



Stan. ORIGINAL

THE F-WORD

NEW SERIES JULY 17

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Stan.

KEY CAST

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Jimmy Seufale	IOANE SA'ULA
Dr Curtis Parker	DAN WYLLIE
Ellie O'Neill	LOLA BOND
Josh Wilson	ALEX FITZALAN
Lisa Juracek	EMILY BARCLAY
Yosef Perara	RISHAB KERN
Ava Foley	ANNIE BOYLE
Dr Kush Prasad	ARKA DAS
Anita Corcoran	PAULA ARUNDELL
Dr Geoffrey Friedman	JEREMY SIMS
Pip Matessi	SUSIE PORTER
Dennis	TOBY SCHMITZ
Stefan	ALEX DIMITRIADES

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**MEETING
ROOM**

2.08



Failed medical interns get their last shot at Sydney's underfunded Pines Hospital, where they battle to overcome personal shortcomings and past mistakes in the hope of finally becoming doctors.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A new cohort of medical graduates join the Pines Hospital's intern program. This is their last chance after each of them failed their first year as an intern doctor. Every shift they face their fears and frailties in life-or-death situations – premature pregnancies, runaway retirees, impossible surgeries – all while battling bureaucracy and learning on the job in an underfunded public hospital. Sparks fly inside and out of the hospital, illicit workplace romances burn bright and lifelong friendships blossom. They learn how to care for their patients, each other, and themselves, on the path to becoming the doctors they dream of being.

LONG SYNOPSIS

A new cohort of interns joins the Pines Hospital. This is their first day and their last chance.

Sparks fly between Jimmy who's here for disregarding medical procedure in order to save a life and conscientious overachiever Ellie whose genuine mistake cost someone theirs. Former nurse Lisa, a certified hot mess who works hard and parties harder, finds a kindred spirit in medical nepo baby Josh, whose biggest challenge is trying to become a doctor without becoming his father. Wide-eyed, weak-stomached Yosef is in the F Ward for vomiting on a patient, and whip-smart dry-humoured Ava is in here for the same thing – just kidding, she holds her cards much closer to her chest.

Supported by their fearless and terrifying leader Gloria and her second-in-charge, registrar Curtis, the interns are thrown in the deep end when a wild storm hits, flooding the hospital with casualties and cutting the power. Amongst the chaos, Jimmy builds an unlikely rapport with a runaway retiree, Josh has a surprising run-in with a handsy partyboy, Ellie is stuck in a lift with an injured patient going through labour, and Yosef meets formidable nurse Mia, who he thinks might be the love of his life.

But when Jimmy's patient suffers an unexpected heart complication and dies on his watch, the life-and-death reality of their workplaces comes crashing down on them. Gloria offers Jimmy professional support, and their history and their chemistry is made clear. This has happened before, but it wasn't supposed to happen again.

Gloria debriefs the interns in the wake of the loss of Jimmy's patient. Jimmy takes responsibility for his role in the incident. Ellie and Curtis are forced to bend the rules when a couple's attempt to conceive becomes a matter of life-and-death. Jimmy has no time to recover from his traumatic first day when paramedics deliver a young boy with severe internal bleeding. When he discovers the boy's father is responsible for his injuries, Jimmy



takes justice into his own hands, learning a difficult lesson about where his job as a doctor starts and ends. Yosef faces his biggest fear – stitches – whilst Ava innovates her way out of work. When Gloria calls a surprise Mortality and Morbidity meeting, everyone fears they could be on the chopping block, but no one expects Gloria to turn on Ava. When Ava refuses to take responsibility for her actions, Gloria kicks her out, making it clear this second chance really is their last one.

A surprise visit from Josh's star surgeon dad Geoffrey spins the hospital rumour mill into action – Gloria was once his trainee and it didn't end well. Is Josh only in the F Ward to spite him? Mia teaches Yosef a valuable lesson. Ellie chooses to prioritise her ambitions, defying Gloria's instructions not to work with Geoffrey. When his 4-year-old patient swallows a battery, Jimmy and Gloria collide in the workplace to save her. The surgery goes well but as they debrief afterwards, Geoffrey catches them in a compromising position, and Gloria is confronted with the horrifying thought that she's become the new Geoffrey. A wild night bonds Lisa and Josh as friends forever when they somehow end up partying in a stranger's basement face-to-face with a Diprotodon skeleton. Curtis and Gloria spend time together outside the F Ward, Curtis reckons with his feelings for Gloria and Gloria decides to end her dalliance with Jimmy. Everything with Geoffrey comes to a head when Gloria attempts to make amends with Josh, and Geoffrey smacks him publicly.

Ellie and Lisa's reputations precede them when they begin a rotation in OBGYN with Dr Pip Matessi. Anita forces Gloria to complete a training module after she receives a record number of HR complaints. Josh and Jimmy push the boundaries when they each pop a pill before being asked to do a cover shift. Ellie fights the system for patient Xanthe, who is admitted with chronic abdominal pain, but ends up ruining her star reputation with Pip when she goes behind Pip's back to get to the bottom of Xanthe's case. Sparks fly and hearts break when Lisa and Yosef host a house party – Yosef and Mia share their first kiss, Josh's attempt to set up Nic and Lisa ends with him kissing Nic instead, and Jimmy's bitterness makes Ellie double down with Kush. The next day, Gloria threatens both Jimmy and Josh with expulsion, but when Josh threatens to publicly reveal her relationship with Jimmy, Gloria decides to come clean about it with Anita, and then fires Josh for threatening blackmail.

Jimmy and Ellie are forced to face their feelings whilst stuck together on night shift. Ellie confides to Jimmy that she's facing a medical inquiry into the death of the patient – the incident put her in the F Ward. Jimmy promises to support her through it. Curtis confronts Gloria over her decision to fire Josh, but Gloria doubles down. Meanwhile Lisa is trying to help Josh come to terms with what he's lost, but Josh isn't listening. He faces an unexpected intervention from Geoffrey and his mother Lena, causing him to spiral further. Yosef puts his foot in it with Mia. When Ellie finds out that Jimmy and Gloria have been a thing, she blows up at him during a patient crisis. The next day, Ellie is grilled at her inquest, where she is forced to confront her past mistakes and the family of her dead patient, leading to an unexpected outcome. Jimmy shows up for her and declares his feelings for her. Feeling the same, Ellie kisses Jimmy – finally! Josh's breakdown leads him back to the ER, where Lisa is the only one who can calm him down and shows him the care no one has before. But their reunion is interrupted by Geoffrey, who reports Josh to the police to teach him a lesson.

The interns face their biggest challenge yet when they're forced to evacuate the Emergency Department in the middle of their mid-term prac exams. Anita tells Gloria that in the wake of the revelation of her relationship with Jimmy, the Board is sending an external examiner, and she won't be assessing any of the interns. But when Geoffrey sets the examiner Dennis on the path to uncovering all the interns' misdemeanours, Gloria steps up and leads the fight back – she won't let the system ruin their last chance. Jimmy and Ellie's relationship is tested under the pressure of exams and Ellie suggests they may have made a mistake. Yosef faces his fear of stitches while Lisa dodges her fear of intimacy by shirking Nic's advances. Curtis takes charge when a battery fire means the ED has to be evacuated. In the course of the chaos, Gloria learns Curtis is replacing her as leader of the F Ward. Jimmy disappears while hunting for a lost patient. Ellie finds him concussed. Tired and distracted by her own feelings for him, Ellie mis-prescribes him a medication that inadvertently sends him into a dangerous cardiac arrhythmia. Curtis and the team get Jimmy to a stable condition, but Dennis tells Gloria Jimmy won't pass the mid-terms and he is being kicked out of the program; his future uncertain as Ellie and Gloria join him by his bedside.



• EPISODE 1

LOGLINE

A group of medical interns enters the F Ward, a last-chance program for young doctors.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A new cohort of interns joins the Pines Hospital. This is their first day and their last chance. The interns are thrown in the deep end when a wild storm hits, flooding the hospital with casualties and cutting off the power. The young doctors must work together with program leader Gloria and maverick registrar Curtis to restore the hospital and its patients back to good health.

LONG SYNOPSIS

A new cohort of interns descend on beachside hospital, the Pines, for the first day of their last shot at becoming doctors, as a storm brews ominously over the ocean. Dr Gloria Wall makes a rousing opening speech – welcoming the gathered interns to their last shot at completing their medical internship. Interns Jimmy and Ellie, running late, push the door into – “*The F Ward*”. Gloria immediately kicks them out for their tardiness, reminding the interns that this is not a safe space, it’s a hospital. Senior reg Curtis, dressed in his Hawaiian-themed scrubs, takes pity on them, showing the duo where to scrub up for the day ahead.

Lisa, Josh, Yosef and Ava hit the ED, where triage nurse Liam divides them up amongst the growing number of waiting patients. Jimmy and Ellie join Gloria in surgery, but their competitive streak swiftly gets them kicked out again. More casualties from the storm arrive as chaos descends on the Pines. A handsy party boy feels up Josh in the middle of an

examination. Yosef and Mia have a run in with “the phantom shitter”. And Ava finds time for a quiet meal in an empty bay.

Jimmy meets Shirley, an elderly repeat patient who claims she’s dying. She’s deliberately not taking her medication to avoid going back to her nursing home. Ellie takes an incoming trauma case: Phoebe was in a motor vehicle accident, she’s 35 weeks pregnant with a broken clavicle and a suspected onset of labour.

While Jimmy waits for Shirley’s discharge paperwork, he visits Mick, whose leg was damaged by a piece of corrugated iron in the storm. He’s stapled himself up and asks Jimmy to keep the x-rays; his daughter Tilly loves playing doctor. After Jimmy’s dressed the wound, Mick asks to drive home – his wife Ginny is going to kill him! But Jimmy tells him to sit tight. He goes to find Mick some crutches, and notices Shirley is gone.



Ellie is taking Phoebe to Maternity in the lifts when the power cuts out. The lift shudders to a halt as Phoebe goes into a painful contraction. Ellie rushes her back to ED - the only working floor in the lift - while Jimmy races up the stairs to the hospital roof, where he finds Shirley, standing on the edge in the middle of the storm. He talks her down, promising to find her a bed with a view.

As the storm brings down trees and floods the surrounding roads, Anita tells Gloria that more patients are inbound from the motor vehicle accident. And the bad news keeps coming: maintenance manager Omar informs Gloria, Anita and Curtis that the power cut is because the basement is flooded, and the back-up generator is low on diesel - they only have an hour's worth of power.

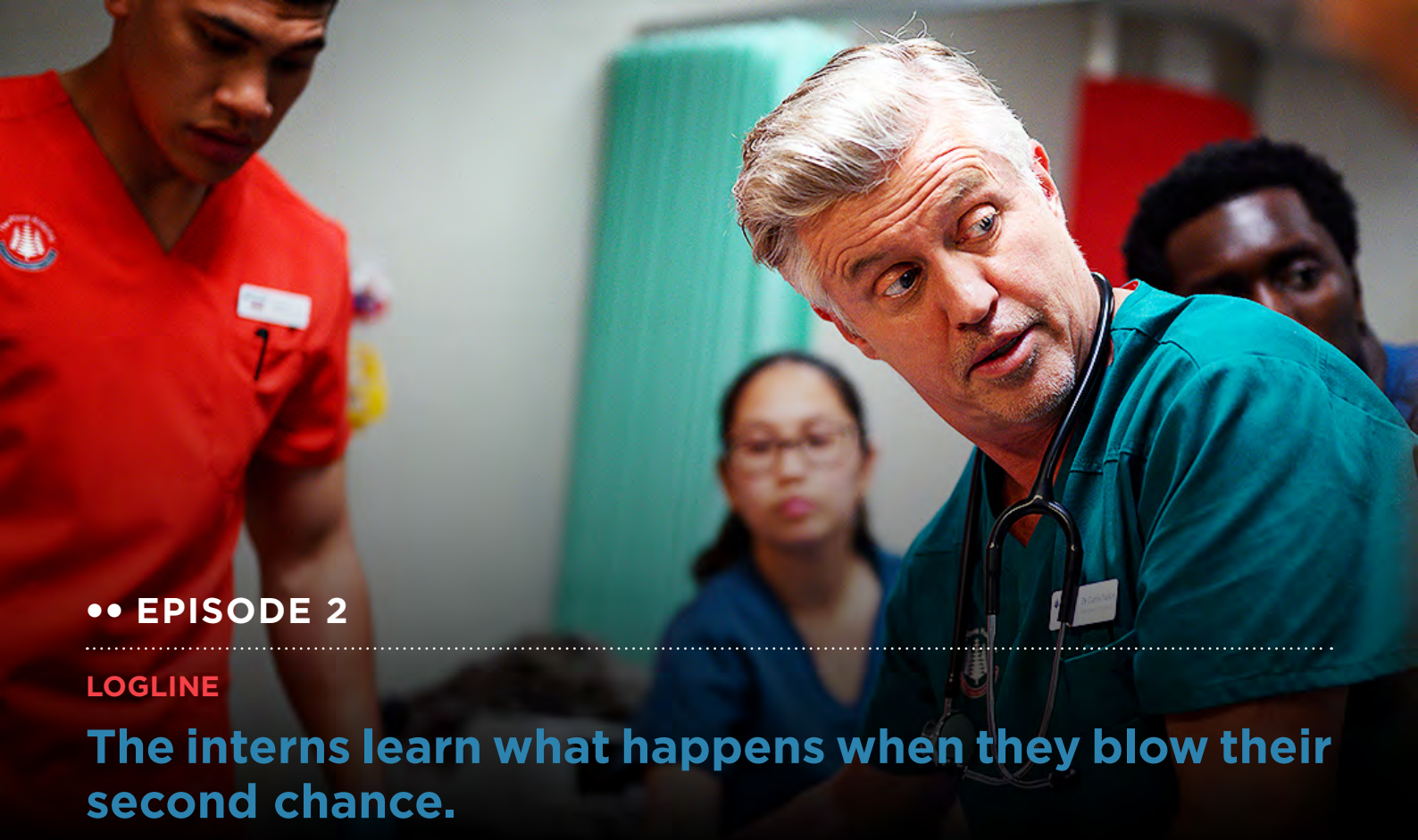
Curtis grabs Jimmy: he has a plan. They power through the rain to find diesel at the nearby surf club, but in the middle of the syphoning, Jimmy faints. Curtis runs to his side just as he comes to. He's fine, and they have no time, so they rush back to Omar with the diesel.

Gloria's in the middle of surgery, with three more patients incoming, when Ellie's patient Phoebe gives birth. The baby is fine, but before Ellie can celebrate her win, Phoebe becomes unresponsive. Ellie realises Phoebe is suffering a life-threatening post-partum haemorrhage. She rushes Phoebe into surgery with Gloria who successfully removes the placenta, as the power returns. In the post-surgery adrenaline, Ellie accidentally flirts with Kush.

As they change into dry scrubs, Curtis asks Jimmy about what happened at the surf club, but before he can answer, they're paged - Mick is missing. They find him dead on the bathroom floor, his phone buzzing with a call from his wife, Ginny. Later, Jimmy tries to break the news to Ginny and Tilly, but he freezes. Curtis jumps in to help.

The rest of the interns are exhausted, but have made it through the onslaught that was their first day. As they debrief together Ellie confesses to the group that she's in the program because she killed a patient.

Meanwhile, Gloria explains to Jimmy in her office that they have to wait for the autopsy before they know what happened with Mick. He's distracted, and almost faints again, but recovers. Then, out of nowhere, he goes in for the kiss. It's passionate and intimate. This has happened before, but it wasn't supposed to happen again...



●● EPISODE 2

LOGLINE

The interns learn what happens when they blow their second chance.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Gloria debriefs the interns in the wake of a tragedy. Ellie and Curtis are forced to bend the rules when a young couple's attempt to conceive becomes a matter of life-and-death. Jimmy has no time to recover from his traumatic first day when paramedics deliver a young boy with severe internal bleeding.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Jimmy meets Gloria for an early morning swim in the ocean pool, but their flirtation is cut short by Anita's arrival. Jimmy runs into Ellie before work, she's feeding her dog Mushu remotely through an app. She co-parents Mushu with her ex. Ellie takes the moment to connect with Jimmy about losing his patient Mick, she knows what it's like – but he rebuffs her, it's not the same, because he didn't do anything wrong.

All the staff gather for the weekly mortality and morbidity meeting, where nurses Nic and Mia are taking bets on who will be kicked out of the F Ward first. Gloria runs through Mick's death with Jimmy, who reluctantly accepts responsibility for his role in the incident.

Ellie visits 30-something Luke, who presents with blurry vision and headaches. Ellie's clumsy bedside manner endears him to her; but she's worried Luke has a serious problem. She asks Curtis to approve a CT.

The paramedics deliver a 12-year-old boy with severe internal bleeding to Jimmy and Curtis. He was found at the beach, apparently kids have been fighting in the dunes and filming it. Finding he's

suffering life-threatening internal bleeding, they send him straight to theatre. Gloria operates on the young boy, stopping the blood loss and stabilising him. She asks Jimmy to figure out who the boy is so they can contact his parents. As Jimmy heads off, he mentions to Curtis that the boy had no bruising on his face. He can't shake the feeling that these injuries didn't come from fighting.

Yosef treats a 40-year-old mum Jacqui, who has a nasty leg wound from a parkour accident. He goes to inspect the wound but has to excuse himself – he can't do stitches. Yosef admits his stitching fear to Lisa. She helps him swap jobs with Josh – Yosef's happy to cover Josh's patient's urinary catheter insertion. Crisis averted.

As Jimmy returns to the ED, Mia tells him there are some young boys asking for him. He learns from the boys that the bashed kid is called Toby, and they've never seen him fighting.

Ellie's dog-monitor app sends her an alert – her ex Oscar is in her apartment and he's taking her dog! He tells Ellie she's too busy to have a dog, and she can have Mushu on her days off. Ellie's distraught – she doesn't have days off. Thrown by the dognapping,

Ellie makes a terrible impression on Luke's wife Melissa by listing all the possible brain abnormalities he may have.

Nursing unit manager Nic catches Ava scrolling on her phone in the breakroom, in the middle of her shift. Nic asks her about missing discharge paperwork. Ava claims she forgot and will get straight onto it. Nic doesn't believe her.

After Luke's scan comes back indicating a bleed on the brain, Curtis talks Luke through his options. Ellie interrupts: she believes surgery is the only option, but there is a risk he could die. Luke appreciates Ellie's directness, and takes her advice – but he wants to have sex first. He and Melissa have been getting fertility treatment and if they don't have sex today they'll miss the window. When Curtis refuses, Luke decides to leave hospital. Curtis tells him to wait – maybe there's something they can do.

Jimmy meets with Toby's parents, Celia and Lewis, updating them on the situation. When he asks Lewis to fill out Toby's medical history, he's reluctant, and Jimmy notices he has difficulty holding the clipboard and pen. Jimmy collates Toby's medical records from other hospital districts and his concern for Toby's welfare deepens.

Ava fudges the paperwork for an unconscious post-op patient.

Curtis and Ellie argue over their responsibilities as Luke's doctors whilst Curtis pinches a box of erectile dysfunction pills from the drug supply room. Curtis convinces Ellie that it's Luke's call, and this way they're here if anything goes wrong. They find Luke and Melissa a cozy storeroom and Curtis instructs them to get the job done with as little exertion as possible. Anita catches Curtis and Ellie on the way out of the room, angry at their risky behaviour, and Ellie spirals – is Anita going to kick her out?

Jimmy tells Gloria his theory: Toby hasn't been fighting in the dunes, he's being hurt by his dad. Gloria tells him all they can do is report it; they're

doctors not the police. Before Jimmy can argue further, nurse Ali returns with Toby's test results: his bowel wall has ruptured and they need to get him back in surgery immediately.

Curtis and Ellie check in with Luke and Melissa, everything went to plan. Ellie tells Luke it's not a call she would have made, and he tells her she's lucky if she never had to consider it.

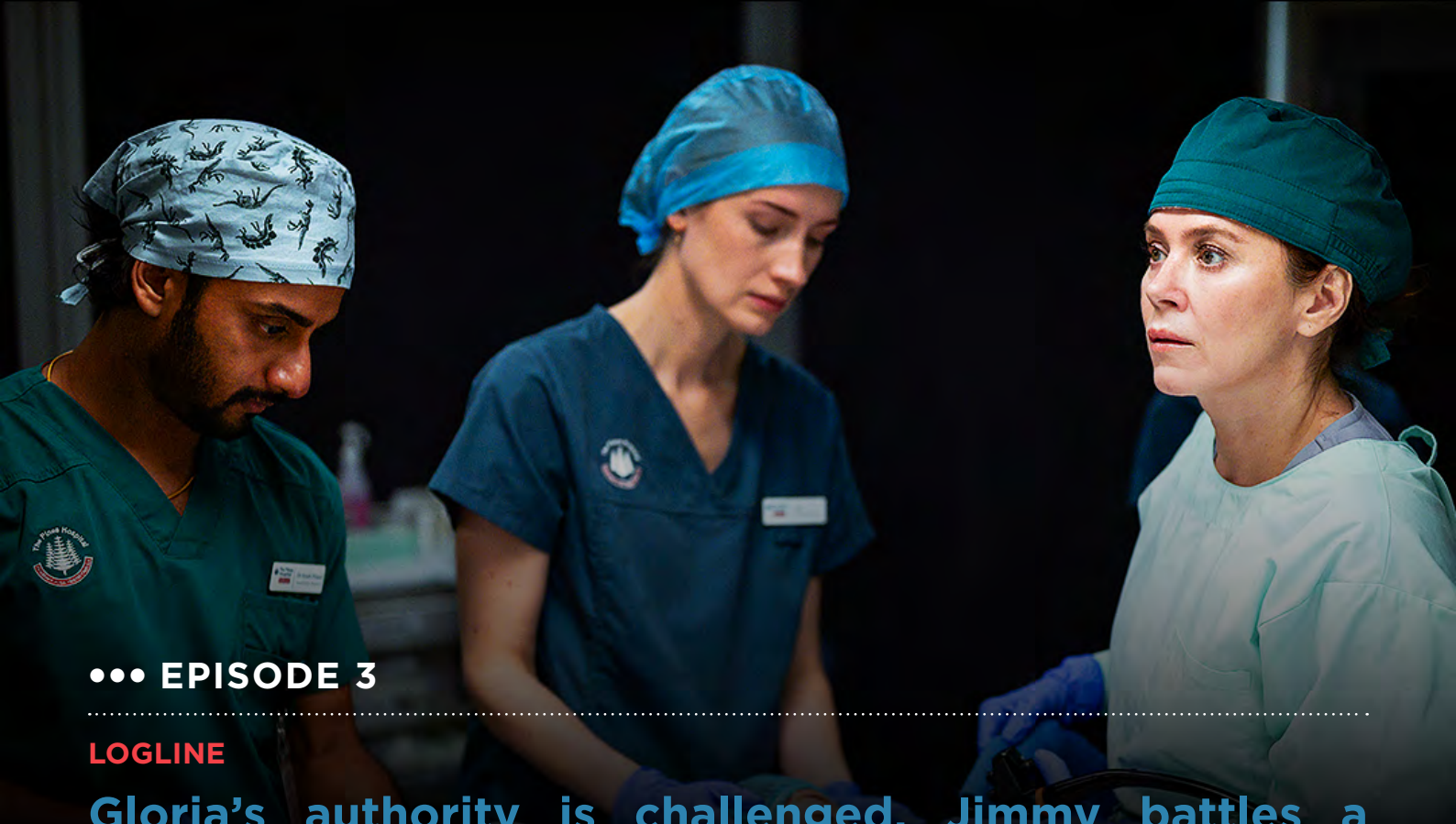
Jimmy assists Gloria in surgery. He faces the horror of what Toby's been through and he's almost overcome with emotion. He pulls himself together enough to last through the surgery, but immediately afterwards he confronts Toby's dad Lewis in the stairwell. Jimmy shoves Lewis against the wall, threatening to hurt him if he ever lays a hand on Toby again. Before the situation can escalate further, Gloria and Anita intervene. But Jimmy's made his point.

Curtis finds Jimmy by the beach, cooling down. Jimmy opens up about his father dying of a heart attack. Jimmy suspects he has the same condition. Curtis offers to get Jimmy in to see his cardiologist friend.

Gloria calls everyone together for an out-of-the-blue mortality and morbidity meeting. Ellie and Jimmy both worry they're on the chopping block, but Gloria surprises them by turning on Yosef. He owns up to switching jobs with Josh, so she moves to Ava, who claims she's been discharging patients according to protocol. But Gloria reveals that one of Ava's patients was improperly briefed and returned with pneumonia. Ava doubles down on her lies, refusing to admit her mistake, so Gloria kicks her out of the F Ward. The other interns are stunned – this really is their last chance.

After work, Jimmy catches Ellie crying over her dog. He comforts her, and she apologises for ghosting him when they worked together as interns before the F Ward. They share a moment, then go their separate ways – Ellie to her dog-less home and Jimmy to see Gloria...





●●● EPISODE 3

LOGLINE

Gloria's authority is challenged, Jimmy battles a medical mystery, and a wild night leads Lisa and Josh to unexpected places.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A surprise visit from a star surgeon spins the hospital rumour mill into action. Mia teaches Yosef a valuable lesson. Ellie makes a big career move, defying Gloria. An unexpected complication in a young patient causes Jimmy and Gloria to collide in the workplace, leaving them in a compromised position. A wild night between Lisa and Josh unearths an unexpected relic from the past.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Gloria confronts Josh before work: he's been avoiding assisting her in surgery. That stops now.

Gloria is in the middle of performing a complex laparoscopic operation, with Josh assisting and all the other interns observing, when she's interrupted by Dr Geoffrey Friedman – a notoriously shady star surgeon, who Gloria worked with as an intern, and who also happens to be Josh's dad. As Geoffrey takes over Gloria's surgery and showboats, he trips Josh up in front of everyone with a simple question, leaving both Gloria and Josh seething.

Gloria confronts Anita about Geoffrey's presence. Anita tells her he's taken a list one week a month at the Pines, and that's partially Gloria's fault for bringing Josh into the program. Ellie asks Gloria to shadow Geoffrey, but Gloria refuses.

As Liam divvies up the ED cases, he notices Yosef avoiding another patient who needs stitches, so he takes him aside and makes him practice stitching up a pig's foot.

Jimmy attends to 4-year-old Zoshya, who hit her head falling off an aqueduct. She's shy but Jimmy uses her battery-operated toy dog to ease her into a concussion assessment. Everything seems fine, to Zoshya's mum Lydia's relief.

Geoffrey tries to convince Josh to drop his ED shift and join him in surgery. Josh refuses, but Ellie goes behind Gloria's back to impress Geoffrey and join him instead.

Lisa sees gym bro Aiden, whose testicles have become infected in a chastity cage. She snaps a pic and shows Josh, but he's in a bad mood because of Geoffrey.

Jimmy checks back in on Zoshya, none of her symptoms have changed but she seems unwell. He tries to use the toy dog again, but its battery appears to be flat.

Yosef tries to stitch up his patient, but he's still struggling. Mia takes him aside and tells him he

needs to put his patients' needs over his own.

Gloria complains to Anita again – Geoffrey has taken her team into surgery. Anita tells her to deal with it, so Gloria confronts Geoffrey in surgery, catching Ellie in the process. Gloria storms out, telling Ellie she'll deal with her later. Ellie impresses Geoffrey as they finish up. She's stoked. Kush congratulates her, he's stoked to see her stoked.

Curtis takes Jimmy to his cardiologist appointment. They chat about Zoshya on the way but before Jimmy sees the doctor, he figures out what must have gone wrong. He gets back to the Pines and Zoshya admits she ate the battery from her toy dog. She vomits and Jimmy hits the emergency alarm – she needs to go straight into surgery. Jimmy assists Gloria in surgery as she searches for the battery. She can't find it, it must have passed into the intestine. Gloria needs help from a surgeon but everyone is busy – except Geoffrey. Together, they manage to locate and remove the battery.

Jimmy congratulates Gloria after the surgery, and Geoffrey catches them in a moment of intimacy.

Ellie apologises to Gloria, but Gloria snaps at her, suggesting Ellie's tactics won't work on Geoffrey unless she wants to cozy up with him physically. Ellie angrily suggests times have changed and Gloria should catch up.

Lisa catches Josh at the end of his shift and convinces him to ditch his date to go drinking with her. Kush surprises Ellie with a t-shirt of her dog Mushu. She's surprised by his kindness and agrees to go on a date with him.

At the bar, Lisa and Josh meet an eccentric older man called Stefan, who invites them to kick on with him. After a whirlwind night, Josh and Lisa

end up at his house, but their fun is cut short when Stefan's son Otis interrupts, so Lisa and Josh make a quick escape.

Gloria surprises Curtis, rocking up at his house with a bottle of wine. Gloria is worried she's the new Geoffrey, an out-of-touch dinosaur. She reflects on her relationship with Geoffrey, how it broke up Josh's family, and how she uncovered Geoffrey's behaviour. She tells him she doesn't feel like she should be considered a hero or a victim for what happened. Curtis reminds her that she gave him a second chance at medicine, and that she should give herself the chance to learn from her mistakes, just like she does for others. And, he adds, at least she's not bonking her interns.

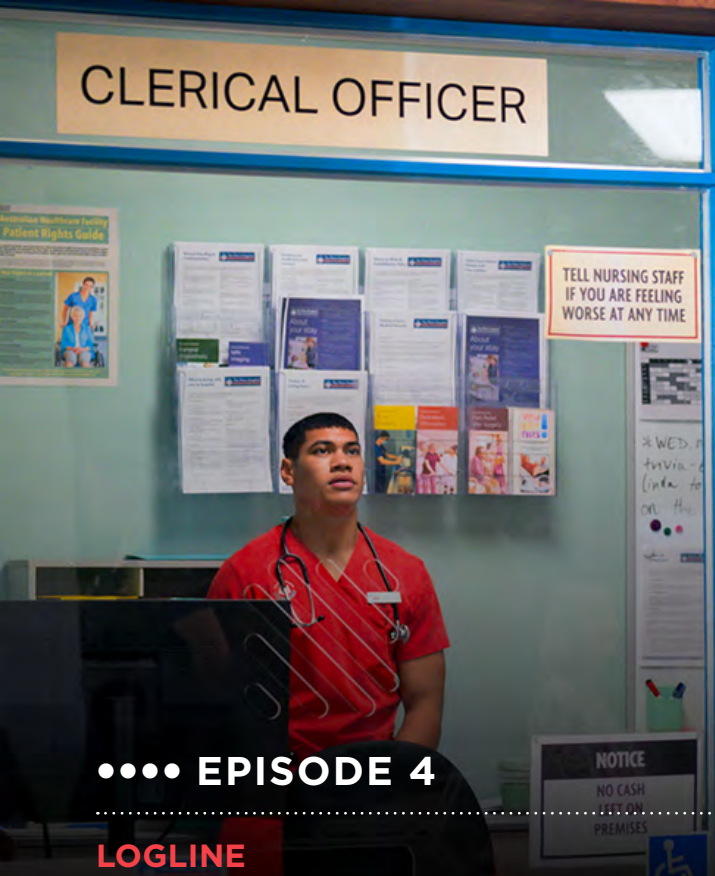
Josh goes straight to work after his big night and runs into Gloria who tries to apologise for destroying his parents' marriage, but Josh tells her she's not special – Geoffrey wrecked their home long before her. When Geoffrey arrives, Josh raises his voice, yelling openly about his father's infidelity, but his rant is cut short when Geoffrey smacks him on the arse.

After Jimmy visits the cardiologist, Curtis checks up on him. He tells Curtis he's been given the all clear, but Curtis doesn't believe him.

Jimmy meets Gloria for coffee. He tries to tell her that there's something wrong with his heart, but she interrupts – they can't keep doing this, she's breaking it off.

Ellie finds Jimmy getting changed in the breakroom and notices he has a heart monitor taped across his chest. He admits he has a genetic heart condition, Long QT, but he's not going to tell anyone – he won't let this stop him from becoming a surgeon.





CLERICAL OFFICER



TRIAGE NURSE

•••• EPISODE 4

LOGLINE

Gloria's on the warpath, Ellie breaks the rules, Jimmy and Josh bond, and a party at Lisa and Yosef's house changes everything.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Ellie and Lisa's reputations precede them when they begin a rotation in OBGYN. Anita forces Gloria to complete a training module after she receives a record number of HR complaints. Josh and Jimmy push the boundaries on their cover shift. Sparks fly and hearts break when Lisa and Yosef host a house party. And the interns learn the true cost of their reckless decision-making.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Lisa and Ellie are on rotation together in OBGYN. Lisa's excited and Ellie's disinterested, but obstetrician Dr Pip Matessi thinks Ellie's a star and Lisa's just an ex-nurse.

Josh and Jimmy have just finished their week of night shifts together and the unlikely duo is getting on like a house on fire.

Anita ambushes Gloria with a visitor - it's Kade from HR and he's here to run her through a training module. Gloria has set the record for most staff complaints in the workplace. She tries the module but can't stand it and decides instead to hunt down the complainants.

Ellie treats Xanthe, a woman in her mid 20s presenting with chronic abdominal pain. Xanthe has been through all this before - she's got all the paperwork, she's on the gynae clinic waitlist, she's not pregnant, and she's sick of being unheard. Ellie is determined to be different.

Gloria confronts Josh and Jimmy about the complaints but neither of them know what she's talking about. Ellie asks Pip if she can order more scans to investigate other possible causes for Xanthe's pain, but Pip tells her that the simplest solution is probably the right one.

Josh and Jimmy clock off, and Josh guilt trips Jimmy into partying with him. Just as they both pop a pill, Curtis calls them back onto a cover shift. Jimmy immediately hits the bathroom, but he can't manage to throw up the pill. He gets changed into his scrubs and starts his second shift.

Gloria interrogates Yosef about the complaints whilst he drains a pus-filled abscess. Yosef cracks under pressure and tells Gloria that everyone's afraid of her, but he also didn't log a complaint.

Josh meets Tony in the ED, an aggressive ice addict accompanied by two police officers. Under Curtis' supervision, Josh has Mia administer an

injection to calm Tony down. One of the police officers, Constable Grayson, tries small talk but Josh rejects him.

Ellie checks on Xanthe, whose pain is getting worse. Unable to leave Xanthe without answers, Ellie turns to Lisa, who teaches her how to order a sneaky scan. Ellie heads to radiology, where she smooth-talks the registrar Mal into rushing through a CT scan.

As Josh patches up a now-docile Tony's eye wound, Constable Grayson has another unsuccessful crack at flirting. Jimmy pulls Ellie aside to help him double-check a prescription. She's quietly chuffed when he tells her he wanted help from someone he trusts. Josh walks in on Jimmy checking his own heart with a stethoscope. Jimmy tells him about the Long QT and Josh checks his heart, but it's all sounding fine. Josh admits he finds Grayson hot, then the duo head back to work.

Mal reports back to Ellie: the CT is fine. But Ellie is still determined to find out what's happening, so she tells Ellie to stay overnight.

When Grayson tries it on again, Josh relents and they hook up in an empty room. Back in the ED, Tony calls Jimmy over and asks him what drugs he's on. Jimmy denies any drug use and Tony lashes out, headbutting him. Josh and Grayson arrive back too late. As Curtis patches up Jimmy's nose, he notices that Jimmy's high. He reprimands him for being reckless and sends him home.

Jimmy and Josh drink on their way to Lisa and Yosef's house party. When Josh makes a joke about Jimmy and Gloria, Jimmy accidentally admits to their relationship. Josh promises not to tell anyone.

Later that night, all the interns arrive at the house party. Mia shows Lisa a thirst trap that Yosef took and Lisa sets them up. Josh tries to get Lisa to let loose by kissing Nic, but when Lisa gets nervous, Josh kisses Nic himself. Ellie notices Jimmy seems out of it, but when she checks in on him she realises he's high. Jimmy's rude to her, so she leaves the party with Kush.

The next morning, Curtis opens up to Jimmy about his drug addiction and how he only got back into medicine because of Gloria. Ellie gets a call from Mal: she was right, the extra scans found a rare and dangerous blood clot requiring immediate admission to surgery overnight. She gushes about it in the middle of a caesarean with Pip, who shuts her down – what Ellie did was wrong in so many ways. Pip leaves before Ellie can ask more. Rattled, Ellie begins closing up the patient before they finish the sponge count and Lisa has to step in to extract the sponge accidentally left in the patient's abdomen.

Gloria sits Josh and Jimmy down separately to discipline them for their behaviour. She tells Jimmy she should fire him, and he tells her not to treat him any differently. When she says the same to Josh, he threatens to reveal her relationship with Jimmy, so she takes him to Anita's office and confesses everything to Anita, in front of Kade. Then she declares that she's kicking Josh out of the program for blackmail, an unredeemable character fault in her eyes.

Meanwhile, Pip tells Ellie that the medical hierarchy is for patient safety and her actions could have seriously endangered Xanthe, and trusting her instincts was arrogant and this time she just got lucky.





•••• EPISODE 5

LOGLINE

Jimmy and Ellie are stuck together on night shift, a medical inquiry digs up the past, and Josh spirals out of control.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Jimmy and Ellie are forced to face their feelings whilst stuck together on night shift. Curtis confronts Gloria over her controversial decision-making, but Gloria doubles down. Josh faces an unexpected intervention. And Ellie has to face her past in a very public way.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Ellie is spiralling – she’s just received a formal summons to appear in the inquiry into the death of her patient on her first internship. She gets herself under control and starts a night shift with Jimmy. Kush brings her dinner and surprises her with a kiss. Jimmy interrupts them, asking Ellie to help him change an uncooperative patient’s cannula.

Curtis confronts Gloria about kicking out Josh, but she refuses to tell him why she did it.

Lisa goes to check in on Josh but he cancels their wine and trash TV night in favour of a last-minute hook up. When she refuses to leave, Josh tells her if she’s looking for someone to mother, she should start with her children.

As Jimmy and Ellie check obs for a sleeping patient, Jimmy takes the chance to apologise for his behaviour at the party. Ellie dismisses him – she has bigger things on her mind. He bets her breakfast that

the patient she’s worried about is going to be fine. The next morning, Ellie buys Jimmy breakfast. They laugh together and Kush watches them from afar, he’s brought Ellie breakfast but he’s seen enough.

Yosef is asking Lisa about Josh when Mia interrupts. He gets nervous and accidentally offends Mia with an offhand comment about Josh’s sexuality. Before he can fix it, Yosef and Lisa are paged by Liam to see a patient, Gordon. Lisa recognises him: he’s an actor, this is a training simulation and she’s done sims with him before. Liam makes them continue. Yosef gets into it but Lisa’s disinterested, until she spots an abnormal mole on Gordon.

Curtis confronts Anita about what happened with Josh, but she refuses to tell him what happened.

Gloria checks in on Ellie about the upcoming inquiry, but Ellie tells her she should be more worried about Jimmy, who feels guilty about Josh.

On their next night shift, Jimmy sets up the Boredom Games for him and Ellie to pass the time. As they bond, Ellie opens up about the inquiry and how she feels like everyone is just waiting for her to kill another patient. Jimmy offers to come to the inquiry with her, as friends.

The next morning, Anita brings Jimmy and Gloria into her office and asks them if they think they can work together. Jimmy says he wants Gloria to treat him like everyone else. Anita asks if she does and Jimmy tells her to ask Josh. As they leave, Curtis sees them and realises the rumour mill is still in tip top shape. Curtis tries to confronts Jimmy about Gloria, but before he can, he sees Jimmy's heart monitor. Jimmy admits to his Long QT diagnosis and Curtis reassures him there is a way he can still be a surgeon.

Josh's dad Geoffrey and his mum Lynette surprise him with an uncomfortable family lunch. He asks them for money to sue the Pines and Gloria, but they refuse – this is his problem to fix.

Lisa tells Liam that the results are back: Gordon's mole was cancerous and she caught it, even though it wasn't in the sim. But Liam reveals Gordon already knew about the mole and consented to it being part of the sim. He tells Lisa what she didn't catch in the simulation was the signs of stroke.

Ellie hugs Jimmy, she's just heard the good news – he can still be a surgeon! Kush interrupts their celebrations, he's made Ellie dinner. Before she can do it herself, Kush breaks up with her. It's not messy, it's mature and heartfelt, and they both leave relieved.

At his apartment, Josh tries to call Lisa but she doesn't answer. He sinks deeper into the couch and his sadness. Meanwhile, Lisa is on the phone to her kids. She's had a tough week and her kids insist that they sing a special family song together to cheer her up. Ellie catches the end of the song, and Lisa lets slip about the Jimmy and Gloria goss. Ellie is blindsided. She didn't know. Her pager goes off and she rushes to a post-op patient whose condition is deteriorating rapidly. Jimmy joins her but she pays him little attention as she uses an ultrasound probe to locate the internal bleeding and then deduce its cause – a blocked drainage tube. She resolves the issue for now, but the patient has to go back to

theatre so Ellie asks Theo to call Gloria, "Jimmy's girlfriend". Jimmy tries to catch Ellie on her way out, but Gloria arrives and Ellie makes a swift exit – she's happy for the both! Really!

The next morning, Yosef asks Jimmy for advice – he messed things up with Mia and doesn't know how to show her that he's a good guy. Jimmy tells him he should show up for her. Then he realises he needs to take his own advice.

At her inquiry, Ellie almost crumbles under the pressure of the interviewers' questioning. She admits she made a mistake with the dosage and didn't seek approval for the plan. But she was also sleep-deprived, working a double shift on an understaffed ward at almost double capacity. After the inquiry, one of the interviewers comforts her and tells her Gloria gave evidence earlier in the day, saying Ellie was the most talented doctor she's had in the F Ward, she just needs to toughen up. Ellie's patient's family also assure her that it was the system, not her, that failed him.

Meanwhile, a dishevelled and intoxicated Josh breaks into Geoffrey's house. In the process of smashing Geoffrey's office, his certificates and medical memorabilia, Josh seriously cuts himself on broken glass. He finds Geoffrey's car keys and, minutes later, he's crashed it.

Gloria ambushes Curtis at work, they walk along the beach and Gloria admits she made a mistake with Jimmy. Curtis laments that we don't choose who we fall for, but he's not talking about her and Jimmy. They're interrupted by a text – Josh is in emergency.

In the ED, Josh is causing a scene. Geoffrey's there but he cannot control his son. Mia tries to give him something to calm him down, but he knocks her back. Lisa arrives and takes control of the situation immediately, she demands Josh apologise to Mia and then she takes a look at his injuries. All his fight is gone. He finally lets someone care for him.

In the aftermath of Josh's outburst, Yosef shows up for Mia. She forgives him. Gloria arrives just in time to see two police officers approaching Josh, Geoffrey has reported him to them.

Late that afternoon, Jimmy and Ellie walk through Hyde Park – he showed up for her inquiry. He admits his feelings for her and they – finally! – kiss.



..... EPISODE 6

LOGLINE

The interns face their biggest challenge yet when they're forced to take their mid-term exams in the middle of a hospital evacuation.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The interns face their biggest challenge yet when they're forced to take their mid-term exams in the middle of a hospital evacuation. The Medical Board delivers Gloria an unexpected curveball. Jimmy and Ellie's relationship is tested in the workplace.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Jimmy updates Curtis about his heart – he's on meds and getting a defib implantation in a few weeks – but for now he has more important things on his mind. He has a coffee for Ellie, in a keep cup because she hates single use plastics, but she's distracted – their mid-term assessments start today.

Anita tells Gloria the Medical Board has suspended her accreditation as a training supervisor, she won't be assessing the interns. In the break room, all the interns cram before their exams. Lisa's stress-baking, Yosef got his terms muddled up, Ellie's on top of everything, and Jimmy's not taking it seriously enough.

Dennis, the Board's external assessor, briefs them on the exams: this is sudden death. If they fail a single module, they'll fail to qualify as doctors. He splits them into teams but stops when he realises Josh isn't there. Gloria says he's suspended, but Dennis

says that's not reflected in the Board's records so technically Josh could still sit the assessment. Yosef is paired with Lisa and Jimmy with Ellie. As Jimmy goes to leave Dennis notes that his busted Crocs aren't regulation – it's going to be a long day.

In a break, Dennis runs into Geoffrey, who tells Dennis to look into the rumours surrounding this year's F Ward cohort. Dennis approaches Trish, but she refuses to snitch.

Nic catches Lisa at the pneumatic tube station. They haven't spoken since the party. Nic asks why Josh wanted them to kiss, but before Lisa can explain Liam sends them both back to work.

Dennis has Kade from HR show him the hospital's new complaint system. Dennis notices that Anita never shared any of the F Ward complaints with the Board. Dennis asks Kade to share them with him instead.

Gloria is in the middle of open surgery when she drops her forceps. She asks for a replacement, but she's told the hospital has run out because of budget cuts.

Dennis starts with Jimmy and Ellie, they bicker over answers but when Jimmy offends Ellie she brings up the patient that got Jimmy into the F Ward. Jimmy says he saved the patient's life, but Dennis says it was a reckless overreach. Afterwards, Ellie confronts Jimmy about his lack of thought about consequences. She tells him she thinks the two of them together is a mistake.

Gloria rants to Curtis about the hospital falling apart, he comforts her and she hugs him. Something's off with Curtis, but Gloria doesn't notice.

Dennis shows Gloria the HR records - privacy invasions, illegal drug-taking, sexual relationships in the workplace. He thinks they're serious breaches, she thinks they're innocent mistakes. He tells her he's going to take the records into consideration when assessing the interns.

Gloria heads to the beach and screams into the wind. Jimmy overhears her. They share a beer. She says she's proud of the F Ward, he tells her he learned so much from her. Their history lingers between them.

The next day, a hungover Gloria collides with Geoffrey. They argue over Josh, and Geoffrey reveals he told Dennis about the HR complaints. Gloria tells him his time is done, and now she makes the rules.

It's chaos in the ED, the interns are under pressure, Dennis is watching. Jimmy reunites with Shirley, the elderly patient he met on his first shift. Gloria takes everyone aside and tells them they're being set up to fail, so they need to back themselves - this really

is their last shot. All five of them: because Josh is back! There's no time for a reunion, they all head out together into the ED. Liam hands Lisa a terrified couple, psychotic from too many hallucinogenic mushrooms. Ellie tends to Maria, a chef with heavy flu-like symptoms. Yosef treats 9-year-old Jordy, whose foot was badly cut by a broken bottle in the sand dunes. And Jimmy helps an asthmatic man struggling to breathe.

Then the fire alarm goes off. There's a battery fire in the ED services annex, and they have to evacuate. Curtis, Liam, Gloria and Anita lead the charge, it's all hands on deck - even Dennis.

As Curtis and Anita direct everyone to set up the patients in the carpark, Josh conducts a final check of the ED. He finds Terry, a 65-year-old with back pain, who is disoriented in the bathroom, but as he escorts him out, Terry collapses. Josh finds a pulsating mass in Terry's abdomen# ruptured aortic aneurysm## , and Curtis sends him to inform Gloria she's got another patient incoming.

The fire department arrive as Jordy's mum tells Yosef that Jody is scared of stitches. Yosef and Jordy bond over their shared fear, and both overcome it together. The couple on mushrooms cause chaos until Lisa leads them to the beach, where they finally calm down. Ellie's patient Maria starts fading, but Ellie hasn't figured out what's going on. Jimmy comes to help and they decide she needs antibiotics, but Mia says they don't have any in the emergency supplies, so Jimmy decides he'll go back into the hospital to get them. When the firefighters refuse him entry, Ellie helps him sneak some safety gear from the fire truck and Jimmy leaps the barricade, breaking back into the hospital.



Josh finds Gloria operating on a stabbing victim and briefs her on Terry's condition. He asks if he can assist with the operation, and she asks why he wants to be a doctor. Sincere for once, Josh recounts how Geoffrey told him as a kid that being a doctor is about reducing suffering and giving people hope – so she decides to let him help, there's hope for Josh yet.

Jimmy delivers the drugs to Ellie as the firefighters let Curtis know the fire is under control. But just as they start moving people back in, Jimmy spots Shirley on the hospital's roof. As he races up the stairs, he slips on his broken shoes and hits his head on a step. He's knocked out for a moment, then comes to and continues on to Shirley. He finds her on the edge, but she assures him she's not suicidal – she's just enjoying the view. She thanks him for caring for people as Theo arrives to help him bring her back to her bed.

Nic finds Lisa to tell her everyone's heading back. She invites Lisa for a drink, but Lisa tells her she's flying back to Brisbane to see her husband and kids.

As Jimmy walks back down the stairs, his concussion symptoms set in. He sits down on a step and falls asleep.

As Lisa heads home, Ellie tells her Jimmy and her busted up. Lisa asks where he is, but Ellie doesn't know. She heads off to find him, but Liam, Mia and Theo all haven't seen him. Ellie finds Jimmy sitting in the fire stairs and realises he's concussed. He vomits. She manages him to ED and asks a passing

nurse, Sally, to get him some medication, and calls Mal the radiologist to get Jimmy an urgent scan. As Ellie wheels Jimmy to radiology, she starts to apologise for how abruptly she broke things off with him. Before they can finish, Ellie's paged to help Maria. Jimmy tells her he's fine to get to ED himself. Sally the nurse asks Ellie to fix the paperwork for Jimmy's meds, Ellie wrote down a different medication to the one she asked for. Horrified Ellie realises she accidentally gave Jimmy a drug that can dangerously exacerbate his genetic heart condition.

In radiology, Jimmy experiences a near-fatal heart arrhythmia, losing consciousness in the middle of the scan. Mal buzzes the resus alert. Ellie arrives, with Kush and Curtis close behind her, they perform CPR and Jimmy's pulse normalises, but he doesn't gain consciousness.

Josh finishes Terry's operation with Gloria. He asks her if he's back in and she gives him a strong maybe.

Dennis intercepts Gloria on her way home. He tells her Jimmy failed in his mid-terms and he'll be kicked out of the F Ward. She's shocked. He tells her she's done a good job with the program and it's a shame she won't be running it next year. Gloria doesn't know what he's talking about. He clarifies: Curtis is taking over the F Ward. Before she can react, Kush arrives with news of Jimmy's condition.

Gloria rushes to Jimmy but finds him asleep, Ellie curled up beside him. Jimmy and Ellie stir awake. The trio look at each other, frozen for a moment. Then Ellie pulls Gloria into a hug.





ABOUT THE CHARACTERS / THE INTERNS

JIMMY SEUFALE PLAYED BY IOANE SA'ULA

Jimmy Seufale is an intern with a dislike for rules and hierarchies and a big appetite for risk. He'll tell anyone who asks that he's in the F Ward for "saving a life" - others would say he recklessly flouted treatment protocols and that it was a miracle his patient survived. He also has a secret - a congenital heart condition called Long QT Syndrome, which he fears will keep him from his dream of becoming a general surgeon. As the pressure builds at work, Jimmy struggles to keep his condition hidden from the sharp-minded observant doctors around him.

Even headstrong Jimmy comes up short when he tries to balance his old relationship with his boss Gloria with his emerging feelings for fellow intern Ellie.

ELLIE O'NEILL PLAYED BY LOLA BOND

Competitive, endlessly ambitious university medallist Ellie O'Neill is in the F Ward for "medical malpractice" - she accidentally killed a patient by prescribing him the wrong drugs. She hasn't set foot in a hospital since the incident, and with an inquiry pending, her anxiety threatens to destroy her dreams of also becoming a general surgeon. Ellie is meticulous and diligent to a fault. What she lacks in bedside manner, she makes up for in care, and as she progresses through the F Ward, she regains her confidence to prove to herself and the people around her that she's in the right place.

Outside of the hospital her intelligence turns heads and she finds herself in a messy situation with pretentious anaesthetist Kush, but it's her rivalry with carefree Jimmy where the real sparks fly. Is he her dream man or the man that will keep her from her dreams?





LISA JURACEK
PLAYED BY EMILY BARCLAY

Lisa Juracek is a former nurse who has put everything on the line to become a doctor. She scraped through medical school while raising her two daughters, but the challenges of juggling her complex family life and her medical ambitions landed her in the F Ward. Now she and her husband are on a break and her family is a thousand kilometres away in Brisbane. Lisa's on her own in Sydney, but this second chance is more than just for her. She's fighting the boxes people place her in – nurse, mother, mature-aged-student – Lisa knows she's a natural doctor, a carer and a fighter, and she's determined for the world to see her as such.

JOSH WILSON
PLAYED BY ALEX FITZALAN

Born into medicine and privilege, Josh Wilson feels the rules don't apply to him. He found himself in the F Ward after forging the paperwork for a rural placement he neglected to show up for. A volatile concoction of wit, looks and charisma, Josh's partyboy persona constantly gets him and everyone around him into trouble. But not even a smack from his star surgeon dad or the threat of expulsion from Gloria can keep Josh away from what he really wants – to be a doctor. His friendship with Lisa is a lifeline through turbulent times.

Medicine may run in his blood, but Josh is always in his own way. If he wants to be taken seriously, he'll have to learn to take his internship seriously first. But that would require him to do the one thing he's truly afraid of showing he can do: care. And then there's his biggest obstacle of all – can he become a doctor without becoming his father?





YOSEF PERERA
PLAYED BY RISHAB KERN

Yosef Perera is a wide-eyed, weak-stomached intern with an unmatched intellect and who's full of surprises. Yosef is at home in his head and absolutely terrified of other people's bodies, so it turns out that he's gunning to be a psychiatrist. Yosef ended up in the F Ward after accidentally nicking a patient's artery during a routine suture, causing her to bleed so violently that he vomited on her. As a result he has a debilitating fear of stitches, which he's managed to avoid confronting – until now. The Pines tests his nerves and his gag reflex, and the pressure threatens to make him explode, but his mind is his greatest strength, and it's set firmly on becoming a doctor.

AVA FOLEY
PLAYED BY ANNIE BOYLE

Ava Foley is a whip-smart dry-humoured intern with self-diagnosed recurrent ADHD. Yes, it's a thing. Ava's an enigma, unbreakable under pressure but rarely around long enough to feel it. A sharp-shooter and quick-thinker, her penchant for creativity could make her a great doctor, but instead she uses her assets to innovate herself out of doing any work. Slow to make friends and quick to make enemies, Ava always manages to rub authority figures up the wrong way. Ava's not telling anyone why she's here, that's her business and if there's one thing she's serious about it's her business.





THE PINES TEAM

GLORIA WALL

PLAYED BY ANNA FRIEL

GENERAL SURGEON, FOUNDER OF THE F WARD

Gloria is a battle-hardened general surgeon with a deep belief in second chances. A mythical figure in many medical circles, whether it's anecdotes of her surgical skills or the rumours of how she single-handedly brought down the boys club, Gloria's reputation always precedes her. Stern and fair, every intern she's ever had has received the same treatment – until Jimmy. Fresh out of her divorce, Gloria met Jimmy before he started the program, but what started as a bit of fun becomes a nightmare when their dalliance spills into their professional lives.

Her hard exterior masks her deep care. She's ruthless but reasonable, cutting but never cruel. Her close friendship with Curtis is built on the same foundation as her program; she gave him another chance, bring him back into medicine when nobody else would. He reminds her that the only person she's yet to give a second chance to is herself.

CURTIS PARKER

PLAYED BY DAN WYLLIE

SENIOR EMERGENCY REGISTRAR

Curtis Parker is no stranger to suffering. A weathered reg with a history of addiction, he is where he is today because of Gloria's belief in second chances. Now, he acts as her second-in-charge in the F Ward program, mentoring the interns with well-timed jabs and much-needed wisdom. Curtis thrives in the hustle of the emergency department, keeping busy keeps him sane, and his connection to Gloria and the interns gives him meaning.

Curtis is always calm in the chaotic Emergency department, and not afraid to buck the rules if it means a smoother ride for his patients. He cares deeply about the people around him, and he takes a particular liking to Jimmy, recognising a fellow maverick. His care for both Jimmy and Gloria is complicated by his burgeoning feelings for her, and the fact that he doesn't know anything's going on between them. Yet.



ANITA CORCORAN
PLAYED BY PAULA ARUNDELL
HOSPITAL CEO

Anita Corcoran is the Pines' no-nonsense CEO. She's a put-together presence who keeps a brave face to hold together the falling-apart hospital she runs. Anita is a strong supporter of Gloria's program and does her best to fight alongside Gloria in the constant battles against budget and the bureaucracy. Anita may answer to the big wigs, but she's happiest when she's on the ground with the troops.

KUSH PRASAD
PLAYED BY ARKA DAS
ANAESTHETIST

Kush is a prodigious anaesthetist with an ego to match. His strong work ethic and quick-thinking makes him a crucial part of Gloria's team. But his abrasive personality and bent sense of humour is an acquired taste. He's smitten by Ellie's brilliance, but the feeling isn't mutual.

MIA VEGA ALVAREZ
PLAYED BY LILIAN ALEJANDRA VALVERDE
NURSE

Mia Vega Alvarez is a tough as nails nurse with a formidable reputation. Calm under pressure and cooler than anyone in the hospital, Mia is everyone's work crush for a reason. When Yosef catches her eye, she teaches him a thing or two he can't learn in the intern program.

LIAM ADLER
PLAYED BY MATT BACKER
NURSE

No one triages like Liam Adler. Deadpan, a rock solid professional, he's a legend in the ER and has his job down to a tee. His tether for interns gets shorter every year, which he makes crystal clear through his razor sharp quips. He never has much time for anyone, but he'll always be there the second someone needs him.

NIC PETROVSKA
PLAYED BY DIANA POPOVSKA
THEATRE NURSING UNIT MANAGER

Nic is the unflappable theatre nursing unit manager, working closely with Gloria in the general surgery ward. A hard worker with a dark sense of humour, Nic may pass the time by placing bets on how long the interns will last, but she suffers no fools. She keeps the interns accountable and in check.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

***The F Ward* was co-created by Dan Edwards and Kelsey Munro and is produced by Dan Edwards, John Edwards and Kelsey Munro for Roadshow Rough Diamond.**

Dan says the company had the ambition to make a high-end medical drama for some time but were looking for the right creative hook. He recalls the 'aha' moment late one afternoon in a writers' room as the group were thrashing out potential story lines, when the idea emerged of a group of failed interns in a hospital on the edge of the ocean that was about to fall into the sea due to Sydney's coastal erosion.

"We felt it was a really fun premise and the more we sat with it, the more we realised it was an idea to pursue," Dan says. "The great thing about hospitals, and particularly the intern programs, is you've got this group of young, ambitious, incredibly intelligent people who are all striving for something bigger than themselves; doing work that is, frankly, so consuming and hard and long, yet they strive for it and with so much determination. And I think that if you have characters wanting something as desperately as that, in such a hot house environment, it's just a great place to set stories."

Co-creator Kelsey Munro, who had previously collaborated with Dan and John on the hit series *Bump*, says: "This is *The F Ward* and our doctors are the fuck ups. They're the losers in an elite group - doctors - and smart people doing dumb things is

my favourite genre. I also love workplace dramadies, so this show is a perfect confluence of those things. In the real world, doctors are everyday superheroes. But they're also very flawed people, real people, so there is inherent drama in the contradiction between relying on them in times of crisis in our lives, and the fact that they also have to navigate just being normal people as well," Kelsey says.

Dan and John had also been looking for a star vehicle for actor Ioane Sa'ula, who they discovered while he was still a teenager at school in Canberra. Ioane appeared in all five seasons of *Bump*, as well as the recent Christmas movie special, with audiences watching him grow up on camera.

Dan Edwards says: "Ioane was a tremendous find on *Bump* and, as a person, he's such an intelligent, considerate guy, that it was always in our thinking to build a show around him, to put him front and centre. We have been telling him for four years that we were creating this show, so it was great to finally see him day one on set in his scrubs."

In *Bump* his character Vince became a midwife, and Ioane was able to bring that experience to his leading role as the intern Jimmy in *The F Ward*. Ioane says *The F Ward*, for him, is a "much bigger beast" than *Bump*.



loane describes Jimmy: “He’s very smart, but I think his smarts are his strength as well as his weakness. He’s a kind person but also a very arrogant, proud person. His issue is that he doesn’t like to go through the steps and dot his I’s and cross his T’s; he just goes straight to the solution because he knows he’s right.”

In the leading role of the surgeon Gloria, who manages the interns, is the International Emmy Award-winning English actress Anna Friel (*Pushing Daisies*, *Marcella*). Also in the cast are the Australian actors Lola Bond, Dan Wyllie, Alex Fitzalan, Emily Barclay, Annie Boyle and Rishab Kern.

Kelsey talks about the casting and characters: “As we started building the ensemble around loane, Lola stood out immediately. She’s a tiny powerhouse - funny, vulnerable, smart, kind, and distinct - and we instantly thought what a great dynamic between her character and loane’s character it would be and what a fun love story. And then, when we realised we might be able to lure Emily Barclay back from America to play Lisa, it felt like a gift. She’s such a wonderful actor and absolutely perfect in the role - so beautiful and grounded.”

Kelsey continues: “One of the exciting new discoveries for me was Alex Fitzalan. He’s incredible and striking, but you never quite know what he’s going to do. There’s a dangerous unpredictability to him that’s really compelling, and it works so well for the character of Josh.

“Rish is divine—he nailed the humour straight away, and he’s charming, vulnerable, and sweet, while still completely believable as a deeply caring doctor. Annie is brilliant and so dry and so funny, when she auditioned I literally rewrote the character for her. She’s great.

“And then there’s Dan Wyllie and Anna Friel; we were incredibly lucky to get them both. Anna brings

so much gravitas. She carries herself like a surgeon; you completely believe her as someone with authority, experience, and power. At the same time, she’s this tiny, beautiful, deeply caring presence. That toughness Gloria has feels like a protective shell she’s developed in the very patriarchal world of surgery. Even now, only around 18 percent of surgeons in Australia are women, and that number is falling among general surgeons. It’s still an intensely masculine environment, and you have to be tough to survive in it. Anna embodies that brilliantly.

“Dan Wyllie - he’s practically a national treasure at this point. He has so much charm and that wonderfully laconic authority; he is a warm, guiding mentor figure for these younger characters, he’s just perfect.”

The premise of *The F Ward* was intriguing to Anna Friel - that there’s always the possibility of a second chance that can bring forgiveness and redemption - and she’d never played a doctor before. The role enticed her to Australia from her home in the UK.

“Doctors and surgeons are miracle makers. It’s an honour to play one - all the years and years of study and work and effort and commitment that they put into their jobs, that should be honoured,” she says.

Anna researched the role carefully; studying the intricate work of a surgeon and learning the idiom of the job. She was able to call on the expertise of three medical and surgical experts who were advisers to the show - Meredith Grey, Philippa Read and Ben Tisdell (actor Steph Tisdell’s brother, who is an emergency doctor). Fans of *Grey’s Anatomy* will note that the lead character in that series shares a name with *The F Ward*’s medical consultant Meredith Grey, who is Australian and born only a year before *Grey’s Anatomy* was launched!

Anna also has family members who are doctors, including her brother, who she called on for advice.



"Learning to perform all of those surgeries believably in such a short amount of time was challenging, but also incredibly exciting. It felt like learning to dance, sing, run, and walk all at once. The medical language is dense, complex, and completely unfamiliar to my everyday vocabulary, which was a challenge in itself," Anna says.

"What surprised me most, though, was discovering just how brutal surgery can be - and at the same time, how resilient the human body is. The fact that it can be opened up so completely and still survive, heal, and renew itself is remarkable."

Dan Edwards had a surfing accident during filming of *The F Ward* spending many hours in the emergency department where he was gratified to discover doctors on duty originally from the UK, reinforcing the authenticity of casting Anna Friel in the role of Gloria.

"What a blessing was Anna Friel," he says. "You don't necessarily set out to secure a UK household name, but what we did know with Gloria was that we needed someone who exhibited real strength, who you would believe could push against the Royal College of Surgeons, a medical institution with a deep history and a misogynistic past. With Anna we got all of the character traits we were looking for, but we also had somebody who was so deeply experienced with working with young actors and being on set. We had a very consolidated shoot period with Anna and she was 200% every day - she was an absolute joy."

The hospital in the series is loosely based on the old Mona Vale Hospital on Sydney's northern beaches, which Dan visited regularly when his grandmother was there. She would find ways to have herself transferred from her nursing home to the hospital so that she could enjoy the ocean views from the windows.

Production took over an empty decaying modernist office building in Sydney which production designer Sam Hobbs repurposed as a hospital with multiple sets, including the emergency department, ICU, wards, nurses' station and offices. It was an extensive build. Sam wanted to give the show a look that was distinct from other medical dramas, and he worked closely with director of photography Simon Ozolins, costume designer Damir Peranovic and hair

and makeup designer Rose Saffioti to achieve this.

Sam was attracted to the premise of the show - the idea of a dramatic edge created if you have made a big mistake in life and have to start over - and how this aligned with the idea of the hospital on the edge of the sea.

"In the scripts the hospital is literally an old building that could just fall into the ocean at any time. We wanted to place it in this interesting environment - pine trees and ocean and dunes, impacted by global warming - and we then had to find an architectural space that would work for the hospital building itself," Sam says.

The interior sets were created to give the show a lot of dynamic movement achieved by both the design of the spaces where the camera can move freely, including by shooting through glass and 360 degrees, and with its unique lighting set up with banks of LED panels installed into the ceiling providing maximum flexibility. There were 3000 individually controllable ceiling lights so that, for example, a cast member could walk along a corridor with sections lighting up as they moved.

Dressing the interns in distinctive coral-red 'scrubs' was one of the key design choices made for the show.

"The decision to use a very bold colour - initially driven by our set up director Natalie Bailey - was something we were all able to get behind, and it became a really strong foundation for the design. That colour became a signature for the F Warders, and the rest of the palette was built around and in support of it," Sam explains.

"We were very keen to avoid falling into the familiar trap of a cold, clinical, almost noir hospital palette. Instead, the look has a sense of lightness to it. That was a conscious and collective decision by the whole team. We realised we didn't need a heavy visual aesthetic, especially since the building itself already carried a lot of monumentality. As a result, the décor is quite soft - almost ironically so - and that softness creates an interesting point of difference from other hospital shows. It gives the space a different feeling altogether. Working through that process with Natalie, Simon and Damir involved a lot of testing to find the right colours. But it was absolutely worth it."

Costume designer Damir Peranovic continues: "When I looked at other hospital dramas, there was always so much blue - blue walls, blue sheets, blue curtains, blue scrubs - and I thought that one thing we could do with *The F Ward* to differentiate it was to inject colour into the scrubs and into the overall look of what people wear. Originally it was scripted that Gloria wore red and then we all decided that the interns should wear red as a 'punishment' colour, representing their failures. We landed on a colour that was just so intense - a vermillion, orangey red. We camera tested it because we all thought it would be too crazy but it actually behaved really well on screen and went incredibly well with a range of skin tones."

The team were also focused on authenticity in the series and, as with the actors, found the medical consultants invaluable in building the world. Sourcing the right medical equipment and creating prosthetics to accurately portray patients undergoing surgery were priorities.

"Technically the surgical work is very difficult to pull off and, as with any procedural drama, if you make technical mistakes people pick up on it. We knew we'd be watched by medical professionals

in the audience so we were determined to be as accurate as we could be in all those mini worlds inside the hospital sets," Sam adds.

For the wider audience, Dan believes they will love the optimistic tone of the show.

"There are times these doctors will fail - and hopefully won't kill you - but against all odds, these doctors will not stop trying and they will not quit. Maybe the show will make our audiences cry, but I think they'll laugh more than they will cry," Dan says.

Kelsey Munro agrees: "The hospital might be falling apart, but the people in it are doing kind and brave and amazing and funny things despite their own limitations. And even though we're in a place of real heartbreak sometimes, the show is also sexy and romantic too, as well as fun and hopeful. We're really proud of it."

The F Ward is a Roadshow Rough Diamond and CBS Studios Production with major production investment from Stan and Screen Australia. The series is financed with support from Screen NSW's Made in NSW - TV Drama Fund and distributed by Paramount Global Content Distribution outside of Australia.





ABOUT THE CAST

ANNA FRIEL AS DR GLORIA WALL

Emmy award winning, BAFTA and Golden Globe nominee Anna Friel has been acting since the age of 13, accumulating close to 100 credits, executive producing, starring, and appearing in numerous television series and films throughout her acclaimed career.

She made her acting debut playing the daughter of Michael Palin's character in the series *G.B.H* for Channel 4/Diplomat Films and has gone on to star in *Marcella* for Buccaneer Media/ITV, for which she won the International Emmy for Best Performance, *Land of the Lost*, *Pushing Daisies*, for which she was nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Performance, *Bathory* for which she won the Czech Lion, *The Girlfriend Experience* and *Monarch*, amongst numerous others.

Anna's prolific stage career also includes making her Broadway debut in a production of Patrick Marber's *Closer*, which ran for 172 performances at the Music Box Theatre in New York and won her the Drama Desk Award for Best Actor.

IOANE SA'ULA AS JIMMY SEUFALE

Ioane Sa'ula is a young, emerging Samoan Australian actor who was born and raised in Griffith NSW.

Ioane will next be seen in the third and final season of the popular Netflix series *Heartbreak High*, the highly anticipated second season of AppleTV+ series *Monarch: Legacy of Monsters* with Anna Sawai and Kurt Russell, and the special Stan holiday feature *Bump: A Christmas Film*.

Ioane made his Australian television debut playing Vince in Stan's hugely popular series *Bump* for five seasons. He has since appeared in numerous other television series including the ABC series *Plum*,

Paramount+ series *Last King of The Cross*, ABC series *PREPPERS* and Channel Nine's *Doctor Doctor*.

Ioane's film credits include Rebel Wilson's debut feature film *The Deb*, David Leitch's *The Fall Guy* alongside Ryan Gosling, and Nash Edgerton's award-winning short film *Shark* with Rose Byrne.

Ioane made his theatre debut in the ATYP production of *Saplings* for Sydney Festival. In 2025, Ioane was named one of the Casting Guild of Australia's Rising Stars.

DAN WYLLIE AS DR CURTIS PARKER

Dan Wyllie is an Australian film, television and theatre actor, with a career spanning four decades.

Dan's more recent credits include director Justin Kurzel's adaptation of the award-winning Richard Flanagan novel; Amazon series *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, and the Netflix outback drama series *Territory*. He also stars in acclaimed director Ruben Ostlund's upcoming satirical black comedy film *The Entertainment System is Down* alongside Keanu Reeves and Kirsten Dunst. Other credits in recent years include *The Veil* alongside Elisabeth Moss, and the comedy-drama series *Wolf Like Me*, alongside Josh Gad and Isla Fisher.

Dan's television performances include a leading role in the award-winning series *Love My Way*, the ABC telemovie *The Broken Shore*, the award-winning Foxtel series *Tangle*, and Network Ten's *Puberty Blues*.

Dan's long association with Sydney's Belvoir Theatre include the productions *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Alchemist*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Twelfth Night*, *Summer of the 17th Doll*, and most memorably the international theatre tour of Tim Winton's *Cloudstreet*, a theatre adaptation of the iconic Australian novel in which he played Fish Lamb.





LOLA BOND AS ELLIE O'NEILL

Lola Bond was recently seen in the second season of the popular Paramount+ series *NCIS: Sydney*, the Australian Disney+ Original series *The Last Days of The Space Age* alongside Radha Mitchell and Iain Glen, and the last season of the Foxtel series *Upright*, alongside Tim Minchin and Milly Alcock.

ALEX FITZALAN AS JOSH WILSON

Alex Fitzalan can most recently be seen in the SBS anthology series *Erotic Stories* and the Searchlight Pictures film *Chevalier*, in which he starred alongside Kelvin Harrison Jr and Samara Weaving.

He currently can be seen starring in the Lionsgate/Stan series *Prosper* opposite Richard Roxburgh and Rebecca Gibney. Alex can previously be seen in a flashy role for the Amazon series *The Wilds*, as well as the Binge series *The Twelve* alongside Kate Mulvany and Brendan Cowell. Alex was also on the Marc Webb-produced Netflix series *The Society*.

A native of Australia, FitzAlan made his US screen debut in the Sony feature *Slender Man* and starred for Sam Raimi in an episode of Quibi's *50 States of Fear*.

EMILY BARCLAY AS LISA JURACEK

Emily Barclay is a British born New Zealand and Australian actress.

Emily's more recent credits include the award-winning Australian film *Babyteeth* with Ben Mendelsohn, the hit Australian series *Mr Inbetween*, and *Wolf Like Me*, alongside Josh Gad and Isla Fisher.

Alongside Emily's screen career, she carved out a very successful theatre career in Australia, largely working with acclaimed theatre director Neil Armfield. These productions include *Gethsemane*,

The Seagull, and opposite Geoffrey Rush in the Melbourne Theatre Company's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In 2013 Emily made her London theatre debut in the Young Vic production of *Three Sisters*, directed by Benedict Andrews.

RISHAB KERN AS YOSEF PERARA

Rishab Kern is an actor and QUT graduate (Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting). He launched his professional stage career in *Cruel Intentions - The 90's Musical* playing Ronald Clifford. Following this, Rishab starred in *Tina - The Tina Turner Musical* as the Ike Turner cover and Raymond role.

Most recently, he was onstage with Bell Shakespeare for their production of *Henry 5*. He has also worked with the Dead Puppets Society and La Boite Roundhouse. Rishab will soon make his screen debut in the upcoming Stan series, *Dear Life*.

ANNIE BOYLE AS AVA FOLEY

Annie Boyle is one of Australia's most exciting rising stars, renowned for her involving storytelling and deadpan charm. A RAW Comedy State Finalist and 2023 Comedy Zone performer at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Annie has played sold-out solo shows across Australia and the UK.

Trained at NIDA, she's appeared in the award-winning series *Colin From Accounts* and on stages from the Sydney Comedy Festival Gala to The Comedy Store and the Sydney Comedy Festival Roadshow.

ARKA DAS AS DR KUSH PRASAD

Arka's notable screen work as an actor includes starring opposite Charlie Hunnam in Apple series *Shantaram*, event series *Bali 2002* and *Prosper* currently airing on Stan, award winning comedy series *Utopia* on ABC and alongside Aisha Dee in





SBS mini-series *Safe Home*. Arka can also be seen in the second season of award-winning comedy *Colin From Accounts* and *Return to Paradise* for the ABC/BBC. His latest series are *Sunny Nights* and *Monarch: Legacy of Monsters*.

His feature film credits include The Jim Henson Company's *The Portable Door* with Sam Neill and Christoph Waltz, the multi-Academy Award nominated film *Lion*, Disney's live-action feature *Mulan*, *Thor: Love & Thunder*, Australian-Indian romantic comedy *Unindian*, *Down Under* and Joe Cinque's *Consolation*. Arka's other television work includes *Top of the Lake: China Girl*, directed by Academy Award winner Jane Campion, Australian/English co-production comedy *Frayed* and regular roles on Australian dramas *Pulse*, *Janet King*, *The Code* and *Bite Club*.

PAULA ARUNDELL **AS ANITA CORCORAN**

Paula Arundell recently performed on stage in Malthouse's *Troy* and *The Birds*, Nassim Soleimanpour's *Echo*, Griffin Theatre's *Nucleus* and STC's *Sweat*. Her role as Hermione Granger in Michael Cassel's *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* earned her a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Female Actor.

Paula's television credits include *The Newsreader*, *Surviving Summer*, *Clickbait*, *Neighbours*, *Reckoning*, *Top of The Lake: China Girl*, *Home and Away* and *Love My Way*. Her film credits include *Late Night with the Devil*, *Sleeping Dogs*, *Harmony*, *Gods of Egypt*, *Disgrace*, *Bad Eggs*, *Sample People* and *Diana & Me*, and she performed the title song vocal for *Candy*.

JEREMY SIMS **AS DR GEOFFREY FRIEDMAN**

Jeremy Sims has worked as an actor, director and producer across theatre, film and television for 30 years.

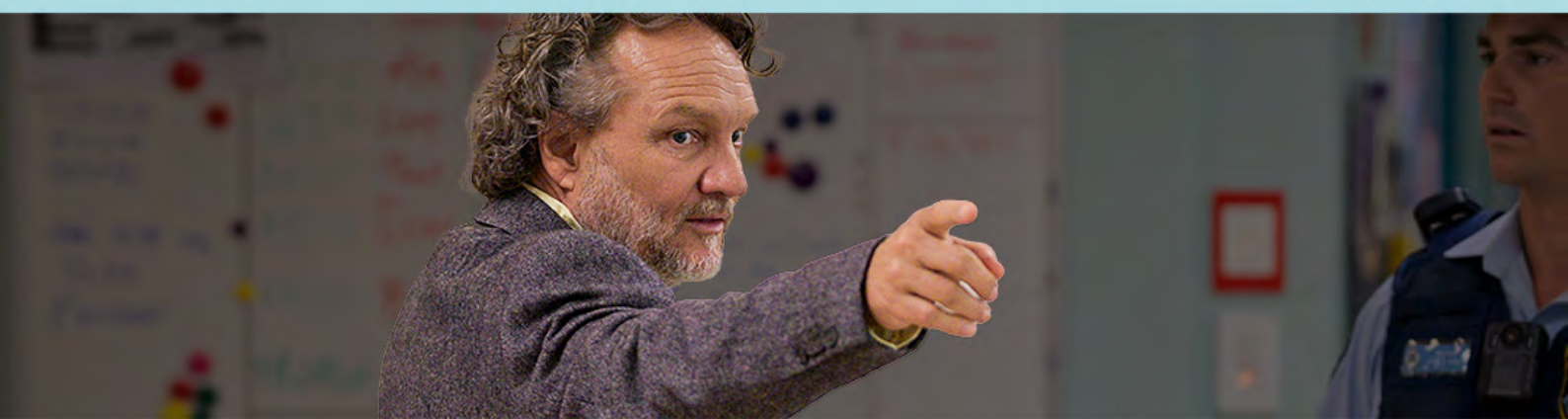
Jeremy's last film *Rams*, starring Sam Neill, Michael Caton and Miranda Richardson, has since become a worldwide hit. It received 8 AACTA award nominations. Sam Neill received a Best Actor nomination. He has directed two seasons of the Medical Rescue series *RFDS* for 7/Endemol/Shine and was lead director on the series that won the Logie for best Australian series. He has directed multiple seasons of *A Place to Call Home* for Foxtel, and the 6-part series *Back to the Rafters* for Amazon.

In 2025, Jeremy finished shooting the features *Everything I Never Did* and *The Artful Dodger*. She has four feature films and a two television projects currently in development.

SUSIE PORTER AS PIP MATESSI

Susie Porter has built a reputation as one of Australia's most outstanding actors. Her remarkable list of credits includes feature films *Summer Coda*, *Bootman*, *Better Than Sex*, *Mullet*, *Paradise Road*, and *Trude*, the award-winning *Little Fish*, *The Caterpillar Wish* and *The Turning: On Her Knees*. Over the past few years Porter has been seen in the critically acclaimed *Ladies in Black*, *The Second*, *Cargo*, *Don't Tell* and *Hounds of Love*.

Susie appears as the calculating and ruthless criminal 'Marie Winter' in *Wentworth (Series 6-8)*. She played the lead role in *East West 101 (Series*





1 - 3), *East of Everything*, *RAN*, *My Place*, *Love My Way*, *The Secret Life of Us*, *The Jesters* (Series 1 and 2), *Sisters of War* and *Underbelly: Squizzy*. Other television appearances include the excellent mini-series *Seven Types of Ambiguity*, *Pulse* and *Janet King Series 3*; bikie drama *Brothers in Arms*; the family series *Puberty Blues* (Series 1 and 2); the comedies *Problems* and *It's a Date* (Series 2); the telemovie *Dangerous Remedy*, and mini-series *Hungry Ghosts* and *The Unusual Suspects*.

TOBY SCHMITZ AS DENNIS

Toby Schmitz is an accomplished writer, director and actor.

Select television credits include *Boy Swallows Universe*, *The Twelve Season 1*, *S.O.Z.: Soldiers or Zombies*, *Reckoning*, *Newton's Law*, *Blue Murder*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Underbelly: The Man Who Got Away*, *Bloom*, and *Black Sails*. His film credits include *Griff the Invisible*, *Three Blind Mice*, *The Rage in Placid Lake*, and *Somersault*.

Toby received Helpmann Award Nominations for his performances in *Thyestes*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Ruben Guthrie*, and Sydney Theatre Award Nominations for *Howie The Rookie*, *The Great* and *Ruben Guthrie*. Toby's debut novel *The*

Empress Murders was recently published at Allen & Unwin.

ALEX DIMITRIADES AS STEFAN

As a teenager in 1993, Alex made his acting debut with hit feature film *The Heartbreak Kid*, quickly followed by enormous success as the lead on the original TV series, *Heartbreak High*. The release of *Head On* in 1998 earned Alex his first AFI Best Actor nomination and Best Actor prize for Film Critics Circle of Australia, in addition to being selected for screening at Cannes (Film Festival). He also received a supporting actor nomination from AFI in 2001 for his role in *La Spagnola*. Other memorable film performances include *Ghost Ship*, *Kings of Mykonos*, *Summer Coda* and *The Infinite Man*. Alex received a 2015 AACTA nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his comedic performance in *Ruben Guthrie*.

Alex has starred in some of Australia's most notable television dramas including *Blue Murder*, *Wild Side*, *Seven Types of Ambiguity*, *Wake in Fright*, *Secret City*, *Tidelands*, *The Tourist*, *Total Control*, and of course the first season of Screentime's *Underbelly*. He can most recently be seen in *Bay of Fires Season 2* and reprising the role of Daniel in the season 2 of *Strife for Binge*.



DAN EDWARDS – CREATOR/PRODUCER

His producing credits include five seasons of the hit Stan series *Bump*, the groundbreaking ABC miniseries *Plum*, the Nine Network miniseries *Human Error*, the Stan teen drama *Year Of*, Seven Network miniseries *Australian Gangster*, the ABC crime drama *Les Norton*, and the record-breaking Silver Logie-winning Stan miniseries *Romper Stomper*. A gifted creator as well as producer, Dan co-created *Romper Stomper*, *Australian Gangster*, *Year Of*, and the upcoming series *Whale Fall* and *Dalliance*, further cementing his reputation for crafting distinctive and provocative Australian stories.

JOHN EDWARDS – PRODUCER

John Edwards has produced more than 600 hours of television drama. His productions have won 29 Logie Awards, 40 AFI and AACTA Awards, 8 ASTRA Awards, and a number of international awards, as well as being the first Australian television producer nominated for the Golden Globe Awards. His television credits include the upcoming Paramount+ series *Dalliance*, *Plum*, *Human Error*, *Year Of*, *Bump*, *Australian Gangster*, *Les Norton*, *Romper Stomper*, *Blue Murder: Killer Cop*, *The Beautiful Lie*, *Gallipoli*, *Puberty Blues*, *Offspring*, *Tangle*, *Dangerous*, *Howzat!* *Kerry Packer's War*, *Rush*, *Paper Giants: The Birth of Cleo*, *Spirited*, *Beaconsfield*, *Love My Way*, *Marking Time*, *The Surgeon*, *The Secret Life of Us*, *On the Beach* and *Police Rescue*.

In 2011, he was conferred an Honorary Masters degree by the Australian Film Television and Radio School. In 2016, he joined forces with Dan Edwards and Roadshow Films to form the production entity Roadshow Rough Diamond. John was appointed as a member of the Order of Australia in 2017.





KELSEY MUNRO - CREATOR / PRODUCER / WRITER (EPS 1,3,6)

Kelsey Munro is a Sydney-based writer and producer best known as co-creator, producer and lead writer of the Stan Original comedy-drama *Bump*. The show became Stan's most-watched debut when it premiered in December 2020, earning critical acclaim and multiple AACTA and Logie Award nominations. *Bump* has screened internationally on the BBC, the CW and HBO Latin America, and ran for five seasons plus a Christmas film releasing in late 2025. Her other television credits include *Scrublands* (Nine Network/Stan, 2023) and the Stan Original *Year Of* (2023).

Before moving into television, Kelsey worked as a research fellow at the Lowy Institute and senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, where she led projects on authoritarian technology and human rights and co-authored influential research on forced labour in global supply chains. Her journalism career includes roles as a news reporter and senior editor at the Sydney Morning Herald, and features writer for The Guardian and Rolling Stone.

NATALIE BAILEY - DIRECTOR (EPS 1,2,3)

Natalie Bailey's debut feature, black-comedy *Audrey*, premiered at SXSW 2024 as part of the narrative feature competition. Her work has been programmed at ScreenMania, London Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival, Sydney Film Festival and Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Natalie has built up a wealth of experience setting up the critically acclaimed mini-series *The Unusual Suspects*, off-beat thriller *Bay of Fires* and the Emmy award-winning *Hoff the Record*. She has worked with talent such as Hugh Laurie, Kate McKinnon, Kyle MacLachlan, Domhnall Gleeson and Pheobe Waller Bridge. Drama credits include *Run*, *Joe vs Carol*, *Damned* and *Loaded*. Alongside her drama work, Natalie has comedic experience working with the likes of Armando Iannucci on *Avenue 5* for HBO and his multi-award-winning *The Thick of It*.

As a producer, Natalie has a wealth of experience developing, pitching and making programs. During her work at the BBC and with Princess Pictures she has helped create and deliver comedies, dramas and format shows, working

closely with new and established talent that includes Tim Vine, Peter Hellier, Toby Truslove, Morwenna Banks and Rebecca Front.

NEIL SHARMA - DIRECTOR (EPS 4,5,6)

Neil Sharma is an International Emmy Award winning director based in Sydney. Mentored by Oscar winning auteur Taika Waititi and acclaimed director Jeffrey Walker, his directing credits include the International Emmy and AACTA winning reboot of *Heartbreak High* for Fremantle Media and Netflix; *Strife S2* for Binge and *Made Up Stories*; The psychological drama *Critical Incident* for Stan; The dramedy remake *Mother and Son* for Wooden Horse and the ABC; the SBS Digital Original Series *Appetite*, which premiered at the 2023 Canneseries Festival as the only Australian project invited into competition; the children's series *The Unlisted* for Aquarius and Netflix; and *Born To Spy* for ABC Kids and Aquarius Films.

He cut his teeth in the film industry as an assistant director on productions such as *Marvel's Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings*, *Mad Max: Furiosa*, *The Fall Guy* and *Mortal Kombat* to name a few. Other credits include *Thor: Love and Thunder*, *Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*, *Lion*, *The Cry*, *Picnic At Hanging Rock* and *Modern Family*.

SHANTI GUDGEON - WRITER (EP 2)

Shanti Gudgeon has written on *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* for Seven, *Bump* and *Les Norton* for Roadshow Rough Diamond and the ABC, *Wolf Creek* for Screentime and Stan and on Seasons Two and Three of *Mustangs F.C.* for the ABC. Shanti wrote the eco-horror feature *Carnifex* for Dancing Road Productions, which screened at the 2022 Sitges International Horror Festival. Her previous credits include *Trip For Biscuits*, *Nowhere Boys*, *You're Skitting Me*, *SLiDE*, *Conspiracy 365* and *Dance Academy*.

JACK YABSLEY - WRITER (EP 4)

Jack Yabsley is an award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter with a passion for Australian comedy. He was creator and head writer of comedy series *Gold Diggers* which earned AWG, AACTA, and SPAA nominations. As director, his film *Kings of Baxter* won Best Documentary at Antenna and Melbourne Documentary Festivals, earning him an ADG nomination. Jack is the writer of *Whispering Jack: The John Farnham Musical* which opens at Sydney Theatre Company in 2026.



NICK COYLE - WRITER (EP 5)

Nick Coyle is a writer, director and performer. His television credits include *Dog Park*, *Wellmania*, *Bump*, *Queerstralia*, *Sarah's Channel* and *He Had it Coming*. Nick's one-man shows include *Queen of Wolves* (107 Projects, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Soho Theatre), *Nick Coyle's Guided Meditation*, (Giant Dwarf, Det Andre Teatret, The Invisible Dot, Union Hall), *Double Tribute* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and *Blue Wizard* (Belvoir, Pact Theatre).

SIMON OZOLINS - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Simon Ozolins is a highly regarded, multi-award-winning director of photography with an extensive body of work across film, television, short films, documentary and commercials. His latest TV series is the ABC's *Return to Paradise S2*, Amazon Prime's dark, feminist crime thriller, *Deadloch*, which was shot in Tasmania's uniquely gothic landscape and has received rave reviews worldwide, *HeartBreak High S2* for Netflix, after being nominated for an ACCTA award for best cinematography for his work on record-breaking Series 1.

As well as longer form work, Simon has shot many award-winning short films, including *62 Sleeps* which triumphed at both the Berlin and Sydney Film festivals and *Dugong and The Wake*, which were selected by Sundance and screened at Tribeca and Palm Springs. Simon's documentary credits include the AFI Award-winning *Inside the Firestorm* for the ABC and *Immigration Nation* for SBS.

SAM HOBBS - PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Sam Hobbs is one of Australia's most prodigious and creative Production Designers. Sam has designed numerous feature film, television, documentary and theatre productions covering a wide range of historical periods and genres, internationally and throughout Australia.

Sam has collaborated with an impressive list of Australia's leading screen creatives including Kriv Stenders, David Caesar, Jocelyn Moorhouse, Rowan Woods, Tony Kravitz, Abe Forsythe, Peter Andrikides, Jennifer Leacey, Wayne Blair, Catriona McKenzie, Gregor Jordan, Ben Lucas and Leah Purcell to name a few.

DAMIR PERANOVIC - COSTUME DESIGNER

Damir Peranovic is a Sydney-based costume designer who has worked extensively throughout film and television. His recent design credits include *God's Favourite Idiot*, starring Melissa McCarthy and *Nine Perfect Strangers*, starring Nicole Kidman.

ROSE SAFFIOTI - MAKEUP & HAIR DESIGNER

Rose has worked alongside amazing Australian and international talent over her 20-year plus career. Essie Davis, Ben Mendelsén, Eric Bana, Simon Baker, Claudia Karvan, Angus Sampson, Danielle Cormack, Ada Nicodemou, Aaron Jeffery, Vincent Cassel, Kate Ritchie, Pia Miller, David Wenham, Tina Arena, Samantha Armytage and Rebecca Gibney, to name a few.

NICOLE LA MACCHIA - EDITOR

Nicole La Macchia has been nominated for three ASE Awards for her work, winning for Best Editing in a Television Drama for *Catching Milat* and for Best Editing in a Drama Non-Feature for *Pulse*, and she has also been nominated for an AACTA Award for *Janet King* and, earlier, an AFI Award for *Love is a Four-Letter Word*.

One of Australia's most experienced drama editors, Nicole's notable list of credits also includes *The Artful Dodger*, *The Twelve*, *Prosper*, *North Shore*, *The Messenger*, *Last King of the Cross*, *Barons*, *Les Norton* and *Eden*.

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