

A **Stan.** ORIGINAL FILM

CHRISTMAS RAN\$OM



DECEMBER 1

For more information, contact stan.publicity@stan.com.au

SHORT SYNOPSIS

When beloved toy shop, Harrington & Sons, is hijacked on Christmas Eve by a pair of bumbling criminals, the struggling shop owner is held for ransom. But soon a pair of shoplifting kids stumble into the heist and must team up with a heavily pregnant security officer to save Christmas for everyone.

LONG SYNOPSIS

It's Christmas Eve at Harrington & Sons Toy Shop - once a glittering wonderland filled with clamouring kids, frazzled shoppers and all the magic and madness of the silly season. As ill-fated owner DERRICK HARRINGTON (Matt Okine) surveys the store, it still looks festive enough but in truth business is not going well and he may have to take desperate action...

Teenager PETE (Ed Oxenbould) is working the register while heavily pregnant security guard, GLADYS (Miranda Tapsell), has her eyes trained on the CCTV cams, searching for thieving children whom she tracks like a high-level CIA operative. Two slightly feral kids, loyal but clumsy 10-year-old WOMBAT (Evan Stanhope) and evil-genius 8-year-old BRADY (Tahlia Sturzaker) case the joint with rat-like cunning, expertly shoplifting the best toys on the shelves, but this time Gladys catches them red-handed.

As Derrick prepares to close for the evening and Pete is making his way out, rough-around-the-edges SHEZ (Bridie McKim) and NAN (Genevieve Lemon) make their way into the store. In a flash, they reveal they are armed and Derrick and Pete find themselves tied up with an assortment of Christmas decorations as their attackers' intent is revealed - this is a hostage situation and they are demanding ransom!

Derrick's estranged sister TERRI (Vivienne Awosoga),

owner of hit video game company, Territron Games, is working late when she receives a distressed call from her brother asking her to pay the ransom.

With Derrick and Pete trapped and the store locked down, Gladys, Wombat and Brady realise they are the only ones who can save the day, even though they are a motley crew - a heavily pregnant security guard and a pair of rag-tag, thieving kids!

As the group try to get help from the outside world, they set off a fire alarm in the store to draw the attention of firemen GREG (Chai Hansen), infatuated with Gladys following their short-lived relationship, and SAM (Matt Johnson), his best friend, relationship counsellor and fellow fireman.

Called to the scene is police negotiator CONSTABLE KAREN (Adele Vuko) accompanying Terri with the ransom money. When Terri is then captured herself by Nan's criminal reinforcements UNCLE RICKO (Rob Flanagan) and UNCLE JACKO (Mike Duncan), a prank-filled adventure as big as Christmas itself ensues.

As the group unite to save each other, they realise that sometimes Christmas miracles come true, but the miracles you get are not always the ones you think you need!

ONE LINER

When the owner of a beloved toy shop is held for ransom on Christmas eve, a pregnant security guard and a pair of shoplifting kids must come to the rescue!

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

CHRISTMAS RANSOM is a riotous comedy-adventure filled with heart and hijinks, appealing to a family audience looking for a shared movie experience that will make them laugh, cry and cheer for a Christmas miracle. This film is the must-watch holiday movie event that dispenses with twee clichés to deliver a hilarious and heartfelt Christmas story that audiences will return to every holiday season. With vibrant visual action Christmas Ransom pays loving homage to classic holiday films like DIE HARD, HOME ALONE and ELF, but delivered with authentic Australian comedy and pathos to engage a multi-generational audience. This is a story that brings together a mish-mash of unlikely characters who can only save the day by coming together as their own misfit but loyal family.

Built on the runaway success of the team's previous holiday film, A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS, this new comedy unashamedly embraces the Australian suburbs and centres on a long-standing family-owned toy shop facing tough economic times. The Harrington & Sons store embodies Christmas itself in all its visual trappings yet is also symbolic of family-run businesses that are

nostalgic touchstones for whole communities built over generations.

"The origins for this film were once more about avoiding straight sentimentality by colliding elements that don't seem to belong; Christmas and Criminals," says ECP Executive Producer and Story Producer Mike Jones, "That got us thinking about a hostage situation and what setting could be a great cauldron for action, adventure and hilarity in the most exciting Christmassy place we could think of. The answer had to be a toy shop."

The film brought back together the same writing team as A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS with the trio of Elliot Vella, Gretel Vella & Timothy Walker penning the script and working with director and comedian Christaan Van Vuuren. But stepping into the director's chair was first-time feature director, Adele Vuko. Having built a considerable reputation for her sketch comedy skills and short films, Adele was ready to take on the challenge of an action-comedy like CHRISTMAS RANSOM. Adele's experience as an actor and comedian really primed her for working with actors on set.



"I was so excited to work on this film. It's not just a Christmas movie or an action film or a comedy. It's a beautiful blend of all of them; it's got a lot of heart, it's got a lot of pathos... and that's what I wanted to bring out in the direction."

Producer Naomi Just said a Christmas movie was always on her bucket list. "The thing about Christmas films is that it brings out the big kids in everyone, so we were incredibly fortunate to have talented, eager creatives to work with across all departments. I think we all have holiday season films that are dear to our hearts and everyone involved was determined to create another movie that would become a family favourite."

Central to the film is the Harrington's toy shop so finding the perfect location was crucial and, according to Producer Naomi Just, "we were naturally led to the Western suburbs of Sydney. Most Australians live in the suburbs. It's where our most diverse and vibrant

communities are and it's the suburbs where family businesses become much loved local institutions." Western Sydney also gave the production the scale and the size of the space needed for an authentic suburban toy store. "We were very lucky to find this location in Homebush that can house not only the look and the feel, the logistics of the story, but also the infrastructure of filming."

Production Designer, Fiona Donovan, was tasked with the job of bringing the shop to life, saying, "I had the wonderful opportunity to imagine Christmas, past, present, and future. In the past it's this really magical old-fashioned toy shop but in the present poor Derek is trying to make a go of a business that's not going well and so it's like the faded glory and everything's for sale... there's lots of sale stickers and everything's just sad but the magic is still there to be rekindled."

CHRISTMAS RANSOM brings together a stellar cast blending experienced performers with new talent in a genuine ensemble. At the heart of the series is audience-favourite Miranda Tapsell playing security guard Gladys. Executive Producer Drew Grove describes Tapsell as “so genuinely warm and funny, she really fulfilled our vision of Gladys as we slowly unravel her hard exterior.” Playing alongside her as the hapless shop owner, Derrick, is seasoned comedian and actor, Matt Okine who according to Grove was “Perfect. Able to bring levity and humour to the role whilst remaining emotionally grounded and real.”

Bridie McKim not only played the role of Shez but was also involved in the development of her character in the script bringing her lived experience to the depiction of Shez as criminal who doesn't let her disability get in her way. Paired with her is veteran actor Ed Oxenbould in the role of Pete, who makes for a most unlikely love-interest for Shez and, according to Producer Naomi Just “is really the heart of the show. He carries all the positivity and joy, always seeing the good and bringing out the best in people. And at the same time he is hilariously funny!”

Stage and screen stalwart Genevieve Lemon is the movie's villain playing the manipulative and fearless criminal mastermind known only as Nan. “There really is no actor who could better embody the mix of comedy and danger as well as Genevieve” says Drew Grove, “she brought so much experience and craft to set every day”.

Central to the story are the two fearless kids who have been sleeping out in the toy shop, Wombat and Brady played by newcomers Evan Stanhope and Tahlia Sturzaker. For EP Drew Grove “the moment we auditioned Evan and Thalia they had such a great rapport and fantastic actor instincts. They really did round out a dream cast.”

Director of Photography Emma Paine observed, “The thing I enjoy most as a DP is the ways the camera can elevate the story and elevate character journeys and in a movie like this it's such fun to play with that many characters in the one space.” The result is a film that brings a lot of heart and humour to a feel good movie of holiday fun.



CHARACTERS

GLADYS

Gladys is the workaholic, overly enthusiastic and heavily pregnant Head of Security at Harrington & Sons Toy Shop. She is wholly dedicated to catching shoplifting kids and runs her security office like the Pentagon. Despite her impending motherhood, Gladys treats all kids like bad eggs until proven otherwise, but deep down she is actually just afraid that she might not be cut out for parenthood. However, when Derrick is taken ransom and the store is under siege, Gladys is forced to first catch and then care for two wily kid thieves, forcing her to confront her fear of parenthood head on.

DERRICK HARRINGTON

Derrick is the well-meaning but ill-fated owner of Harrington & Sons Toy Shop. The years of struggling to keep his father's business alive have left him perpetually rundown and with a good deal more grey hairs and crows-feet than everyone else his age. With the new generation of kids only interested in screens, Derrick has become jaded and disconnected from what he once loved about the family store. Blind to the good things in his life, particularly with respect to his sister and late-father, and with the store in debt, Derrick is looking for a way out, while still wanting to provide for his employees before the store closes its doors for good.



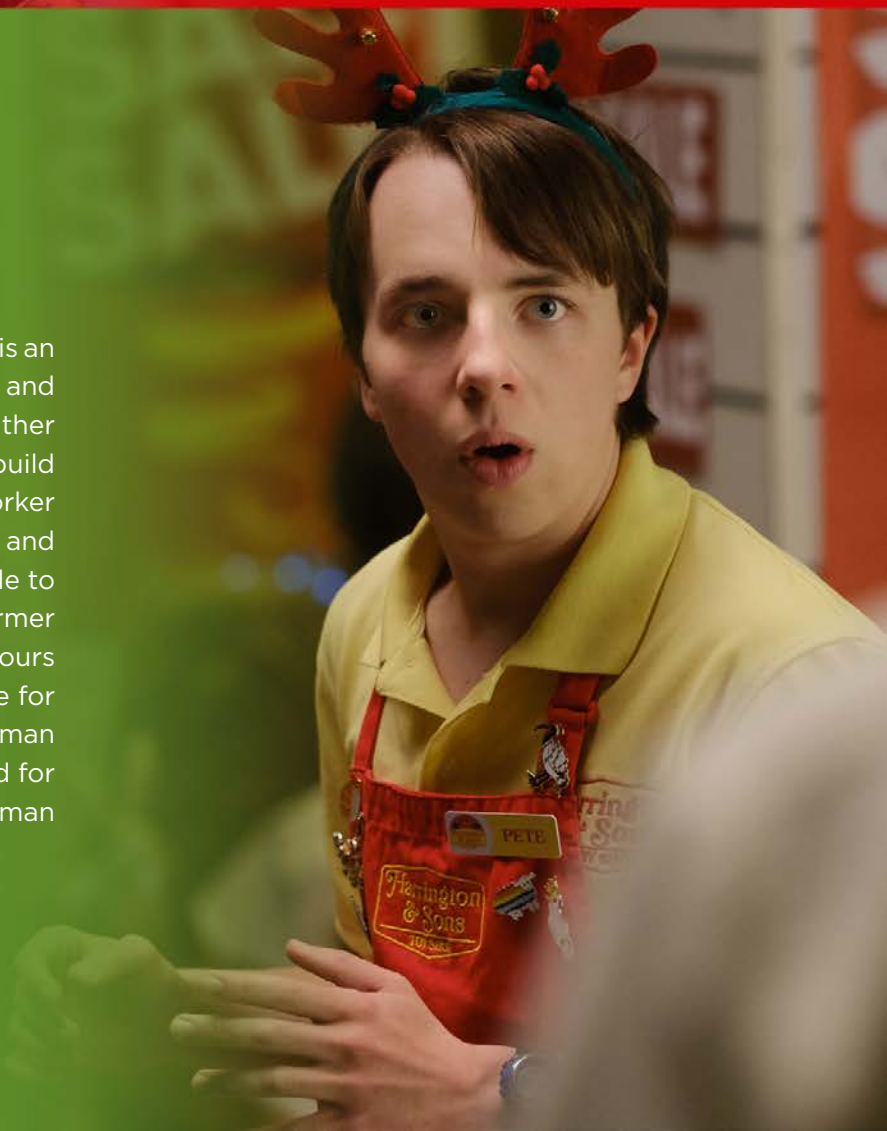


NAN

Nan is an unassuming but hard-nosed career criminal who's spent much of her adult life in jail. She's no spring chicken but has the strength of an ox. Recently released from prison, her only family is Shez who Nan views as a perpetual disappointment. Nan's life in and out of the joint has made her profoundly selfish and she won't hesitate to put herself first, believing strictly in her mantra of 'Trust Nobody'. She is the ultimate opportunist and in many ways a bully with a very short fuse - but she's also patient and cunning. She will bide her time before revealing her true self.

PETE

The older brother of Wombat and Brady, Pete is an eternal optimist who has had to grow up fast and improvise a life for his siblings when their father abandoned them. With a lanky, pubescent build that has yet to fill out Pete is a dedicated worker at Harrington & Sons, desperate for approval and recognition, but at the same time often unable to stand up for himself. He's a dorky-cute charmer yet worries daily about not getting enough hours at the store to save money to get a real place for him and his siblings to live. Pete is a young man looking for stability in an uncertain world, and for him, his boss Derrick represents exactly the man he would like to emulate.





SHEZ

Covered in haphazard tattoos, Shez is a hard-edged, bogan rough-nut of a young woman who's had a hard life on the train platforms of Dapto station. She's stocky, rough and grungy and has cerebral palsy, so she walks with limp. Shez wants to help her Nan get a fresh start, having remained loyal to her while Nan served time in prison. But Shez lacks self-respect and Nan constantly accuses her of lacking ambition and being too trusting. Thieving doesn't come naturally to Shez but it's all she knows. She presents with a lot of bluster and thinks she's tougher than she really is, but deep down Shez is craving a better, more honest future.



WOMBAT

Compared to his scrawny sister Brady, Wombat is heavier-set with a kind face and driven by a kind of manic, nervous energy. Wombat wears his heart on his sleeve and is quick to both laugh, cry and panic - his perpetual nervousness often revealed in excessive farting. Wombat is a sensitive and emotionally complex kid who loves Christmas and would do anything for his family. Wombat and his sister are two rough and tumble siblings who've developed a level of self-reliance and ingenuity far beyond their years. With absent parents and a hard-knock up-bringing they are determined to create the perfect Christmas for themselves by nicking everything they can lay their hands on in Harrington & Sons!



BRADY

Brady is a weedy, cunning, evil genius. Frighteningly clever, hyper observant and a whizz with gadgets, she is the brains to her brother Wombat's ... something. Brady's intellectual focus is a defence mechanism to the hardships she has faced as a kid and with a toughened exterior, Brady shows no fear.



TERRI HARRINGTON

Unlike her brother Derrick, Terri did not inherit the family toy store after their father died. Feeling scorned and rejected as a result, Terri distanced herself from the family legacy and went out to build something of her own. Since then, she has achieved great success with her video-game company. But in the pursuit of capitalistic success, she grew estranged from Derrick and seems to have lost touch with the love of toys, Christmas and childhood she once had. Deep down, Terri only wants to feel included in the Harrington & Sons family business, a luxury that she feels Derrick 'the golden son' took for granted.



ABOUT THE CAST

MIRANDA TAPSELL as Gladys

Miranda Tapsell is a proud Larrakia and Tiwi woman from Darwin who grew up in Kakadu National Park.

Best known for her television series *LOVE CHILD* for which she won two Logie Awards, she's been in television series including *DOCTOR DOCTOR*, *SECRET CITY*, *GET KRACKIN*, *CLEVERMAN WOLF CREEK*, *PLAY SCHOOL* and three seasons of the animation *LITTLE J & BIG CUZ*. Miranda also stars in the Netflix animated feature *BACK TO THE OUTBACK*, released in December 2021 and the ABC comedy series *SUMMER LOVE*. She will next be a voice in the ABC Kids animation *KANGAROO BEACH 2*.

Miranda co-wrote, co-produced and starred in the film *TOP END WEDDING* which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was released theatrically in May 2019 to stellar reviews and box office success. The film reached a global

audience when it was released on Netflix shortly after. Recently seen in the box office success *THE DRY* alongside Eric Bana, she's most renowned for her phenomenal performance in the film *THE SAPPHIRES*, starring as the feisty Cynthia, a movie that has resonated with audiences internationally.

Along with her best friend, Nakkiah Lui, Miranda co-hosts the podcasts *PRETTY FOR AN ABORIGINAL* and *DEBUTANTE*.

On the stage, she was last seen in *BLACK IS THE NEW WHITE*, which toured to sold out crowds every night in Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne. She's also been seen in *THE LITERATI* at The Stables, *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* and *RADIANCE* at Belvoir Street as well as the *SECRET RIVER* at STC.

Miranda is an accomplished author publishing a memoir, *TOP END GIRL* and children's book *AUNTY'S WEDDING*.



MATT OKINE as Derrick

Multi-talented actor, writer & presenter Matt Okine is one of Australia's favourite award-winning comedians, having spent over 15 years appearing on screens and stages around Australia and the world.

Matt spent 3 years co-hosting Triple J radio's hugely successful Breakfast Show before hanging up his headphones to go into production on the television adaption of his award-winning semi-autobiographical stand up show THE OTHER GUY for Australian SVOD service, STAN. Matt co-wrote and starred in two seasons of the show which can be seen on STAN and Hulu, and which earned him AACTA nominations for Subscription TV Best New Talent (2017), and Best Comedy Series (2020).

Okine has won several awards for his live shows including the ARIA Award for Best Comedy Release, The Melbourne Comedy Festival's Director's Choice Award, and the Best Newcomer Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival (which he shared with Ronny Chieng), as well as being nominated for Best Comedy Performer at the Helpmann Awards. In 2018 he

hosted the prestigious Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala screening on the ABC.

On screen, Matt has appeared in several shows including 9 PERFECT STRANGERS, STATELESS, DOCTOR DOCTOR, H2O: JUST ADD WATER, LEGALLY BROWN, ORANGE IS THE NEW BROWN. He's appeared in films SEE NO EVIL, AQUAMARINE, and Paramount's 'DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD'. He is also the host of the ABC cooking show, SHORTCUTS TO GLORY.

Matt's debut novel BEING BLACK N CHICKEN & CHIPS was released in 2019 by Hachette Australia, with a teen edition released in 2021. This heart-warming coming of age novel is based on his 2012 live show which earned him his Best Newcomer Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, and also a Best Newcomer Nomination at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Matt is currently the host of the award-winning daily breakfast podcast, Matt & Alex: All Day Breakfast, and is developing the film adaptation of his novel, BEING BLACK N CHICKEN & CHIPS, with Wooden Horse Productions and the Oscar-nominated team at Aquarius Films.



GENEVIEVE LEMON as Nan

In 1988, Genevieve created the role of Sweetie in Jane Campion's premiere feature of the same name. It was selected for Competition in Cannes and The New York Film Festival in the following year. She has worked with Jane many times since, including roles in *THE PIANO*, *THE TOP OF THE LAKE*, and most recently, *THE POWER OF THE DOG* as housekeeper Mrs Lewis. Other film credits include *HERE OUT WEST*, *SWEET RIVER*, *ACUTE MISFORTUNE*, *THE DRESSMAKER*, *BILLY'S HOLIDAY*, *HOLY SMOKE*, *SOFT FRUIT*, *SUBURBAN MAYHEM*, *THE WATER DIARY* and *LADIES IN BLACK*. She also has a tiny but telling appearance in the soon to be released *TICKET TO PARADISE*, with George Clooney and Julia Roberts.

Genevieve was in the Sydney premiere and the London seasons of Working Title's production of *BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL*, for which she won Helpmann, Sydney Theatre Critics, and Green Room Awards for actress in a leading role. She was also in the Australian premieres of *PRISCILLA*, *QUEEN OF THE DESERT THE MUSICAL*, *STEAMING*, and *STEEL MAGNOLIAS*, along with, for the Hayes Theatre Company, *VIOLET*, *MELBA*, and *CAROLINE OR CHANGE*.

Most recently, Genevieve was seen onstage in Simon Phillips' production of *NORTH BY NORTHWEST*, and *DUBBO CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING* at The Hayes. Other theatre credits include, for Belvoir St Theatre: *A TASTE OF HONEY*, *THE BLIND GIANT*

IS DANCING, *THE DEATH OF A SALESMAN* and *SEVENTEEN*; for the Ensemble Theatre: *FOLK*, *DIPLOMACY*, *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLF*, *TRIBES*, *BROKEN GLASS*; for Sydney Theatre Company: *THE HANGING*, *THE GIRL WHO SAW EVERYTHING*, *HANGING MAN*, *HARBOUR*, *HAY FEVER*, *MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG*, *MIRACLE CITY*, *MORNING SACRIFICE*, *NOISES OFF*, *ONCE IN A LIFETIME*, *THE RECRUIT*, *THE REPUBLIC OF MYOPIA*, *SUMMER RAIN*, *VICTORY*, *SUMMER RAIN*; for Melbourne Theatre Company: *PIAF*, *SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL*, *THE VENETIAN TWINS*; FOR GRIFFIN: *THE HOMOSEXUALS OR 'FAGGOTS'*, *THE BIG PICTURE*, and *CROCODILE INFESTED WATERS*.

Genevieve's television credits include: *THE TOURIST*, *EDEN*, *FRAYED*, *HEARTLAND*, *NEIGHBOURS*, *PRISONER*, *RAKE*, *REDFERN NOW*, *THE SECRET RIVER*, *THREE MEN AND A BABY GRAND*, *TOP OF THE LAKE* (Equity Ensemble Award), and a special guest starring role on *HOME AND AWAY*.

Genevieve has sung on cabaret stages over the world and released a live album of her Sydney Opera House concert, *ANGELS IN THE CITY*. She also performed in many incarnations of *THE WHARF REVUE* and shows at the legendary Tilbury Hotel.

Genevieve was most recently seen in the Toni Collette drama, *PIECES OF HER*.



ED OXENBOULD as Pete

Ed's film credits include THE EXCHANGE (Director Dan Mazer), WILDLIFE (Director/Writer Paul Dano), BETTER WATCHOUT (Director Chris Peckover) and THE BUTTERFLY TREE (Director Priscilla Cameron). Other credits include: M.Night Shyamalan's THE VISIT, Nominated: Best Performance by a Youth, Phoenix Critics Society Awards 2015, the Australian feature by Robert Connolly, PAPER PLANES for which Ed won Best Actor at the Antipodean Film Festival 2015 and for Walt Disney Pictures ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY with Steve Carrell & Jennifer Garner, Nominated: Best Performance by a Youth, Phoenix Film Critics Society Awards.

For the small screen Ed has recently completed filming the IRREVERANT series, also, BLOOM 2 (Sony Pictures/Playmaker), THE RECKONING (Sony Picture Television/Playmaker), DIARY OF AN UBER DRIVER (Revlover/ABC) in CHEVY (Chevy Chase pilot for ABC), COMEDY BANG! BANG! and the very successful Australian series, PUBERTY BLUES (seasons 1 & 2), SOUL MATES, TRICKY BUSINESS and UNDERBELLY.

Ed has also worked on many award winning short films including: AMBER AMULET for which Ed won Best Actor at The St Kilda Film Festival 2014 & the Special Jury Prize at Nashville Film Festival, the film won the Crystal Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and The Kids Audience Award at TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival), ALL GOD'S CREATURES for which he won Best Actor at Canberra Short Film Festival and JULIAN earning him an AACTA Award nomination for Best Young Actor. The film also won a variety of international awards including 2012 Berlin Film Festival, Crystal Bear Award, Generation K+Award; 2012 Hamburg Children's Film Festival, Tokyo Kinder Film Festival Best Short, Friese Award ,2012 Australian Film Festival, People's Choice Award; and 2012 Flickerfest, Special Jury Prize, Best Short Film Award.

More recently Ed enjoyed voicing the Australian feature animation COMBAT WOMBAT doing the voice of 'Sweetie', a superhero sugar glider. Ed has recently wrapped the feature, BEFORE DAWN (Based on the events of the Western Australian Anzacs).



BRIDIE MCKIM as Shez

Bridie graduated from NIDA by stepping into a lead role, Sabine, on the ABC TV drama *THE HEIGHTS*. Bridie has since completed a second season of the series.

Bridie's other screen credits include the Stan Original TV series *BUMP*, opposite Claudia Karvan, *DIVE CLUB* for the Steve Jaggi Company, the comedy web series *ALL WE HAVE IS NOW*, Laura Nagy & Daniel Monks' short film *BODIES*, and the multi-award winning short film *GIMPSEY*, directed by Sofya Gollan, for which Bridie won the Award of Merit for a Lead Actress in the Best Shorts Competition as well as a nomination for Best

Supporting Actress in the Madrid International Film Festival. Bridie starred in Fat Salmon Production's short film, *CINDERELLA*, for which she won Best Australian Actor at the Focus On Ability Short Film Festival.

Bridie's theatre credits include the role of School Girl in Downstairs Belvoir's production of *TUESDAY*, as well as *THIS HOLLOW CROWN*, *FACE IT, NOT OUR STORY* and *SAISON DE L'AMOUR* all for the Queensland Theatre Youth Ensemble and the role of Anya in the *THE CHERRY ORCHARD* for the Black Swan Theatre Company of Western Australia.

Most recently, she has starred in Netflix's *Irreverent* and in Stan's *JOE VS CAROLE*.



EVAN STANHOPE as Wombat

14-year-old Evan Stanhope studies acting at The McDonald College on Wangal Land in Sydney and takes private coaching with Ana Maria Belo.

Evan is passionate about performing on stage and screen. His credits include: THOR LOVE & THUNDER (Waititi-Disney) and yet to be released feature film WOODY WOODPECKER 2 (Rosenbaum-Universal). He has also appeared in television commercials for NRMA and Mood Tea.

Always open to new experiences, Evan has also performed in the children's chorus for Opera Australia's production of TOSCA, and was a back-up dancer in the award-winning music video of Sonny Grin's KEEP IT UP (de Brito).

When he isn't acting, Evan enjoys working his way through the IMDB must see 100 movies, tinkering and building things (with mixed success), and raging against those not committed to social justice.

TAHLIA STURZAKER as Brady

Tahlia is a talented 11-year-old performer, she started acting at age 6 and currently trains at Stage Artz Drama School.

Recently she has starred in two feature Films, ASCENDANT AKA RISING WOLF (Dir: Anthony Furlong) and the Netflix film I AM MOTHER (Dir: Grant Sputore). Tahlia has also performed in numerous short films and TV commercials.

Tahlia is a passionate storyteller and particularly loves unique stories that focus on young women.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Executive Producer - DREW GROVE

As CEO of Every Cloud Productions, Drew Grove is a dynamic executive producer with proven business acumen overseeing company strategy at a domestic and international scale. With a professional background as commercial director spanning multiple creative sectors, Drew is well regarded as a screen industry innovator and has brought his expertise to bare on a range of successful productions including the global hit Miss Fisher series and feature film Miss Fisher and the Crypt Tears, as well as spin-off drama Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries. Other credits also include A Sunburnt Christmas and mystery drama series Eden for Stan, and the Channel 9 reboot of much-loved drama Sea Change. Drew is responsible for strategic shaping of Every Cloud's commercial expansion, the development of a pipeline of new business opportunities, and oversees the creative and production teams of Every Cloud.

Executive Producer / Story Producer - MIKE JONES

Mike Jones is a scripted drama producer and writer with a body of work that has received numerous accolades including AACTA, Emmy, Rockie, AWG, Logie, SPA, and ADG awards. Prior to joining Every Cloud as Head of Content, Mike worked with a range of companies including the ABC, WarnerBros, Jungle, and Princess Pictures. He collaborated on major international TV series including mystery-drama 'The Gloaming' and multi award-winning supernatural series 'The Kettering Incident' and was co-creator and writer of award-winning 13-part supernatural mystery drama, 'The Orchard', starring Eric Bana for Amazon's Audible. He story-produced the AACTA-winning youth drama series Deadlock and, for the ABC, led script development of much-loved comic-drama series F'cking Adelaide and Emmy-nominated Wrong Kind of Black. At Every Cloud Mike steers the company's diverse development slate TV series and feature-length projects and actively mentors and promotes new creative talent as well as collaborations with some of Australia's finest creative minds.



Executive Producer - FIONA EAGGER

Fiona Eagger is among Australia's most experienced and successful television producers. With astute creative, entrepreneurial and production expertise, Fiona founded Every Cloud Productions in 2009 with Deb Cox and quickly cemented a reputation for high quality and popular TV drama. This included co-creating, producing & executive producing three seasons of the runaway international success, MISS FISHER'S MURDER MYSTERIES, which has sold to more than 170 territories around the world.

Other Every Cloud productions Fiona has steered include legal-drama NEWTON'S LAW, indigenous series THE GODS OF WHEAT STREET, AACTA-winning youth drama DEADLOCK, Mss Fisher spin-off MS FISHER'S MODERN MURDER MYSTERIES, theatrical feature MISS FISHER & THE CRYPT OF TEARS, and ratings hit SEACHANGE. Most recently Fiona executive produced the mystery drama, EDEN, and comedy feature, A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS, for premium SVOD platform Stan.

Widely recognised as an industry leader Fiona has received numerous accolades including the Jill Robb Award for Service to the Victorian Screen industry, the Natalie Miller Fellowship for Women in Leadership, and Business Export award from Screen Producers Australia.

Executive Producer - DEB COX

As a creator, producer, and writer Deb Cox has been responsible for some of Australia's best loved productions. Forming Every Cloud Productions with

Fiona Eagger in 2009 she quickly created a body of successful and popular work including three seasons of MISS FISHER'S MURDER MYSTERIES, which has sold to more than 170 territories around the world.

Other Every Cloud Productions include legal-drama Newton's Law, indigenous series THE GODS OF WHEAT STREET, AACTA-winning youth-drama DEADLOCK, Miss Fisher spin-off MS FISHER'S MODERN MURDER MYSTERIES, theatrical feature MISS FISHER & THE CRYPT OF TEARS, and ratings hit SEACHANGE. This followed numerous productions from Deb's early career including SIMONE DEBEAUVOIR'S BABIES, feature film DEAD LETTER OFFICE, and drama SERIES SEACHANGE, CRASHBURN and EAST OF EVERYTHING. Most recently Deb has executive produced the mystery drama, EDEN, and comedy feature, A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS, for premium SVOD platform Stan.

A highly regarded industry leader Deb is the recipient of the Jill Robb Award for Service to the Victorian Screen industry and the Business Export award from Screen Producers Australia.

Producer - NAOMI JUST

Naomi Just has established herself as one of Australia's most versatile and experienced screen producers with productions spanning comedy, drama, animation, and documentary. Her body of work has garnered recognition across AACTA, AIDC, SPA, and Logie awards and she has delivered more than a hundred hours of broadcast content.



Her diverse credits include drama series THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS, stand-out children's adventure BORN TO SPY, and the hit comedies SAMMY J & RANDY IN RICKETTS LANE and RONNY CHIENG: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT. In addition Naomi's award-winning factual credits include STACKORAMA!, LIFE AT 9, LIFE AT 7, and AUSTRALIAN CRIME STORIES.

With a focus on putting female stories and storytellers firmly in the frame, Naomi oversees a dynamic slate championing new talent, most recently delivering celebrated short film SAFETY NET which screened at Sydney Film Festival, New Zealand International Film Festival, and Slamdance USA. Naomi also works in collaboration with some of the country's most successful companies such as Freemantle Media Australia, Every Cloud Productions, and Run Wild Productions as well as with leading talent including show runner Jane Allen, director Marcelle Lunam and actor/writer Chika Ikogwe.

Naomi is an active advocate for the screen industry and a member of Screen Producers Australia (SPA), the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), and Screen Vixens.

Director - ADELE VUKO

Adele Vuko is an actress, writer, director and producer. She is one-third of the comedy trio Skit Box, who have achieved over 100 million hits online for viral videos including parody music video ACTIVEWEAR (80 million views across Facebook and YouTube) and I GOT THAT FLOW (30 million views across Facebook and YouTube). Skit Box's 2016 sketch television series WHAM BAM THANK YOU MA'AM, which Adele co-created, co-wrote and co-directed, screened on ABC and SEESO, and their follow up series SKIT BOX: THE SERIES, which received funding through Screen Australia's Skip Ahead initiative.

Adele is currently directing her first feature, CHRISTMAS RANSOM, for Every Cloud Productions. Adele wrote an episode for the six-part mini-series LOVE ME, produced by Warner Bros. International Television Australia in association with Aquarius Films for Binge. LOVE ME was nominated for a TV Week Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Drama Series, in addition to being nominated for the Logie for Most Popular Drama Program. The series is based on the Swedish series ÄLSKA MIG, created by Josephine Bornebusch, which won the 2020 Kristallen Award for Drama Series of the Year. Adele

will be a writer on the second season of LOVE ME, currently in development.

In 2020, Adele wrote and performed in the ABC comedy series, AT HOME ALONE TOGETHER, which was nominated for an AACTA award for Best Comedy Series. Adele co-created and co-wrote the web series OVER AND OUT which was nominated at the 2019 AACTA Awards for Best Online Drama or Comedy. The series also won Best Comedy Series at 2019 Rio WebFest, going on to win Best Director at the 2019 London Short Film Festival. The web-series is in development for a television adaptation which Adele co-created, wrote and will perform in.

Adele directed the second series of SQUINTERS, produced by Jungle. The series, which aired on ABC, was nominated for Best Comedy Series Production at the 2019 SPA Awards. Adele additionally co-wrote on the first series.

Adele hosted Foxtel's comedy series THE SLOT. She also performed in the series with Skit Box. The series screened on FOX8 and featured prominent Australian YouTube stars and comedians.

Adele has trained at NIDA and ATYP in Sydney and at The Acting Corps in Los Angeles. She starred on-screen in television series including SANDO FOR JUNGLE, UNDERBELLY: RAZOR, SOUL MATES II, DEADBEAT DADS, sketch comedy shows THE ELEGANT GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO KNIFE FIGHTING and THIS IS LITTLETON. In film, Adele featured in the Australian NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN and appeared as the lead in the 2014 comedy feature ME AND MY MATES VS THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE.

Adele has a number of feature and television projects in development.



Elliot Vella, Gretel Vella & Timothy Walker - WRITERS

Elliot Vella, Gretel Vella & Timothy Walker are a writing trio from Sydney. Graduates of NIDA, with numerous on-screen credits, including A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS for which they received nominations the 2021 Awgie (Best Television Screenplay) and AACTA Award (Best Telemovie). They have also collaborated on short films, theatre productions, and sketch-comedy projects and won plaudits from the AACTA pitching competition.

ELLIOT VELLA

Elliot Vella is a Sydney based writer and a graduate of NIDA's MFA in Writing for Performance. His most recent screenwriting credit is the feature film A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS for Stan Australia and Every Cloud Productions, with who he currently has two more features in development. Elliot co-wrote A CHRISTMAS RANSOM for STAN, and is currently Script Coordinating on the Fremantle and Stan Originals series TOTALLY, COMPLETELY FINE.

Elliot's short film OPTICS was awarded commission under NIDA's short film pitch competition and he was also a finalist alongside Gretel Vella and Timothy Walker in the AACTA Regional Landscapes Initiative, with their pitch for A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS.

Elliot's theatre credits include DELTA SIERRA JULIET, staged at 107 Projects Redfern, and IT'S A TIE, which was selected by the Australian Theatre for Young People as a finalist in the Martin Lysicrates Prize for Writing. Elliot was also dramaturg for the movement piece HOME, performed at the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts.

Elliot has a number of other projects in development including sci-fi podcast RECEIVED AT MURCHISON with producer Kate Separovich of Lake Martin Films, the original comedy drama TV series, BAD CLIMATE, along with the feature film, KEVIN.

While at university Elliot undertook a Sub-Major of Environmental Studies which continues to be of interest in his work and often sees him exploring themes of climate change and environmental crisis.

GRETEL VELLA

Gretel is a Sydney-based writer and graduate of NIDA's MFA in Writing for Performance.

Credits include: THE GREAT, series 1 & 2, starring Elle Fanning and Nicholas Hoult for HULU; A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS, a TV movie for STAN; Season 3 & 4 of DOCTOR DOCTOR for Easy Tiger

and Channel Nine and the DOCTOR DOCTOR spin-off web series, WELCOME TO WHYHOPE.

Gretel co-wrote A CHRISTMAS RANSOM for STAN, and is currently writing on series 2 of THE GREAT, and her original TV series TOTALLY, COMPLETELY FINE is currently in production with Fremantle Australia.

Gretel's playwriting credits include A PERIOD PIECE for The Old 505 Theatre, CARKING IT for NIDA's 2018 season of student productions, THE BLOOD ON BLOODY BLOOD LADDER for ATYP at Griffin Theatre, and SHANDY'S CORNER for New Ghosts Theatre Company at King Cross Theatre in 2019. She was awarded the 2019 ATYP Co-commission for her play BATHORY BEGINS and was selected for ATYP's National Studio and Fresh Ink Mentoring programs for 2017. Gretel was also shortlisted for ATYP's 2020 Rebel Wilson Comedy Commission.

Gretel's master work screenplays, CARKING IT and ELSIE SHREW were long listed for AWG's Primetime and Insite writing competitions. Gretel was one of the 2020 recipients of the Phillip Parsons Fellowship for Emerging Playwrights for which she is currently developing a new stage play.

Gretel is an associate artist with Glitterbomb and the co-artistic director of The Louise Frequency with fellow NIDA alumnus Emme Hoy. The Louise Frequency's sketch comedy web series ALL WE HAVE IS NOW had its premiere screening at Belvoir in 2017.

TIMOTHY WALKER

Tim is a co-creator/co-writer of the Stan original film A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS. He and his co-writers received the 2021 AWGIE nomination for Best Television Screenplay (Telemovie or Miniseries) and the film was also nominated for the 2021 AACTA Award for Best Miniseries or Telefeature.

Tim is also an actor, graduating from NIDA in 2018 where he was the recipient of the Hazel Treweek Shakespeare, Keith Bain Movement and Leslie Walford Awards. His most recent credits include THE GREAT: SEASON TWO for HULU and Nash Edgerton's latest short film SHARK. His recent stage credits include BEFORE THE MEETING at the Seymour Centre and OUR BLOOD RUNS IN THE STREET at The Old Fitz.

Tim also studied filmmaking at Swinburne University and in 2019 his short film KIN, was an official selection at a number of international film festivals and he won Best Director at the Far South Film Festival

Stan.

ORIGINALS

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

Stan's recent original production slate includes the hit Tasmanian-noir drama series *THE GLOAMING*; *BLOOM SEASONS 1 & 2*, starring two time Academy Award nominee Jacki Weaver; *TRUE HISTORY OF THE KELLY GANG*, starring George MacKay, Essie Davis, Charlie Hunnam and Russell Crowe and directed by Justin Kurzel; *BUMP*, a modern parenthood drama starring Claudia Karvan; *GOLD*, a taut thriller film starring Zac Efron in his first Australian production; *WOLF LIKE ME*, a genre-bending drama series starring Isla Fisher and Josh Gad; *RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE DOWN UNDER*, hosted by RuPaul, Michelle Visage and Rhys Nicholson; and countless other acclaimed original series and films.

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

For more information, visit stan.com.au.

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ORIGINALS

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