

Film on location in New Zealand on your summer break

Discover first-hand what draws the global film industry here, while creating your own short drama for your showreel.



Screen Tools: A four-week practical course for emerging filmmakers

Structured around a practical production process based on professional television industry practice, Screen Tools is a hands-on course designed to set you up with the essential skills you need to launch your career in film, television and digital media industries.

Under the guidance of experienced actor, producer and director John Callen, as well as guest instructors from the television industry, you will work as a team to develop the pilot episode of a serial drama or web series. You will learn and practice story creation and character development for a script you will write, produce, design and direct.

From pre-production to post-production you will experience first-hand the various aspects of television industry operations, including studio protocol and the management of a production and shoot. You will gain an understanding of cameras and sound recording equipment as you develop your production; and will learn strategies for directing the actors who will bring your story to life.

You will have access to our high-end production and editing equipment and facilities to produce multi-camera recorded scenes in our television studio, as well as shooting on location in the beautiful harbourside city of Auckland.

In a time when people are more often turning to new digital platforms for their media consumption, Screen Tools places a focus on the "saleable" value and digital delivery of your final piece. With your production team, you will decide on a target audience and the mode of broadcast for your production.

This course is ideal for recent screen production graduates, or students looking for a study abroad experience with a practical option. Course field trips include a visit to the Hobbiton movie set in Matamata, and a customised tour of the Academy Award® winning Weta Workshop and Park Road Post Production facilities in Wellington.

www.auckland.ac.nz/screentools

Develop your Tool Kit

- Producing for digital and new media
- Multi-camera television production
- Single camera location shooting
- Digital editing
- Script production
- Production management
- Industry production methods
- Casting and directing actors
- Collaboration in an industry-style production
- Directing
- Post-production
- Finished product to add to your showreel
- Professional credit for your production CV

18 June – 13 July 2018



Tutor: John Callen

John Callen has over 40 years' experience as an actor, director and producer in the film and television industries, and as a tutor teaching acting skills and television production at tertiary level. His most significant film credit to date is one of the core-cast roles in Peter Jackson's *Hobbit* trilogy where he played the dwarf Oin. John has acted in or directed more than 100 stage plays as well as a variety of television dramas. John's expertise in working with actors and training television directors will be an integral part of the course.

Guest tutors

Throughout the course guest tutors working in New Zealand's television and screen industry will be invited to work with students on various aspects of the production.

Confirmed guest tutor Kathleen Anderson is the Commissioning Editor of Drama for New Zealand's national broadcaster Television New Zealand (TVNZ). She has been a writer in the industry and keeps a close watching brief over New Zealand's most successful television series, *Shortland Street*. Kathleen will conduct a story-pitching session with each group in Screen Tools, helping to develop the central storyline for the drama production.

Above: Course instructor John Callen (right) plays Oin in *The Hobbit*. PHOTO: Warner Bros.

Course dates: 18 June – 13 July 2018

Course structure: Full-time Monday to Friday (approx. 40 hours per week). Structured classes Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Eight to ten hours studio time per week. Other time is spent in script production, casting, on-location filming, post-production, editing and field trips.

Credit weighting: 15 NZ points (approximately 3-5 US credits). International students may be able to cross-credit back to your home institution.

Programme fee: NZ\$6,150 GST inclusive (US\$4,235*). Fee includes tuition, accommodation, and field trips to Hobbiton Movie Set and Weta Workshop.

Eligibility: This course is designed for students with two years' undergraduate experience. A background in film or media production, drama, or creative writing is preferred, but not essential. Students with only one year of undergraduate experience and a strong creative portfolio are also eligible for entry.

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*Based on exchange rate at time of publication (May 2017).

New Zealand screen industry

From low-budget productions to major world-wide blockbusters, screen production is a vibrant industry in New Zealand. The country's stunning scenery and government support has attracted major Hollywood film productions including *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Hobbit*, *King Kong*, *District 9*, *Avatar*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Adventures of Tintin* as well as long-running television series including *Power Rangers* and *Hercules*.

Once *Were Warriors* and more recent New Zealand films such as *Whale Rider*, *The World's Fastest Indian* and *The Dark Horse* have attracted wider international attention and quirky small budget films such as *What We Do In The Shadows*, directed by Taika Waititi (*One Car, One Night*; *Boy*, *Hunt For the Wilderpeople*) and Jemaine Clement (*Flight of the Conchords*, *Eagle versus Shark*) reached an international audience through inventive crowd funding strategies and creative marketing.

Increasingly, emerging filmmakers around the world are bypassing traditional film and television and are turning to new digital media platforms to showcase their work. Recognising this trend, the Screen Tools course focuses on a range of digital options for the delivery of the complete episodic drama that you will produce on the course.

Screen production at the University of Auckland

Alongside Screen Tools, the University of Auckland also offers full degree screen production programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Student works have screened at major international film festivals, including Venice, London and New York.

In 2016, four student films have been selected for international screenings. Brendan Donovan's screenplay *Guilt* attracted seed funding and has been shortlisted for the Sundance Institute's Screenwriters Lab in 2017. Todd Karehana has had two films accepted into major film festivals in New Zealand, Canada and Australia; and Gorjan Markovsky's short film, *The Prince*, was accepted into the New York Student Showcase as part of the Big Apple Film Festival.

The University of Auckland maintains strong links with local and international creative industries, and is a member of the International Association of Film and Television Schools (CILECT).



Field trips

Hobbiton Movie Set

Visit the set of "the Shire" from *The Hobbit* film series and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Accompanied by course tutor John Callen, who plays the deaf dwarf Oin in *The Hobbit*, you will hear first-hand about life on set as you explore hobbit houses, The Green Dragon Inn, The Mill, the double arched bridge and other structures and gardens built for the films.



Weta Workshop

Based in Wellington, New Zealand, Weta Digital is an Academy Award® winning design and digital effects studio. Founded by two Kiwis in their back room in 1987, Weta Workshop has grown into a world-leading company producing sets, props, makeup and digital effects for productions including *Mad Max*, *The Hobbit*, *Elysium*, *Man of Steel*, *District 9*, *Planet of the Apes* and *Avatar*.

On this field trip, you'll get an insight into how Weta Workshop creates weapons, armour, costumes and creatures for film. Learn from a Weta Workshop Prosthetics and Make-up Artists how to make your own set of prosthentic hobbit ears, and get your hands dirty in the "Art of Fake Blood Workshop".



"Screen Tools offers a unique opportunity to students who are film enthusiasts and hungry for an adventure to develop their practical skills in almost every aspect of screen production. The course is both challenging and creatively rewarding.

"The activities help students get insight into the industry, practice with major production roles under competitive pressure, and they are also just great fun. One of my best memories of the course was our one-of-a-kind trip to Hobbiton where John [the course tutor] shared stories of his personal experiences working in the Hobbit franchise."

Mauricio Martinez, Mexico (studying in Canada)