



MEDIA RELEASE: Monday 13th March 2017

SHOOT UNDERWAY FOR NAKKIAH LUI'S *KIKI & KITTY*

ABC, Screen Australia and Porchlight Films are delighted to announce the start of shooting on *Kiki & Kitty* – an absurdist comedy series from Gamillaroi/Torres Strait Islander and seriously clever writer/creator/actor, Nakkiah Lui.

Working with producers Liz Watts and Sylvia Warmer, Lui has written the series and will play the pivotal role of Kiki.

Directed by Catriona McKenzie (*Shadow Hunters*, *Satellite Boy*, *Redfern Now*), the six-part series for ABC iview portrays the trials and tribulations of Kiki, the good black girl in a bad white world, who stumbles across her vagina in the personification of Kitty (played by Elaine Crombie) and realises there is a lot more to life than she thought.

Commissioned by ABC Indigenous and financed with the support of Screen Australia's Multiplatform Fund, the series is expected to air across multiple platforms.

"The opportunity to support Nakkiah Lui in her first standalone screen creation was a no-brainer, with the talented creative having already proved her comedy chops as a co-writer of *Black Comedy* and of course her extensive theatre work," said Screen Australia Investment Manager **Mike Cowap**. "The script for *Kiki & Kitty* is completely irreverent, cheeky and distinctly Australian, and certainly is in safe hands with Director Catriona McKenzie."

Hilarious and charming, the six-parter is Lui's first commission following her previous work as writer/actor on the ABC series *Black Comedy*, plus an array of theatre work including *Blaque Showgirls* for Malthouse Theatre Company in 2016 and the upcoming *Black is the New White* for the Sydney Theatre Company.

Elaine Crombie comes to *Kiki & Kitty* fresh from Lui's theatre show *Blaque Showgirls*. Her other credits include *Black Comedy*, *Redfern Now* and *8MMM Aboriginal Radio*.

The series also stars Christine Anu as Kiki's Mum, Maria; Charlie Garber as Kiki's love interest Jack the hire car driver; Tessa Rose as Kiki's tenacious Nan; Lisa Flanagan as Nan's vagina (yep, you read right); Ryan Johnson as the incorrigible office co-worker Brandon and Rob Carlton as Bryce the ice skating king.

Filming will take place in and around Sydney NSW.

Kiki & Kitty – 6 x 10mins

Principal funder Screen Australia. A Porchlight Films production for ABC. Executive Producer: Kelrick Martin, Producers: Liz Watts & Sylvia Warmer. Creator and Writer: Nakkiah Lui. Director: Catriona McKenzie

Kiki & Kitty is financed by Screen Australia and ABC.

For more information, contact:

For ABC Television - Chris Chamberlin
P: +61 2 8333 2154, chamberlin.chris@abc.net.au

For Screen Australia – Scott Dawkins
P: +61 2 8113 5886 M: 0403 937 074 scott.dawkins@screenaustralia.gov.au

For Porchlight Films - Fiona Nix
P: +61 2 8399 0626, fiona@nixco.com.au

About Nakkiah Lui

Nakkiah Lui is a writer/actor and Gamilaroi/Torres Strait Islander woman. She was a co-writer/star of ABC's *Black Comedy* and is a monthly columnist for *The Australian Women's Weekly Online*. She has been an artist in residence at *Griffin Theatre Company* (2013) and was playwright in residence at *Belvoir* from 2012-2014.

In 2012, Nakkiah was the first recipient of The Dreaming Award from *The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Arts Board* of the *Australia Council*. The same year, Nakkiah was also the inaugural recipient of the Balnaves Foundation Indigenous Playwright award.

In 2014, Nakkiah was the recipient of the Malcolm Robertson Prize and a Green Room Award for Best Independent Production.

Nakkiah's previous works include: *This Heaven' Playwright*, Belvoir 2013 and Finborough Theatre 2015; *I Should Have Told You Before We Made Love (That I'm Black)* Playwright, You Are Here Festival 2012; *Stho Sthexy* Playwright, MKA Melbourne 2013; *Blackie Brown: The Traditional Owners of Death* Playwright, Bondi Feast, Tamarama Rock Surfers 2013. *Sovereign Wife* Dramaturg, Melbourne Theatre Company 2013. *Black Comedy* Writer/Actor. ABC, 2014; *Blak Cabaret* Playwright, Sydney Festival/Malthouse Theatre Company 2015; *Kill the Messenger* Actor/Playwright, Belvoir 2015; *Blaque Showgirls*, Malthouse Theatre Company 2016 and *Black is the New White*, Sydney Theatre Company, 2017 .

Nakkiah is also a young leader in the Australian Aboriginal community and has contributed to *The Guardian* and *Junkee*. She has appeared on Q&A and *The Drum* on ABC and is a regular guest and presenter on ABC Radio Sydney.

About Porchlight Films

Principal producers Liz Watts and Vincent Sheehan established production company Porchlight Films with co-director Anita Sheehan in 1997. Their titles include both feature films and television working with the very best of Australian and international talent. Television productions include *The Kettering Incident* for Foxtel Australia and Amazon US, two seasons of *Laid* for ABC TV, and Executive Producers on two seasons of the John Wells/ Jonathan Lisco series *Animal Kingdom* for TNT in the US.

Feature films include Garth Davis' *Mary Magdalene* with See Saw Films UK, David Michôd's *Animal Kingdom* and *The Rover*, Cate Shortland's *Lore*, Tony Krawitz' *Jewboy* and feature *Dead Europe*, *The Hunter* starring Willem Dafoe, *Little Fish* starring Cate Blanchett, *The Home Song Stories* starring Joan Chen, and the critically acclaimed features, *Mullet* and *Walking on Water*. Currently on theatrical release is feature film, *Jasper Jones*, directed by Rachel Perkins and based on the much loved Australian novel by Craig Silvey, and starring Levi Miller, Angourie Rice, Aaron L McGrath, Toni Collette, and Hugo Weaving.