



# Nominations open for the 2026 Vincent Burke Scholarship

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Supporting the next generation  
of screen producers

Spada is proud to open nominations for the 2026 Vincent Burke Scholarship, which aims to support the next generation of New Zealand producers by providing an annual grant of \$5,000 to assist the advancement of their projects, companies, or careers.

**2026 marks the second year this scholarship is offered with the inaugural 2025 Vincent Burke Scholarship awarded to Joyce Wong.**

In loving memory of her brother, Wendy Pringle generously bequeathed proceeds from Vincent's estate to Spada to establish this Scholarship, dedicated to supporting emerging producers—a cause Vincent championed throughout his remarkable career.

Spada would also like to thank Vincent's longtime colleague Laurie Clarke for his help in establishing this Scholarship.

Vincent Burke worked in the New Zealand screen industry for over 30 years and was noted for addressing social issues and stories from everyday life. His production company Top Shelf created many award-winning documentaries and factual series including 'All About Eve' (1991), 'Cinema of Unease' (1996) and the ambitious 'Frontier of Dreams' (2004). Vincent also had a love of drama, producing 'Flight of the Albatross' (1995) and co-producing 'Predicament' (2010). In more recent years he produced feature documentary '100 Men' (2017) and was an executive producer on the first Tongan feature film 'For My Father's Kingdom' (2019).

Vincent was widely respected as an "elder statesman" of our industry. As President of Spada during its days as the NZ Film & Video Training Board, he made a lasting impact. In 2012, Vincent was awarded the Spada/Databook Industry Champion Award in recognition of his remarkable career and his dedication to mentoring, mediating, and supporting the industry, its people, and their stories.

Vincent's enduring legacy lives on through the opportunity created by the Vincent Burke Scholarship, which aims to empower the next generation of New Zealand screen producers.

**ENTRIES CLOSE 5:00 PM MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026**

For more information on criteria and how to apply see the following pages.

Please send your completed entry form by email to [comms@spada.co.nz](mailto:comms@spada.co.nz)

The recipient of the 2026 Vincent Burke Scholarship will be announced in mid-April 2026.

**QUESTIONS?** Email [comms@spada.co.nz](mailto:comms@spada.co.nz) for more information.

# 2026 Vincent Burke Scholarship

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**ENTRIES OPEN: 9:00 AM, Monday 16 February 2026**

**ENTRIES CLOSE: 5:00 PM, Monday 23 March 2026**

The Vincent Burke Scholarship (the “Scholarship”) is designed to support an emerging producer in advancing their projects, company, and career with a grant of \$5,000.

This Scholarship recognises the creativity, innovation, and commitment of up-and-coming New Zealand producers, by providing the recipient with the resources to take the next step in their career or business, whether that be traveling to an international market or investing in business development.

## Application criteria

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**Applicants for the 2026 Vincent Burke Scholarship must:**

- be a New Zealand resident
- have one or more projects in development
- have a producer credit on at least one completed project (film/TV/online)
- not hold a producer credit on any completed feature film or series project with episodes longer than 15 minutes in duration\*. (*\*Applicants may have a feature/series project over 15 minutes duration in development, but it must not be in production prior to the Scholarship presentation.*)
- be available to act as an ambassador for Spada and the wider industry
- utilise the prize within 18 months
- provide Spada with a summary of the Scholarship experience upon completion

## Judging process

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All applications will be checked to confirm they meet the Application Criteria prior to judging.

A panel of judges will be appointed to assess the Applications, comprised of screen industry practitioners alongside Spada staff and Executive.

The Judges’ decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

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# 2026 Vincent Burke Scholarship Entry Form

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## Nominee

Name	
Company	
Address	
City	
Tel	
Mob	
Email	

## To enter

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To apply, complete this entry form and submit it along with a PDF or Word document with the following supporting information:

- Filmography which demonstrates the applicant's work and satisfies the 'Emerging Producer' criteria (including links where available)
- 500 words explaining why the applicant would exemplify the Scholarship's goal of recognising the creativity, innovation, and dedication to their role as an Emerging Producer
- 500 words on the applicant's contribution to the screen production industry to date (may include details of other roles in the sector)
- Details of how the Scholarship will help to progress the applicant's project, business, and/or producing career.
- Written reference/s

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