

# denizen

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# Summer Viewing

Whether it's thought-provoking documentaries or fantastical cinema you're hungry for, rest assured summer is serving up enticing visual goods for all.



## Agnes Peel-McGregor

**T**o say we're expecting great things from Polish-born, New-Zealand residing filmmaker Agnes Peel-McGregor would be an understatement.

In 2014, David Lynch awarded Peel-McGregor's short film *Milkmaid* first place in his scholarship competition, resulting in her studying at his prestigious film school in America. Under Lynch's watchful eye she developed her next film, *Last Tree Standing*, a dystopian fantasy about a girl who befriends a half-man, half-tree magical creature. The film, described by the filmmaker as an "expansion on *Milkmaid*", tackles themes of environmentalism in a profoundly unique way. It became an instant hit amongst critics, going on to win thirty awards on the

international festival circuit. In June this year, it was selected from several thousand films for a theatrical release in Hollywood, simultaneously qualifying it for Oscars consideration. It's an incredible achievement, but don't be fooled into thinking Peel-McGregor is kicking back and resting on her laurels. "I am currently collaborating with an Australian writer on a mystery web series," she explains, before divulging that she's just completed the first draft of a feature film script — something she describes as "a bleak, female-driven satire" — and is also planning on dipping her toe into the advertising and video art worlds in the not too distant future. Clearly a serious force of unbridled talent, we suggest this is only the beginning of an exciting career.