



OPENING SHOT SERIES 4: FIVE EMERGING FILMMAKERS FIRE THEIR OPENING SHOT

Five young Australian filmmakers are firing their **OPENING SHOT**, Wednesdays at 9.30pm on ABC2 & iview.

OPENING SHOT is back with a fourth instalment of five half hour documentaries from Australia's next generation of documentary filmmakers.

Once again putting a range of subjects under the microscope, these films bring a fresh perspective to some of the big issues facing younger Australians. These include: how to spot, and help, a friend suffering domestic abuse; what it takes to enter the political rat race; how a home town is fighting back against the ice epidemic; the unintended consequences and personal cost of digital vigilantism; and the phenomenon that is: psychics.

Through rare access to the Australian psychic medium industry **PSYCHICS IN THE SUBURBS** looks at some of life's big questions; **BIG BAD LOVE** follows comedian Becky Lucas as she sets out to spot the warning signs of friends who are in an abusive relationship; **CANDIDATE GAMES** bears witness to two young political idealists as they take on the old guard in the battle to become the Lord Mayor of one of Australia's capital cities; in **END OF THE LINE** filmmaker Tom Abood returns to his hometown to find out how they are fighting back against the devastating ice epidemic; and **DIGILANTE** prompts filmmaker Mike Nayna to confront the real-world impact caused by his own online activism.

This is the fourth season of **OPENING SHOT**, a vital initiative between ABC and Screen Australia that gives five filmmaking teams, all with a director under 35 years of age, the opportunity to create a prime time documentary film with a younger perspective. These films further develop their filmmaking skills while also firing an **OPENING SHOT** into the national conversation.

It's time for Australia's new generation of documentary filmmakers to fire their **OPENING SHOT**.



PSYCHICS IN THE SUBURBS

Wednesday 16 November, 9.30pm on ABC2 & iview

Australia's psychic medium business is booming and filmmaker Cassie Charlton wants to find out why. Florence King, recently crowned People's Choice Australian Psychic of the Year, is in the middle of her biggest year yet, and spending time with Florence, and her clients, gives Cassie front row seats to see how the psychics business really works. Following both public performances and private sessions, we meet a range of Australians anxious to contact their deceased loved ones, trying to come to terms with their grief. PSYCHICS IN THE SUBURBS explores who we turn to when the answers seem bigger than the questions themselves.

Director: Cassie Charlton

Cassie is a producer and director who makes documentaries that change the way we see the world. She is currently Associate Producer on Media Stockade's *The Surgery Ship* new series. As a director, her recent films include *Psychics in the Suburbs* and *Frank* (Official Selection Heartland Film Festival, ATOM Award finalist). Since graduating from the AFTRS in 2013, she has collaborated on documentaries: *Ka-Ching! Pokie Nation*, *I Am a Girl*, *Call Me Dad* and *Lest We Forget What*.

Producer: Rebecca Barry

Rebecca produced, directed, and shot the popular series *Inspiring Teachers* (SBS) and directed the public-polarising *Footy Chicks* (SBS). She has directed the critically acclaimed, Logie and ACCTA nominated drama series *The Surgeon* (Ch10) and popular series *Home and Away* (Ch7). In 2012, she founded the production company Media Stockade with fellow producer/director Madeleine Hetherton. Recent productions include the feature documentary *I Am a Girl* (nominated for 4 AACTA awards) and producing the critical and ratings success *The Surgery Ship*.

Producer: Madeleine Hetherton

Madeleine is an experienced director and producer working across a wide range of documentary film and factual TV programs. Her work includes the documentary series *Making Babies* (SBS), *Beats Across Borders* (ABC /Cirque du Soleil) and *Love in Our Own Time*. She has extensive experience shooting and producing for major Australian production companies. She was recently nominated for an Australian Directors Guild award for best direction for *The Surgery Ship*. Most recently she produced *Call Me Dad* and is now Series Producer of the 8 x 1hr series *The Surgery Ship*.

PSYCHICS IN THE SUBURBS is a Media Stockade film.



BIG BAD LOVE

Wednesday 23 November, 9.30pm on ABC2 & iview

Comedian Becky Lucas recently found out one of her closest childhood friends had suffered years of violence and abuse at the hands of her partner. With young women 18-24 being most at risk of abuse, Becky sets out to understand what an abusive relationship looks like, how it begins and why it's so hard to intervene. She meets experts and psychologists to figure out how she missed the signs, conducts a social experiment on the street to see how the average bystander reacts to domestic violence, and seeks out the stories of young survivors to discover what anyone can do when confronted with domestic violence.

Director / Writer: Briony Benjamin

Briony has specialised in producing and directing social and environmental campaigning digital content on a small budget for maximum impact. She's directed TVCs, web-series and digital content for dynamic organisations such as Getup, World Wildlife Fund, The Climate Council, 38 Degrees & The Sum of Us generating millions of views on some of the most complex issues facing our world. She's passionate about producing for purpose and sees media as one of the most powerful forces for change. This is her first documentary for ABC and it's been an incredible experience working with an amazing crew.

Producer: Susan MacKinnon

Susan has worked as an independent producer for 27 years, winning awards, and international acclaim. Her most credits include *Cast from The Storm* for the ABC, cinema documentary *Paul Kelly – Stories of Me*, *Life in Movement*, the tragic *Tanja Liedtke Story*, winner of the Best Documentary at the Sydney Film Festival and *Honeybee Blues* for SBS. Other films include the acclaimed *The Oasis*, *In The Company of Actors*, *Global Haywire* (by Academy Award winner Bruce Petty), *Men and Their Sheds*, and the classic *Eternity*. Susan is a founder, and for 8 years was Co-Executive Director of the Documentary Australia Foundation, established in 2006 to bring filmmakers and philanthropists together. She was formerly the Documentary Investment Manager at the Australian Film Finance Corporation. She served six years as a Board Director for the South Australian Film Corporation, and was a founding member and served six years on the Board of the Australian International Documentary Conference.

Producer: Daniel Joyce, **Executive Producers:** Marcus Gillezeau & Josh Pomeranz.

BIG BAD LOVE is a Briony Benjamin Media film.

*please note that **BIG BAD LOVE** screens during White Ribbon Week



CANDIDATE GAMES

Wednesday 7 December, 9.30pm on ABC2 & iview

Money has been flooding into Perth on the back of a decade long mining boom and with an annual council budget of \$200 million dollars, the role of Lord Mayor is a tempting prize. The 2015 election attracted a diverse range of young applicants. Candidate Reece is only 28yrs, one of the youngest ever Lord Mayoral nominees, and has a drive and ambition unusual for someone of his tender age. Candidate Mike, 33yrs, is the chalk to Reece's cheese: an entrepreneur with some big ideas who wants to add Lord Mayor to his impressive and eclectic resume, and turn Perth into a city full of electric cars. Standing in the way of both Gen Y candidates is a popular 2-term incumbent and baby boomer: Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi. The bookies have Lisa as the runaway favourite, yet Reece and Mike may have timed their 'David vs. Goliath' attempts to seize power perfectly, with an investigation from The Corruption and Crime Commission looming over her head. The stage is set for an explosive postal election, where three candidates with very different ideas about how to rule a capital city will clash head to head. The results are one thing, how this battle unfolds is quite another. Let the games begin!

Director: Sam Bodhi Field - Sam Field first short documentary *Consume This!* won the \$10,000 Buy My Duck Best Film award at the 2006 Revelation Film Festival, and he went on to make several successful short documentaries before a stint in commercial television. In 2013 his 'crowd funded' feature documentary *Hunter: For The Record* won Best Feature Documentary at the WA Screen Awards. Recently Sam has worked as a director for UK company WAG TV. He's credits also include the interactive documentaries *Ngarluma Ngurra: Aboriginal Culture on the Map* and *Beneath the Waves*.

Producer: Ella Wright - Ella is an Independent Producer with more than ten years' experience in film and television including on titles: *The Circuit* (SBS) and animation series *Dogstar* (BBC, Ch9). She has worked as Production Manager at 3D animation company *Last Pixel*, and line produced for high-profile multi-media indigenous arts project *Nomad Two World's*. Her short film, *George Jones and the Giant Squid* has been shown at festivals around the world as well as at Flickerfest in Australia. Ella has recently completed *Zauberburg*, a film by artist Pilar Mata Dupont.

Producer: Alice Ross - Alice Ross' debut feature documentary, *Hunter: For The Record*, was awarded the WA Screen Award for Best Feature Documentary in 2013. Alice's marine science interactive documentary, *Beneath the Waves*, has just launched with the WA Museum in May 2016. ABC Arts commissioned Alice to produce an artist profile film on Pilar Mata Dupont as well as for a series for the highly competitive Art Bites initiative. Previously Alice held production roles on series *Railroad Australia*, *Life on the Edge*, *Detention Centre*, and *The Rottnest Channel Swim*.

Executive Producers: Brian Beaton and Celia Tait. CANDIDATE GAMES is a Periscope Pictures film.



END OF THE LINE

Wednesday 14 December, 9.30pm on ABC2 & iview

Nowra, a beautiful intersection of some of Australia's most alluring beaches, rain-forests, mountains, and farmland, has fallen hard to the hand of Ice. Tom Abood, a young local that left his hometown to follow his dream of becoming a filmmaker, returns to find out if a handful of locals have what it takes to beat the ever-spreading scourge of Ice. Follow Tom as he meets up with familiar faces of his past to see if Nowra can be more than just the end of the line.

Director: Tom Abood

Tom has been working in television for six years, getting an early start in post-production on channel Ten's *The Living Room*. Tom proved his strong story telling ability by creating his first short war film *Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense* documenting a close mates deployment in Afghanistan. The film placed third at Tropfest, enjoyed a viral sensation and kick-started Tom's film-making career. Opening Shot has provided Tom with his first screen credit as Director, offering Tom a chance to tackle another hard hitting story and laying the foundations for his future documentary ambitions. Outside the world of documentary, Tom can be found shooting, producing, and editing factual stories for ESPN.

Producer: Kat Cooke

Katrina Cook has been working in the television industry for over 10 years, lending her organizational and creative talents to many Australian productions over the years. She's worked on various formats, from gameshows to children's television and continues to follow her passion of making television that makes a difference. *The End of the Line* is her first documentary producing role.

Executive Producer: Ben Ulm

END OF THE LINE is an Artillery House film.



DIGILANTE

Wednesday 21 December, 9.30pm on ABC2

Disillusioned by a revival of public shaming via social media, filmmaker Mike Nayna confronts the real-world damage caused by an online furore he created. In 2012, Mike Nayna uploaded a shaming video that sparked international media attention, resulted in two gaol terms, and inspired a surprise spate of copycat incidents. But while the narrative of good conquering prejudice played out on computer screens around the world, a far more complex and morally ambiguous story was taking place. Through exploring the untold story behind the high profile public shaming, Mike must face the unintended consequences of his 'digilantism'.

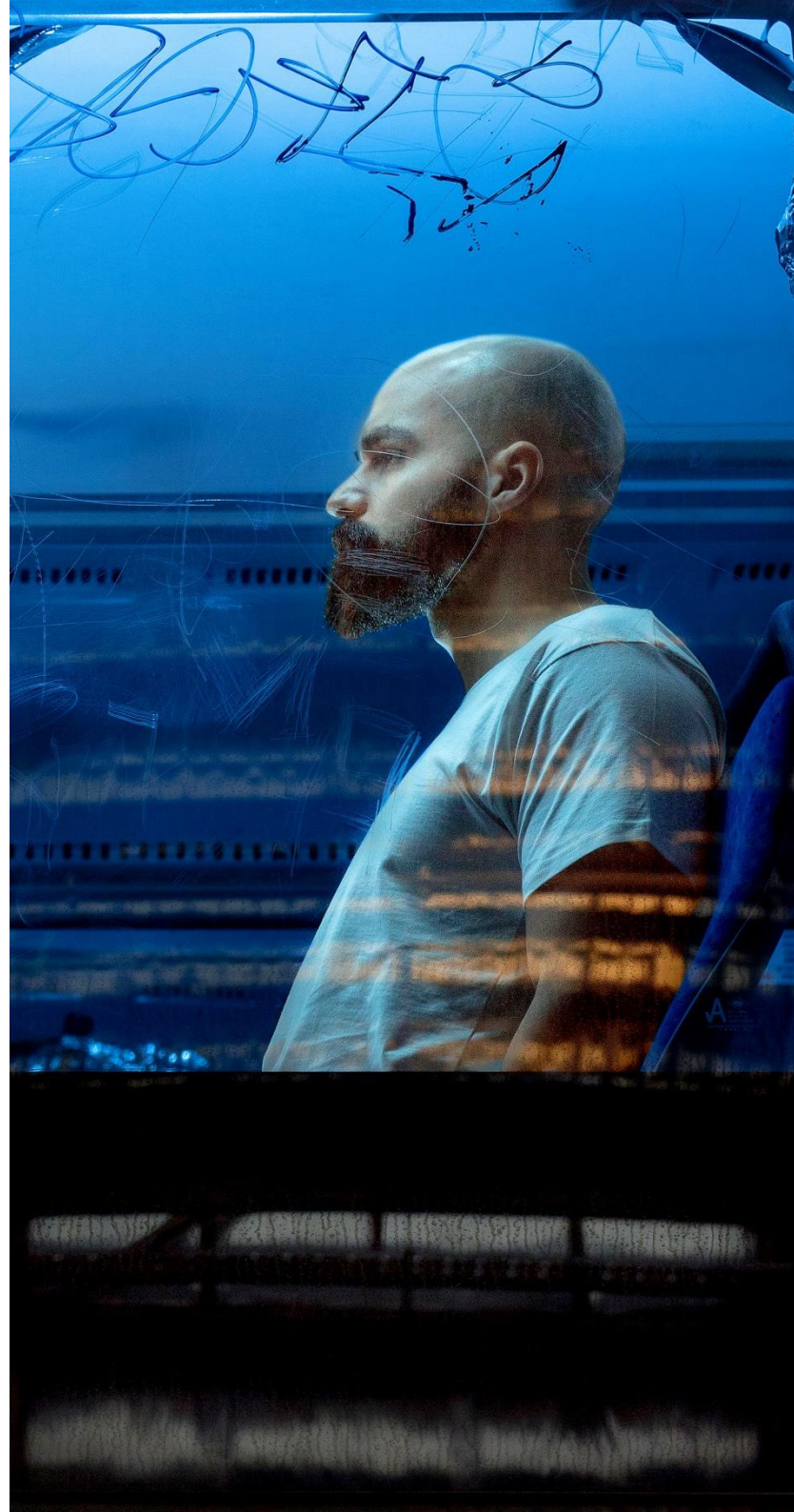
Director/Writer/Editor: Mike Nayna - Co-founder of the production company, Checkpoint Media, Mike is the filmmaker behind the multi-award-winning web series, *Dayne's World*. With a background in live performance, Mike was a triple j Raw Comedy Finalist and is a regular on the stand-up comedy circuit. He has created several live shows including the sell-out play, *It's Me Mandela*. Mike has amassed more than 10 million views across a range of YouTube projects and most recently, he directed and co-wrote the ABC Fresh Blood pilot, *Fancy Boy*.

Producer: Mark Conway - Mark is a producer and journalist with more than 8 years' experience in newsrooms and digital and TV production. After cutting his teeth as a journalist in WA, Mark worked as a video producer with an international advertising agency before being poached by the Australian Football League to join their new digital media arm in 2011. During his time at the AFL, Mark co-founded Checkpoint Media, accumulating more than 8.5 million views across a range of funded online projects, and produced comedies including cult hit *Dayne's World* and *Fancy Boy*. As an actor and comedian, Mark has reached the RAW Comedy State Final and appeared on ABC's *Fancy Boy*.

Producer: Lauren Elliott - Lauren is a producer and publicist who has worked in the creative industries in Australia and overseas for the last 10 years. She is the co-founder of production company, *Mad Kids* and is the producer of web series *DAFUQ?*, *The Shapes*, *Henry & Aaron's 7 Steps to Superstardom*, *The Legend of Gavin Tanner* and *The Write Stuff with Noel & Carl Pennyman*, as well as multiple digital shorts and commercials including *Henry & Aaron's ABC2 Christmas Quickie* and viral sensations *It's A Snap!* and *Set Yourself Free*. Lauren recently returned home to Perth after six months in LA, learning the Hollywood ropes from Ben Stiller's *Red Hour Films* and Tim & Eric's *Abso Lutely Productions*. In 2015, she was the winner of the inaugural Screenwest Emerging Producer's Initiative. In 2016, Lauren produced her debut half hour ABC TV pilot, *The Legend of Gavin and the New Best Mate*.

Executive Producers: Eddie Martin and Susie Jones.

DIGILANTE is a Checkpoint Media / Mad Kids Co-production.



OPENING SHOT is an initiative between Screen Australia and the ABC that delivers a younger perspective on contemporary Australia from a generation of documentary filmmakers.

ABC TV Commissioning Editors: Andrea Ulbrick and Matt Scully.

ABC TV Head of Factual: Steve Bibb.

Screen Australia Investment / Development Manager Documentary Alyssa Orvis.

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For more information, & interviews:

Bridget Stenhouse, ABC TV Publicity

T: (02) 8333 3847

E: stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au

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