

NZAPG & NZFC ANNOUNCE COMMERCIAL FILM MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME: FEMALE DIRECTORS

The NZ Advertising Producers Group, in association with the New Zealand Film Commission, is delighted to announce the successful applicants for the inaugural NZAPG Female Commercial Director Mentorship Programme to support talented new female directors.

Asuka Sylvie

SWEETSHOP.TM

Anna Duckworth

thickastheives

EXIT

Morgan Albrecht

fish.

Awanui Simich-Pene



The NZAPG assessment panel would like to recognize the high calibre of applicants and applications that made it a challenging process to reach the final selection.

NZAPG Chair Bex Kelly ‘We are delighted to be giving four talented filmmakers another avenue for development and are looking forward to introducing them to our agency partners and collaborators’.

The four successful applicants will now undertake a three month, paid internship with five leading production companies. This new programme will enable the four successful applicants an immersive experience in the highly focused craft of commercial film workflows-from treatment writing, casting, storyboarding, meetings, through to post production and more.

The commercial film industry has long been a shining light in developing the story-telling and craft of leading filmmakers internationally-and here in Aotearoa.

NZAPG, and the participating production companies, are passionate about supporting the next generation of filmmakers. Skills learned under the programme are specific, but applicable to their ongoing craft in a wide range of formats.



Natalie Wilson
Executive Officer NZAPG
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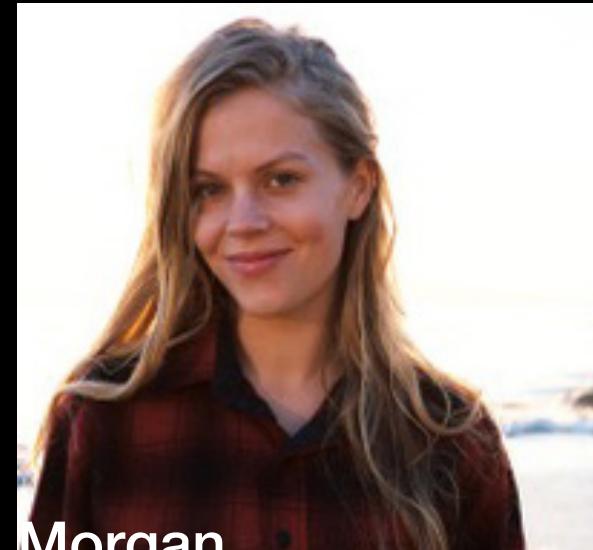
**Asuka
Sylvie**

Asuka Sylvie is a half Kiwi, half Japanese writer/director from New Zealand. She studied at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Television. Her short films Last Summer (2017), Lake (2014) and Pinion (2010) have screened at various international festivals including official selections at Melbourne, Shanghai, Palm Springs and New Zealand.



**Anna
Duckworth**

Anna has worked in film and television for almost a decade in both New York City and Auckland. In the past few years Anna wrote and directed three self-funded short films including MUM JEANS (2017) which screened at the 2018 New Zealand International Film Festival. Anna has twice won Best Director at 48Hours Competition, with her team being three time National Finalists and has directed music videos for a range of different artists. Anna directed web series PSUSY, which went on to screen at New Orleans Film Festival, Seattle Webfest, DC Webfest, Melbourne Web Series Festival and won the Best Episodic Jury Prize at the 2018 LA Film Festival. In 2018, Anna was granted production funding for two projects as writer/director. The first was a NZFC Fresh Short film PAIN, a naturalistic character drama. The second was TVNZ's, BUTT DIAL, a six part web series showcasing toilet-stall phone calls between two friends. Anna has also produced a myriad of award-winning music videos which garnered accolades such as multiple Show Me Shorts Best Music Videos, nominations at both NZ Music Awards and UK Music Video Awards and multiple vimeo staff picks.



**Morgan
Albrecht**

Growing up in rural New Zealand before the invention of cellphones, Morgan learned to write stories at an early age, going on to become an accomplished young writer and performer. She has won awards for screen and stage acting locally and internationally, and tours in several rock bands. Settling into documentary filmmaking, her subjects are social outsiders who live large. She's currently working on two long form music based documentaries, has a narrative script in development with the NZFC and is very much looking forward to being mentored by iconic Kiwi production company Flying Fish.



**Awanui
Simich-Pene**

Awanui was raised by her whānau in the Far North of Aotearoa, New Zealand. She is a graduate of Unitec's BPSA degree majoring in Directing for Film and Theatre and over the past 14 years has spent much of her career on set, jumping back and forth between directing for film and television and script supervising roles. Awanui is currently directing a new drama series for THREE set to be released in 2020, whilst her latest short film RŪ continues its successful festival run. In 2017 Awanui was one of the 9 Māori women filmmakers on award winning WARU, directing TITTY AND BASH, one of the eight shorts that make up the feature film. She is one of the inaugural recipients of the NZFC Māori Screen Excellence Award and has also begun developing her debut solo directed feature film through Script to Screen's mentorship programme FILM UP (2018). Other notable productions include directing BROWN BROTHERS, the feature-length drama IRIRANGI BAY, comedy series FIND ME A MĀORI BRIDE as well as drama series AHIKĀROA. Awanui has also directed other various television shows, including award winning documentary series WHARE TĀONGA, award winning children's show PŪKANA, and long-time Māori language drama KŌRERO MAI.

