**Steve Barr**

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* 16+ years of professional experience in the Hollywood system, both studio and independent
* 15+ years of professional experience in the New Zealand screen industry
* 2 years of professional experience in the Chinese screen industry
* Highly motivated with demonstrated ability to see projects from inception to delivery
* Excellent attention to detail with strong written and verbal communication skills

**PRODUCING AND DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE**

**Television New Zealand / Te Reo Tātaki** September 2019 – November 2023

*Commissioner, Drama and Scripted Comedy*

Commissioner Collaborate with producers and creatives from pitch through transmission, having input in project selection, development, budgeting, funding, casting, health and safety, cultural safety, editorial, marketing, and publicity. Serve as first point of contact between the creative sector and TVNZ’s various departments. Commissions include After the Party, The Panthers, The Gone, Creamerie, Kura, Under The Vines, Mystic, and Wellington Paranormal.

**Hang Time / Getting Toasted** November 2016 – September 2019

*Producer*

Full service producer Work with lead creative Cathasaigh Ó Fiannachta to conceive, develop, finance, crew, cast, contract, produce, market, and sell a wine movie for a Millennial audience. NZ release February 2019, sold to N. America, Australia, and half of Europe. In profit.

**S.C. Wheelbarrow & Sons** January 2015 – September 2019

*Writer / Producer*

Content Creation Conceive, develop, and write film and television projects that utilize the benefits of New Zealand incentives while being aimed at international audiences.

Content Sales Create sales documents and pitch trailers for our projects, and represent them in Los Angeles and at markets like NATPE.

**Chronesthesia**  February 2015 - December 2016

*Producer*

Business affairs and contracting Came on board during post-production to make sure all the legal contracting and business affairs issues were complete. Took the completed film to AFM in 2016 and attached a sales agency. In profit.

**Gibson Group** April 2013 - April 2015

*Feature Development Producer*

Talent Tracking Form relationships with experienced and up-and-coming writers, directors, and producers. Read and comment on hundreds of submissions.

Intern Training As part of our commitment to supporting the media community, we have ongoing classes of young filmmakers volunteering for experience.

Feature Film Producing Manage the slate strategy and shepherd projects from development through distribution.

**New Zealand Film Commission**  August 2012 - June 2016

*Executive Producer*

Project and Filmmaker Selection Hired by the NZ Film Commission as one of three Executive Producer pods for their top-level Premiere Shorts funding scheme. We met with filmmakers, solicited their short film projects, analysed the applications to create a shortlist. We greenlit four projects for budgets of $90,000 each, and shepherded those projects through production to distribution. Three of the four films were named Best Short Films of NZ in the New Zealand International Film Festival.

**Various NZ, US, and Chinese production companies** August 2010 - present

*Freelance Development Executive*

Analysis and Consultation Work with screenwriters, directors, and producers on all aspects of cinematic storytelling, as well as writing and/or critiquing sales documents. My clients include Gibson Group, Film Business, Kiwifilm Ltd, Floodlight, Little Dragon, Sector 7, Inkubator, Index Film, Picture The Difference, Beyond Reality, Bad Bread, SoundFactory, Blueskin Films, and dozens of individuals.

Focused Development Work intensely with screenwriters on in-depth, beat-by-beat development of screenplays and teleplays for the US, NZ, and Chinese markets. Help moderate discussions of conflicting concerns and priorities among creative teams.

**SMASHfilm** March 2008 - November 2008

*Head of the Los Angeles office of a financing & production company headquartered in Austria*

Writer and Representative Relations Fostered and maintained relationships with screenwriters, managers, and literary agents. Held general meetings and pitch meetings with writers, producers, and representatives. Negotiated life rights options and development deals.

Story Analysis and Development Read and considered screenplays, books, short stories, and life stories for production. Analyzed cinematic story value, production and budget issues, and marketability.

Staff and Intern Management Managed two executives, an accountant, and a series of interns.

**Screenwriting EXPERIENCE**

**Born To Dance**  October 2013 - December 2014

New Zealand’s first hip hop dance movie. Co-written with Cathasaigh Ó Fiannachta, produced by Daniel Story, Jill Macnab, and Leanne Saunders. Premiered at TIFF and screened at the Berlinale. Became the biggest NZ film of 2015, and is one of the top 25 most successful films in New Zealand history.

**Timeslow**  September 2010 - August 2012

A romantic fantasy about a man who discovers a way to slow down time. Co-written with director by Sally Tran, released in 2013.

**Plant Life**  April 2007 - November 2008

A big-budget family adventure about a woman who learns to talk to plants. Co-written with Tina Anderson, produced by Terry Rossio & Ted Elliot. Set up at Walt Disney Pictures.

In addition to these, I’ve been commissioned on a dozen other feature screenplays. Details available on request.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Victoria University**

*Masters Thesis assessor for MA Screenwriting* 2012 – September 2019

*Graduate* *Supervisor to Masters of Arts candidate Colin Rowsell* March 2013 - Nov 2013

**The New Zealand Film and Television School** June 2011 – September 2019

*Tutor in Bachelor of Applied Arts (Creative Writing)*

Long-term Instruction Work in depth with small crews, teaching weekly classes and regular online contact over the course of a year.

Focused Seminars 3-hour lectures on screenwriting, cinematic storytelling, development processes, and rhetoric.

**Massey University**  August 2011 - October 2011

*Artist in Residence*

Guest Lecturing Taught classes and seminars to Massey students about filmmaking and cinematic narrative.

**Massey University**  2011 through 2015

*Creative Processes summer intensive*

High-intensity Filmmaking Instructor Creative Processes is a week-long course in which 400 students work 16 hours a day for a week, to create works of art in film, creative writing, poetry, or dance, and then perform them for the group. I taught the film section.

**Emerging Artists Trust** May 2011 – September 2019

*Workshop leader*

Instructor and Moderator Work with 16 screenwriters and 16 actors in a table-reading and critiquing workshop over 6 months.

**NZ Writers Guild and Various Film Schools** April 2010 – present

*Seminar presenter*

High-density Seminars Give seminars lasting from 1 hour to 1 week on specific topics including paradigms of cinematic narrative, pitching technique, short form documents, the tools of rhetoric, forms of documentary, making short films, and genre theory.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

**SoCal Film Group** February 2001 - December 2009

Founding member of a creative collective of producers, directors, writers and technicians. With SoCal Film Group I produced, wrote, directed, edited, acted in, ADed, LPed, gripped, gaffed, boomed, and/or fetched the donuts on over 50 short films. Our films played at dozens of festivals, including the Austin Film Festival, the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, Silver Lake Film Festival, Shriekfest and the Newport Beach Film Festival, as well as on the US channels AMC and Showtime*.*

**NBC Universal**  December 2008 – January 2010

Post-production scheduler, overseeing a post-production process creating and modifying dubs of features & TV for various markets. It was my responsibility to guide any given project through duplication, color correction, forced narrative editing, audio dubbing, and quality control, often on a very tight turnaround schedule.

**Universal Studios** August 1998 - April 2007

Executive Assistant to the Senior VP and VP of Labor Relations, and Office Manager for the department. The Labor Relations department negotiates and administrates the collective bargaining agreements with the entertainment industry guilds and unions. The position required multitasking, extensive interaction with all levels of the corporate structure, and discretion with confidential information.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

**New Zealand Writers Guild** April 2010 – Current

Varoiusly President, Vice President, Central Region Representative, and Board member

**Reel Earth Film Festival** June 2010 - October 2015

Board member and chief selector

**Inspiring Stories Trust** October 2012 - August 2017

Board Member

**EDUCATION**

**Te Huanui Taumata** (Te reo Māori)

Te Ataarangi 2025

**He Papa Tikanga** (Māori culture and society)

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa 2020

**Bachelor of Fine Arts, School of Theater**

University of Southern California, Los Angeles 1994

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Writers Guild of America, West (emeritus), USA

New Zealand Writers Guild, Aotearoa

Screen Production And Development Association, Aotearoa

Women in Film and Television (associate), Aotearoa

Ngā Aho Whakaari (associate), Aotearoa

New Zealand Comedy Guild, Aotearoa