

THE ART OF RECOVERY

PRESS KIT



Fisheye Films Ltd
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New Zealand

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THE ART OF RECOVERY

KEY INFORMATION

TITLE	The Art of Recovery
ORIGINAL TITLE	The Art of Recovery
GENRE	Documentary
PRODUCTION YEAR	2015
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	New Zealand
LANGUAGE SPOKEN	English
DURATION	85 minutes
SHOOTING FORMAT	HD / C-300
SCREEN RATIO	16:9
FORMAT	BLU-RAY DVD, DCP
SOUND FORMAT	5.1, 2.0 Stereo
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION	New Zealand
DATE OF COMPLETION	July 2015
RELEASE DATE	NOVEMBER 5: Auckland release NOVEMBER 19: Wellington release
DOMESTIC RELEASE	NZIFF + TVNZ/TVOne
ADMISSION RATING	PG
PRODUCTION COMPANY	Fisheye Films
PRODUCERS	Peter Young, Tracy Roe
CO-PRODUCER & COMPANY	No
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Gaylene Preston
CINEMATOGRAPHER	Peter Young
DIRECTOR	Peter Young
EDITORS	Gaylene Barnes, Scott Flyger
POST PRODUCTION	Images and Sound
SOUND DESIGN	Chris Sinclair
COMPOSER	Tom McLeod
CAST / KEY CHARACTERS	Coralie Winn Ryan Reynolds Wongi Wilson Emma Wilson Johnny Moore Sam Crofskey Pete Majendie Barnaby Bennett Liv Worsnop Swingtown Rebels
WEBSITE	www.artofrecoveryfilm.com
FACEBOOK	www.facebook.com/artofrecoveryfilm

SYNOPSIS

Tag lines

From chaos came creativity and hope for a broken city

One-liner

As demolition gangs reduce ruins to rubble, innovators, artists and entrepreneurs are reviving the creative heart of post-quake Christchurch and fighting for its place in the future.

Synopsis

After a massive Earthquake shakes Christchurch city to its foundations, a group of hardy, creative residents reclaim the ruins through a variety of art and temporary community projects, providing a promising future for a dynamic new city.

When Central Government and big business arrive, they bring a corporate driven, urban plan, and the foundations are going down - but whose city will it be, and will the creative energy that brought the barren wasteland back to life be part of its future?

The Art of Recovery captures one of the most creative and contentious times in the history of New Zealand's second largest city, it tells an uplifting story of resilience and community spirit that informs a greater conversation about how we live together, and how our cities could be.

FESTIVALS

New Zealand International Film Festival 2015

REVIEWS

★★★★★ “beautiful... powerful... compelling... a genuine story of hope”

Chris Lynch, Newstalk ZB

<http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/opinion/chris-lynch-finding-hope-in-empty-spaces/>

★★★★½ “not what you might expect from a documentary about the Christchurch earthquake”

Richard Swainson, Rip it up

<http://www.ripitup.co.nz/screen/film-review-the-art-of-recovery-a-documentary-film-about-the-christchurch-earthquake-and-artists/>

★★★★ “a unique, exciting and hopeful watch”.

Ellena Zellhuber McMillan, One Room with a View

<https://oneroomwithaview.com/2015/09/04/art-recovery-review/>

★★★★ “ kinetic, interesting and inspiring...”

JAMES CROOT, THE PRESS

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/film/film-reviews/71697359/review-the-art-of-recovery>

★★★★ “an exhilarating affirmation of people power”

Peter Calder, New Zealand Herald

★★★★ “Using the camera as a megaphone, The Art of Recovery is a mighty documentary that gives great volume to a deserving voice.”

Liam Macguren, Flicks Reviews

<http://www.flicks.co.nz/blog/reviews/review-the-art-of-recovery/>

RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

“Christchurch filmmaker Peter Young celebrates the creative spirits that have brought life and community back to the heart of the city... he leaves us hoping against hope that the new city can be infused with some measure of the resurgent spirit, creativity and pride of community ownership so lovingly documented in his film.” *Bill Gosden, NZ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2015*

“Beautiful, inspiring, clever, and soulful.”
Rebecca Macfie, Journalist

“So much of Christchurch that is just pure joy to watch... 5 stars! It is so full of insight.”
Vicki Buck, Deputy Mayor Christchurch

“... a wonderful, positive, reflective, artistic piece about the tenacity of a city and the grassroots efforts to bring art, colour and joy back into it.”
Christine Powell, Filmmaker

“Powerful and persuasive.”
Sally Blundell, Journalist

“Let’s hope the men in suits who planned the city in 100 days make room for creativity and community and the art that comes with it.”
Kate White

“It captures contrast, beauty, magic, a people, a place and what happens when art can live, when bureaucracy fails, when community prevails.”
Carrie-Jo

“It was magic and uplifting.”
Dawn Tait

“A genuinely important film, balancing the voice of local communities and artists with those of the political industrial band-leaders driving a recovery consisting of monolithic building structures to concentrate power, monopolise street scapes and enhance consumerism for those who can least afford it.”
Ron Rodger

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Peter Young

The stark beauty of the ruins, the colourful art and daily life amidst the chaos, create the utterly fascinating urban landscape in which this story unfolds...

Being in Christchurch at the time of the earthquakes, I experienced first-hand the upheaval and trauma they caused the community. But if there was a silver lining to that day, it was the way it brought people together from all levels of society.

That spirit continued long after the quakes and what I found interesting was that in many cases, it manifested itself through people's art. The transformation of the city's energy and culture was quite remarkable, so living just a few blocks from central city, I decided to pick up my camera and start documenting it.

First and foremost, ***The Art of Recovery*** celebrates a collection of creative expressions that grew chaotically and spontaneously amongst the ruins as the city transitioned from a disaster zone into a community once again.

People found strength and community in the simplest of places – a mural on a concrete wall, a dance floor among the rubble, a fridge turned into a free book exchange, a memorial that volunteers made out of 185 white painted chairs.

From simple acts of kindness through to large scale works of art, each is a gift to a rejuvenating city, but the greatest gift is the movement itself. The temporary or transitional projects made us question the old and gave promise to the new. It made us think about how we live together and what cities are.

These discussions have relevance for anyone living in any city around the world. I hope you can benefit from the ideas that this story throws into the mix, without having to live through the Earthquakes that we did.

Peter Young

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Peter Young, DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/CINEMATOGRAPHER

Peter Young is a director, cameraman and producer with a strong connection to the land and the people who and live and work on it. He recently completed and released the feature documentary *Art of Recovery* (2015), and before that *The Last Ocean* (2012), a film project that spanned seven years and developed into a successful international environmental campaign promoting the protection of the Ross Sea in Antarctica. In 2012 Peter was named New Zealand Independent Screen Producer of the Year. He has credits in well over a hundred documentaries, among them BBC's *Blue Planet Series*, *The Quest for the Giant Squid* for Discovery, and acclaimed TVNZ series *Country Calendar* and *Explorers*. Peter shot and produced the TVNZ prime-time series *Hunger for the Wild*, *Coasters* and *Get Fresh with Al Brown*. He has won many awards for his skills and creativity both shooting and directing, but it's the opportunity to work with great teams and tell great stories that keeps him in the business.

Selected Credits

Producer / Director / DP *The Art of Recovery* 2015 Feature documentary for Fisheye Films

Producer / Director / DP *The Last Ocean* 2012 Feature documentary for Fisheye Films

DP *Deep Trouble* 1 hour Environmental doco for BBC Blue Planet series

DP/Producer *Get Fresh with Al Brown* 10 X 30 minute culinary adventure series for TVNZ

DP/Producer *Coasters* 17 X 30 minute journeys around NZ Coastline for TVNZ

DP *Remembering Ed: A Tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary* 1 hour HD Doco celebrating the life of Sir Edmund Hillary for TVNZ

DP/Producer *Hunger for the Wild Series* 27 X 30 minute culinary adventure series for TVNZ

DP *Here to Stay* 6 X 1 hour documentary series on New Zealand Settlers for TVNZ

DP/Director *Chasing Giants: On the trail of the Giant Squid* for Discovery Channel USA

DP *Explorers* 4 X 1 hour New Zealand History documentary for TVNZ

DP *Between the Lines Dennis Glover* 1 hour Art doco on iconic NZ poet for TVNZ

DP *Country Calendar* : Over 60 episodes for NZ's longest running documentary series.

DP *Quest for the Giant Squid* BBC for Discovery Channel

Peter Young AWARDS

- 2014 *The Last Ocean*
Stelvio National Park Award Sondrio Festival
Wildscreen Festival Jury's Special Selection for Screening
Grand Prize Vancouver Festival of Ocean Films
Best Conservation Film New York WILD Film Festival
Spirit of Activism Award Wild & Scenic Film Festival
Best Environmental Film Waimea Ocean Film Festival
Peoples' Choice Waimea Ocean Film Festival
Best Film Ocean Environment Waimea Ocean Film Festival
- 2013 *The Last Ocean*
Special Consideration Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival
Best Feature Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival
Best New Zealand Film Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival
Best Science Communication Film Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival
Best Call2Action Film Boulder International Film Festival
Royal Reel Award Documentary Canada International Film Festival
Best Documentary Real to Reel International Film Festival
Moving Mountains Award MountainFilm in Telluride
- 2012 SPADA Independent Producer of the Year
New Zealand Screen Producer and Development Association Awards
- 2009 Best Information and Lifestyle Show: *Hunger for the Wild*
Qantas New Zealand Film & Television Awards
Best Camera (Documentary): *Hunger for the Wild*
Qantas New Zealand Film & Television Awards
- 2007 Best Factual Series: *Hunger for the Wild*
Best Camera – Documentary: *Country Calendar Cray Coast*
New Zealand Screen Awards
- 2005 Best Camera – Documentary: *Explorers*
New Zealand Screen Awards
Best Camera Documentary: *Country Calendar Erewhon*
Qantas Media Awards
- 2003 Finalist - Best Documentary: *Chasing Giants On the trail of the Giant Squid*
International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula Montana
- 2002 Best Camera: *Country Calendar Mt Ida Muster*
New Zealand Television Awards
- 2000 Best Camera: *Country Calendar Yankee Harvest*
New Zealand Television Awards

Quotes from the Director:

“Initially I set out to capture the creativity in the city but in the process discovered a fascinating discussion about what cities are and what they can be. That discussion has relevance not only for Christchurch but for any city in any part of the world.”

“Christchurch is now at a crucial crossroad, as the city rises it will be interesting to see how much of this dynamic transitional movement will remain in the fabric of the city’s future.”

“It’s work that is attracting the attention of urban designers around the world – some of whom feature in the documentary. They describe the creative recovery as ‘pioneering’ and ‘powerful’.”

“What we saw were people, some of whom were previously on the fringes of the cultural norm, being given an opportunity to shine and lead the recovery. The street artists, in particular, have a fascinating perspective on this.”

“Their stories reveal the power of the human spirit. What they have achieved in post-quake Christchurch is really quite remarkable. They responded quickly and creatively to the earthquakes bringing life back to the ruins of the central city by creating welcoming places for people to be”.

FISHEYE FILMS

Fisheye Films is a film and television production company based in Christchurch, the largest city in New Zealand's scenic South Island.

Established in 1997 by Peter Young, Fisheye Films produces high quality feature and television documentaries, as well as commercials and corporate videos for the national and international market.

Peter Young recently produced and directed the feature-length documentaries 'The Art of Recovery' (2015) and in 2012 'The Last Ocean' which has screened at over 60 international film festivals, as well as on Prime TV, New Zealand.

Fisheye Films has also produced several prime-time television series for TVNZ including three series of the award-winning 'Hunger for the Wild', two series of 'Coasters', and 'Get Fresh with Al Brown'.

- **ENDS**