

HE'S **NO** SAINT

NEW AUSSIE DRAMA

DOCTOR DOCTOR

9HD



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The NINE Network presents
In association with Screen Australia and Screen NSW
An Essential Media & Entertainment Production



Media Kit

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About The Production

Starring **Rodger Corser** (*Underbelly, Rush, Puberty Blues*), Nine's brand new drama series **DOCTOR DOCTOR**'s outstanding ensemble cast includes **Nicole da Silva, Ryan Johnson, Tina Bursill, Steve Bisley, Hayley McElhinney, Shalom Brune-Franklin, Matt Castley, Chloe Bayliss, Dave Eastgate, Charles Wu, Belinda Bromilow, Lucy Durack** and **John Batchelor**.

After a spectacular fall from grace, high-flying heart surgeon Dr Hugh Knight (*Rodger Corser*) receives a life-changing punishment from the Medical Tribunal – he is forced to work for a year as a country GP in his former home town of Whyhope.

DOCTOR DOCTOR follows Hugh's attempt to rebuild his world in the town he has spent his whole life running away from. Now the only way to salvage his brilliant career is to work as a lowly GP in an under-resourced, small-town hospital surrounded by estranged family, former friends, crazed colleagues, oddball patients, jealous brothers and a newlywed ex-girlfriend.



Nine's Heads of Drama, Andy Ryan and Jo Rooney, said: "Wednesday night on Nine is the new home for family drama and **DOCTOR DOCTOR** is appointment viewing. If laughter is the best medicine, the misadventures of Hugh and his dysfunctional family are just what the doctor ordered."

DOCTOR DOCTOR



“Making **DOCTOR DOCTOR** has been pure joy from start to finish,” said Ian Collie, head of drama at Essential Media & Entertainment. “A hearty thanks to the Nine Network, who embraced our marvellously flawed hero from the get go, our clever and gorgeous cast, and the incredibly hard-working production and story team.”

A lot has changed since Hugh last checked into Whyhope. His mother Meryl (*Tina Bursill*) is a local civic leader, while father Jim (*Steve Bisley*) has struggled to adapt to the winds of change. His brother Matt (*Ryan Johnson*) has married Hugh’s former girlfriend Charlie (*Nicole da Silva*) and the family wheat farm is now home to a successful micro-brewery.

Hugh starts work at the Medical Clinic under the eagle eye of his supervisor Penny (*Hayley McElhinney*), juggling everything from tractor accidents to haemorrhoids with the help of “Dr Google”. He quickly makes an enemy of hospital administrator Ken (*Charles Wu*), but finds a kindred spirit in the form of party-girl nurse Aoife (*Shalom Brune-Franklin*) and rekindles a childhood friendship with knockabout local Joey (*Dave Eastgate*).

Filmed in Sydney and country NSW, **DOCTOR DOCTOR** is an Essential Media & Entertainment production, with executive producers Andy Ryan and Jo Rooney from the Nine Network and producers Ian Collie, Claudia Karvan and Tony McNamara from Essential Media & Entertainment. The writers are Tony McNamara, Alice Bell, Tamara Asmar and Liz Doran, and the series is directed by Peter Salmon, Kriv Stenders and Jeremy Sims. **DOCTOR DOCTOR** is produced with the assistance of Screen Australia and Screen NSW.





Hugh Knight (*Rodger Corser*) is a rising star in the heart surgery ranks. Gifted, charming, infallible, and a hedonist who – due to his sheer talent - truly believes he can live outside the rules. But his ‘work hard, play harder’ philosophy is about to bite him. Hard. Knocked off his pedestal and on to the Impaired Registrants List, Hugh is forced to return to his childhood home of Whyhope to work as a country GP ... It could be the worst year of his life Or just what the doctor ordered!

A rising star in the Sydney heart surgery ranks, when we first meet **Hugh Knight** (*Rodger Corser*) he is holding a heart in his hand and urging the surgical team to sing Blondie's 'Heart of Glass'.

Gifted, charming, infallible and a hedonist he truly believes that due to his sheer talent he can live outside the rules.

But his ‘work hard, play harder’ philosophy is about to bite him. Hard. After a big party celebrating his latest surgical feat, he wakes up to find a woman unconscious through an overdose. Barely conscious himself, he rushes her into Emergency at the very hospital where he works.

Not entirely his fault, but his part in the debacle sees him hauled before the Medical Tribunal. They place him on the Impaired Registrants List, which dictates he is banned from major surgery and can only work as a GP ... and be subjected to weekly drug tests.

To rub salt into the wound, **Hugh** is ordered to help out in country towns which are under-resourced with medical personnel and equipment. And not just any old town – but Whyhope, the town where he grew up – and couldn’t wait to escape from...

Hugh arrives to find one brother growing up fast and the other married to his former girlfriend, **Charlie** (*Nicole da Silva*), and that the family wheat farm now boasts a successful micro brewery. When he starts work in the Medical Clinic under the eagle eye of his supervisor, **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*) – juggling everything from tractor accidents to hemorrhoids with the help of ‘Dr Google’ – he finds a like spirit in the form of a nurse – **Aoife** (*Shalom Brune-Franklin*).

Whyhope forces connectivity, the very thing that is **Hugh's** Achilles heel. He is a guy trying hard to be a good man and a great doctor - whilst grappling with his inability to control his desires. Unexpectedly having to come to terms with his family and his past - it starts to occur to **Hugh** that when he left the woman he loved in order to marry a croupier in a Vegas chapel, he might just have walked away from the one good thing in his life.



Cast

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Hugh | Rodger Corser |
| Charlie | Nicole da Silva |
| Matt | Ryan Johnson |
| Meryl | Tina Bursill |
| Jim | Steve Bisley |
| Penny | Hayley McElhinney |
| Aoife | Shalom Brune-Franklin |
| Ajax | Matt Castley |
| Hayley | Chloe Bayliss |
| Betty | Belinda Bromilow |
| Joey | Dave Eastgate |
| Tugger | Lucy Durack |
| Ken | Charles Wu |
| Nathan | John Batchelor |
| Floyd | Winta McGrath |



DOCTOR DOCTOR



Crew

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Producers | Ian Collie Claudia Karvan Tony McNamara | |
| Executive Producers | Jo Rooney Andy Ryan | |
| Set Up Director | Peter Salmon | <i>Ep 1, 2, 7, 8</i> |
| Directors | Jeremy Sims Kriv Stenders | <i>Ep 3, 4, 9, 10</i> <i>Ep 5, 6</i> |
| Writers | Tony McNamara Alice Bell Liz Doran Tamara Asmar | <i>Ep 1, 2, 3, 8, 10</i> <i>Ep 4</i> <i>Ep 5, 7</i> <i>Ep 6, 9</i> |
| Production Designer | Victoria Williams | |
| Director of Photography | Geoffrey Hall <small>ACS</small> | |
| Costume Designer | Louise Wakefield | |
| Make Up & Hair Supervisor | Wendy de Waal | |
| Editors | Henry Dangar <small>ASE</small> Nicholas Holmes <small>ASE</small> | |



DOCTOR DOCTOR

Episode 1

Doctor Doctor

Written by: Tony McNamara

Directed by: Peter Salmon



Knocked off his pedestal and on to the Impaired Registrants Program, **Hugh** (*Rodger Corser*), now a country GP, returns to his childhood home of Whyhope, where he unwittingly gatecrashes the 40th anniversary party of his parents, **Meryl** (*Tina Bursill*) and **Jim** (*Steve Bisley*). This awkwardly reunites Hugh with his ex-girlfriend **Charlie** (*Nicole da Silva*) and his brother – now her husband – **Matt** (*Ryan Johnson*).

Reporting for work at Whyhope Hospital, **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*) - the Head Doctor - makes no bones about telling him she will be watching him like a hawk. But **Hugh** makes an even bigger enemy of **Ken** (*Charles Wu*) - the Administrator - when he sees to the pharmaceutical rep. **Ken** then rosters **Hugh** on everything from a remote case of nits to an overweight FIFO with haemorrhoids.

It's only when **Hugh** helps nurse **Aoife** (*Shalom Brune-Franklin*) with emergency heart surgery that **Hugh** feels more like himself. And that is worth celebrating – with **Aoife** and a bottle of Scotch. Old habits...

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Episode 2

Home Sweet Home

Written by: Tony McNamara

Directed by: Peter Salmon



Hugh (*Rodger Corser*) wakes up in a house he doesn't recognise, littered with the remnants of a big night and **Aoife** (*Shalom Brune-Franklin*) face down on the floor. Thankfully, she's alive. Upon seeing his hungover state, **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*), however, is not amused and orders him to provide yet another urine sample. **Hugh** extracts one from a young patient in return for a doctor's note – but unfortunately, it tests positive for cannabis.

Hugh's mood is boosted by a call from a Sydney surgeon in need of his help, but the respite is only fleeting as a 16-year-old pinned under a tractor tragically bleeds to death on **Hugh's** watch. This moment, along with a D&M with his old friend, **Joey** (*Dave Eastgate*), who is facing a potential cancer diagnosis, forces Hugh to reflect on his life choices. Meanwhile, tensions rise in the Knight family as a family dinner sparks old flames and tests new dynamics. In an effort to do something right, **Hugh** bails up his schoolfriend-turned-mining-magnate 'Big Nathan' (*John Batchelor*) for \$40K and hands it over to **Penny** for a much needed MRI machine, to her delight and great surprise. Giving him a second chance, **Penny** decides not to test another urine sample.

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Episode 3

San Francisco

Written by: Tony McNamara

Directed by: Jeremy Sims



Hugh (*Rodger Corser*) is concerned about **Jim's** (*Steve Bisley*) health but as per usual, **Jim** doesn't want to talk about it. **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*) reappropriates the MRI machine funds – which is frustrating and untimely given **Hugh's** next patient has a head trauma.

This frustration quickly turns to excitement, as **Trevor** (*Jacek Koman*), a colleague and co-pioneer in artificial heart research, turns up to show **Hugh** their new prototype. They trial the product on a pig they steal on a hunting trip, and with the surprise help of **Penny**, they test its capability.

Meanwhile, **Meryl** (*Tina Bursill*) is caught up in a heated political battle to be Mayor, and at risk of scandal, she sets free the stolen pig ... containing the 500K artificial heart.

While **Ajax** (*Matt Castley*) and **Trevor** (*Jacek Koman*) attempt to track down the prized pig, **Hugh** assists at a B&S Ball. Fueled by alcohol and impulse, **Hugh** makes moves on **Charlie** (*Nicole da Silva*) and goads **Meryl's** political opponent into a violent resolution. A revelation with his head trauma patient causes **Hugh** to recalibrate his approach to life and medicine.

DOCTOR DOCTOR

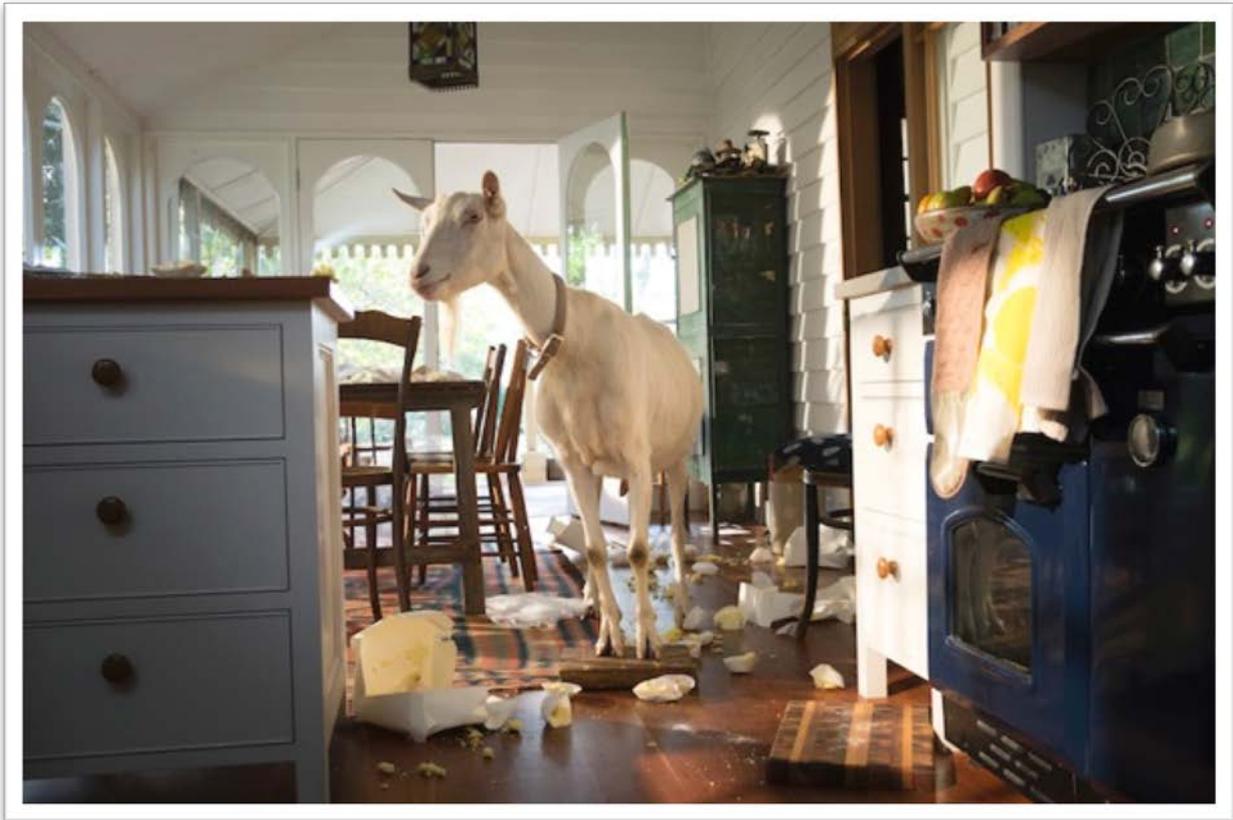


Episode 4

I Don't Need Another Drink, Said Not Me Last Night!

Written by: Alice Bell

Directed by: Jeremy Sims



When **Hugh** (*Rodger Corser*) is sued for malpractice, he must travel back to Sydney to defend himself. He drags **Matt** (*Ryan Johnson*) along with him in an attempt to bond with his brother but it backfires when **Matt** is found in a compromising position with another woman.

Charlie (*Nicole da Silva*) is pushed to the limit by **Meryl** (*Tina Bursill*) and takes revenge with a goat, and **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*) is put in a tricky position while safeguarding **Hugh's** complicated life.

In misguided honesty **Matt** 'comes clean' with **Charlie** – while **Joey** (*Dave Eastgate*) delivers a shocking and life-changing revelation to **Hugh**.

In a last ditch effort to pacify **Henry's** (*Peter Callan*) threats of suing, **Hugh** returns to Sydney with **Ajax** (*Matt Castley*) in tow and offers up his ocean-view bachelor pad as compensation – big city life is getting further and further away.

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Episode 5

We Don't Need Another Hero

Written by: Liz Doran

Directed by: Kriv Stenders



Hugh (*Rodger Corser*) becomes the town hero after footage goes viral of him saving a promising young footballer from a booby trapped paddock-turned-minefield. He is swiftly brought back down to reality after being accosted by **Ajax** (*Matt Castley*) for not being able to fix the footballer's hand, and also by **Meryl** (*Tina Bursill*), for letting **Ajax** search the minefield for his friend's fingers.

Matt (*Ryan Johnson*), **Charlie** (*Nicole da Silva*), **Hugh**, **Aoife** (*Shalom Brune-Franklin*), **Joey** (*Dave Eastgate*) and **Tugger** (*Lucy Durack*) all blow off some steam and get back to basics – a country style lock in with plenty of booze. **Charlie** has a revelatory kiss, and tries to re-energise her relationship with **Matt**, only to collapse in pain.

Hugh gains a deeper understanding of **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*) and what it means to be a parent, while she grieves the anniversary of her husband's death.

With **Penny** AWOL, **Hugh** must operate on **Charlie's** ectopic pregnancy. As she and **Matt** grow closer, **Hugh** turns to **Aoife** for some distraction... Hugh-style.

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Episode 6

Golden Harvest

Written by: Tamara Asmar

Directed by: Kriv Stenders



When a brawl at the local pub turns fatal, **Hugh** (*Rodger Corser*) learns that they can't save them all. But things only get worse when the transplant team arrives from Sydney, and it's led by **Hugh's** ex-colleague and long term rival, **Daniel** (*Chum Ehelepola*). **Hugh** desperately attempts to hide the fact that he is now working as a country GP, but it's not long before **Daniel** has exposed him. In the process, **Hugh** ridicules Whyhope Hospital, and inadvertently offends **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*), **Betty** (*Belinda Bromilow*) and **Ken** (*Charles Wu*).

When **Hugh** and **Penny** go to give vaccinations to a rural family they have a run-in with **Craig** (*Ben Wood*) – a farmer with a shotgun. Forced to talk his way out, **Hugh** is given a fast lesson in what's involved in being a country doctor. Which is lucky, for when **Hugh** realises that **Betty's** friend has a subdural haemorrhage, it calls for some low-tech fast thinking, and he drills a bore hole into the man's skull to reduce the pressure. Meanwhile **Charlie** (*Nicole da Silva*) and **Matt** (*Ryan Johnson*) are dealing with the aftermath of **Charlie's** ectopic pregnancy, and **Meryl** (*Tina Bursill*) begins on a series of well meaning, but misguided attempts to comfort her. The family gets together for **Ajax's** (*Matt Castley*) sixteenth birthday dinner, complete with an outlandish present from **Hugh**: a Ducati. During dinner **Hugh** is outed by a tweet from **Ken**, and the whole family discover why he is really back in Whyhope.

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Episode 7

This is Not a Love Song

Written by: Liz Doran

Directed by: Peter Salmon



Hugh (*Rodger Corser*) gets a running start to his day, when a FIFO worker named **Jazz** (*Michael Kotsophilis*) goes on a meth-fuelled psychotic break outside the hospital, and ends up chopping off part of his penis. And that's not the only thing thrown his way – **Aoife** (*Shalom Brune-Franklin*), tells him she loves him... and gives him 24 hours to say it back.

Meanwhile **Meryl** (*Tina Bursill*) prepares to unveil her latest contribution to this town – a large statue of a wine bottle and grapes, with an unfortunate resemblance to something else. Gossip soon spreads throughout the town, as **Meryl's** work becomes famous for entirely the wrong reasons. Back at the hospital, **Hugh** discovers a cancer trial that's having positive results, and he pulls a few strings to get **Joey** (*Dave Eastgate*) admitted. But while on a trip to the mines, he and **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*) get diverted and end up having to stay overnight in a small farm house. While there, **Penny** and **Hugh** have a bonding moment – that is, until she finds out that **Hugh's** been sleeping with her best nurse. **Hugh** denies that he'll leave **Aoife** broken-hearted, but on his return, a serious conversation between the two ends their relationship for good.

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Episode 8

The Truth is Out There

Written by: Tony McNamara

Directed by: Peter Salmon

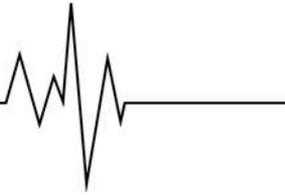


When **Hugh** (*Rodger Corser*) gets licence to perform minor surgeries, he's desperate to find a patient who needs to go under the knife. Unfortunately, he gets interrupted when **Floyd** (*Winta McGrath*) climbs on the roof of his school and will only listen to **Hugh**. He's able to talk **Floyd** down, but **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*) starts to worry about how much time **Hugh** is spending with her son.

At a family dinner, **Meryl** (*Tina Bursill*) announces that she's going to run for Mayor, but no one is too thrilled about the idea.

Meanwhile **Hugh** decides he wants to tell **Ajax** that he's his father, while **Meryl** and **Jim** are adamant that **Ajax** (*Matt Castley*) shouldn't find out. Determined to have his way, **Hugh** lets **Charlie** (*Nicole da Silva*) in on the secret, and before long it's leaked throughout the entire family. **Meryl** reluctantly agrees to tell Ajax, but insists they'll do it her way. However things don't go to plan - **Hugh** winds up getting his hand caught in the motor of the Ducati, and blurts it out in the worst way possible.

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Episode 9

Say Sayonara

Written by: Tamara Asmar

Directed by: Jeremy Sims



After the accident, **Hugh** (*Rodger Corser*) is left without any feeling in his hand, and his future as a surgeon is suddenly in jeopardy. He's also left to deal with his badly-timed revelation to **Ajax** (*Matt Castley*) – that he's his father. **Ajax** hasn't taken the news well, fleeing the family homestead and setting up camp at the old family cottage.

Meryl (*Tina Bursill*) is particularly on edge, as she's desperate for all the family to pull together for her political debate today. They manage to get **Ajax** there in time – but **Meryl** gets caught out when **Rod Eagle** (*Patrick Wilson*) challenges her about him, and whether he left high school illegally. Meanwhile, **Joey** (*Dave Eastgate*) has been sent home early from the cancer trial. **Hugh** soon discovers the truth – **Joey's** cancer has metastasised to his brain, and there's nothing further they can do to treat him. **Joey's** made up his mind, he wants to go out on his own terms, and they hold a wake so that he can be surrounded by his friends one last time. **Hugh** finally accepts that he is unable to save him, and gives his friend the death that he deserves.

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Episode 10

Mash

Written by: Tony McNamara

Directed by: Jeremy Sims



When **Hugh** (*Rodger Corser*) discovers that **Penny** (*Hayley McElhinney*) is taking a new job in Sydney, he attempts to remain professional and supportive. However **Penny** struggles to tell the rest of the staff that she's leaving Whyhope for the big city.

Hugh is soon confronted by **Tugger** (*Lucy Durack*), who is desperately trying to find out if he played a role in **Joey's** (*Dave Eastgate*) death. But the results of the toxicology report come in, and it appears **Joey** was killed by snake venom, exonerating **Hugh**.

Meanwhile, in the midst of her election campaign, **Meryl** (*Tina Bursill*) discovers that all of her money has been stolen by **Hugh**, who argues that he took it for **Joey's** treatment. Back at the hospital, **Penny's** replacement arrives – the formidable **Nora Gumbleton** (*Helen Thomson*). But before **Penny** leaves, the team have one last trauma to face together: there's been an accident and a full load of bus passengers are driven into emergency.

Hugh is relieved to finally get some feeling back in his hand, if only to realise what's really important to him – **Penny**. He goes to tell her, but it's too late, and he watches her drive out of Whyhope without him.



Hugh

A gifted but arrogant surgeon, Hugh's become accustomed to being the king of the castle.

Prone to alcohol, drugs and a good time, adapting to small town life isn't going to be easy.

Rodger Corser

is Hugh

Rodger Corser is well known to Australian audiences having worked extensively in television, theatre and film. In recent years, Rodger has played leading roles in numerous television productions including the Network Ten 1970s drama series **Puberty Blues**, opposite Asher Keddie in the political drama **Party Tricks**, and alongside Sarah Snook in the acclaimed ABC series on the modern day retelling of Tolstoy's novel Anna Karenina, **The Beautiful Lie**.

Earlier productions include his portrayal of *Detective Steve Owen* in the Nine Network's first series of **Underbelly**, and the lead role of *Lawson Blake* in the popular Network Ten John Edwards' series **Rush** which ran for four successful seasons between 2008 and 2011. During this time, Rodger also starred alongside Claudia Karvan in two series of Foxtel's **Spirited**.

In 2007 Rodger appeared in the U.S. NBC mini-series **The Starter Wife** alongside Debra Messing and Judy Davis. The series received 10 Emmy award nominations including *Most Outstanding Miniseries*. His other U.S. television credits include the NBC series **Camp**, opposite Rachel Griffiths. In previous years Rodger appeared in other well known Australian series including **Stingers**, **McLeod's Daughters**, **Home & Away**, and **Water Rats**. Rodger's first leading role in a television series was as *Adam Logan* in Channel 7's **Last Man Standing** in 2005.

Rodger's work in theatre includes the lead role in the 1998 hit season of Cameron McIntosh's musical *Rent*. He followed this with other theatre roles in *Below* and *Leader of the Pack*.

Rodger's film work includes roles in Jonathan Teplitzky's **Burning Man**, and Simon Wincer's **The Cup**, both released in 2011. Rodger has recently appeared on our television screens in several ABC series: the two popular murder series **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries** and **The Doctor Blake Mysteries**, and the paranormal series **Glitch**.



Charlie

Ex-girlfriend of Hugh, and current wife of Matt, Charlie is strong-willed and passionate.

Happy in her current life, she's adamant that Hugh's return will not dig up the past.

Nicole da Silva

is **Charlie**

Nicole da Silva is well renowned for her work as *Franky Doyle* on Fremantle Media's **Wentworth**. Over four seasons, Nicole has established a cult following among fans and received generous critical acclaim, winning an ASTRA Award for the *Most Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor* in 2014, as well as a TV Week Silver Logie nomination in 2015.

Nicole is also well known for her role as *Senior Constable Stella D'Agostino* in Southern Star's AFI award winning drama **Rush**. Nicole has also played major roles in the SBS series **Carla Cametti PD**, gaining a *Best Actress* nomination at the Monte Carlo Television Awards, and in the Foxtel series **Dangerous** for which she received a Graham Kennedy TV Week Logie Award Nomination for *Most Outstanding New Talent*. Other television credits include **All Saints**, **Home and Away** and **East West 101**.

Most recently, Nicole worked on a US television series for Amazon called **Gortimer Gibbons Life on Normal Street**. This year will see Nicole in the US sci-fi feature **The Tangle**, directed by Christopher Soren Kelly. Nicole has also appeared in the feature **Drama** and the short film **The List**, directed by Joel Edgerton.

Her theatre credits include Malthouse Theatre's *Blood Wedding* directed by Marion Potts, *A Behanding in Spokane* with the Melbourne Theatre Company, B.C. with The Hayloft Project and *This Is Our Youth* at FortyFiveDownstairs. Nicole also produced and performed in *Queen C for B Sharp* at Belvoir St Theatre and *A Life in the Theatre* for Darlinghurst Theatre.

In 2014 Nicole was the first appointed Champion for the Australian National Committee for UN Women.



Matt

Matt is Hugh's younger brother, and Charlie's dependable husband.

A simple country guy at heart, Matt's content with running the Arcadia Brewery and living with Charlie.

Ryan Johnson

is **Matt**

Since graduating from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in 1999 Ryan has worked extensively in film, television and theatre.

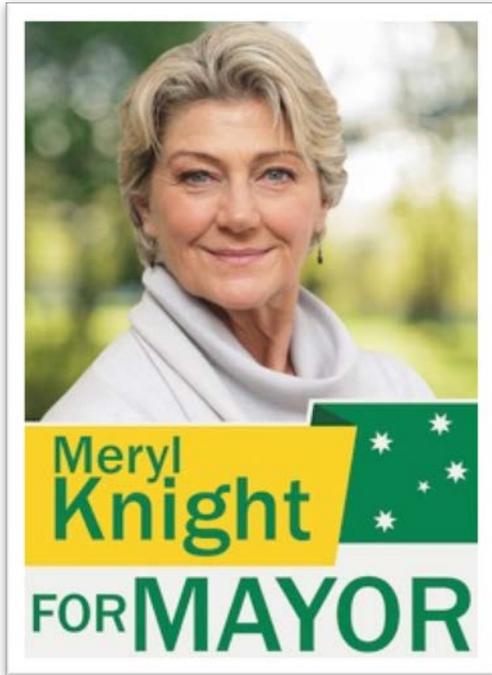
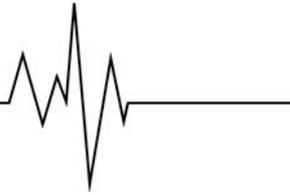
Ryan has appeared in numerous high profile television series including Channel 9's **House Husbands** and **Love Child** opposite Jessica Marais, Channel 7's **INXS: Never Tear Us Apart**, Network Ten's **Mr. & Mrs Murder**, and the ABC telemovie **Carlotta**. He has also appeared in the hugely popular ABC series **Rake** opposite Richard Roxburgh, and the comedy series **Laid**. Earlier credits include the popular Network Ten series **The Secret Life of Us**, and the hugely successful Channel 9 franchise **Underbelly**.

In 2012 Ryan joined the main cast in the second season of the US series **Fairly Legal** where he played lawyer *Ben Grogan*.

Ryan's film credits include the US features **Son of the Mask**, **Ghost Rider** and **Nest** alongside Kelsey Grammer, and the local independent productions **All My Friends Are Leaving Brisbane** and **Monkey Puzzle**.

Ryan has also worked for Sydney's prestigious theatre companies, including roles in the Sydney Theatre Company's *Rabbit*, and the Belvoir St productions *The Lonesome West* and *Jesus Hopped The 'A' Train*. In early 2016, he received rave reviews in Travis Cotton's *80 Minutes No Interval*, for the Old Fitzroy Theatre.

In 2015, Ryan was seen in the ABC/Playmaker series **Hiding**. He will soon be seen in **Brock** for Network Ten.



Meryl

Matriarch of the family and a motivated member of the local council, Meryl is hardworking, supportive and honest... at least according to her.

Tina Bursill

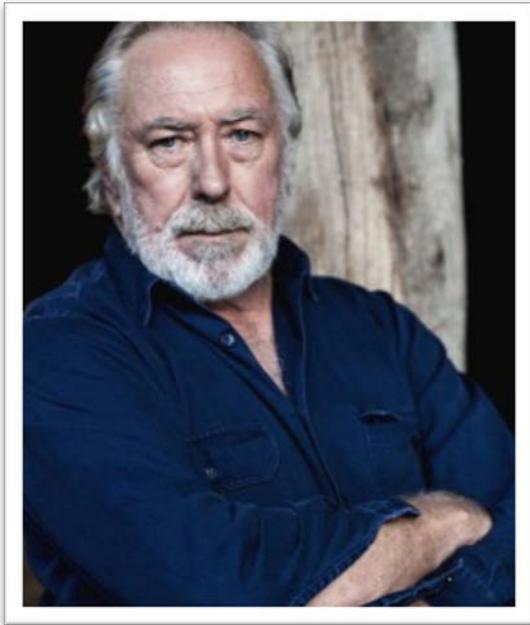
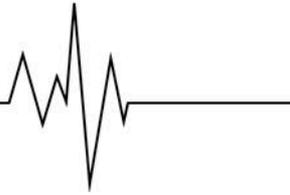
is **Meryl**

Tina Bursill's long and varied career reflects her range and skill across all genres and mediums. Tina's recent television credits include the vulnerable and untended *Lenore* in **Time of Our Lives** (ABC TV), **A Moody Christmas** and **The Moodys** as mother *Maree Moody* (Jungleboys /ABC), *Kathy Carpenter* in **Neighbours** (Fremantle Media Australia), **Jack Irish: Dead Point** (Essential Media/ABC), **Rake** (Rake 2 Pty Ltd/ABC), **Crownies** (Crownies TV Pty Ltd/ABC) and **Offspring** (Southern Star Productions).

Recent film credits include **Wish You Were Here** directed by Kieran Darcy-Smith, **Three Blind Mice** directed by Matthew Newton, **Jilted** directed by Bill Bennett, **Billy's Holiday**, and short films **Cheek to Cheek** and **Saturn's Return**.

Theatre highlights include *Boys Will Be Boys* and *Up for Grabs* for Sydney Theatre Company, *The Swimming Club* for Melbourne Theatre Company/Black Swan Theatre and *Macbeth* for Ensemble Theatre.

Tina received a MO Award nomination for *Best Female Actor in a Play of the Year (Up For Grabs)*, won an AFI/AACTA *Best Supporting Actress Award (Jilted)* and is two time winner of the *Equity Award for Outstanding Performance By An Ensemble Cast In A Comedy Series (A Moody Christmas)* 2013 and (**The Moodys**) 2015.



Jim

Devoted husband of Meryl, Jim and Hugh have never seen eye-to-eye since Hugh ditched their small town for the big city.

Steve Bisley

is Jim

One of Australia's most recognisable and admired actors, Steve Bisley is a graduate of NIDA.

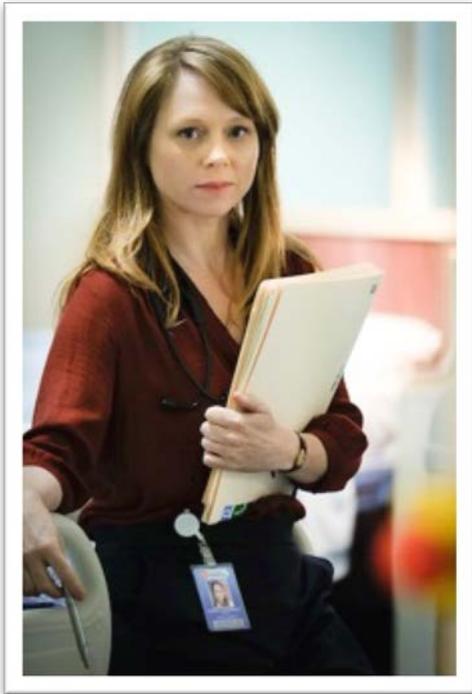
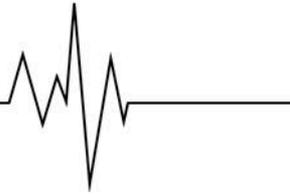
His long list of outstanding feature credits includes the iconic Australian films **Newsfront**, **Mad Max**, and his AFI Award winning roles in both **Silver City** and **The Big Steal**. More recently Steve's credits have included **The Wedding Party**, **I Love You Too**, **Red Hill** and **Sanctuary**.

On television Steve has created some of Australia's most loved characters including *Commander Steve Marshall* on **Sea Patrol**, **Water Rats' Det. Sgt. Jack Christey** and *Senior Sgt. Kevin 'Nipper' Harris* on **Police Rescue**. Steve also played the lead in the BBC series **Call Me Mister**, shooting in London for two years.

His other credits include **Jack Irish**, **Redfern Now Series 2**, **Lowdown**, **East of Everything**, **Stingers**, **GP**, **Frontline**, **Boys From The Bush**, **The Flying Doctors**, **Halifax F.P.**, **The Last Outlaw**, **A Country Practice** and the outstanding miniseries **A Town Like Alice**. Steve will soon be seen in the miniseries **Brock**.

On stage Steve has had major roles with both the Sydney Theatre Company and the Melbourne Theatre Company. They include *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (Sydney, Melbourne and New York), *Don's Party*, *A Man With Five Children*, *Away*, *Speed The Plough*, *The Glass Soldier*, *Inheritance*, *Mother Courage*, *Richard III*, *The Beaux Stratagem* and others.

Steve's memoir *Stillways* was published by Harper Collins and quickly made the best seller list when released in 2013.



Penny

Penny is the no-nonsense, quick-witted Head Doctor at Whyhope Hospital.

Recently appointed as Hugh's supervisor, she holds the key as to whether he will ever get his old life back.

Hayley McElhinney

is Penny

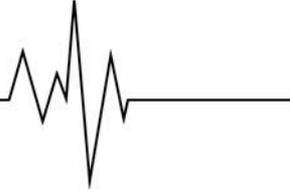
An accomplished stage and screen actress, Hayley McElhinney is a graduate of the prestigious Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts.

Most recently featuring as *Jenny Wallace* in Channel 7's award-winning miniseries **Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door**, Hayley's other television credits include **Rizzoli & Isles**, **My Place**, **Twentyfourseven**, **Always Greener**, **All Saints**, **Blue Heelers**, **Love is a Four Letter Word**, **Backberner**, **Water Rats** and **Good Guys Bad Guys**.

On the big screen, Hayley recently featured as *Claire* in the critically acclaimed psychological thriller **The Babadook**, with other feature film credits including **Redd Inc**, **My Mother Frank** and **City Loop**.

As a member of the Sydney Theatre Company from 2006-2009, Hayley performed in *Uncle Vanya*, *The War of the Roses*, *Gallipoli*, *The Serpent's Teeth*, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Art of War*, *The Season at Sarsaparilla*, *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, *The Lost Echo*, *Bed and Mother Courage and Her Children* for which she received the Sydney Theatre Award for *Best Supporting Actress* in 2006.

Her other stage credits include *Pride and Prejudice* and *Life After George* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *A Moment on the Lips* (Old Fitzroy Theatre), *Noir* and *Don't Stare Too Much* (Darlinghurst Theatre), *Medea* (Steamworks) *Uncle Vanya*, *Proof*, *Buried*, *Darling Oscar*, *Family Running for Mr Whippy* (Blackswan) and *The Danger Age* (Deckchair Theatre).



Aoife

The Irish nurse in the Australian hospital, Aoife is free spirited and fun; she loves her job almost as much as she loves having a good time.

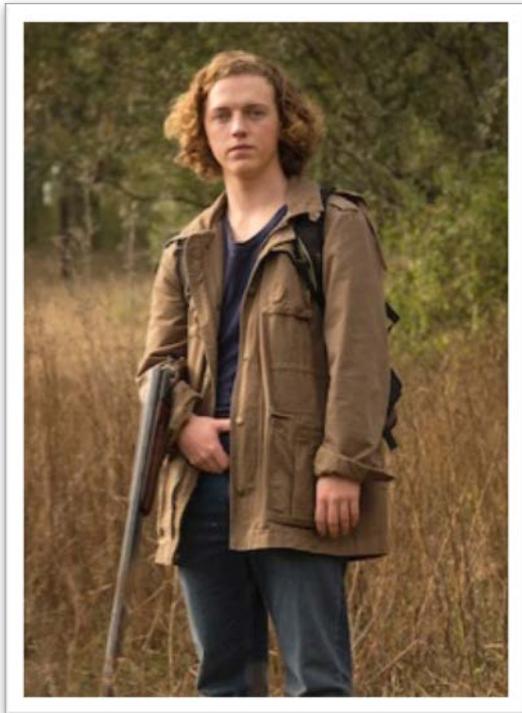
Shalom Brune-Franklin

is **Aoife**

A recent graduate of WAAPA, Shalom is the inaugural recipient of the *Chris Edmund Scholarship*, sponsored by the Jackman Furness Foundation for Performing Arts, and MasterCard. The scholarship was established by WAAPA graduate Hugh Jackman in honor of his acting mentor - former WAAPA head of directing and acting Chris Edmund.

Her credits to date include roles in the upcoming Robert Connolly television miniseries **Barracuda** and the Ben C Lucas feature film **Other Life**.

In 2016, Shalom appeared in the Black Swan Theatre company production of *Girl Shut Your Mouth*.



Ajax

Adopted by the Knight family at age six, Ajax is Hugh's gun-wielding, bullet-making, fun-loving younger brother.

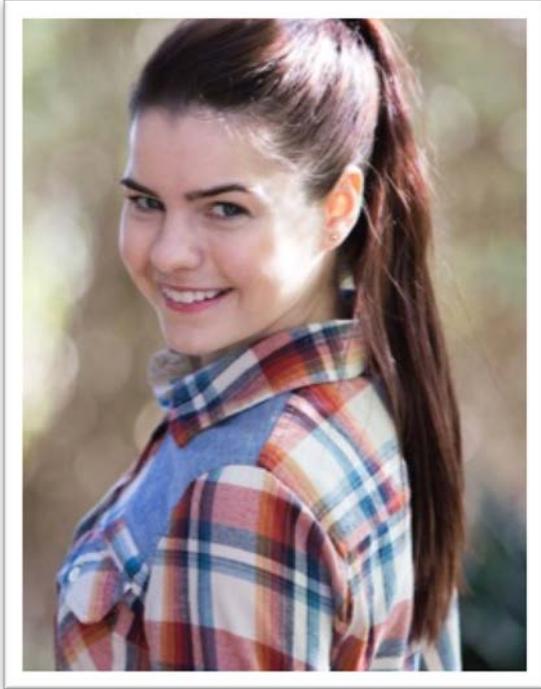
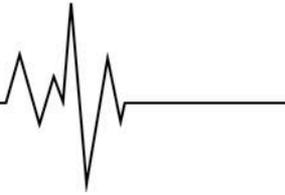
Matt Castley

is Ajax

At just 18 years old, Matt Castley has starred in a number of national commercials and independent web series, such as The interwebs' **Kick-On Kids**. Most recently, he has played lead alongside Samara Weaving and Logie award-winner, Susie Porter. Matt has trained at NIDA, KPG, LMA and the Actor's Pulse in Australia, as well as Second City, AIPA and IDA in LA.

He has received accolades from leading casting directors, such as Christian Kaplan, Risa Bramon Garcia, Jane Jenkins and Lisa Beach, crediting him as "a wonderful talent" and "a phenomenal young actor". Though his prerogative is acting, Matt expresses his creative drive through writing as well as a range of visual and musical art forms.

In collaboration with Maximo Entertainment, Matt plans to shoot his own concept series which is being promoted overseas, and commence his degree in Film at NYU later this year.



Hayley

Hayley is both sweet and outspoken - she says whatever she's thinking.

Devoutly religious, and the long-term girlfriend of Ajax, Hayley is committed to two things above all: him and Him.

Chloe Bayliss

is Hayley

Chloe graduated with a Diploma of Dance and Performance at the National College of Dance, Newcastle and has since worked across many fields as an Actor, Dancer and Choreographer.

Chloe's film credits include Michael Petroni's **Backtrack** (Tribeca Film Festival) alongside Academy award winner Adrian Brody and Sam Neill and **Driftwood Dustmites** (Berlin Film Festival & New York Film Festival). Her television credits include **Reef Doctors**, **Dance Academy** and **Deadly Women**.

Stage credits with the Ensemble Theatre include: *Charitable Intent*, *Rapture Blister Burn*, and *Circle Mirror Transformation* for which she was nominated as *Best Supporting Actress* at the 2012 GLUG Theatre Awards and most recently *The Good Doctor* (Ensemble Theatre) which earned her a place in Suzy Goes Sees *Best of 2015 Awards*. Following this, she worked in Red Line Production's *The Whale* (2016).

Chloe is a proud member of Equity as well as a Red Cross Blood Service Ambassador and Patron of the charity group HANKA.



Betty

Betty is the quirky hospital receptionist.
And hospital gossip.
And hospital tarot reader.

Belinda Bromilow

is **Betty**

Belinda Bromilow graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 1999 with an Advanced Diploma of Performing Arts, where she was awarded the Leslie Anderson Scholarship for *Best Actor*. Belinda's first feature film was **The Rage in Placid Lake** alongside Rose Byrne and Miranda Richardson and was also one of the few live roles in the hit film **Happy Feet**. She played *Claire* in Peter Templeman's **Not Suitable For Children** and most recently the role of *Betty* in Matt Saville's **Felony** with Joel Edgerton and Jai Courtney.

Belinda has appeared in a number of Australian television series including a series lead in **Spirited** seasons 1 and 2 in the role of *Jonquil*, and the ongoing role of *Libby* in **Packed to The Rafters**. Other credits include: **Mr & Mrs Murder**, **Shakespeare Out Loud**, **All Saints**, **McLeod's Daughters**, **MDA**, and the four part UK television series **Talk to Me** for ITV, opposite Max Beesley.

As well as television and film, Belinda has been successful in theatre, appearing in productions such as *Zombie Hands* (Grahamstown Festival South Africa), *Blood and Bone* (Naked Theatre Company), *Whale Music* (White Wave Productions), *Seven Blowjobs* and *My Name is Rachel Corrie* (B Sharp, Belvoir Theatre); *Boy Gets Girl* and *The Grenade* (Sydney Theatre Company); and *The Grenade* (Melbourne Theatre Company) and the world premiere of *This Year's Ashes* for Griffin Theatre Company.

Belinda has received numerous awards including: *Leslie Anderson Scholarship for Best Actor*, 1999 (WAAPA), Melbourne Fringe Award's *Best Show* for *Ticky Tacky* in 2003, Sydney Theatre Award for *Best Independent Production* for *My Name is Rachel Corrie* in 2008 and nominated for *Best Actress in a Lead Role* at the Sydney Theatre Awards 2008. She was also nominated as *Most Popular Actress* at the TV Week Logie Awards in 2011.



Joey

A childhood friend of Hugh's.

Twenty years on, Joey is selfless, kind and resigned to his fate - everything Hugh isn't.

Dave Eastgate

is Joey

Dave Eastgate is a prolific actor, stand-up comedian, writer and musician. He is one of the stars and co-writers of two ABC sketch comedy series in 2013, **The Elegant Gentleman's Guide to Knife Fighting** and **Wednesday Night Fever** on which Dave's heavy-metal side project *Boner Contention* rocked out as the house band.

Dave is well known for his role *Scotty* in family sit com smash hit **A Moody Christmas**, whose second season **The Moodys**, aired early 2014. He next starred as *Egg* in the ABC2 series **Maximum Choppage**. With a background in street performance that included five years working in Japan at the Universal Studios theme park in Osaka, Dave was also a perfect addition to the cast of Seven Network's improvised comedy **Slideshow**.

Most recently, Dave starred in Foxtel's sketch comedy series **Open Slather** for The Comedy Channel and the ABC comedy pilot **Ronny Chieng: International Student**. His other credits include Rebecca Gibney's **Killing Field**, the feature film **Crooked Business**, AFI award winning comedy series **Review with Myles Barlow** and lead roles in national campaigns for **Canadian Club**, **Jim Beam**, **XXXX Gold**, **Foxtel** and **Westpac**. Dave also wrote and performed two different jingles for the 2012 **West End Draught** campaign produced by Jungleboys.

Stand-up comedy and music remain Dave's staple as he tours extensively around Australia and internationally, including sold-out shows at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 2010, Dave was blessed to share the stage with Academy Award winner Robin Williams during his Australian tour and considers it a career highlight.



Tugger

A sweet policewoman stuck with an unfortunate nickname, Tugger uses her upbeat, confident persona to disguise the fact that she's often a little out of her depth.

Lucy Durack

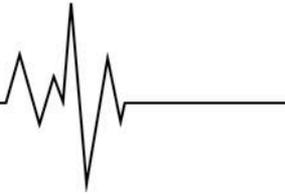
is Tugger

Lucy Durack has fast become one of Australia's most exciting leading ladies of stage and screen with a list of major roles to her credit, most recently *Glinda the Good Witch* in the original Australian cast of *Wicked* (GFO), *Katie Holloway* in the feature film **Now Add Honey** (Gristmill) and *Elle Woods* in *Legally Blonde The Musical* (GFO) for which she won the both a Sydney Theatre and Helpmann Award.

Originally hailing from Perth, where Lucy graduated from the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre), Lucy's other stage credits include the roles of *Sybil Chase* in *Private Lives* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Peggy Sawyer* in *42nd Street*, *Miss Dorothy* in the Australian Premiere of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Lois Lane/Bianca* in *Kiss Me Kate* and *Laurey* in *Oklahoma!* (all for The Production Company) as well as *Cinderella* in *Into The Woods* (The Capitol Theatre/RGE), *Rikki Rose* in *Respect* (Jim McPherson) and *Mamma Mia!* (Dainty/Louise Withers) in which she understudied and performed the role of *Sophie*.

Further screen credits include the role of *Sophie* in **The Letdown** (Giant Dwarf/ABC), *Judy* in **Here Come The Habibs!** (Jungle/ Nine Network), *Cherry* in **Goddess** (The Film Company/Wildheart Films), *Nicola* in **The Moodys** (Jungleboys/ABC), *Bunny* in **Dripping in Chocolate** (Southern Star/ UKTV), *Cassie Bennett* in **Headland** (Seven Network) as well as roles in **All Saints**, **Rush II** and Elissa Down's film **The Dripping Tap**. Lucy will next be seen as *Michelle* in **Upper Middle Bogan 3** (Gristmill) due to air on the ABC later this year.

As a voice-over artist, Lucy has created a number of audiobooks, most proudly an introduction to her family story, Dame Mary Durack's *Kings In Grass Castles* and most amusingly, the children's book titled *Lucy The Good*. Performing regularly in concerts throughout Australia, some highlights have been singing the British and Australian National Anthems for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and The Duke of Edinburgh for the state reception at Perth's Governor's Gardens, singing the Australian National Anthem at the AFL Grand Final, the State of Origin and The Melbourne Cup, regular appearances on Channel 9's **Carols By Candlelight** and Channel 7's **Carols in The Domain**, performing with the Perth and Queensland Symphony Orchestras and in the concert series **Disney Under The Stars** around the country earlier this year. Lucy is looking forward to performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in July for the first time in the concert *Witches*. Lucy's radio show *My Soundtrack* (which is available to be podcast on the ABC website) has been the ABC's most downloaded radio show three summers running and will be back for a fourth season this year. Lucy's debut album *Lucy Durack* is available on iTunes and in ABC stores around the country, on which she also debuts as a songwriter.



Ken

Nerdy, keen to please, and an avid Instagrammer, Ken's an administrator at Whyhope hospital.

He takes both himself and his job very seriously. He's fast to make friends and fast to make enemies.

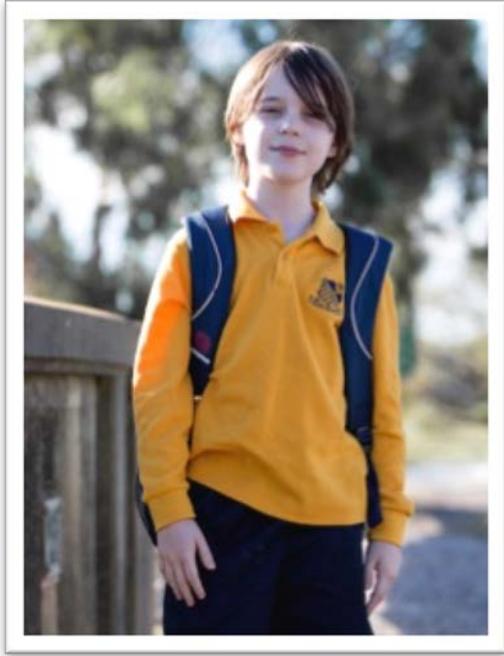
Charles Wu

is Ken

Charles grew up in Singapore and later lived in Perth before moving to Sydney where he successfully applied to and graduated from NIDA in 2014. Prior to NIDA he spent most of his time working in student theatre as an actor and sound designer, and also enjoyed a short stint as a stand-up comic. Whilst at NIDA Charles performed in the productions of *Kasimir & Karoline*, *Cymbeline*, *Iridescent – Water Graves*, *The River*, and *The False Servant*.

Charles has been playing guitar and singing since his youth and in 2014, Charles released *Apartments* - his first album, and hopes to infuse his personal brand of folk, electronica and noise into his work for the theatre. He is co-artistic director of the Corinthian Food Store Collective, a theatre company launched in 2014.

After graduating from NIDA, his career took off and he appeared in Company B's *Samson* at the Belvoir Theatre. He then landed the role of *Qui Kwan Sing* in the TV series **Secret City**, which will air in June on Foxtel's *Showtime* channel. Charles was then asked back to Belvoir to play *Jeffrey* in the successful production of *Jasper Jones*.



Floyd

Only son of Penny.

Winta McGrath

is Floyd

A young Australian actor, Winta McGrath will next be seen in the Australian feature film **Red Dog - True Blue**, directed by Kriv Stenders and the Mushroom Pictures' thriller, **Boy in the Trees**.

Previously, Winta starred as *Gully* in Claudia Llosa's **Aloft** alongside his brother Zen McGrath and Cillian Murphy.



Ian Collie

Producer

Ian Collie is a partner at Essential Media & Entertainment, one of Australia's best known television production companies. Essential was accorded the SPAA Producer of the Year Award in 2012. Ian is a highly experienced drama and factual television producer.

He is the series producer of four seasons of **Rake**, the comedy drama series for ABC TV starring Richard Roxburgh and guest starring Toni Collette, Cate Blanchett, Rachel Griffiths, Hugo Weaving and Sam Neill, amongst others. In addition, Ian was an Executive Producer on the United States version of **Rake** for the Fox Network and starring Greg Kinnear.

Ian produced the 6-part series of **Jack Irish** for the ABC starring Guy Pearce, which went to air in February 2016. He previously produced three telemovies of the **Jack Irish** franchise - **Bad Debts, Black Tide and Dead Point**.

Ian also produced series **The Principal** for SBS, which broadcasted in October 2015 and has sold to Netflix and The Sundance channels internationally. His feature film producer credits include the 2013 Disney financed **Saving Mr Banks** starring Tom Hanks, Emma Thompson, Colin Farrell, Paul Giamatti and others, and directed by John Lee Hancock.

In 2011 Ian produced **On Trial**, a five-part documentary series filming criminal trials in both the NSW District and WA Supreme Courts, including the first time cameras have been granted access to film a murder trial, and was executive producer on **Australia on Trial** a co-production with December Films in Melbourne that explored three pivotal criminal trials that shaped the face of colonial Australia. In 2010 Ian series produced the cross-platform social history project **The Making of Modern Australia** for the ABC, with a tie in online site www.makingaustralia.com.au and book by William McInnes.

His other credits include the telemovies **Stepfather of the Bride** and **Hell Has Harbour Views**, and various drama docs and documentaries including **Whatever! The Science of Teenagers, Rogue Nation, The Catalpa Rescue, A Case for the Coroner, Art House, The Shadow of Mary Poppins, and The Original Mermaid**.

Prior to television, Ian worked as a solicitor for Slater & Gordon and Cashman & Partners, and later as executive director for the Arts Law Centre of Australia.



Claudia Karvan

Producer

Claudia Karvan has been working in the Australian film and television industry since 1980 as an acclaimed actor, producer, director and creator of multi award-winning television series.

She was creator, producer and star of **Love My Way** which won numerous awards nationally and internationally, including the Australian Film Institute (AFI) for Best Television Drama Series three years in a row. For her role as *Frankie* in **Love My Way**, Claudia was two-time winner of both the Silver TV Week Logie Award for *Most Outstanding Actress* and the AFI for *Best Lead Actress* in a Drama Series. Claudia was also creator, producer and star of **Spirited**, which attracted AFI nominations for *Best Drama Series* and won the Sydney Morning Herald Guide's Couch Potato Award for *Best Drama Series* and secured a passionate audience following.

Claudia recently produced the mini-series **House of Hancock** with CJZ for Channel Nine. It attracted an audience of over 2 million.



Tony McNamara

Producer/Writer

Award-winning writer, producer, director and playwright, Tony McNamara is one of Australia's most respected and revered film and television creatives.

Commencing his working life in finance, Tony swapped stockbroking for scripting and spent the early part of his career writing for theatre with credits including *The Unlikely Prospect of Happiness*, *The Grenade*, *The Virgin Mim* (which he also directed) and *The Café Latte Kid* which not only garnered him a *NSW Premier's Literary Award* nomination but secured him a spot at the prestigious Australian, Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

The Café Latte Kid also provided the basis for his first feature, **The Rage in Placid Lake**, which he both adapted and directed. The film received numerous awards including an Australian Film Institute Award (AFI) for *Best Screenplay*, two Australian Writer's Guild Awards (AWGIE), a Melbourne International Film Festival Award for *Most Popular Feature* and was nominated for an FCCA, IF and Australian Comedy Award. Tony also received the AFI Award for *Best Screenplay* for his short film **The Beat Manifesto**.

Tony has written and produced some of Australia's most popular and award-winning television dramas. He received an AWGIE Award and was nominated for an AFI for his work on **Love My Way** and he received AACTA and AWGIE nominations for his work on **Puberty Blues**. His other writing credits include the celebrated **The Secret Life of Us**, **Offspring**, **Spirited** and **Tangle**.

Most recently Tony wrote and directed the feature film, **Ashby**, starring Mickey Rourke, Nat Wolff and Emma Roberts, which had its World Premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2015.



Jo Rooney

Executive Producer

Jo Rooney was appointed Co-Head of Drama for the Nine Network in September 2011, a position she jointly holds with Andy Ryan.

She has been involved in the development, production and commissioning of the hugely successful mini-series **Love Child**, **House of Hancock**, **Here Come the Habibs**, **HOWZAT! Kerry Packer's War**, the telemovies **Beaconsfield** and **The Great Mint Swindle**, and the series **House Husbands**, **Underbelly: Badness** and **Tricky Business**.

Drama commissions for 2016 include **Hyde & Seek**, **House of Bond**, **Doctor Doctor**, **Here Come the Habibs** (seasons one and two) and **House Husbands** (season five).

In 2015, Rooney was Executive Producer of the mini-series **Gallipoli**, **House of Hancock**, **Love Child** (season two) and **House Husbands** (season four). She was also Executive Producer for the **STAN** original drama series **Wolf Creek** and **No Activity**.

From 2012-2014, she was Executive Producer of the mini-series **Love Child**, **Fat Tony & Co**, **HOWZAT! Kerry Packer's War**, **Power Games: The Packer-Murdoch Story**, **Underbelly: Squizzy**, **Underbelly Badness**, as well as the series **House Husbands** (seasons one and two) and **Tricky Business**, and three telemovies: **Schappelle**, **The Great Mint Swindle** and **Beaconsfield**.

Rooney was formerly Drama Executive and Executive Producer of Children's Drama at Nine, involved in ground-breaking projects such as the **Underbelly** series, **Sea Patrol**, **Rescue Special Ops**, **The Strip**, and the telemovies **Wicked Love**, **Blood Brothers** and **Underbelly: Files**.

She has also commissioned several Australian children's dramas, including **gURLs wORLD**, **Dennis & Gnasher**, **Gasp!**, **Lockie Leonard**, **Dogstar**, **Flea Bitten**, **The Day My Butt Went Psycho**, **Buzz Bumble**, **Skinner Boys Heidi**, **Pirate Express** and **Captain Flynn** and **The Pirate Dinosaurs**.

Before joining the Nine Network, Rooney was an Associate Producer at the **Australian Broadcasting Corporation** where she was involved in such award-winning productions as **Brides of Christ**, **The Leaving of Liverpool**, **Police Rescue**, **Wildside** and **Seven Deadly Sins**, to name a few.

After the ABC she worked at Southern Star for several years as producer on **Water Rats**, **Young Lions** and **The Alice**, and co-producer with John Edwards on **Fireflies** and **Marking Time**.

Rooney was also part of the award-winning team that created **Love My Way**.



Andy Ryan

Executive Producer

Andy Ryan was appointed Co-Head of Drama for the Nine Network in September 2011 to oversee the development, commissioning and production of Australian drama output.

It is a position he jointly holds with Jo Rooney, and a responsibility for commissioning around 70 hours of original, first-run Australian drama each year.

Drama commissions for 2016 include **Hyde & Seek**, **House of Bond**, **Doctor Doctor**, **Here Come the Habibs** (seasons one and two) and **House Husbands** (season five).

In 2015, Ryan was Executive Producer of the mini-series **Gallipoli**, **House of Hancock**, **Love Child** (season two) and the series **House Husbands** (season four). He was also Executive Producer for the **STAN** original drama series **Wolf Creek** and **No Activity**.

From 2012-2014, Ryan was Executive Producer of the mini-series **Love Child**, **Fat Tony & Co**, **HOWZAT! Kerry Packer's War**, **Power Games: The Packer-Murdoch Story**, **Underbelly: Squizzy**, **Underbelly Badness**, as well as the series **House Husbands** (seasons one and two) and **Tricky Business**, plus three telemovies: **Schappelle**, **The Great Mint Swindle** and **Beaconsfield**. In children's drama, Andy has commissioned over twelve series including: **Wakkaville**, **Dogstar** (season two and telemovie), **Flea Bitten**, **Dennis & Gnasher** (seasons three and four), **The Day My Butt Went Psycho**, **Buzz Bumble**, **Skinner Boys** (seasons one and two), **Heidi**, **Pirate Express**, **Captain Flynn** and **The Pirate Dinosaurs**.

As Network Script Executive at Nine (2006-11) he oversaw the development and production of multiple award-winning productions including **Underbelly** (seasons one to four), **Sea Patrol** (season one to five) and **Rescue: Special Ops** (seasons one to three); the telemovies **Scorched**, **Wicked Love** and **Blood Brothers**, three **Underbelly: Files** telemovies, as well as the children's dramas **Lockie Leonard**, **Dogstar**, **Stormworld**, **Gasp!** and **Dennis & Gnasher**.

Following two years as script producer on the top-rating **McLeod's Daughters**, Ryan joined Nine as Network Script Executive in 2006.

After completing his Master of Arts degree in screenwriting at **AFTRS** (Australian Film Television and Radio School) in 1997, his television career began as script editor and writer on **All Saints**. Three years later he moved to **Home and Away** as story editor before branching into children's animation as script producer on two Australian/German co-productions: **The Adventures of Blinky Bill** and **Flipper & Lopaka**.



Liz Doran

Writer

Liz started her TV writing career on **The Secret Life of Us** and has since written for a wide range of shows including **Please Like Me**, **Dance Academy**, **The Miss Fisher Murder Mysteries**, **Love Child**, **Carla Cametti PD** and **Sugar Rush** for Channel 4 in the UK. She was the series 1 script producer for **Dance Academy** and she also wrote several episodes for the following two seasons, for which she was nominated for an AWGIE.

In 2015 she co-created and was the head writer/script producer on the AACTA Award and TV Week Logie Award winning (*Best Children's TV Series*) **Ready For This** with Blackfella Films and Werner Productions for ABC3. She also wrote the first episode for **Molly**, a two-part, 90 minute mini-series about Molly Meldrum and Countdown for Channel 7, which had consolidated ratings of 3.29 million viewers.

Alice Bell

Writer

Alice's debut screenplay was the multi-award winning feature film **Suburban Mayhem**, directed Paul Goldman, which screened at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006 and later at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film won an AWGIE for *Best Original Screenplay*, and was nominated for a Victorian Premier's Literary Award, an AFI Award and an IF Award.

Alice is an accomplished writer for television and has written lots of high-end Australian drama. She wrote, co-created and script-produced the drama series **The Beautiful Lie** for the ABC, which was recently nominated for a TV Week Logie for *Most Outstanding Television Miniseries*. Alice wrote and script-produced series 1 and 2 of **Puberty Blues**, which was nominated for *Best Television Drama Series* in 2013 and 2015 and won the coveted award for *Best Television Drama* in 2013. Furthermore, one of Alice's episodes was nominated for *Best Screenplay* at the 2013 AACTA Awards. She was a writer on the celebrated television drama **The Slap**; her episode *Connie* was nominated for an AWGIE for *Best Miniseries Adaptation* in 2012.

Alice's other television credits include writing for drama series **Spirited**, for which she won an AWGIE Award, and **Rush** series 1 to 4. She is currently writing episodes of the latest series of **Offspring** series 6.

She has two feature film projects in the later stages of development, **Gin & Tonic** with director Cherie Nowlan; and **The Circus** with director Emma Freeman.

Alice has also directed music videos for *Silverchair*, *Missy Higgins*, *Toni Collette and the Finish*, *Jimmy Barnes* and *Little Birdy*, and won an ARIA for Silverchair's *Straightlines* music video in 2007!



Tamara Asmar

Writer

As well as writing two episodes for **Doctor Doctor**, Tamara has previously completed episodes for Beyond Productions' (Netflix) animated children's series, **Beat Bugs**.

She was also selected for Playmaker Media's *Scribe* showrunner program whilst working with Playmaker as a Writer and Script Editor on the second series of **Love Child** for Channel Nine.

Tamara has written extensively for Screenime (**Crownies, Tricky Business**) and also wrote three episodes of SLR's live-action children's series **Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures** for Network Ten.

She has also written for the stage and her short film, **Census**, was selected for the Flickerfest International Film Festival in 2013.



Peter Salmon

Set Up Director

Peter Salmon has had an extensive career across all aspects of filmmaking, writing and directing. Over the last four years Peter has been directing prime time television in Australia on **Rake**, **Secrets and Lies**, **Offspring**, **Nowhere Boys**, **Mr and Mrs Murder** and **Wonderland**. More recently, Peter received an ADG nomination for one of his episodes of **The Beautiful Lie** (ABC). Last year, he received two ADG Award nominations for his work on **Secrets and Lies** and **Nowhere Boys** (winner of the International Emmy for Best Kids Series). Peter is currently in production on the Essential Media series **Doctor Doctor**, produced by Claudia Karvan, Ian Collie and Tony McNamara for the Nine Network.

Starting young, Peter was head director and writer on New Zealand's highly successful teen-drama series **Being Eve** in 2001. **Being Eve** was nominated for an International Emmy, won Gold and Silver at the New York Festivals and Best Series at the NZ TV Awards for two years running. Peter went on to direct numerous episodes of the multi-award winning shows, **Outrageous Fortune**, **Go Girls** and **Agent Anna**.

Peter wrote and directed three award-winning short films: **Playing Possum** which screened at over 20 international festivals, picking up audience and jury awards in Turkey and France; **Letters about the Weather**, a huge success on the international stage, receiving a special jury award at Clermont Ferrand and nominated for *Best Script* and winning *Best Performance* (Sara Wiseman) at the NZ Film Awards; and *Fog*, which had its world premiere screening in competition at Cannes Critics Week in 2007 and was nominated for three awards at the NZ Film Awards (Best Cinematography and Best Film), picking up *Best Performer* (Chelsie Preston Crayford).

Peter has substantial knowledge and experience in visual effects, directing multiple series of the long-running children's show **Power Rangers**. In animation, he was director of the motion capture unit on Weta Workshop's international award-winning television series **Jane and the Dragon**. Peter also wrote several episodes of Weta's successful animated series **The Wot Wots**, which screens in over 90 territories worldwide.



Jeremy Sims

Director

Actor, director, writer and producer across theatre, film and television, Jeremy Sims is one of Australia's leading creatives.

With a successful and acclaimed career as an actor, with credits including his AFI Award nominated role in the feature **Idiot Box**, and his numerous Award nominated roles on television he received the AFI Award for *Best Actor* in **Aftershocks** in 1996. On stage, he has built his reputation as one of Australia's great actors playing titular roles including *Cyrano De Bergerac* and *Hamlet* to national acclaim. He regularly directs for the Sydney Theatre Company - and has played on Broadway (*The White Devil*) and the West End (*Riflemind*, directed by Phillip Seymour Hoffman) for the STC.

Establishing Pork Chop Productions in 1995, as Artistic Director Jeremy has directed and produced acclaimed classical interpretations and original theatrical works all around the country.

Over the last decade Jeremy has focused on new Australian works, often in collaboration with long-time friend Reg Cribb, enlisting the Sydney Opera House as a co-production partner. Their theatrical productions of *Last Cab To Darwin* and *Ruby's Last Dollar* (both starring Jacki Weaver) won many awards and toured nationally in 2004 and 2005.

Jeremy Sims' first feature film, **Last Train to Freo**, received three AFI Award nominations and five Film Critics Circle Award nominations in 2006.

He directed and produced his second feature film, the WWI epic **Beneath Hill 60** in Townsville. **Beneath Hill 60** was nominated in 2010 for 12 AFI Awards, 5 IF Awards and 8 FCCA Awards, including *Best Director* and *Best Film* across all three award ceremonies, with Jeremy also nominated for an *Australian Directors Guild Award*. **Beneath Hill 60** has been sold and won awards all over the world, including *Best Picture* at the *Savannah Film Festival* and Jeremy was awarded the *Alfred P Sloan Feature* prize at the *Hamptons International Film Festival*. Previous winners include Darren Aronofsky, Julian Shnabel and Michael Apted.

Most recently Jeremy directed and co-wrote (with playwright and screenwriter Reg Cribb) the highly acclaimed and award winning feature **Last Cab to Darwin**, starring Michael Caton and Jacki Weaver. The film screened as part of the *Contemporary World Cinema* section at the *2015 Toronto Film Festival*, and went on to be a huge box office success.



Kriv Stenders

Director

Kriv Stenders is one of Australia's most renowned and respected film directors, with numerous critically-acclaimed and award-winning shorts, documentaries, music videos, television commercials and feature films to his credit. His feature films include **Blacktown**, **The Illustrated Family Doctor**, **Boxing Day**, and **Lucky Country**.

His fifth feature, **Red Dog**, released by Roadshow in August 2011, has now earned over \$22 million at the box office, making it the ninth highest grossing Australian film of all time. It has also become the highest selling Australian DVD of all time. **Red Dog** won both *Best Director* and *Best Film* at the 2011 IF Awards and the *Best Film* Award at the inaugural 2012 ACCTA Awards.

Kriv's last movie, **Kill Me Three Times**, which stars Simon Pegg, Alice Braga, Teresa Palmer, Sullivan Stapleton and Bryan Brown, was released theatrically by Magnolia Pictures in the U.S. and through eOne in Australia in 2015. That same year he also completed production on **The Principal**, a four-part Television drama for SBS starring Alex Dimitriades and Aden Young, as well as the feature-length documentary **Why Anzac with Sam Neill** for ABC TV.

Kriv is now in post-production on **Blue Dog**, the follow-up to **Red Dog**, which is due for release in late 2016.



Essential Media & Entertainment

Essential Media and Entertainment is one of Australia's leading independent producers of high quality screen content for both local and international audiences. Headquartered in Sydney, Essential Media also maintains offices in Brisbane, Los Angeles and Toronto. Platform partners outside Australia include BBC, National Geographic, PBS, Discovery Networks, Sundance, History Channel, Arte, Netflix and Fox Network.

Recent successes from its diverse slate include popular and award-winning drama series **Rake** and **Jack Irish**, the landmark natural history series **Australia: The Time Travelers Guide** and standout lifestyle hits **Gourmet Farmer** and **Shane Delia's Spice Journey**. The Company's principals - Chris Hilton, Carmel Travers, Sonja Armstrong and Ian Collie - are behind Australia's best entertainment from **The Colony to Beyond 2000**, **Gourmet Farmer** to **Rake**. All four are highly credentialed producers and industry leaders. The Essential Factual and Lifestyle slate is as strong as ever with recent productions: landmark drama-doc series **Australia: The Story of Us**, journalistic series **Afghanistan: The Australian War** and feature documentary **Why Anzac with Sam Neill**. Other recently broadcast factual content includes the seafood campaign series **What's the Catch?**, lifestyle series **Gourmet Farmer Afloat**, a third series of middle-eastern food travel show **Shane Delia's Spice Journey** and arts feature doc **Getting Frank Gehry**.

Essential Drama recently produced a fourth series of the critically-acclaimed **Rake**, starring Richard Roxburgh, and the six-part series of crime drama **Jack Irish**, following up on the success of the first three instalments of the telemovies starring Guy Pearce. The highly anticipated 4 hour crime drama series starring Alex Dimitriades, **The Principal**, aired on SBS in October 2014 and continues in rest of world territories, including on Netflix in the US.

Essential Kids & Family has launched with the success of animated series **Bubble Bath Bay (aka Sydney Sailboat)** and teen factual series **MY:24**. It has an exciting slate of children's and family content, including the animated series **Alien TV** and live action teen drama series **The Timeshifters**. Essential's feature film slate is off to an impressive start with the 2014 release of Disney's **Saving Mr Banks**, starring Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson.

Factual Entertainment formats are a growing focus for the company, along with partner companies Essential Media USA in Los Angeles and Essential Media Canada in Toronto. The Los Angeles and Toronto unscripted companies currently produce series for a variety of platforms including TruTV, HGTV, GSN, Animal Planet and National Geographic and for the Bell and Shaw media groups in Canada.