

# THE ART OF RECOVERY

## PRESS KIT



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# THE ART OF RECOVERY

## KEY INFORMATION

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>TITLE</b>                     | The Art of Recovery  |
| <b>ORIGINAL TITLE</b>            | The Art of Recovery  |
| <b>GENRE</b>                     | Documentary  |
| <b>PRODUCTION YEAR</b>           | 2015   |
| <b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</b>         | New Zealand  |
| <b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN</b>           | English  |
| <b>DURATION</b>                  | 85 minutes   |
| <b>SHOOTING FORMAT</b>           | HD / C-300   |
| <b>SCREEN RATIO</b>              | 16:9   |
| <b>FORMAT</b>                    | BLU-RAY DVD, DCP   |
| <b>SOUND FORMAT</b>              | 5.1, 2.0 Stereo  |
| <b>COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION</b>     | New Zealand  |
| <b>DATE OF COMPLETION</b>        | July 2015  |
| <b>RELEASE DATE</b>              | NOVEMBER 5: Auckland release<br>NOVEMBER 19: Wellington release  |
| <b>DOMESTIC RELEASE</b>          | NZIFF + TVNZ/TVOne   |
| <b>ADMISSION RATING</b>          | PG   |
| <b>PRODUCTION COMPANY</b>        | Fisheye Films  |
| <b>PRODUCERS</b>                 | Peter Young, Tracy Roe   |
| <b>CO-PRODUCER &amp; COMPANY</b> | No   |
| <b>EXECUTIVE PRODUCER</b>        | Gaylene Preston  |
| <b>CINEMATOGRAPHER</b>           | Peter Young  |
| <b>DIRECTOR</b>                  | Peter Young  |
| <b>EDITORS</b>                   | Gaylene Barnes, Scott Flyger   |
| <b>POST PRODUCTION</b>           | Images and Sound   |
| <b>SOUND DESIGN</b>              | Chris Sinclair   |
| <b>COMPOSER</b>                  | Tom McLeod   |
| <b>CAST / KEY CHARACTERS</b>     | Coralie Winn<br>Ryan Reynolds<br>Wongi Wilson<br>Emma Wilson<br>Johnny Moore<br>Sam Crofskey<br>Pete Majendie<br>Barnaby Bennett<br>Liv Worsnop<br>Swing Town Rebels |
| <b>WEBSITE</b>                   | <a href="http://www.artofrecoveryfilm.com">www.artofrecoveryfilm.com</a>   |
| <b>FACEBOOK</b>                  | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/artofrecoveryfilm">www.facebook.com/artofrecoveryfilm</a>   |

## SYNOPSIS

### Tag lines

The creative aftershocks of a natural disaster  
From chaos came creativity and hope for a broken city

### One-liner

As demolition gangs reduce ruins to rubble, innovators, artists and entrepreneurs are bringing life back to the streets of post-quake Christchurch, empowering the people and creating a promising future for a dynamic new city.

### Synopsis

When a massive earthquake shakes Christchurch city to its foundations, amid the ruins and continuing aftershocks a vibrant community-led movement emerges, transforming the urban wasteland of central city into a giant canvas for people to express their responses to the earthquakes and their hopes for the city.

Downtown has become a frontier of creativity where new ideas flourish. From simple acts of kindness to large-scale works of art, each is a gift to a recovering city – yet the greatest gift is the vibrant transitional movement itself. From raw and tragic beginnings, it has grown from a groundswell of spontaneous gap filling into a force that could redefine the shape of the future city.

Projects like Gap Filler's Dance-O-mat and Pallet Pavilion, the profusion of street art and Peter Majendie's 185 Empty Chairs Memorial have become iconic symbols of the grassroots urban movement and provide sharp contrast to central Government's big business, corporate driven approach to the rebuild of the city. Soon, a new city will arise, but whose city will it be, and will the creative energy that brought life to the rubble be a part of its future?

The Art of Recovery documents one of the most dynamic, creative and contentious times in the history of Christchurch. It tells an uplifting story of resilience and community spirit that informs a greater conversation about how we live together, and how we build our cities.

## FESTIVALS

2017 San Francisco Green Film Festival, USA  
2016 New Urbanism Film Festival, Los Angeles, USA  
2016 Lund Architecture Film Festival, Sweden  
2016 Arohanui Film Festival, Te Aroha New Zealand  
2016 Winnipeg Architecture Foundation Architecture+Film Series  
2015 New Zealand International Film Festival

**AWARDS**

**WINNER** Best Feature & Best of the Fest  
New Urbanism Film Festival, Los Angeles, USA 2016

**WINNER** Best Documentary  
Lund Architecture Film Festival, Sweden 2016

**REVIEWS**

★★★★★ “beautiful... powerful... compelling... a genuine story of hope”

**Chris Lynch, Newstalk ZB**

<http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/opinion/chris-lynch-finding-hope-in-empty-spaces/>

★★★★½ “not what you might expect from a documentary about the Christchurch earthquake”

**Richard Swainson, Rip it up**

<http://www.ripitup.co.nz/screen/film-review-the-art-of-recovery-a-documentary-film-about-the-christchurch-earthquake-and-artists/>

★★★★ “a unique, exciting and hopeful watch”.

**Ellena Zellhuber McMillan, One Room with a View**

<https://oneroomwithaview.com/2015/09/04/art-recovery-review/>

★★★★ “kinetic, interesting and inspiring...”

**JAMES CROOT, THE PRESS**

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/film/film-reviews/71697359/review-the-art-of-recovery>

★★★★ “an exhilarating affirmation of people power”

**Peter Calder, New Zealand Herald**

★★★★ “Using the camera as a megaphone, The Art of Recovery is a mighty documentary that gives great volume to a deserving voice.”

**Liam Macguren, Flicks Reviews**

<http://www.flicks.co.nz/blog/reviews/review-the-art-of-recovery/>

## **BACKGROUND TO THE FILM**

The massive earthquake that hit Canterbury on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 changed Christchurch forever: 185 lives were lost, 80% of the downtown was destroyed and the heart was ripped from the city. Many months later, when the central city cordons were finally lifted, a collection of hardy and creative residents returned, determined to get that heart beating once again. This is their story.

Projects like Gap Filler's Dance-O-Mat, the think differently book exchange and Pallet Pavilion; Peter Mejdendie's 185 Empty chairs; and the Rise Street Art Festival have become iconic symbols of post-quake era.

The transitional movement, created on the streets and fuelled by generosity of an amazing group of people, is not only a response to the earthquakes, it is a response to each other, reflecting the human need for community and a sense of place.

While slower to react, government agencies and big business also had plans for the inner city. Faced with a large-scale rebuild, an Act of Parliament gave unprecedented powers to central government to create a blueprint for the city. Despite the highly successful "Share an Idea" project led by the city council in the months after the earthquake, the blueprint was devised by a panel of experts behind closed doors over 100 days, and has been the subject of ongoing debate and criticism.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES Peter Young**

*The intriguing and stark beauty of the ruins, the colourful art along with daily life amidst the chaos, create the utterly fascinating urban landscape in which this story unfolds...*

Being in Christchurch at the time of the earthquakes, I experienced first-hand the upheaval and trauma they caused to the community. At the time, I was involved with the production of my previous feature documentary, but I remember the surreal landscape of the city and the incredible spirit of the people.

*The Art of Recovery* documents and celebrates a collection of creative expressions that grew chaotically and spontaneously amongst the ruins of a broken city. As the cordons were lifted around the CBD, the first to move into the inner city were individuals and small groups, unencumbered by rules, and who - like weeds - were able to react quickly to the opportunities presented to them. As their works grew in number and recognition, a community-led transitional movement developed, flourished, and eventually came of age.

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While filming in central city, I have been moved many times by what I saw - the acts of generosity, the resilience of spirit and the huge sense of community - you know that you are part of something exciting and new. The film captures the everyday life amongst the ruins, which are in themselves a fascinating and ever changing backdrop.

The narrative is driven by interviews from an ensemble of key characters. Each is involved with the recovery of the central city, either as an artist, entrepreneur or involvement with a community group – such as Gap Filler. Based in the present, but film tells the story of the quakes and the development of the transitional movement retrospectively through our characters' own experiences.

Cities are about the encounters and connections. A healthy city is like an ecosystem where the different levels all need each other and are in some way interconnected. The story moves from one scene to the next through seemingly random encounters that connect different spaces in the city – following a demolition truck from one part to the other, a mural in the background of one shot becomes foreground in the next, reinforcing that our characters are part of the same community and at the time allowing us the space to enjoy the action and dynamics of an incredibly exciting urban landscape.

This discussion has relevance for all of New Zealanders and this documentary will strike a chord with anyone worldwide, who has faced any sort of disaster. When the New York Times ranked Christchurch second in the fifty most interesting cities to visit in 2014, they spoke of “the re-birth of creativity and ingenuity of hardy residents.” These unique and incredible times are upon us right now.

### RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

“Christchurch filmmaker Peter Young celebrates the creative spirits that have brought life and community back to the heart of the city... he leaves us hoping against hope that the new city can be infused with some measure of the resurgent spirit, creativity and pride of community ownership so lovingly documented in his film.” *Bill Gosden, NZ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2015*

“Beautiful, inspiring, clever, and soulful.” *Rebecca Macfie, Journalist*

“So much of Christchurch that is just pure joy to watch... 5 stars! It is so full of insight.” *Vicki Buck, Deputy Mayor Christchurch*

“... a wonderful, positive, reflective, artistic piece about the tenacity of a city and the grassroots efforts to bring art, colour and joy back into it.”  
*Christine Powell, Filmmaker*

“Powerful and persuasive.” *Sally Blundell, Journalist*

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“Let’s hope the men in suits who planned the city in 100 days make room for creativity and community and the art that comes with it.” *Kate White*

“It captures contrast, beauty, magic, a people, a place and what happens when art can live, when bureaucracy fails, when community prevails.” *Carrie-Jo*

“A genuinely important film, balancing the voice of local communities and artists with those of the political industrial band-leaders driving a recovery consisting of monolithic building structures to concentrate power, monopolise street scapes and enhance consumerism for those who can least afford it.” *Ron Rodger*

### **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

**Peter Young**, DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/CINEMATOGRAPHER

Peter Young is a director, cameraman and producer with a strong connection to the land and the people who and live and work on it. He recently completed and released the feature documentary *Art of Recovery* (2015), and before that *The Last Ocean* (2012), a film project that spanned seven years and developed into a successful international environmental campaign promoting the protection of the Ross Sea in Antarctica. In 2012 Peter was named New Zealand Independent Screen Producer of the Year. He has credits in well over a hundred documentaries, among them BBC’s *Blue Planet Series*, *The Quest for the Giant Squid* for Discovery, and acclaimed TVNZ series *Country Calendar* and *Explorers*. Peter shot and produced the TVNZ prime-time series *Hunger for the Wild*, *Coasters* and *Get Fresh with Al Brown*. He has won many awards for his skills and creativity both shooting and directing, but it's the opportunity to work with great teams and tell great stories that keeps him in the business.

### **Peter Young Selected Credits**

Producer/Director/DP *The Art of Recovery* 2015 Feature documentary for Fisheye Films

Producer/Director/DP *The Last Ocean* 2012 Feature documentary for Fisheye Films

DP *Deep Trouble* 1 hour Environmental doco for BBC Blue Planet series

DP/Producer *Get Fresh with Al Brown* 10 X 30 minute culinary adventure series for TVNZ

DP/Producer *Coasters* 17 X 30 minute journeys around NZ Coastline for TVNZ

DP *Remembering Ed: A Tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary* 1 hour HD Doco celebrating the life of Sir Edmund Hillary for TVNZ

DP/Producer *Hunger for the Wild Series* 27 X 30 minute culinary adventure series for TVNZ

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DP *Here to Stay* 6 X 1 hour documentary series on New Zealand Settlers for TVNZ

DP/Director *Chasing Giants: On the trail of the Giant Squid* for Discovery Channel USA

DP *Explorers* 4 X 1 hour New Zealand History documentary for TVNZ

DP *Between the Lines Dennis Glover* 1 hour Art doco on iconic NZ poet for TVNZ

DP *Country Calendar* : Over 60 episodes for NZ's longest running documentary series.

DP *Quest for the Giant Squid* BBC for Discovery Channel

### **Peter Young AWARDS**

2016 *The Art of Recovery*  
Best Feature & Best of the Fest: New Urbanism Film Festival, Los Angeles, USA 2016  
Best Documentary: Lund Architecture Film Festival, Sweden 2016

2014 *The Last Ocean*  
Stelvio National Park Award Sondrio Festival  
Wildscreen Festival Jury's Special Selection for Screening  
Grand Prize Vancouver Festival of Ocean Films  
Best Conservation Film New York WILD Film Festival  
Spirit of Activism Award Wild & Scenic Film Festival  
Best Environmental Film Waimea Ocean Film Festival  
Peoples' Choice Waimea Ocean Film Festival  
Best Film Ocean Environment Waimea Ocean Film Festival

2013 *The Last Ocean*  
Special Consideration Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival  
Best Feature Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival  
Best New Zealand Film Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival  
Best Science Communication Film Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival  
Best Call2Action Film Boulder International Film Festival  
Royal Reel Award Documentary Canada International Film Festival  
Best Documentary Real to Reel International Film Festival  
Moving Mountains Award MountainFilm in Telluride

2012 SPADA Independent Producer of the Year  
New Zealand Screen Producer and Development Association Awards

2009 Best Information and Lifestyle Show: *Hunger for the Wild*  
Qantas New Zealand Film & Television Awards  
Best Camera (Documentary): *Hunger for the Wild*  
Qantas New Zealand Film & Television Awards

2007 Best Factual Series: *Hunger for the Wild*

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Best Camera – Documentary: *Country Calendar Cray Coast*  
New Zealand Screen Awards

2005 Best Camera – Documentary: *Explorers* New Zealand Screen Awards  
Best Camera Documentary: *Country Calendar Erewhon* Qantas Media Awards

2003 Finalist - Best Documentary: *Chasing Giants On the trail of the Giant Squid*  
International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula Montana

2002 Best Camera: *Country Calendar Mt Ida Muster* NZ Television Awards

2000 Best Camera: *Country Calendar Yankee Harvest* NZ Television Awards

### Quotes from the Director:

“Initially I set out to capture the creativity in the city but in the process discovered a fascinating discussion about what cities are and what they can be. That discussion has relevance not only for Christchurch but for any city in any part of the world.”

“Christchurch is now at a crucial crossroad, as the city rises it will be interesting to see how much of this dynamic transitional movement will remain in the fabric of the city’s future.”

“It’s work that is attracting the attention of urban designers around the world – some of whom feature in the documentary. They describe the creative recovery as ‘pioneering’ and ‘powerful’.”

“What we saw were people, some of whom were previously on the fringes of the cultural norm, being given an opportunity to shine and lead the recovery. The street artists, in particular, have a fascinating perspective on this.”

“Their stories reveal the power of the human spirit. What they have achieved in post-quake Christchurch is really quite remarkable. They responded quickly and creatively to the earthquakes bringing life back to the ruins of the central city by creating welcoming places for people to be”.

### FISHEYE FILMS

Fisheye Films is an award-winning media production company with bases in Auckland and Christchurch.

Established in 1997 by Peter Young, Fisheye Films has extensive experience in the production of feature documentaries and factual television series, as well as commercials and corporate videos for the national and international market.

Peter Young recently produced and directed the feature-length documentaries

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['The Art of Recovery'](#) (2015) and ['The Last Ocean'](#) (2012), which screened at over 60 international film festivals, as well as on Prime TV, New Zealand.

Fisheye Films has also produced several prime-time television series for TVNZ including three series of the award-winning 'Hunger for the Wild', two series of 'Coasters', and one series of 'Get Fresh with Al Brown'.

- ***ENDS***