

THE WIZARD OF NEW ZEALAND QSM



A TRUE STORY OF 'A SINGULAR MAN'

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR GRANT JOHN NEVILLE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KARLOS FILIPOV

SYNOPSIS



The Wizard of New Zealand QSM, a true story of 'a singular man', is an award-winning documentary that follows the life of the first-ever man in the world to be appointed by a government as an Official Wizard.

The former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Right Honourable Mike Moore ONZ, in 1990, proclaimed Ian Brackenbury Channell as the Official Wizard of New Zealand and appointed the Wizard to protect the Government of New Zealand. Mike Moore and many others, all go on to reveal this amazing, fantastic, magical and true story.

The Wizard was born in London, England in 1932, trained as a Pilot and was a Navigator in the Royal Air Force in 1952, taught English in Iran in 1958 and obtained double honours in Psychology and Sociology from Leeds in 1963, with participation in the first-ever winning team of the University Challenge, before becoming the first-ever official Wizard in the World and finally honoured in 2009 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with the Queen's Service Medal.

The Wizard highlights that women cause wars through their shopping habits points out that governments with Monarchies are more stable, formed his own Imperial Army and "Save the Males" Campaign and designed a New and Improved Universe and "disappears" on Census night.

It was recorded that with his Magic Spells, the Wizard broke five Rain Droughts, both in New Zealand and Australia.

English (Original) | 49 minutes

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



The Wizard's credibility is established, through his Schooling and University Education in England. The Wizard, shows, that he conformed to society, being in the Boy Scouts and serving in the RAF as a Pilot Officer and Navigator. Early in life, the Wizard gained experience in travel mainly in the 50s, where he discovered other cultures, such as Iran, where he taught English. He proved himself a Top Academic, appearing in the first Winning Team of University Challenge and no less than first on the buzzer.

The Wizard highlights that many of the problems in the World are due to Women's Shopping Habits, where countries fight over raw materials to meet the World's increasing Consumerism. The solution is, that women should go backpacking and learn to do with simple things.

The people of Christchurch have taken the Wizard very seriously and even the local Canterbury University Student Association, ran a course on Wizardry, called Wizard 101.

He describes himself as being a keen supporter of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and tells how he does not need the government, however, the government needs him for tourism.

The Mayor of Christchurch and keen support of the Wizard, confirms that the City of Christchurch has a real Wizard, who can be found every weekday in Cathedral Square. The Mayor not only confirms the Wizard's importance to Christchurch and for tourism he tells how people travel from all around the world just to see the Wizard, he also testifies that the Wizard's Spells work.

The Wizard describes, himself as a Real Wizard, not because he wears a pointy hat or takes some drugs, but because he was appointed by a University and a Government, and he says it must be true because the boss says so.

Through Wizardry and Magic, the Wizard has created his Universe, which he claims not to be true or false, just a lovely creative idea.

BIOGRAPHIES



Producer/Director

Grant John Neville, Scotland, United Kingdom enters the filmmaking industry with his first film.



Director of Photography

Karlos Filipov, New Zealand, studied filmmaking in New Zealand and has been producing documentaries in New Zealand and Asia.

AWARDS

BEIJING INTERNATIONAL MOVIE FESTIVAL - 2010
Golden Duck Award for Best Short Documentary



OFFICIAL BEST OF FEST - 2010
Award-Winning Films about Real People.



REVIEWS



REVIEWS



If you thought wizardry as an occupation was moribund, you should head straight for New Zealand. Created by Prime Minister Mike Moore specifically for one man, "Official Wizard" has been a position there since 1990. In this short documentary, director Grant Neville does a thoughtful job in showing just how the Wizard, ne Ian Brackenbury Channell, has cast a little magic upon everyday life there. He heckles evangelicals, casts spells on visiting rugby teams, evades the compulsory census and has actually performed three drought-breaking rain dances. While the Wizard is no doubt a loon, the film leaves you less preoccupied by his lunacy or charlatanism and more of a proponent for the very charmed and antagonistic role he plays in modern society.

**Christine Laskowski,
theBeijinger June 2010.**

I believe the Wizard's visit to Beijing has left a lasting impression in everyone who met him, and a resonating effect in the resulting media coverage.

**Peter Salladé, Chief Organizer, Beijing International Movie Festival,
October 2010.**

You have been awarded an OFFICIAL BEST OF FEST AWARD distinguishing your film as one of the top 5% of indie films considered this year. Given that our Film Festival network reach includes upwards of 30,000 shorts and 7,000 features, this is quite a distinction.

Serena Evers, Official Best of Fest, October 2010

REVIEWS



Ian Brackenbury Channel, 78, the first and only officially recognized wizard of New Zealand, presented his story and philosophies June 19 at Beijing's Mako Live House, where a documentary film about him was screened.

The film records the story of the wizard bringing rain to Waimate, a small town in South Canterbury that had not seen a drop of precipitation in six months.

Audience members clamored to talk with the wizard as soon as the film was finished.

An 8-year-old boy walked up to the wizard with a broom and asked, "Can you fly by riding it?" The wizard laughed and told him he could not.

"It's not the sort we read about in stories nor see in magic movies," Channel said. "This wizard is a social science academic who decided to alter people's perceptions of moral and intellectual reality by following the great changes that have taken place over the past century."

REVIEWS

Channel's title of wizard can be traced back to the late 1960s, when he was teaching in Sydney's School of Sociology at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). He pioneered what he called the "fun revolution," which was designed to provoke thought and provide conflict resolution through the reduction of ego from both sides. This was followed with his appointment by the Administration of Student Union as the official wizard of UNSW, and later as wizard of the World University Service.

In 1990, New Zealand Prime Minister Mike Moore appointed Channel the country's official wizard. In 2009, he was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for services to the community in the fields of "wizardry and cosmology construction."

"These two events made him a 'real' wizard rather than a self-appointed or show-business wizard," said Grant John Neville, director of the film *New Zealand Wizard*. "Now, Channel has become the name card of New Zealand. For many visitors from all over the world, getting the wizard's beatitude or his signature is one of their important goals when they visit Christchurch."

As an official wizard, Channel's mission is to protect New Zealand's government, repel malice and fanaticism, enlighten people and attract visitors. In order to fulfill his role, Channel relies on his fun and charming form of persuasion. "Advertising, which is essentially the art of persuasion, has become all-important in the consumer society," he said.

"Before seeing him, I guessed he could do some magic arts," said Zhang Zhichao, a student from Communication University of China. "But after I got to know him better, I think 'wizard' is more like a Chinese guoshi (state tutor), who had both the good character and professional competence to assist a ruler during ancient times."

The modern-day wizard took Saturday's opportunity to promote the campaign "Save the Males." The campaign was born out of Channel's idea that women's desire to buy things triggers conflicts in our post-industrial consumer society.

He said freedom and choice are increasingly emphasized as major concerns. People's status is tied more to a consumer lifestyle than family connections. "Through easy divorce and feminism, and with romantic love replacing religious devotion in the all-powerful mass media that drives consumerism, the nuclear family has begun to dissolve into a series of monogamous liaisons," he said. "Marriages produce few children and populations begin to age and shrink."

Some female audience members thought his concept was a little chauvinistic. "Why don't men think about their faults first?" said Maartje Blans, a camerawoman. "How can he only blame women when society encounters problems? It's unfair."

Li Zhixin, Beijing Today July 7, 2010

CONTACT



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