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KYLIE

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## Cannes: Up and away

The Southland Times

New Zealand director Jane Campion is among the heavyweights of world cinema who dominate at this year's Cannes Film Festival. David Germain reports.

THER big names at this year's Cannes Film Festival include Quentin Tarantino, Ang Lee, Pedro Almodovar, Ken Loach and Lars on Trier.

But first, the adventures of a cranky old man and a stowaway kid in a flying house.

Cannes has lightened up for the opening night as the festival's 62nd edition takes to the sky with Disney and Pixar Animation's Up, the story of a curmudgeonly widower, voiced by Edward Asner, who sets off to South America in a house carried aloft by thousands of helium balloons.

It's the first animated movie to open Cannes. Also for the first time, the fashionable audience in gowns and tuxedos will all be wearing glasses – the 3-D kind. Up is the only 3-D movie ever to open the world's most

prestigious film festival. "I'm just like a geeky kid from Minnesota who likes to draw cartoons, so the fact that we're going to France to be a part of this internationally renowned festival is kind of mind-blowing," said Up director Pete

Opening night is a far cry from last year's, when Cannes started with the dreary plague drama Blindness, casting a lingering pall over the 12-day festival The overall lineup was gloomy and generally unremarkable, loaded with tales from new and lesser-known filmmakers.

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**Director Pete Docter.** 

## Coming full circle

MATE Mark Wilson

T'S been a long time since I was a first year Scarfie (a young mad student in Dunedin for those of you who don't know)

Not quite as long but still rather significant is the gap between now and the last time I sat in a lecture theatre and attempted, in an often glassy-eyed state, to absorb some of what was rolling off the lecturer's tongue while sneaking in glimpses at the scenery located around the classroom, which was often much more interesting, especially in legal history, than the lecture itself.

From what I can remember about those heady days at least 50 per cent of those in attendance had their minds on the previous night's activities, the pretty girl in the next row or the impending shenanigans of the upcoming evening, 25 per cent were asleep and the rest listening intently in fear of their parents cutting off the credit card in lieu of anything less than an A+ in the paper.

As you may have gathered from my ramblings over the last few years I'm a frequent visitor back to the land of \$2 watered down doubles, Speight's, Castle St riots, and flats that wouldn't pass the health and safety code even in war torn Afghanistan. It keeps me young, I reckon.

You get a pass out to forget the bills, contracts and paperwork of everyday life, a chance to ignore the fact that if you fail in your work you don't just have to repeat the paper, you go hungry. The few days of playing Verses Rugby, sharing an ale or two with young enthusiastic students and stopping for an ice cream on the way back in Lawrence or Balclutha, can remove weeks of built up stress and take you back in nostalgic lament to a simpler more laid back era of existence.

It is with great irony I now find myself asked to return not to play Verses Rugby or attend a social event of some description. although no doubt I will find the time to do so, but to speak to second year marketing students as some form of guest lecturer . . .



It's not that I don't do public speaking on a regular basis, it's just this invitation hits home so vividly due to the fact I don't think I've quite accepted I'm still not one of them myself. I'm speaking on a paper I didn't particularly excel in as a student as much in part because of a slightly recreational focus as to my tendency to disagree with the course content and spend more time justifying this position than answering the questions given to me.

No one has ever known me to be argumentative have they? Ha ha.

So, on Monday I'll stand up and have to finally admit I have crossed to the other side – the student has become the teacher, a little knowledge and possibly one lecturer's error in judgement has taken what years could not, my Scarfie youth.

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