

The NINE Network presents  
A Playmaker Production



## Season 4 Media Kit

as at 6.6.17



# Love Child Season 4

## Synopsis

**It's 1972. The year of Whitlam and the grooves of funk,  
free education and immigration, and The Pill ...  
births, deaths, baby switches and an immaculate conception.**

It has been eight months, and as *I Am Woman* blasts through the airwaves and the second wave of feminism crashes down through the newly revamped King's Cross Hospital, **Matron** continues to run Stanton House with a steely 1950s ironclad fist.

With the enticements of change and a cultural revolution, it's wild times, and a cracker night in the Cross. Amidst the flurry of Queen's Birthday celebrations, **Matron Frances Bolton** (*Mandy McElhinney*) is taking great pleasure in overseeing the opening of a new Obstetrics wing where, despite being heavily pregnant, **Dr Joan Millar** (*Jessica Marais*) is already butting heads with the unorthodox new *Head of Obstetrics*, **Dr Andrew Patterson** (*Dan Hamill*) - a surf-loving Vietnam vet who has everyone in a spin.

Meanwhile, **Martha** (*Miranda Tapsell*), **Viv** (*Sophie Hensser-Bloom*) and **Patty** (*Harriet Dyer*) are trying to make the most of what the sexy 70s has to offer. **Viv**'s enjoying her work and her independence, **Martha**'s learning what it really means to be a doctor's wife, and **Patty** is busy trying to put the mistakes of the past behind her.

**Matron** has her hands full with three new girls at Stanton House: **Rita** (*Darcie Irwin-Simpson*), a novice nun who purports she's had an immaculate conception; **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*), a trouble making teen desperately in love with a married man; and mystery surrounds the arrival of **Elena** (*Danielle Catanzariti*), an Italian immigrant who is alone, terrified and on the run.

A shocking death and a terrible mix up puts **Joan** in the middle of a devastating cover-up whilst facing every new mother's worst nightmare ... just as her life is upended by the return of a ghost from her past.

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## Key Cast

Dr Joan Millar	<b>Jessica Marais</b>
Matron	<b>Mandy McElhinney</b>
Dr Andrew Patterson	<b>Dan Hamill</b>
Viv	<b>Sophie Hensser-Bloom</b>
Martha	<b>Miranda Tapsell</b>
Patricia	<b>Harriet Dyer</b>
Dr Simon Bowditch	<b>Andrew Ryan</b>
Elena Capobianco	<b>Danielle Catanzariti</b>
Debbie Hampshire	<b>Sophia Forrest</b>
Sister Rita Harris	<b>Darcie Irwin-Simpson</b>
Father Ross	<b>Matt Day</b>
Fleur	<b>Zoe Ventoura</b>
Kate	<b>Harriet Gordon-Anderson</b>
Ed	<b>Travis Jeffrey</b>
Marco	<b>Jerome Velinsky</b>
Wanda	<b>Chloe Bayliss</b>
Liza	<b>Annie Maynard</b>
Jennifer	<b>Sara West</b>

With

**Ronan Keating** as **Dr Lawrence Faber**

# love Child Season 4

## Key Crew

<b>Producer</b>	Sue Seeary
<b>Executive Producers</b>	David Maher David Taylor Jo Rooney Andy Ryan Sarah Smith
<b>Creator</b>	Sarah Lambert
<b>Directors</b>	Geoff Bennett David Caesar Shannon Murphy Wayne Blair
<b>Writers</b>	Cathryn Strickland Chris McCourt Fiona Samuel Fin Edquist Vanessa Alexander Josephine D Barrett Chris Hawkshaw Sarah Smith
<b>Casting</b>	Ann Robinson – Mullinars
<b>Production Designer</b>	Tim Ferrier
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Nic Owens
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Louise Wakefield
<b>Make Up &amp; Hair Designer</b>	Terri Farmer
<b>Editors</b>	Adrian Rostriolla Nick Holmes

# Love Child Season 4

## Episode 1

**Written by:** Cathryn Strickland

**Directed by:** Geoff Bennett

**It's 1972 and change is in the air. Joan's (Jessica Marais) reservations about the new head of obstetrics are put on the back burner when she goes into labour, mystery surrounds a new Stanton House girl and a tragic turn of events ends in tragedy.**

Joan's (Jessica Marais) birth plans go awry when she goes into early labour and the new unorthodox head of obstetrics, **Dr Andrew Patterson** (Dan Hamill), is the only one who can help. Meanwhile, there's three new girls at Stanton House. Mystery surrounds the recent arrival of Italian immigrant **Elena** (Danielle Catanzariti), while novice nun **Rita** (Darcie Irwin-Simpson) believes she's had an immaculate conception, and trouble making little rich girl **Debbie** (Sophia Forrest) will ensure **Matron's** (Mandy McElhinney) hands are full. Amidst the chaos of the hospital expansion, an accidental mix-up goes unnoticed while a shocking turn of events ends in the tragic death of one of our favourites.

## Episode 2

**Written by:** Chris McCourt

**Directed by:** Geoff Bennett

**Filled with grief, Martha (Miranda Tapsell) is determined to uncover what really happened to Patty (Harriet Dyer). Meanwhile, when Elena's (Danielle Catanzariti) brother discovers the truth of her condition, Elena makes a life-threatening decision.**

Filled with grief after the death of her best friend **Patty** (Harriet Dyer), **Martha** (Miranda Tapsell) is determined to uncover the truth of **Patty's** final hours, and drags **Viv** (Sophie Hensser-Bloom) along with her on a wild goose chase that ends in the last place **Martha** expected. **Elena's** (Danielle Catanzariti) troubles are compounded with the arrival of her brother. When he discovers that being in Stanton House has nothing to do with having tuberculosis, **Elena** is consumed with shame and makes a life-threatening decision. Keen to impress his new boss, **Bowditch** (Andrew Ryan) joins **Andrew** (Dan Hamill) for a night out on the town. **Matron** (Mandy McElhinney) suppresses her niggling doubts about the baby switch while **Joan** (Jessica Marais) finds her feet as a single stay-at-home mother.

# Love Child Season 4

## Episode 3

**Written by:** Fiona Samuel

**Directed by:** David Caesar

**Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) **must compete for a permanent doctor's position against her friend Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) **as well as a sexist rival with wandering hands. Meanwhile, the Stanton House girls steal Martha's** (*Miranda Tapsell*) **car in an attempt to learn more about Elena's** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) **betrothed.**

When **Joan's** (*Jessica Marais*) baby is refused a baptism, it's just the start of **Joan's** worries. She competes for a permanent doctor's position, butting up against both a determined **Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) and a sexist rival with wandering hands, and discovers balancing work with motherhood is a tougher job than she'd anticipated. On a secret mission, **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*) steals **Martha's** (*Miranda Tapsell*) car and takes the Stanton House girls to check out **Elena's** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) betrothed, but their joyride ends with a medical emergency for **Rita** (*Darcie Irwin-Simpson*). **Viv** (*Sophie Hensser-Bloom*) decides to take a walk on the wild side when she visits a nudist beach and has an intriguing encounter, while **Matron** (*Mandy McElhinney*) scoffs at **Andrew's** (*Dan Hamill*) proposal to allow fathers into the labour ward.

## Episode 4

**Written by:** Fin Edquist

**Directed by:** David Caesar

**Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) **comes face to face with every mother's very worst nightmare; her daughter Laura is gravely ill. Can Andrew** (*Dan Hamill*) **save her baby? Meanwhile, Matron** (*Mandy McElhinney*) **is racked with guilt over the baby mix-up – will she confess her suspicions to Joan?**

**Matron's** (*Mandy McElhinney*) growing suspicions she mixed up **Joan's** (*Jessica Marais*) baby with another leads to a confession with **Father Ross** (*Matt Day*). **Matron** struggles with her conscience as she weighs the hospital's reputation against **Joan's** right to know. As **Viv** (*Sophie Hensser-Bloom*) starts to feel the stirrings of wanderlust, **Martha** (*Miranda Tapsell*) is driven by guilt; **Bowditch's** (*Andrew Ryan*) mind is firmly on starting a family, and she's determined to keep the fact she's on the pill a secret. **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*) manages to secretly rendezvous with her lover **Alan** (*Ben Hall*), and discovers their plans to move to Paris have hit a snag. In the excitement of the International Women's Day march, **Joan** senses baby **Laura** is unwell. After a diagnosis of pneumonia, **Andrew** (*Dan Hamill*) does all he can to help cure the child, but as **Laura's** condition worsens, **Joan** is forced to accept the harshest truth of all – her baby might die.



# Love Child Season 4

## Episode 5

**Written by:** Vanessa Alexander

**Directed by:** Shannon Murphy

**Elena** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) is overwhelmed when **Ed** (*Travis Jeffery*), the father of her child, turns up and promises to fight for their love and their baby. Meanwhile, **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) attempts to bury her grief by throwing herself back into work.

**Elena** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) is overwhelmed when **Ed** (*Travis Jeffery*), the father of her child, turns up at Stanton House and wants to marry her. After **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*) tells him **Elena** has been sold into an arranged marriage, **Ed** is determined to fight for their love and his baby. Meanwhile, **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) returns to work in an attempt to bury her grief after the death of her daughter, raising the concerns of everyone except **Andrew** (*Dan Hamill*) who understands her need to throw herself into work. **Martha** (*Miranda Tapsell*) puts her heart and soul into creating the perfect dinner party to celebrate her husband's recent promotion, but when the party degenerates into a cold war after the revelation of a secret, **Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) storms out in anger resulting in a devastating accident. In the aftermath, **Joan** finally crumbles, giving into the intense grief she has been suppressing for weeks, turning to Andrew for help.

## Episode 6

**Written by:** Josephine D Barrett

**Directed by:** Shannon Murphy

**Still clinging to the idea that her pregnancy is an immaculate conception, Rita** (*Darcie Irwin-Simpson*) is forced to face the truth, resulting in an explosive confrontation with her mother. Meanwhile, **Martha** (*Miranda Tapsell*) fears her marriage may be over when **Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) continues to avoid her.

**Rita** (*Darcie Irwin-Simpson*) needs to have her baby induced, but is refusing any intervention. Concerned by the situation, **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) and **Matron** (*Mandy McElhinney*) arrange for **Rita's** mother **Liza** (*Annie Maynard*) to visit, in the hope of shedding some light on **Rita's** growing disconnection with reality. When the truth of **Rita's** pregnancy is revealed, **Andrew** (*Dan Hamill*) and **Joan** are caught up in the explosive confrontation between mother and daughter. **Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) confesses his secret of the 'hit and run' to **Martha** (*Miranda Tapsell*) but his attempt to come clean is impeded when **Ed** (*Travis Jeffery*) goes into a coma. **Viv** (*Sophie Hensser-Bloom*) is thrown when **Joan** questions the nature of her and **Kate's** (*Harriet Gordon-Anderson*) friendship. Viv attempts to distance herself from **Kate**, but finds herself having to confront her feelings.

# Love Child Season 4

## Episode 7

**Written by:** Chris Hawkshaw

**Directed by:** Geoff Bennett

**Joan's** (*Jessica Marais*) **life is upended by the return of a ghost from her past. Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) **is relieved Ed** (*Travis Jeffery*) **is recovering, but he and Martha** (*Miranda Tapsell*) **are floored when they receive a blackmail letter.**

**Joan's** (*Jessica Marais*) life is upended by the return of **Dr Lawrence Faber** (*Ronan Keating*), her ex-fiancé whom she hasn't seen since she left London. He has come to Sydney on the pretence of business, but **Joan** knows his intention is to rekindle their romance. After his hit and run, **Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) is relieved **Ed** (*Travis Jeffery*) is recovering, but he and **Martha** (*Miranda Tapsell*) are floored when they receive a blackmail letter demanding a large payment. Who can they turn to for help? **Viv's** (*Sophie Hensser-Bloom*) fledgling relationship with **Kate** (*Harriet Gordon-Anderson*) comes to an end when **Kate** receives some surprising news. **Rita** (*Darcie Irwin-Simpson*) is due to return to the convent but is having second thoughts as **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*) does her best to keep **Elena** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) and **Ed** together.

## Episode 8

**Written by:** Chris McCourt

**Directed by:** Geoff Bennett

**Debbie's** (*Sophia Forrest*) **dreams of a happy ending with her married lover Alan** (*Ben Hall*) **are shattered when she discovers the under-the-table deal he's made with Matron** (*Mandy McElhinney*). **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) **must decide how she really feels about Lawrence** (*Ronan Keating*) **while Viv** (*Sophie Hensser-Bloom*) **makes a life-changing decision.**

**Debbie's** (*Sophia Forrest*) dreams of a happy ending with her married lover **Alan** (*Ben Hall*) are irrevocably shattered when he and his wife make a secret deal with **Matron** (*Mandy McElhinney*). **Lawrence** (*Ronan Keating*) butts heads with (*Dan Hamill*), putting **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) in an untenable position. Caught up in the prospect of a future with **Lawrence**, she is forced to not only ask herself if she wants to be with him, but whether she has a future returning to London. Caught up in the prospect of a future with **Lawrence**, she is forced to not only ask herself if she wants her lover as her boss, but whether she has a future returning to London. With **Viv's** (*Sophie Hensser-Bloom*) wanderlust and longing to see more of the world, she stands up to **Matron**, telling her exactly what she thinks about **Matron's** motives and the continued subjugation of young women at Stanton House.



# Love Child Season 4

## Episode 9

**Written by:** Vanessa Alexander

**Directed by:** Wayne Blair

**Elena's** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) dreams of love and happiness are threatened by an embittered **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*) who isn't coping with **Alan's** (*Ben Hall*) betrayal. With the help of **Andrew** (*Dan Hamill*), **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) gets the evidence she needs to demand a hospital inquiry into the baby swap.

Feeling abandoned and in a world of hurt, **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*) tries to destroy **Elena's** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) dreams of love and happiness. **Elena** is further devastated when it's revealed she can't keep her baby, even if she does marry the baby's father, **Ed** (*Travis Jeffery*). When her child's autopsy report throws up some surprising inconsistencies, **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) comes to the shocking realisation her baby was swapped, but will **Andrew** (*Dan Hamill*) support her? With his and **Martha's** (*Miranda Tapsell*) help, **Joan** gets the evidence she needs to demand a hospital inquiry. Feeling increasingly cornered, **Matron** (*Mandy McElhinney*) digs in her heels about keeping her secret.

## Episode 10

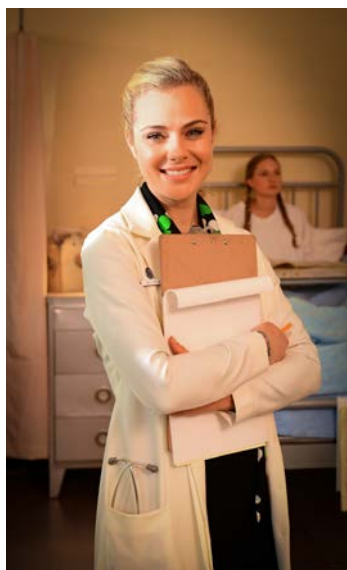
**Written by:** Sarah Smith

**Directed by:** Wayne Blair

**Matron** (*Mandy McElhinney*) and **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) go head to head when the truth about the baby swap finally emerges. Meanwhile **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*) and **Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) search for **Ed** (*Travis Jeffery*) so **Elena** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) can marry before her baby is born.

Set against Election Day 1972, **Joan** (*Jessica Marais*) finally learns the truth about the baby swap, but is faced with the awful prospect she may never be reunited with her daughter when the other mother, **Greta** (*Lianne Mackessy*), doesn't believe it. Despite being warned by **Andrew** (*Dan Hamill*) to keep a cool head, a desperate **Joan** visits **Greta** at her home. Instead of convincing her to relinquish her baby, **Greta's** husband **Peter** calls the police. Meanwhile, **Andrew** with help from **Martha** (*Miranda Tapsell*) and **Rita** (*Darcie Irwin-Simpson*) find the evidence they need to prove the baby swap. **Matron** (*Mandy McElhinney*) is finally faced with her mistake, and despite their close relationship, **Father Ross** (*Matt Day*) proves less reliable than **Matron** had hoped. As this unfolds, **Debbie** (*Sophia Forrest*) and **Bowditch** (*Andrew Ryan*) frantically search for **Ed** (*Travis Jeffery*), bundled away by **Elena's** (*Danielle Catanzariti*) brother **Marco** (*Jerome Velinsky*), so they can get him back to the hospital in time to marry **Elena** before she gives birth.

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### Dr Joan Millar

It has been eight months and with the birth of her daughter, Joan resolves to raise her child alone with no intention of letting her career slide. She is indeed a woman of her time, determined to live life her way.

#### Jessica Marais

#### is Dr Joan Millar

Reprising her TV Week Logie Award winning role as *Dr Joan Millar*, Jessica most recently starred in the Network Ten series **The Wrong Girl**. She also starred in the ABC telemovie **Carlotta**, for which she received two Silver TV Week Logie nominations, the US series **Magic City**, opposite Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Olga Kurylenko, for the Starz Network, and the Disney series, **Legend of the Seeker**.

Jessica made her feature debut in **Two Fists, One Heart** directed by Shawn Seet, and has also appeared in the Australian film **Needle**, performed the voice of *Rochelle* in Disney's animated feature **Planes**, and featured in Jim Loach's feature film **Chasing Satellites**.

Jessica came to prominence with her role in the Seven Network's **Packed to the Rafters**. Her performance earned her two TV Week Logie Awards in 2009 for *Most Outstanding New Talent* and *Most Popular New Female Talent* as well as a further four nominations for *Most Outstanding Actress* and *Most Popular Actress*. In 2011, Jessica was also nominated for the Gold TV Week Logie Award for *Most Popular Personality on Australian Television*.

In early 2008, she debuted with the Sydney Theatre Company in the critically acclaimed production of *The Season at Sarsaparilla* and in early 2014, she appeared on stage in David Berthold's *Così* for La Boite.

Jessica is a graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Australia's most prestigious acting school.

## Love Child Season 4



### Matron Frances Bolton

Matron continues to run Stanton House with an iron fist, but with adoption and birth rates at an all-time high, she is spread thin between the demands of the hospital, the maternity ward moving to a new wing, and yet more wayward teens at Stanton House.

And just when it is too late, Matron realizes she has made a terrible mistake - one that will torment her and have far reaching implications for a mother and the hospital.

How far will she go to keep her secret? She has a new ally on the board in *Father Ross* - a relationship that moves into dangerous territory for both of them.

#### Mandy McElhinney

#### is Matron

One of Australia's most highly regarded stage and screen actors, over three seasons Mandy has portrayed **Love Child's** revered *Matron*.

Most recently seen in the celebrated Channel Nine series **Hyde & Seek** opposite Matt Nable, Mandy was acclaimed for her outstanding characterisation of *Gina* in the television mini-series **House of Hancock**. In 2012 Mandy received the AACTA Award for *Best Supporting Actress in a Television Drama* for her role in **Howzat! Kerry Packer's War** – which also saw her nominated for the Silver TV Week Logie for *Most Outstanding Actress* in 2013. The following year she received her second TV Week Logie nomination for *Most Outstanding Actress* for her portrayal of Nene King in **Paper Giants: Magazine Wars**.

With feature film credits including **Ned Kelly** and **The Bank**, Mandy's numerous other television credits include **A Moody Christmas**, **At Home With Julia**, **Comedy Inc.**, **Bed of Roses**, **MDA**, **All Saints**, **The Alice**, **Welcher & Welcher**, **Stingers**, **Kath & Kim**, **Blue Heelers**, and **Water Rats**.

On stage Mandy's credits include *Cinderella* and *Forget Me Not* (Belvoir Theatre), *Dreams of White* (Griffin Theatre Co), *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Kafka's Metamorphosis*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Great and Don's Party* (STC); *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Brink); *The Hypocrite*, *Life After George* and *Pride and Prejudice* (MTC); *This Way Up*, *Holy Day*, *Twilight Series* and *Inside 2000* (Playbox).

In 2010 Mandy was nominated for the USA Helen Hayes Award for *Outstanding Supporting Performer* for *A Streetcar Named Desire* which she performed in both Washington DC and New York. Previously Mandy was nominated for the 1998 Green Room Award for *Best Actress in a Featured Role* for *The Herbal Bed* at the MTC.

## Love Child Season 4



### Dr Andrew Patterson

Fresh from serving in Vietnam, Dr Andrew Patterson is the new *Head of Obstetrics* at Kings Cross Hospital. He's sexy, charismatic and can charm the pants off anyone. Andrew has three great loves: surfing, music and women (not necessarily in that order).

A rule breaker and mischief-maker, Andrew has a healthy disregard for authority and tradition. He's not looking for love, at least not until he meets his match in Dr. Joan Millar. He's definitely going to shake things up at Kings Cross Hospital.

### Dan Hamill

### is Dr Andrew Patterson

On screen, Dan has appeared in **House Husbands**, **Jack Irish**, **City Homicide**, **Neighbours**, the Canadian series **Hard Rock Medical**, the telemovie **The Broken Shore**, **The Doctor Blake Mysteries** and the feature film **Short Film Maker**.

He has also appeared in numerous short films, most notably the lead in **Between Me**, directed by Kim Farrant which screened at the 2014 International Cannes Film Festival.

Dan's professional stage work includes *Crazy for You* for The Production Company, *MelBorn09* for the Fringe Festival and The Melbourne Writers' Theatre, and a national tour of *West Side Story* in the role of *Action*, alongside an outstanding cast. Most recently on stage he appeared in *Glimpse* at fortyfivedownstairs with The Kin Collective, of which Dan is a founding member.

Last year Dan was a finalist in Channel 7's **The X Factor** and can regularly be seen performing with 'The Dan Hamill Band' in Australia and internationally.

## love Child Season 4



### Dr Lawrence Faber

Charming, brilliant and with a healthy ego, Dr Lawrence Faber is a leading obstetrician from London - and Joan's ex-fiance. Lawrence has come to Sydney with one thing on his mind - winning Joan back.

### Ronan Keating

### is Lawrence

With 40 million album sales with **Boyzone**, 22 million copies sold of nine solo albums, fourteen solo number one singles and over 160 million YouTube views Ronan Keating is one of the world's leading recording artists and entertainers.

He has guided **Westlife** to stardom, recorded with Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), dueted with Elton John at Madison Square Garden, sung for the Pope, written an autobiography, received the prestigious BMI European *Song Writing Award*, and an *Ivor Novello Award*, been appointed as a *UN Goodwill Ambassador*, as well as his many hits and gigs.

Ronan starred in his first feature film **Goddess** in 2013 and has also provided the singing voice for **Postman Pat**. In 2014 he debuted, to fabulous reviews in the lead role in **Once - The Musical** on London's West End. He has also acted as a judge on both of Australia's **The Voice** and **The X Factor**, as well as hosted **Miss World**, the **Eurovision Song Contest** and the **MTV Europe Awards**.

This year will see the release of Ronan's next feature **Another Mother's Son** a gripping true story set in the *Second World War* which sees Ronan perform alongside Jenny Seagrove, John Hannah and Amanda Abbington.

## Love Child Season 4



### Viv

1972 is a time of new frontiers and Viv intends to make the most of them. Viv has matured into an increasingly confident and proficient nurse, finding Matron's draconian methods increasingly restrictive.

A growing sense of wanderlust makes her question her choices; Viv confronts her deepest fears and realises that to keep growing, her destiny is beyond the confines of Kings Cross Hospital.

### Sophie Hensser-Bloom

### is Viv

Sophie has trained with the Australian Theatre for Young People and participated in the NIDA open program. Sophie holds a BA in Media Communications, Media, Arts and Production from UTS.

Reprising her role as Viv, Sophie's other television credits include **Australia: The Story of Us**, Channel Nine's **Tricky Business** as the series regular *Lily Christie*, **Serangoon Road**, **Crownies** for ABC TV, **Home and Away**, **Underbelly: The Golden Mile**, **Cops LAC**, **All Saints** and **The Saddle Club**.

Her theatre credits include *A History of Falling Things* for the Ensemble Theatre, *Ugly Mugs* for Malthouse Theatre/Griffin Theatre directed by Marion Potts, *The Removalists* for Tamarama Rock Surfers directed by Leland Kean, *Silent Disco* for the Griffin Theatre Company, directed by Lee Lewis, *The Distance from Here* for Griffin Independent directed by John Sheedy, and *Summerfolk* for Bob Presents directed by Eamon Flack.

Sophie was nominated for *Best Newcomer* at the 2011 Sydney Theatre Awards for *Silent Disco*.



## Love Child Season 4



### Martha

Happily married to Dr Simon Bowditch, Martha loves being a doctor's wife, but also enjoys the independence of working at the hospital and earning her own money.

But when Bowditch makes it clear he wants to start a family, Martha agrees but doesn't tell him she's secretly taking the contraceptive pill. The idea of getting pregnant again opens up a Pandora's box of emotions that Martha isn't ready to face.

### Miranda Tapsell

### is Martha

Miranda Tapsell is a proud Larrakia Woman from Darwin who grew up in Kakadu National Park and began performing at the age of seven. Miranda graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2008 and since has built a strong ascending career in film, theatre and television.

Miranda is well known for her performance in the multi-award winning feature film **The Sapphires**, playing one of four lead characters. Miranda captured the hearts of the viewing public with her portrayal of the feisty *Cynthia* with the film receiving many accolades on the international festival circuit. Miranda is also renowned for her role in Channel NINE's drama **Love Child**, in which Miranda plays *Martha*, one of the central characters, with Miranda winning two Logie Awards for her role.

Miranda starred in the popular ABC TV series **Redfern Now** (Season 1) and **Black Comedy**. Other television credits include **Splash Content** for ABC, **Mabo** for Blackfella Films, **Who We Are** (Season 3), Foxtel's gripping political drama, **Secret City**, ScreenTime's series **Wolf Creek** and **Cleverman** for the ABC. She recently debuted in the perennial favourite children's series, **Play School** and the spin offs **Maurice's Big Adventure** and **Joey's Big Adventure**. She will soon be seen in the ABC's legal drama **Newton's Law**. Her most recent feature is Warwick Thornton's film **Words with Gods**.

Miranda recently appeared in Griffin Theatre's coproduction with Bell Shakespeare *The Literati*, as well as two Belvoir Street Theatre productions, *A Christmas Carol* and *Radiance*. Other remarkable stage career performances include Sydney Theatre Company's production of *The Secret River* for which she received a Helpmann Award Nomination for *Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play*; *I Am Eora* for Sydney Festival; *Rainbow's End* for Riverside Theatre; *Mother's Tongue* for Yirra Yakin Theatre Company and *Yibiyung* (Lead) for Belvoir Street Theatre.

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### Patricia

In the heart of the bustling Cross, Patty has inadvertently become the success she dreamed of. Her crèche is full of kids but Patty still clings to her desire to fall in love and have a family of her own.

With a heart of gold, Patty is recovering from her unrequited love for Jim, an affair that is exposed at Joan's baby shower, leaving her feeling shunted and judged by those she holds dearest ... something which is brought into sharp focus when tragedy strikes.

### Harriet Dyer

### is Patricia

Harriet Dyer will next be seen in Damien Power's feature **Killing Ground**, which premiered at the 2016 Melbourne International Film Festival and screened at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival.

Harriet was recently seen in Abe Forsythe's **Down Under** which premiered at the 2016 Sydney Film Festival, and the second series of **No Activity** for Stan. Harriet made her feature film debut in Brendan Cowell's **Ruben Guthrie**, which opened the 2015 Sydney Film Festival.

Her other television credits include **Hyde & Seek**, **Black Comedy**, the critically acclaimed ABC series **Rake**, Screentime's **Janet King**, the ABC comedy **A Moody Christmas**, Network Ten's **Micro Nation** and **Packed to the Rafters**.

Harriet's performance in **Love Child** earned her a 2016 Logie Award nomination for *Most Outstanding Supporting Actress* and two 2015 TV Week Logie Award nominations; the *Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding Newcomer* and the *Most Popular New Talent Award*. For the same performance, she also received an AACTA Award nomination for *Best Supporting Actress in a Television Drama*.

Harriet has appeared on stage in *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Hay Fever*, *Travelling North*, *Machinal* and *Pygmalion* for the Sydney Theatre Company; *Brisbane* for the Queensland Theatre Company; *Peter Pan* for Belvoir; *Time Stands Still* for the Darlinghurst Theatre; *Suddenly Last Summer* for the National Art School; and *The School for Wives* for the Bell Shakespeare Company. In 2013, Harriet made her Broadway debut in *Peter Pan* at New York's New Victory Theatre.

Harriet received the Sydney Theatre Award for *Best Performance in a Leading Role in a Mainstage Production* for her performance in *Machinal* with the Sydney Theatre Company, and was nominated for the same award for her role in *The School for Wives* for the Bell Shakespeare Company.

Harriet graduated from the Actors Centre Australia in 2011.

## Love Child Season 4

### Dr Simon Bowditch



Things are looking up for Bowditch.

He's enjoying married life with Martha and his career is going from strength to strength, with a promotion in the wings. But a series of secrets and a terrible accident threaten to bring his house of cards crashing down, jeopardizing both his marriage and career.

When the victim blackmails Bowditch, his house of cards comes crashing down, jeopardizing his marriage and career.

#### Andrew Ryan

#### is Dr Simon Bowditch

With an outstanding list of credits to his name, Andrew Ryan's remarkable career to date spans film, television and theatre.

Nominated for an AACTA Award for *Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama* for his heralded portrayal of *Andrew Farriss* in **Never Tear Us Apart: The Untold Story of INXS**, Andrew has also appeared in Network Seven's highly celebrated mini-series **Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door**, as well as in the fourth season of the perennially popular ABC series **Rake**.

His other television credits include **Underbelly: Squizzy**, **Chandon Pictures**, **All Saints**, **Reef Doctors**, **The Jesters** and the ABC children's series **My Place**.

Most recently seen in the feature **Dance Academy: The Comeback**, Andrew's previous film credits include John Marsden's action adventure **Tomorrow, When the War Began**, the romantic comedy **Not Suitable for Children**, the multiple award winning **Black Balloon** starring Toni Collette, the horror film **Lemon Tree Passage**, the heralded **Last Cab to Darwin** and the comedy **All My Friends Are Leaving Brisbane**.

A graduate of the Queensland University of Technology, Andrew's theatre credits include *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* for the Ensemble Theatre, *Romeo & Juliet* for the Riverside Theatre and *The Kid* for Griffin Theatre.

In 2017 Andrew will also be seen in the third series of the ABC's critically acclaimed **Janet King**.

## love Child Season 4



### Elena Capobianco

Born in Italy, Elena was raised in a traditional Catholic, patriarchal family. When her father betroths her to an Italian man in Australia, she obediently sets sail to a country completely foreign to her in order to marry a man she has never met. But onboard, she falls for a young Australian, and by the time the ship docks in Sydney, Elena is pregnant and in fear for her life. She runs and ends up in Stanton House. But she won't be able to hide for long.

#### Danielle Catanzariti

#### is Elena Capobianco

Starring opposite Toni Collette, Essie Davis and Keisha Castle-Hughes, Danielle was *Esther Blueburger* in the 2007 feature film **Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger**, before being cast in the prestigious Sydney Theatre Company's 2008 season play *Blackbird* directed by Cate Blanchett.

In 2009 Danielle starred opposite Natalie Imbruglia in the Australian feature film **Closed for Winter**, as well as completing a guest appearance on Seven Network's **All Saints**. In 2009, Danielle received the **L'Oreal Paris AFI Young Actor Award** before being recognised as the **2010 Young South Australian of the Year**.

Her most recent theatre credits include the lead role in the States Theatre production *Baby Teeth*, roles in *Pinocchio*, *Fugitive* and *Girl Who Cried Wolf* for the Windmill Theatre Company, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Belvoir St Theatre and Brink Production's *Land & Sea*.

## love Child Season 4



### Debbie Hampshire

Debbie Hampshire is used to getting what she wants. While outwardly self-absorbed, Debbie is also smart, strategic and funny. She's a great friend, as long as you do as she says. But behind her 'Queen Bee' façade is a kid who craves love and validation, something she doesn't get at home. It's no wonder Debbie fell for an older, married man. With an uncanny ability to create drama, you're never bored in Debbie's company!

### Sophia Forrest

### is Debbie Hampshire

Sophia Forrest is one of Australia's most exciting new performers. Sophia's first acting experience was in the Russell Crowe directed, **The Water Diviner**.

Sophia went on to train at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) graduating in 2016. There she performed in various productions including *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* which toured to Hong Kong and *Coriolanus* which toured to the Hydra Festival in Greece.

Sophia will next appear as the lead in the Black Swan State Theatre Company's production of *Let the Right One In* in late 2016.



## Love Child Season 4



### Sister Rita Harris

Rita is a novice nun who claims her pregnancy is an Immaculate Conception.

Outwardly Rita appears timid, shy and painfully naïve, but her difficult life has given her a quiet inner strength and resilience. She is observant, resourceful and a quick learner. Through Stanton house, she will discover that family comes in different forms and that life can be fun and joyful.

### Darcie Irwin-Simpson

### is Sister Rita Harris

Darcie is an exciting talent who first came to attention at the 2012 *Sydney Theatre Awards* with nominations as *Best Actress* and *Best Newcomer* for her role in Simon Stephen's **Punk Rock** (Pantsguys Productions) which went on to win *Best Independent Production*.

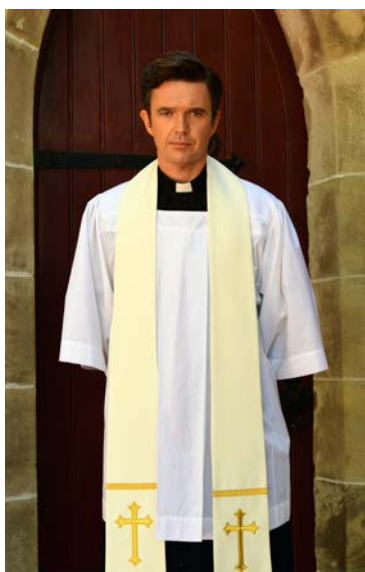
An accomplished actor, musician, writer and emerging director, Darcie's acting credits include **Soul Mates** (Mary) for the ABC and **Bikie Wars: Brothers in Arms** (Detective Moran) for Channel Ten. Her theatre credits include main roles in *Punk Rock*, *Metamorphosis*, *Bite Me*, *No Exit*, *Fireface* and *House on Fire* (ATYP under the wharf and others).

Darcie also wrote and acted in two short films, **The Peacock** and **Speed Bump**, both of which were shortlisted for TropFest (2017 and 2014), the former being her directorial debut.

As guitarist in the band **She Rex**, Darcie has years of experience performing, writing and recording original music, and has supported the likes of *The Preatures*, *Sticky Fingers*, *British India*, *Dune Rats* and *Stonefield*.



## Love Child Season 4



### Father Ross

Charming and yet pragmatic, Father Ross is Matron's new ally on the hospital board. Easily finding common ground, the pair quickly become close friends and confidantes.

#### Matt Day

#### is Father Ross

Matt Day is well known to Australian audiences having worked extensively in film, television and theatre. Matt's film roles include **Kiss or Kill**, which saw him nominated for an Australian Film Festival (AFI) award for *Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role* and a Film Critics Circle of Australia (FCCA) nomination for *Best Actor*; the international hit film **Muriel's Wedding**; Emma-Kate Croghan's critically acclaimed debut feature film **Love and Other Catastrophes**; **Doing Time for Patsy Cline**; and the award winning Sarah Watts' **My Year Without Sex**. In 2005 Matt also appeared in a cameo role in Woody Allen's **Scoop**.

Matt has also worked extensively in the UK, including roles in the BBC's **The Hound of the Baskervilles**, in which he played *Sir Henry Baskerville*; the photographer *Frank Hurley* in the Channel 4 telemovie **Shackleton** opposite Kenneth Branagh, and a recurring guest role in **Spooks**.

Matt's numerous television credits include the role of *David Potter* in ABC's **Rake** opposite Richard Roxburgh; the ABC mini-series **Paper Giants: The Birth of Cleo** opposite Asher Keddie; and Showtime's critically acclaimed series **Tangle** alongside Justine Clarke, Ben Mendelsohn and Catherine McClements. Matt's leading role of *Gabriel* in **Tangle** saw him nominated for *Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor* at the 2010 ASTRA Awards. Matt also featured in the 2015 ABC telemovie **The Outlaw Michael Howe** directed by Brendan Cowell.

Recent film credits include the local independent feature film **Touch**, and the movie version of the popular ABC children's series, **Dance Academy: The Comeback**, directed by Jeffrey Walker.

In 2015 Matt returned to the stage in the lead role of the Melbourne Theatre Company's (MTC) production of Simon Phillips' stage adaptation of the Alfred Hitchcock film *North By Northwest*.

Matt has recently completed production on Warwick Thornton's feature film **Sweet Country** alongside Sam Neill and Bryan Brown.

Matt is currently back on stage in the Griffin Theatre's *A Strategic Plan*, and also shooting returning series of Foxtel's **A Place to Call Home**, and Network Nine's **Love Child**.

# Love Child Season 4

## Sue Seeary

## Producer

With nearly thirty years in the Australian film and television industry, Sue Seeary produced her first feature film, **The Crossing** (starring Russell Crowe), in 1988.

Since then she has since produced an array of feature films, television dramas and documentaries, including the Academy Award-winning **The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** (associate producer), **Heaven's Breath**, **Worst Best Friends**, **Loot**, and the Project Greenlight Australia feature film **Solo**.

Sue also co-produced the UK/Australia co-production **Tripping Over**, produced Zapruder's Other Films' comedy-drama **30 Seconds**, as well as the Playmaker/Hoodlum comedy-drama **SLIDE** and five series of **House Husbands** for Channel NINE. Sue produced the first two seasons of the highly celebrated **Love Child** and executive produced the third.

Somewhere in the middle of all that she spent seven years with the Film Finance Corporation, starting as the documentary investment manager before becoming head of the Melbourne office, overseeing the financing of documentary and drama projects.

# Love Child Season 4

## Sarah Smith

## Executive Producer

With over 25 years in the industry, Sarah Smith is one of Australia's most experienced and in-demand commercial drama writers and producers. She has written, script produced and produced some of Australia's most loved and highest rating television series including **Wanted**, **The Alice**, **All Saints**, **McLeod's Daughters**, **Canal Road**, **Sea Patrol**, **Wonderland** and **Neighbours**, as well as popular children's series **Ship to Shore**, **Sweat**, **Fast Tracks**, **Foreign Exchange**, **Minty** and **Blue Water High**.

Sarah was the co-creator, producer and writer of telemovie **The Killing Field**, which led to spin-off mini-series **Winter**, for Seven. She also co-created, produced and wrote drama series **Wild Boys** for Seven, and **Rescue Special Ops** for Nine. Sarah co-wrote and produced the telemovie **Dripping in Chocolate** for BBC Worldwide, and recently wrote the upcoming mini-series **House of Bond** for Nine.

In the feature film arena, Sarah co-wrote the psychological drama **Nerve** which premiered at the 2013 *Sydney International Film Festival*, and is co-writer and producer of the thriller **Crawlspace** which is currently in pre-production with Sony Pictures International.

In 2002 she won an AWGIE for her AFC funded short film **Calling Gerry Molloy**.

# love Child Season 4

## ABOUT PLAYMAKER

PLAYMAKER was established in 2009 to produce writer-driven drama for broadcasters both locally and internationally.

Principals David Taylor and David Maher are award winning and Emmy nominated producers with extensive experience across all genres of production.

Prior to starting PLAYMAKER, Maher and Taylor headed Fox's Australian television production and development arm, Fox Studios Australia.

PLAYMAKER's credits include the multi award winning series **The Code** for ABC TV, the TV Week Logie Award winning **House Husbands** and **Love Child** for Channel NINE, **The Wrong Girl** for Network TEN, **Hiding** for ABC TV, the multiplatform drama series **SLiDE** for Foxtel, and the telemovies **Wicked Love** starring Rebecca Gibney and **Blood Brothers** starring Lisa McCune for Channel NINE.

PLAYMAKER's SCRIBE program, an initiative to develop show-running talent, has produced four original commissioned drama series since it began in 2011 and the company was recently announced as the *Media Super Production Business of the Year* at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Screen Producers Australia Awards.

