



## Vista Foundation 48Hours 2026: The Rush is Back!

Get ready for Aotearoa's wildest weekend of filmmaking—**Vista Foundation 48Hours** is officially back for 2026!

Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned pro, this is your chance to dive into 48 hours of innovation, chaos, and community. Clear your calendars, round up your crew, and prepare to flex those creative muscles. This is the ultimate test of grit and craft, where even the most veteran filmmakers take risks in front of a supportive, high-energy audience.

### Proof in the Pudding: From 48Hours to the World Stage

We are incredibly proud to see the DIY spirit of our community reaching the pinnacle of national and international cinema:

**The Weed Eaters:** After years of "stress-testing" their skills in the competition, director Callum Devlin and the veterans at *Sports Team* have released their debut comedy-horror feature, *The Weed Eaters*. Fresh off a Best Feature win at SXSW Sydney and a nationwide tour, it's a massive testament to the power of grassroots filmmaking.

**Positive Barry:** The 2025 Grand National Champions, *Positive Barry*, have taken the world by storm. Their winning film earned selection at two of the world's most prestigious "A-list" festivals: **Tribeca** and the **Annecy International Animation Film Festival**.

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### The 2026 Timeline

- Early-bird Registration: Opens June 1st - July 1st
- The Shoot Weekend: **July 31 – August 02, 2026.**
- The Challenge: Write, shoot, and cut a short film in just one hectic, thrilling weekend.

### A Legacy of Legends

You'll be following in the footsteps of alumni like **Mukpuddy, Viva La Dirt League, Taika Waititi, Ailee Walker, and Tom Sainsbury**. The Vista Foundation 48Hours is presented by the **Vista Foundation**, in association with **Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga / New Zealand Film Commission**.

"Filmmakers are born here - not just the starry ones, but a whole generation comes together and meets one another at the screenings." — **Dame Gaylene Preston**

### Find Out More

Visit the website for everything you need for the 2026 season, including key dates, heats venues, and city finals info.

[www.48hours.co.nz](http://www.48hours.co.nz)



## Calling All Student Creatives: The 2026 Vista Foundation 48Hours Challenges Schools to Hit Record!

**AOTEAROA, NZ** – The Vista Foundation 48Hours, New Zealand’s largest and most legendary filmmaking competition, is officially inviting school teams from across the motu to compete in the 2026 competition.

From **July 31st to August 2nd**, hundreds of students will take part in a high-octane weekend of storytelling. School teams are tasked with writing, shooting, and editing a short film in just 48 hours, competing for prizes and awards and the chance to see their work on the big screen.

### Beyond the Classroom: Real-World Filmmaking

The Vista Foundation 48Hours is a proven launchpad for New Zealand’s next generation of storytellers. The competition offers students a unique opportunity to apply their media studies, drama, and digital technology skills in a high-stakes, professional-style environment.

“This is where future filmmakers are forged,” says the 48Hours team. “It’s about more than just tech skills—it’s about teamwork, problem-solving, and the pure adrenaline of finishing a project under pressure.”

### Specific Opportunities for Schools

The competition offers a national School Team prize, ensuring that students are recognized for their unique talent. Benefits for school entries include:

- **Regional School Awards:** Celebrating the best student talent in each city.
- **National Recognition:** The best school films are eligible for the Grand National Final.
- **Cinema Screenings:** Every film that meets the requirements is screened at a local cinema in front of a live, supportive audience.

### Key 2026 Dates:

- **Registration Opens:** June 1st, 2026.
- **The Shoot Weekend:** July 31st – August 2nd, 2026.
- **The Genres:** Announced at 7:00 PM on Friday, July 31st.

### How to Enter

Teachers and students can register their teams at [www.48hours.co.nz](http://www.48hours.co.nz). Early-bird registration is encouraged to secure a spot in the local heats.

**Join the community and show Aotearoa what your school can create!**

**More info:** [www.48hours.co.nz/about/school-teams/](http://www.48hours.co.nz/about/school-teams/)

**About Vista Foundation 48Hours:** The Vista Foundation 48Hours is presented by the Vista Foundation, in association with Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga / New Zealand Film Commission. It is a grassroots competition that has seen over 10,000 short films produced since its inception.