

## FILM AUCKLAND INCORPORATED

### Minutes – Annual General Meeting 2020

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**6:17 PM – 7:01 PM**

Venue: Longroom, 114 Ponsonby Road, Grey Lynn, Auckland

**Board Members:** Grant Baker (Chair), Alex Lee (Deputy Chair), David Rowell (Treasurer), Graham Dunster, Marg Slater, Sioux MacDonald, Alice Shearman, Gabriel Reid, Ngaire Fuata, Mike Rehu, Annie Dodman, Sam Ramlu, Mary Lose.

**Executive Officer:** Amber Wakefield

**FAI Members:** Tamar Munch, Jeremy Taylor, Tony Forster, Steve Barr, Harry Harrison, Tyrone Payne.

#### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Grant Baker welcomes members to the 2020 Annual General Meeting of Film Auckland Inc. Grant acknowledges board members who are in attendance via Zoom: Annie Dodman, Sam Ramlu, David Rowell, and Sioux Macdonald. Apologies: Mary Lose, Alex Lee, Linda McCarthy, Katie Kempe, Amber Leigh Stevens.  
Grant Baker moves that apologies be accepted - passed unanimously.

#### 2. Minutes of 2019 AGM attached

Grant Baker moves that the minutes from the 2019 AGM be accepted, Graham Dunster seconds, passed unanimously.

#### 3. Reports - President, Treasurer, Executive Officer

David Rowell, Treasurer, presents the FAI Annual Report – attached.

David Rowell is currently based in Wellington on Avatar and is scheduled to return to Auckland in February 2021. The Financial Accounts for 2019/2020 were once again completed by VCFO Chartered Accountants, who merged with Pieter Holl and Associates. VCFO is still providing services as a sponsor, and David Rowell thanked them for their sponsorship services saying that VCFO is the Film Industry's predominant specialist tax advisors, and he highly recommends them. Another modest year of expenditure, very little activity other than basic administration costs. In regards to income, we received a grant from ATEED of \$25,000, \$591 Membership fees, \$21 Interest for a total of \$25,612 Income. The total expenditure of \$9,009, principally on Admin services, money well spent, and David Rowell expressed his thanks to the EO Amber Wakefield. Net income therefore \$16,603. David Rowell also took the time to thank both Chair Grant Baker and Secretary Mar Slater for the contribution this past year. David Rowell highlighted that low expenditure means funds can be carried forward to facilitate events this upcoming year. We will need to follow through on holding our events and we will need to spend the money - wisely – to secure additional funding from Auckland Unlimited. As of today, there is

\$30,750 in the bank. David Rowell suggested we should continue to pursue other sources of funding, through membership contributions and possible sponsorships.

David Rowell then certify that the Annual Report accurately represents the financial position of Film Auckland Inc for the year ending March 31, 2020

First: Mike Rehu Seconded: Gabriel Reid

### Grant Baker, presents the Chair Report

What a year 2020 has been, starting out as the busiest year in the history of the Auckland Screen Industry with the unprecedented scale of international productions along with a larger than normal range of local productions, only to be stopped in their tracks by Covid19.

Film Auckland was quick to respond to the challenge, getting involved in the Screen Sector Covid Action Group with representation by several board members through their various industry organizations, which put us in direct contact with MCH and MBIE along with the NZFC, Te Māngai Pāho, and NZOA to help drive the Covid recovery and articulate what the industry needed to rebound quickly from the lockdown, along with putting strict Health & Safety Protocols in place to enable productions to restart under varying Alert Levels

As a result New Zealand was one of the first countries to return to production and also demonstrate what a weightless export earner the screen industry is with many gaming and digital productions being able to continue on through the lockdown.

During this time Film Auckland also continued to meet virtually and hosted an industry webinar “Taking the Pulse of the Auckland Screen Industry” along with the Election Forum in September, under Alert Level 2 restrictions.

We also kept in close contact with Screen Auckland and ATEED during this time to keep the momentum going on the initiatives they had underway prior to Covid to grow the industry in Auckland and to act in an advisory capacity to them.

This year has also seen a steady increase in the membership of Film Auckland, due in no small part to the hard work and dedication of our Executive Officer Amber Wakefield. She has breathed new energy into the organisation and kept the board on track this year. On a personal note I would like to pass on my thanks for the unwavering support Amber has given me this year in my first term as board chair.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Film Auckland for their energy and enthusiasm this year, in what has been very challenging conditions. They have never once shied away from their involvement in Film Auckland and were quick to volunteer their services when needed.

I must also acknowledge the ongoing support of Screen Auckland and ATEED that enables Film Auckland to be the voice of the Auckland Screen Industry. The board of Film Auckland are all volunteers and give up their time to help the health and

wellbeing of the Auckland Industry. We are only as strong as our membership base and will continue to work on growing this going forward.

2021 looks like taking over from where 2020 started out, with huge overseas interest in New Zealand and Auckland in particular and an equally large number of local projects. This year has demonstrated what a valuable industry this is to the Auckland economy and Film Auckland looks forward to partnering with local and national government organizations to help steer the industry in the best direction.

Move motion to certify the Chair report as an accurate account

First: Marg Slater Seconded: Gabriel Reid

Amber Wakefield, presents the Executive Officer Report

In the year since the 2019 AGM, we've been hit with a global pandemic and recession. As this difficult and highly unusual year progresses, it is important to understand the overall position of the local screen industry, and how Auckland can continue to recover and grow in the future.

So far, Film Auckland are weathering this unprecedeted environment comparatively well, and have been able to continue to spend on events and infrastructure treating them as investments financed out of reserves.

In February we held a strategic planning session to focus on what our purpose is within the industry, and to brainstorm ways to continue to lobby and advocate for the health of the industry. We defined our values and outlined our strategic intent, identifying who we are and what we do. Then in March, we moved into lockdown placing many of our plans, specifically with physical events, on hold. As the response to operating in a Covid-19 world continued to unfold, FAI remained open and flexible as to how we could serve our community best.

We adapted by moving events online and produced a virtual conversation in May titled 'Taking the Pulse of the Auckland Screen Industry'. Despite extended lockdowns and ongoing social distancing restrictions, in September FAI was able to move forward with 'The Screen Industry Election Forum 2020'. It was a success by all accounts and the feedback received was positive, with the common theme saying the evening provided meaningful insights in what our industry future might look like under potential governments.

We placed focus on streamlining procedures and to decentralise administration tasks. We wanted a simple cloud application that gave us control of our website, which was inexpensive, easy-to-use and had automated membership management. Our choice was 'Wild Apricot' and we went live along with our updated website in July.

We have driven towards increasing our membership and currently have 100 individual members and a few corporate members, the largest FAI membership numbers in at least the past five years. Aside from our increased and consistent

communication with our community, this growth can largely be contributed to our outreach in March offering to waive membership fees in response to Covid-19. The future is uncertain and while there are reports of the industry taking off, this is patchy and many members are having to be very careful with discretionary spending. As membership fees are reviewed by members, the FAI events are likely to play a big part in driving continued membership.

The majority of the board members from the 2019/20 year are standing again and to those who are moving on, I would like to thank for their contribution.

I would also like to extend thanks to Jasmine Millet and Marie Jenkins who have been invaluable to Film Auckland and its members, through their tireless work in Screen Auckland.

And lastly, thanks to our Chair, Grant Baker, who has made considerable contributions to both Film Auckland and to the local industry. It was fantastic to see Grant recognised as the recipient of the 'Spada Award for 2020 Industry Champion' - extremely well deserved.

It's been wonderful to see the success New Zealand as a 'safe haven' for international productions and the boost of local content. The upcoming year promises to be a very busy one, and I look forward to the part Film Auckland will play in the industry.

#### **4. Election of Officers & Committee**

Deputy-Chair, Alex Lee, will stand down from the Board this year. Grant Baker acknowledged that Alex Lee has given a significant contribution to FAI by serving tirelessly on the Board for the past 10 years. The Board extends their heartfelt thanks to Alex Lee and extends honorary FAI membership in recognition. FAI members Sam Ramlu and Mary Lose are also standing down. Grant Baker gave thanks to both for their contribution. Mary Lose will continue to assist the FAI in an advisor capacity.

Grant Baker Moves that the following is the Board for 2020:

##### Office Members:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Chair        | Grant Baker    |
| 2. Deputy-Chair | Alice Shearman |
| 3. Secretary    | Marg Slater    |
| 4. Treasurer    | David Rowell   |

##### Board Members

5. Sioux MacDonald to continue on the Board
6. Ngaire Fuata to continue on the Board
7. James Brookes to continue on the Board
8. Gabriel Reid to continue on the Board
9. Mike Rehu to continue on the Board

10. Graham Dunster to continue on the Board
11. Annie Dodman to continue on the Board

*Grant Baker proposed a motion that the nominees be elected to positions as proposed and thanks the members that have re-stood. Passed unanimously.*

## 5. General Business

- The need to reach out and hear from our community
- Broad discussion on the consistency and sustainability of production into Auckland, identifying contributing factors to the peaks and lows
- Review leveraging streamers – could FAI play a part in consulting around the legislation?
- Discussion on FAI Kaupapa on ‘Greening the Screen’
- Events: Discussion proposed for first meeting with new Board to workshop what functions we should be organising for 2021

**Meeting closed at 7: 01 PM**