

# Los Angeles Times

## THE FILM BIZ OF NEW ZEALAND

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Perhaps the most original talent of New Zealand's First wave belongs to 24 year old Vincent Ward who, with help from the film commission, has made two striking short films, "A State of Siege" (1978) and the recently completed "In Spring One Plants Alone".

The first, which was named the best student film at the 1978 Chicago Film festival and which one a special jury award the same year at the Miami Film Festival, is a stunning, almost surreal evocation of the disintegration of a spinster schoolteacher (Anne Flannery, a remarkable actress). It was based on a novel by noted New Zealand author Janet Frame.

The second is a thoroughly devastating documentary on an 82 year old Maori woman's struggle for survival while coping with an indolent, irascible and seemingly deranged son. "In Spring One Plants Alone," which took Ward a gruelling 1 1/2 years to film because of the superstitions and physical infirmities of the old woman, is at once a study of the role of ritual in day-to-day survival and an indictment of the fate of New Zealand's Polynesians.



## A STATE OF SIEGE



## IN SPRING ONE PLANTS ALONE



A Vincent Ward Film



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*Film maker Vincent Ward, 24, is at the forefront of the infant New Zealand film industry. With the help of the national film commission, he has completed two noteworthy short films.*