

My  
truth  
to  
tell

A **Stan.** ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY

# DANIELLE LAIDLEY: TWO TRIBES

| REVEALED |

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# REVEALED - DANIELLE LAIDLEY: TWO TRIBES

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This documentary tells the story of the two tribes, and one extraordinary life, of Danielle Laidley.

## LOGLINE

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Following her outing by Victoria Police, Danielle Laidley's public life as an ex-AFL football player and coach and her private life as a transgender woman collided. Two Tribes explores Danielle's journey through addiction and arrest to finding love and renewed purpose as a member of the transgender community.

## ALTERNATE

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Following her public outing by Victoria Police and on social media, this feature documentary tells the story of Danielle's journey through addiction and arrest to expressing her true gender identity and finding love. A documentary feature which brings together two tribes - the Australian football league and the transgender community.

## SYNOPSIS

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*Danielle Laidley: Two Tribes* is a documentary feature film that examines the life of former AFL premiership player and coach Danielle Laidley. Utilising personal archival material including never-before-seen video footage, Two Tribes explores Danielle's childhood growing up in working class, suburban Perth, to her career as a high-profile elite athlete, all the while dealing with gender dysphoria. Employing dual timelines, Two Tribes simultaneously tells the present-day story of Danielle's life post-AFL alongside her past as an AFL star managing a private battle with identity. This battle culminated in May, 2020 at the end of a meth-fuelled bender which resulted in her arrest. During the arrest, Victoria Police officers took and distributed photos of Danielle, publicly outing her as transgender. Two Tribes details the court case that followed as well as the fallout - both public and private.

Since leaving rehab, Danielle's focus has been on rebuilding relationships with her family and friends. While Danielle has a strong relationship with her son, Kane, she lost contact with her two adult daughters. Danielle's goal is to one day reunite with them and she continues to work on herself so that she is the best person she can be if that day comes. This includes using her platform and public profile to advocate for her new tribe - the trans and gender diverse community.

By Danielle's side throughout all of this is her partner, Donna Leckie. Danielle and Donna met in primary school and dated on and off throughout their school years. They both married young and had children, but their paths continued to cross. When Danielle was arrested and her image splashed across the press and social media, Danielle and Donna reconnected online and then in person when Danielle was released from rehab. They have hardly left each other's side since.



## KEY CAST & CREATIVES

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### **Danielle Laidley**

*She/Her*

Danielle Laidley played 151 games for the men's AFL with West Coast Eagles and North Melbourne football clubs, winning an AFL premiership with the Kangaroos in 1996. She became one of the youngest senior coaches ever at 36, coaching North Melbourne for 149 games across seven seasons from 2003 to 2009.

Building on her experience in training and developing people, Danielle moved into a leadership and management role with the Department of Justice.

She was diagnosed with gender dysphoria and is now an advocate for transgender people, raising awareness in a quest for acceptance of diversity. Danielle splits her time between Perth and Melbourne with her partner, Donna Leckie.

### **Donna Leckie**

*She/Her*

Donna started school with Danielle in 1973, where they quickly became best friends. The two little left handers sat together in class and quickly became the DL's.

Throughout primary and high school they were boyfriend/girlfriend at different times and both loved their sport, Danielle in football and cricket and Donna in Netball, with both making the WA State team.

Following school, they went off on their separate journeys, with no social media platforms or mobile phones they soon lost contact. Donna went on to manage and lead in health, aged and disability care with a strong emphasis on community development, policy and advocacy.

Eventually they found each other again through social media, and the friendship was as strong as ever. It wasn't long before Danielle swept Donna off her feet and the two became inseparable, with both living between Perth and Melbourne. Donna now works with Danielle on advocating for social justice, focusing on the Transgender community as well as being a Director for a disability services business.



**Julie Kalceff**  
Co-Writer and Co-Director  
*She/Her*

Julie Kalceff is an Emmy® Award-winning writer and director. Her credits include *First Day (Seasons 1 and 2)*, which she created, wrote, directed and co-produced. This ground-breaking story of a 12 year-old transgender girl starting high school was the first Australian series to star a transgender actor in the lead role. It sold to multiple territories worldwide including the UK (CBBC) and the US (Hulu). *First Day (Season 1)* won an International Emmy Award, a Rose d'Or, a GLAAD Media Award and was nominated for two AACTA Awards. *First Day Season 2* was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Young Teen Series, an AACTA Award, the MIPCOM Cannes Diversify TV Award and an Australian Directors Guild Award.

Julie was a director on feature film anthology *Here Out West*, which opened the Sydney Film Festival in 2021, and set-up director on *PM's Daughter Season 2*. Julie created, wrote, directed and produced *Starting From Now*, the global hit digital drama series that amassed over 200 million views.

A graduate of the AFTRS with a Masters Degree in Scriptwriting, Julie specializes in utilizing humour to tell dramatic, character-driven, female-centric stories that appeal to a wide audience. She is passionate about authentic representation and inclusion, both on screen and behind the camera.



**Sam Matthews**  
Co-Writer and Co-Director  
*She/Her*

Sam Matthews is a film director with an extensive background in post-production. She is passionate about stories that increase on-screen diversity and promote greater awareness of queer and transgender identities.

Sam's breakthrough web series '*Unboxed*', which profiles gender diverse Australian artists, launched on ABC iview in 2018. The series was screened at festivals worldwide and won numerous awards including 'Best Documentary or Educational Series' at the International Academy of Web Television Awards in Los Angeles. Sam presented the series at Frameline42 in San Francisco, where the festival invited her to be part of its feature documentary jury. Frameline Distribution obtained rights to the series in North America.

Sam established her career at KOJO during 2009-2015 after completing a Creative Arts (Screen Production) degree at Flinders University. In 2017, she created 'We Are Visible', a video featuring 13 members of the South Australian trans community, which hit 250,000 views in its first weekend online. From 2017-2021, Sam was Head of Post Production at Beyond Content, Adelaide. Today, she develops her own projects while working as an editor and colourist in film and TV.

## Alison Kenter

Producer

*She/Her*

Alison Kenter is a producer with extensive experience in high quality specialist factual and factual entertainment across a range of subject areas across the globe. She established herself in UK production and has since worked with independent producers across art, history, and sports documentaries.

She worked on the first factual series which launched Disney Plus internationally - *The World According to Jeff Goldblum* - as well as the first commissioned series for Disney Australia, *Fearless*. Keen on stories which embrace our collective humanity, her primary objective is representing and advocating the vision of lead creatives.



## JAM TV

JAM TV has a commitment to excellence and compelling storytelling, delivering premium content across a diverse range of genres. JAM TV stands as a prominent force in Australia's entertainment landscape, specialising in top-tier sports and entertainment content for major global streaming platforms and broadcast networks. For a list of recent works and more information go to [www.jamtv.com.au](http://www.jamtv.com.au).



## TWO TRIBES: INCEPTION AND INSPIRATION

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Danielle has been a friend of JAM TV for a long time. Over her lengthy football and coaching career, she has always been connected with the team at JAM through their broadcast work and close personal friendships. After Danielle was outed by Victoria Police that evening in 2020, it was to JAM TV that she came when she decided to tell her story. The team have spent over two years bringing her story to life.

Over the course of development, we engaged the voices of directors Sam Matthews and Julie Kalceff to bring authenticity to a story which is of so much importance to both the LGBTQIA+ community as well as a wider audience. Speaking to and reconciling Danielle's two tribes – the AFL and the transgender community – has been the objective both for Danielle personally and for the production team. We are very proud to present this film to a global audience in these all too important times where diversity is key to each of our stories.



### DANIELLE LAIDLEY – USE OF PRONOUNS, NAME & IMAGERY

Danielle Laidley is a transgender woman. Her pronouns are she/her. Her partner is Donna Leckie, whose pronouns are also she/her. Danielle and Donna are together, and we refer to them as a couple, rather than a lesbian couple.

Even when we refer to Danielle prior to her transition, we use female pronouns and her current name. It is generally seen as harmful and disrespectful to refer to a transgender woman by her birth name and pronouns other than she/her. Additionally, we do not use or refer to Danielle's previous likeness except as it has been approved in the film and trailer, in an historical context. No modern or new references, e.g., new press releases, newspaper articles or comms pertaining to Danielle should include her previous likeness or name. For many transgender people, including Danielle, it is disrespectful to show images of Danielle before she transitioned.

Some transgender people do not mind if you refer to their past. Danielle understands that due to her public profile, her previous gender role (such as in men's AFL) is sometimes referenced, such as in archival materials.

When referring to her past, in any new communication or copy, take care to use Danielle's correct pronouns (she/her), even where, from an historical perspective, it was prior to her public transition.

For example:

Danielle Laidley played for and coached in the Australian Football League (AFL). Danielle was a talented junior sportsperson, and climbed the ranks of the AFL whilst suppressing an inner truth that she identified as female. Danielle was drafted into the AFL in 1987 where she would play 151 games at the elite level, winning a Premiership with North Melbourne in 1996. She was known as the Junkyard Dog and was a tough and ruthless competitor. If you do need to specify her previous gender role, it is optimal to express it in the following way "Danielle was incorrectly assigned the male gender at birth. During her childhood she questioned her gender and as an adult she ultimately came to embrace her female identity."

# OUR AIMS IN TELLING DANIELLE'S STORY

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To give transgender individuals the opportunity to see people like them represented in mainstream media.

To normalise and start a conversation about transgender and diverse personal experiences in sport.

To promote acceptance and understanding.

To encourage people to look past labels and recognise the universality of the human experience.

In making this film we bring together two worlds that have previously remained at odds – men's AFL and the transgender community. As a former men's AFL player and the most high-profile transgender woman in Australia, Danielle Laidley is in a unique position to bridge the gap between these two worlds.

This film can access a sports audience who historically may have shown little interest in or lacked access to LGBTQIA+ content.

Our aim is to share the story of a lived trans experience through the eyes of a well-known public figure who appeared to lead a charmed life – a well-regarded footballer, with a family and a career – who was in fact, all the while battling with gender dysphoria.

Two Tribes is a distinct and original story that has the potential to cause a cultural shift towards greater understanding and support for transgender people in sport and the wider community. It is uniquely positioned to bring together two tribes that have, until now, existed in opposition.



## DEFINITIONS

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### **What does transgender mean? What is cisgender?**

A transgender person is a person whose gender identity differs from the sex the person had or was identified as having at birth.

Cisgender is a term used to describe a person whose gender assigned at birth corresponds to their sex. The word cisgender is the antonym of transgender.

### **What is gender dysphoria?**

Gender dysphoria is the distress a person experiences about the difference between their gender identity and their physical body.

Transgender is not the same as sexuality.

Gender identity is different than sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is about who we're attracted to. Gender identity is about our own personal sense of being a man or a woman, or neither of those binary genders. Transgender people can be gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, or any other sexual orientation.

# LANGUAGE GUIDELINES

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- Do use terms like 'transgender', 'trans' or 'trans and gender diverse'.
- Do always remember to be respectful. Think: 'Would I ask a cisgender person this?'
- Be respectful of Danielle and Donna as you would with everyone. Keep the following in mind:
- Don't use terms like 'tranny', 'transgendered', 'transgenderism', 'a trans' or 'the transgender' (transgender is an adjective, not a noun or a verb).
- Don't refer to people as 'a transgender' or 'transgenders'.
- Don't refer to being transgender as a choice or a decision. It is part of the wider gender spectrum.
- Don't refer to a transgender person as being born in or trapped in the wrong body.
- Don't ask about someone's genitals, surgery, or their sexuality.
- Don't assume the trans and gender diverse community is homogenous or of one mind, or represent it as such.
- Each transgender person is an individual with their own unique identity.
- Don't describe or define people by their gender identity unless it's relevant.
- Don't put quotation marks around a transgender person's name, or the pronoun that reflects that person's gender identity. Don't use air quotation marks when you are speaking about a transgender person or using their gender identity.



- Don't use someone's past name unless the context of its use is understood by that person, who has given you explicit permission to do so.
- Don't ask about past names. If you know the person's past name, don't use it. If you mistakenly use the wrong name or pronouns, correct yourself in the moment and continue your conversation without drawing prolonged attention to your mistake.
- Don't refer to Danielle's past identity. If you are referring to something that has taken place in the past, use Danielle's correct name and her correct pronouns.

For more guidance, please see:

<https://glaad.org/reference>



**Revealed - Danielle Laidley: Two Tribes** is created in conjunction with **JAM TV** (Stan Original Documentary Series *Show Me The Money I & II, Making Their Mark*), co-written and co-directed by Emmy® award-winning **Julie Kalceff** (*First Day*) and **Sam Matthews** (*Unboxed*), with principal production funding from **Screen Australia** in association with **VicScreen** in collaboration with **Fremantle Documentaries**, with Fremantle handling international distribution. Stan Executive Producers are **Cailah Scobie** and **Amanda Duthie**.

*Revealed - Danielle Laidley: Two Tribes* is the sixth title in Stan's landmark documentary slate, following *Amongst Us - Neo Nazi Australia, No Mercy, No Remorse, Trafficked, Reefshot* and *The Cape*. The Stan Original Documentaries have been created in collaboration with award-winning journalists, filmmakers and philanthropists from Australia and around the world.

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**Stan is Australia's leading local streaming service and unrivalled home of original productions.**

Stan's original production slate includes hit thriller series **BLACKSNOW** starring Travis Fimmel; **TRANSFUSION** starring Sam Worthington and Matt Nable; the Stan Original Dating series **LOVE TRIANGLE**, a modern take on the struggle for love; **BUMP**, a modern parenthood drama starring Claudia Karvan; **RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE DOWN UNDER**, hosted by RuPaul, Michelle Visage and Rhys Nicholson; **GOLD**, a taut thriller film starring Zac Efron in his first Australian production; **WOLF LIKE ME**, a genre-bending drama series starring Isla Fisher and Josh Gad; and countless other acclaimed original series and films.

Stan's studio partnerships include NBCUniversal, Starz, Lionsgate, AMC, Paramount, Sony, Warner Bros, Disney, all3media, BBC, MGM and more. Through these partnerships, Stan offers Australians unlimited access to thousands of hours of premium entertainment – with an outstanding lineup of exclusive premieres and blockbuster movies.

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