



Online diva: Actress Maame Valenkamp, star of the online movie posted on Stray Cinema's website.

Venture for DIY directors

REUBEN SCHWARZ

OPEN source has hit Wellywood, with a group of Wellingtonians posting the raw footage of a movie online for anyone to turn into their own masterpiece.

Stray Cinema is a nonprofit venture that borrows from the world of open-source software, where source code is freely available for the public to alter to create their own programs.

The Stray Cinema website hosts 70 minutes of raw film footage that anyone can download to edit any way they like. The final cut can be uploaded back to the website for others to see and vote on.

"We want people to tell their own story with it," says project coordinator Michelle Hughes. "Essentially what we're saying is that your version of the film might be better than ours."

The five most popular edits will be shown at a special screening in London, probably next year.

Ms Hughes hopes Stray Cinema will attract professional film-makers and editors as well as amateurs. She's also looking for musicians to contribute music for the soundtrack.

Ms Hughes directed the shooting of the footage in London last year to turn into her own short film. When she returned to New Zealand, she decided to release the footage for anyone to use. She is coy about what her film is about and says it's not obvious from the footage, which contains no dialogue.

The contest has one submission so far, from an Australian musician who made an unusual two-minute clip titled "information is soaking".

"It blew me away to see someone interpret the footage in a totally different way," Ms Hughes says.

She wants Stray Cinema to be an annual event and is asking the public for donations of other raw footage. Next year's movies will be screened wherever the footage is shot.

Stray Cinema was approached by companies looking to sponsor the contest, but Ms Hughes wants to keep it free of commercial interests for the time being, funding it through her day job selling ads for technology website M-net.

There are a handful of movies on the Internet that borrow from open source ideas, with films or raw footage available for download. People can usually edit the footage however they like, as long as they don't then sell their edits.

The most ambitious is the *Swarm of Angels* project, where for £25 (NZ\$70) a subscriber gets a say in many features of the film's production, including the script.

Vodafone staff to transfer

DOZENS of Vodafone New Zealand staff are set to find themselves clocking on at IBM or EDS after the British telco appointed both

the rival IT firms as outsourcing partners.

The telco selected EDS and IBM to develop and manage its software, worldwide, in a move

er ihug could transfer to EDS and IBM, says Vodafone New Zealand chief executive Russell Stanners, but he says they may stay where they are given the

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