

# The Sydney Morning Herald

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## A Journey Through NZ Cinema

By MEAGHAN MORRIS



COMPROMISE RISK is a range of work by young filmmakers from New Zealand, a culture which differs from our own in ways which Australians often fail to appreciate, and which as a small but energetic film community exploring directions of its own.

The very diversity of the four films may cause a problem for many viewers, who will not find all the films equally to their taste. But anyone interested in finding out about New Zealand cinema should spend a pleasurable evening.

Vincent Ward's internationally-acclaimed film *A State of Siege* is a taut and sensitive treatment of an aging spinster's retreat into isolation, memory and madness, adapted from a novel by Janet Frame.

Malfred Signal is a retired art teacher, leaving a life of stifling gentility in a South Island town to work alone in a remote cottage in the North. In one terrifying night, beset by a prowler but confronting only her own image at every step, she relives her past.

Magnificently photographed by Alan Bollinger, and with a superb performance by Anne Flannery, *A State of Siege* achieves a tense and strange poetry of life in a social and spiritual backwater whose apparent uniformity and calm holds unfamiliar experience and unknown dangers.