

**WIDC 2014 SIM 2.0
MENTOR DIRECTOR**



GAYLENE PRESTON

Gaylene Preston's career has spanned three decades, and her generosity of spirit and her powerful mentorship and advocacy skills have been central to the development of New Zealand's filmmaking community.

After studying painting at Illam School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, NZ, Preston began making films while working at Fulbourn Psychiatric Hospital in Cambridge U.K. Since her return to her homeland in 1977, she has built an impressive body of independent work, several of which have become much-loved New Zealand classics. Gaylene Preston's award-winning films have screened extensively at international festivals including Venice, Sundance, Toronto, London, Chicago, Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand.

Her most recent feature (2010) *HOME BY CHRISTMAS*, won critical and popular acclaim and remains one of the top 15 grossing New Zealand films of all time at the New Zealand box office. She was appointed the inaugural filmmaker Arts Foundation Laureate in 2001 and is an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit recognizing her services to filmmaking.

Her latest project, *HOPE AND WIRE*, a six-part television drama series written, produced and directed by Preston, is currently in post production being sound mixed at Park Road Post by Mike Hedges (Oscar nominated this year for *The Desolation of Smaug*) and graded by Clare Burlinson with cinematographer Thomas Burstyn CSC (*Defiance*).

HOPE AND WIRE focuses on the social and psychological upheaval during the Christchurch earthquakes and aftermath of 2010/11, starring a strong ensemble cast lead by U.K. actor Bernard Hill (*LOTR*, *Titanic*).

The aftershocks run deep.

<http://www.gaylenepreston.com>

<http://www.homebychristmas.com/>