



## Hollywood: Her Story November 2023 ENewsletter Movies with Ties to New Zealand

The Lord of the Rings trilogy changed the face of tourism in New Zealand. Today, sixty percent of the tourists that come to this beautiful country have been inspired to visit New Zealand from knowing about and wanting to see the country where the movies were filmed. A thriving movie industry exists. The focus of this newsletter is on movies with New Zealand ties.



Writer, director, and producer **Jane Campion** is from New Zealand, born in Wellington. Her 1993 movie *The Piano* was both set in and filmed in New Zealand. The female lead in the movie, who is mute, arrives in New Zealand with her daughter and prized piano for an arranged marriage. Although in the arranged marriage, she falls in love with a farmer. They eventually marry, but not before tragedy ensues, including the loss of her beloved piano. Campion was nominated in 1994 for Best Director for *The Piano* (only the second woman nominated for that Award) but she took home the Oscar for Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen for that same movie. In 2022, she won the Best Director Oscar for *The Power of the Dog*, which was nominated for a total of 12 Oscars. Campion is

the only woman to have been nominated twice for Best Director and the only woman to have won the Best Director Oscar without winning the Best Picture Oscar. In addition, she is the only woman to have won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival which she won for *The Piano*. Campion has been honored as a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. She said, "I would love to see more women directors because they represent half of the population – and gave birth to the whole world. Without them writing and being directors, the rest of us are not going to know the whole story."



*The Piano* was nominated for a total of eight Oscars, winning in three categories, including Campion's Best Writing Oscar. **Holly Hunter** received two Oscar nominations in 1994. One was for *The Piano*, which she won, and the other was for Best Supporting Actress for *The Firm*. She also has two other acting Oscar nominations. New Zealand native **Anna Paquin** was eleven years old when she took home the 1994 Best Supporting Actress Oscar for *The Piano*. Australian film editor **Veronika Jenet** was nominated for the Best Film Editing Oscar for her work on the movie. Australian film producer **Jan Chapman** was nominated for the Best Picture Oscar for the movie. Chapman has been made an Officer of the Order of Australia for "service to the Australian film industry as a producer and as a contributor to organisations providing strategic direction to the industry."

Australian costume designer **Janet Patterson** received four Academy Award nominations over her thirty-year career with her first Best Costume Design Oscar nomination for *The Piano*.

The three films in Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings trilogy were filmed simultaneously over an 18-month period in his native New Zealand. The first of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, the 2001 film *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings*, has been placed in the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. It was written by a trio that included **Fran Walsh** and **Philippa Boyens**. A New Zealand-born screenwriter, producer and lyricist, Walsh has been nominated for seven Oscars and won three, most associated with the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Boyens is also from New Zealand and is a screenwriter and producer. She is the recipient of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her service to the film industry. She has won one writing Oscar and been nominated a second time, both for her work associated with the Lord of the Rings trilogy. The second of the trilogy was *The Lord of the Rings: Two*



Towers for which Fran Walsh received an Oscar nomination. The third of the trilogy was *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. New Zealand costume designer **Ngila Dickson** won a Best Costume Oscar for the third of the trilogy and received another Best Costume Oscar nomination that year for *The Last Samurai*. She had been previously nominated for the Best Costume Oscar for the first in the trilogy. In 2002, Irish songwriter **Enya** and Irish lyricist **Roma Shane Ryan** were nominated for the Best Music, Original Song Oscar for the song "May It Be" from the first movie in the trilogy. Scottish singer and songwriter and Dame Officer of the Order of the British Empire **Annie Lennox** shared the Best Music, Original Song Oscar for the song "Into the West" from the third of the trilogy.

Women in front of and behind the camera make the movies that we all welcome into our hearts and homes. Women across all the areas of moviemaking from actress to animator, editor to stuntwoman, costume designer to screenwriter, producer to director have contributed to the success of the movie industry since its founding in the 1890s. Help us celebrate these women who are written into movie history in *Hollywood: Her Story*.

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