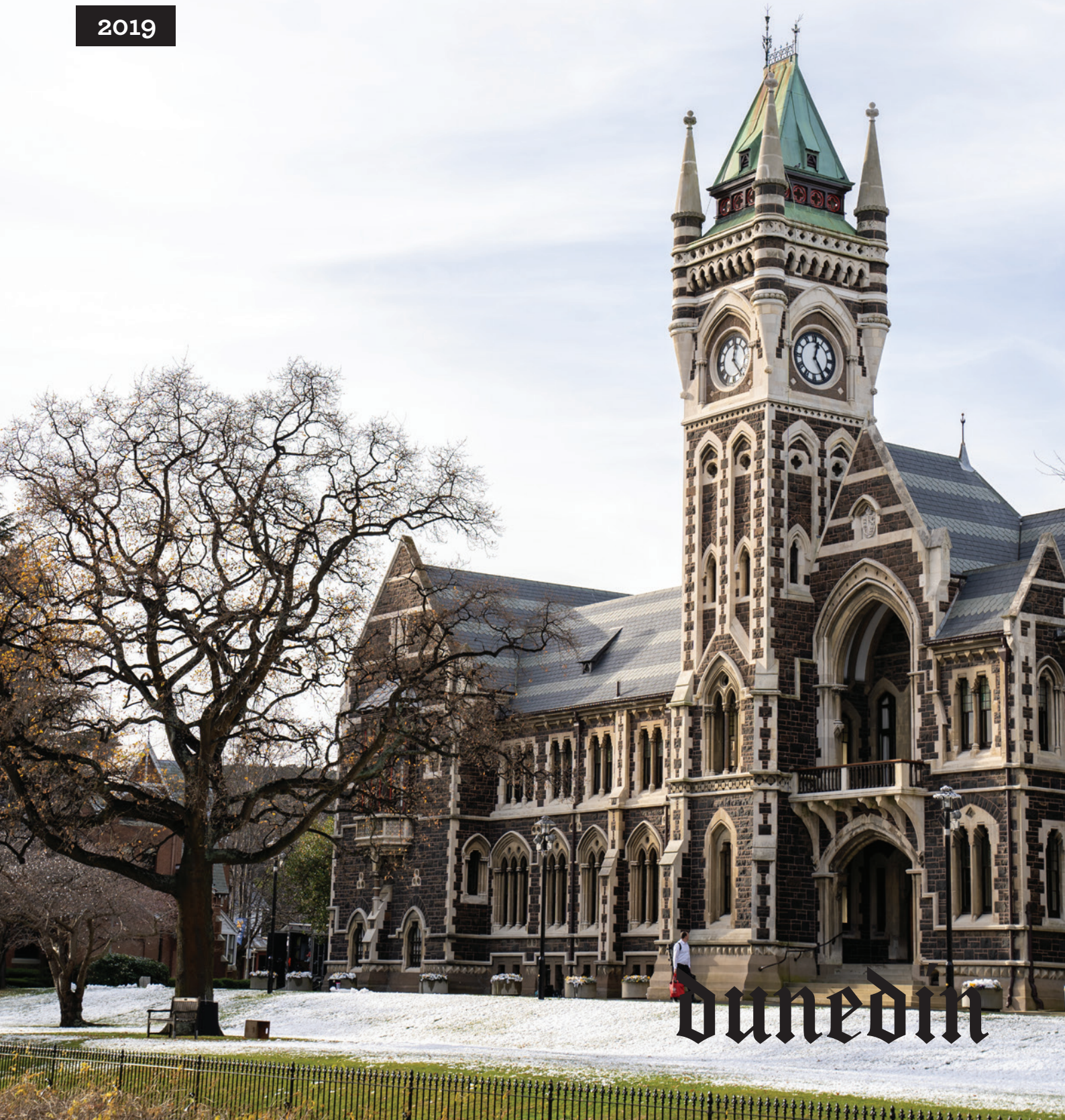


Dunedin Shanghai Screen Writers' Exchange

2019



Initial Report on outcomes and the programme of visits, meetings and activities for Ms Lili Li

Shanghai screenwriter Ms Lili Li spent six weeks in Dunedin and Otago. She became immersed in local stories, the landscape, climate, history and the people. She returned to Shanghai with new friendships, understanding of the New Zealand film industry, a headful of ideas and notebooks full of research to develop scripts for potential co-productions between China and New Zealand.

Background

In 2017, the Shanghai Art Film Federation and Dunedin City Council's business arm, Enterprise Dunedin, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further cooperation between the film sectors of both cities. This has included a reciprocal exchange of film festivals and development of a screen writers' exchange.

Screen Writers' Exchange

The purpose of the exchange is to provide writers with the opportunity to research and develop scripts for film and television content. The exchange is for six weeks' duration and the writers are provided with flights, serviced accommodation, per diem, pastoral care and a programme of activities and meetings of two half days per week. The hope is this exchange will lead to the development of new productions between China and New Zealand.



Lili Li

Lili writes for the Shanghai MEDO Film Production company. Her business partner, Mr Jiayi Du is an influential producer and successful director and actor in China. Lili's first screenplay, *"SuLi, Don't Stop"*, received a grant from the Shanghai Cultural Development Foundation in 2016, which supported completion of filming and postproduction this year. The film is expected to screen soon. It's about a Shanghai woman marathon runner who chooses running as a way of coping with the insipidity and vulgarity of daily life. Lili's second feature script has just been cleared for development by the film authorities in China. It's about a teenage girl who has some special "vexation of growth".

As a result of her research, meetings and experiences during the screen writer's exchange, Lili is developing three ideas for feature films that she hopes will lead to co-production's between New Zealand and China. She also met with diverse businesses and experienced crew working in the screen sector to learn as much as possible about the process of film-making in southern New Zealand.

Through the programme, Lili has experienced New Zealand's: climate; urban, rural and natural landscapes; businesses; family and personal relationships; education and political systems; Māori history and culture.

She has made lasting friendships and carries with her the invitation for ongoing support and collaboration with film makers, crew, writers, academics, Regional Film Offices, New Zealand Film Commission and local government tourism and economic development offices.

The projects in development include:

- Drama: a Chinese family (three generations) are on holiday in Dunedin and Central Otago in a rental van, they experience cultural conflict within the family and through experiences with locals.
- Adventure/drama: Four Chinese women are tramping in New Zealand and experience adversity. They learn more about themselves and each other.
- Sports/comedy: an overweight Chinese man completes an IRONMAN race (super long-distance triathlon) in New Zealand as part of his journey to overcome middle-age crisis.

Partners

In addition to the partnership with the Shanghai Art Film Federation, Enterprise Dunedin has worked closely with and valued the support of the New Zealand Film Commission, New Zealand Writers Guild, Film Otago Southland and Central Otago District Council.

Lili was generously hosted by Dunedin Railways, Trail Journeys, Olveston, Larnach Castle, Royal Albatross Colony, Penguin Place.

Antony Deaker

Film Dunedin Coordinator,
Enterprise Dunedin, Dunedin
City Council

dunedin

film OTAGO
SOUTHLAND
new zealand

NZWG
New Zealand Writers Guild Puni Taatuhī o Aotearoa

CENTRAL OTAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL

New Zealand
FILM COMMISSION
Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

Arrival

Tuesday, 27 August, 2019

Lili's accommodation was in an historic home on Royal Terrace, where she was hosted by the owner Rosemary Crick, an artist and marketing consultant. Lili spent time with Rose's family including day trips to local places. Her room included a workspace with views over the city.



Wednesday, 28 August

Lili visited St Clair beach, discussed programme plans and attended a casual meeting with Enterprise Dunedin Economic Development staff at local café.



Friday, 30th August

Meet Sean Brosnahan (Curator and Historian) at Toitu Museum. Sean provides introduction to the archives and collection at Toitu and oversight of Chinese history in Dunedin and Otago. <https://www.toituosm.com/#!home>. Then visit Lan Yuan <https://www.dunedinchinesegarden.com/> Visit Dunedin Public Library to find historic reference section.



Saturday, 31st August

'Screen Sector Hui' <https://screensectorstrategynz.wordpress.com/> Join film makers and screen industry people in Dunedin to talk about where the screen industry in New Zealand could or should head in the next 10 years.



Sunday, 1 September

Lili, an experienced runner,
completes the Dunedin Marathon



Tuesday, 3 September

Morning tea with staff at the University of Otago Media Film and Communications Department.

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/mfco/index.html>



Thursday, 5 September

Lili visited Port Chalmers and Aramoana Beach. She saw seals at the beach and visited the Aramoana memorial honouring those who died in a mass shooting there in 1990.



Friday, 6 September

In the morning, Lili visited NHNZ Productions <https://www.nhnz.tv/> to meet staff and view facilities. They discussed an offer for Lili to use NHNZ office space for her work during the exchange.



In the evening, Lili attended a Community Quiz Night at Waitati Hall. She experienced an example of a small southern community social gathering's humour, catering and fun.



Monday, 9 September

Lili met with the Regional Film Office's Antony Deaker for afternoon tea to discuss projects, going on to visit tourist shops to look at pounamu, visit i-SITE Dunedin Visitor Centre to discuss tourist attractions in Dunedin. She also met with Enterprise Dunedin staff member, Jeremy Baker, to discuss plans for tramping opportunity.

Tuesday, 10 September

Lili made a morning visit to Waitati School, a primary school for students in year 0-8. She observed a mihi whakatau, (Māori ceremony) to welcome new pupils, and general classroom activity and teachers at work.



Hosted by Antony Deaker, she then visited Puketeraki Marae and the historic village site at Karitane (<http://www.puketeraki.nz/>). They discussed traditional landscape stories, the period of first contact between Māori and European period in Otago, and the transition to the present. Antony's family is a member of this runaka and he has been active in different projects within it.



Tuesday, 10 September

Visited locations to observe Australian TVC and Taiwanese Game Show film crews in action. She also discussed filming logistics support with the Dunedin Regional Film Office.



Thursday, 12 September

Lili took a boat ride on Otago Harbour and visited Quarantine Island with Rose and her partner, Les. Lilli also had a lesson in water colour painting.



Friday, 13 September

Visited Petridish (<https://www.petridish.co.nz/>), a Dunedin shared workspace, to meet with:

- screenwriter and director, David Hay, who has a six week residency in Shanghai in 2018-19, initiating Dunedin-Shanghai Screen Writers' Exchange activity.
- Jason Lindsey to view facilities and discuss Petridish plans for a potential office and production base for visiting film makers
- George Dawes to discuss Short Film Otago <https://sfo.nz/> and other projects George is involved with as a freelance film maker, editor.



Saturday, 14 September

Lunch with Rebecca (Bec's) Rowe at her family's home in Ravensbourne overlooking Otago Harbour. Rebecca and Rachel Rowe are experienced screen crew working in Auckland, Wellington, Central Otago and Dunedin on film and television productions. They discussed ideas for film projects, the logistics of filming in Dunedin and New Zealand, as well as sharing family stories and enjoy a lunch of paua patties.



Sunday, 15 September

Jeremy and Hagino Baker took Lili on a short practice hike to test available tramping gear and let her feel the weight of a tramping pack. They walked up Mt Cargill and visited the volcanic basalt Organ Pipes.



Later, Lili attended the annual Moon Ceremony celebrations at Lan Yuan – Dunedin Chinese Gardens.



Friday, 20 September

Richard Bell (R&R Productions) hosted Lili for lunch at his home near Brighton. They discussed TV projects, filming in New Zealand, family stories and enjoyed stunning views of Dunedin's south coast.



Saturday 21-23 September

Jeremy and Hagino Baker took Lili tramping within Ruataniwha Conservation Park.



Tuesday, 24 September

Enterprise Dunedin invited Lili to attend a departmental meeting, after which she discussed Dunedin and China co-operation activities with Enterprise's Project China Manager, Hui Zhang.

Lili then met with Dunedin City of Literature Director, Nicky Page (<https://www.cityofliterature.co.nz/>)

Wednesday, 25 September

In the early afternoon Lili presented a lecture to University of Otago Film Media and Communications department students.

The department's Associate Professor Catherine Fowler (<https://www.otago.ac.nz/mfco/staff/otago052275.html>) took Lili to Dunedin's Otago Peninsula to visit a penguin colony. They discussed female movie directors.



Thursday, 26 September

Met with film maker Bernard Madill to discuss his triathlon movie project currently in post-production.

Friday, 27 September

Lili took part in a tour of Olveston Historic Home at 42 Royal Terrace, Dunedin (www.olvoston.co.nz/). Olveston was built in the Edwardian era by a well-travelled, highly educated and progressive Jewish merchant family. The house is filled with their works of art, fine antiques and exquisitely beautiful collectibles. The 35-room mansion is a stunning slice of Dunedin history.



Later that day, she also toured Larnach Castle, on Otago Peninsula (www.larnachcastle.co.nz). Larnach Castle is New Zealand's only castle, built 1871 by William Larnach, a businessman and politician. The now privately-owned and fully restored Castle is full of antiques and sits within a Garden of International Significance.



Friday, 27 September *continued*

Lili went on to the Otago Peninsula's Royal Albatross Centre (<https://albatross.org.nz/>) at Taiaroa Head. This eco- tourism experience allows you to safely view the only mainland breeding ground of Northern Royal Albatross in the world. These magnificent seabirds have a three-metre wingspan. Lili also viewed the Little Blue Penguin, or Kororā, the world's smallest penguin, in their natural habitat on Otago Peninsula (<https://bluepenguins.co.nz/>). At dusk, the penguins come ashore and make their way past the viewing platform to their nests.



Saturday, 28 September

Lili caught the historic Taieri Gorge train <https://www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/> to Pukerangi. She was met by Trail Journeys <http://www.trailjourneys.co.nz/> and brought to the country town of Middlesmarch. There she was set up with a bicycle, helmet and panniers in preparation for a 152km journey on the Otago Central Rail Trail over three days to Clyde accompanied by KJ, the Director of Film Otago Southland (<https://www.filmotagosouthland.com/>) and the Chair of Association of Film Commissions Internationale (<https://afci.org/>).

While in Middlesmarch Lili and KJ met with Andrea Bosshard and Shane Loader who run Torchlight Films (<https://www.torchlightfilms.co.nz/>). They discussed writing, actor management and story development as a collaborative exercise.

Lili and KJ then proceeded to The Farm Bed & Breakfast (<http://www.thefarmbnb.nz/>) to rest and prepare for the beginning of their ride the next day.



Sunday, 29 September (Otago Central Rail Trail - Day 1)

Lili and KJ ride 52km to Waipiata Hotel (<https://www.staywaipiata.co.nz/accommodation/waipiata-country-hotel>).



Monday, 30 September (Otago Central Rail Trail - Day 2)

Lili and KJ experienced sub zero temperatures, hail and strong winds as they rode 63km to Blacks Hotel Ophir (<https://blackshotel.co.nz/>). The day saw them achieve the highest point on the Rail Trail at 670m altitude.



Tuesday, 1 October (Otago Central Rail Trail - Day 3)

The pair rode 32km to Clyde where Lili was met by Tourism Central Otago, Media and Marketing Manager, Alison Mason, and delivered to Olivers (<https://www.oliverscentralotago.co.nz/>). KJ returns to Queenstown.



Wednesday, 2 October

Lili met Terry Davis from the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust to talk about the mining history of the region. Terry is also an organiser of the annual Goldfields Cavalcade, an event celebrating early pioneers (1862) journey into Central Otago by foot, horseback, or horse drawn wagon. Like Lili, he is an avid trail runner. He organises trail running races such as the Northburn 100 – a 100 mile trail running race.



Later, Lili met Central Otago Mayor Tim Cadogan in Clyde for lunch.

Sarah and Mark Reynolds then showed Lili around their boutique vineyard Dunstan Road Wines (<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/p1yxC4QZgJfBYnWpIWLuCP?domain=dunstanroadwines.co.nz>), demonstrating the winemaking process.



Lili went on to visit Alexandra Museum and i-SITE.



Wednesday, 2 October *continued*

She then joined the Lanham family for dinner at their home.



Lili also visited the small, new Clyde Cinema.



Thursday, 3 October

Orchardist, Earnscy Weaver, met Lili and showed her around local orchards. She later travelled to Queenstown with Antony Deaker



Friday, 4 October

Lili spent time with local Queenstown families, visited tourist attractions and experienced this popular visitor destination.



Friday, 4 October *continued*

She also travelled to nearby Arrowtown and visited its local museum and the historic Chinese miners' settlement which thrived during the Otago gold rush years in the 1800s.



Saturday, 5 October

Lili journeyed through mountainous country to Milford Sound where she boarded a boat tour of the Sound, witnessing magnificent waterfalls and views.



Monday, 7 October

Teresa Chan, Chair of Dunedin Shanghai Association (<http://www.dunedinshanghai.com/#>), joined Lili for a morning meeting. Lili then attended a farewell lunch with staff from Dunedin City Council her accommodation hosts Rose and Les, and local film makers before flying out to Shanghai.