awkward Animations - Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

Singularity by Felix & Luke's Excellent Team - Ōtautahi / Christchurch

Hat Trick by Great Lake Film Society - Across Aotearoa

The Shroud by Jake The Sound Guy - Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

Toast by Mayodaze - Across Aotearoa

Morgan's Organs by Pastafarian Productions - Across Aotearoa

iTROLL by Permanently Confused - Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

Baby Girl by Pixel Pixies - Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington

The Secret Garden by The Family - Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington
Ritual by Videoshop - Te Whanganui-a-Tara / Wellington

Sir Peter Jackson Wildcards

I MetaMan by An Evening With - Ōtautahi / Christchurch
Party Puffers by Glowtime - Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland
The True Story of Billy the Horse by PlanetFoxFilms - Ōtautahi / Christchurch

In 2025, we had 545 teams register for the competition and 469 eligible films submitted. Nationwide there were 178 School teams and 81 Tertiary Teams involved, with 41 teams giving the solo/duo a go!

This year we combined smaller areas from across the country into one mega region - Across Aotearoa. This gave teams an opportunity to compete in a larger pool of competitors, comparable to the Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch Regions.

There were 48 online and in-person heats screenings across the country gathering together filmmakers from each region. We had 51 judges who dedicated their time and their industry experience to the competition.

The 2025 National Judging Panel features an extraordinary lineup of filmmakers, actors, and producers from New Zealand and around the world, including: Sir Peter Jackson, Dame Gaylene Preston, Elijah Wood, Mette-Marie Kongsved, Tim White, Jess Hong, Jasmin McSweeney, Dean Hewison, Sophie Cherry, Nikki Si'ulepa, Peter Salmon, Morgana O'Reilly, and Kathryn Graham.

The Vista Foundation 48Hours is presented by The Vista Foundation, in association with Te Tumu 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.

Quotes:

Quote from David Paul - Cinematography Judge commending Every Last Bastard by Midnight Sunburn - winner of National Best Cinematography - Supported by Rubber Monkey in partnership with SONY, Atomos, and SHURE

"Wonderfully shot from start to end. Great use of ext' locations and management and use of natural light. [Midnight Sunburn] were in control of their images throughout."

Images - [LINK](#)

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