

## **SERIES SYNOPSIS**

Pastor Cal Quinn stuns his family by announcing a US expansion for their evangelical megachurch, U Star. But Cal's plans are threatened when he succumbs to old demons and does drugs with a troubled parishioner, Rosa. With Rosa becoming a public liability, Cal banishes her from his church. Soon after, her dead body washes up on the beach. Abi breaks the news to her husband during Sunday Service, causing a distressed Cal to freeze on stage. Following a breakdown, Cal confesses to a psychologist that he no longer hears God. That God is testing him for Rosa's death. This triggers an epiphany for Cal who speaks in tongues, convinced he is cured. Despite Abi's concerns, Cal returns to U Star a man on a mission.

Following a violent attack by a property developer for refusing to vacate his community centre, Jed is forced to seek shelter with his estranged family. The prodigal son's return has been masterminded by Cal and Eli, eager to prove U Star's family credentials to their American partners. Resuming his good works under the U Star banner, Jed strikes up a romance with Juno, Rosa's grieving daughter, who Abi has deftly manipulated into the church.

With U Star LA beckoning, Dion and Issy scheme with their spouses Taz and Benji to lure volatile American DJ Maddox (and his millions of social media followers) into their church and win their father's favour. Dion's struggle to prove himself to an exacting Cal causes his and Taz's relationship to falter, while Issy's pregnancy awakens the painful past of a family secret regarding her adopted brother Moses' parentage.

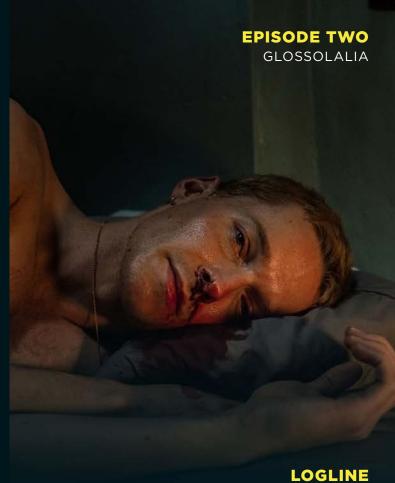
When a distressed Moses learns his birth mother does not want to meet him, he attempts a reckless stunt that leaves him in

hospital with doctors saying he may never walk again. After a guilty Cal begs God for mercy, a post-surgery Moses astonishes U Star devotees by miraculously standing on stage. A tormented Issy realises she can no longer live the lie her parents have made her keep all these years after falling pregnant aged fifteen. She is Moses' biological mother and needs him to know. But when Moses finally discovers the truth, he tells a heartbroken Issy he doesn't want their relationship to change. With nothing left to lose, Issy uses the video of Cal doing drugs on Rosa's phone, that Benji found the night of her death, to blackmail Cal and Abi into giving them leadership of U Star LA.

Having manoeuvred Christian politician Dan Gascoigne into Federal Cabinet to save U Star from a looming Charity Tax bill that could ruin them, Cal discovers that, once in power, Gascoigne is siding against his church and pastor to further his political career instead.

Unable to reconcile her torment over Cal's betrayal of their marriage with Rosa, Abi sends the incendiary video of them doing drugs together to the entire Quinn family just as their private jet takes off for LA. Shamed by his wife and feeling more disconnected than ever from his family, faith and church, Cal decides to cleanse the Quinns of sin. At their last supper before Sunday Service, Cal exposes each family member's darkest secrets, before disappearing the day of the launch. When Dion backs out at the last minute as Cal's replacement, Jed steps in to fill the breach, much to the satisfaction of Abi, the kingmaker. As Jed confidently preaches to the faithful, federal police storm U Star's Sydney headquarters while Cal speeds down a desert highway in a convertible before abandoning his belongings to walk out into the wilderness.





Cal Quinn, leader of evangelical megachurch U Star, stuns his family by announcing an impulsive expansion into the US. But as family rivalries flare, Cal's relationship with troubled parishioner Rosa threatens to derail their ambitions.

clash over who will lead Sunday Service in his absence. Jed meets a developer interested in the community centre.

**SYNOPSIS** 

Suffering a breakdown following Rosa's suicide, Cal locks horns

with a psychologist who challenges his faith while the Quinns

**SYNOPSIS** 

Pastor Cal Quinn, the charming and charismatic leader of U Star, announces his intention to expand to the promised land of America. With U Star LA on the horizon, Dion and Issy and their partners Taz and Benji are eager to gain favour and focus their attention on international superstar DJ, Maddox, who is in the country touring and looking for spiritual guidance, with millions of potential followers in the offing. Meanwhile, in the streets of inner Sydney, far away from his family's church and values, Jed Quinn, Cal's estranged second son, is out to prove that what his family practices is a long way from what they preach.

After suffering a political blow with his preferred conservative Christian candidate, Dan Gascoigne, missing out on a Cabinet position, Cal gets a call from a troubled parishioner, Rosa, a single mother battling prescription drug addiction and domestic violence. Cal comes to the rescue, arranging a safe haven in a hotel where, against his better judgment, he does drugs with her. In the dead of night, Cal wakes to find Rosa has overdosed. Terrified, he calls his wife Abi for help. The next morning, Rosa has survived and is picked up from hospital by her world-weary daughter Juno, who has seen this all before.

Relieved that Rosa is alive, Cal and Abi put on a happy face for their opulent 40th wedding anniversary celebration at their luxurious home. Gathered are all their children, including the estranged Jed. But when a drug-addled Rosa gate-crashes the party, Cal knows he has a serious problem on his hands. The next morning, Rosa's body is found washed up on the beach. After identifying her mother's body at the morgue, a grief-stricken Juno finds herself walking into a U Star Sunday Service. There, reeling from the news of Rosa's death, a stricken Cal sees the face of the now orphaned Juno in the crowd and freezes, a suddenly small and broken man in front of his flock.

Floating on a horizon pool, far away from civilisation, Cal's peace is interrupted by the helicopter arrival of Samir Maalouf, a psychologist tasked with bringing Cal back from the brink after suffering a breakdown following Rosa's death. Meanwhile, back in Sydney, the U Star inner circle is in crisis mode. With Dion and Benji seeing Cal's absence as an opportunity, Abi and Eli struggle to understand Cal's behaviour. Searching for answers, Abi finds recordings of Cal personally conducting Rosa's spiritual counselling sessions, watching as Cal and Rosa become closer.

At his community centre, Jed receives a visit from a property developer who is eager to move Jed and his flock elsewhere. Jed remains steadfast in his mission, resulting in violent consequences. With his family distracted, Moses sneaks out at night to explore high rise city buildings with his friends and perform daredevil stunts to post online. When Moses is caught out by security, he reaches out to his sister, Issy, who promises not to tell Abi and Cal.

At the mountain retreat, Cal finally opens up to Samir about his breakdown, confiding that God has stopped speaking to him. Pressing the issue, Samir pushes Cal to a point of spiritual release, with Cal experiencing an epiphany and speaking to the heavens in tongues. Having found his connection with God once more, Cal flies back to take back control of his church.





An erratic Cal returns to U Star with renewed plans to bring Jed back into the fold and solve the political threat of the Charity Tax bill with a Sleep Out fundraiser event. Abi draws Juno further into the church.

A tragic accident leaves Moses in hospital and his family praying for a miracle. Issy confronts Benji about the secret he's been keeping while Maddox's latest scandal plunges Dion and U Star into hot water.

# **SYNOPSIS**

Cal is back from his retreat with a renewed sense of vigour and mission – to get Dan Gascoigne into federal Cabinet and influence the Charity Tax legislation that threatens U Star, and to bring Jed back into the fold in order to reassure his American partners of U Star's family church credentials. Abi, however, remains concerned about her husband's erratic and manic state.

Juno, still aching from the loss of her mother, finds herself without a job and a home in quick succession. With nowhere else to go, she turns to the only hand reaching out to her – Abi's – who provides her with a part-time job and share house accommodation with U Star youth group members. Jed, still healing from his violent attack, is invited by his father to attend U Star's annual "Sleep Out" charity event. With Cal having made a bold public prediction of their donation target, it's up to Dion to make use of his new celebrity convert in Maddox to bring in the dollars.

Issy has her pregnancy confirmed but is hesitant to share the news with her family. She discovers a mysterious phone in Benji's bag that turns out to be the dead Rosa's phone. Meanwhile, we learn that the elusive Eli is behind the property developer's push to drive Jed out of his community centre, setting the premises alight during the Sleep Out event, with Eli silently watching on as the flames destroy the refuge for the homeless.

SYNOPSIS

**EPISODE FOUR** 

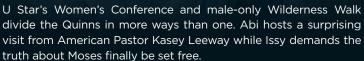
While a shattered Jed seeks shelter at Eli's place, bringing him further back into the fold of the family, Issy confronts Benji about being in possession of Rosa's phone. Benji admits a distressed Rosa left it outside U Star on the night of her death where he found it. Jed, now adrift, comes across Juno at the Juice Booth and the two strike up a mutual interest.

With Maddox caught cheating on his fiancée by the paparazzi, Dion is tasked with steering the wayward DJ back on the righteous path. But when it's revealed the girl is underage, it lands Dion and U Star in even more hot water.

Moses receives a letter informing him that his request to meet his birth mother has been rejected. With the pain of rejection weighing on him, he continues his urban daredevil stunts with even more reckless abandon, slipping on a ledge and falling...

At the hospital, the Quinn family anxiously await news about Moses. A surgeon tells them there is a chance Moses will be paralysed. Cal privately begs God not to punish Moses for his sins and promises to confess in public. His confession is interrupted when Abi tells him Moses is out of surgery and is going to fully recover. Issy visits the site of Moses' accident, learning that his fall was broken by a humble milk crate, not a miracle after all. In her car, Issy stares at a letter from the Adoption Agency, revealing that she is in fact Moses' birth mother.





**EPISODE SIX GETHSEMANE** LOGLINE

Issy and Benji take matters into their own hands regarding their role in the church. Moses learns more about himself. Jed is offered a chance to resume his good works, but at a cost.

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While Moses struggles with his recovery and his father's perception of him as U Star's Miracle Boy, Issy attempts to get closer to her unwitting birth son. Her attempts fall flat, causing more distance between the two of them.

Meanwhile, U Star is hosting the annual Women's Conference, with guest speaker Pastor Kasey Leeway, while the men in the inner sanctum escape on a 'Wilderness Walk'. Kasey's sermons at the Women's Conference bring back painful memories for Issy, who confronts Abi about her parents' decision to take Moses from her and adopt him as their own.

At the Wilderness Walk, a drunk Eli lets slip to Benji about Issy keeping a secret from him. After calling Issy, who confesses the truth about Moses, Benji then confronts Cal about his hypocrisy. The Wilderness Walk has taken a turn for the worse and eventually the dejected men make their way back to their cars. Refusing to give in, Cal continues to climb the mountain with a loyal Eli.

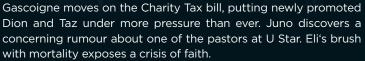
Back in Sydney, Juno is asked by Issy to sing at Sunday Service with her and Jed watches on with concern that another vulnerable person is being lured into the flock. Now that he knows the truth, Benji is unable to forgive Abi and Cal for their actions and, together with Issy, they decide to send Abi the video of Cal and Rosa doing drugs in the hotel room.

Reeling from the video of Cal and Rosa, Abi invites Issy and Benji over for dinner where Cal is confronted with the revelation that Abi, Issy and Benji have seen the incriminating video. Issy threatens to tell Moses the truth about being his real mother. Meanwhile, Moses is meeting his birth father, Ravi, who invites him to meet the rest of his family.

At U Star, Eli warns Cal that Jed needs a purpose of his own if he's to return to their church for good or they risk losing him forever. Cal presents Jed with a shiny new food truck and, whilst suspicious of Cal's intentions, Jed accepts the offer so he can resume helping his flock. Following an unsuccessful attempt at sex in the marital bedroom, Taz presents Dion with an erection aide. Dion receives the gesture poorly, and lashes out at Taz, widening the emotional gulf between them and pushing Taz towards the father of her daughter's school friend.

Having inadvertently discovered his true parentage, Moses refuses Issy as his mother, leaving her heartbroken and desperate to escape Sydney. This leads Issy and Benji to blackmail Cal and Abi into taking over U Star LA in exchange for handing over their bargaining chip: Rosa's phone and its incendiary video. A shattered Cal reluctantly agrees. Meanwhile, Gascoigne – after reneging on supporting Cal's political agenda on the Charity Tax bill – receives a surprise gift hamper from Cal, which includes a flash drive with a Reflections Sessions recording of Gascoigne confessing to an affair with an intern while his wife, Jackie, was pregnant.





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In a live online cross with American Pastors Mitch and Kasev Wit

Leeway, the Quinns - including an uncomfortable Jed - promote the upcoming launch of U Star LA. With the Charity Tax bill set to pass, Cal pre-emptively announces that Dion will take over as Senior Pastor in Sydney following the launch of U Star LA. Eli abruptly leaves and collapses in his car, telling a security guard he's having a stroke. Eli survives, but when Cal drives him home, Eli reveals his struggles with his faith after his near death experience.

Juno meets Alice, the woman who previously rented the room in her share house. Alice reveals U Star forced her out after one of the pastors in the church laid hands on her. Before she can name names, Tayla arrives, forcing Alice to leave and dismissing Alice's claim as lies.

Worried that he's inheriting a poisoned chalice, Dion goes to Jonathan for reassurance that U Star is not a political target. In the heat of the moment, Dion impulsively kisses Jonathan, who gently turns him down. Meanwhile, Taz, feeling the gulf between her and Dion, meets with the father from her daughter's school and the two have sex.

Eli confesses to Cal that he no longer believes in God and hasn't for years. Cal responds by firing Eli, telling him he can't work with a non-believer. Eli reveals there was someone else present when Rosa died that fateful night. Cal confronts Abi, who admits she was at the cliffs but refuses to take the blame. All hell is finally unleashed between Cal and Abi.



As the Quinns prepare for the launch of U Star LA, explosive secrets come to light that place the fate of the family and their church firmly in the balance.

SYNOPSIS

With the imminent launch of U Star LA, the extended Quinn family – including Juno – board a private jet bound for America. Abi takes revenge on Cal for his infidelity and sends everyone on board the video of him snorting drugs with Rosa. As soon as the plane lands in LA, the fractured family separates into different vans.

Abi tries to convince Jed and Juno not to fly straight back to Australia, telling them she's fearful that Cal's behaviour may destroy U Star. Dion argues for Eli to be flown over, but Eli ignores the Quinns' calls as he packs his life's work away in the Sydney office.

Cal arrives to oversee last minute preparations at his new church in downtown LA, feeling very alone... until Abi leads the family into the auditorium having convinced them to see the mission through. However, that night at the LA mansion where they are staying, Abi refuses to stay in the same bedroom as her husband while a furious Juno rips into Cal for failing in his pastoral care of Rosa in her time of need.

During rehearsals, Cal laments to Jed how humble his dreams for U Star were before it all grew beyond his control.

The night before the launch, Cal confesses his sins to his family, before divulging all of their secret sins, claiming that the Devil has a grip on U Star.

It's Sunday Service at U Star and the crowd is pouring in, but Cal is nowhere to be found. Abi finally manages to reach him, and he tells her he's not coming to church. As we watch Cal walk out to face his demons in the scorching Arizona desert, we wait to see who will step out onto the stage at U Star LA to claim their father's throne...











# ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

## **CAL QUINN**

Founder and Senior Pastor of U Star, Cal came from humble beginnings, caught up in juvenile delinquency, drugs and addiction before finding his salvation in God. Now, as the leader and face of a church with close to a hundred thousand devoted followers worldwide, Cal is a charismatic force with a born-again story to tell. But he is a Man of God struggling with the burden of meeting God's and his own ideals. Deep down he is grappling with a profound crisis of faith, too terrifying to admit to anyone, even himself.

# **ABI QUINN**

Co-Senior Pastor at U Star, Abi plays the woman behind the great man. But Abi herself – like so many strong women before her – remains a formidable force within her own marriage and family. She knows precisely where her powers lie and deftly manoeuvres and manipulates to bend others to her will. Fearing her husband's fallibility might bring the empire they have built crumbling down, Abi is determined not to let it happen.

# **DION QUINN**

Cal's dutiful eldest son from a different mother, Dion has lived in the shadow of his larger-than-life father, trying to follow in his formidable footsteps, becoming a pastor, marrying a good Christian woman (Taz) and raising a large family. But beneath the façade is a man unsure of himself, uncomfortable in his own skin. He wants so much for his father to be proud but believes Cal secretly doubts him. Dion is a man hiding in the darkness of self-doubt who needs to come out into the light and unleash his true self.

# **TAZ QUINN**

Taz is a woman of the church in the mould of her mother-in-law and mentor, Abi, priding herself on her role as a wife, mother and servant of God. With four children under 12, Taz is a force of nature, running a household as well as working full time for U Star. Taz's ambitions for her husband in the family business are greater than Dion's ambitions for himself; the pursuit of power helping fill the void she feels in her hollow marriage.

# **JED QUINN**

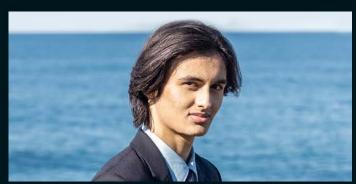
rebel with a cause, Jed is a young man with natural charisma and a genuine conviction in the beliefs and ideals of Christianity in their purest form. Growing up as the favourite son in the Quinn family, the headstrong Jed caused a scandal by speaking out against his father's church and its materialism in a media story. The subsequent fall out between Jed and his parents led to a self-imposed exile, where he created his own community centre in the heart of Sydney, where his good Christian works offer practical and spiritual help to the downtrodden and disenfranchised.













# **ISSY KALANI**

A gifted singer-songwriter who has generated enormous popularity and sales income for U Star, Issy is blessed with beauty and talent. She is the golden child with the voice of an angel who embodies much of the church's mass appeal. But life has not always been picture-perfect, with a family secret from her adolescence that haunts her as she and her husband try to start their own family together.

# **BENJI KALANI**

A hip preacher and talented musician, Benji specialises in connecting to U Star's multitude of millennial followers. He is a walking advertisement for the prosperity gospel, enjoying the finer things in life courtesy of marrying into the very wealthy Quinn family. Born in LA, Benji came out to Sydney to study at U Star's Bible College, rapidly establishing himself as a young man on the rise, coveting his father-in-law's crown and the kingdom that comes with it.

## **JUNO ADEBAYO**

A damaged young woman whose mother, Rosa, has spiralled into opioid addiction, a destructive relationship with a new partner and turned to U Star for salvation. Self-contained, withdrawn and isolated, Juno has been left to fend for herself. Behind the emotional fortress Juno has built is a raw young woman with a need to belong, to feel safe and loved. She doesn't know it, but she is ripe for the all-consuming embrace – and grip – of a church like U Star.

# **ELIASZ 'ELI' SLOWIK**

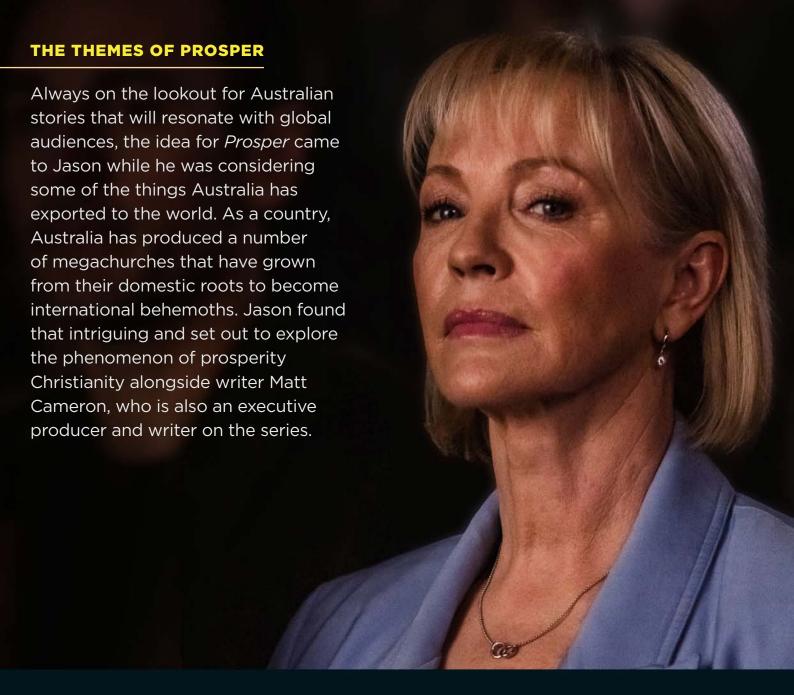
An original member of U Star church when it was just a handful of people in the back room of a Sydney suburban community hall, Eli and Cal formed a bond like brothers, and Eli – at the cost of his own marriage – became Cal Quinn's right-hand man as they built an empire. Eli is the man who knows where the bodies are buried, always remaining unflappable in a crisis, and willing to do what others will not to advance the interests of the church.

# **MOSES QUINN**

The adopted son of Cal and Abi, Mo is a child of privilege from ethnically mixed parentage, having grown up knowing only lavish wealth and public profile. Moses is a good-looking teenager fast going off the rails. Already expelled from some of the best schools in Sydney, Mo masks his needs and vulnerability with charm and swagger. But behind all the front is a child disconnected from his culture, who feels he doesn't belong, that he is not blood and this will never be his real family.

## MADDOX AKA M.DOX

International star DJ Maddox is touring Australia where he has made the mainstream news due to visa issues given his criminal history with drugs. The young American is a walking train wreck, seeking salvation for his many sins in the welcoming embrace of celebrity-courting U Star church.



As they were developing the series, real events around evangelical churches in Australia and overseas gave evidence that this was a world rich with possibility.

"We are spoilt for story and themes in this show; there's the family story and their dynamics but it also asks the bigger question about the place religion has in our society today and why these types of Mega Churches are so successful? It's about power and wealth. All of that gets quite complicated and messy, which of course makes for great drama," Jason says.

Matt Cameron says: "I knew immediately that there was a show in the idea when Jason brought it to me. Television-wise, it feels like a new world. I can't think of anything quite like it.

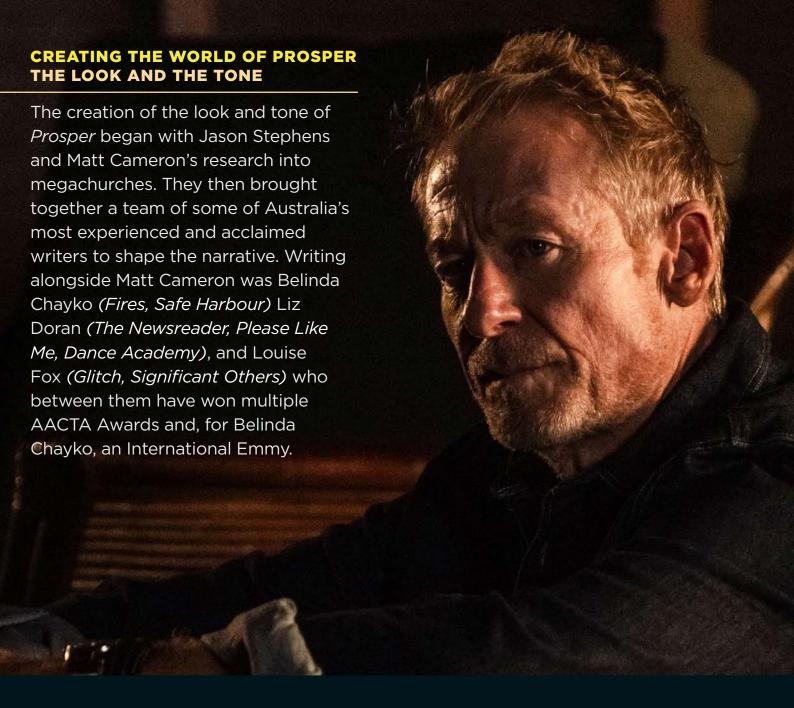
"What appealed to me about that world is that you have characters who are reaching to the ultimate high, to God. They're setting incredibly high standards of behaviour and morality for themselves, but we know that, as human beings are flawed, they're going to fail. They're going to fall short of their own lofty expectations.

"As a writer it was a tantalising prospect to look at human frailty in a world where people are aiming so high and trying to be kind of some version of perfection that they're never going to achieve. I've always thought that hubris was the best thing you can explore in drama, and this world has a good dose of that!" To research the world of megachurches, Jason and Matt spent time at church services and hours talking to current and former followers and journalists who had covered the inner workings of prosperity churches.

Jason says: "We were quite surprised by how much we enjoyed attending the church services. We came away feeling differently than when we went in - they put on a good show. There's good coffee, there's good music and there's lots of chat about self-help and self-improvement. We could see why people go. It was a really interesting experience for us to feel how the congregation feels when they go to a church like that. When we spoke to people who had been part of these types of churches, it was interesting to hear their experiences and what they got out of it, and why they got out of it. And how they see it from the outside now."

One of the hallmarks they discovered is that these churches are often run by husbands and wives, with their extended families also closely involved.

"That dynamic is interesting in terms of how the husband and wife relate and how their religious beliefs dictate how much power women can have in a church like that. And then there's the kids who are so much part of the family business and that was also really interesting to explore," Jason Stephens says.



In building the visual style for *Prosper*, Jennifer Leacey wanted imagery that represented the presence of God or spirituality in every scene. The use of light was central to this idea.

"When pitching to direct the show, I spoke a lot about representing God. And to me, the obvious way to do that was through light," she says.

This idea of light was expressed variously by the full frame, special flair anamorphic lenses choses by Jennifer and cinematographer Hugh Miller, the light coming through the windows of Abi and Cal's home, the vertical planes of light created by the glass panels on the exterior walls of the U Star church location at Sydney's Colosseum Theatre, the light shards thrown by the extraordinary crystal chandelier in its foyer and the light that characters step into or out of at critical moments.

The series was filmed at locations across Sydney – from the dramatic eastern coastal cliffs to the Blue Mountains, to the grunge edges of the inner-city, to the magnificent Colosseum theatre in the western suburbs that became U Star. The Quinns inhabit an aspirational world. They live in magnificent houses; they drive Bentleys and expensive sports cars and fly by helicopter between their city lives and their mountain retreat and on private jets to between Sydney and Los Angeles.

Western Sydney's Colosseum Theatre became Cal and Abi's U Star church location. A purpose-built theatre which opened just before the Covid-19 pandemic, it has an auditorium that seats thousands as well as an incredible, towering foyer which streams panels of light throughout the day. Its exterior has also been likened to a contemporary cathedral; with a design that reaches for the heavens.

Cinematographer Hugh Miller says: "The building is designed around the light. The main foyers face north and so from the morning until the afternoon, you just get this beautiful light coming in through the glass panels; it's quite spectacular."

In contrast to the modern architecture of U Star Sydney is the world of U Star Los Angeles, filmed in Sydney's iconic Enmore Theatre, originally built in 1908 and then extensively renovated in 1920 and given a handsome palladium style façade.

"The Sydney church was very new and upmarket. For Los Angeles we wanted to change it up. We liked the idea that it is a little bit grungier and retrofitted; slightly a work in progress and to give it a bit more texture and more colour," says production designer Pete Baxter.



The composer of the series is Amanda Brown, a founding member of the seminal Australian bank The Go-Betweens, now highly sought after for film and television soundtracks.

Matt Cameron had previously worked with Tim Finn and wrote to him, asking if he and Harper would be interested in writing songs for *Prosper*.

Tim Finn says: "Matt told us that he wanted very strong songs rather than pastiche or emulating something that was already existing out there in that world. So that was a wonderful brief and a wonderful invitation."

Harper Finn says: "I've grown up with Dad doing projects for film and stage musicals, and I'd always been very curious. I think this is song writing in its purest form, because you're writing a song that needs to serve a story as well. I was very flattered that Matt included me in his request."

Tim - who was raised a Catholic - returned to the bible looking for words, phrases and ideas.

"The things that came up for Harper and I to use were those of spirit or forgiveness or just an uplifting, joyous feeling. So much of pop music is to do with yearning and bittersweet kinds of feelings, whereas this was a great liberation, to be able to write songs that

were fully positive, fully joyous, but without being too sentimental," Tim says.

The sound of Coldplay was one of their inspirations in seeking to write songs that can fill a large auditorium with feelings of rapture.

"After discussing with Matt what the producers had in mind, I was able to quickly get some musical ideas to Dad because I knew exactly the kind of feeling that you needed to get from the music and then Dad was able to get lyrics together to match that feeling," Harper says.

Tim says: "Harper sent through three ideas, or maybe four, and they were all good. They were instantly very positive, beautiful, elegant melodies."

Harper was writing from New York and Tim from Auckland. They then flew to Sydney to record the tracks with Hayley McCarthy, Jordi Webber and Andrea Solonge. The three, with other members of the U Star band, also then performed the tracks during the huge setup scenes of the U Star services, in front of an audience of hundreds of extras.

# **ABOUT THE CAST**

### RICHARD ROXBURGH as Cal Quinn

Award-winning actor Richard Roxburgh has worked on stage and screen around the world.

Richard's well-known television credits include the role of Cleaver Greene in the ABC hit series *Rake*, which he also co-created. His brilliant performance earned him a TV Week Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Actor and the 2012 AACTA Award for Best Actor in a Television Series. His performance in the role of Prime Minister Bob Hawke in Channel Ten's telemovie *Hawke* earned Richard critical acclaim along with his award-winning electrifying portrayal as the notorious Roger Rogerson in the ABC's controversial mini-series *Blue Murder*. The 2017 sequel *Blue Murder*: *Killer Cop* earned him a Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama nomination at the 2017 AACTA Awards.

Recently he can be seen in the SBS mini-series *The Hunting* opposite Asher Keddie and Pamela Rabe and alongside Helen Mirren in the HBO/Sky UK Miniseries *Catherine the Great*. For the ABC he collaborated with director Cate Shortland on the two-part drama series *The Silence* and *East of Everything*, where he played the lead role of Art Watkins. Richard appeared in Netflix television series *The Crown* as Bob Hawke and most recently appeared in the ABC mini-series *Fires* alongside Miranda Otto and in Stan's miniseries *Bali 2002* with Rachel Griffiths.

In theatre, Richard has appeared on stage in the critically hailed *The Present*, an adaptation of Chekhov's *Platonov*, at the Sydney Theatre Company and on Broadway, alongside Cate Blanchett, with whom he also appeared as the title character in STC's hugely successful production of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, directed by Tamas Ascher. The play had a revival at the Kennedy Center in Washington in 2011. The play was remounted at Lincoln Centre New York for Sydney Theatre Company in 2012. Additional stage credits include *Waiting for Godot* (including a critically acclaimed 2015 tour to the Barbican, London), *Toy Symphony, The Seagull, Hamlet* (Company B), *Closer* (Sydney Theatre Company) and most recently as Prospero in 2022's adaptation of *The Tempest*.

His film credits include Moulin Rouge! directed by Baz Luhrmann, Doing Time for Patsy Cline, Mission Impossible II, Oscar & Lucinda, Thank God He Met Lizzie, Children of the Revolution, The Turning (Reunion), Matching Jack, James Cameron's action-adventure film Sanctum, Mel Gibson's Hacksaw Ridge, the adaptation of Tim Winton's novel Breath and Sue Brooks' Looking for Grace. Other films include Danger Close, Angel of Mine with Noomi Rapace and Yvonne Strahovski, Go! opposite Frances O'Connor and Dan Wyllie, H is for Happiness, with Miriam Margolyes, Emma Booth and Deborah Mailman.

Most recently he collaborated one again with Baz Luhrmann in the 2022 critically acclaimed film *ELVIS* as Elvis' father, Vernon Presley.

# REBECCA GIBNEY as Abi Quinn

Rebecca Gibney is one of Australia's most beloved and respected actors.

Rebecca has most recently starred in Seasons 1 and 2 of the Acorn TV/TVNZ series *Under the Vines* which she also executive produced, the Amazon Prime series *Back to the Rafters* which saw the return of Australia's favourite family from the much-loved series *Packed to the Rafters*, and the Nine Network drama series *Halifax: Retribution* where she reprised her role of 'Dr Jane Halifax', earning her an AACTA award nomination for Best Lead Actress for her performance.

Rebecca's performance as 'Julie Rafter' on *Packed to the Rafters*, earned her a Gold Logie Award for Most Popular Personality, two Silver Logies for Most Popular Actress, and a further seven

Logie Award nominations along with an AFI Award nomination for Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama. She also received a 2011 AACTA Audience Choice Award nomination for Best Performance in a Television Drama.

Rebecca co-created, produced and starred in three seasons of the popular Seven Network drama *Wanted*. In 2018, *Wanted* received eight nominations at the NZ TV Awards including Best Drama Series and Best Actress, and was also nominated for a 2017 International Emmy Award for Best Drama Series. Rebecca previously co-produced the TV movie *The Killing Field* and the Seven Network drama series *Winter*, which she also starred in.

In 2012, Rebecca starred in P.J. Hogan's feature film *Mental* opposite Toni Collette and Anthony LaPaglia. Her performance as 'Shirley Moochmore' earned her an AACTA Award nomination and Australian Film Critics Association Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress and a Film Critics Circle of Australia Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

Born in Levin, New Zealand, Rebecca appeared in a number of New Zealand television series including *Inside Straight Pioneer Women and Sea Urchins*. She quickly became a well-known face on Australian television with roles in *Zoo Family, The Great Bookie Robbery* and the hugely successful *Flying Doctors* as Australia's favourite mechanic, 'Emma Plimpton'.

During her expansive career, Rebecca has portrayed some of the most interesting women on Australian television, including her compelling portrayal of 'Guinea Malone' in *Come in Spinner* which won her an AFI Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role in a Mini-Series and a Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Actress.

One of her most prominent and critically acclaimed roles was as 'Dr Jane Halifax' in *Halifax F.P.* The character was created especially for Rebecca and her performance saw her nominated for six Silver Logies and two AFI Awards. The multi award winning series ran for twenty one telemovies from 1994 to 2002.

Rebecca's other television credits include the TV biopic *Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door, Ring of Scorpio, All Together Now* which earned her two Logie nominations, *Snowy, GP, Kangaroo Palace, 13 Gantry Row, Day of the Roses, Finding Hope, Salem's Lot, Stingers, Stephen King's Nightmares & Dreamscapes* and *Tripping Over.* She starred alongside Claudia Karvan in three *Small Claims* telemovies, earning her a Silver Logie nomination for Most Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series, and the Nine Network telemovie *Wicked Love* with Vince Colosimo. Rebecca hosted the factual series Sensing Murder. She also recently starred in the web series *The Circle* for Domain.

Rebecca's other feature film credits include Paul Murphy's feature film Lowdown Dirty Criminals, Jocelyn Moorhouse's The Dressmaker alongside Kate Winslet, Judy Davis, Hugo Weaving and Liam Hemsworth, Among the Cinders, Mr Wrong, I Live With me Dad, Lucky Break for which she was nominated for an AFI Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role, Joey, Lost & Found, In Her Skin, The Map Reader and Cherie Nowlan's Clubland alongside Brenda Blethyn.

#### **EWEN LESLIE as Dion Quinn**

Ewen graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2000 and has since become one of Australia's most popular faces on stage and screen.

Ewen's film credits include the critically acclaimed *The Daughter, The Nightingale, Peter Rabbit 2, Sweet Country, The Mule, The Railway Man, Dead Europe, Sleeping Beauty, Three Blind Mice, Katoomba, Kokoda* and *Jewboy.* He can most recently be seen in Thomas M. Wright's *The Stranger.* 

Selected television credits include Jane Campion's Top of the Lake: China Girl which premiered at Festival de Cannes, the Emmy Award winning Safe Harbour, Pieces of Her, Operation Buffalo, The Gloaming, Fighting Season, Janet King, Deadline Gallipoli, Wonderland, Mr and Mrs Murder, Top of the Lake, Rake, Redfern Now, Devil's Dust, Mabo, My Place, Lockie Leonard, Love My Way, The Junction Boys, All Saints, The Road from Coorain and most recently Bali 2002. Ewen starred in The Cry alongside Jenna Coleman and The Luminaries opposite Eva Green and Eve Hewson, both for BBC.

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

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

#### MING-ZHU HII as Taz Quinn

Ming-Zhu is well known in Australia for her work as a screen-based actor. Selected recent TV credits include *La Brea* Series 1 & 2, *Fires, Ms. Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries* and series regular Det. Senior Sgt. Mila Bronski on Network Nine's *Halifax Retribution, The Ex-PM* and Newton's *Law, Mad as Hell, Get Krack!n* and *Sisters.* 

Feature film appearances include *That's Not Me, Upgrade* and *Peter Rabbit*. In addition, Ming-Zhu has multiple main stage theatre credits spanning two decades of work. Her directing projects include the award-winning short film *Intrusion*, and live works, *Until Then, Then, This Is Beautiful* and the critically acclaimed *Attract/Repel*.

Ming-Zhu's work as a filmmaker concerns questions of unchecked power, cycles of trauma and the compromises that outsiders are forced to make in order to survive. Ming-Zhu was the 2018/19 Director in Residence at Malthouse Theatre and is currently in development on several new film and television projects spanning mystery, thriller and comedy. She is also a prolific and highly regarded commercial voiceover artist.

## HAYLEY MCCARTHY as Issy Kalani

Since moving to Los Angeles from Sydney, Australia, Hayley has established an exciting career for herself.

Hayley played opposite Tessa Thompson in Eugene Ashe's 1950's period drama *Sylvie's Love*, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival and is currently streaming on Amazon Prime.

With shows like, Apple TV's *Puppy Place*, The CW's *The Originals*, ABC's Marvel, *Agent Carter*, CBS' *NCIS:LA*, Nickelodeon's *Game Shakers* and *Mutt and Stuff* under her belt, Hayley continues to carve out her path.

Hayley has come from an established career in Australia, starring on shows including *Home and Away, All Saints, Rescue Special Ops, Out of The Blue* and feature film, *Tumblegum* starring Australia Vet Jack Thompson and Guy Edmonds. She is also musical theatre trained and spent 2009-2010 playing Lisa and the understudy to Sophie in the 10th Anniversary Musical tour of the Smash Hit *Mamma Mial* 



### JORDI WEBBER as Benji Kalani

Jordi is an actor and singer of Maori heritage, swiftly gaining local and international recognition as a charismatic leading man.

He has just wrapped a lead role on Netflix original *Choose Love*, the latest of a string of international credits including feature films *Mistletoe Ranch, Nomad* and *Together Forever Tea*. Jordi also has extensive stunt training, as showcased in Maori action epic *The Dead Lands*.

When he isn't acting, you'll find Jordi surfing, hiking, on intrepid overseas travels, or writing music for his musician alter-ego "Waazoo and The Vibes".

#### JACOB COLLINS-LEVY as Jed Quinn

Jacob Collins Levy is a graduate of Melbourne's premier acting program, 16th Street Actors Studio and has worked extensively in television and film in both the UK and Australia.

Jacob recently completed filming the role of "Captain Youngblood" in the much-anticipated Disney series *Nautilus*, and will also soon be seen in the stand-out role of "Eredin" in Netflix series *The Lark* - a 6-part spin-off of the enormously successful *The Witcher*. Jacob was previously on screen for Netflix in the Scandi-noir thriller *Young Wallander* in which he plays lead antagonist "Karl-Axel Munck".

Other recent work in the UK includes playing "Lord Byron" in *Doctor Who*; the role of "Benji" in the Channel 4 comedy series *Pure*; and the lead role of "Henry Vii" opposite Jodie Comer in the Starz series *The White Princess*.

In Australia, Jacob played the role of "Thomas Curnow" in the award-winning film by Justin Kurzel *True History of the Ned Kelly Gang*; and starred in the films' *Joe Cinque's Consolation* by director Sotiri Dounoukas; and the critically acclaimed *Holding the Man* by director Neil Armfield.

In television in Australia, Jacob appeared in *Miss Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries*; he has also played supporting roles in the award-winning mini-series' of Bloom on the Stan Network, directed by John Curran; and in *Barracuda* for the ABC, directed by Rob Connolly. Jacob has also played guest roles in the Matchbox series *Glitch* for the ABC; and in *Gallipoli* for the Nine Network.

In early 2023 Jacob performed the role of "Count Orloc" for Malthouse Theatre's rendition of *Nosferatu* to rave reviews.

Jacob won the prestigious Best Male Actor in the Casting Guild of Australia's Sirius Awards in 2016.

# JACEK KOMAN as Eli Slowik

Jacek has had a career in theatre, film and television, both in

Australia and abroad. He recently completed production on Edward Berger's upcoming feature film *Conclave* alongside Stanley Tucci, Ralph Fiennes and John Lithgow. He will next be seen in the Disney+ series *Last Days of the Space Age*.

His other television credits include the Seven Network series Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries and Wanted; FX series Mr Inbetween; ABC series' Jack Irish, Mustangs FC, Rake, The Wrong Kind of Black, The Doctor Blake Mysteries, Seven Types of Ambiguity, Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries and The Warriors; Nine Network's Doctor Doctor; Back to Back Theatre and Matchbox Pictures co-production Oddlands; Jane Campion's Top of the Lake; as well as ABC International's Reef Break, Netflix series Tidelands, BBC's Waking the Dead, the HBO/BBC mini-series Tsunami – The Aftermath, Small Time Gangster, Tripping Over, Mary Bryant, Simone De Beauvoir's Babies, East West 101, Stingers, MDA, The Secret Life of Us, Wildside and the second season of Foxtel's hit series, Spirited, for which he received an AACTA Award nomination for Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama.

Jacek is well known for playing the Narcoleptic Argentinean, with his unforgettable rendition of "Roxanne", in Baz Luhrmann's Moulin Rouge. His other film credits include Greg McLean's Jungle with Daniel Radcliffe, Simon Baker's debut feature Breath, The Death and Life of Otto Bloom, Sucker with Timothy Spall, Son of a Gun with Ewan McGregor, Mark Albiston and Louis Sutherland's Shopping, Baz Luhrmann's Australia, Edward Zwick's Defiance, Alfonso Cuaron's Children of Men, Romulus My Father, Floodhouse, Horseplay, The Sound of One Hand Clapping, Thank God He Met Lizzie, Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance and The Hunter.

Jacek has starred in many Polish feature films and television series including the recent features *The Mute* directed by Bartosz Konopka, *The Hater* for Netflix (winner of the prestigious Tribeca Film Festival in 2020), and television series *The Woods* for Netflix.

Jacek has worked with many of Australia's leading theatre companies including, for Sydney Theatre Company, *Death of A Salesman, King Lear, Endgame, Tartuffe* and *Fred*; for Melbourne Theatre Company, *Cruel & Tender, Angels in America I & II* which earned him an Age Performing Arts and Green Room Award for best performance, *Gulliver's Travels, The Taming of The Shrew, Nothing Sacred, The Marriage of Figaro* and *Waiting For Godot;* for Belvoir Theatre, *Threepenny Opera, Macbeth, Emma's Nose, The Marriage of Figaro, As You Like It, Picasso at Lapin Agile, Caucasian Chalk Circle, Lulu, The Blind Giant is Dancing, Splendids, The Tempest, Hamlet and Blue Murder; for Anthill Theatre, The Emmigrants, The Maids, Imaginary Invalid and Moliere; and for Malthouse Theatre Company, Dance of Death earning him a Green Room Award nomination for Best Male Actor.* 

Jacek is also the lead singer of the Melbourne band VulgarGrad, who play "blatnyak", Russian criminal music.



### ALEX FITZALAN as Maddox

Alex will next be seen in *Chevalier* for Searchlight, starring as Philippe alongside Kelvin Harrison Jr and Samara Weaving, which had its worldwide premiere at TIFF.

Alex can previously be seen in the role of Seth in the Amazon series *The Wilds*. He recently appeared in the Binge series *The Twelve* as Blake Skerrit 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 Fright*.

## ANDREA SOLONGE as Juno Adebayo

Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Andrea is an Australian actress with Nigerian and Congolese heritage.

She can currently be seen in the Amazon Prime series *Class of 07,* alongside Emily Browning and Caitlin Stasey, and also starred in TV Pilot *Privileged*, which went on to impress the director of comedy programming at HBO, taking out best comedy at SeriesFest.

Andrea was the 2019 scholarship winner of the MEAA Equity Atlantic Award (New York) and was one of six finalists announced for the 2021 Heath Ledger Scholarship. Outside of acting Andrea trains in Muay Thai and Martial Arts.

### BRIGID ZENGENI as Rosa Adebayo

Brigid trained at Drama Centre London and has been a professional actor for 25 years. Her professional work spans television, theatre, radio and film. She has worked extensively in theatres such as The National and The RSC to The Lincoln Centre in New York.

Brigid was last seen in *Midsummer Night's Dream* at Belvoir. Her other selected theatre credits include *Death of a Salesman* and *Blithe Spirit* at STC, *The Welkin* at the National Theatre, *I'm Not Running* directed by Neil Armfield, *A Christmas Carol* at RSC, *Romeo & Juliet, Yerma, The Duchess of Malfi, Volpone, Pandora, The Hyperchondriac, Dr Faustus, Three Sisters, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Oliver Twist, and Twelfth Night.* 

In film, Brigid was most recently seen in *Monolith*, directed by Matt Vesely. Other film credits include *The Good Liar, U Want Me 2 Kill Him?, The Hardest Part* and *The Cry.* Brigid's selected television credits include *Motherfatherson*, with Richard Gere and Helen McCrory, *Love Me* (Season 2), *The Secrets She Keeps, The Messenger, Bump* (Season 2), *Trying, Fortitude, House of Anubis, Sherlock*, and *People Just Do Nothing.* Brigid is soon to be seen in Fremantle Media's *Totally Completely Fine* and *The Artful Dodger* for Disney +.

## ALEXANDER D'SOUZA as Moses Quinn

Alex makes his debut as series regular, *Moses Quinn*, in the upcoming Stan television series, *Prosper*. He graduated from the Diploma of Stage and Screen from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2022. Prior to this Alex was a member of the Young Actors Studio at NIDA during his final years of high school.

# JAMES SAUNDERS as Dan Gascoigne

James is an actor and writer based in Melbourne. He has a 20+ year career in Australian TV and film, and has performed in theatres throughout Australia, Europe, North & South America. A graduate of the VCA, James has won multiple Green Room Awards, a Goethe Institute Fellowship to Berlin, a creative fellowship with the State Library of Victoria, and is currently developing several TV projects with his development company *Ambidextrous Content*.

Some Acting credits include the feature films *The Turning* and *Animal Kingdom* and TV series including *Utopia, The Newsreader, The InBestigators* and *Five Bedrooms, True Story with Hamish and Andy* (S1 and 2), *Back in Very Small Business, It's A Date, Offspring, House Husbands, Party Tricks, Dr. Blake Mysteries, Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, Winners and Losers, Utopia Girls, City Homicide, Neighbours, Wilfred, Blue Heelers* and *Stingers*.

On stage, James has performed with the Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre, Company B Belvoir, Bell Shakespeare, Malthouse and La Mama, as well as in numerous Melbourne Festivals, and international festivals throughout Europe and USA. Some selected theatre credits include *The Graduate* with Jerry Hall for Kay and Maclean Productions; *Ganesh vs the Third Reich, Small Metal Objects,* for Back to Back Theatre touring to Europe and South America; *Noises Off, On the production of Monsters, Richard III, Don Juan in Soho, Woyceck,* all for the MTC; *Antigone* for Company B Belvoir, *Fat Pig* for STC, and Bell Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona.* 

James has won two Green Room Awards, including Best Actor for *The Black Swan of Trespass,* by Lally Katz in Melbourne and New York, (winner of 8 local and international Awards).

### MATTHEW BACKER as Jonathan Malik

Matthew graduated from NIDA in 2010. He made his professional debut playing the lead role of Frankie Valli in the Australian production of the internationally acclaimed musical *Jersey Boys* in 2011.

He has worked with some of Australia's leading theatre companies including Sydney Theatre Company (Jekyll & Hyde, Machinal, Orlando, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Chimerica, Cloud Nine), Bell Shakespeare (Henry V, The Tempest), Belvoir (Kill the Messenger), Griffin Theatre (Ladies Day), Queensland Theatre (Brisbane, Switzerland, Nearer the Gods) and Hayes Theatre (Only Heaven Knows, Young Frankenstein).

He is a current presenter on ABC's *Play School* and *Play School Art Time* and is also the host of ABC Kids Listen's successful improvised audio program, *Story Salad*.

His TV credits include Wellmania, Parent Up, Five Bedrooms, Operation Buffalo, Harrow, Dead Lucky, Home & Away and History Hunters. His film credits include Marley, Someone and Only for a Time. His short film credits include Whispers Among Wolves (Flickerfest, Sydney Film Festival, Palms Springs Film Festival, Hollywood Film Festival), Chicom, Echo Pines, The House and Latte e Miele. His audiobook credits include Seven Types of Ambiguity by Elliot Perlman and Infinite Splendours by Sofie Laguna.

Matthew has studied improvisation at the Upright Citizen's Brigade and the People's Improv Theatre in New York and at Second City in Los Angeles. He was the winner of a 2016 Broadway World Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for Sydney Theatre Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a 2016 Matilda Award for Best Actor in a Play for Queensland Theatre's *Switzerland* and 2017 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical for Hayes Theatre Co's *Only Heaven Knows*.

#### JULIAN GARNER as Jake

Julian is a National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) graduate.

His theatre credits include *The Turquoise Elephant* for Griffin Theatre Company, *Inner Voices* for Red Line Productions, *Arcadia* and *Storm Boy* for Sydney Theatre Company, *The Crucible, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* for Sport for Jove, and *Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, As You Like It, The Wars of the Roses, Measure for Measure* and *Twelfth Night* for Bell Shakespeare.

His television credits include Network Ten's series two of The Secret She Keeps, The Twelve, Top of the Lake: China Girl, Reckoning, Pulse, Janet King, McLeod's Daughters, Blackjack, Home and Away, and Peter Duncan-directed mini-series Operation Buffalo and Bump for Stan.

His film credits include *Top End Wedding, Killing Ground, Head On, The Children of the Corn* and *I Am Woman.* 

## TOMMY ROPATI as Manny Latu

Tommy Ropati has been acting for the past five years and has appeared numerous TV commercials, feature films and TV series such as *The Last King of the Cross, Heartbreak High, Wolf Like Me, 6 Festivals, Locusts* and *Streets of Colour.* 

Tommy has just been cast in the new ABC TV series Mother & Son.

Tommy Ropati knew that performing is for him. With his passion and acting skills, support from his families and friends, he continues to perform and do what he loves doing.

Tommy Ropati has attended acting classes, read acting books, learned acting on set, and has always collaborated with his acting network. He simply wants to become the best version of himself in each of his performances.

Born in New Zealand, now living in Australia with his wife and 2 daughters, he is now focused on honing his other skills and talents for more opportunities.



## **ABOUT THE KEY CREATIVES**

### **HELEN BOWDEN** Executive Producer

Helen Bowden is one of Australia's most prolific and highly awarded drama producers.

She is currently in production on *After the Party*, a drama series for TVNZ starring Robyn Malcolm and Peter Mullan, and *Erotic Stories*, an anthology series for SBS. She is also completing post-production on *Queen of Oz*, a comedy starring Catherine Tate *(Doctor Who)* for BBC1 and Fifth Season. In 2022, she delivered a second season of The Secrets She Keeps, starring Laura Carmichael (Downton Abbey) and Jessica de Gouw (The Crown) for BBC1 and Paramount+ Australia. The first Australian drama to sell to BBC1 primetime in over 25 years, *Secrets* has also sold to major players in almost every territory worldwide, including TF1 in France, Sundance/AMC in the US and CBC in Canada.

Other recent credits include *Lambs of God* starring Ann Dowd, Essie Davis and Jessica Barden (which received a record-breaking 18 nominations and nine wins at the 2019 AACTA Awards); two seasons of UK/Australian co-production *Upright* starring Tim Minchin; *On the Ropes* starring Keisha Castle Hughes; and *Wake in Fright* starring David Wenham.

Helen was a founder and the foundation Managing Director of Matchbox Pictures, which formed in 2008. The company sold to NBCUniversal in early 2014. In 2015, Helen formed Lingo Pictures with Jason Stephens and she is the Managing Director.

### MATT CAMERON Executive Producer/Writer

An award-winning screenwriter, creator, producer, showrunner and playwright, his screen credits include creator/writer/executive producer of Disney+ psychological drama *The Clearing* starring Teresa Palmer, Miranda Otto and Guy Pearce; series creator/writer/producer/showrunner of *Jack Irish* starring Guy Pearce; series creator/ showrunner/writer of Foxtel/Netflix political thriller *Secret City* starring Jacki Weaver and Anna Torv; series creator/writer/co-producer of AACTA and AWGIE Award-winning Best Miniseries *Sunshine* starring Anthony LaPaglia and Melanie Lynskey for SBS; writer/story for International Emmy Award-winning Best TV Miniseries *Safe Harbour* for SBS; creator/writer/story for Logie Award-winning Best Drama *Molly* for the Seven Network. He has also written numerous award-winning plays for the theatre, produced throughout Australia and the world.



### JASON STEPHENS Producer

Jason Stephens is one of Australia's most prolific and highly awarded drama producers having produced 14 dramas in his career. He is Creative Director of Lingo Pictures.

Jason recently completed Catherine Tate's *Queen of Oz* for BBC 1, and Markus Zusak's The Messenger for ABC Australia. He also recently delivered the highly anticipated second season of *Upright*, a co-production for Foxtel Australia and Sky UK, starring Tim Minchin. The first series received ardent critical and audience acclaim, being nominated for Best International Drama at the 2020 Edinburgh TV Awards, alongside *Succession* and *Game of Thrones*. Jason served as lead Producer on both seasons.

Jason was also the lead Producer on *Lambs of God*, a miniseries which now ranks as one of Australia's most successful TV drama exports. Starring Emmy Award-winner Ann Down (*The Handmaid's Tale*), Essie Davis and Jessica Barden, the series premiered in Official Competition at Series Mania in Lille. *Lambs of God* received a record-breaking 18 nominations and nine wins at the 2019 AACTA Awards.

Jason's other credits include: The award-winning telemovie *The King, Devil's Dust, Killing Time, Better Man* and *Mr and Mrs Murder.* He was also an Executive Producer on *The Secrets She Keeps,* starring Laura Carmichael and Jessica de Gouw (which recently aired a second season on BBC One and Paramount+, and sold to numerous territories worldwide), and *On the Ropes,* starring Keisha Castle-Hughes and Nicole Chamoun.

These shows were produced under the Lingo Pictures umbrella, a company that Jason formed in 2015 with Helen Bowden. Jason has also created shows with Ben Elton, Catherine Tate, Shaun Micallef and members of Working Dog.

### **ANDY WALKER Producer**

Andy Walker has produced over 150 hours of drama and narrative comedy for Australian and International audiences. Recent credits include Kate McCartney & Kate McLennan's comedy mystery series, *Spreadsheet, Five Bedrooms* Season 2 and all five seasons of Celia Pacquola & Luke McGregor's hit comedy series *Rosehaven*. Walker was also the Casting Director on *Rosehaven*.

Other drama and comedy credits include *True Story With Hamish & Andy*, Season 1 of *Wanted* and Anne Edmonds' *The Edge of the Bush.* 

Walker co-produced Seasons 1 and 2 of *The Family Law* and was one of the producers of the multi-award winning *The Kettering Incident*. Earlier drama credits include *Wonderland* and *Mr & Mrs Murder, Satisfaction* and the internationally acclaimed *Answered* 

by Fire. Other narrative comedy credits include A Moody Christmas, Laid Season 2 and Woodley. Walker spent the first ten years of his career working for industry legends, Roger Simpson and Roger Le Mesurier.

## JENNIFER LEACEY Set Up/Director - Block 1

Jennifer is a graduate from AFTRS and recipient of the Foxtel Scholarship in her year. Her graduating film Connection screened at international film festivals worldwide including Palm Springs and New York.

Prior to graduation, Jennifer was assistant director on an array of internationally recognised feature films culminating in the directing of splinter units satellite units on Baz Luhrmann features The Great Gatsby and Australia.

Following graduation, Jennifer's directing work in TV has included the AACTA nominated *The Commons* for Playmaker/Sony/Stan, AACTA nominated *The Secret She Keeps* for Network 10/BBC1 (which ended up on BBC1 top ten rated shows of 2020), *Reckoning* for Playmaker/Sony airing on Netflix US/UK garnering tweets of praise from Stephen King.

Earlier on in her directing career, Jennifer directed episodes of Frayed - Season 1 for Merman/ABC/Sky UK (the series earning a BAFTA nomination for lead actress Sarah Kendall), Rake for Easy Tiger/ABC, ADG Nominated Telemovie Mary: The Making of a Princess for Fremantle/Network 10, Wanted Season 1 starring Rebecca Gibney for Matchbox/NBCU (nominated for an International Emmy) and more recently, The Secrets She Keeps for Network 10.

Jennifer is currently working on a new series for Endemol Shine as set up director, developing a feature with Triptych Pictures, *Lost Cat* and adapting a thriller series from a novel.

### SHAUN WILSON Director - Block 2

Hobart based Shaun Wilson works internationally directing projects like *Frayed* for Sky One/HBO max/ABC, *Romantic Getaway* for Sky, *Rosehaven* for ABC/Sundance TV/Amazon, *The Young Offenders* for BBC, and *The Ex-PM* for ABC. He previously co-created and directed the award winning web series *Noirhouse* for ABC iview.

As a commercial director he's won awards for campaigns like *The Wanderer* and *The Unconformity*, as well as directing a Gruen pitch-winning commercial for agency Red Jelly.

He previously ran commercial production company Pananda, was a partner in design company Bluehat, and served on the board of Wide Angle Tasmania for several years.









#### **BELINDA CHAYKO Writer**

Belinda Chayko is a writer, director and showrunner for film and television. She was showrunner and co-creator of the six-part anthology *Fires* (ABC), covering the catastrophic bushfires of 2019/20, which won the Logie, AACTA and AWGIE awards for best mini-series. She was also showrunner and head writer of the mini-series *Safe Harbour* (SBS), winner of an International Emmy Award, among other awards.

She co-wrote/story-produced *Stateless* (ABC), starring Cate Blanchett and Yvonne Strahovski. Co-creator/writer of two seasons of Foxtel's *Secret City* with Matt Cameron, she was also one of the key writers on the ABC AWGIE award-winning series *Barracuda*.

She has written for a number of other series, as well as the AWGIE-winning screenplay for the SBS telemovie *Saved*. She has directed two feature films - *Lou*, starring John Hurt (which she also wrote) and *City Loop*, starring Sullivan Stapleton. Both films screened internationally at major festivals, including Toronto and Pusan.

#### LIZ DORAN Writer

Liz Doran is an internationally acclaimed writer/producer known for her work on the much loved shows, *Please Like Me* and *Ready For This*, both of which won multiple Australian and International awards as well as being nominated for an International Emmy.

In 2022, Liz was a co-creator (with Michael Lawrence and John Molloy), Executive Producer and lead writer on *Barons* (ABC), screening soon on The CW Network. She previously collaborated with Molloy when she co-created and wrote the first episode of Molly, which had the highest consolidated ratings for an Australian drama series. Liz has written for many more drama series including *Doctor Doctor, Dance Academy, The Secret Life of Us* and *Sugar Rush* (UK).

In 2020, Liz formed the production company Good Lark, whose first production, *The Tailings*, a short form drama series (6 x 10 mins), which she developed and produced, screened on SBS On Demand and Topic (US). *The Tailings* went on to win the AACTA Award for Best Short Form Fiction in 2022.

# LOUISE FOX Writer

Louise Fox's career has traversed television, film, theatre and radio. She is the co-creator, EP and showrunner of three seasons of Netflix/ABC hit drama series *Glitch*, which was awarded Best Drama at the 2015 AACTA Awards and Most Outstanding Drama Series at the 2016 Logies. Louise wrote on *Significant Others* for ABC and Fremantle.

Louise was a core member of the writing team for Love My Way. In 2004, she won the AWGIE Award for Best Screenplay in a Television Drama for episode 8 in the first series. Louise spent two years working with Lucas Film on the Star Wars live action television series and wrote several episodes of Camelot (Starz). Louise wrote an episode for first season of hit drama Broadchurch (ITV), and also wrote on The Kettering Incident for Porchlight Films, which aired in 2016 and won the AACTA for Best Television Drama Series and SPA Award for Best Miniseries.

Louise wrote the feature screenplay *Dead Europe*, adapted from the novel by Christos Tsiolkas. The film premiered in competition at the 2012 Sydney Film Festival, and the screenplay won both the NSW Premier's Award and the Queensland Literary Award in 2013.

She won a centenary medal for her work in children's TV including Round The Twist and Genie From Down Under. Her play This Little Piggy was commissioned and produced by The STC Blueprints season in 2005. Her adaptation of Tartuffe was performed at Malthouse Theatre in 2008. With Luke Devenish she adapted Elizabeth - Almost by Chance a Woman for Malthouse in 2010 and the Queensland Theatre Company in 2012. Her adaptation of Kafka's The Trial was staged by the STC in Sydney, the Malthouse in Melbourne and Thin Ice in Perth.

She is currently developing projects for BBC Scotland, Netflix and SBSI

## **HUGH MILLER** Director of Photography - Block 1

Hugh Miller is an award-winning cinematographer, working across feature documentary, documentary series, features and television.

His many, critically acclaimed documentary credits include The Kids (dir. Eddie Martin / Resolution Media, 2021), Under The Volcano (dir. Gracie Otto / Rush Films, 2021), 2040 (dir. Damon Gameau / GoodThing Productions and Regan Pictures, 2019), and Ghosthunter (dir. Ben Lawrence / Ghosthunter One and Madman Entertainment, 2018), which screened at multiple festivals around the world, receiving an AWGIE Award for Best Writing for a Documentary Feature, an AACTA Award nomination for Best Feature-Length Documentary, the Sydney Film Festival Best Australian Documentary Award in 2018; in addition to earning Hugh a 2018 AACTA Award for Best Cinematography in a Documentary. In 2015 he was the cinematographer on Sherpa (dir. Jennifer Peedom / Arrow Media and Felix Media), which won Best Feature Length Documentary at the 2015 AACTA Awards, Best Documentary at the 2017 Australian Film Critics Association Awards; and earned Hugh a 2015 AACTA Award nomination for Best Cinematography in a Documentary, and a 2017 Australian Film Critics Association Award nomination for Best Cinematography. He previously partnered with Jennifer Peedom in 2008 on Miracle





on Everest (Essential Media and National Geographic), earning him the 2009 Australian Cinematographers Society Award of Distinction for Dramatised Documentaries.

With a focus on more scripted, narrative dramas, in 2020 Hugh worked on writer/director JJ Winlove's debut feature film, *June Again*, starring Noni Hazlehurst and Claudia Karvan. In 2019, he partnered with writer/director Ben Lawrence again for *Hearts and Bones* (Night Kitchen Productions), a critically lauded feature which premiered locally at the 2019 Sydney Film Festival, where it played in Official Competition, and had its international premiere at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival, where the screenings were followed by standing ovations. In 2022, Hugh served as the cinematographer on Fremantle and ABC's television series *Significant Others* (dir. Tony Krawitz).

## MURRAY LUI Director of Photography - Block 2

Born on Thursday Island and raised on Poruma; a small community in the Torres Strait - it was teenage interest in stills photography and video cameras that led Murray Lui to what is now a full-time passion and profession.

Most recently, Murray shot director Wayne Blairs' new feature film *Top End Wedding*; which was written by Miranda Tapsell and Josh Tyler. The Goalpost Pictures produced film will also star Miranda Tapsell. 2018 also included Season 3 of Luke McGregor and Celia Pacquola comedy *Rosehaven* for the ABC. This show produced by Guesswork TV and directed by Jonathan Brough and Shaun Wilson is shot in beautiful Tasmania. He also shot Season 3 of the Scarlett Pictures/ABC skit comedy series *Black Comedy*.

In 2017, Murray was the cinematographer on the first ever drama commission by NITV – *Grace Beside Me*. The 13 x 30 mins children series was based on the book by author Sue McPherson – and filmed in and around Beaudesert in Queensland. *Wrong Kind of Black*, shot the same year – produced by Princess Pictures and directed by Catriona McKenzie, debuted to enthusiastic reviews at Series Mania ACMI in 2018.

In past years, Murray has worked with the ABC and SBS on some of their short television programs, both drama and documentary, including *Jacob*, (which won him the ACS Golden Tripod in 2009), *The Family Law* (Seasons 1 & 2), Art+Soul 2, *Gods of Wheat Street* (Episodes 5 & 6), *8MMM Aboriginal Radio, Embedded with Blackfellas, In a League of Their Own* and the *Bit of Black Business* series.

A Masters graduate of the prestigious Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), Murray is an award-winning cinematographer specialising in Drama, TV and Documentary. He enjoys projects that interest and fuel his passion for the creative

collaborative storytelling processes. He is known for his diligence to story and craft. His approachable nature, and his professionalism make him a great addition to any production.

## PETE BAXTER Production Designer

Pete Baxter is a highly respected Production Designer working in television, film and advertising.

Pete is currently designing *Total Control* Series 2 following a successful series one. Prior to rejoining the team, Pete designed *Children of the Corn*, directed by Kurt Wimmer, one of the few projects which shot through the height of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Originating from a fine arts background (BA Visual Arts, Sculpture – Sydney College of the Arts) and furthering his studies at The Australian Film, Television and Radio School, Pete's approach is well considered and detailed, specific to the world the production inhabits. Environments envisaged and created include the trenches of Gallipoli, a gym in western Sydney, an asylum vessel, Sydney in the 20's and 70's and a village in Laos to mention a few. Physical locations range from Kolkata to Canberra.

Pete has enjoyed creative collaborations in recent years with directors Rachel Perkins, Shannon Murphy, Jeffrey Walker, and Glendyn Ivin. These projects include *Total Control*, a 6 x 60 minute drama for ABC, *On the Ropes*, a TV Mini Series for Lingo Pictures/SBS, *Riot*, for Werner Productions/ABC for which he was nominated for a 2018 AACTA Award for Best Production Design in Television, the TV Miniseries *Safe Harbour* for Matchbox Pictures and SBS, *Deadline Gallipoli* for Matchbox Pictures and Foxtel. Earlier films include the award winning feature, *The Rocket* directed by Kim Mordaunt, for which he was nominated for both AACTA and APDG Awards, Belinda Chayko's feature, *Lou, The Waiting* City directed by Claire McCarthy, and *The Tender Hook* directed by Jonathan Ogilvie for which Pete again received an AFI nomination.

Pete works with carefully selected Art Department professionals, specialists and artists who share his passion for creating vibrant and engaging worlds for the screen. He enjoys leading effective, enthusiastic and productive teams where a sense of humour is highly regarded.

### JAN HURLEY Costume Designer

Jan has enjoyed an extremely varied and extensive career designing across film, television/digital, advertising and theatre, with wide ranging experience working in both the costume and art departments.

Contemporary dramas she has designed have been diverse in style, scope and genre. Jan has most recently production designed







The Gamers 2037 for Ambience Entertainment, a television series aimed at a teen audience set in the dystopian future. Other recent projects have included sketch comedy television series Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am and web series Patrica Moore (horror). Previous projects have ranged from creating costumes for the vibrant, alternative inhabitants that populate the Northern Rivers setting of East of Everything, to the depiction of the gritty, innercity community of Redfern Now and the competitive world of a prestigious ballet school on Dance Academy. She has meticulously researched and realised costumes for many period productions for both the stage and screen, including television mini-series Melba, Brock, and dramatised documentaries Darwin's Brave New World, Catalpa Rescue and Rogue Nation.

In tandem with designing for long form projects, she has also production designed many TVCs and stills. Recent TVC collaborations include Almond Breeze with director Jeffrey Darling, Codral The Voice with director Jeremy Goodall, Hasbro Nerf Christmas with Jason Azcona and Look Good Feel Better with Scott Gibson.

Jan received an AFI Award for Costume Design for Silver City, a feature film set in the milieu of post-war migration. Her work on My Fair Lady was recognised by a Green Room Award for Excellence in Design for Music Theatre. She was nominated for an AACTA Award for her costumes on telemovie Mary: The Making of a Princess. She also received a nomination for an APDG award for Best Costume Design for Web Series Patricia Moore.

## WIZZY MOLINEAUX Hair & Make Up Designer

Wizzy Molineaux is one of Australia's most noted hair and makeup designers with almost three decades of experience. Her recent credits across film and television include, as head of the department, the television series *Pieces of Her, Between Two Worlds, A Place to Call Home, Rake, Janet King* and *Paper Giants: The Birth of Cleo.* She was key makeup artist on Baz Luhrmann's The Great Gatsby and also worked on Luhrmann's earlier films *Australia* and *Moulin Rouge.* Wizzy was also a makeup artist on *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.* 

## ADRIAN ROSTIROLLA Editor - Block 1

An editor with over 20 years of experience, Adrian Rostirolla has been nominated for nine Australian Screen Editor awards, winning in 2008 for short film *The Ground Beneath*. Working across factual, documentary feature, television drama and feature drama, Adrian's credits include documentaries *A Cinematic Life* and *Playing with Sharks*, feature films *Kokoda* and *Infini*, and television dramas *Love Child* and *The Secrets She Keeps*. Adrian's work has travelled the world, picking up Oscar, AACTA, Logie and International Emmy

nominations along the way. His most recent editing nomination was for the documentary feature *Playing with Sharks* at the 2021 AACTA Awards.

### NICOLE LA MACCHIA Editor - Block 2

Nicole La Macchia is a highly experienced screen editor with three Australian Screen Editor Awards for *Pulse* and *Catching Milat* and a nomination for *Eden*. She also won the LA Web Fest Outstanding Achievement in Editing Award for *Starting From...Now* and was nominated for an AACTA for *Janet King*. Her numerous additional credits include *The Messenger, The Twelve, Last King of the Cross, Love is a Four Letter Word* and *Bloom*.

## **AMANDA BROWN Composer**

Amanda Brown is a screen music composer, musician and songwriter from Sydney, Australia. She has been composing music for stage and screen since 2000 and before that enjoyed a career as a multi-instrumentalist in several bands, playing violin, guitar, mandolin and oboe. She was a member of beloved Australian group The Go-Betweens, with whom she recorded two albums (Tallulah and 16 Lovers Lane) and toured the world.

Amanda's screen music credits include feature films *Here Out West, A Sunburnt Christmas* (with Damien Lane), *Babyteeth and Son Of A Lion.* Feature documentaries include *Step Into Paradise* (with Nick Wales), *Brazen Hussies, The Family* and *Red Obsession* (with Burkhard Dallwitz). Amanda has scored drama series *Deadloch, RFDS, The Secrets She Keeps, On The Ropes* (with Endorphin) and *Grace Beside Me.* 

In 2020 Amanda won AACTA Awards in both Best Music Score (Babyteeth) and Documentary categories (Brazen Hussies). She also won the APRA/AGSC Award for Best Music Television Series (The Secrets She Keeps) and in 2019 Amanda won the Soundtrack Stars Critics Award at Venice for Babyteeth.

Amanda is a writer director board member and screen composer ambassador for APRA (Australasian Performing Right Association) and in 2021 she became a new member (music branch) of The Academy Of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences.

# TIM FINN Original songs

Tim Finn is a New Zealand singer and musician. His musical career began as a member of New Zealand's art-rock pioneers, Spit Enz, and he eventually emerged as one of the band's chief songwriters and most recognizable voices. Since that time Finn has released a number of solo albums, and was for a time a member of brother Neil Finn's band Crowded House. He and Neil Finn have also released albums as the Finn Brothers.



The versatility of Tim Finn's stage performances led him to try his hand at acting, as well as composing music for television and motion picture soundtracks. As a composer for film and television, Finn added to the soundtrack for such films as *Puberty Blues* and *Les Patterson* Saves the World. Tim Finn wrote songs for several other major motion pictures, including the song "Winter Light" for the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.* 

In addition to his soundtracks for television, motion pictures and dance, Tim Finn as written two major theatrical compositions. His opera Star Navigator was performed by the Victorian Opera, West Australian Opera and the New Zealand Opera Company. In November 2015, Finn premiered the stage musical Ladies in Black in Brisbane, Australia as performed by the Queensland Theatre Company. Based on the novel "The Women in Black" by author Madeleine St. John and a book for the stage written by Carolyn Burns, the play features music and lyrics composed by Tim Finn.

Tim's musical work on *Prosper* also marks his first genuine collaboration with son Harper, who continues to emerge as an accomplished artist in his own right.

## HARPER FINN Original songs

Harper's music is an ode to the coming of age; reflections on his life, on others' lives, as observations of modern love, youth and young adulthood.

Harper self-released his first single 'Look Who's Sorry Now' in 2019. Upon signing a record deal with Warner Music, he released 'Conversations with the Moon' and 'Teenage Queen'. 'Conversations With the Moon' gained heavy rotation on Triple J and was added to Spotify 'Front Left' Playlist.

'Dance Away These Days' came out in October 2020 at the end of New Zealand's second major lockdown. The song was certified Gold in New Zealand and showed that Harper was just getting started.

2021 ended on a high for Harper when he won the 2021 Breakthrough Artist of the Year award at December's Aotearoa Music Awards. Harper released his first collection of songs, the EP Newcomer, in May 2022.

In February 2023 Harper collaborated for the first time with his father, Tim Finn, for the series *Prosper* to be streamed on Stan in 2024. Between them they wrote six songs which Harper then coproduced.

Now currently resident in the East Village in NYC, Harper is working on his first album with producer Sam Evian, taking weekly train trips up to his studio in Woodstock.



## CAST

Cal Quinn Richard Roxburgh

Abi Quinn Rebecca Gibney

Dion Quinn Ewen Leslie

Taz Quinn Ming-Zhu Hii

Issy Kalani Hayley McCarthy

Benji Kalani Jordi Webber

Jed Quinn Jacob Collins-Levy

Eli Slowik Jacek Koman

Maddox Alex FitzAlan

Juno Adebayo Andrea Solonge

Rosa Adebayo Brigid Zengeni

Moses Quinn Alexander D'Souza

Dan Gascoigne James Saunders

Jonathan Malik Matthew Backer

Jake Julian Garner

Manny Latu Tommy Ropati

# **CREATVIES**

Executive Producer Helen Bowden

Executive Producer/Writer Matt Cameron

Producer Jason Stephens

Producer Andy Walker

Set up/Block 1 Director Jennifer Leacey

Block 2 Director Shaun Wilson

Writer Louise Fox

Writer Belinda Chayko

Writer Liz Doran

DOP Block 1 Hugh Miller

DOP Block 2 Murray Lui

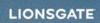
Production Designer Pete Baxter

Costume Designer Jan Hurley

Hair & Make Up Designer Wizzy Molineaux

Editor Block 1 Adrian Rostirolla















Stan's original production slate includes hit thriller series BLACK SNOW starring Travis Fimmel; TEN POUND POMS starring Michelle Keegan; 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; C\*A\*U\*G\*H\*T, a satirical comedy series from Kick Gurry and starring Sean Penn and Matthew Fox; 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.

For more information, visit stan.com.au.