

A woman with short white hair, wearing a black jacket over a pink shirt and black pants, stands in a hallway. She is holding a wooden cane in her right hand and a black handbag in her left. The hallway has a blue carpet and white walls with wooden handrails. The lighting is somewhat dim, with a bright light source at the end of the hallway.

A SHORT FILM BY DAVID J. STRONG

# PACIFIC DREAMS

"Life is outside, it doesn't come in..."

[www.inspirefilms.co.nz](http://www.inspirefilms.co.nz)

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Running time: approx 12 minutes



# PACIFIC DREAMS

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

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IMDB: [www.imdb.com/title/tt1866215/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1866215/)

## PRODUCTION NOTES

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Writer/Director: David J Strong  
Producers: Catherine Juniot & David Strong  
Prodn Companies: Inspire Films & Morepork Films  
Format: DIGIBETA 25FPS; Sound: Stereo  
Running time: 12'51"; Aspect Ratio: 16:9  
Year of Completion: 2010; Language: English  
Country of Production: New Zealand

*Pacific Dreams* is an original and insightful story with universal themes that will appeal to audiences both in New Zealand and internationally. The crew is comprehensive and highly experienced, and the cast is superb.

## TAGLINE

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Life is outside, it doesn't come in...

## LOGLINE

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In the grey, limbo world that is Pacific Dreams Rest Home, the residents exist, but don't live. Grace, an elderly and determined lady, struggles against the Head Nurse to bring life inside and uphold human dignity.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

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Pacific Dreams Rest Home, 'that sounds nice doesn't it, a place to rest and dream,' says the Taxi Driver to Grace as they drive up to the front entrance. Grace soon discovers that to rest and dream is not always pleasant. For Pacific Dreams is limbo, a grey, quiet place between life and death, where residents exist but don't live.

The staff, led by Joan the Head Nurse, have lost their way. The residents need care, but there are rules and it's easier if everyone obeys them. The residents come and go, and Joan is there to ease them on their way.

Such dogma doesn't sit well with Grace, a genteel lady who's lived life to the fullest and isn't about to give it up now. She changes things bit by bit, like re-opening the curtains that have been closed before it is dark, bringing fresh flowers inside and sitting at the men's only table.

Grace's actions break the rules and Joan sets about stopping her. The women struggle in a passive-aggressive way. In the end, quiet dignity and determination wins through and Joan is reminded that we are never too old to live and love.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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*Pacific Dreams* is a story of many layers. It is about not accepting your circumstances, trying to change things and struggling against the establishment. It's also about never giving up on life and living it to the fullest. Finally, it's about reminding us that we can retain our dignity no matter your circumstances.

The story is set in Pacific Dreams Rest Home, a place that's lost its way. It's limbo, the grey place between life and death. Life is on the outside and doesn't come in. It's dim, Spartan, quiet and serene. It's practical and rules and routine have replaced love of the elderly. Joan, the Head Nurse, has forgotten why she works there and is now going through the motions. The elderly don't fight back, don't argue, and they die, move on.

Into Pacific Dreams comes Grace, who isn't prepared to give it up on life. She's quiet, dignified, mischievous, fun and lively. She sums the situation up and decides to change it. Joan doesn't like this and decides to set Grace straight. Thus, conflict. In the end, through her courage and taking a chance, Grace reminds us all what it is to be human.

These themes and story translate into how we shot *Pacific Dreams*. Inside it's dim and dull, and the colours are grey and muted. It's quiet, no dialogue or music and the only sounds are vacuum cleaners and knives and forks clinking at mealtime. It's slow and people wander along like automatons. The set is spartan, there are no flowers or decorations, only clocks. Grace is bright but her clothes appear muted the deeper she walks down the corridors. We chose tight spaces and used tight shots to deliberately reinforce Grace's confinement.

Outside it's bright, light, there's colour and sounds of life, birds and children. But, it can't come in. For most of the elderly, they no longer bother looking out because they've forgotten. Here we used wide shots capturing colour and life all about Grace, framing her in colour and sound. Outside she finds peace and is re-engendered for her battle against Joan. A quick shot of elderly John in the window reinforces his imprisonment.

There's also significance in the name "Pacific Dreams". It's a falsehood, a marketing ploy. Pacific, like the blue tranquil water of the Pacific Ocean, like a Pacific Island with palm trees and greenery. Dreams, like happy dreaming, to relax.



# PACIFIC DREAMS

## THE WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

DAVID STRONG is a writer/director/producer from Wellington, New Zealand. He has written and directed a short film, Pacific Dreams starring Dame Kate Harcourt. He is writing and plans to direct an original feature film screenplay, The Pilgrim, which is currently in development with the New Zealand Film Commission. David is also writing another feature script set in New Zealand and Poland in World War Two, The Child Alone. David studied fictional story structure and film during his Bachelor of Arts. He is a member of the New Zealand Writers Guild and Screen Directors Guild.

David's other credits include: The Waterhorse - Military Advisor, 3rd AD and splinter unit Director shooting background military scenes in Scotland; and 3rd AD on a Peter Jackson short film for the Australian War Museum.

David is also a strategic business consultant. Earlier in his life he served in the New Zealand Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. During this time he served in the Middle East, Bosnia and East Timor. He was twice awarded the United Nations Commendation for Service to Peace.

David has two Master of Arts degrees; one from Kings College UK and the other from the University of Waikato (Honours). He has a Bachelor of Arts degree (English Literature) from the University of New South Wales.



## THE PRODUCER

CATHERINE JUNIOT is a Film Producer and Entertainment Lawyer with over 12 years' experience working in the NZ and International Film and TV Industries.

Catherine currently has two feature films in development with the New Zealand Film Commission: and has just produced three short films, Pacific Dreams; A Fictitious Thesis; and Cinderella's Prince. Catherine was also Associate Producer on Inconceivable, starring Andie MacDowell.

As well as producing, Catherine is a Freelance Legal & Business Affairs Advisor to the New Zealand Film and TV Industries. Catherine was Business Affairs Manager at the New Zealand Film Commission during which time she played a key role in the financing, contracting, selling and production monitoring of the following feature films: The World's Fastest Indian, Number 2, Black Sheep, Sione's Wedding, Eagle vs Shark and Out of the Blue.

Catherine has a Bachelor of Laws Degree and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Victoria University of Wellington.

## THE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

WARRICK (WAKA) ATTEWEL is one of New Zealand's most experienced feature film, commercial and documentary Cinematographers – and through his own production company is also the Producer and Director of many iconic New Zealand TVCs.

For his work on feature films and international television series, notably Xena Warrior Princess as Main Unit DP, Waka has been praised by the most insightful of Hollywood's critics. Variety Magazine described his work on Starlight Hotel as "being magnificent". Leonard Maltin had this to say about the same film: "A friendly film about a most unlikely friendship. Warrick Attewell's cinematography is a standout!"

Winner, Best Cinematography Award for the feature film The Whole Of The Moon in the New Zealand Film and Television Awards - Waka's achievements are multifarious; DP on more than a dozen feature films, Director/DP of a score of international award-winning commercials, dramas and documentaries. Waka brings passion, talent and commitment to every project, utilising his specialist skills in aerial and adventure work. He is proficient with motion control concepts and preparation of live action on location for CGI requirements.





# PACIFIC DREAMS

## THE CAST

**"GRACE"** played by  
**DAME KATE HARCOURT**

Dame Kate is one of New Zealand's foremost actresses and her most recent credits include the following feature films: *Separation City*, *Apron Strings*, *Second Hand Wedding*, and *Without A Paddle*.



**"JOAN"** played by  
**TINA CLEARY**

Tina's acting credits include: *The Strip*, *The Lost Children* and *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*.

**"JOHN"** played by  
**DON LANGRIDGE**

Don's acting credits include: *Second Hand Wedding*, *Absent Without Leave*, *Duggan*, *The Singing Trophy* and *Revelations*.



**"HIWI"** played by  
**TUREI REEDY**

Turei's acting credits include: *Until Proven Innocent* and *The Strip*.

## BILLING BLOCK

INSPIRE FILMS and MOREPORK FILMS present  
"PACIFIC DREAMS"

DAME KATE HARCOURT, DON LANGRIDGE,  
TUREI REEDY & TINA CLEARY

Casting MIRANDA RIVERS

Original music GEOFF DUNCAN

Sound Design JEREMY CULLEN

Costume Design WANDA LEPIONKA-STRONG  
& KERSTIN KARY

Hair & Make-up Design HIL COOK

Art Direction ANNA BROWN

First Assistant Director DARREN MACKIE

Director of Photography WAKA ATTEWELL

Editor PAUL SUTORIUS

Producers CATHERINE JUNIOT

& DAVID J STRONG

Written & Directed by DAVID J STRONG

