

Sorcery, Witchcraft and the Figure of the Witch Panellists

Mia Maramara

Mia Maramara is a Filipino filmmaker with work that has screened both locally and internationally. Her passion for authentic, trailblazing stories has led her to wear different hats in the industry, most notably as a writer and director.

She most recently wrote and directed *Beyond the Veil: Albularyo* for TV2, which earned her the distinction of being the first Filipino director to helm a prime-time drama on New Zealand television. In 2021, she won the SPADA New Filmmaker of the Year award.

In the same year, she released her short animated documentary *Only Human* and wrote for anthology feature film *Kāinga*, the third film in the trilogy following *Waru* and *Vai*, which screened at Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival 2022, Melbourne International Film Festival, and Hawaii International Film Festival. Her feature film *Grafted*, co-written with Hweiling Ow, was recently picked up by UK-based sales agent Mister Smith Entertainment.

Mia has participated in Philippine National Artist Ricky Lee's Cinemalaya Masterclass as well as the Directors and Editors Guild Female Director Incubato.

Hweiling Ow

Hweiling's journey to becoming a filmmaker is a story of determination and passion. While being chased by a pack of dogs in the bustling streets of Malaysia, Hweiling realised that her true calling was in the realm of filmmaking, which allowed her to explore her diverse interests and talents. Despite starting as an unknown newcomer in New Zealand, Hweiling quickly made a name for herself through her compelling content creation. Her online horror shorts, including *T is for Talk*, *The Tattooist*, and *The Claw*, amassed more than 20 million views and garnered widespread acclaim.

Hweiling's talents did not go unnoticed, as she secured funding from The New Zealand Film Commission for her genre-based short films *Vaspy* and *ChengBeng*, as well as her feature film *Grafted*. She also received support from New Zealand On Air for several public broadcast projects, including the acclaimed series *AFK*, *The Basement*, and *Homebound 3.0*.

Her dedication to her craft earned her numerous accolades, including the prestigious Women to Watch award at the 2020 New Zealand Women in Film and TV (WIFTNZ) ceremony. Her work often explored the intersection of her

experiences as a migrant and the complexities of her upbringing, creating poignant and resonant narratives.

She is currently in development with Mia Maramara on TV show *The Witch Doctor*.

When she's not immersed in her creative endeavours, Hweiling enjoys unwinding with a spirited game of online Beat Saber. With her boundless energy, creativity, and drive, Hweiling is a force to be reckoned with in the world of filmmaking.

Delilah Te Aōrere Pārore-Southon

Delilah (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Kuihi, Ngāti Hinemihi, Ngāti Pūkenga, Te Whakatōhea) is a writer, editor, publicist and communications strategist. She creates stories, creative partnerships and wairua-filled communication strategies to grow communities and build deep connections. She believes storytelling and matakite is a taonga, a gift from her tūpuna and a tool to heal for mokopuna apōpō, future generations.

Delilah works on an evolving rotation of creative projects, and varying Te Aō Māori kaupapa, she has been the Kaiwahakaere Tūhongonoa, Partnerships Manager at The Pantograph Punch, and amongst other things, leads the communication, storytelling and PR direction for Kiwibank New Zealander of The Year Awards. Her mahi is fostered across the arts sector, and the media, regularly working with organisations and galleries to help hold the taonga of stories and encourage new ways of thinking and feeling. She is a regular contributor of long-form essays, profiles, features and thought pieces for leading arts and culture publications across Aotearoa, and her writing has been published across galleries, and outlets in Aotearoa, and internationally. Nurtured by traditional Māori narrative, whakapapa, contemporary culture, alchemic curiosity, and the ways of bygone era's; Delilah is currently weaving her old-soul daydreams on the intimacies of modern life into a book of essays and short stories due to be published late 2023.

Delilah is a staunch advocate of Māori and indigenous rights and development and is leading iwi and hapu development initiatives for Te Kuihi, in Tunatahi, Te Tai Tokerau. Her Māori development mahi sees her nurturing relationships between the crown, key stakeholders and hapu crafting solutions for the way forward, in an ode to Tino-rangatiratanga. She's passionate about heart to heart, vibrant, real communication that opens doors, establishes genuine connection and starts new kōrero, and conversation for real change and impact.