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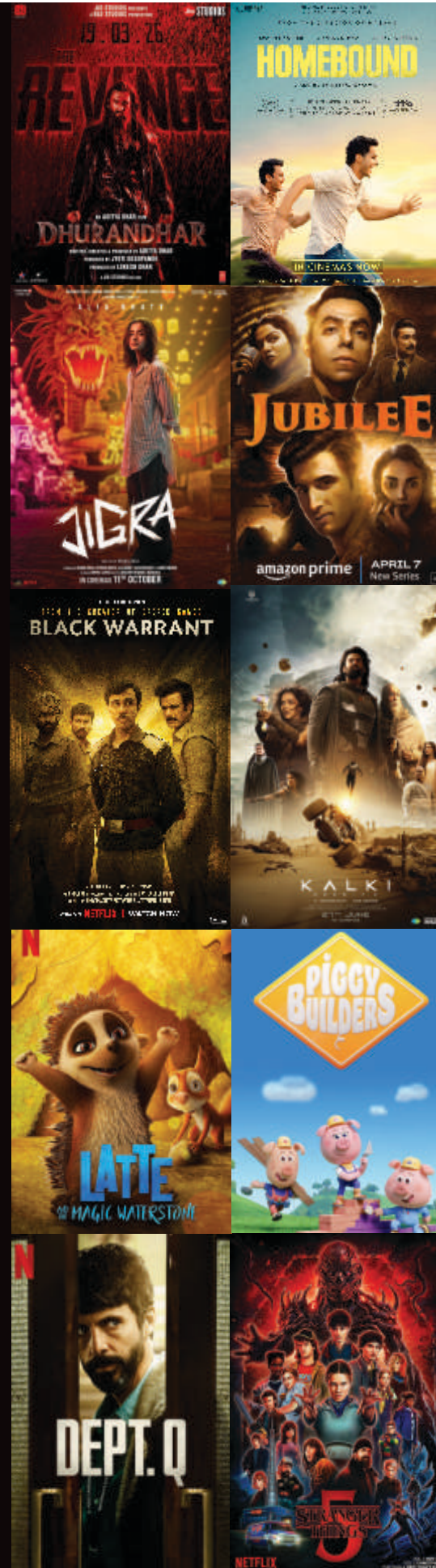


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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

FRAMING THE UNTAMED

Mount Hagen Cultural Show

Unlocking New Frontiers for Global Production

In the intersection of the Pacific and Southeast Asia lies Papua New Guinea (PNG), a nation of extraordinary depth, diversity, and untapped cinematic potential. Long regarded as one of the world's last untouched frontiers, PNG is now emerging with quiet confidence onto the global stage, not only as a destination for filming, but as a rising force within the international film tourism and production landscape.

As global filmmakers search for authenticity in an increasingly saturated visual world, Papua New Guinea offers something rare: a place where stories are not manufactured but lived. Its presence at platforms such as the India International Film Tourism Conclave (IIFTC) signals a shift in perception, from a hidden destination to a strategic and compelling partner in global storytelling.

The visual language of Papua New Guinea is defined by its raw, unfiltered beauty. Within one country, filmmakers can access sweeping river systems, dense rainforests with its diverse wildlife, dramatic mountain ranges, and pristine coastlines. PNG is uniquely divided into four distinct regions - Highlands, Momase,

Southern, and New Guinea Islands, each offering exceptional landscapes and cultural depth, making the country a versatile filming destination.

The Highlands Region, is renowned for its dramatic mountain ranges and vibrant tribal cultures. Home to iconic events like the Mount Hagen Cultural Show and peaks such as Mount Wilhelm with altitude 4,509 meters, it provides powerful settings for cultural epics and visually striking high-altitude cinematography.

The Momase Region, encompassing the Sepik, Morobe and Madang areas, is a cultural treasure trove. The Sepik River, with its traditional villages and spiritual heritage, offers filmmakers authentic environments ideal for documentaries and heritage storytelling, enriched by intricate carvings and ceremonial practices.

The Southern Region, which includes the capital Port Moresby, combines modern infrastructure with historical significance. From the dramatic Tufi Fjords to the coral-rich waters of Milne Bay and beaches with different colored sands is most suited for productions. The famed Kokoda Track, a World

War II landmark, presents raw jungle terrain suited for war and survival narratives, which includes the capital Port Moresby, combines modern infrastructure with historical significance. From the dramatic Tufi Fjords to the coral-rich waters of Milne Bay and beaches with different colored sands is most suited for productions. The famed Kokoda Track, a World War II landmark, presents raw jungle terrain suited for war and survival narratives.

The New Guinea Islands Region, delivers breathtaking marine and volcanic landscapes. The active volcanoes of New Britain particularly in Rabaul along with the turquoise waters of the NGI region are perfectly suited for adventure, underwater, and exotic island productions.

Together, these four regions position Papua New Guinea as a complete cinematic ecosystem - offering filmmakers unmatched diversity, authenticity, and visual impact within a single destination. These are not constructed locations, they are real, immersive environments that bring unparalleled authenticity to the screen.

Beyond its landscapes, Papua New Guinea's greatest strength lies in its cultural richness. With over 850 languages and hundreds of distinct cultural groups, it stands as the most linguistically diverse country in the world. Papua New Guinea's cultural calendar is highlighted by some of the most visually spectacular festivals in the world, offering filmmakers rich, authentic settings.

The Mount Hagen Cultural Show brings together hundreds of tribes in a vibrant display of synchronized dances, elaborate feathered costumes, and striking body paint, making it one of the most iconic cultural gatherings in the country.

Similarly, **the Goroka Show**, one of the oldest festivals, showcases a diverse range of tribal groups presenting their traditions through music, dance, and ceremonial attire in a more intimate and culturally grounded environment.

The Morobe Cultural Show offers a unique blend of Highlands and coastal cultures, reflecting the country's diversity through dynamic performances and community participation.

In contrast, **the National Mask Festival** in East New Britain presents a deeply spiritual and dramatic experience, featuring sacred masked ceremonies such as the Duk-Duk and the mesmerizing Baining Fire Dance.

The Malangan Festival of New Ireland Province is a sacred ceremonial tradition renowned for its intricate carved masks and sculptures, created to honor the dead and mark important social and spiritual transitions within the community.

These festivals provide unparalleled opportunities to capture the color, movement, and living traditions of Papua New Guinea in their most authentic form. The festivals also provide filmmakers with extraordinary access to living traditions, color, movement, music, and identity converge naturally, creating cinematic moments that cannot be replicated.



PNG Gulf Festival



Rabaul Volcano - East New Britain



Port Moresby



Milne Bay

Papua New Guinea stands at a defining moment in its history. With a clear vision, institutional strength, and a growing creative community, it is no longer simply an undiscovered destination, it is an emerging cinematic force. For the global film industry, the message is clear: Papua New Guinea is not just a place to shoot a film. It is a place to discover stories that the world is yet to see.

Transportation Infrastructure

Getting to and moving around Papua New Guinea is facilitated by a well-established transportation network designed to support international visitors and film crew.

Airports

Papua New Guinea is served by regional international and domestic airports in all 22 provinces. The primary international gateway is Jacksons International Airport in Port Moresby, connecting PNG to major hubs such as Brisbane, Sydney, Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore and other Pacific Islands.

Road and Transport

The PNG Road Connectivity Plan is a strategic initiative dedicated to establishing a comprehensive road network and enhancing infrastructure nationwide to facilitate greater access to remote provinces and iconic locations. The implementation of this plan has commenced and is ongoing, reflecting PNG's commitment to infrastructure development and sustainable growth.

Hotels and Accommodation

PNG offers accommodations suitable for film crews, tourists, and VIP visitors, from luxury resorts to eco-lodges and guesthouses. Port Moresby, the capital city features international-standard hotels such as The Stanley Hotel, Airways Hotel, Hilton Hotel and Crown Hotel. Madang and Lae, the Highlands

and the NGI region also has many accommodation options available.

At the core of Papua New Guinea's film tourism vision is a strong and evolving institutional framework led by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture. The Ministry plays a pivotal role in shaping the national direction for creative industries, positioning film not only as a medium of storytelling, but as a driver of tourism, cultural preservation, and economic growth.

Working under the Ministry, the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA) actively promotes the country on the global stage, facilitating access for filmmakers and supporting the logistical pathways required for international productions. Alongside this, the National Cultural Commission (NCC) ensures that all cultural engagement within film sector is conducted with authenticity, respect, and integrity, acting as a vital bridge between filmmakers and communities.

Operating within this framework, the National Film Institute (NFI), as part of the NCC, plays a critical role in shaping the future of PNG's film industry. Poised to become the National Film Authority (NFA) shortly, NFI is central to film education, training, archiving, capacity building, and nurturing filmmakers equipped with both technical expertise and cultural awareness.

The true momentum of Papua New Guinea's film industry, however, lies in its people. A growing community of filmmakers, telling stories that reflect its history, identity, and contemporary realities. This shift toward locally driven storytelling places Papua New Guinea firmly within the global creative conversation.

Production capabilities are steadily advancing, supported by emerging talent across direction, editing, cinematography and production management. This growing expertise allows a scope for meaningful international collaboration.

Among the key contributors to this progress is NAFA Productions,

a company that has become instrumental in bridging Papua New Guinea with the international film industry. Through its work in production coordination, cultural consultancy, and talent integration, NAFA Productions exemplifies how local companies can operate at global standards while preserving the authenticity of PNG.

A defining moment in this journey has been the emergence of the film 'Papa Buka'. The film became the first movie to be shortlisted for the Academy Awards representing Papua New Guinea. The film has played an important role in bringing international attention to the country's storytelling potential. It demonstrated that PNG can produce narratives that resonate on a global scale, both in emotional depth and production quality, thus opening doors for future collaborations.

Global visibility for Papua New Guinea continues to grow, driven by increasing media exposure, international partnerships, and participation in global forums. Each engagement strengthens the country's position, transforming curiosity into genuine interest among global film community.

In a world searching for authenticity, that is PNG's greatest strength.

To sum up, Papua New Guinea presents a rare combination of untouched and visually striking locations, rooted cultural authenticity, diverse landscapes within close proximity, and a structured support system led by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, alongside TPA, NCC, and NFI. Together, these elements create an environment where creative storytelling can thrive.

For filming enquiries contact: production@nafa.ac



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