



Unique Kiwi characters brought to the screen on BBC Knowledge

July 1, 2013: A dirt doctor, an aspiring funeral home director and a contender for the 2013 World Beard and Moustache Championships in Germany – these are just some of the unique Kiwi characters to be profiled in this year's New Zealand Young Producer Shorts 2013.

Now in its third year, BBC Knowledge and SPADA are pleased to announce the five finalists for the New Zealand Young Producer Shorts initiative. Each of these finalists will be awarded an AUD\$5,000 grant (approx \$6,050 NZD) to produce a short-form documentary which will premiere on BBC Knowledge in early 2014.

Young producers under 30 were invited to submit concepts for short-form documentaries profiling distinctive Kiwi characters that reflect the free-thinking essence of the BBC Knowledge brand. Judges were looking for something a little out of the ordinary, from all corners of the country and most importantly ideas about someone with an interesting story to tell.

Tim Christlieb, Head of Programming and Production comments “Over the past two years, New Zealand Young Producer Shorts has supported ten young filmmakers who have created some fantastic short-form documentaries. This year, we have uncovered five more fascinating stories and I'm really looking forward to seeing how these gifted young filmmakers bring their ideas to life. BBC Knowledge is proud to bring these stories to NZ audiences, and we're delighted to once again be partnering with SPADA on this initiative.”

SPADA Chief Executive Penelope Borland said: “We are delighted that this ongoing partnership – now in its third year – continues to provide a rare opportunity for young New Zealand filmmakers to produce short form documentaries and share our stories with New Zealand and Australian audiences on BBC Knowledge.”

The full list of winners is as follows:

Ashley Pitman, Auckland

Beard Chronicles

Having grown his facial hair for the last 20 years, 34 year old Ygnacio Cervio feels now is the time to represent New Zealand at the 2013 World Beard and Moustache Championships in Germany.

Joey Bania, Dunedin

Love at First Sound

Profiling blind musician Mark Wilson, this film is about ‘a man and his piano’, detailing his journey and celebrating his life and music.

Hilary Crombie, Auckland

From Nurse to Hearse

Nurse and mother of three, Janet Mikkelsen's personal experiences find her enlisting her extended family and friends to help her establish her passion project – a funeral home.

Rachael Patching, Dunedin

The Dirt Doctor

Meet Jim O’Gorman, a scientist who has transformed 2.5 hectares of noxious land into one of the most productive organic farms in the country. Weaving together pioneering organic farming techniques with modern microbiology, his methods are “outrageously radical yet thoroughly rational”.

Max Bellamy, Dunedin

Safety Net

A portrait of Nick Knox - A man whose life and character are tied to his piano. In its own right, his music is different and impressive. However, to Nick Knox it is more - a reason to strive; an evolution of self; a safety net.



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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Australia & New Zealand is a priority territory for BBC Worldwide, focusing on growth across all its core businesses. In 2011/12, BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand increased revenue by 9% on the previous year, generating AUS\$140m. Based in Macquarie Park, Sydney, BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand wholly owns five channels; UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies in Australia; UKTV and BBC Knowledge in New Zealand; and is responsible for the distribution and promotion of BBC World News which transmits in both countries. It has announced that it will launch a new premium BBC channel showcasing premiere drama and comedy on the Foxtel platform in August 2014. It distributes great British content from the BBC and other producers to all free-to-air and most subscription channels in Australia and New Zealand. BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand works with partners to bring BBC Worldwide DVDs, magazines, digital apps, innovative products and live events to the local market, as well as offering advertising opportunities for the BBC’s world renowned bbc.com news site and lonelyplanet.com. Australia is the most successful territory for the global BBC iPlayer.

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