

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday 18 September**

**SMALLER FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO HAWKE'S BAY**

The annual NZ International Film Festival returns to the Cinema Gold Havelock North from Thursday with a condensed line-up of local and international films.

A rapid change in film formats over the last 12 months has meant that a large number of Festival titles were unavailable for the Hawke's Bay leg this year. DCP, Digital Cinema Packages, is becoming the dominant format for film exhibition internationally. Over half of the Festival programme in Auckland and Wellington were screened from DCPs.

"Film exhibition in New Zealand is currently undergoing the biggest technical revolution since the introduction of sound. Cinema Gold Havelock North is not yet equipped to show DCPs. Like many independent cinemas around the country they are awaiting an industry-wide arrangement to share the massive costs involved in upgrading the presentation technology," says Festival Director Bill Gosden.

"While we cannot display a full range of films this year we promise that the programme is packed with rewarding films from New Zealand and much further afield." says Gosden.

The Festival will open on Thursday 20 September with *Bernie*, a comedy starring Jack Black, and will run until Sunday 30 September, closing with IRA spy thriller *Shadow Dancer*. 24 films will screen over the ten days, including eight NZ-made films and two NZ shorts programmes.

Tickets are on sale now from the cinema. The full NZIFF programme is available online and copies of the brochures are available from the cinema, and at libraries and cafes around Havelock North and Napier.

For Festival updates visit [www.nzff.co.nz](http://www.nzff.co.nz) and register to receive e-newsletters.

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**For further information about the NZ International Film Festival or to arrange an interview with Director Bill Gosden please contact:**

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