

**Jess Charlton :: Cinematographer :: Camera Operator :: Drone Operator**

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**Jess Charlton on IMDb :: Jess Charlton on NZ ON SCREEN**

**Selected recent cinematography and camera operator credits**

**2025**

**Napier Paradiso** - NZFC Catalyst funded short film directed by Jade Jackson (in post-production)

**Antarctica in a Warming World** - Short documentary directed by Magnolia Lowe for Antarctica NZ

**Be Merry** - Feature documentary directed by Gwen Isaac (in post-production)

**2024**

**Ratu** - Documentary directed by Nina Nawalowalo (in post-production)

**Red Rocks** - (second unit camera operator/ underwater camera technician/ drone gimbal operator) - 8 part TV drama series directed by David Stubbs

**2023**

**Little Apocalypse** - 8 part drama TV series for TVNZ directed by Sally and Elsie Bollinger

**Ministry of Jingle** - Short film directed by Maddie Dai

**My Cyclone Gabrielle - River Memory** - Episode in 4 part documentary series directed by Anna Marbrook

**The Watch** - Short film directed by Hiroki Kamada for Panasonic Lumix

**2022**

**The Strangest of Angels** - Dramatisation of the opera *Strangest of Angels* directed by Rebecca Tansley

**Ultimately Lacks Polish** - Short documentary directed by Kathleen Winter

**Ms Information** - Feature documentary directed by Gwen Isaac

**2021**

**Raids** - Short film directed and produced by Jade Jackson

**Stories of a Generation with Pope Francis - Episode 2** (Camera Operator) NETFLIX documentary series

**Boyfriend** - Short film directed and produced by Roberto Nascimento

**2020**

**A Boy Called Piano - The Story of Fa'amoana 'John' Luafutu** - Feature documentary directed by Nina Nawalowalo

**From the Mountains to the Sea** - Short documentary directed by Anna Marbrook

**2019**

**Loimata: The Sweetest Tears** - Feature documentary directed by Anna Marbrook, funded by NZ on Air

**Rise** - Short documentary directed by Jess Feast, funded by Doc Edge

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**Water Baby** - Short documentary directed by Kathy McRae, funded by Loading Docs

**Beyond White Guilt** - Short documentary series directed by Kathleen Winter

**2012 - 2018**

**Ruahine: Stories in her Skin** - Feature documentary directed by Hiona Henare

**The Secret Life of Sex Workers** - 3 part short documentary series directed by Rachel Millar for TVNZ

**FLIP** - Short film directed by Jessica Grace Smith

**Tragicomic** - 9 part web series directed by Sally and Elsie Bollinger

**Happy Playland** - 10 part web series directed by Sally and Elsie Bollinger

**Dance of the Lonely Birds** - Short film directed by Ana Scotney

**Bright Summer Night** - 10 part web series directed by Sally and Elsie Bollinger

**Tama** - Short film directed by Jack O'Donnell and Jared Flitcroft

**Hannah and Rebecca** - Proof of concept short drama directed by Vincent Ward

**Everybody Else is Taken** - Short film directed by Jessica Grace Smith

**Existence** - Feature film directed by Juliet Bergh

### **Aerial Cinematography**

**2017 - 2025** - Drone pilot on commercials, feature films, short films and documentaries

**2012 - 2025** - Gimbal operator on commercials, feature films and documentaries

More information including portfolio can be found at [skyhook.nz](http://skyhook.nz)

### **Short courses and professional development**

**2021** 3 week DOP internship with Richard Bluck on *Avatar*

**2020** Technodolly operating course - Share the Knowledge, Auckland

**2020** NZ Film Commission online mentorship with DOP Ginny Loane

**2007** The Craft of the Camera Operator - Short course at AFTRS, Sydney, Australia

### **Teaching**

**2024** Massey University - Senior Tutor - short course - camera and sound for documentary

**2021- 2022** - Te Herenga Waka Victoria University Wellington - Teaching Fellow - film production (full time)  
2nd and 3rd year BA Film and MFA Film (Creative Practice)

**2011- 2020** - various guest tutor positions at Massey University, Whitireia, WelTec, Toi Whakaari

**2008- 2010** - The New Zealand Film and Television School - Technician (full time)

**2006- 2007** - Te Herenga Waka Victoria University Wellington - Tutor in photography and digital video

### **Qualifications**

**Graduate Diploma in Film** - 2009 - Te Herenga Waka Victoria University Wellington

**Bachelor of Fine Arts (honours) in Photomedia** - 2005 - Massey University

**Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy** - 2003 - Te Herenga Waka Victoria University Wellington