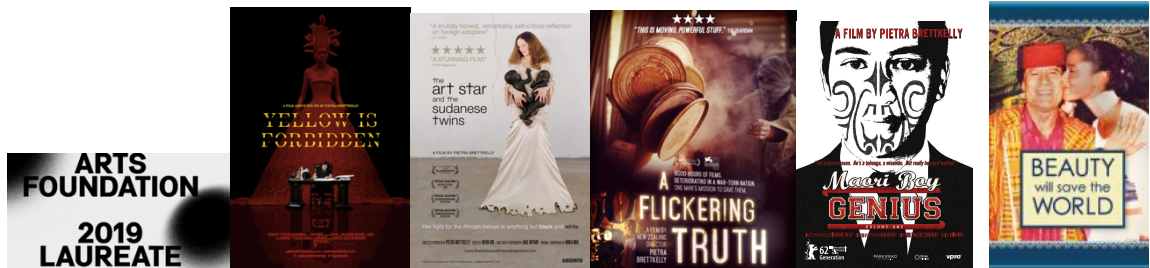


PRODUCER/DIRECTOR/WRITER

PIETRA BRETTKELLY

"I felt I was in the hands of a master storyteller." Still in Motion magazine



MY HISTORY

I am a Sundance award-winning and three times Oscar-selected director and producer. I am the inaugural 2019 New Zealand Arts Laureate in Documentary. I am a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and have the unique honour of having my films premier In Competition at five of the world's top six film festivals.

A collection of my films recently screened at the Uffizi Gallery, Florence and previously also screened at MOMA, New York, breaking beyond the usual film festivals and cinema screening. My most recent film will be the first New Zealand film to be acquired by the most significant documentary film strand, BBC Storyville which acquires only 16 films annually from around the world.

I am truly passionate about filmmaking – the risks I've taken in making some of my films exhibit either passion or craziness! I am motivated by stories that matter, the personal journeys that reflect a bigger issue.

I specialise in making unique, intimate cinematic work that open windows into another world. My work has a considered quietness, a non-judgmental approach that allows my subjects to tell their stories. I treasure the honesty and the privilege people grant me, to capture and document an often-pivotal time in their lives.

These stories I believe will encouraged a greater understanding of each other, across language, religion, borders to bring us towards a more universal empathy.

I continue to focus my perspective on the lives of women and through my films highlight their remarkableness, making both their lives and my own ones to inspire others.

As a child I travelled from Papua New Guinea to Portugal, with parents that encouraged a wonder, a curiosity and appreciation for the diversity of peoples and their stories. I now spend years on each film, in countries like Afghanistan, Sudan, Russia, the Brazilian Amazon, China and the Middle East.

My most recent film YELLOW IS FORBIDDEN premiered In Competition and Opening Weekend at Tribeca Film Festival before being selected for both Best Foreign Language and Best Documentary at the Oscars. My previous film A FLICKERING TRUTH opened in competition at both Venice Film Festival and Toronto Film Festival and was then selected as the New Zealand Best Foreign Language entrant for the Oscars. My 2008 film THE ART STAR AND THE SUDANESE TWINS won the World Cinema Documentary Editing Award at Sundance Film Festival and screened in over 100 film festivals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS INCLUDE

- New Zealand Arts Laureate 2019
- The Oscars Best Foreign Film 2018, New Zealand selection
- The Oscars Best Documentary 2018
- Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars)
- NZFC Producer's Award, Women In Film Best Documentary 2016
- The Oscars Best Foreign Film 2015, New Zealand selection
- Qantas Film and Television Best Documentary Director
- Best Director at EIDF Seoul, Korea
- Best Documentary Whistler Film Festival, Canada
- Special Jury Prize Zurich Film Festival
- Best Feature Documentary Human Rights Film Festival, Jordan
- Best Documentary Warsaw International Film Festival

I have received support from the Sundance Institute, Gucci Tribeca Fund, BritDoc, the Binger Film Lab and the New Zealand Film Commission. I am a three times Sundance Institute alum having attended the Creative Producing Labs twice and the Edit and Documentary Lab, both invitation only labs.

My work has enjoyed unique international success In Competition at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Hotdocs Toronto, Zurich International Film Festival, the Melbourne International Film Festival and Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival, Bergen International Film Festival, the Sydney Film Festival and the Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York.

I have also made a point of sharing my knowledge through mentorship and over the years have supported and fostered the careers of numerous young female filmmakers in New Zealand around the world.

FILMOGRAPHY

2018 YELLOW IS FORBIDDEN, world premier Tribeca Film Festival, Oscar's Best Foreign Language and Best Documentary selection

2015 A FLICKERING TRUTH, world premier Venice Film Festival, Toronto Film Festival, Oscar's Best Foreign Language selection

2012 MAORI BOY GENIUS, world premier Berlin Film Festival

2008 THE ART STAR AND THE SUDANESE TWINS, world premier Sundance Film Festival

2003 BEAUTY WILL SAVE THE WORLD, world premier AFI Film Festival

Pietra Brett Kelly's enigmatic rendering ... is not a straightforward artist's profile, political commentary or domestic drama, but a poetic fusion of the three." Variety Magazine

