

Aotearoa

Poetry

Film

Festival



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
WELLINGTON  
TE HERENGA WAKA



# APFF 2024

## Welcome to the second edition of the Aotearoa Poetry Film Festival!

The Aotearoa Poetry Film Festival is an event entirely devoted to the celebration and showcase of poetry film. We are thrilled to have you join us in celebrating craftsmanship, diversity, and overall quality of poetry films from here in Aotearoa and across the world. We have a spectacular programme for you over these next two days; 30 unique films and a riveting talk with acclaimed New Zealand filmmaker Nova Paul. This festival promises to be an event not to forget! So please... get comfortable, open your mind, and prepare to engage with some brilliant artwork!

Sincerely,

Tyler Shane Tesolin and Alfio Leotta  
Co-Directors, APFF

**Opening celebrations begin  
5:30pm at Lighthouse Cinema  
Cuba, 20th of November**

**Tickets to the entire festival  
can be purchased at Eventbrite**



# ORGANISERS



## Alfio Leotta

Alfio is a scholar and film-maker based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara - Wellington. Alfio has written several books that deal with topics such as New Zealand cinema, fantasy cinema and the relationship between film and tourism. Alfio is also an award-winning film-maker who produced and directed a number of poetry films and fantasy short films that have screened at festivals both in Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas. Alfio is the founder and co-director of the Aotearoa Poetry Film Festival.

## Tyler Shane Tesolin

Tyler was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. He studied Cinema and Media at York University in Toronto. Tyler makes films that focus primarily



on the intersection between poetry and film. On top of screening his movies in various cities across Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and New Zealand, he has written an apologia for experimental film, and has published two books of poetry. Tesolin currently resides in Wellington, where he is completing a PhD in Film at Victoria University. He runs monthly experimental film screenings with Film Adjacent.

# JURY

## Missy Molloy

Missy Molloy is a senior lecturer in film at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington in Aotearoa New Zealand, where she lectures on women's, queer, posthuman and activist cinemas. She is co-author of *Screening the Posthuman* (Oxford University Press 2023) and co-editor of *ReFocus: The Films of Susanne Bier* (Edinburgh University Press 2018). Her recent publications include the video essay, "Art Cinema's Suicidal Posthuman Women". ([in]Transition: Journal of Videographic Film & Moving Image Studies 2024), and "Indigenous Futurist and Women-Centred Dystopian Film" (Feminist Posthumanism and Postfeminist Humanism, Bloomsbury 2023).



## Nova Paul

Nova Paul (Ngāpuhi) is a filmmaker, writer, and Indigenous rights researcher. Her creative practice explores experimental film history and Indigenous filmmaking. She lectured for over two decades at AUT and established the Cinematic Arts minor. She has exhibited in all major galleries in New Zealand and shown in many international film festivals, including the Rotterdam International Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival.



## Dafydd Sills-Jones

Dafydd Sills-Jones is an Associate Professor at Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand. He is from Aberystwyth in West Wales. His films are concerned with places, identity, and language.



## Wednesday 20th November

**5:30pm**

Opening Night Festivities at Lighthouse Cinema Cuba

**6:30 - 8:00pm**

Competition Screening #1 at Lighthouse Cinema Cuba

**8:00pm onwards**

Drinks at Rogue and Vagabond

## Thursday 21st November

**2:00pm**

Award-winning filmmaker and APFF Jury Member, Nova Paul (Ngāpuhi), discusses the way poetry impacts and influences her creative process. Q&A to follow. Victoria University Architecture and Design Building LT1. Te Aro Campus, 139 Vivian Street.

**5:30 - 6:30pm**

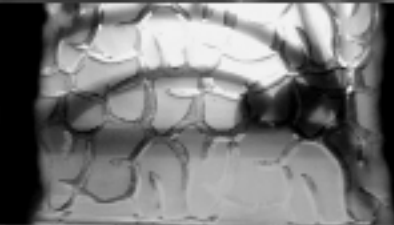
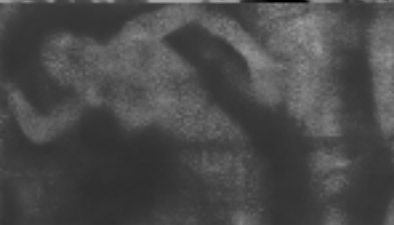
Competition Screening # 2 at Lighthouse Cinema Cuba

**6:30 - 8:00pm**

Competition Screening # 3 at Lighthouse Cinema Cuba

**8:00pm onwards**

Closing Festivities at Rogue and Vagabond



# THANK YOU

We would like to take the time to thank those who helped us along the way as we worked hard to bring a second festival together.

In particular, we would like to thank the judges for taking time out of their busy schedules to select films-picking the cream of the crop-and join us for their screening here.

We would also like to thank Nova Paul for her talk on "Poetry in Practice" on November 21st.

We would like to thank Christopher Thompson for all his diligent design work helping to make this festival possible.

We would like to thank all our sponsors, which include Lighthouse Cinema Cuba, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University, and Rogue and Vagabond.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us in any way over the two days of the festival. You are essential to the smooth operation of the festival.

Finally, we would like to thank you, the viewer, for coming out to support poetry, film, and the arts in Wellington.

## Competition Screening #1 ~ Wednesday 6:30pm

**Her Eye** ~ Jules van Hulst. Netherlands, Digital, 6m34s, 2024, International Competition  
"Her Eye presents itself as a shimmering vision: Crystal clear yet fragmented. In this film, this ambiguous identity is embodied by a mystical being. Driven by a poem and different types of light, we wonder: What can you see and what can you not see? Like the sun that is too bright to look into, while her reflection on the water can be soft. A light source and its reflection are the same but different."

**Ara: Made of Stardust** ~ Sofie Dieu. Australia, Digital, 5m7s, 2023, International Competition  
"A short film that explores how the lack of dreaming impacts our connection to our environment, leading to devastating effects. This work aims at alleviating the veil of forgetting that patriarchy and imperialism imposes on us to the point that we have lost our sacred relationship to dreaming and to our very own being."

**songs of vanishing**, Martin Sercombe. New Zealand, Digital, 5m48s, 2024, New Zealand Competition  
"The film begins as a study of the movements of fog through a range of landscapes at dawn and dusk. As it progresses, the fog becomes witness to a quiet celebration of nature, involving shadowy figures in a surreal forest world. The poem becomes a voice in the forest, responding to its changing moods as the fog moves through it. Inspired by e.e. cummings' playful and innovative use of word layout, each line of the text explores different ways of co-existing with the landscape in the film frame, appearing and vanishing like the fog it describes."

**The Beautiful Cell** ~ Kim Trainor. Canada, Digital, 7m, 2021, International Competition  
"The essence of glass lies in its serving as a passage to other objects; its nature is not to be itself but other things."  
-José Ortega y Gasset, "An Essay in Esthetics by Way of a Preface" (1914)"

**Thronebosis** ~ Marco Espirito Santo. Portugal, Digital, 1m51s, 2024, International Competition  
"It is May 6th, 2023, the day of the Coronation of King Charles III in London, and a young man calls Emergency Medical Services claiming the whole thing is making him feel unwell. Thronebosis imagines this scenario, making use of manipulated news footage of the day's events mixed with animation to illustrate the man's concerns in a punk-infused poetic form."

**SONNET** ~ Jan Peeters, Paul Bogaert. Belgium, Digital, 4m44s, 2023, International Competition  
"How useful is good advice if you're too stressed to focus? Can a couple of rhymes prevent one from falling?"

**Blink Once** ~ Jim Haverkamp. USA, Super8, 3m17s, 2024, International Competition  
"A metal detectorist reminisces while going through the day's routine. Based on a poem by Karin Gottshall."

**Beside Myself** ~ H. Paul Moon. USA, Digital, 3m, 2024, International Competition  
"a poem/film that engages the reader/viewer to trade places with the poet for a generative new thing that can, with your help, change the world. "Step outside yourself, look back at yourself, whom do you see? That's the question Bob Holman asks in Beside Myself. Fighting the metaphorical with the literal, H. Paul Moon's film captures a small band of Bob's friends voicing the poem in alternating identities, scored by composer David T. Little, for this meditative reflection on A.I. and the life cycle of the creative process."

**Doubt** ~ Ly Bolia. USA, Digital, 4m, 2023, International Competition

"A gardener's poetic perspective on self doubt in motherhood told through metaphors of gardening"

**Talisman** ~ Caitlind r.c. Brown. Canada, Super8, 4m29s, 2023, International Competition  
"Geometries of landscape, filmed through analog optics, edited (primarily) in-camera, and narrated in a slow revelation of place."

**A World in the Evening** ~ Dan Boord, Luis Valdovino. USA, Digital, 9m, 2023, International Competition  
"A World in the Evening offers visual and literary poetry that cannot be reconciled with the brutality of history, with the death of a poet, and with the sleep of reason. Inescapable nightmares of the past are reflected in the present: cities at night, the rebuilding of a fire-devastated fourteenth-century cathedral, a lonely eighteenth-century New Mexico mission, and the poetry and theatre of Federico García Lorca are among the inhabitants of A World in the Evening."

**Hymns of a Tiny World - The Birds of New Zealand** ~ Izabella Itzia Anguiano-Jacobs. USA, Digital, 4m46s, 2024, International Competition  
"Come spend a day with the birds of New Zealand! See their daily mischief and hear their wonderful song."

## Competition Screening #2 ~ Thursday 5:30pm

**Burning Men** ~ Sui Brooking. New Zealand, Digital, 1m58s, 2024, Student Competition  
"Lonely embarks on a quest for an uncatchable soul."

**The Two Headed Calf** ~ Aimee Dooley. New Zealand, Digital, 1m20s, 2023, Student Competition  
"My interpretation of the poem of the same name by Laura Gilpin. The poem shows the brutality of humanity and how terribly we treat what we consider things beneath us."

**What we can remember and what we are always in** ~ Ryo Nishikawa. New Zealand, Digital, 1m25s, 2024, Student Competition  
"A poetry film about memories, nostalgia and gratitude"

**Our Punjabi Market**, Kenneth Karthik. Canada, Digital, 35mm, 4m49s, 2024, Student Competition  
"An interpretation of the poem Our Punjabi Market by Kuldeep Gill, centred around the Punjabi Market on Vancouver's Main Street. It beckons to a time where this market was bustling with life and all the color, variety and diversity it exhibited, drawing in Canadians and immigrants alike."

**TONDI: A Child of Batak** ~ Debora Violin. Indonesia, Digital, 6m11s, Student Competition  
"A story of a Batak child, Hasian, far from the land of her ancestral tribe, North Sumatra. She was born, living amidst the hustle and bustle of Bandung, the capital city of West Java. She accidentally hears gondang (the traditional music of North Sumatera), which propels her into a whirlwind of suppressed emotions and revives her memories of the Batak Toba philosophy of life."

**SENSIBLE** ~ Axel Chemin. France, Digital, 7m, 2024, Student Competition  
"In the heart of emptiness, as well as in the heart of man, there are fires that burn." SENSIBLE invites us to experience, through dance and the works of Yves Klein, a sensory and hypnotic journey."

**Night Vision (while we sleep)** ~ Xinyuan Chen, Bianca Trani, Xiaofu Fang, Adrian Gusti. Australia, Digital, 1m53s, 2023, Student Competition  
"Based on the poem Night vision (while we sleep) by Luke Patterson, this film follows a Boobook owl who explores the mystical beauty of the natural Australian landscape,

and discovers the wonders of a nocturnal ecosystem that exists while we sleep."

**Savior** ~ Ray Santisteban, USA, Digital, 3m51s, 2024, International Competition  
"Featuring acclaimed Albuquerque, New Mexico poet Marcial Delgado, Savior is a call to action, a cry for help, and ultimately a harsh indictment of U.S. Immigration policy. Part op-ed, part confrontational oratory, Delgado speaks his truth to a society that routinely vilifies immigrants"

**Takaroa** ~ Arihia Latham. New Zealand, Digital, 5m55s, 2024, New Zealand Competition  
"A new poetic film about the Kāi Tahu creation story of Takaroa the Atua of the sea being the first love of the earth mother Papatūānuku. It looks at how human-induced climate change is causing the sea to rise, a future that may already be written in the stars. Sea tanīwha embody the three artists as they navigate evolving to this new future informed by the past."

**Because We Can** ~ Ian Gibbins. Australia, Digital, 4m28s, 2023, International Competition  
"In this video, we see the different ways in which water inhabits the interfaces between the natural and the manufactured. Now and then, we catch a glimpse of a reflection or shadow of the on-lookers, the passers-by, the lives that impact on everything they touch."

**Flight** ~ Sarah Tremlett. UK, Digital, 6m36s, 2024, International Competition  
"A very personal poetry film about my childhood relationship with my mother, who suffered depression, though I didn't know it at the time. My elderly parents hardly spoke, and we were marooned in a big, white elephant of a house, bought at auction. I would clean and look after the garden every weekend from the age of five."

**The Shadows of Paper Trees** ~ Aida Daneshvar. Christopher Dreisbach, USA, Digital, 6m33s, 2024, International Competition  
"An experimental short film odyssey that illustrates, interprets, and illuminates verses from Panjereh ("Window") by the late, legendary Iranian poet Forough Farrokhzad (as read by Forough Saramolki). Sometimes referred to as the Persian Sylvia Plath, Farrokhzad often explores female desire, identity, cultural critique, and political commentary in her poems. Time-collapsed images of nature from the filmmakers' home window and the surrounding Northern Vermont environs collide with reverie-soaked tableaux."

## Competition Screening #3 ~ Thursday 6:30pm

**Up All Evening** ~ Jason Park. New Zealand, Digital, 4m25s, 2024 New Zealand Competition  
"A young girl embarks on a quest to find something she has lost, navigating through challenges and discoveries along the way."

**Now or There** ~ Dennis Routledge-Tizzard. Spain, Digital, 5m, 2024, International Competition  
"An exploration of the complex, deepening relationship between humans and their surroundings as civilizations succumb to the relentless natural world."

**Photographing New York** ~ Cesare Bedogne. Italy, Digital, 8m54s, 2021, International Competition  
"Based on a poem I wrote remembering the two weeks I spent in New York in 2004, on the occasion of my first photo exhibition overseas. I almost forgot this piece of writing, which I had strangely written directly in English in the course of a feverish night, until it resurfaced to my mind almost fifteen years later, while I was travelling in Portugal. Then I started taking filmic shots inspired by the poem, dreaming about America beyond the long hypnotic waves and the old corroded wharves, at the other end of the

lone Atlantic. In the editing, I added some of the pictures taken 15 years before together with a single and especially painful picture taken in a Dutch hospital in 1997."

**Dark** ~ Jane Glennie. UK, Digital, 1m55s, 2024, International Competition  
"A world of people are plunged into darkness and forced to negotiate themselves mirrored back in black - only to find occasional moments of strange relief amidst the beauty of nothing."

**point of return** ~ Nicholas Kallincos. Australia, 1m22s, 2024, International Competition  
"Watching the movie of your own thoughts can lead you back to a point of return."

**Red Buckets** ~ Patrick Moser, USA, Digital, 3m51s, 2024, International Competition  
"An experimental animation about making mistakes and being part of this world"

**Of the Daughter who Spoke** ~ Simon Ray. UK, Digital and Archival, 3m30s, 2018, International Competition  
"A filmic response to the poem of the same name written by Kristi Carter. The film poetically combines imagery, time-lapse, projected footage and archive material within a train journey to express the poem's emotional points of connection with the director."

**Meteorite Slice** ~ Gabriela Concha. Ireland, Digital, 2m45s, 2023, International Competition  
"Meteorite Slice takes as its starting point a slice of a meteorite displayed at the Ulster Museum in Belfast. The poem and film pause to consider the object and its memory. Inspired by the accidental cosmic vision of mistaking city lights for constellations, Meteorite Slice meditates on innocence and creativity in seeing."

**Animal Heart** ~ Avia Gurman Murphy. Ireland, Digital, 4m35s, 2024, International Competition  
"The human confronts the animal in a time of reckoning and sacrifice. It is a time when a choice needs to be made between turmoil or surrender."

**Where is she among us who dare speak of love?** ~ Juliana Salinas. Columbia, Digital, 3m, 2024, International Competition  
"Where is she among us who dare speak of love? Who can say with certainty what love is? In a visual passage, the director reflects on this question and offers her notions of motherhood, childhood, youth, romance and femininity. Even so, all of them seem to fall short facing an enigma that only death can seem to answer."

**Darkness** ~ Suzie Hanna. UK, Digital, 1m50s, 2024, International Competition  
"This animation of Ben Morgan's poem imagines an encounter between Julian of Norwich, a 14th century anchoress locked away in her cell, and her son who visits to challenge her decision to give up on the natural world. It is not known if she had children but she entered the 'living death' after child-bearing age, and may well have been a mother before her voluntary incarceration. Julian wrote Revelations of Divine Love, the first surviving book to be written by a woman in the English language."

**On the Blue Summer Evenings** ~ Xavier Guàrdia. Spain, Digital, 10m, 2024, International Competition  
"A poem by Arthur Rimbaud contrasts the tranquility of nature with the hectic pace of the big city. A metaphorical journey into nature, love and poetry."

**Weak and Short Urges** ~ Eleonora Manca. Italy, Digital, 5m17s, 2024, International Competition  
"Little exercises of moult. Follow the instructions, and then forget them."