



DOCNZ FESTIVAL 2006 INTERNATIONAL JURY MEMBERS CONFIRMED

DOCNZ FESTIVAL 2006 is pleased to confirm its international jury members. Sean Farnel, Programming Director of the internationally renowned HOTDOCS International Documentary Film Festival in Canada and Sonya Pemberton, Head of Specialist Factual at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation will attend as international jury members for the DOCNZ Contest.

Sean was appointed as Director of Programming for HOTDOCS in November 2005, following five years as a programmer for the A-listed Toronto International Film Festival Group (TIFFG). While at TIFFG, Sean also launched the hugely successful screening and discussion series, Reel Talk (formerly Talk Cinema), Jump Cuts and the Student Film Showcase as well as continuing programmes for youth and emerging filmmakers.

Sonya, a senior ABC executive, manages a team of 4 Executive Producers and 80 staff, producing over 80 hours of documentary and magazine programming per year. Before joining the ABC in 2004, Sonya wrote and directed over 40 hours of independent documentary, winning awards including the Grand Prix, Beijing Science Film Festival (2002), Silver Award, Beijing Science Film Festival (2004) and the Eureka Prize for Science Journalism (2003 and 2004).

DOCNZ Chairman, Alex Lee says:

"Sonya and Sean will lend their experience and skills to help us judge the best DOCNZ documentaries in 2006. Their presence is part of our mission to internationalise DOCNZ and to bring new funding and market opportunities for New Zealand film-makers. We also like to announce our inaugural international Pitch Forum to be held during DOCNZ Festival 2006, details of which will be made available shortly. Other international guests, film-makers, judges and panellists will be advised as confirmations come to hand."

The inaugural international Pitch Forum is being introduced to attract new funding sources for New Zealand documentaries including co-productions with other countries. DOCNZ expects that it will be swamped by applications by local film-makers seeking the opportunity to participate at the Pitch Forum but participation will be by strict selection and on an invitation only basis.

Visit: www.docnzfestival.com

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