



ALTER EGO

The Documentary



ALTER EGO

noun:

- 1. Another side of oneself:
a second self.**



LOGLINE

You might be very surprised at what goes on behind the doors of respectable, New Zealand suburbia...

A window into the lives of New Zealanders who have an ALTER EGO and a journey into their amazing fantasy worlds.

**“My Water Dragon tattoo
is about my lifetime
connection to the water,
from the many years
I spent in the Police
Diving Squad.”**



SYNOPSIS

In Auckland, 2012, French photographer Jocelyn Janon opened a photographic exhibition featuring portraits of New Zealanders who live double lives, whose dual identities - their alter egos - are as authentic as the people they are in their 'normal' lives. The exhibition placed two photos of each subject side by side; one of them as their 'normal' selves and the other as them embodying their alter ego:

- Heath runs a decorating business by day and has created a serial killers graveyard in his Avondale back yard
- Patrick is a quiet office worker who performs at night as Patty, a chaotic, anarchic drag queen / clown
- Jenny is an office administrator and a fetishist
- Abigail is a mum at home with two kids and a Horror/Gothic/Fetish artist/model and expressionist



Janon's intention with the exhibition was to point out that many New Zealanders simply do not fit the stereotypical images of Kiwis that we usually see in the media:

"I'm wanting to show that people are not all like that...the project evolved from there."

After seeing the exhibition, film director Simon Pattison was inspired to investigate these stories in more depth, to really delve into the expression of the alter ego. This is a feature documentary that portrays the lives of New Zealanders living a double life and it tells their stories from the subjects' point of view using cinematic device and technique to explore their fantasy worlds and allow an audience to experience them too. It also asks the question, what is it like to live this double life and at what cost, if any?

See the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/191678678>



TOPIC SUMMARY

This documentary will take audiences inside the worlds of fetishism, cosplay, burlesque and make believe; it will also give an up close and personal insight into what it is like to live 'two lives' and asks the question: What is the gain and what is the cost of living out your fantasies?



**"When I leave the
earth on hooks,
I leave behind all
the heaviness of
life's problems and
find freedom"**

DIRECTOR'S VISION

As a documentary film maker I've always been drawn to human interest stories, whether about artists from the South Island in "A Changing Landscape" or an eccentric collect or in "Valve-man" which was shot in the UK.

I spend a great deal of time - usually years - getting to know my subjects, it's been really re-warding for me on a personal and emotional level.

It's great to have that rapport and trust with the people you are documenting, and I think it leads to a much better end product. My style, I suppose, is Art House Documentary; I love to find new ways to explore the subject visually that compliments the story I am telling.

The people in Alter Ego show a small segment of New Zealand fringe culture that I find most fascinating. The film will have an extraordinarily diverse collection of participants, each has his or her own unique story, and I see a separate visual style for each subject that would compliment their own journey -

Patrick, for example, is colourful and eccentric by nature whereas Abigail's art form is very much monochrome.



My process in structuring this film is very much about designing a segment for each person that fits with their individual tone and mood and best tells that person's story in an interesting, visual way. So, some participants will be shot in black and white and others in saturated colour; a controlled setting with art dept in a studio or out in the field using the latest hover drone to get aerial shots; a range of cinematography style and shot - all to best reflect the fantasy of the subject.

I also love to incorporate visual effects and design elements not my work, I've found that this challenges and compliments the conventions of documentary film making and brings a fresh visual style to a piece of work.

For this film I will be working again with design and visual effects artist Graham Roberts from the UK. Graham has a long history in Visual and Motion Artistry and has collaborated on two previous documentaries I've made. Composer David Long, who I've also worked with before will be composer and music supervisor on *Alter Ego*. He has impressive credentials including working with Brian Eno on Peter Jackson's "The Lovely Bones".



DIRECTOR/ PRODUCER

SIMON PATTISON

Simon has spent the last twenty five years working in the film industry.

Starting in the 90's in the Art dept, he worked his way through from Set Dresser to Art Director working on various films including Peter Jackson's 'The Frighteners'. During this period Simon always harboured a passionate desire to direct film.

Moving to London in 1997, Simon worked as Art Director with Designer Mike Grant, working mainly on high-end commercials for clients such as Bacardi and British Telecom, music videos for Radiohead and Jamiroquai, and still shoots with Annie Leibovitz and Rankin for Dazed & Confused magazine.



Simon's director debut was a project called "Valveman", a doco-drama about the life of Gerald Wells, a man with an extraordinary obsession for vintage radios. Set in both 1940's and present day London, it was shot in UK with Post Production at Park Road Post.

Simon shot his first feature called "Rest For The Wicked" in 2012. It's a blackly comic tale set in-side a rest home that is anything but restful, hiding an underbelly of crime, Viagra- fuelled sex, and murder.

Simon is also currently developing an action thriller series called "London Calling" with producer Charlie McClellan, Executive Producer of Taika Waititi's "Hunt for the Wilder People", as well as branching out into VR Directing in collaboration with Vision 3 studio in Soho, London.



DOP

WAKA ATTEWELL

Cinematographer Waka Attewell is something of a legend in the Kiwi film industry. From land-mark 70s TV series *Tangata Whenua*, he has gone on to climb mountains with Sir Ed; shoot commercials, shorts, and over a dozen features — including the acclaimed *Starlight Hotel* — plus direct Ian Mune documentary *In the Shadow of King Lear*.



FORMAT

This documentary is intended as a feature documentary, however it may also be broken down into a series of ? x 24 minute episodes for TV and ? webisodes for distribution online.

We would like to see it adapted and distributed across numerous platforms.

AUDIENCE BREAKDOWN

Text to come

ALTER EGO PROMO





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