



THE PEOPLE

JOHN BARNETT

John Barnett is New Zealand's leading TV and film producer.

He began his career in the film and television industry in 1973. Over the past 35 years, he has produced television drama, documentaries and feature films including the Oscar-nominated and internationally acclaimed film *Whale Rider*, the feel-good Polynesian comedy *Sione's Wedding*; *Middle Age Spread*; *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*; *Race for the Yankee Zephyr*; *What Becomes Of The Broken-Hearted?* (the sequel to *Once Were Warriors*); and the animated hit, *Footrot Flats*.

Barnett has produced or executive produced four of the top six grossing New Zealand films.

He has been active in the politics of the business throughout his career and was a founder of New Zealand's industry magazine, OnFilm. He has also been actively involved in film, television and video distribution and in the development of multiplex cinemas in New Zealand.

He joined South Pacific Pictures in 1993 as Managing Director. In early 1998, he led a management buy-out of South Pacific. South Pacific Pictures is currently owned by Barnett and All3Media, the leading UK media company.

John also set up Sundance Channel NZ (now the Rialto Channel) – the first Sundance affiliated channel outside the United States.

John has served two terms on the Board of the New Zealand Film Commission - 1988-1992 and 1999-2001. He was a member of the Screen Production Industry Taskforce, a Government initiative to further develop the New Zealand film and television industry.

In November 2002, he was made the SPADA/OnFilm Industry Champion of the Year; and in 2003 was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. This honour was awarded for Barnett's services to the film industry.

In May 2007 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Wellington's Victoria University for his contribution to the establishment of New Zealand's growing film and television industry and its growing international reputation.

Barnett has been active in other areas of media. In 1972 he co-founded New Zealand's leading weekly business newspaper, National Business Review. He was a director of NBR from 1972-1985. In 2007 he re-established Dawn Raid Music – New Zealand's leading urban music label.

He is a director of South Pacific Pictures associated companies:

Satellite Media Ltd:

New media company, developers of myheartwill.com site and publishers of New Zealand's leading music magazine, Rip It Up

SLR Productions:

Australian-based animation company

Kura Productions:

New Zealand production company focused on developing Maori talent and ideas