

STARRING **Will Forte** AND **D'Arcy Carden**



Stan. ORIGINAL

Sunny Nights



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Stan.

Cast

Martin Marvin – Will Forte
Vicki Marvin – D’Arcy Carden
Terry Torres – Will Mason
Susi Kamdani – Jessica De Gouw
Nova Tulua – Megan Wilding
Joyce Davis – Ra Chapman
Mony Monroe – Rachel House
Frank – David Roberts
Kash – Miritana Hughes
Dentist Dave – Matuse
Dreadlock Pete – George Mason
Dr Vega – Chum Ehelepola
Henley – Leon Ford
Benno – Harry Greenwood
Huela – Emma Lung
Lewis Templeton – Ewen Leslie
Logan – Phil Lloyd
Nugget – Rick Donald
Roy – William Zappa

Crew

Creator/Executive Producer/Writer – Nick Keetch
Creator/Executive Producer/Writer – Ty Freer
Executive Producer – Jason Burrows
Executive Producer – Bridget Callow
Executive Producer – Shay Spencer
Executive Producer – Doug Mankoff
Executive Producer – Andrew Spaulding
Executive Producer – Chris Davis
Executive Producer – Amotz Zakai
Executive Producer – Myra Model
Executive Producer/Showrunner/Director – Trent O’Donnell
Writer – Marieke Hardy
Writer – Lally Katz
Writer – Clare Sladden
Writer – Niki Aken
Director of Photography – Tyson Perkins
Production Designer – Claire Granville
Costume Designer – Rita Carmody
Hair and Makeup Designer – Cassie Hanlon
Editor – Gabe Dowrick
Editor – Danielle Boesenberg



Logline

Two American spray tan entrepreneurs are dragged into Sydney's underworld when a botched extortion attempt turns deadly.

Synopsis

An American brother and sister travel to Australia hoping to build a successful spray tan business, but a momentary lapse in judgment draws the siblings into the Sydney underworld. When the duo tries to escape by committing a tiny bit of murder, they must figure out how to stay alive, out of prison, and in the black.

Long Synopsis

American brother and sister, MARTIN and VICKI MARVIN have ventured to Australia to launch their fledgling spray tan company, Tansform. Travelling half-way across the world to start their business made sense - Australia has the highest skin cancer rate in the world and their spray tan market is exploding. Plus, it just happens to be where Martin's estranged wife, JOYCE, returned to after their marriage collapsed.

Martin, a cautious former risk analyst, is desperate to win his wife back by proving he's the bold, ambitious man she fell in love with 15 years ago. And for Vicki, whose life has been a case study in self-sabotage, starting a successful business is an opportunity to prove to her doubters - and to herself - that she's not destined to be a loser.

The duo is making real progress when Martin is targeted by con artist SUSI, leading to a deadly confrontation with her psychotic boss, KASH.

In the aftermath, Martin, Vicki, Susi, and ex-footy-player-turned-enforcer, TERRY, cover



up their crimes by feeding Kash's body to a crocodile - which should allow the siblings to continue their spray tan journey now that nothing connects them to the murder. But, in what might be the most improbable turn in the history of the cosmetic industry, the poor reptile explodes and blows the evidence of their misdeed all over a golf course.

Making matters worse, Joyce, a journalist, picks up the story of the exploding croc, and joined by animal wrangler and amateur sleuth, NOVA, attempts to solve Sydney's most bizarre murder - an investigation that might lead her straight back to Martin.

And Joyce isn't the only one on the siblings' trail - Kash's unhinged, loan-shark sister, MONY, is fresh out of prison, and she really loves her brother. So, when she finds out someone's murdered him, things start to get very violent, very quickly.

As the season progresses, Martin and Vicki's attempts to turn their spray tan company from a start-up operating out of the back of a van into a million-dollar business become increasingly intertwined with Sydney's criminal underworld, forcing them to decide how far they're willing to go to achieve their dreams.



Episode 1

Transform With Tansform

By Nick Keetch and Ty Freer

Martin and Vicki Marvin, American spray tan entrepreneurs, are dragged into the Sydney underworld when an extortion attempt turns deadly.

Synopsis

Siblings MARTIN and VICKI MARVIN have flown across the world with dreams of making their burgeoning spray tan company, Tansform, a success. It's the fresh start they both desperately need – Martin hopes building a successful company is the kind of daring gesture that will win back his estranged wife, JOYCE, and Vicki wants to prove she can be more than just an impulse-driven underachiever.

Arriving in Sydney for a Beauty Convention, the siblings check in to the extremely dodgy-looking Sunny Nights motel and quickly get to work trying to find a retail partner who will stock their spray tan.

But their plans are disrupted when Martin is rejected by Joyce, which leads to a drunken one-night-stand with SUSI KAMDANI, who just happens to be a con woman.

The next morning, footage of the tryst is used by criminal KASH MONROE to blackmail Martin. Told he needs to pay to keep the footage private, Martin and Vicki must find ten grand to get the extortionists off their backs and ensure that video is never seen by Joyce.

But Martin and Vicki's scramble to find the money only pulls them deeper into the Sydney underworld when they attempt to borrow the blackmail money from ex-footy-player-turned-standover-man, TERRY TORRES.

When the deal with Kash goes horribly awry, Martin, Vicki, Terry and Susi are forever entwined as they take extreme measures to destroy all evidence and cover their tracks.

But when an escaped crocodile explodes on a putting green, it exposes Martin and Vicki's transgressions, and they're left with a decision about how to move forward with their business as they face down the dangerous consequences of their actions.



Episode 2

Blinders on, Baby

By Marieke Hardy

On-edge and under-slept, Martin and Vicki attempt to secure a manufacturer for Tansform, only to discover the dramatic events of the previous night won't stay buried.

Synopsis

After the events of the previous night, MARTIN and VICKI are, to put it mildly, nervous. Determined to keep their focus on the business rather than the fatal encounter with an unstable criminal, they've found a potential Tansform manufacturer in footy die-hard, NUGGET FRASER, who can help them produce the cans of spray tan they need to fulfil a retail contract. But while they look towards the future, the sins of their recent past are catching up fast...

Because MONY MONROE, Kash's notoriously psychotic crime boss sister, has just been released from prison. Offended that her beloved brother didn't show up to welcome her back, Mony immediately turns her attention to tracking him down. Which is a disturbing turn for SUSI, who works for Mony, and, well-aware of the circumstances behind Kash's demise, is forced to divert her boss's attention in order to cover her tracks.

Meanwhile, JOYCE has begun an investigation into the events that led to the crocodile exploding. NOVA TULUA, an enthusiastic reptile wrangler who discovered the grisly scene, lets slip that a tattooed human hand was found amongst the reptilian remains. When Joyce successfully squeezes Kash's name out of DETECTIVE BOULDER, she looks into his background, and becomes convinced that this

is a story that could reignite her journalism career. If only her editor, OLIVIA, would let her pursue it.

When Martin and Vicki hit a roadblock with their Nugget negotiations, they have no choice but to break their no-contact vow with TERRY, leading Martin to a surprising, and aggressive, moment of self-discovery.

Manufacturing deal secured, things are looking up again for the siblings. But when Mony's worst fears about Kash are confirmed by the police, she's set on a path of vengeance that can only end badly for Martin and Vicki.



Episode 3

Not A Drug Drop, Roy

By Lally Katz

Martin and Vicki celebrate as Tansform lands on shelves and make plans to ensure their retail trial at a pharmacy chain takes off, while Mony's quest for vengeance and Joyce's investigation both gain momentum.

Synopsis

It's official: Tansform has finally hit the hallowed shelves of retailer, Chemist Galore! MARTIN and VICKI are feeling great. Not only have they secured a trial deal with a national pharmacy, but Martin's making progress with Joyce, and Vicki's starting to think the company's success might get her the validation she craves from her mother back in the States.

But their excitement is short-lived when their retail buyer, HENLEY, explains they need to hit their sales targets quickly if they don't want to be relegated to the clearance aisle.

To promote Tansform they set up a free spray-tan activation at Bondi Beach, but are soon booted off the boardwalk for not having the necessary permits.

While Martin races off to acquire a permit, Vicki decides to take matters into her own hands, and enlists the services of elderly (and slightly out of practice) pilot, ROY, to fly a Tansform banner across the beach.

And while Martin and Vicki are focused on advertising their company, a grieving MONY is coming to terms with her brother's death. In denial, Mony focuses her repressed anger on a debtor who owes her money, while SUSI and TERRY discuss a plan to avoid her discovering

their involvement – which becomes much more difficult when Mony announces a 75K reward to whoever brings her Kash's killer.

And to top it all off, JOYCE and NOVA start poking around Family Fun Time after linking Mony's rundown kiddie theme park to the dead man whose hand was found inside the crocodile that exploded. While scoping out the grounds, they discover an intriguing piece of evidence, solidifying the two as a team and further bolstering Joyce's theory that Kash was murdered – which is bad news for Martin and Vicki.



Episode 4

Next On The Board

By Clare Sladden

Martin and Vicki are confronted by their corporate shortcomings, while Susi and Terry concoct a plan to keep Mony off their trail.

Synopsis

High off the unexpected success of their high-stakes Bondi Beach publicity stunt, MARTIN and VICKI are quickly brought back to reality with a surprise visit to *Sunny Nights* from SUSI and TERRY, who inform them MONY is rapidly closing in on Kash's killer.

Mony's interrogations into who might have killed Kash are clearing potential suspects, which puts her on a fast path to eventually bringing in Kash's blackmail victims – the most recent of which was Martin.

Susi and Terry think Martin and Vicki should get out of the country. But with Tansform taking off and things going well with Joyce, Martin and Vicki aren't so keen on leaving right now. They just need something to get Mony off their scent. Luckily, Martin has a wild idea for a frame-job solution that just might work. All they need is a dead body, a good story and a willing witness.

As Susi and Terry begin to enact the elaborate cover-up plan, Martin and Vicki attend the Chemist Galore Vendor Engagement Day, hoping to pick up tips, tricks and valuable connections that'll help take Tansform national. As Martin takes to the stage with inspirational speaker, LEWIS TEMPLETON, Vicki networks with CEO and multi-millionaire, HAZEL BELANSZKY. But a day of attempted schmoozing with the best in the beauty biz

only shows the siblings how much further they have left to go.

And as JOYCE and NOVA piece together Kash's connection to Susi, Mony's quest to find her brother's killer brings her face to face with Martin, who has to dig into his past in order to survive.



Episode 5

Dumbest Girl Alive

By Niki Aken

As Martin races against time to divert Mony's investigation into who killed her brother, Vicki's misguided attempt to boost Tansform's profile threatens to put them right back in her crosshairs.

Synopsis

After meeting with a high-end marketing firm, VICKI is determined to boost Tansform's profile, and her own fragile self-belief, with an expensive advertising campaign. But MARTIN, knowing they haven't got the budget and feeling like Tansform is on the path to meeting their sales goals, suggests they take the day off (so that he can spend it trying to impress JOYCE on her birthday). But a frustrated Vicki is determined to prove herself. So, Vicki tells Martin he can go hang with his estranged wife, but she's going to knuckle down.

Meanwhile, NOVA infiltrates Kash's wake at Family Fun Time, using a bogus snake sighting as cover to look for the mystery wine bar con-woman, SUSI.

And at the same wake, MONY, upset by the weak turnout of mourners and well-wishers, starts to suspect everyone at the event of killing her brother. Which means the plan to frame a corpse for Kash's murder needs to come together quickly. But that might be a challenge because a road rage incident triggers TERRY's CTE and he rolls into a ditch, with a rapidly defrosting body in his boot. Martin has to put his plans for Joyce's birthday on hold to rescue Terry and stage the crime scene in a way that'll convince Mony of the dead man's guilt – all before his big date.

Making it to the cocktail bar just in time, a frazzled Martin shows Joyce a side of himself that she's never seen before - one that might convince her he's a new man. And while Martin's proving himself to his wife, Terry's trying to convince Mony that a corpse she's completely unfamiliar with killed Kash.

And as it starts to look like the ruse might take the heat off the siblings and their co-conspirators, Vicki, still looking for the money to fund her advertising campaign, might drop them right back in the fire by borrowing cash from the worst possible option in Australia...



Episode 6

On A Cellular Level

By Nick Keetch and Ty Freer

Martin and Vicki go to war with a rival brand, while Joyce and Nova go undercover, and Susi tries to get out of the crime business for good.

Synopsis

Tansform's meteoric rise hits a speed bump when arch-rival Glow Bronze runs an irresistible in-store BOGO promo. Which means VICKI's expensive billboard campaign is completely nullified. Now heavily in debt to the sister of the man they killed, and struggling to hit their sales targets, MARTIN and Vicki can feel their dreams, and their lives, slipping through their fingers. Martin develops a convoluted coupon scheme to compete with Glow Bronze, but customers aren't convinced.

TERRY, having received the reward money for discovering Kash's killer, tries to get the ball rolling on his experimental CTE treatment, only to be told that he'll need to kick his opioid habit.

JOYCE and NOVA, who have discovered the identity of the mysterious extortionist, track SUSI to her house, and posing as wildlife wranglers, discover a clue that might unravel the mystery of Kash's death - while also revealing a shocking truth about Martin.

MONY, the burden of her brother's death finally lifted, makes plans to expand her criminal operation. But when her overzealous interrogation methods into the death of her brother are punished by the criminal syndicate in which she's a partner, she must figure out how to save her crumbling criminal empire.

Which is a problem for Susi, who has plans to exit the Fun Time crew, and get back to her dreams of rebuilding her family's business. But Mony's desperate, making it unlikely she'll be allowed to leave. Meaning Susi's going to have to force her way out.

Meanwhile, Vicki tries to disrupt their rival's supply of spray tan and ends up locked in the back of a Glow Bronze delivery truck. As Martin attempts to save his sister, he must decide if he has it in him to also save his company. Even if that means breaking the law.



Episode 7

A Journey Down The Uncertain Road Of Yes

By Nick Keetch and Ty Freer

Martin and Vicki try to finalise a long-term national distribution deal that will take Tansform to the next level, Susi attempts to change careers, Terry struggles to get clean, and Mony jumps into a new business.

Synopsis

MARTIN and VICKI, expecting to be offered a long-term contract, are brought back down to earth when their buyer, HENLEY, tells them that changes at the corporate level mean they have to impress a new VP of Sales. The siblings finagle their way into a private dinner with the VP, LACHLAN JENNINGS, and make plans to present themselves as impossible to turn down - a difficult task for wild-card Vicki.

MONY, meanwhile, is also making big moves. Having lost the casino, she's partnered with the owner of a greyhound track. Unfortunately, the clientele aren't exactly the high rollers she's used to.

Not wanting to go down with the Fun Time ship, SUSI plans to buy back her family's hotel and leave the crime life for good. But first, she'll have to convince the bank of her professional acumen and good moral character.

Head still spinning from last episode's revelation about Martin, JOYCE has her own questions about moral character. Could her husband really be capable of murder?

TERRY, trying to kick his opioid habit, gives in to his addiction and plans to get around his drug test by using a "urine doner." But when

he hits rock bottom, he recommits to his plan to detox by any means necessary.

Despite Martin's planning and Vicki's commitment to putting on a professional demeanour, the VP dinner doesn't go to plan. As Martin struggles, Susi, playing his "wife", tries to convince him that he's capable of anything - after all, she's seen him survive much worse.

Together, Martin and Vicki use everything they've learned over the course of the season to convince Lachlan that they deserve a place on his retail shelves. But their success might not be worth much, because Joyce has made a discovery that could lead to them losing much more than their business.



Episode 8

Whatever Is Necessary

By Nick Keetch and Ty Freer

Martin and Vicki must pull off the con of a lifetime to save their skins and their company.

Synopsis

Chemist Galore distribution deal secured, MARTIN and VICKI think they'll have the money they need to pay back their debt. But when they discover they won't receive any money for months, they must explore alternate financial options if they're to keep all their limbs intact. And they have to move quickly, because Vicki's next on MONY's list of debts to collect.

Martin and Vicki don't have much time to brainstorm solutions because JOYCE arrives to confront Martin with her damning evidence about his involvement in Kash Monroe's death. Martin finally confesses and Joyce is forced to decide whether she can move forward with her story, and if she wants anything to do with Martin.

SUSI, meanwhile, knowing Mony will never let her leave the Fun Time Crew, sets up a murderous ambush with another criminal, SKINNER.

When Mony arrives at *Sunny Nights* to collect, Martin and Vicki make a narrow escape and devise a new plan to settle their debt by borrowing the money from TERRY. At Terry's caravan, they find him in the throes of his detox. When they can't wake him, they decide to borrow his bag of cash temporarily. But Terry wakes and catches them in the act. Fortunately for the siblings, Terry's chained himself to his bed as part of his detox, and he's

unable to stop them from making off with his treatment fund.

Martin and Vicki absolutely plan to pay Terry back as soon as they clear their debt and get paid by Chemist Galore. But when their rust-bucket car finally gives out in dramatic fashion, their ill-gotten funds are destroyed.

With no money and no other options, Martin and Vicki make one final all-or-nothing gamble to save their skins. But as they attempt to bluff their way out of trouble – they find that the only path forward that'll leave them alive is one where they make a deal with the devil.



About The Main Characters

MARTIN and VICKI, the siblings at the centre of this story, are two sides of the same coin. Except Martin's side is unused. It's kept in a felt-lined box. Rarely removed to ensure it remains unblemished by the world. Vicki's side is different. It's corroded by oxidation, scratched, and dented. It barely works in vending machines these days, and it's probably time it was discontinued. The product of a financially reckless father and an emotionally-indifferent mother, Martin has always been Vicki's de-facto parent. Someone had to raise them, so he took the responsibility and leaned into playing things safe. He took the first job offered out of college. Married his college sweetheart. Bought a house in his hometown. Set himself up so he'd never make the same mistakes as his parents. Vicki went the other way. She reacted to the chaos of their childhood by deciding that life's a bitch, so why play by the rules? Vicki's life's been a party. The kind that lasts 25 years. The kind where you catch

your reflection in the mirror while cutting up lines of coke and realise - that maybe - you're running out of chances to make a change.

But then Martin's wife, Joyce, left him, and Vicki was arrested for selling stolen spray tan. And the siblings, pushing forty and staring headlong at the disaster of the rest of their lives, both decided they needed to try something different. So, together they took the plunge into the exciting world of consumer beauty products. Martin quit his job. They developed a unique formula. Bottled it. Named it "Tansform." And hit the sales convention circuit in Australia - because they have the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, and it just so happens to be where his estranged wife is currently located. He can't win her back if they're 15,000 kilometres apart. Which is how they ended up in Sydney, fledgling company struggling. The last of the start-up cash, gone. Trying to get away with murder. A murder that has intertwined Martin and Vicki with a series of other characters whose stories will constantly overlap with theirs.



Martin Marvin

Martin's smart and funny and determined – but underneath, he's deeply anxious. In spite of his ambitious nature, he's always let fear rule his decision making. His unwillingness to take more risks led to his marriage stagnating, and now he wants to change.

Martin wants to prove to his wife that he's the driven man she thought she married, so he quit his job, cleaned out his savings, started a spray tan business with his wayward younger sister, Vicki, and set out for Australia. Sure, he's cash-strapped, entrepreneurially-inexperienced, and temporarily living in a culture he doesn't understand – but he's not

going back to America without the woman he loves.

But there was a reason Martin sought out the safe route in life. He knows there's a part of him that's been waiting to escape. A part he can't control. A part that frightens, but also excites him.

Over the course of the season, we'll see Martin slowly transition from a scared, straight-laced rule-follower to a more confident, impulsive man capable of doing anything to get what he wants. But as his outlook on life starts to change, so will his goals, and he'll start to wonder whether he really wants his old life back.



Vicki Marvin

Vicki is the opposite of Martin. Vicki isn't scared of anything. She lives her life to the max and doesn't worry about consequences. She's spent the past 20 years partying, travelling, jumping from short-term relationship to short-term relationship - moving so fast she'll never have to think about the trauma she's running from.

But now Vicki's decided it's time to prove to everyone that she's got what it takes to make a success out of her life. Because Vicki doesn't want to be seen as a wayward embarrassment anymore. She's out to earn some respect. So,

she convinced her brother that they both needed a change and together, they started spray tan company, Tansform. And while the business is helping her see herself in a different light, the voice in the back of her head that tells her she's worthless is always waiting to rear its head.

Over the course of the season, we'll reveal the layer of self-doubt that lies underneath Vicki's super-confident, brash exterior. She'll reveal to Martin that she's terrified their Mum is right when she says Vicki's worthless, and eventually she'll discover that all of her impulsiveness can be a superpower *if* she applies it at the right time.



Terry Torres

Terry is a former Rugby League star turned stand-over-man in the Sydney underworld, whose tough exterior hides a yearning to regain the family he's lost.

Terry spent his 20s as a popular and successful first-grade Rugby League front rower. But years of concussions, and one particularly bad knock to the head, caused Terry to develop CTE. His personality began to change, and a painkiller addiction soon followed, ending his career. Terrified of his own increasingly unpredictable mood-swings, he decided to separate himself from his loving wife Huela and son TJ, at least until he could find a cure for his condition.

These days, Terry's only source of income is working as muscle, relying on his reputation for violence. A reputation he hates. Despite keeping his distance from his family, Terry quietly keeps tabs on TJ, who's now a teenager with a talent for footy. When Terry watches TJ play from the top row of the grandstand – hat down to avoid being recognised – he can't help but feel pride. A feeling that will drive him to try and change.

Over the course of the season, as Terry does whatever's necessary to find a cure for his brain, he'll learn that it's actually his soul that needs saving.



Susi Kamdani

Susi is charming, whip-smart and highly observant – skills that have served her well as a con-woman. Her trade is seducing sleazy high-rollers at a Sydney casino – then blackmailing them with footage of their indiscretions the next morning.

Despite her talent, this is not the life Susi pictured for herself. Her life of crime didn't start until her father fell ill and lost his country hotel. After that, Susi had to increasingly rely on her illicit income to support her family, and fell in with a local crew of criminals that could provide her with easy marks and protection.

But taking advantage of people is starting to get to Susi. Especially now that her boss,

local crook Kash Monroe, is starting to behave increasingly erratically.

And when she finds herself destroying the life of Martin Marvin, a man who definitely doesn't seem like he deserves it, Susi starts to think that maybe she needs to get out of crime.

That exit comes faster than expected one night, bonding her forever with former-mark, Martin. But as the consequences of her attempted escape catch up with her, Susi has to use all her powers of persuasion to keep herself and her new “friends” out of the cross-hairs of the cops and the crooks of Sydney.

Over the course of the season, Susi will find herself diving deeper into the world of crime in order to escape, only to discover she's more trapped than ever.



Nova Tulua

Nova's a wildlife wrangler for Rapid Reptile Removal – a family business that sounds more exciting than it actually is. Although there are worse jobs than setting snake traps around Sydney with her Uncle Frank, the mundanity of the gig has set in.

She's starting to feel stuck and dreams of what an alternative life path might look like, when one day on a work assignment, she finds a crocodile with a hole in its belly on a golf course. And inside that hole, a human hand.

And man, she just can't stop thinking about it.

Nova knows she should just focus on her job. But she can't help herself – she dives headlong into trying to solve the case with Joyce. And while her actions might put her job and her life at risk, she may have finally found her purpose.

Over the course of the series, Nova will go from a non-committal young woman yearning to escape her boring family business, to an obsessive amateur sleuth trying to solve a mysterious murder which helps her discover who she really is, and what she was meant to do.



Joyce Davis

Joyce grew up feeling like the forgotten member of her family. So, when she met Martin and he offered her love and companionship, it felt like she was getting something she always wanted. And Martin seemed like he wanted the same things as her – to move to a big city and pursue their dreams. That's why she left Australia for America in the first place.

But as Martin broke promise after promise, Joyce felt her life's goal of becoming a serious journalist drift away. As the years went by, she began to resent how Martin's own insecurities had stifled her life. So, she left him, moved back to Sydney and took a junior position at an online magazine -mostly click-bait stories, but it's a start.

When Joyce is assigned a story about an exploded crocodile on a golf course, she assumes it's just another puff piece. But when she discovers that the explosion has revealed the hand of a murdered criminal, she thinks she's found a story that could be her big break...

Joyce starts the season trying to prove that her new life without her husband is the one she's always wanted. But as she struggles to unravel the story behind the hand inside the crocodile, she starts to wonder if her new career is a huge mistake. And, as her doubts increase, her old fears about being alone start to rear their head, leading her back towards her estranged husband, Martin.



Mony Monroe

Mony grew up in foster homes with her brother, Kash. Constantly being shuffled around, the siblings came away from the chaos believing they could only rely on each other. They ran away from a group home in their teens and ended up in Sydney, robbing tourists, and running small scams. Eventually they saved enough of their ill-gotten gains to buy the dilapidated Family Fun Time, a lone symbol of joy from their childhoods, and turn it into their base of operations.

Over the years, they developed their criminal enterprise into a loan-sharking operation where they target down-on-their-luck gamblers outside of local casinos, and offer to front them cash to go back to the

tables – before taking the same gamblers for everything they’ve got when they inevitably fail to pay back their debts.

After three years in prison, she’s about to be released and reunited with her beloved brother. But when she gets out, she discovers the only person who she truly loves, Kash, is gone. Mony’s need for vengeance puts her on the warpath, and on a collision course with Martin and Vicki.

But vengeance is a lonely place, and without her brother by her side, Mony’s starting to doubt whether she even wants to be a criminal. Over the course of the season, as she starts to consider alternative options, she might just find her calling in a burgeoning spray tan company...



About The Production

Sunny Nights is a Stan Original series from Jungle Entertainment (*Population 11*, *Mr. Inbetween*) and Echo Lake Entertainment (*The Great*) in association with Cineflix Rights (*Last King of The Cross*, *Tehran*) with major production investment from Stan and Screen Australia, and financed with support

from Screen NSW through the Made in NSW Fund. The series is directed and executive produced by Trent O'Donnell (*Population 11*, *Colin from Accounts*, *No Activity*, *Hacks*) and is created and written by Nick Keetch (*Almost Paradise*) and Ty Freer (*High Fire*, *Almost Paradise*). Stan executive producers are Cailah Scobie and Amanda Duthie. Cineflix Rights executive producers are James Durie and Tom Misselbrook.



Sun Tanning And Australia - How *Sunny Nights* Came About

For Jungle Entertainment's Managing Director and executive producer of *Sunny Nights*, Jason Burrows, the opportunity to make the show with Echo Lake Entertainment was irresistible. Jungle had been looking for projects to bring Trent O'Donnell back to Australia when Echo Lake Entertainment approached Jungle with Nick Keetch and Ty Freer's pilot script.

"*Sunny Nights* is a perfect Jungle show because it is very much a drama that goes to some interesting and dark places, but it also has really strong comedic elements, and they're the type of shows that we love. It was a project that we immediately saw as a perfect Trent O'Donnell show - it just ticked all the boxes for us," Jason says.

Executive producer (and CEO of Echo Lake) Doug Mankoff said, "Working with Jungle and Trent O'Donnell has been an amazing collaboration. We could not have asked for better partners to help make *Sunny Nights* such a terrific television show."

Co-creators and executive producers Nick and Ty were looking to develop a crime show together that emphasized their different approaches to writing. Ty's background leans towards comedy, whereas Nick has written more drama. The inspiration for the series came from friends of Nick's who had started a spray tanning business from their house in Los Angeles, building it into a juggernaut company that they later sold for tens of millions of dollars.

"That's how we ended up with a crime show that combines the complexities of trying to get away with murder with the absurdities of

trying to build a spray tan business. It seemed to us that there was an interesting aspirational story to tell that also had a metaphorical component about how we hide ourselves in the modern world,” Nick explains.

“Sydney has a coastal culture that’s similar to LA, and LA was a big influence on our thinking when we created the show. Sydney has a culture that’s very aesthetically aspirational, so it’s the perfect place to set a show about spray tanning. There are a lot of people who present versions of themselves externally that aren’t always the most authentic versions of themselves. That, combined with Australia’s very specific cultural interest in the outlaw and the criminal, made Sydney the right place to combine those two story elements,” Nick continues.

Nick and Ty also knew that to distinguish their show from the many other crime shows on

television around the world, they needed to create unique characters alongside the story of the spray tanning business.

“We were shooting for people you’ve never seen on screen before, something subversive, something different, like Nova the wildlife wrangler. We could very easily have had her just as an investigating cop but we always want to do something different, which isn’t always easier, but it’s ultimately more rewarding,” Ty says.

Nick adds that Terry, the criminal fixer, could also have been a one note character; the muscle who just walks around beating people up: “But we wanted something that gave him more depth, and that’s why we added the element of him being an ex-rugby player suffering from a degenerative brain disease, so that we could tell a different story about that type of character that you’ve seen a million times.”



Casting *Sunny Nights*

The most original characters of all are the siblings Martin and Vicki Marvin, an American brother and sister who head to Australia, the land of perennial sunshine, to remake themselves as spray tan entrepreneurs.

For Nick and Ty, as well as director and executive producer Trent O'Donnell, the first choices for these central roles were Will Forte and D'Arcy Carden. Trent had worked previously with both and knew the brilliance that they would bring to the roles. Will and D'Arcy had never worked together before, but had long wanted the opportunity. Despite having to relocate to Australia for a few months to make the show, the opportunity to work with Trent again along with the magic of Ty and Nick's scripts persuaded them to cross the world.

Trent says: "I adore Will and D'Arcy as people and as actors. This is a drama series but it is also very funny, and in working in grounded comedy, which is mostly what I do, I want the characters to be funny, but also feel like they are a real person. And Will and D'Arcy have an incredible sense of character - they 'value add' so much. When you're directing, you have a billion things on your plate. But if you cast well, you want those smart, funny actors to take ownership of the character, and it makes

life so much easier for me to work with actors whose sensibility I really trust. Will and D'Arcy brought so much pathos and comedy to their characters. They're incredible."

Producer Bridget Callow says: "Will and D'Arcy were our first and only thoughts for those roles. It is so rare to be able to get your first picks, and so we were blown away to be able to get both of them to come and play. They are not only incredible performers, and so perfect for the roles, but they were behaving like brother and sister within two days of working together. They were like siblings in real life and it was hard to believe they hadn't worked together before. They had a fantastic relationship. And they are the nicest people to work with. The whole cast and crew absolutely loved them."

Surrounding Will and D'Arcy is a who's who of Australian acting, with New Zealand's legendary Rachel House taking on the role of the criminal gang leader Mony, with other supporting cast including Jessica De Gouw, Miritana Hughes, Ra Chapman, Megan Wilding, Harry Greenwood and, in his first acting role, Rugby League legend Willie Mason. Audiences with a keen eye will also note a host of cameos from high-profile actors such as Patrick Brammall, Ewen Leslie, Leon Ford, Emma Lung, Jeremy Sims and Claudia O'Doherty.



The Allure Of Working With Trent O'Donnell

Gathering such extraordinary cast, including those literally dropping into the *Sunny Nights* set for a day's work, speaks volumes about Trent O'Donnell's reputation. Actors simply love working with him. As do crew.

"Trent is one of those few directors who can direct a drama with very high stakes and bring in beautiful comedic moments while not losing the stakes of that drama. He can direct comedy in such a way that it's extremely grounded and truthful for the characters. His casting instincts are brilliant and it's a truly collaborative process with the actors," says Jason Burrows.

Bridget Callow says: "Trent is a phenomenal director and we're lucky to have somebody who is so experienced. What he's particularly good at is creating an environment where the performers can be their absolute best. He creates a vibe on set where everybody is gunning to work their hardest, but they also get to play. It becomes a fun environment, which is conducive to everyone doing their best work. It's always a joy. *Sunny Nights* was a particularly happy set. We were shooting a very sunny show in the middle of winter and it was freezing at times, but everyone coped with that incredibly well. We had a truckload of fun."

Jessica De Gouw, who plays Susi, says: "Trent knows comedy inside out so you know that he has complete control, and therefore within that space, you can play and you can take risks. It's a joy to feel so secure with a director and know that, whatever you offer, he will turn it into something wonderful and very funny. I think he's Australia best comedy director."



Creating The World Of *Sunny Nights*

Sunny Nights is the third series production designer Claire Granville has made with Trent O'Donnell, and Trent has also worked before with costume designer Rita Carmody and hair and makeup designer Cassie Hanlon. New to his collaborators is director of photography Tyson Perkins.

Together they created an extraordinary world in Sydney that takes us from the city's world renowned harbour and beaches to its less glamorous underbelly, including the suburban *Sunny Nights* motel where Martin and Vicki are staying while they launch their business, and the run down Family Fun Time amusement park, front to Mony and Kash's criminal enterprise.

The series was filmed entirely on location, with 97 different locations across Sydney featured.

Nick Keetch says: "Tonally the show is an attempt to juxtapose the darker crime world with the bright elements of the beauty industry. The comedy is designed to reflect the absurdity of the two worlds clashing, and its dark drama comes from the real stakes of Martin and Vicki trying to get away with murder."

Ty continues: "The physical embodiment of the tone is Family Fun Time which is a kid's theme park but is also a crime front. So you've got literal children's games and arcade machines and go-karts, but in the back room there are criminals doing terrible things, such as torturing other bad guys. That contrast feels entirely like the show to me."

Trent O'Donnell says that shooting on location meant that the production was able to capture the two sides of Sydney that represent the clashing of Nick and Ty's two worlds.

"Unashamedly we show the beaches and the coastline and all those beautiful things we have in Sydney. But it's not a show about beautiful people doing beautiful things. It's a show about characters really struggling to keep their head above water. And so we juxtaposed Sydney's beauty with a darker, grimmer Sydney that's not so fancy and not so expensive. I owe a lot to Tyson Perkins, the DP, who was just so dedicated and has such a wonderful eye for shots. He was incredible to work with," Trent says.

Tyson Perkins says: "In *Sunny Nights* you've got this world that is a very heightened version of Sydney but we wanted to use the camera language and the lighting language to bed the show back down into reality, so that the characters are relatable and what they're doing feels real."

The sets are incredible, from Family Fun Time with its ferris wheel and putt putt course, to the *Sunny Nights* motel, with its neon signage and iced vo-vo pink exterior. Claire and her team also had to create an exploding crocodile, while amongst the costumes Rita Carmody created was a life size Transform novelty can costume for Will's character Martin to wear to promote the product.

Tyson says: "The *Sunny Nights* motel was the standout for me. If you look at it as a symbol or metaphor for the whole show, it was a real pleasure to shoot in because you can see the influence of everyone collaborating; from the tones that were in the walls to the design of the neon sign, to the costumes, to the way we shot it, and the way that it was designed for Will and D'Arcy to play in. I think it really reflects the unique experience we had on the show where everyone got the vision and everyone was confident to do their thing. One of his best assets as a director is the fact that he steers the ship while he also allows everyone to feel like they've got an equal voice."

Production designer Claire Granville says: “Trent really gives you space to be creative. It’s the first time I’ve worked with Tyson and letting the two of us loose on the look, alongside Rita, has been amazing.”

Claire took inspiration for Family Fun Time from Coney Island and other amusement parks of the 50s era. Kash and Mony used to visit the park when they were kids and, once they had made money from their extortion racket, they bought it to use as their headquarters. The art department had a great time finding old amusement park pieces to dress the set, including giant fiberglass cupcakes, pigs and toadstools, and one of the team painted a clown mural. Inside we see the vintage carousel, details such as a taxidermy pufferfish and an axe-throwing wall.

Bridget says: “Everywhere you look in the interior of Family Fun Time, there are easter eggs and clues. Mony’s office, for instance, is jam packed with lots of objects, and each one of these objects has a story behind it and a

reason for Claire to put them into Mony’s office. The whole design is very, very thoughtful.”

Nick Keetch says: “Everybody really understood that the assignment which was to create a world that felt both authentic and also juxtapositional; that really showed the darkness of the crime world, but with really big pops of color. And you can see that in the set design and in the costume choices, but it never extends to being too silly or too absurd. What we were trying to create was a real, but heightened world.

Ty Freer says the production design is “truly incredible”.

“Martin and Vicki’s room at the *Sunny Nights* motel has been in our head for years. When I walked in to the set for the first time and looked around, I felt immediately overwhelmed with the beauty. I walked outside and I cried. That’s a reflection of how much effort and heart the design team put into it.”



A Conversation With Will Forte

Q: What attracted you to travel to Australia to work on *Sunny Nights*?

A: I met Trent O'Donnell the director several years ago, during Covid, when I did a voice role for *No Activity*. And he's just a delight. So we kept in touch, and he reached out to me a couple years later and sent me the scripts for *Sunny Nights*. I loved the scripts. First of all, I love Trent. Second of all, I love the show, and then the chance to come to Australia for the very first time and see what it's like over here sounded awesome too. It's been as fantastic as I had hoped. Then the fourth thing, which didn't register into the decision but was a blessing that came after I had decided I was going to do it, was D'Arcy Carden. I had heard that she was the person that the role was written for, but we didn't know if she would be able to do it or not. So when I found out that she was, it was very, very exciting.

Q: You seem like a great double act. Have you had fun?

A: We have so much fun together. We have a million friends in common, but had never met and never worked together, so this has just been a really delightful time, work wise and socially just such a fun time too. My wife's down here, and my kids, her husband's down here, so when we're not working, we're hanging out together and just having a great time.

Q: How have you found Sydney's winter weather?

A: D'Arcy and I are both from Northern California and so this is very similar to the weather that we grew up with. People keep apologizing that it's so cold but to us, this feels about right. It feels like home, and it also visually reminds us of Northern California. I love it here. I feel really comfortable. Everyone's very nice and welcoming and this crew has just been fantastic; just a bunch of really, wonderfully sweet people who are really, really good at their jobs.

Q: What is the story of *Sunny Nights*, and how Martin fits into that story?

A: *Sunny Nights* is a story about a brother and sister. I'm the brother. D'Arcy is the sister. We start a spray tan company. A part of me is starting it because I'm chasing after my wife, who's left me. She's Australian. She's moved back to Australia, so we come down here to try to start this spray tan business. Because the sun's so 'burnie' down here, we think this is a good place to start it. But in the back of my mind, I also want to get my wife back. Well as things unfold, things happen which get in the way, and we get mixed up with the wrong people and things unravel and then ravel and then unravel. There are a lot of twists and turns. Just when you think you're out of the woods, you're back in the woods, and then out. It's fun. I remember reading the scripts for the first time and it was very, very funny.



Q: What does Trent bring as a director? How have you enjoyed working with him?

A: Trent knows what he wants. He has been really fun. The scripts are fantastic but, every once in a while, you get to a part where you're like, 'Oh, it feels like maybe there needs to be something here' and as that's going through my mind, before I can say anything in between takes or during the take we're working on, Trent will shout out the perfect fix to it. He just always seems to know exactly what is missing or what could make the work better. It's really comforting as an actor to be in the hands of a director who you can put all your trust. He's just really funny, really smart. You guys don't probably use the term five-tool player, but it's a baseball term. But, yeah, he's a five-tool player.

Q: Did you speak to Nick and Ty, the creators, about their vision for the show and their vision for Martin?

A: I talked to Nick and Ty after I had read the very first script. A couple of months later, they sent me the second script, which was awesome also - and then that's all I read before I had to make a decision. I just had to have faith that they could land the rest of the eight in the way that they did the first two. It was a huge relief when I read the other the final six and they were fantastic. They were in fact, maybe even better - the story got more and more fun. It's a real testament to them that they've brought all of these stories together into one cohesive

series. It's a comedy, but there are dramatic elements and there are scary elements and a lot of tension and suspense. So it's really fun because you never get sick of work. One day you're a goofball, and the next day you're getting waterboarded.

Q: Tell me about some of the most memorable moments on set?

A: We were down on Bondi Beach and the wind was howling that day. I was really cold and D'Arcy was really cold. But there was this guy who was getting a spray tan demo, and he was in, I would say Speedos. You guys would say budgie smugglers. I wanted to complain about how cold I was, but then this guy was just wearing Speedos, and we were spraying basically cold water on him while the wind was howling, so I couldn't complain.

Q: What audiences going to love about *Sunny Nights*?

A: It's a riveting story that keeps you guessing. You never know what's going to happen and there's a lot of humour throughout. But it's not just straight comedy. It's got a bunch of really good actors - really, really fun and wonderful people. I mean, just even for very small roles, Trent's gotten legends of the Australian comedy scene. So we're really blessed with the different people who have come to do parts in this. It's going to look fantastic. This guy Tyson Perkins is a wizard. I think it's gonna be great.



A Conversation With D'Arcy Carden

Q: What attracted you to the role of Vicki and persuaded you to come to Australia?

A: So much attracted me to this role and this project. It started with Trent O'Donnell, who I know and have worked with and love. We started working together on *The Good Place* eight years ago, and have worked together a few times since, and are always sort of looking for reasons to work together. A couple years ago, he called me and said, 'I have this great script. I want you to read it. I feel like it would be great for you and Will Forte'. I am such a fan of Will's. I had never worked with him before or even met him, but have loved him for years, and thought, 'oh my gosh, what a dream'. Then Trent said we'd film it in Australia. Everything was, as you guys say, 'tick, tick, tick'.

I read the script, and I was so happy. I closed the last page, and then I opened the front page and I read it again. There have been so many moments on set where Trent and Will and I look at each other and we're like, 'it's happening. We did it. We're here. Can you believe it?' There was a lot of a lot that attracted me to this project and it has exceeded my good expectations. I thought it was going to be good. It's great.

Q: How have you enjoyed filming *Sunny Nights*?

A: Filming has been such a great experience from the first day. I was blown away from the table read. We have these heavy hitters, Australian legends to have come to play on our show for a day or two, or a week or more and everybody is incredible. Will and I, we've had many days on set where we're doing our scenes, and then somebody will pop in and

blow our minds. We'll do the rehearsal, or we'll do a take and Will and I look at each other and we're like, 'oh, they're good'. And this just keeps happening. It's such an impressive cast and I can tell these are a bunch of Trent O'Donnell's friends and people he's worked with before. And he's basically bragging about all his friends. He's like, 'look at all these talented actors I work with' and Will and I are impressed.

Q: What is it about Trent O'Donnell as a director that attracts these actors?

A: He is a very certain kind of actor's director. He is so collaborative. He's wonderful and fun and creative and funny, and he's just great. And he brings all of that to his directing. You can tell he loves working as a team. He only has people around him who feel the same way. So the all the crew and everybody on the set - I mean everybody on the set - is a team player, super collaborative, here to help each other, here to make everything better. It's so inspiring and so fun. He really lifts people up and wants people to be their best.

Q: Have you and Will Forte forged a strong bond?

A: Mates, totally mates. I've been a fan of Will Forte since his first episode of SNL. I just remember thinking this guy is so weird and so funny, and my love for him only grew. I'm such a fan of what he's done in his career, and we have about one million friends in common. We'd never met before. We had one dinner the week before we came out here to get to know each other. We're also from the same small hometown, right outside of San Francisco. It's so wild. We've been just like circling each other for years and we became such good friends so quickly, and that is so rare and so lucky. And our spouses love each other.

Q: What is the story of *Sunny Nights*, and where Vicki fits into that story?

A: The story revolves around this 'down on their luck' brother and sister duo, Vicki and Martin Marvin. Vicki just wants her life to work out. And it's not working out. She's looking for some success, but not really putting the work in. I think this show starts at that point where you think 'Did I miss my calling? Did I miss my moment?' They're scrambling for some meaning in their life. And they find that meaning through, you guessed it, spray tan. And that leads them to Australia, which for Vicki means adventure and success and a new life. And for Martin it means following his estranged wife, Joyce, to Australia. We're both kind of in it for similar but different reasons, but the main goal is to make some money and get our life going. However, our lack of knowledge about this business and our ambition and determination lead us into bed with the wrong

people, figuratively and literally. We get mixed up with some bad dudes, and we get in over our heads almost immediately.

What's so fun about the show and what drew me in immediately is that the characters are really distinct, and they're real. I know all of these characters. I can see these fun characters, I can see this fun world, and then all of a sudden, shit hits the fan? Their entire world gets flipped upside down. I just love a story that's about people in over their head. They are so in over their head. It's like they are at the top of a hill, just running down and trying not to fall.

Q: How have you enjoyed being in Australia?

A: I've been happy every single day that I've been in Sydney. It's a beautiful place. It's just been such a great experience, and I've really fallen in love with this cast and crew.



A Conversation With Rachel House

Q: What attracted you to the role of Mony and *Sunny Nights* more generally?

A: I thought it was very good writing - very clever, very dry and with fantastic humor. I thought it was a beautifully drawn world full of fascinating characters.

Q: How does Mony fit into the world of *Sunny Nights*?

A: Mony is the leader of her gang. It used to be her and her brother Kash, her foster brother. They were bounced around foster homes as children, and they found solace in each other, which is why they have such an intense relationship, and why Cash's death is so devastating. She's fun to play.

Q: How have you enjoyed working with the cast of *Sunny Nights*?

A: Will and D'Arcy are the loveliest people and it's been a pleasure to be around them; and they are team players, which is important. And then, our ensemble, we've had a lot of fun together which makes the on-screen world even more potent. Matuse, George and Jess are just sublime. Our characters are the executors of some horrendous things. We do terrible things to people. So, it's important that we have a lot of fun in real life.

Willie Mason is just so impressive. He's gone from strength to strength. It's been such a pleasure to watch him really take to this industry in such a wonderful, rich and deep way. He's a natural.

Q: Did you to speak to the creators, Nick and Ty, about the role of Mony?

A: Yes. Nick and Ty were very, very generous. They really wanted us to make the characters our own and just run with our instincts. They've created a phenomenal world with very rich characters.

Q: What are audiences going to love? What can they expect?

A: There are a lot of layers to all these characters, and I think that's what people will be drawn to. And, with Vicki and Martin, they will want to know 'Will they make it? Will they get through?'. There are just so many obstacles.



About The Cast

Will Forte As Martin

Will Forte has established himself as one of the most versatile actors in film and television. Forte is known for his eight seasons on *Saturday Night Live* and his starring role in the feature film adaptation of *MacGruber*, for which he co-wrote the script with Jorma Taccone and John Solomon. In December 2021, the trio created the *MacGruber* series on Peacock, which stars original castmates Kristen Wiig and Ryan Phillippe.

Forte can most recently be seen starring alongside Tina Fey and Steve Carell in Netflix's series *The Four Seasons*, released in May 2025, which has been picked up for a second season. Forte can also be seen in Netflix's *Kinda Pregnant* alongside Amy Schumer and Jillian Bell, released in February 2025. In May 2024, Forte starred in the Netflix series *Bodkin*, produced by Higher Ground. Previous credits include the Universal film *Strays*, Netflix's *Thelma The Unicorn*, Fox's *The Great North* and Netflix's *Sweet Tooth*.

Previously, he co-created, produced, and starred in Fox's *The Last Man on Earth* and was nominated for a 2016 Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series, and in 2015, he was nominated in two Emmy Award categories: Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series and Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series. He also starred in the Academy Award and Golden Globe-nominated 2014 film *Nebraska*. Additional credits include the streaming series *Flipped*, and voice work in *HouseBroken*, *Scoob!*, *The Willoughbys* and *The Lego Movie*.

D'Arcy Carden As Vicki Marvin

D'Arcy Carden was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a

Comedy Series for her iconic role as 'Janet' in Mike Schur's series *The Good Place*. She also received rave reviews for her starring performance in the Amazon/Sony TV series adaptation of the classic film *A League of Their Own*. Carden was most recently seen recurring on the final season of *The Handmaid's Tale*. She stars alongside Jennifer Garner, Chloe Sevigny, Regina Hall and Gemma Chan in *The Five Star Weekend* (Peacock), an upcoming series based on the Elin Hilderbrand novel of the same name.

In film, Carden stars alongside Tony Hale in the *Sketch*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival - it has a 100% score on Rotten Tomatoes - and will be released theatrically in August 2025. She starred opposite Jennifer Lopez, Josh Duhamel, Jennifer Coolidge, Cheech Marin and Lenny Kravitz in *Shotgun Wedding*. She starred opposite Susan Sarandon, Paul Reiser and Shameik Moore in *The Gutter*, which premiered at SXSW and was released by Magnolia Pictures.

She recurs in the next season of Maya Rudolph's *Loot* (Apple). Her other TV work includes recurring roles on *Nobody Wants This* (Netflix), the Emmy winning HBO series *Barry*, and the cult classic *Broad City* (Comedy Central). Other credits are *Veep* (HBO), *History Of The World: Part II* (Hulu), *Killing It* (Peacock), *No Activity* (Paramount+), *Krapopolis* (Fox) and *Clone High* (MAX).

Carden's film work includes appearing alongside Margot Robbie, Nicole Kidman, Charlize Theron and John Lithgow in Jay Roach's *Bombshell* (Lionsgate), and alongside Jake Johnson, JK Simmons and Susan Sarandon in *Ride The Eagle* (Hulu). Additional credits are *She Taught Love* (Hulu), *Dicks: The Musical* (A24), *The People We Hate At The Wedding* (Amazon) and *Let It Snow* (Netflix).

Carden made her Broadway debut in 2023 in Larissa FastHorse's *The Thanksgiving Play*, a NYT Critic's Pick that earned her a Theater World Award and a nomination for a Drama League award. She starred alongside Scott Foley, Chris Sullivan and Katie Finneran. The play was directed by Tony Award-winner Rachel Chavkin (*Hadestown*).

Willie Mason As Terry Torres

Willie Mason steps into his first acting role after a hugely successful career as a professional rugby league footballer. He truly is one of the sport's legends. Willie represented Australia and Tonga at the international level and also represented New South Wales in multiple State of Origin series.



Jessica De Gouw As Susi Kamdani

Jessica can be seen in Netflix's feature film *The Union* alongside Mark Wahlberg, Halle Berry and JK Simmons. Her other recent feature films include *The Portable Door*, directed by Jeffrey Walker and starring Sam Neil and Christoph Waltz, and *The Drover's Wife* which had its international premiere at SXSW, starring alongside Sam Reid and Leah Purcell, who also directed. Other film credits include *Otherlife* directed by Ben C Lucas, *These Final Hours* written and directed by Zak Hilditch, *The Rezort* opposite Dougray Scott, *Cut Snake* opposite Alex Russell and Sullivan Stapleton for director Tony Ayres, and *Gretel and Hansel* alongside Sophia Lillis and Alice Krige and directed by Oz Perkins.

Jessica's most recent television series include *The Couple Next Door* playing opposite Sam Heughan, *Ladies in Black* alongside Miranda Otto and Debi Mazar for the ABC, and *The Artful Dodger* for Disney+/Hulu. Prior to that she starred in two series of BBC One and Paramount+ hit drama *The Secrets She Keeps*, an adaptation of Michael Robotham's bestselling novel, and in the DC Comics and Epix series *Pennyworth*. Other notable TV credits include a leading role in the award-winning ABC mini-series *Operation Buffalo*, series 3 of *The Crown* for Netflix, BBC 2 series *Vienna Blood*, and in 4-part SBS series *The Hunting* directed by Sophie Hyde, ABC's telemovie *Riot*, two seasons of the award-winning WGN series *Underground*, a recurring role in *The Last Tycoon* opposite Matt Bomer, Lily Collins and Kelsey Grammer, she played "The Huntress" in CW series *Arrow*, starred in miniseries *Deadline Gallipoli* alongside Sam Worthington and was the co-lead opposite Jonathan Rhys Meyers in *Dracula* for NBC.

Megan Wilding As Nova Tulua

Megan Wilding has established an impressive reputation across film, television and theatre as an actor, writer and director. A proud Gamilaroi woman, Megan is a graduate from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Since graduating, Megan has appeared in many productions for main stage theatre companies, including *Stolen*, *The Seagull*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Fool in Love*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Banging Denmark* and *Blackie Blackie Brown* for Sydney Theatre Company and *The Rover* for Belvoir St Theatre. Megan wrote, directed and performed in *A Little Piece of Ash* for KXT. Megan has won both the Balnaves Foundation Indigenous Playwright's Award from Belvoir St Theatre and the Griffin Theatre Award.

Megan has appeared on television in productions such as *Gold Diggers*, *Mystery Road: Origin*, *The Moth Effect* and *The Edge of*

the Bush. Her feature film credits include *We Are Still Here*, which opened the Sydney Film Festival and which she represented at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Ra Chapman As Joyce Davis

Ra Chapman is an Australian-Korean actress whose work spans across film, television, and theatre.

Ra won the Best Actress Award at the 2011 Newport Beach Film Festival, U.S. for her role as Therese in David Williamson's film adaptation of *Face to Face* and was also nominated for an IF Award for Best Actress.

In 2024 Ra created, wrote, and played the lead role in the ABC series *White Fever*. Ra's other television credits include *Neighbours*, *Five Bedrooms*, *Offspring*, *Why Are You Like This*, *City Homicide*, *Slide*, *Get Cracking*, and she has filmed five seasons of the award-winning Foxtel Series *Wentworth*, reprising her role as prisoner, Kim Chang.

Ra's work in theatre includes *Melbournalia* at FortyFiveDownstairs, Grete in *Kafka's Metamorphosis* and Celia in *Volpone* at the iconic Wiltons Music Hall in London.

Ra is an alumnus of the Besen Writers Group (Malthouse Theatre) and was awarded the 2018 Hot Desk Fellowship (Wheeler Centre). Her play, *K-Box*, won the 2021 Patrick White Playwright Award and premiered at Malthouse Theatre in 2022, where she was an Artist in Residence (2019-2023). Ra wrote and starred in an episode of the horror series *Night Bloomers* for Turn About Entertainment and SBS, for which Ra has received an AWGIE nomination. She also co-wrote *Because the Night* (a Hamlet adaptation) for Malthouse Theatre, an immersive theatre work on a scale never seen before in Australia. Ra is currently developing various projects with other writers and makers across television and

theatre and was featured on IF's 2024 Rising Talent list.



Rachel House As Mony Monroe

Rachel House (Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Mutunga) is one of New Zealand's most highly regarded actors. She has had a long and celebrated career, both locally and internationally, which has traversed stage, television and film. Rachel has recently appeared in *Our Flag Means Death 2* for HBO Max, Netflix's *Heartbreak High*, the Apple TV series *Foundation*, the Legendary Pictures feature *Godzilla x Kong* and soon-to-released Apple TV series *Time Bandits*.

Rachel directed her debut feature film *The Mountain*, which garnered high praise for its Australasian release. As a student at the renowned Prague Film School, Rachel was awarded 'Best Director' and the audience award for her two short films. She continued to garner awards as a director, notably for the Te Reo Māori version of *Troilus and Cressida* performed at the Globe Theatre in London. She has also directed commercials for ASB with Curious Films, and Auckland Transport with Adrenalin.

Her other work as an actor includes *Moana*, *Soul*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Boy*, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *Penguin Bloom*, *Cousins*, *Millie Lies Low*, *The Moon is Upside Down*, *Next Goal Wins* and *The Portable Door*. She is also a celebrated voice artist for television having starred in *Sherwood*, *The Lion Guard*, *Underground Uglies*, *Amphibia*, *Princess and Pony*, *100% Wolf* and *Koala Man*.

As an acting coach she has worked alongside Jane Campion for *Top of the Lake* and *The Power of the Dog*; and with Taika Waititi on *Boy*, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *Jojo Rabbit* and *Next Goal Wins*. In recognition of her significant contributions to the theatre, film and television industry, Rachel has been awarded an Arts Laureate, NZ Order of Merit, 'Mana Wahine' from WIFT and Te Waipuna a Rangi (Matariki Awards) as an actor and director.

David Roberts As Frank

David graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1987 and since then has worked extensively in film, television, theatre and radio.

His credits include films such as *Getting' Square* (for which he received an AFI nomination for Best Actor in a Leading Role); *Me, Myself, I and Three Dollars* as well as several US films including *Unbroken*; *The Matrix Reloaded* and *Revolutions*; *Ghost Rider* and *Fool's Gold*.

David has also appeared in numerous Australian television series, including *Colin from Accounts*, *Total Control*, *Bad Mothers*, *Offspring*, *Please Like Me*, *Devils Dust*, *Tricky Business* and *Rake*.

His theatre appearances include numerous shows for the MTC, STC, Griffin, Belvoir Street and the Malthouse.



Miritana Hughes As Kash

Miritana was born in Rotorua, New Zealand, to a working class father, and housewife mother. He is of Māori, Australian, Barbadian, and Welsh descent with Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Manawa and Te Arawa tribal affiliations.

In Australia, Miritana grew up in state housing in Little Bay, South Sydney on Bidjigal country. He attended La Perouse Public School, where he earned the moniker “dark horse”, after a period of delinquency and anger issues. Later, he was sent to St Stephen’s boarding school, (Tipene), in South Auckland, New Zealand, and after a difficult transition, learnt to embrace the teachings and disciplines of Māori Tikanga.



Upon completing high school, and after the devastating loss of his mother, Miritana returned to Sydney, Australia to pursue acting.

Described as “an unpredictable and raw talent”, he attended Dean Carey’s The Actor’s Centre, before being accepted into the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), in Perth.

After graduating, Miritana became a cast member of Julie Taymor’s and Disney Theatricals Australian Premiere of *The Lion King*, and later be known for AMC’s *Preacher*, BBC’s *Wakefield* and ABC’s *Born to Spy*, among others.

Miritana has an original “traumedy” TV series in development.

Matuse As Dentist Dave

Hailing from Sydney, the Australian-born Matuse is an actor, screenwriter and artist.

Most recent feature film roles include 'Doone' in *The Fall Guy* and 'Fang' in *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*.

Other current screen credits include season two of *Last King of the Cross* (Paramount+) as 'Benny Vasquez' and the Peter Farrelly feature comedy *Balls Up*.

George Mason As Dreadlock Pete

George Mason is a New Zealand actor building a strong ascending career in film and television in both New Zealand and Australia. He will soon be seen in Princess Pictures' *Last Days of the Space Age*, as well as *The Survivors* for Netflix and *Exposure*, *Black Snow – Jack of Clubs* and *Sunny Nights* for Stan. George appears in *One Night* for Paramount+ and Gregor Jordan's *Dirt Music*, in *Daffodils* as co-lead with fellow Kiwi Rose McIver and was recently seen in Jane Campion's Oscar winning *The Power of the Dog*. Coming up next will be the supernatural horror feature *Proclivitas* with George as co-lead.

Chum Ehelepola As Dr Vega

Chum Ehelepola is an actor and writer with a successful career in Australia and the US. Chum is best renowned for his role in the ABC TV drama series *The Newsreader* as "Dennis Tibb", with the multiple award winning series now into the third season. He was also recently seen in *One Night* and the critically acclaimed *Stateless*, with other credits including *Rake*, *Doctor Doctor*, *Redfern Now*, *The Straits*, *The Surgeon* and *Sea Patrol*. Chum is an exceptionally gifted comedic actor and has appeared in *We Interrupt This Broadcast*, *Preppers*, *A Moody Christmas*, *No Activity*, *Laid* and *How to Talk Australians*. His work in the US

includes the series *Lady Dynamite*, *Lodge 49*, *Bones* and *Sequestered* and *Nautilus*.

In film, Chum stars in the Walt Disney Pictures blockbuster *Mulan* as 'Ramtish'. Other films include *Super Awesome!*, *Felony*, *Cross Life*, *Lovely Scary Wolves* and *Playing With Piranhas*. For theatre, he was last seen in Griffin Theatre's *Between Two Waves*.

Leon Ford As Henley

Leon Ford is an actor, screenwriter, author and director whose extensive career spans film, television, and theatre. Recent credits include the BBC/Stan series *Ten Pound Poms*, the Netflix comedy series *God's Favourite Idiot* created by and starring Melissa McCarthy, and theBinge series adaptation of Liane Moriarty's best-selling novel *The Last Anniversary*.



Previous film and television productions include Baz Lurhmann's *Elvis*, the Jeremy Sim's directed re-imagining of the Icelandic film *Rams*, Derek Cianfrance's DreamWorks film *Light Between Oceans*, the Australian mini-series *Gallipoli*, the ABC series *ANZAC Girls*, Foxtel's *Devil's Playground*, Network Ten's critically acclaimed *Puberty Blues*, and the popular dramedy series *The Let Down*. Earlier credits include the films *Ruben Guthrie* and *Beneath Hill 60*, the Emmy award winning HBO mini-series *The Pacific*, ABC tele-movies *Mabo* and *Stepfather of the Bride*, and the BBC mini-series *Tsunami: The Aftermath*.

Leon's theatre credits include numerous main stage and independent productions including the Hayes Theatre Company's production of *A Little Night Music* (2023), Belvoir St Theatre productions of Henrik Ibsen's *Enemy Of The People* (2018) and *The Rover* (2017).

In addition to acting, Leon is a screenwriter, author and director. His feature film directorial debut *Griff the Invisible* premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in 2010 and at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2011. He has written for various television productions including the Binge series *Love Me*, Foxtel comedy drama series *Upright* which he co-created with Tim Minchin, the Network Ten hit series *Offspring*, and the Stan comedy series *No Activity*. Leon also wrote the film adaptation of Tom Holt's comedy fantasy novel *The Portable Door*, produced by the Jim Henson Co. His own novel *What Doesn't Kill You* was published in 2009.

Harry Greenwood As Benno

Harry Greenwood is an accomplished Australian performer across stage and screen. For Sydney Theatre Company, Harry has appeared in *The Seagull*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Three Sisters*, *Cloud Nine*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Love and Information* (also Malthouse Theatre) and *Fury*. Other stage credits include Belvoir Street Theatre's *Back at the Dojo*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Once in Royal David's City*.

Harry's film credits include Adam Cooper's *Sleeping Dogs*, Jennifer Kent's *The Nightingale*, Mel Gibson's *Hacksaw Ridge*, *Kokoda*, *The Dust Walker*, *True History of the Kelly Gang*, *Carnifex*, and Leah Purcell's feature *The Drover's Wife*. His numerous short film credits include Jane Campion's *The Water Diary* and Peter Carstairs' *Pacific*. Harry's TV credits include *Bump*, *Pieces of Her*, *Old School*, *Total Control*, *Wakefield*, *Operation Buffalo*, *The Commons*, *Bad Mothers* and *Gallipoli*. He can most recently be seen in drama series *The Clearing* for Disney+, and

Class of '07 for Amazon Prime. Most recently he can be seen in upcoming feature films *Cruel Hands* and Taika Waititi's *Klara and the Sun*.



Emma Lung As Huela

Since her breakout performance in the lead role of the film *Peaches* starring alongside Hugo Weaving and Jacqueline McKenzie, Emma has built a career delivering exceptional performances in a wide spectrum of roles in both film and TV. She starred in the critically acclaimed genre bending series for Stan/Peacock, *Wolf Like Me* (Series 1 & 2), with Isla Fisher and Josh Gad and the highly acclaimed series led by Sigourney Weaver, *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*. She was also recently seen in the Bruna Papandrea produced series *Strife*.

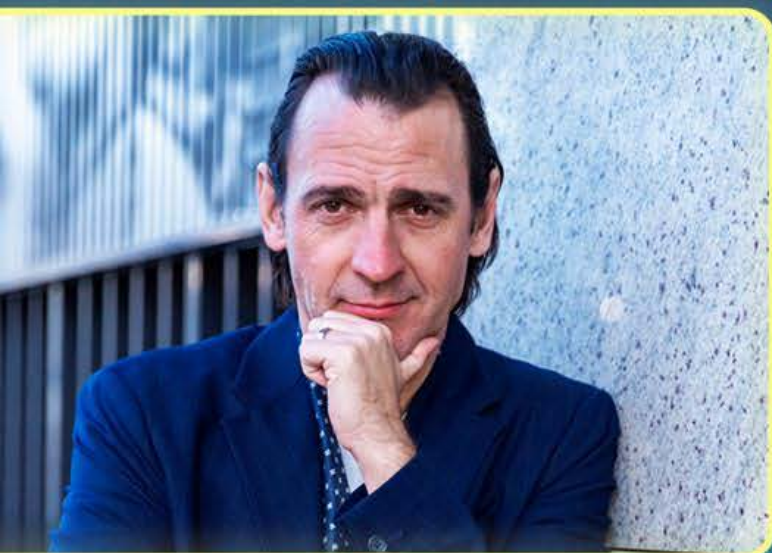
She has won multiple awards for her work, internationally and in Australia, including an AFI award for Outstanding Achievement in Short Film Screen Craft for *Stranded*. This role also won her a best actress award at the Shanghai International TV Festival. Emma won the TV Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding New Talent at the TV Week Logies that same year. She won the Best Female Performance award at the Fantastic Planet Festival for her role in thriller *Crave*, also starring Josh Lawson and Ron Perlman. She was nominated for an AFI in the Best Actress Category for her harrowing performance in Dee McLachlan's lauded film, *The Jammed*.

More of Emma's credits include the movie *48 Shades* and Christopher Smith's *Triangle*. She played 'Lola', the scheming wife of Marou Montebello in ABC TV's 2012 series *The Straits*, starring Brian Cox and Aaron Fa'aoso. Emma also played 'Colette Riger' in the beloved *Wonderland* series, as well as roles in *Rake S4*, *My Place*, *Rescue Special Ops*, *The Verdict*, *All Saints*, *The Cooks*, US hit series *Entourage* and the US pilot *Extreme Team*.

Ewen Leslie As Lewis Templeton

Ewen graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2000 and has since become one of Australia's most popular faces on stage and screen. Ewen's film credits include the critically acclaimed *The Daughter*, *The Nightingale*, *Peter Rabbit 2*, *Sweet Country*, *The Mule*, *The Railway Man*, *Dead Europe*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Three Blind Mice*, *Katoomba*, *Kokoda* and *Jewboy* and *The Stranger*.

Selected television credits include Jane Campion's *Top of the Lake: China Girl*, Emmy Award winning *Safe Harbour*, *Pieces of Her*, *Operation Buffalo*, *The Gloaming*, *Fighting Season*, *Janet King*, *Deadline Gallipoli*, *Wonderland*, *Mr and Mrs Murder*, *Top of the Lake*, *Rake*, *Redfern Now*, *Devil's Dust*, *Mabo*, *My Place*, *Lockie Leonard*, *Love My Way*, *The Junction Boys*, *All Saints*, *The Road from Coorain*, and *Bali 2002*. Ewen starred in *The Cry*



alongside Jenna Coleman and *The Luminaries* opposite Eva Green and Eve Hewson. Ewen's most recent television credits include *The Clearing*, *Colin from Accounts*, *Prosper* and *Exposure*.

Theatre credits for Belvoir include *Ivanov*, *Thyestes*, *Hamlet*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Wild Duck*, *The Promise* and *Paul* (Belvoir); for STC *Strange Case of Dr Jeckyll & Mr Hyde*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, *Riflemind*, *Julius Caesar*; for MTC *Hamlet*, *Richard III*; for Malthouse, *The Trial* and *The Wild Duck*.

He received the Helpmann award and a Green Room award for his role in *Richard III* and the Helpmann Award and the Sydney Theatre Award for *The War of the Roses*. Ewen has also received an AFI nomination for his performance in *Jewboy*, an AACTA Award for his work in *Top of the Lake: China Girl* and AACTA nominations for *Operation Buffalo*, *The Daughter*, *Dead Europe*, *The Butterfly Tree*, *Fighting Season* and *The Cry*.

Phil Lloyd As Logan

Phil Lloyd is a writer, actor, producer and director, best known for his role as Myles Barlow in *Review with Myles Barlow*. As well as *Review*, Phil co-created, wrote and starred in *The Moodys*, *A Moody Christmas*, *At Home with Julia*, *Here Come the Habibs*, *The Elegant Gentleman's Guide to Knife Fighting* and *Sando*. His latest series, *Population 11* for Stan and Lionsgate, will be his eighth television creation. As an actor Phil has featured in comedies such as *How to Stay Married*, *True Story with Hamish & Andy* and *Drunk History* and dramas like *Rake*, *Wild Boys* and *The Secrets She Keeps*.

Phil has won multiple AWGIEs, AACTA Awards, and Equity Ensemble Awards, a Cannes Gold Lion, and has been nominated for a Logie and

an International Emmy. He was awarded Best Comedy Performer and Best Comedy Program AFI two years in a row for *Review*, and in 2022, Phil was awarded the Australian Writer's Guild's Fred Parsons Award for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Comedy.

Phil was an Executive Producer for *Bad Mothers* on Channel Nine, and before joining Jungle Entertainment he was Script Producer for *Home & Away* on Channel Seven. Phil has written pilots for FX, CBS and Fox in the US, and is an Executive Producer for the US remake of *The Moodys*, starring Denis Leary and Elizabeth Perkins on Fox. *Review* was also remade in the US for Comedy Central, where it ran for three seasons.

Rick Donald As Nugget

Rick Donald is the writer, creator and star of the comedy series *Australia's Sexiest Tradie*. Most recently Rick starred in Prime Video's *The Office*, Stan's *Population 11* alongside Ben Feldman, and in *The Educators* alongside Jack Van Beek. Rick had also appeared in *My Life Is Murder*, *Halifax: Retribution* opposite Rebecca Gibney and the multi award winning series *Wentworth*. Other credits include *800 Words* alongside Erik Thomson, *Back in Very Small Business*, *A Place to Call Home*, *House Husbands*, *The Doctor Blake Murder Mysteries*, *Tricky Business*, *Sea Patrol*, *Home & Away*, *Crownies* and *Underbelly: Razor*.

He has also appeared in the Australian telemovies *Blood Brothers*, *Paper Giants: The Birth of Cleo* and *Dripping in Chocolate*. Rick has also voiced the character of "Firehead" in the children's animated series *The Woodlies*.

In the US Rick starred alongside James Van Der Beek, Kevin Connolly and Brooklyn Decker in the Fox US comedy *Friends with Better Lives*.

William Zappa as Roy

William Zappa has built a solid reputation as an outstanding actor. He has an impressive list of feature film credits including *The Dry*, *Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears*, *Dead Europe*, *Mad Max 2*, *A Heartbeat Away*, *The Phantom*, *Quigley Down Under*, *Men's Group* and *Crush*. Television work includes *The Tourist*, *Mr Inbetween S3*, *Operation Buffalo*, *Doctor Doctor S4*, *A Place to Call Home*, *Paper Giants: Magazine Wars*, *Devil's Dust*, *Rake*, *One Night* and *Population 11*.

William has had a long and extensive career in theatre and recently appeared in Griffin Theatre's *The Lewis Trilogy* and Belvoir's *Into the Woods*. He also appeared for Belvoir in *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* co-produced with the State Theatre Company of South Australia.

Williams' nine-hour adaptation of Homer's Iliad, *The Iliad - Out Loud* was presented as part of Sydney Festival 2019 at Belvoir Street Theatre, as well as the Adelaide Festival 2020 and the Four Winds Festival 2021. He has been nominated for and won numerous awards including two awards for his portrayal of 'Thenardier' in *Les Misérables* and a Sydney Theatre Award for 'Creon' in *Antigone*.

Darren Gilshenan as Sergeant

After graduating from NIDA in 1988, Darren began his career in musical theatre before spending 10 years with The Bell Shakespeare Company. He followed this up with three years on the sketch comedy *Full Frontal*, along with starring in high-profile roles on Australian television.

Darren's television credits include: *Sunny Nights* (Stan, Jungle Entertainment), *Ten Pound Poms S2* (BBC, Stan), *Bay of Fires S2* (Fremantle), *Thou Shalt Not Steal* (Stan), *Colin from Accounts S1-2* (Easy Tiger Productions), *Population 11* (Stan),

Nautilus (Disney+), *Upright S2* (Lingo Pictures), *Darby and Joan* (Acorn), *Joe vs. Carole* (NBC, Matchbox Pictures), *Troppo* (Playmaker, EQ Media, Beyond), *The Science of Harrow S1-2* (Hoodlum Productions), *Harrow S1-3* (Hoodlum Productions), *Stateless* (ABC, Matchbox Pictures), *How To Stay Married S1-3* (Princess Productions, Network Ten), *Get Krack!n S2* (ABC), *No Activity S1* (US Version) (Jungle Entertainment), *True Story with Hamish and Andy* (Nine Network), *Here Come the Habibs! S1-2* (Jungle Entertainment), *No Activity S1-2* (Jungle Entertainment), *Maximum Choppage* (Matchbox Pictures), *The Killing Field* (Seven Network), *Devils Playground* (Matchbox Pictures), *The Moodys* (Jungle Entertainment), *Rake S3* (ABC), *The Elegant Gentleman's Guide to Knife Fighting* (Jungle Entertainment), *Janet King* (ABC), *Top of the Lake* (See-Saw Films), *A Moody Christmas* (Jungle Entertainment) and *Chandon Pictures S1-2* (Movie Extra).

Darren's film credits include *Audrey*, *Take My Hand*, *A Savage Christmas*, *The Appleton Ladies' Potato Race*, *Carnifex*, *Never Too Late*, *June Again*, *Dying for a Laugh*, *A Few Less Men*, *Women He's Undressed* directed by Gillian Armstrong, *Save Your Legs* and *Dark City*.

He also starred in the web series *Plausible Deniability* produced by Random Pictures. For his work he won Best Actor at IndieX Film Festival. The web series also won the Outstanding Achievement: Best Web Series / TV Pilot at IndieX Film Festival.

Select theatre credits include *The Caretaker* (Ensemble Theatre), *The Hypochondriac* (Darlinghurst Theatre Co.), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Ensemble Theatre) for which he received a Best Actor nomination at the Sydney Theatre Awards, *Tartuffe* (Black Swan State Theatre Co.), *Machu Picchu*, *Fool's Island*, *Loot* and *Our Town* (Sydney Theatre Company), *Elling*, *Don Parties On* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Mother and Son* (national tour) and *Strictly Ballroom: The Musical* directed by Baz Luhrmann.

Darren won the 2020 AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama Series for *Stateless*. He won the Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Play for *The Servant of Two Masters*. *The Moodys* and *A Moody Christmas* both won Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy at the 5th and 3rd Annual Equity Ensemble Awards respectively.



About The Key Creatives

Nick Keetch

**Creator/Executive Producer/
Writer (Eps 1, 6, 7, 8)**

Nick Keetch is a Los Angeles-based screenwriter from London. His television credits include *High Fire* starring Nicolas Cage for Paramount+ and *Almost Paradise* for Freevee. Alongside his writing partner, Ty Freer, he created the 8-part new drama series *Sunny Nights*, starring Will Forte and D'Arcy Carden.

Ty Freer

**Creator/Executive Producer/
Writer (Eps 1, 6, 7, 8)**

Ty Freer is a Dallas-based screenwriter from a rural Indiana town of less than 200. His television credits include *High Fire* starring Nicolas Cage for Paramount + and *Almost Paradise* for Freevee and *Costume Quest* for Amazon. He and his writing partner, Nick Keetch, co-created *Sunny Nights*, an 8-part darkly comedic drama series starring Will Forte and D'Arcy Carden.

Jason Burrows

Executive Producer

Jason Burrows is the Founder and Managing Director of Jungle Entertainment. His Executive Producer television credits include some of Australia's most iconic shows, such as *A Moody Christmas* (ABC) which was remade for Fox in the US, *No Activity* (both the original and the US remake for Paramount Plus) and *Mr Inbetween* (FX), as well as more recently *Population: 11* (Stan) and *Wakefield* (ABC).

Bridget Callow

Executive Producer

Bridget is a distinguished screen producer with extensive expertise in scripted narrative film and television. Known for her deep understanding of the global content marketplace and a versatile creative skillset, she currently works full-time at Jungle Entertainment. Here she plays a pivotal role in overseeing the development and production of a diverse range of scripted drama, comedy series, and feature films.

Bridget is executive producer on *He Had It Coming*, an 8-part comedy series for Stan and *The Fifth Season*, with Gretel Vella (*The Great*) as showrunner.

In 2024, Bridget produced *Population: 11*, a 12-part comedy series for Stan and Lionsgate, starring Ben Feldman (*Superstore*, *Mad Men*). The series, with Phil Lloyd (*The Moodys*) as showrunner, garnered widespread critical acclaim, winning Best Comedy at both the AWG and ADG Awards, and receiving nominations for the Rose d'Or, two Logies (Best Comedy Series, Best Actor in a Comedy Series), and the recently announced Best Comedy Programme at the Australian Screen Producers Awards. Other recent credits include *No Activity: The Night Before Christmas* for Stan and BBC Studios, and *Big Deal* for ABC and Madman Entertainment.

Before her tenure at Jungle Entertainment, under her own company banner, Bridget independently produced three award-winning feature films, which all launched at top tier international festivals, and sold around the world, showcasing her commitment to exceptional storytelling across diverse formats and genres.

Shay Spencer

Executive Producer

Shay Spencer is an international multiple-award-winning producer who has worked on over 130 hours of television drama. She started her career as director's attachment on Jonathan Teplitzsky's feature film, *Burning Man*, before stepping into producing via an attachment on Stephan Elliott's *A Few Best Men*. She worked with Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA award winning producers, Doug Wick and Lucy Fisher across their full feature and television slate including Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby*.

In 2012, Shay joined Fremantle Australia, where she primarily worked as Drama Executive. Taking projects from acquisition, through development, financing and into production, Shay was involved in some of Australian television's most exciting and successful series including the international hit *Wentworth* for Foxtel which sold to over 170 territories internationally and *Picnic at Hanging Rock* for Foxtel. During her time with Fremantle, she was also appointed to the company's global shadow board after a competitive process across the 5000+ employees internationally. In 2018 Shay joined Jungle Entertainment to drive their drama slate. She produced *Wakefield* for ABC (AU) and Showtime (US).

Doug Mankoff

Executive Producer

Doug Mankoff is a film and television producer and the Chief Executive Officer of Echo Lake Entertainment, which he founded in 1997. Doug has produced and arranged financing for over thirty films, including three Pedro Almodovar films and Alexander Payne's *Nebraska* (nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture). Currently, Doug is an executive producer on *Sunny Nights* starring Will Forte and D'Arcy Carden. Doug also produced Hulu's hit series *The Great*, which ran for three seasons.

Doug received a B.A. in History from Duke University, attended the graduate film program at NYU, and received his MBA from Harvard.

Andrew Spaulding

Executive Producer

Andrew Spaulding is a film producer and the President and Chief Operating Officer of Echo Lake Entertainment. He has produced or executive produced more than a dozen feature films, most recently *All The Bright Places* starring Elle Fanning and Justice Smith. Other credits include *Truth*, James Vanderbilt's directorial debut, starring Cate Blanchett and Robert Redford and *The Joneses*, starring



Demi Moore and David Duchovny. Currently, Andy is an executive producer on *Sunny Nights* starring Will Forte and D'Arcy Carden. He also executive produced Hulu's hit series *The Great*, starring Elle Fanning and Nicolas Hoult, which ran for three seasons.

A native of Virginia, Andrew began his career in politics and served for two years on the personal staff of Virginia Governor Charles Robb. He later served as the Virginia Film Commissioner. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

Chris Davis

Executive Producer

After being the Head of Television for the company, Chris Davis extended his role to literary manager and producer at Echo Lake Entertainment. Chris was among the original team responsible for setting up the company's first series, *Van Helsing*, which went for five seasons and was one of Syfy's highest rated shows. Their success continued with *The Great*, written by Tony McNamara and starring Elle Fanning and Nicholas Hoult, which went for three seasons on Hulu. Along with overseeing Echo Lake's current on-air shows, Chris shepherded more than 40 projects in development. In his current position, Chris works with a variety of incredible US and international writers and directors and is the

point manager on the team representing Forbes Entertainment and their 103+ years of archived articles and IP.

Prior to joining Echo Lake, Chris worked at A&E for over a decade, first in the publicity department and then in movies and mini-series. From there, he moved into scripted series development, helping to launch A&E's first two scripted drama series, *The Cleaner*, as well as *The Beast*. As Manager of Development and Current programming for A&E scripted series, he also oversaw shows such as *Breakout Kings*, *Longmire*, *Bates Motel*, *Those Who Kill* and *The Returned*. He holds a degree from University of Hartford and lives in Los Angeles.

Amotz Zakai

Executive Producer

Amotz Zakai is a manager and producer who has worked at Echo Lake Entertainment since 2001. He first started in the production/financing division and now on the management side representing an international roster of directors, writers, and former spies. He grew up in Jerusalem, Israel, and received his BFA from the Rochester Institute of Technology and his MFA from the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California. He and his wife Abigail live in Los Angeles with their three children.





Myra Model

Executive Producer

After 15+ years in film and television development and production, Myra Model launched *Myra Model Management* in January 2010.

Prior to her management and consulting venture, Myra spent 10 years at CBS Entertainment overseeing dramatic limited series and movies, providing leadership and creative direction on more than 40 events for television including Emmy-nominated Mario Puzo's *The Last Don* (Darryl Hannah, Danny Aiello, Kirstie Alley), *Blonde* based on the Joyce Carol Oates Pulitzer-Prize winning book (Poppy Montgomery, Kirstie Alley, Wallace Shawn), *American Tragedy* (Ving Rhames, Christopher Plummer), *In Cold Blood* based on the classic (Eric Roberts, Anthony Edwards), *Gleason*, (Brad Garrett), *Ruby Ridge* (Laura Dern, Randy Quaid), Alex Haley's *Mama Flora's Family* (Jon Avnet/Producer, Queen Latifah, Cicely Tyson) and the adaptation of acclaimed

BBC mini-series *Reckless*. When Myra brought in Oscar-winning cinematographer Mikael Salomen (*The Abyss*) to direct his first-ever television project, for the first time CBS had Academy Award-winning talent helming a mini-series. Myra developed many high-profile projects that landed and help propel then newcomers Jennifer Garner, Kathryn Morris, Poppy Montgomery and Angelina Jolie.

Myra launched the television careers of several playwrights and new voices including Ellen Fairey (*Masters of Sex*) whose acclaimed play *Graceland* debuted at Lincoln Center; Wendy Wasserstein-prize-winning playwright Marisa Wegrzyn (Amazon's *Goliath*); and Humanitas New Voices Prize winner Caitlin Parrish (CBS' *Supergirl*).

Prior to CBS, Myra ran Carla Singer Productions where she developed dozens of broadcast network movies, six of which were produced during her three-year tenure. Myra moved into scripted programming with acclaimed Emmy-winner David Milch, with whom she worked at MTM and Columbia TV.

A former broadcast producer for Emmy-winning news and entertainment shows in Boston, Myra, a native of Montreal, produced for the ground-breaking *Look* newsmagazine show in Boston and was later recruited by Telepictures Productions to help launch unscripted shows in Los Angeles. She was a Co-Producer on “*Blind Curve*” (Rip Torn, Candy Clark), the only American film selected for the International Critics Week at the 1992 Cannes Film Festival.

Trent O'donnell

Executive Producer/Showrunner/ Director

Trent O'Donnell is a director and writer working in Australia and the US. His television credits include *Population 11*, *Hacks*, *Colin from Accounts*, *The Good Place*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* and *Ghosts*.

Trent is also the creator, director, co-writer and executive producer of *No Activity* for Paramount Plus starring Will Ferrell, Amy Schumer, J.K Simmons, Amy Sedaris and many more. He was the supervising and directing executive producer on hit Fox comedy *New Girl* from 2013-2017 and directed 28 episodes during this time. His debut film *Ride the Eagle* starred Jake Johnson, J.K Simmons, and Susan Sarandon.

He is the co-creator, writer and director of *A Moody Christmas*, which was remade in the US by CBS for Fox, and *Review with Myles Barlow*, which was also remade in the US as *Review* on Comedy Central. He most recently won a Gotham Award for *Colin from Accounts*, as Executive Producer and set up Director, and has also won multiple Best Comedy AFIs, Best Comedy at SPA, a Best Comedy AWGIE, Best Ensemble Comedy two years running (Equity Award) and Best Comedy Director (Australian Directors' Guild Award).

Marieke Hardy

Writer (Ep 2)

Marieke Hardy began life as a child actor and has since forged a successful career as a screenwriter, playwright, producer, artist, theatre maker and media presenter. Marieke was the Artistic Director of the Melbourne Writers Festival for both the 2018 and 2019 programs.

She is the head writer and showrunner on *Jungle's* adaptation of Robbie Arnott's novel, *Flames* and wrote episodes of Netflix's hugely popular *Heartbreak High* reboot Series 1 and 2. She also wrote an episode of the anthology series *Erotic Stories* for SBS. She is also the lead writer of a book adaptation for Matchbox and a series for Helium and Netflix.





Marieke has written for Matchbox's *Seven Types of Ambiguity* and *Nowhere Boys Series 3 and 4*. Her other credits include writing on *Barons*, *The Family Law*, *Mr & Mrs Murder*, *Spirited*, *Packed to the Rafters*, *Always Greener*, *Neighbours*, and *Something in the Air*. She has also been a script consultant/editor on such series as *Rosehaven*, *Please Like Me*, *Tomorrow Tonight*, and the development of comedian Anne Edmonds' *Helen Bidou* series.

Her hugely successful adaptation of Dario Fo's play *No Pay? No Way!* premiered with Sydney Theatre Company at the Sydney Opera House in February 2020 to rave reviews. *No Pay? No Way!* was also nominated for a NSW Premier's Award. The play has also had a season at the Exchange Theatre in Manchester, UK in 2023 and a critically acclaimed return season at the STC in 2024.

Marieke was also a co-creator, co-writer and co-producer on the critically acclaimed ABC comedy series, *Laid* series 1 and 2, for which she won the 2011 AWGIE for Best Comedy – Situation or Narrative.

She has penned regular columns for *The Age*, *The Drum*, and *Frankie* magazine, as well as features in *The Saturday Paper* and *Spectrum*.

Lally Katz

Writer (& 3)

Lally Katz is one of Australia's most original and in-demand writers. She has written over 50 plays, most of which have been professionally produced.

Her new play *Hans & Gret* premiered at the 2023 Adelaide Festival for the Arts with Windmill Theatre. She is currently writing episodes for an upcoming television series created by Shaun Tan.

The double bill she wrote with Brendan Cowell *The Dog/The Cat* premiered at Belvoir in 2015 and had a return season in 2017. It was performed in London and Las Vegas in 2018. She is currently writing a memoir for Allen and Unwin.

Lally wrote the libretto for Opera Australia's operatic adaptation of *The Rabbits* by Shaun Tan which won the Australian Writers Guild Award in 2016 for Best Music Theatre script and won several Helpmann Awards, including Best New Work. Lally has recently had new, world-premiere plays open at Malthouse, Belvoir and at Melbourne Theatre Company. Her plays have been staged in London, New York City, Mexico

City, Dublin and Delhi. Her one-woman show, *Stories I Want To Tell You*, has toured extensively and Lally adapted it for ABC TV and Matchbox Pictures in 2015. Lally wrote, starred and was a producer in the one-hour television production.

Lally has sold pilots to FX, Showtime and ABC Signature Studios. In 2022 she worked in the writer's room for Hulu's *The Great*, season 3. Lally's play, *Neighbourhood Watch*, was written for Australian actress Robyn Nevin and has enjoyed a subsequent season starring Miriam Margolyes. Lally is currently adapting it for the screen with Goalpost Pictures.

A *Golem Story* and *Goodbye Vaudeville Charlie Mudd* both won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Lally's work has received several Green Room Awards. A significant number of Lally's plays are published by Currency Press, PlayLab and Australian Scripts Online. Lally regularly writes articles for magazines and newspapers and has been a panellist on television shows including *Q&A*, *Agony of Modern Manners* and *Dirty Laundry*.

Clare Sladden Writer (Ep 4)

Clare Sladden is a Meeanjin/Brisbane-based writer with a passion for female-driven stories. Her credits include *NCIS: Sydney*, Stan Original *Eden*, the *Wentworth* spin-off podcast, and *Winding Road*, a narrative podcast funded by Audible and Screen Queensland which Clare wrote, directed and co-produced.

In 2020, Clare was selected for the prestigious SPA Ones to Watch program – in 2021 she was chosen as the successful participant of Screen Queensland's 'Bradford Winters Lab', a program specifically designed to facilitate emerging showrunners – and in 2022, Clare was named on Inside Film's 'Rising Talent' list.

Most recently, Clare worked as a staff writer under American showrunner John Quaintance on the Stan Original *Good Cop/Bad Cop*. Clare has been awarded Screen Australia development funding for her feature *Sophie Next Door*, which she'll write, direct and co-produce.

Niki Aken Writer (Ep 5)

Niki Aken is a multi-award-winning writer working across comedy and drama.

Niki has written on all three seasons of the popular and critically acclaimed ABC series *The Newsreader*, which won the 2021 AACTA for Best Drama Series and the TV Week Silver Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series. In 2022, Niki's episode depicting the Russell Street Bombing was nominated for the Best Screenplay in Television AWGIE.

Niki co-wrote SBS' *The Hunting*, which was the highest-rating commissioned drama in SBS history, winning Niki and co-writer Matthew Cormack the 2019 AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television for episode 3, as well as the 2020 AWGIE for Best Television Miniseries.

Niki wrote an episode and served as script producer on both seasons of the critically acclaimed comedy-drama series *Upright* starring Tim Minchin. *Upright* won the 2020 AACTA Award for Best Comedy Series. Having worked previously with sketch-comedy troupe 'Aunty Donna' on their pilot *Chaperones* for Stan, Niki was attached as script producer to Netflix' Gen-Z comedy series *Why Are You Like This*, which won the 2018 ABC Fresh Blood competition out of hundreds of entries, and subsequently ordered to full series. *Why Are You Like This* went on to win the 2021 Best Narrative Comedy AWGIE.

Niki was a Co-EP and development Script Producer on the SBS anthology series *Erotic*

Stories, which debuted at SXSW Sydney. Her other credits include ABC's *Significant Others*, *ANZAC Girls*, won an AWGIE for Best Adapted Miniseries, and also multiple series of both *Janet King*. For her work on Nine Network's *Underbelly*, Niki and the writing team won two AWGIES for Best Adapted Miniseries.

Niki has volunteered on various Australian Writers' Guild committees for over ten years. She is a founding member of the Guild's Diversity and Inclusion committee, and she served on the AWGACS Board from 2020-2022.

Tyson Perkins

Director of Photography

Based in Sydney, Australia, Tyson Perkins is an award-winning cinematographer and camera operator. Over the course of more than a decade, Tyson has garnered a wealth of experience on a diverse range of projects and has become known for his particular style, visual flair, work ethic and creativity. Tyson's credits include *Mystery Road: Origin*, *Went Up The Hill, Thou Shalt Not Steal* and *The Bowraville Murders*.

Claire Granville

Production Designer

Claire Granville is one of Australia's most accomplished production designers with recent credits including *Colin From Accounts*, *Mother & Son*, *The Appleton Ladies' Potato Race*, *The PM's Daughter*, *Mr Inbetween* and *Killing Ground*.

Rita Carmody

Costume Designer

Rita is an award-winning costume designer for film and television. Rita has worked on season

two of the global hit *Colin from Accounts* directed by Trent O'Donnell. She has worked on two seasons of *Heartbreak High* for Netflix. Rita was awarded the AACTA and the APDG award for best costume design for a television series for her work on season 1.

Most recently Rita designed the costumes for the reimagining of much-loved ABC comedy *Mother and Son* starring Denise Scott and Matt Okine. Before this she designed the romantic comedy *Five Blind Dates*, directed by Shawn Seet.

Rita's feature films include romantic comedy *Long Story Short* directed by Josh Lawson and starring Rafe Spall and Zahra Newman; *Hearts and Bones* directed by Ben Lawrence and starring Hugo Weaving which screened in competition at the Sydney and Toronto film festivals; and *Lunacy* directed by Daniel Askill and starring Isabel Lucas and Lily Sullivan.

Her other television work includes ABC comedy series *Preppers* directed by Steven McGregor and starring Nakkiah Lui; 2 seasons of the Stan comedy *The Other Guy* directed by Kacie Anning and Gracie Otto and starring Matt Okine and Harriet Dyer; 2 seasons of *Hardball* directed by Darren Ashton for the ABC which won an International Emmy Award; *The Justine Clarke Show* directed by Justine Flynn; and *Jungle's Here Come the Habibs!* directed by Darren Ashton for Channel 9.



Cassie Hanlon

Hair and Makeup Designer

Cassie Hanlon is recognised as one of Australia's film industry's most experienced and creative hair and make-up designers. She was awarded the prestigious BAFTA for her amazing designs on the enormously successful Australian film *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*.

With over 30 film credits and countless television projects including *Colin from Accounts* (Seasons 1 and 2).



She has many commercials in her portfolio and has been nominated for many awards both here and overseas for her creativity and professional body of work. Cassie designed the make-up and incorporated the innovative mask system for *Priscilla the Musical*.

Her career over 30 years in hair and make-up artistry has seen her work on most of the iconic Australian films like *Mad Max III Beyond the Thunder Dome*, *Star Wars*, *Priscilla*, *Two Hands*, *Peter Pan* and *The Great Gatsby* to name a few.

Cassie has worked as a personal make-up artist for actors such as Bill Nighy, Sean Penn, Will Forte, Rowan Atkinson, Sam Neill, Tim Minchin, Jackie Chan, Guy Pearce, Rachel Griffiths, Russell Crowe, Terance Stamp, Rose Byrne, Heath Ledger, Brian Brown, Travis Fimmel, Rachael Taylor, Josh Lucas, Susie Porter, Ray Liotta, Jing Tian, Adria Arjona, Xiaver Samuels, Anthony La Pagila, Hugo Weaving and Olivia Newton John.

Gabe Dowrick

Editor (Eps 1-4)

Gabe Dowrick is an award-winning editor. He's cut more than a hundred episodes of broadcast TV. Recent credits include *Population 11*, *Good Cop/Bad Cop*, *Wakefield*, *Bali 2002* and *Preppers*.

Gabe also once wrote a produced feature film with 80s action hero Dolph Lundgren, *Skin Trade* (2015), starring Dolph, Tony Jaa and Ron Perlman.

Danielle Boesenberg

Editor (Eps 5-8)

Danielle Boesenberg is an award-winning editor with films screened at Berlin, Toronto, Clermont-Ferrand, Tribeca, Palm Springs, Sydney, Melbourne, and Heartland.

Nominated for the Australian Screen Editors award for her work on *Kiss* in 2011, Danielle was nominated again in 2014 for her work on the Guineafowl music clip *Little Death (Make It Rain)* and again in 2017 for web series *Attack! Attack! Art?*. She won the 2015 ASE award for Best Editing in a Short Film for *The Aquarium*. In 2019, she was nominated for Best Editing in a Short Film and was awarded a Special Mention at Flickerfest 2019 for *Birdie*, which was acquired by Searchlight Pictures after screening at the Toronto IFF 2018. In 2024, she was nominated for an AACTA award for her editing of *Colin from Accounts*.

Danielle's recent work includes the AACTA and Logie-winning *Colin from Accounts*; season two of the *The Twelve*; and *Return to Paradise*. In 2021, Danielle was elected President of the Australian Screen Editors' Guild.

Stan.

ORIGINALS

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