



**DAN SHANAN** is the Founding Trustee and Executive Director of The Documentary New Zealand Trust, a not-for-profit charitable organization that leads and promotes documentary films and filmmaking in New Zealand. Dan is the Director of Documentary Edge Festival, Australasia's premiere international documentary film festival, Screen Edge Forum, an industry conference including DOC Pitch, DOC Edge Lab, an incubator for transmedia projects

and the Documentary Edge Campus resource centre.

Born in Haifa, Israel, Dan lived for 8 years in the United States and has a Bachelor of Arts (Communication Studies) (Hons) from University of Missouri Kansas City and won the Alex and Josephine B. Coleman Communication Department Scholarship. In 1999, Dan moved to the Netherlands and enrolled at the University of Amsterdam to read a Masters in Film and Television.

A short documentary Ma-kara at Makara, directed & produced by Dan and Alex Lee, was screened at the Warsaw International Jewish Film Festival (2004), the Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival (2004), and DOCNZ 2005. Dan also produced and filmed a feature length documentary A Stage of Mind, which premiered in Israel at the 21st Haifa International Film Festival (2005) and at DOCFEST: Festival Di Palazzo Venezia in Rome, Italy (2006). The film has been picked up for world-wide distribution.

In 2003, Dan settled in New Zealand and in the following year, Alex and Dan co-founded the Documentary New Zealand Trust. In 2008, Dan was selected and graduated from the Arts Venture Programme in Auckland, a unique year long acceleration programme for creative entrepreneur that contributes to Auckland's arts, cultural and economic development.