



The NINE Network
presents
A Playmaker Production

LoveChild

Season 2

MEDIA KIT

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NINE Publicity

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Love Child

Synopsis

The highly anticipated second season commences with Dr Joan Millar (*Jessica Marais*) asserting her new position in the hospital whilst continuing her relationship with the girls of Stanton House – a home for young unwed pregnant women.

ONE CHILD CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING!

Dr Joan Millar (*Jessica Marais*) is asserting her new position as Junior Resident in the hospital with the staff, patients and fellow doctors alike, when an unexpected return is made by Dr Patrick McNaughton (*Jonathan LaPaglia*).



The girls of Stanton House are on the cusp of freedom from Matron (*Mandy McElhinney*), with Martha (*Miranda Tapsell*), Shirley (*Ella Scott Lynch*) and Annie (*Gracie Gilbert*) enjoying the life and bright lights of Kings Cross and with Viv (*Sophie Hensser*) and Patricia (*Harriet Dyer*) soon to be joining them.

Each character's path to freedom has trials as well as tribulations, but it is the birth of one baby in particular that changes the lives of many.

An era of change, season two brings births, deaths and marriages to 1970s Kings Cross.

Love Child

About The Production

Produced by Playmaker for the NINE Network, the highly anticipated second season of **Love Child** was filmed on location in Sydney.

The outstanding ensemble cast includes Jessica Marais, Jonathan LaPaglia, Mandy McElhinney, Gracie Gilbert, Ella Scott Lynch, Miranda Tapsell, Sophie Hensser, Harriet Dyer and Ben O'Toole, and sees the introduction of new characters played by Matt Le Nevez, Jacqueline McKenzie, Andy Ryan, Marshall Napier, Brandon McLelland and Lincoln Younes.



Season two of **Love Child** was devised by Tim Pye and written by Tim Pye, Cathy Strickland, Tamara Asmar, Jane Allen and Christine McCourt. **Love Child** was created by Sarah Lambert.

Directed by Shawn Seet (*The Code*, *SLIDE*), Geoff Bennett (*House Husbands*, *Power Games: The Packer-Murdoch Story*, *The Great Mint Swindle*) and Lynn-Maree Danzey (*House Husbands*, *Packed To The Rafters*) and executive produced by Playmaker's David Maher, David Taylor, Sue Seeary and Tim Pye, and NINE's Jo Rooney and Andy Ryan, the second season of **Love Child** was produced by Tom Hoffie.

A Playmaker production for the NINE Network, **Love Child** was produced with the assistance of Screen Australia and Screen NSW.

Love Child

Key Cast

Dr Joan Millar	Jessica Marais
Dr Patrick McNaughton	Jonathan LaPaglia
Jim	Matt Le Nevez
Matron	Mandy McElhinney
Viv	Sophie Hensser
Shirley	Ella Scott Lynch
Patricia	Harriet Dyer
Martha	Miranda Tapsell
Annie	Gracie Gilbert
Pete	Ben O'Toole
Bowditch	Andy Ryan
Mrs Maguire	Jacqueline McKenzie
Gregory	Marshall Napier
Chris	Lincoln Younes
Robert	Brandon McClelland

Love Child

Key Crew

Producer	Tom Hoffie
Executive Producers	David Maher David Taylor Sue Seear Tim Pye Jo Rooney Andy Ryan
Love Child Season 2 devised by	Tim Pye
Creator	Sarah Lambert
Story Producer	Jane Allen
Directors	Shawn Seet Geoff Bennett Lynn-Maree Danzey
Writers	Tim Pye Cathy Strickland Tamara Asmar Jane Allen Christine McCourt
Production Designer	Tim Ferrier
Directors of Photography	Bruce Young Nic Owens
Costume Designer	Xanthe Heubel
Make Up & Hair Designer	Sheldon Wade
Editors	Nicole La Macchia Adrian Rostirolla
Composer	Antony Partos

Love Child

Episode 1

It's the eve of 1970, the dawn of a new decade, and Joan Millar (*Jessica Marais*) is now a qualified doctor at Kings Cross Hospital. She's working hard to prove herself, but the appearance of a mysterious pregnant girl and the return of Dr. Patrick McNaughton (*Jonathan LaPaglia*) threaten to throw her career off track.

It's the eve of 1970, the dawn of a new decade, and Joan Miller is now a qualified doctor at Kings Cross General Hospital – a junior resident. Out in the Cross, New Year's Eve celebrations are well under way, but Joan is hard at work, determined to prove she's just as good, if not better, than her fellow male junior residents.

The unexpected return of Dr Patrick McNaughton knocks Joan's world off balance, but it's the appearance of a mysterious pregnant girl with a dark secret that sets in motion a devastating chain of events, leading to the girl's death. These events test Joan's abilities as a doctor and her core belief in herself.



Meanwhile, Viv's (*Sophie Hensser*) dreams of an exciting future in Sydney are threatened by the sudden appearance of her mother. Still stinging from being sent away to Stanton House when she first became pregnant, Viv is less than happy to see her, especially when she discovers the sinister reason for her mother's visit – she wants to take Viv's baby away when it is born.

Annie (*Gracie Gilbert*) appears to be keeping it all together, balancing her singing career with motherhood, but her life as a single mother is not quite as it seems.

Love Child

Episode 2

After the death of the mystery girl (Gail) in episode 1, Joan (Jessica Marais) is doubting her abilities as a doctor. This doubt is compounded when Viv (Sophie Hensser), who is already frightened and wary of her mother, goes into labour and rejects Joan, asking for another doctor to attend her baby's birth. Viv finds an unlikely source of support in Matron (Mandy McElhinney) as her labour drags on through the night. Shirley (Ella Scott Lynch) refuses to allow herself a moment to mourn when she receives some shattering news.

Wracked with guilt over Gail's death, Joan admits complete responsibility and throws herself upon McNaughton's (Jonathan LaPaglia) mercy. Suddenly now in doubt about her abilities as a doctor, she freezes when asked to attend Viv's birth and Viv, already terrified after witnessing Gail's death, calls for another doctor.

Feeling responsible for the newly orphaned baby James (Gail's baby son), Joan preoccupies herself with finding his family. However, when she finally gets a lead, Joan's unsure about what she might have found.



Viv is dreading her imminent return to Tamworth, knowing she won't be able to leave her newborn son alone with her dysfunctional mother. When Matron learns the truth about Viv's situation, Viv expects judgment, but as her labour drags on, Matron becomes an unlikely ally and source of support.

Annie (Gracie Gilbert), struggling to juggle her career and motherhood, is excited when she is offered a last-minute spot on Bandstand, but the opportunity looks perilously close to slipping away when she can't find anyone to look after her baby, Deanna.

Shirley is thrilled at the prospect of being reunited with Johnny (Ryan Corr), but when she receives the shattering news of his death, her world falls apart. Shirley throws herself into her work, rejecting all of Annie's attempts to help her and seeking comfort in all the wrong places.

Love Child

Episode 3

Driven by the guilt she feels over Gail's death, Joan (Jessica Marais) gets a step closer to finding a family for Gail's orphaned baby. On the cusp of giving birth, Patty (Harriet Dyer) receives some heartbreaking news. Matron (Mandy McElhinney) welcomes back someone from her past while Shirley (Ella Scott Lynch) struggles with a goodbye.

Stanton House is overflowing with pregnant girls and Matron is at her wits' end. When Patty continues her refusal to sign papers for the adoption of her unborn baby, Matron responds harshly and Patty leaves Stanton house ... only to find that life on the streets of Kings Cross is more perilous than she imagined.

On the cusp of giving birth, distressed and all alone out on the streets of the Cross, Patty is given an unexpected reprieve, only to receive some heartbreaking news once she returns – her baby has died in utero.

Whilst in an awkward situation with a surprising male suitor, Martha (Miranda Tapsell) makes a shocking discovery, which sends her running to Patty's rescue.



Joan finally tracks down Gail's boyfriend, Jim Marsh (Matt Le Nevez), the father of her orphaned son and the leader of the Green Bans protest movement. Joan has to break the news to Jim about the death of his girlfriend, and the possibility that he is a father. Joan is relieved to have found family for the

orphaned baby James, but she struggles with Jim's quick temper and his reluctance to accept this new responsibility in his life.

Matron is surprised when her biological son, Chris (Lincoln Younes), turns up at the hospital, newly released from prison and looking to get back on his feet. She is delighted to have him back in her life, but burdened by the huge secret that could tear them both apart.

Shirley continues to struggle to come to terms with Johnny's (Ryan Corr) death, her grief holding her back from visiting their son at the hospital.

Love Child

Episode 4

The time has finally come for Patty (*Harriet Dyer*) and Viv (*Sophie Hensser*) to leave Stanton House, but their futures could hardly appear more different. Shirley (*Ella Scott Lynch*) is tempted by an offer from McNaughton (*Jonathan LaPaglia*) and Joan (*Jessica Marais*) finds herself suddenly negotiating with both the father and grandfather of baby James.



The Queen is coming to Sydney, but Patty, the Stanton House 'princess', is leaving in pursuit of her fairytale ending. Despite continuing to mourn the loss of her stillborn daughter, she's determined to forge ahead and finally marry Robert. Accompanied by Martha (*Miranda Tapsell*), Patty makes her return to elite Melbourne society, but finds

that she can't live the lie of pretending her daughter never existed.

Looking at a far less promising future than Patty, Viv is barely coping when she discovers her twins have been adopted. Devastated that she was denied a chance to say goodbye, Viv goes off the rails and turns to alcohol to cope. Her downward spiral is arrested by her friend Pete (*Ben O'Toole*), who helps her realise her future calling.

Although relieved that baby Ben is almost well enough to leave the hospital, Shirley is overwhelmed by the thought of life as a single working mother. When a moment of shared honesty with McNaughton leads to a surprisingly intimate encounter, Shirley begins to think that he might be the one to share her load.

Just as Joan seems to have convinced Jim that he can be a father to his son, Gregory Mathieson (*Marshall Napier*), Gail's father, turns up a Kings Cross General Hospital. Heartbroken by the news of his daughter's death, Gregory is determined to get custody of his one and only heir and Joan finds herself trying to negotiate with both men. Gregory, however, is a man used to getting what he wants and when Jim refuses to even consider letting him near his son, he finds out that Gregory will use any means necessary to get his way.

Love Child

Episode 5

When baby Deanna goes missing, Annie's (*Gracie Gilbert*) suitability as a single mother is called into question. Shirley (*Ella Scott Lynch*) begins to wonder whether the support on offer from McNaughton (*Jonathan LaPaglia*) is what she needs. Desperate to take home his son, Jim (*Matt Le Nevez*) comes to Joan (*Jessica Marais*) with a very surprising proposal.

When Deanna goes missing while under Chris's (*Lincoln Younes*) care, Annie is deemed an unfit mother by the authorities and told her daughter will be taken away from her. Chris is distraught at having destroyed Annie's life and turns to Matron (*Mandy McElhinney*) for help, moving her to take action for the sake of her son.



Back in Sydney and suddenly without a fiancé, a family or a job, Patty (*Harriet Dyer*) is at a loose end. With nothing to distract her, she fixates on the cause of her baby's death, worrying that she might somehow be cursed. Struggling to adjust to a life far from her pampered upbringing, a chance encounter with some hippies,

and a copy of 'The Female Eunuch', change Patty's perception of herself and the world.

Despite the support and comfortable lifestyle on offer, Shirley is beginning to question her 'arrangement' with McNaughton. A surprise meeting with McNaughton's soon-to-be ex-wife prompts her to put her wants and needs in perspective.

Jim's failure to show up for an appointment with the social worker has Joan worrying he might be having second thoughts about claiming his son. However, when she arrives at his house, she finds it's a very different story. Bloody and beaten from a run-in with Gregory's (*Marshall Napier*) thugs, Jim finally convinces Joan that Gregory and his campaign for custody of James have to be stopped. Unfortunately, despite Joan's help, Jim's case is still less than solid. Until he comes to Joan with a very surprising proposal.

Love Child

Episode 6

Joan (Jessica Marais) puts the welfare of baby James ahead of her career and agrees to marry Jim (Matt Le Nevez) in an effort to keep the infant from his violent grandfather. Viv (Sophie Hensser) is tempted by the idea of a fresh start, and Matron (Mandy McElhinney) makes a deal in an attempt to stop the closure of Stanton House.

Despite wanting to help Jim gain custody of baby James, Joan turns down his marriage proposal for the sake of her career. However, when Gregory (Marshall Napier) appears to be moving ever closer to taking his grandson home, she decides she has to do whatever it takes to stop the infant enduring the same abusive upbringing as his mother. Joan's gamble pays off, and she and Jim are awarded custody, but when McNaughton (Jonathan LaPaglia) finds out, he informs the hospital board of her role in Gail's death.



Viv is ambushed by Pete (Ben O'Toole) with the sudden news that he's being transferred to Byron Bay... and he wants her to marry him and come too. After another night of drinking and a thwarted attempt to find her twins, Viv is tempted by the idea of starting afresh in a new town. It's only after Matron offers her an unsanctioned opportunity to see her baby girls that she is able to find the closure she needs and accept her new life in Sydney.

Matron is delivered the heartbreaking notice that a funds shortage will result in Stanton House being shut down. Desperate to save her life's work, she takes up Gregory's offer of compensation in return for helping him get his grandson.

After witnessing Annie (Gracie Gilbert) and Chris' (Lincoln Younes) growing intimacy, Viv decides it's time Annie knew the truth; that her new beau is the secret son of the woman she despises most in the world.

Love Child

Episode 7

Martha's (Miranda Tapsell) reunion with her birth mother doesn't go the way she always dreamt it would. Joan (Jessica Marais) and Jim (Matt Le Nevez) are driven apart by Gregory's (Marshall Napier) attempt to gain custody of his grandson and Annie (Gracie Gilbert) discovers she's pregnant to Chris (Lincoln Younes), making Matron (Mandy McElhinney) the grandmother of her unborn child.



Martha is furious when Bowditch (Andy Ryan) tries to apologise for his behaviour by tracking down her birth mother. Prepared for more disappointment after her last failed attempt, Martha is amazed when her mother opens the door, but the reunion doesn't play out like she dreamt it would. Daisy, Martha's mother, has reinvented herself and with her new name,

fashionable clothes, fancy house and well-to-do husband it seems there's no place for the daughter who was taken from her so many years ago.

Although the purpose of their sudden marriage was only to secure custody of baby James, romance seems to be blossoming between Joan and Jim. However, when Joan is forced to tell Jim the truth about her involvement in Gail's death, Jim feels deceived and banishes her from his and James' lives.

Mistakenly believing McNaughton (Jonathan LaPaglia) is responsible for the demolition of her new family, Joan lashes out at her boss, who responds by revealing his true feelings for her. Although his advances are rejected, McNaughton still finds he can't stand by and watch Joan's life unravel.

Already struggling with the knowledge that Chris is Matron's son, Annie is distraught to learn that she has fallen pregnant, making Matron the grandmother of her unborn child. When she eventually tells Chris about the pregnancy his elation surprises her, but she swears she can't possibly keep the baby.

Matron is caught off guard when Chris suddenly appears at the hospital with questions about his parentage. Despite her best efforts to explain her reasons for giving him away when he was a baby, Chris feels betrayed and walks out on her.

Love Child

Episode 8

Joan (Jessica Marais) is forced to find a way to save Jim (Matt Le Nevez) after Gregory's (Marshall Napier) efforts to gain custody of his grandson become more extreme. Annie (Gracie Gilbert) decides she can't give birth to a baby which would forever bind her to Matron (Mandy McElhinney) and takes matters into her own hands. Matron has to choose between saving Stanton House and the life of her unborn grandson, and the former Stanton House girls rally around Patty and help her as she starts her own business.

Determined to make things right with Jim, Joan arrives at the flat to discover a crying baby James left all by himself. She immediately fears for her husband's safety and her concerns are validated when Gregory reveals he has abducted Jim and will only release him in exchange for his grandson. Worried the police won't believe her or stand up against Gregory, Joan endeavours to save both Jim and his son on her own.

Annie decides that there is no way she can give birth to a baby which would forever tie her to Matron. Feeling cornered and afraid of a system she doesn't trust, Annie takes matters into her own hands with disastrous consequences.



Upon learning Gregory has cancelled the cheque that would have saved Stanton House, Matron begs McNaughton to get her a hearing with the hospital board. But when she chooses to go after her son, Chris (*Lincoln Younes*), instead of attending the meeting, the decision is made to close Stanton House for good. With her life's work suddenly taken from her, Matron resolves to leave Kings Cross General for a fresh start.

With her crèche business booming at the Oasis, Patty (*Harriet Dyer*) is convinced she should expand her venture further. After her loan application is rejected because she is a single woman, the former Stanton House girls rally together to help get her business off the ground.

Just when it seems that Joan and Jim have saved baby James from his violent grandfather, McNaughton (*Jonathan LaPaglia*) makes a life or death decision which will have drastic consequences for the newly reconciled family.

Love Child

Dr Joan Millar



Outspoken and passionate, Joan is driven by her heart. She stands up for what she believes in and crosses boundaries both personally and professionally.

It's these qualities that make her a brilliant doctor but they are also her greatest undoing - bringing her into conflict with the establishment and wreaking havoc in her personal life.

Having recently made the transition from midwife to Resident Doctor, Joan is asserting her new authority in the hospital with the staff, patients and fellow residents alike ... when an unexpected return is made by Dr Patrick McNaughton (*Jonathan LaPaglia*).

Jessica Marais

is Dr Joan Millar

Critically acclaimed for her starring role in the ABC telemovie **Carlotta**, Jessica established the character of Dr Joan Miller in the first season of the immensely popular **Love Child**. Previously, Jessica starred in the second season of **Magic City**, opposite Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Olga Kurylenko, for the Starz Network. She was also heard as the voice of *Rochelle* in Disney's animated feature, **Planes**.

Jessica graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Australia's most prestigious acting school, in 2007.

Prior to graduation, she secured a role in her first feature film **Two Fists One Heart** and a leading role in the Seven Network's **Packed to the Rafters** which has now become Australia's highest rating family drama series. Her role as *Rachel Rafter* on the hit show earned her two 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 Logie Award for Most Popular Personality on Australian Television.

Jessica has also appeared in the Australian feature **Needle** and as *Mistress Denna* in the Disney series, **Legend of the Seeker**. In early 2008, Jessica debuted with the Sydney Theatre Company in the critically acclaimed production of *A Season at Sarsaparilla* and has recently appeared on stage in David Berthold's *Così* for La Boite.

Love Child

Dr Patrick McNaughton



Used to getting what he wants, Patrick McNaughton is a man of his times. Strong, charismatic and ambitious - he's grown up in the establishment and is bloody good at playing the system and he always comes out on top.

With a waiting list of patients desperate to have their children delivered by the charming Dr. McNaughton, he is one of the most respected obstetricians in the country – however he is not necessarily the most popular with staff.

With all under the impression that he had left the employ of the hospital at the end of season one, he makes an unwelcome return to Kings Cross and Stanton House when least expected.

Jonathan LaPaglia

is Dr Patrick McNaughton

Jonathan LaPaglia has a colourful television career having played starring roles on **Cold Case** opposite Kathryn Morris for CBS, **The District** alongside Craig T. Nelson for CBS, **Windfall** for NBC, and **Seven Days** for UPN, where he was nominated for a Saturn Award for *Best Genre Actor*.

He has had guest roles in series such as **Camp**, **Law & Order**, **Sopranos**, **Law & Order: Criminal Intent**, **Moonlight**, **NCIS**, **Bones**, **Castle** and **Burn Notice**. He played the leading role of *Hector* in the TV adaptation of Christos Tsiolkas' novel, **The Slap** for ABC TV in Australia. *The Slap* won five AFI Awards including *Best Television Drama*, won a Logie for *Most Outstanding Drama Series*, and was nominated for a BAFTA for *Best International Program*. Jonathan was also nominated for an Australian Film Institute Award for *Best Lead Actor in a Drama Series* for his work on this show.

Jonathan also starred in the critically acclaimed Australian 8 part series **Underbelly: Badness**, where he played *Anthony "Rooster" Perish*, a famed Australian criminal.

More recently, Jonathan has had starring role in the independent film, **Pioneer**, opposite Wes Bentley and Stephen Lang and the Australian feature **The Reckoning**.

Other feature films include Woody Allen's **Deconstructing Harry**, Alejandro Chomski's **A Beautiful Life** and William Kaufman's **The Hit List** among others.

Love Child

Jim



Good-looking, volatile, progressive and principled, Jim never backs down in an argument. He'll put himself on the line every time, never wavering from his core beliefs. Jim had a difficult childhood, the youngest of five children, his mother died when he was six. He ran away from school due to their authoritarian methods of discipline and settled himself in Sydney at the age of 19. Jim became a metal worker and later a builder's labourer. A tireless hard worker and much in demand, Jim is liked by his workmates, but never afraid to give the bosses a serve. Intensely private, Jim has had a few relationships, but nothing substantial – his work has always come first. But then he meets Joan. Thrown by her beauty, passion and sophistication, Jim will be forced to make the ultimate choice – Joan, or everything he has believed in and worked for.

Matt Le Nevez

is Jim

Having forged a diverse and rewarding career in film and television, it was Matthew Le Nevez's portrayal of *Dr Patrick Reid* opposite Asher Keddie in Network Ten's popular series **Offspring** that garnered him national attention with television audiences and for which he received Logie nominations for *Most Popular Actor* in 2013 and 2014. Matthew graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 1999 and made his feature film debut as a drug fuelled rock star in Alex Proyas's **Garage Days**. This followed with roles in Craig Monahan's **Peaches** alongside Jacqueline McKenzie and Hugo Weaving, and Jonathan Ogilvie's **The Tenderhook** opposite Rose Byrne and again with Hugo Weaving.

In 2004, the breakthrough television role of rough and ready *Bullet Sheather* in the ABC mini-series **Marking Time** resulted in Matthew winning an AFI Award for Best Actor in a Supporting or Guest Role. In 2007, Matthew's portrayal of killer *Matthew Wales* in Network Ten's tele-movie **The Society Murders** won him the Silver Logie for *Most Outstanding Actor*. Other television credits for Matthew include appearances in prominent Australian series and tele-movies such as **Love My Way, Blue Heelers, Postcard Bandit, White Collar Blue, All Saints, MDA**, and the multi award winning mini-series **Howzat!** In which he played legendary Australian cricketer *Dennis Lillee*. In 2013 Matthew was the recipient of the GQ *Television Actor of the Year Award*. Matthew was most recently seen in the ABC telemovie **Parer's War** in the leading role of war photographer *Damian Parer*.

Love Child

Matron



Tough and pragmatic, Matron did her training during the war. Her military background has shaped the way she deals with the world. She likes structure, hierarchy and clear rules.

Now running Stanton House and the adoption of hundreds of children, Matron believes in the system. She takes in unwanted girls when no one else will, offering them a safe haven. In return they work for her, supporting an overstretched hospital system and earning their keep. Matron arranges the adoption of their children and offers them a chance to walk away with a clean slate - to start their lives again without shame or stigma.

Despite the status quo being challenged by the residents of Stanton House and its recent graduates, in season two, Matron will show a side not seen before, as she cares for those who need her most.

Mandy McElhinney

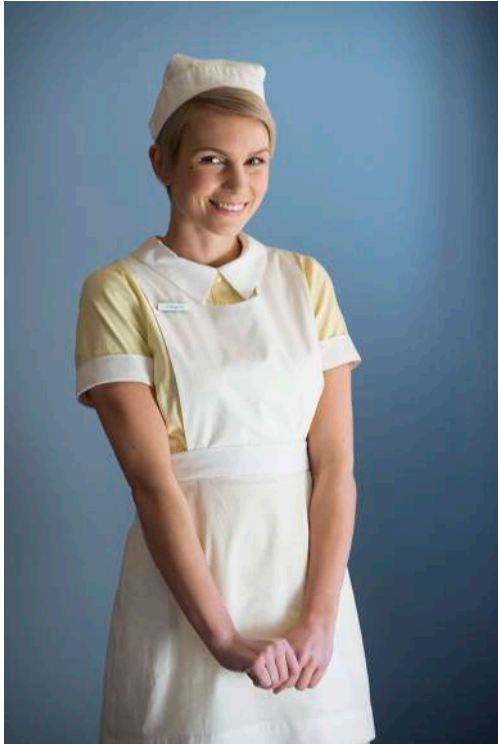
is Matron

Mandy received the 2012 Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Television Drama for her role in **Howzat: Kerry Packer's War** at the Australian Academy of Cinema & Television Awards (AACTA). She was also nominated for the Silver Logie: Most Outstanding Actress at 2013 Logie Awards for the same role. In 2010 she was nominated for the USA Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Supporting Performer in a play for *A Streetcar Named Desire* in Washington DC, and in 1998 she was nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Actress in a featured role for *The Herbal Bed* at MTC. She has appeared in numerous television series including **MDA, All Saints, The Alice, Welcher & Welcher, Stingers, Kath & Kim, Blue Heelers, Water Rats**, 4 consecutive series of **Comedy Inc, Bed of Roses** and **At Home with Julia**. More recently Mandy has appeared in **Howzat: Kerry Packer's War, A Moody Christmas** and **Paper Giants: Magazine Wars**.

Theatre roles include Sydney Theatre Company's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The production had successful seasons in Sydney, Washington & New York. Other theatre credits include: *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator play)*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *The Beauty Queen of Leane*, *The Great*, *Don's Party*, *Kafka's Metamorphosis*, *The Hypocrite*, *Don's Party*, *Life After George* and *Pride & Prejudice*, *This Way Up*, *Holy Day*, *Twilight Series* and *Inside 2000*. More recently Mandy has appeared in leading roles in both *Dreams of White* (Griffin Theatre Co) and *Forget Me Not* (Belvoir St Theatre). Feature films include **Ned Kelly** and **The Bank**.

Love Child

Viv



With an insatiable lust for life, Viv may be a country girl but her ambitions are huge.

Abandoned by her family in season one – Viv is galvanized in her desire to be the sole arbiter of her future – to never return to Tamworth and to make her new home in Kings Cross.

But her mother makes an unwelcome return, imploring Viv to keep the baby when it is born and to return to the country town she was unceremoniously ostracized from.

But fate has different plans for Viv and more than a few surprises in store!

Sophie Hensser

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.

Recently on screen in the first season of **Love Child** for Playmaker, her other television credits include the NINE Network's **Tricky Business** as the series regular Lily Christie, **Serangoon Road** and **Crownies** for ABC Australia, **The Story of Us**, **Home and Away**, **Underbelly: The Golden Mile**, **Cops LAC**, **All Saints** and **The Saddle Club**.

Her theatre credits include **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, **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

Shirley



Dressing like a 1950s screen siren, Shirley is all woman, sexy as hell and not afraid to use her feminine wiles.

Having left her husband Colin, and all the security that he brought – Shirley is looking forward to forging a new life with Johnny and their premature baby Ben.

Season two sees Shirley working as a hostess at The Blue Moon to support the specialised needs of her baby, whilst eagerly awaiting Johnny's return from Vietnam.

Ella Scott Lynch

is Shirley

Ella graduated from the prestigious NIDA in 2004, having previously appeared at an early age in the Academy Award-winning film **Shine** alongside Geoffrey Rush in 1996.

With television credits including regular roles on both long running Australian dramas **All Saints** and **Home And Away** as Hayley Lawson (replacing Bec Cartwright), Ella played a lead role in the tele-movie **The Falls** starring alongside Georgie Parker and Vince Colosimo, and appeared in the ABC production **The Silence**, produced by Jan Chapman and directed by Cate Shortland. Most recently she appeared in Channel Seven's **City Homicide**.

In more recent years Ella has been seen in the acclaimed ABC series **Crownies**, and the spin-off series **Janet King**. She also appeared in the ABC/HBO Asia Series **Serangoon Road** alongside Don Hany, the hugely successful Nine Network's franchise **Underbelly** and the critically acclaimed **Love Child** season one.

Ella also had a small supporting role in the 2005 remake of **Charlotte's Web** which was shot in Australia and starred Dakota Fanning. Ella's other film credits include **Emulsion** directed by Jonathan Ogilvie and the Australian independent feature film **Monkey Puzzle**.

Love Child

Patricia



Having grown up in a world of privilege in Melbourne's Toorak, Patricia was sheltered, naïve and a desperate romantic when she first arrived at Stanton House.

With her parents steadfast in their disapproval of her situation and choice of fiancé, Patricia has decided to go it alone and make her own dreams come true.

Having always dreamt of a society wedding in a Grace Kelly dress, Patricia will marry Robert once the birth is over.

With Martha as bridesmaid, and Robert's family seemingly overjoyed with the engagement -what could possibly go wrong?

Harriet Dyer

is Patricia

Harriet Dyer graduated from the Actors Centre Australia in 2011.

Harriet has most recently starred in the first season of **Love Child** and appeared in ScreenTime's **Janet King** on the ABC. Her other television credits include the ABC comedy **A Moody Christmas**, Network Ten's **Micro Nation**, and **Packed to the Rafters** on the Seven Network.

She has appeared on stage in *Peter Pan* for Belvoir; *Travelling North*, *Machinal*, and *Pygmalion* for the Sydney Theatre Company; *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*, and was nominated for the same award for her role in *The School for Wives*.

Love Child

Martha



Strong, capable and kind, Martha was taken from her family when she was four years old and there's not a day that passes that she doesn't miss her mother.

Having given her baby to a nice family with good prospects, Martha is now bent on forging her own career in administration in the hospital.

Still wary of men and their intentions, she doesn't initially warm to the advances of new Resident Doctor Simon Bowditch.

Miranda Tapsell

is Martha

Miranda Tapsell is best renowned for her role in the multi-award winning feature film **The Sapphires**. Directed by Wayne Blair, Miranda captured the hearts of the viewing public with her portrayal of the feisty *Cynthia*.

Miranda's recent work includes Blackfella Films exceptional television productions of **Redfern Now** and **Mabo** and **Vote Yes For Aborigines**, directed by Nicholas Waterman.

She will be seen in Warwick Thornton's feature **Words with Gods** and the **Indigenous Sketch Comedy Show**.

Miranda has appeared in Sydney Theatre Company's *Secret River* and *Gallipoli*, Sydney Festival's *I Am Eora*, Riverside Theatre's *Rainbow's End*, Yirra Yakin's *Mother's Tongue* and she played the lead in Belvoir's *Yibiyung*.

Love Child

Annie



Having fought to get her baby Deanna back, Annie is no longer the shy retiring girl who arrived at Stanton House. She has found her voice and her power, and no one's going to take that away from her.

Annie is now a single mum supporting her baby through singing at the Blue Moon and the occasional appearance on Bandstand, she's determined that she can have everything she fought for – her child, and her career. But Chris takes a shine to her, and she to him, and this brings with it complications and heartbreak.

Annie is determined to be successful in her new found roles of mother and songstress – but as the two worlds collide she will experience every mother's worst nightmare.

Gracie Gilbert

is Annie

2013 saw her grace the small screen in the main cast role of *Ida Pender* in the highly anticipated ScreenTime series **Underbelly: Squizzy**, followed closely by the first season of **Love Child** and in the lead role of *Viola* in Shakespeare WA's production of *Twelfth Night*, for its Shakespeare in the Park 2014 season.

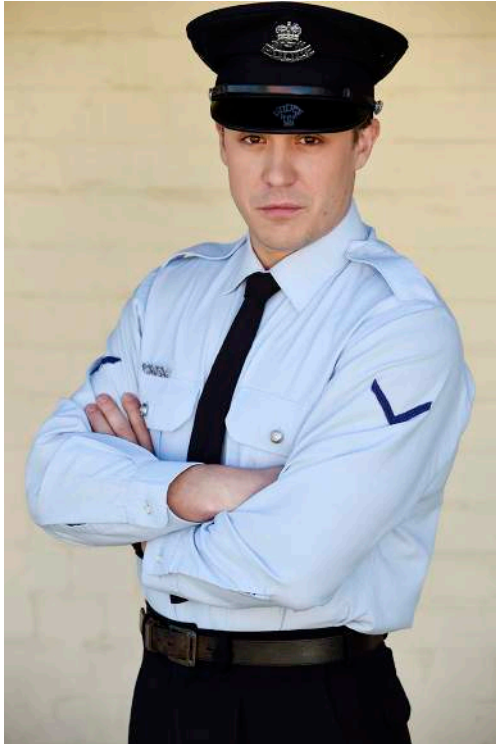
Originally from Perth, she landed her first professional role at the age of 13 in the television series **Streetsmartz**. Audiences will also remember her from her lead turn as *Tammy* on the hugely popular Foxtel series **Slide**, and as *Vicki* in two series of **Lockie Leonard**. Both roles in these teen series saw Gracie's profile and popularity increase significantly amongst Australian audiences.

Gracie began her acting training as a child. She has since completed training at 16th Street Actors Studio, the Ali Robert Screen Studio, and a masterclass with Tom McSweeney. Gracie has completed her first year of an Arts-Law degree, majoring in English and Women's Studies.

Gracie is currently working on the highly anticipated miniseries **Gallipoli**, again for the NINE Network.

Love Child

Pete



A Kings Cross local boy, Pete was the first one in his family to join the police force. He's tough, funny and loyal. Trying to prove himself in one of the toughest cop stations in the country, Pete knows how the Cross works and he uses his local knowledge to his advantage. But he finds the brutal methods of his police mates difficult to stomach. He wants to be part of the system but he's also a decent, honest man who believes there has to be a better way to police the Cross.

Pete has a healthy respect and tolerance for the locals who live and work beside him. While many in the public denigrate the street workers and Stanton girls, Pete always keeps an eye out for them.

When Pete meets Viv, he can tell she's got something that's going to shake his world up. He's drawn to her intensity and wild spirit and hopes they will become more than just friends.

Ben O'Toole

is Pete

A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Ben O'Toole made his onscreen debut as a regular character in the first season of **Love Child**.

Whilst at WAAPA, Ben played the title role of *Ruben* in **Ruben Guthrie**. In 2012, Ben returned to Perth to play the role of *Mercer Stevens* in Black Swan Theatre Company's production of **Boy Gets Girl**, directed by Adam Mitchell. Earlier this year, Adam and Black Swan lured Ben back once more to play the role of *Happy* in **Death Of A Salesman**.

Ben's feature film debut will soon be seen in **The Water Diviner** (2015) directed by and featuring Russell Crowe. Ben plays the role of *Henry*, the son of Russell Crowe's character *Connor* who returns to the Battle of Gallipoli in search of his three missing sons. Earlier this year Ben appeared in the Sydney Theatre Company's play **Mojo**, and the Melbourne Theatre Company production of **The Sublime**. In 2013, Ben played the role of *Sasha* in the short film **Factory 293** by emerging director Roderick MacKay.

Love Child

Dr Simon Bowditch



Junior Resident prankster, Dr Simon Bowditch pales at the sight of blood. Well meaning and well intentioned, with a wicked sense of humour, he is constantly fretting that he is just not good enough to call himself Doctor.

New to the hospital, he takes an immediate shine to Martha, however she is 'gun-shy' and initially wary of his advances – as she's now gainfully employed at the hospital and determined to keep it that way.

His residency under the revered and feared Dr McNaughton will be his making - even if he has to make a few sacrifices along the way.

Andy Ryan

is Dr Simon Bowditch

Andrew graduated from the Queensland University of Technology in 2006. His film credits include **Lemon Tree Passage**, **Tomorrow When The War Began**, **Black Balloon** and **All My Friends Are Leaving Brisbane**.

He has appeared in television programs such as **My Place**, **The Jesters** (Series 1 & 2), **Chandon Pictures**, **Double The Fist**, **All Saints**, **Reef Doctors** and **Underbelly: Squizzy Taylor** for the NINE Network. Most recently he completed filming the INXS series, **Never Tear Us Apart** in which he played *Andrew Farriss*.

His Theatre credits include *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* for the Ensemble Theatre Company, *Romeo & Juliet* for the Riverside Theatre and *The Kid* for Griffin Theatre.

Andrew co-wrote, produced, starred in and narrated the short film, **Bird Therapy**. Bird Therapy was one of the finalist short films for Tropfest 2011.

He also starred in the web series **The Future Machine**.

Love Child

Chris



The love child of one of the major characters, Chris's appearance unsettles more than one person.

Confident and conniving, Chris has recently been released from the 'big house' and is looking for ways to make a quick buck in the Cross. That is until he meets Annie.

Lincoln Younes

is Chris

Lincoln Younes first appeared on local television screens in the role of Roman Kovac in the Foxtel series **Tangle**, receiving the 2013 ASTRA Best Actor Award for Season 3.

More recently, Lincoln's portrayal as 'River Boy' Casey Braxton in **Home and Away** has garnered him national and international attention.

Lincoln's other credits include **City Homicide** for the Seven Network, and a role in the 2010 feature film **The Wedding Party** opposite Josh Lawson and Isabel Lucas.

Love Child

Johnny



Spontaneous and big-hearted, Johnny is a child of the revolution. His mother is an actress and his father is a journalist covering the war in Vietnam. They've encouraged their son to be a free thinker, educating him at an alternative school. When Johnny was called up in the National Draft, he went on the run.

Johnny wants nothing more than to create a new family with Shirley and raise their child Ben together. As a means of supporting his family, at the end of season one Johnny signed up and shipped out to Vietnam. As season two commences, Shirley eagerly awaits his return.

Ryan Corr

is Johnny

Ryan's charismatic on-screen presence, teamed with the breadth of his emotional and comedic range ensure that he is in constant demand. Last year saw him filming the pivotal role of Art in the feature film 'The Water Diviner', under the direction of Russell Crowe, and the top rating drama series 'Love Child' for the NINE Network. Most recently he has wrapped on the BBC series 'Banished', penned by Jimmy McGovern, and has just commenced filming the lead role of Tim Conigrave in Neil Armfield's feature 'Holding the Man.' In 2011 he was the recipient of the prestigious Australians in Film 'Heath Ledger Scholarship' and in 2010 he won the IF 'Out of the Box' award. He has also received Logie nominations in the categories of Most Outstanding New Talent and Most Popular New Male Talent. With several main cast TV credits to his name as a teenager, Ryan went on to study at NIDA and emerged as a stand out graduate of their 2009 year. Since graduation, credits include Michael 'Doc' Kanaan in 'Underbelly: The Golden Mile', Showtime's 'Tangle', 'Redfern Now' and 'The Moodys', both for the ABC, as well as the role of Coby in the Seven Network's hit series 'Packed to the Rafters'. Further film credits include Greg McLean's 'Wolf Creek 2' which premiered at the Venice Film Festival; 'Not Suitable For Children', opposite Ryan Kwanten, which saw him nominated in the category of Best Supporting Actor at the 2013 AACTA awards and recipient of the Film Critics Circle Award for Best Supporting Actor; Spike Jonze's 'Where the Wild Things Are' and 'Jimmy Tennison.' Ryan made his professional stage debut in 2012 in 'Sex with Strangers' for the Sydney Theatre Company, under the direction of Jocelyn Moorhouse.

Love Child

Tim Pye

Writer, Executive Producer

Tim is an Australian writer, producer and executive producer who has been working in television drama and comedy for twenty-five years.

Tim has written, edited and produced some of Australia's most popular and critically acclaimed television series, mini series and movies. His credits include: **House Husbands**, season 1 of **Love Child**, **Old School**, **The Straits**, **Scorched**, **Stupid**, **Stupid Man**, **My Place**, **Emerald Falls**, **The Strip**, **Black Jack**, **Lockie Leonard**, **SeaChange**, **Wildside**, **Water Rats**, **Fallen Angels**, **GP**, **A Country Practice** and many others.

His producing/executive producing credits include: **Love Child**, **Changi**, **Grass Roots**, **Emerald Falls**, **Love Is A Four Letter Word**, **The Road From Coorain** and **The Farm**.

Tim was President of the Australian Writers Guild from 2007 – 2011. Tim has won AWGIE and AFI awards for his script writing.

As a Drama Executive for Playmaker, Tim was most recently a writer and story consultant on Season 3 of **House Husbands**.

Season two of **Love Child** was devised by Tim Pye.

Love Child

Shawn Seet

Director

Award winning director Shawn has directed and edited a wide range of popular Australian television series, spanning from comedy to crime drama.

Best-known for his work directing episodes of the celebrated crime television drama franchise **Underbelly**, Shawn has directed episodes of **Underbelly's The Golden Mile**, **Razor**, and the telemovie **Underbelly: Tell Them Lucifer Was Here** and received the 2009 ADG *Best Direction Television Drama Series* Award for his direction of episodes of **Underbelly - A Tale of Two Cities: Business as Usual**.

His directing credits also include season 1 and 2 of the celebrated ABC TV drama **MDA**, which was nominated for *Best Drama Series* at the International Emmy Awards and won the *Best Drama Series* AFI Award. From 2002 to 2005 Shawn worked on one of Australia's highest rated dramas, **All Saints**. During his time directing the series, **All Saints** won *Most Popular Programme* and *Most Popular Australian Programme* at the TV Week Logie Awards and was nominated four times for the *Most Outstanding Drama Series* Logie.

Set-up director for **Love Child** in 2013, Shawn's most recent credits include the critically acclaimed **The Code** for ABC TV, **Camp** for NBC and **House Husbands** for the NINE Network, as well as **SLiDE**, **30 Seconds**, **Dangerous**, **The Alice**, **Headland**, **Fireflies** and **The Secret Life of Us** and the telefeatures **Loot** and **The Mystery of a Hansom Cab** for ABC TV.

Most recently Shawn was the set up director for the new eight part mini series **Hiding** produced by Playmaker for ABC TV.

Starting his career as an editor, Shawn rose to prominence editing the Channel 7 miniseries **Do Or Die** (aka *The Rubicon*) in 2001. The series won him the AFI Award for *Open Craft in a Television Drama*.

In 2008, Shawn directed his first feature length film, **Two Fists One Heart**, a hard-hitting film about a son's struggle for the love of a critical father, for which he was nominated for the *Best Director* ADG Award in 2008.

Love Child

Sarah Lambert

Creator

Award winning writer and director, Sarah Lambert began her career as an actress on series such as **Heartbreak High**, **A Country Practice**, **Police Rescue** to name a few and in theatre productions for The Sydney Theatre company such as Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*.

After winning her first award as a writer/director back in 1991 for her short drama, **Come Fly with Me**, she moved to New York for over ten years where she built an impressive career, which has taken her all over the world.

Her credits include **Clone Story** for M6 (France), **God In Government** (Cine Gold Eagle/PBS), **New Type Of Jazz**, **Directors On Directing** and **The Play's The Thing** for PBS for which she was recognised with an EMMY nomination.

Other credits include, as producer, **Last Chance For Peace** and **14 Million Dreams** for the Sundance Channel. Sarah was co-creator, writer and director of a 65 part children's series, **Aliens Among Us** for Channel 5 (UK).

In 2006 she returned to Australia where she wrote and directed the award winning short drama **Photograph** which screened in festivals around the world.

Sarah's work on the television series **The Alice** gained her a nomination for the Queensland Premier's Literary Award, for episode 14. Her other television credits include **All Saints**, **Some Say Love** and the multi-award winning series, **Love My Way**.

Most recently Sarah has written on two series of the Emmy nominated ABC television series, **Dance Academy**. Her work was recognized in 2010 with an AWGIE nomination for *Best Children's screenplay*. Sarah was awarded the Director's Fellowship and her feature **Red Dress** was selected to take part in the prestigious Binger Film Lab Director's residential program in Amsterdam. In 2012 she was one of three writers chosen to be part of SCRIBE, a show-runner initiative supported by Screen Australia and Playmaker.

Love Child

Tom HOFFIE

Producer

With a career spanning over three decades, Tom Hoffie is one of Australia's most experienced producers, and was line producer on season one of **Love Child** for Playmaker.

Producer of both domestic and international productions, his film credits include **Return To Nim's Island, Triangle**, and the multi-award winning **Unfinished Sky**.

His television credits include the Playmaker produced **SLIDE, A Ring Of Endless Light, In Pursuit Of Honour, 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea** and **Flipper** for Disney, HBO, MGM and Warner.

Most recently he was the set up producer on the Jonathan M Shiff production **Mako, Island Of Secrets**.

Prior to these projects, Tom was a company director at Fred Schepisi's production company The Film House.

Tom has brought his international experience to a domestic focus in his role as producer on season two of **Love Child**.

Love Child

Sue Seeary

Executive Producer

With over 26 years of experience in the Australian film and television industry, Sue Seeary produced her first feature film, **The Crossing** (starring Russell Crowe), in 1988.

Sue 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 three series of **House Husbands** for the NINE Network. In 2013, Sue produced the first season of the highly celebrated **Love Child**.

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

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.



L to R Playmaker's David Taylor and David Maher

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

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

PLAYMAKER's SCRIBE program, an initiative to develop show-running talent, has produced four original commissioned drama series since it began in 2011.