



**R S V P**



**ROBYN SCOTT-VINCENT: RSVP PRODUCTIONS LTD**

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## RSVP PRODUCTIONS LTD

For the past 15 years we have been delivering documentary and niche programming to TV One and TV3 in New Zealand, producing more than 40 hours of documentary and 160 episodes of our weekly series Attitude.

RSVP Productions is known for strong, well-researched content. We focus on in-depth interviews compelling human-interest stories, creatively directed. Our documentaries have covered everything from teenagers, paediatricians and prisoners to rescue helicopters, crime, surrogacy, obesity and cancer.

We are also the specialist producers of a weekly series that addresses the issues and interests of people living with a disability. Attitude has six team members who themselves have a disability.

Our material is post-produced on site at our accessible premises at 3 Diamond St, Auckland.

RSVP has good relations with local broadcasters and funding agencies and has sold content to the United Kingdom, United States of America, Sweden and Australia.



## ROBYN SCOTT-VINCENT

Producer Robyn Scott-Vincent has more than twenty years experience in television production. Her career began in journalism and has spanned newspapers, magazines, news & current affairs, sports reporting, children's programming and documentary.



## CATALOGUE: DOCUMENTARIES

Credits for Prime Time Documentaries: TV One (TVNZ) / TV3

### THE POWER OF ATTITUDE

59 Minutes

A revealing profile of the men who make up the New Zealand wheelchair rugby team, the Wheel Blacks, winners of the Gold Medal at the Paralympics in Athens (2004). It's the sport they call Murderball because of its pace and intensity. The men explain the accidents that changed their lives and led to their quadriplegia, and the role of sport in restoring their sense of manliness. We follow their team throughout a two year build up to the world champs.

### TAE KAMI

2 x 29 Minutes

The story of a young Tongan teenager forced to leave her country to seek treatment for an aggressive facial cancer. It documents the repeated, radical surgery she endured to remove that tumour. And it focuses on the ground-breaking surgical techniques – embracing both surgery and engineering – that will be used to rebuild her face... and her sense of self.

### THE GIRL WHO NEVER GREW

The intimate story of Nicolette Half, a child with the extremely rare condition Primordial Dwarfism. She stands less than a metre tall and will never grow any taller. We explore her mother's concerns about what life holds for her.

### BOYS GO BUSH

In Africa pubescent boys are initiated into manhood...bushman style. In Hamilton, New Zealand, boys from the private St Paul's Collegiate school go into the Pureora Forest for half the school year...six months... a retreat that the school insists is exactly what boys need! This documentary looks at the Tihoi Venture School, St Paul's own unique formula to address the needs of teenage boys.

### THE OTHER OLYMPIAD

We follow New Zealand's top four secondary school mathematicians as they compete at the International Maths Olympiad in Athens.

### TWO WOMEN AND A BABY

The extraordinary and compelling story of Lisa Banfield, a woman who has suffered two bouts of cervical cancer and had a radical hysterectomy. She cheated death. She was told she could never carry a baby or contribute biologically to a child. So she seeks a surrogate in the United States.



### **TWO WOMEN AND TWO BABIES**

The birth of the Banfield twins in America. The second and final chapter in the story of Lisa Banfield, Through an extraordinary chain of medical miracles she is now seen preparing for the arrival of not one but two babies! Those babies will be born in America, to a surrogate mother.

### **THE GRAMMAR WAY**

A rare look inside New Zealand's most prestigious state secondary school, Auckland Grammar School. This school is held in high regard internationally for its academic standards. The school has also produced more than 50 All Blacks.

### **MOTHERS BEHIND BARS**

The story of mothers in prison. New Zealand law allows some prisoners the right to keep their babies with them in prison for six months post-birth. We follow three women through a year in prison. It is an insight into these women, who wind up jailed.

### **WASTED**

A comprehensive and astounding look at the impact of the drug methamphetamine on New Zealand society.

### **SMITH AND BROWN**

A quirky 3-part series that explores family life in New Zealand. It looks at the many forms of families and in a light-hearted twist only interviews families whose surnames are Smith or Brown!

### **CINDY'S DIARY: BREAKING THE CYCLE**

A two-part documentary spanning more than four years in the life of Cindy Gibbons, a woman who was abused as a child, a solo mother at 16 then became morbidly obese.

In this emotional journey Cindy turns her life around; she confronts her past horror in Fiji, becomes friends with her weight, and goes on to compete in the gruelling 160km round Taupo cycle Marathon.

### **CANCER: THE FIGHTING SPIRIT**

This programme explores the impact of a fighting spirit on cancer. It is an intimate story of two patients. Dr Ross McLeod, 32 years old, had just finished his exams to qualify as a paediatrician when doctors gave him the awful news. He had pancreatic cancer. Oncologists predicted he had just weeks to live. Almost two years on Ross is still alive. Was it all the treatments he underwent - both mainstream and alternative - or was it his fighting spirit? Trssh Birnie has advanced breast cancer. Normally the disease progresses rapidly once it has spread to the bones but in Trssh's case it is progressing slowly. Her oncologist suspects it is because of her strong faith.



**THE TRUTH ABOUT ...  
MEN, WOMEN, TEENAGERS**

A colourful and quirky three-part documentary series that explores what it is to be Kiwi-male, female and a teenager. An entertaining slice of life series that encapsulates the views of ordinary New Zealanders.

**THE GIFT OF LIFE**

Babies are born everyday - it is one of the basics of life, yet treating premature babies is still regarded as one of the frontiers of medicine. This documentary follows Auckland neonatal specialists Dr Simon Rowley and Dr David Knight. In the course of a year the neonatal specialist in Auckland deal with more than 1500 newborns. For these babies life is by no means guaranteed. This is a programme that looks at life on the knife edge.

**FRIENDS THEN, FRIENDS NOW**

Friends Then, Friends Now is the story of mates, music and mentoring. The central figure is Tom Sharplin, a rock 'n' roll legend who, with his band the Cadillacs, once held attendance records in hotels and pubs throughout the country. The "star" of the show is Russell Crowe, a mega-star and Oscar winner, who has much to thank Tom for. The documentary tells the story of their enduring friendship and is some ways a tribute to Tom who mentored Russell during the very early period of his career and gave him his first breaks.

**TRIPLETS**

The touching and often humorous journey of two couples expecting triplets. For one couple these babies are their first experience of parenting. For the other family they become babies eight, nine and ten! We follow their early weeks in neo-natal intensive care and the first chaotic weeks at home.

**FATHERHOOD**

A 90 minute special that serves as a comprehensive guide to being a dad. How to form a bond and deal with key issues that crop up. Presented by former All Black captain Sean Fitzpatrick the programme is delivered as a series of key points and with a range of dads sharing their advice.

**WHEN AGE DOESN'T MATTER**

An intimate documentary with six New Zealand couples explaining why their relationships work - despite a large age gap.

**BOYS TO MEN**

The story of Dilworth School, a private facility that takes in boys from underprivileged backgrounds and gives them the best that education has to offer. The boys head to boarding school at the age of nine, forming strong bonds with their hostel mates and a deep affection for the school that gives them such enormous opportunity.



### **SILENT EVIDENCE**

A look at the largely hidden world of scientific crime detection. Our cameras were alongside international acclaimed scientists from ESR as they investigated some of the major Police cases of the year.

### **CANCER: BEATING THE ODDS**

A guide to the disease. Most people tend to shut it out, they just don't want to know about cancer. But we can't afford to stay ignorant. We need to know about it if we are to have any chance of conquering it. In this programme we talk about cancer, the causes, the tests you can have, and the treatments.

### **KIRSA: A MOTHER'S STORY**

One of New Zealand's most famous unsolved crimes. Robyn Jensen relives the tragic disappearance of her teenager daughter. (Directed for Greenstone Pictures).

### **KNIGHTS OF THE SKY**

Helicopter rescue crews in New Zealand. John Furnell is a cowboy...he admits it. The Taupo enthusiast is one of the original rescue helicopter pilots of New Zealand. He has no hesitation in breaking all the rules to rescue men, women and kids in strife. Once that meant landing in front of the main doors of a hospital to save a young person's limb. Today however, large organisations have developed to meet the needs of urgent patient transfer. This documentary profiles both Furnell and the Auckland Westpac Helicopter crew...in action. Exclusive footage shows Furnell and his ever loyal crew heading well off the coast of New Zealand in a rescue some would have deemed too long and too dangerous for a helicopter. It also follows a mission searching for a missing trainee pilot.

### **HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES**

An honest account from two teenagers sent on a three-month cultural exchange taking them out of their comfort zone and to families at opposite ends of the country. Megan Deans is from a high country sheep station. In her part of the country it is rare to meet a person from a Pacific Island. She winds up in Mangere, Auckland, living with a Samoan Family. Nadia has lived all her life in Mangere and is comfortable with her Maori heritage. She is sent to live with a wealthy accountant and his wife who live in the upmarket suburb of Takapuna, just a stroll from the beach itself.



### **1ST ELEVEN**

This documentary follows the warm and lively Kahi family as they prepare for the newest member of their brood. It's an entertaining look at life in a large family – how the nitty gritty of life changes completely when you have this many kids!

Pat and Clinton Kahi – one income, one car, eight kids, a cat, a dog, mice, guinea pigs...AND baby number nine is on the way. They never set out to have a large family. None of the kids were planned but they consider each and every one a precious gift.

### **THE HOUSE ON GREY STREET**

A portrait of four men with intellectual disabilities who are trying to forge a life for themselves in the community, outside of institutions.

### **THE TRADITION OF KINGS**

A look inside the prestigious Kings College, Auckland. Cameron Empson is about to leave his Te Awamutu family farm and embark on his secondary schooling... as a boarder at Kings College in Auckland. He's set to become the third generation in his family to what is arguably the finest school in New Zealand, a school steeped in tradition.

Set on manicured grounds in Auckland's Otahuhu the school prides itself on tradition and excellence. Sons of the wealthiest New Zealand families attend this school. It is a school of privilege.

### **ALL IN VAIN**

A study of women's obsession with body image.

### **SUSAN DEVOY: OUT ON TOP**

World champion Susan Devoy plays her last world champs. We follow her through her final World champs played at the Arbutus Club, Vancouver. Directed and Produced for TVNZ Sport.

### **UNBORN ADDICTS**

A rare look inside the world of two drug addicts who strive to keep their lives on track during their pregnancy.

We follow the babies through their time in the neonatal unit at Auckland where the newborns must be treated with opium for the addiction they have inherited from their mothers in the womb.



**Attitude** is an upbeat television magazine series designed to reflect the lifestyle, issues and interests of people either living with a disability or caring for a person with a disability. The series is produced in-house by RSVP Productions Ltd and has screened on TVOne since 2005. We produce 40 episodes per year.

Each week we present four stories.

These stories include profiles of people from both New Zealanders and overseas, information about new techniques or technology, sports stories, and the thoughts and views of New Zealanders living with a disability. We also aim to advocate on behalf of the disabled community, to ensure issues are aired and addressed. And we travel – to highlight accessible destinations, and to hear international perspectives on disability.

Our goals:

To inspire people living with a disability to live life to their fullest, to provide strong role models for our young people, and to inspire change – by encouraging greater understanding and acceptance of disability.

Our presenters and the production team appreciate that not everyone has the same capabilities. We know life can be tough. But we want to show how great life can be, with or without a disability.

We want to show all our viewers that people with disabilities:

- Are movers and shakers
- Are elite athletes
- Are entrepreneurs
- Have a social conscience
- Have a political voice
- Make a vital contribution to society
- Love, laugh and lead amazing lives

The creation of role models for young disabled New Zealanders is vital to our goal. We want to build a strong sense of community, a community that disabled men and women can be proud to be part of.

**Attitude is everything.**

[www.disabilitytv.com](http://www.disabilitytv.com)



