

M: +44 (0)7581 309837 ♦ E: [mudshinefilms@gmail.com](mailto:mudshinefilms@gmail.com) W: [www.virginiapitts.com](http://www.virginiapitts.com)

### Personal profile

Award-winning director and writer/director of fiction, documentary, docudrama and dance-film for film and TV. Commissioned by Channel 4, BBC2, the New Zealand Film Commission, James Wallace Productions, South Pacific Pictures and TVNZ. Short films selected for over 35 international film festivals (including Berlin, Locarno, Montreal and Edinburgh) and sold to TV networks (including Canal+, Showtime TV & NBC).

Also self-shoots, produces and edits. Experience of this on documentary shoots on the West Bank & Gaza strip, with psychiatric patients, and with children suffering from brain injury, has demonstrated empathetic and sensitive responses in tense and delicate filming environments.

### Writing/Directing/Script Development

- Beyond My Brain** Documentary | [Director, Producer, Camera, Editor](#) | HD 20mins, London Brain Project/Mudshine Films, 2016 | Funding: Arts Council of England & UCLH/UCL Biomedical Research Centre | About a creative workshop for brain-injured children and their families in dialogue with artists and scientists through art-making | *Screening at Menier Gallery, London, 2017* |
- Fractured** Drama | [Script Editor](#) | Mudshine Films/Lambert Nagle, 2016 | 20-minute buddy film about two young anti-fracking protestors, to be directed by me in 2017 as a prequel to a TV series |
- Meeting (i) & (ii)** Drama | [Deviser, Producer, Director, Camera, Editor](#) | HD 80mins & 40mins, Pitts Productions/UKC, 2015 | Funding: University of Kent & Pitts Productions | Two screen dramas about a young woman who, adopted out at birth, meets her biological brother for the first time. Part of a research project comparing scripted and improvised performance for screen |
- Beat** Narrative Dance | [Writer, Director, Producer](#) | HD 15 mins, 2010, Pitts Productions | Funding: Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme & Pitts Productions | Witnessing the conflicts among a group of young adults, a clear-sighted young boy triggers communication through music, dance and food | *Selected for five international film festivals in the Americas, Europe and Australasia* |
- Fleeting Beauty** Drama | [Director](#) | 35mm, 10mins, 2004, Nomadz Unlimited | Finance: New Zealand Film Commission | In the diffused light of an overcast afternoon, an Indian woman traces the spice routes of antiquity on her New Zealand lover's back | *Selected to screen at 13 international film festivals, including Montreal, Valladolid, Toronto & Palm Springs; sold to four TV networks* |
- Birth, Death & the Bits in Between** Drama | [Development Associate](#) | MYO, 2002 | Finance: New Zealand Film Commission | Working with improvising actors to devise a feature-length screenplay with directors Ian Mune and Vicky Yiannoutsos |
- Being Eve** Drama | [Director](#) | Season II, Eps 21 & 22, 2 x 30 mins, 2001/2, South Pacific Pictures | Teen comedy-drama series for SPP/TV3 | *Winner: Silver Medal, New York TV Programming; Prix Danube, Int TV Fest for Children & Youth, Slovak Republic* |
- Trust Me** Drama | [Director, Co-Writer](#) | 35mm, 10 mins, 2000, James Wallace Productions | Finance: New Zealand Film Commission | When 11-year-old Billy asks for her older sister's trust, both are in for a nasty surprise | *Selected for 11 International Film Festivals, including Berlin, Locarno, Montreal & Valladolid; DVD, theatrical & video sales to seven territories* |

<b>Various</b>	Feature film screenplays   <a href="#">Script Assessor</a>   2000-2001   <i>The Clock</i> (Jane Sherning Warren), <i>Bow Down Shadrach</i> (Ian Mune), <i>Inside Out</i> (Simon Raby), <i>Swapper</i> (Jane Sherning Warren & Simon Raby)
<b>Illumina</b>	Dance film   <a href="#">Director</a>   BetaSP, 10 mins, 1996, Mau Theatre Company/Pitts Productions   Butoh-inspired dance choreographed by Lemi Ponifasio
<b>Various</b>	9 x corporate & instructional NB videos   <a href="#">Writer/Director</a>   1994-96, Omnicrom Productions, New Zealand
<b>Heroes</b>	Docu-drama   <a href="#">Writer/Director</a>   Season II, Ep 11, 1993, Communicado   About heroic acts by ordinary people, for Television New Zealand
<b>Magic Box</b>	Children's TV   <a href="#">Director, Post-Production Supervisor</a>   Isambard/US Discovery Network, 1992   Educational entertainment series for TV3, New Zealand
<b>Hassan</b>	Drama   <a href="#">Director, Co-writer, Producer, Editor</a>   16mm, 15 mins, 1991   Finance raised by me from private sponsors   A Palestinian family is trapped under curfew. A son is missing, gunshots are heard, a neighbour's house is ransacked...   <i>Selected to screen at Edinburgh, Melbourne &amp; Tel Aviv International Film Festivals</i>
<b>Partners in Innovation</b>	Educational   <a href="#">Writer, Producer, Director, Camera</a>   BetaSP, 30 mins, 1991, LSE/Pitts Productions   Documentary (NB) on current practices in mental health care for Prof. Shulamit Ramon, London School of Economics
<b>Palestinian Women</b>	Documentary   <a href="#">Writer, Director, Camera</a>   VHS, 15 mins, 1988, Channel 4   Shot in Israel/Palestine, about the role of women & children in the Palestinian uprising

#### Selected crewing roles

<b>The Climb</b>	Drama   <a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> AD</a> [ <a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> unit, pre-pro</a> ]   Feature film, 1996, Spellbound
<b>Naya Zamana</b>	Drama   <a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> AD</a>   16mm, 1995, Mandrika Rupa Films
<b>Heroes</b>	Docu-drama   <a href="#">1st AD</a>   Season I, 2 x eps, 1992, Communicado
<b>Homeward Bound</b>	Drama   <a href="#">Mult-cam T.P.A</a>   Soap (NZ) Ltd./TV3, 1992
<b>State of Danger</b>	Documentary   <a href="#">Camera Operator</a>   SVHS, 30 mins, 1989, CPU/BBC2
<b>Farha</b>	Documentary   <a href="#">Editor (off-line)</a>   60 mins, Athir Productions/Jordanian TV

#### Testimonials

**As self-shooting director and editor of *Beyond My Brain* (2016):**  
 "The film Virginia made for us is a perfect testament to our ethos and mission. She filmed sensitively with brain-injured children and was a real pleasure to work with - always professional, positive and personable" (Louise Weiss, Co-director: London Brain Project)

**As script editor on *Fractured* (2016):** "Virginia is both diplomat and dramaturg, with the skill and ability to see the story through the eyes of the director. Precise and clear with her instructions and always respectful of the writers' role, it's been an absolute pleasure to work together to create a production-ready screenplay" (Alison Ripley Cubitt, Co-writer: *Fractured*)

**As director of *Fleeting Beauty* (2004):** "Virginia's fluid and sensual visualisation of my screenplay brought it to life beautifully. I was most impressed by her precision, her keen eye for detail, and her sensitivity towards actors. She kept the shoot to schedule, within budget, and maintained excellent relations on set" (Shuchi Kothari, Writer/Producer: *Fleeting Beauty*)

**As director on *Being Eve* (2001/2):**  
 "During an ambitious and fast-turnaround production period, Virginia directed a large cast and crew with a winning mix of energy, authority, sensitivity and wit. The footage she produced for her episodes was strong, and built effectively on the scripts. The series sold to over 40 countries and won multiple awards, a testament to the entire creative team" (Vanessa Alexander, Producer: *Being Eve*)

#### Training

- FCPRO101: Media Training Ltd, London (2014)
- Distribution: Smashing the Glass Window, NZFC (2009)
- Arista Seminar series on Genre writing (2004)
- Robert McKee seminar on the Art Film (2004)
- WIFT Digital Camera Workshop with Mairi Gunn (2005)

#### Education

- PhD (Film), University of Auckland (2008)
- DipArts (Film), University of Auckland (1997)
- BA (Hons) Film & Video, LCP, London (1990)