



Press Release
Loading Docs: Season 8
Tūmanako / Hope

'Fifty Percent'
Photo by Ankita Singh

OUT NOW: ANNOUNCING A BRAND-NEW SEASON OF POWERFUL DOCUMENTARIES

New Zealand's award-winning short documentary initiative has returned with a new season. Watch for free via loadingdocs.net to connect with stories challenging human connection, justice, grief and cultural identity.

In another unpredictable year of social and political adversity, Loading Docs' new collection of eight short documentaries provide hopeful viewpoints from the lands and seas of Aotearoa. From laughter and to tears, the Tūmanako/Hope collection will bring audiences together amidst the most divisive and isolating period of our generation.

From an emotional story about a life challenging decision in 'Fifty Percent', asking how you would live if you had a 50% chance of death? To approaching cultural appropriation with humour in 'HAKA haha'. And on to one man risking his freedom in 'The Scam' taking us on a wild true-crime tale. With animation, poetry, underwater cinematography and more, this Loading Docs collection is incredibly deep and absolutely watchable.

"The past 12 months have been a rollercoaster in local and international communities," says Julia Parnell, co-founder & exec. producer. "In our eighth season of Loading Docs, we've focused on personal stories about fighting for a cause. Whether that's fighting for your own survival or fighting for others, hope is present. I think that is something we can all relate to in today's world and I wish the new collection will bring people thought-provoking joy, as well as a fresh perspective on the topics and themes explored."

Loading Docs has achieved over 15 million views so far and continues a rich tradition of providing mentorship to the next generation of documentary makers through the development process, crowdfunding, production and distribution.

Loading Docs is a **Notable Pictures** initiative with support from **NZ On Air**, alongside the **New Zealand Film Commission** and **Te Māngai Pāho**.

Watch the full collection now:
[Loading Docs - www.loadingdocs.net](http://www.loadingdocs.net)

SEASON 8 | TŪMANAKO / HOPE

The Scam



The ultimate scam lures an elderly beekeeper around the world in this wild true-crime tale.

From Greymouth to São Paulo's slums, Roy Arbon's adventure ends in kidnap and imprisonment on foreign soil leaving him facing life behind bars. Uncovering every twist and turn of his riches-to-rags ride, does he really understand how close he came to catastrophe?

Director: Oliver Dawe | Producer: Amanda Jenkins

Watch: www.loadingdocs.net/thescam

When Nobody Was Looking



An entomologist takes on the 1970s New Zealand Government uncovering institutional racism and child abuse.

Dr. Oliver Sutherland discovers disturbing cases of abused children in state care, including imprisonment and torture of children as young as nine. Fighting a racist system, the insect scientist stands up to expose abuse in the notorious Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital, but will justice ever be served?

Director: Alex Sutherland | Producer: Bianca Delalic

Watch: www.loadingdocs.net/nobodywaslooking

Fifty Percent



With a 50% chance of inheriting a fatal disease, is it better to know your future or live in the moment?

Lillian Hanly has a 50/50 chance of inheriting Huntington's, a neurodegenerative disease. With a number of her family testing positive for the gene, and her mother already affected by it, she must come to a decision. Get tested now or continue to live on in the unknown.

Director: Lillian Hanly | Producers: Sara Shirazi

Watch: www.loadingdocs.net/fiftypercent

SEASON 8 | TŪMANAKO / HOPE

Night Ride



When a mother of ten returns nightly to the old family home to feed stray cats, her son questions its connection to the death of his brother.

A 66-year-old mother has an unusual ritual of returning to her old family home to care for stray cats. Worrying about the implications of her obsessive routine, her son wants to understand why. Joining her night rides, it's time to unravel the truth.

Director: Todd Karehana | Producer: Samantha Dutton
Watch: www.loadingdocs.net/nightride

Wind Song and Rain



Hone Tuwhare, New Zealand's most famous Māori poet, leaves a legacy to the granddaughter he left behind. To reconnect, she writes a love letter to the world.

A national treasure whose poetry spanned over 40 years, the world knew Hone Tuwhare. His mokopuna Manaia never did. Now 18 years old, Manaia feels her koro calling her, triggering an emotional journey of connection in te reo Māori to prove there's another Tuwhare who writes poetry.

Director: Matariki Bennett | Producer: Rachel Fawcett
Watch: www.loadingdocs.net/windsongandrain

The Weedfish



The hunt for an elusive fish in New Zealand's disappearing kelp forests sends two marine scientists on a deep underwater dive.

Our waters are under threat. In a bold attempt to defend them, two marine researchers and photographers embark on a wild search for the Crested Weedfish. The goal, capture a powerful photo of the rarely-seen fish before its home is damaged beyond repair.

Directors: Matt Silcock & Aart van Dijk | Producer: Zoe-Rose Herbert
Watch: www.loadingdocs.net/theweefish

SEASON 8 | TŪMANAKO / HOPE

Only Human



A social media fight over sexism is the last straw for the liberal daughter of a chauvinistic father.

The youngest daughter of an old fashioned father can no longer accept their irreconcilable differences. Revisiting her Filipino upbringing to find out why her Dad is the way he is, she must decide whether to cut him out of her life for good.

Director: Mia Maramara | Producer: Kate Goodwin
Watch: www.loadingdocs.net/onlyhuman

HAKA haha



There's cultural appropriation in the air as kaka haka are debated by the people of Aotearoa.

Terrible overseas renditions of the haka have begun transforming our proud expression of Māori identity into a viral joke. Self-appointed 'cultural warden' JP sets out to ask the question; when is it OK to haka?

Director: Corinna Hunziker | Producer: Justin Scott
Watch: www.loadingdocs.net/hakahaha

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