

Love Child

SEASON 3





The NINE Network
presents
A Playmaker Production

Love Child

Season 3
MEDIA KIT

NINE Publicity
Amanda Poulos
T 02 9965 2489
M 0414 503 418
E apoulos@nine.com.au



Synopsis

Just one month on and times they are a-changing. Shirley (*Ella Scott Lynch*) is confronted with the return of her first child, and Matron (*Mandy McElhinney*) is determined to see the re-opening of Stanton House. Joan (*Jessica Marais*) struggles to have it all – husband, baby and career - and Annie (*Gracie Gilbert*) struggles to make ends meet. Patty's (*Harriet Dyer*) business is booming, whilst Viv (*Sophie Hensser*) is in desperate search of a connection ... and Martha (*Miranda Tapsell*) is faced with a question that is hard to answer.

Times they are a-changing.

It's 1970 and times they are a-changing. The Vietnam War is dividing the world, music and the media are shifting old ideals, and the lines between friendship, love and marriage are blurring.

It's a month after we left the young women of Kings Cross Hospital and Stanton House, and all of them are now in the throes of dealing with the choices and ramifications of the events of series two.

Dr Joan Millar (*Jessica Marais*) continues her career as one of the country's most promising obstetricians in this brave new world of laparoscopic surgery and burgeoning fertility treatments. But juggling a baby, a husband who is facing manslaughter charges, as well as the inconveniences of living on-site at the hospital, takes its toll. A sudden infection and emergency surgery leaves Joan facing a life of infertility, and it's not long before she must face the truth of McNaughton's (*Jonathan LaPaglia*) part in Greg Mathieson's death – a death that has led to a manslaughter charge and the possibility of Jim (*Matthew Le Nevez*) facing 12 years behind bars. The return of McNaughton's estranged wife Eva (*Maya Stange*) poses a challenge Joan can't refuse, but their unexpected alliance will have far-reaching implications that no one saw coming.



The closure of Stanton House has put Matron (Mandy McElhinney) on the warpath. She shoehorns her way onto the Hospital Board and does everything in her power to have the home for unwed mothers reopened – forging an uneasy alliance with Joan in the process. Her growing relationship, as both mother and employer, with son Chris (Lincoln Younes) is forever on tenterhooks as Chris' relationship with Annie (Gracie Gilbert) and baby Deanna becomes more serious. Annie may be carrying Matron's grandchild, but blood ties do not make the situation in any way comfortable for either of them – Annie has every reason to fear Matron's motives...

Having secretly located her twin babies, Viv throws caution to the wind and befriends their adoptive mother Faye (Jessica Donoghue). Her illegal contact infuriates Matron, but the situation doesn't last long as Faye and the twins move overseas permanently.

The Vietnam War and the growing anti-war movement have a direct impact on the lives of our characters. Shirley (Ella Scott Lynch) arranges an opportunity of a lifetime for Annie to sing for the troops, and Viv - desperate to locate her brother Bernie (a soldier missing in action) - volunteers to go with her as a field nurse. Their initial excitement soon turns to shock and sadness. Instead of finding Bernie, Viv finds his Vietnamese wife (and baby son) - only for a harrowing set of events to leave her all alone again.

The realities of war – death, disease and countless children orphaned – spur Annie to use her newfound fame to help the anti-war movement when she gets back home. It's a stance that Chris struggles with – the cops are on to his prior shady deals and are willing to use them to turn Chris into a secret police informant.

After finding love in season two, Martha's (Miranda Tapsell) relationship gets serious when Bowditch (Andrew Ryan) asks for her hand in marriage. His proposal throws Martha's past as well as her future into sharp focus.

Will becoming a doctor's wife spell the end of independence for her, and after finally locating her Mother; will the ghosts of her past ever find peace?



In the heart of the bustling Cross, Patty (Harriet Dyer) has inadvertently become the success she once dreamed. Her crèche is full of babies and toddlers but Patty still clings to her desire to one day fall in love and have a family of her own. It leads her into hot water when she falls for the wrong man and commits a startling betrayal. Consumed by guilt and left with a broken heart, has Patty ruined a dear friendship forever?

The Blue Moon Club has a new owner, Leon (Jeremy Lindsay Taylor), and he's making life tough for Shirley. Having to keep her age and her motherhood a secret, she also has to jump through hoops to prove her worth to the new boss.

Shirley's world is turned on it's head though with the arrival of Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland), a delinquent teen who shows up drunk and pregnant on the steps of Stanton House demanding to know the identity of her birth mother.

It's not long before Shirley puts the pieces of the puzzle together and she must come face-to-face with the vexing choice she was forced to make fifteen years ago when she gave up her first child...



About The Production

Produced by Playmaker for The NINE Network, the third season of this celebrated series was filmed on location in Sydney.

The outstanding ensemble cast includes Jessica Marais, Jonathan LaPaglia, Matthew Le Nevez, Mandy McElhinney, Sophie Hensser, Ella Scott Lynch, Harriet Dyer, Gracie Gilbert, Andrew Ryan, Lincoln Younes, Tiarnie Coupland, Jeremy Lindsay Taylor and double TV Week Silver Logie Award winner Miranda Tapsell.

Season three of Love Child was devised by Tim Pye and written by Tim Pye, Cathy Strickland, Samantha Winston and Christine McCourt. Love Child was created by Sarah Lambert.

Directed by Geoff Bennett (House Husbands, Power Games: The Packer-Murdoch Story, The Great Mint Swindle), Mark Joffe (House of Hancock, Cosi, Neighbours), Peter Andrikidis (My Husband, My Killer, Janet King, Fat Tony & Co) and Grant Brown (House Husbands, Hiding, Janet King), and executive produced by Playmaker's David Maher, David Taylor, Sue Seear and Tim Pye, the third 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.



Key Cast

Dr Joan Millar

Dr Patrick McNaughton

Jim

Matron

Viv

Shirley

Patricia

Martha

Annie

Bowditch

Chris

Eva

Maggie

Leon

Jessica Marais

Jonathan LaPaglia

Matthew Le Nevez

Mandy McElhinney

Sophie Hensser

Ella Scott Lynch

Harriet Dyer

Miranda Tapsell

Gracie Gilbert

Andrew Ryan

Lincoln Younes

Maya Stange

Tiarnie Coupland

Jeremy Lindsay Taylor

Key Crew

Producer

Tom Hoffie

Executive Producers

David Maher
David Taylor
Sue Seeary
Tim Pye

Creator

Sarah Lambert

**Second & Third Series
Devised By**

Tim Pye

Directors

Geoff Bennett
Mark Joffe
Peter Andrikidis
Grant Brown

Writers

Tim Pye
Cathy Strickland
Samantha Winston
Christine McCourt

Production Designer

Tim Ferrier

Director of Photography

Nic Owens

Costume Designer

Louise Wakefield

Make Up & Hair Designer

Terri Farmer

Editors

Nicole La Macchia
Deb Peart
Henry Dangar

Composer

Antony Partos

Dr Joan Millar

Despite struggling to have it all, Dr Joan Millar continues her career as one of the country's most promising obstetricians in this brave new world of laparoscopic surgery and burgeoning fertility treatments.

But juggling a baby and a husband in jail, as well as the inconveniences of living on-site at the hospital takes its toll.

A sudden infection and emergency surgery leaves Joan facing a life of infertility, and it's not long before she must face the truth of McNaughton's part in Greg Mathieson's death – a death that has led to a manslaughter charge that may put Jim away for years to come.

Jessica Marais is Dr Joan Millar

Jessica Marais was most recently seen in her TV Week Logie Award nominated role as *Dr Joan Miller* in the second season of The NINE Network's popular drama **Love Child**.

She also starred in the ABC telemovie **Carlotta**, for which she received two Silver TV Week Logie nominations, and the US series **Magic City**, opposite Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Olga Kurylenko, for the Starz Network.

Previously, Jessica completed production on Jim Loach's **Untitled** feature film. She made her feature debut in **Two Fists One Heart** directed by Shawn Seet and has also appeared in the Australian film **Needle** and was the voice of 'Rochelle' in Disney's animated feature, **Planes**.

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*. Her other television credits include the Disney series, **Legend of the Seeker**.

In early 2008, she debuted with the Sydney Theatre Company in the critically acclaimed production of *A 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.





Dr Patrick McNaughton

Strong, charismatic, ambitious and one of the most respected obstetricians in the country - Patrick McNaughton is a man of his times. Bloody good at playing the system, he always comes out on top and is used to getting what he wants. He still has his eye firmly set on Joan despite her marriage.

It's not long before the truth of McNaughton's part in Greg Mathieson's death is revealed – will he be able to turn the tables in his favour this time round?

Jonathan LaPaglia is Dr Patrick McNaughton

Internationally acclaimed, Jonathan LaPaglia is one of Australia's leading actors. He recently received a 2015 Monte Carlo Television Festival Golden Nymph nomination for *Best Actor in a Drama Series* for his role as *Dr Patrick McNaughton*.

Receiving critical acclaim for his stand out performance as Anthony 'Rooster' Perish in the high rating Nine drama **Underbelly: Badness**, Jonathan was lauded for his starring role in the television adaptation of Christos Tsiolkas' novel, **The Slap** for ABC TV. **The Slap** received five Australian Film Institute Awards including *Best Television Drama*, won the TV Week Logie Award for *Most Outstanding Drama Series*, and was nominated for a BAFTA for *Best International Program* - with Jonathan receiving an AFI nomination for *Best Lead Actor in a Drama Series* for his performance as Hector.

Internationally, Jonathan has starred opposite Kathryn Morris in CBS' **Cold Case**, **The District** alongside Craig T. Nelson for CBS, in **Windfall** for NBC, **New York Undercover** for Fox and **Seven Days** for UPN - receiving a nomination for a Saturn Award for *Best Genre Actor* for his role.

His other credits include guest roles in **The Mentalist**, **Camp**, **Law & Order**, **Sopranos**, **Law & Order: Criminal Intent**, **Moonlight**, **NCIS**, **Bones**, **Castle** and **Burn Notice**.

Most recently featuring in a starring role in the independent film **Pioneer**, opposite Wes Bentley and Stephen Lang, Jonathan's other feature credits include Woody Allen's **Deconstructing Harry**, Stephan Kay's **The Dead Will Tell** opposite Anne Heche, William Kaufman's **The Hit List** and John Soto's **The Reckoning** - receiving the Silent River Film Festival 2014 Best Actor Award in Los Angeles, as well as a 2014 *Best Actor* nomination at the British Independent Film Festival Awards for his performance.

Jim

Good-looking, volatile, progressive, principled, Joan's husband Jim is in jail for a crime he did not commit.

As a result of Dr McNaughton's lies, Jim is facing manslaughter charges for the death of Greg Mathieson, threatening both his future with Joan and his ability to raise his son James.

Matthew 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 TV Week 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 telemovie **The Society Murders** won him the Silver TV Week Logie for *Most Outstanding Actor*. Other television credits for Matthew include appearances in prominent Australian series and telemovies 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*.

In early 2016 Matt will be seen in the highly anticipated Foxtel mystery drama series **The Kettering Incident** alongside Elizabeth Debicki. Matt is currently filming the lead role of legendary Australian racing car driver *Peter Brock* in the telemovie **BROCK** for Network Ten.





Matron

The closure of Stanton House has put Matron on the warpath.

Shoehorning her way onto the Hospital Board she does everything in her power to have the home for unwed mothers reopened – forging an uneasy alliance with Joan in the process.

As both mother and employer, her growing relationship with son Chris is forever on tenterhooks as Chris' relationship with Annie and baby Deanna becomes more serious.

Mandy McElhinney is Matron

Mandy McElhinney is one of Australia's most highly regarded stage and screen actors.

Most recently seen as the revered *Matron* in the celebrated series **Love Child**, in 2015 Mandy was outstanding in her characterisation of *Gina* in the television miniseries **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**.

With theatre roles including *Cinderella & 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*, *The Great and Don's Party* (STC); *When The Rain Stops Falling* (Brink); *The Hypocrite*, *Life After George* and *Pride & 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.

Viv

Struggling to come to terms with giving up her twins, Viv secretly locates them and throwing caution to the wind, befriends their adoptive mother Faye.

Her illegal contact infuriates Matron, but the situation doesn't last long as Faye and the twins move overseas permanently.

Volunteering to join Annie in Vietnam as a field nurse, Viv has her own reasons to head into a war zone ... desperate for connection she wants to find her brother Bernie who has gone missing in action.

She instead finds his Vietnamese wife – and baby son – only for a harrowing set of events to potentially leave her all alone again ...

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.

Sophie's other television credits include **Australia The Story of Us**, 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 *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*.





Shirley

The Blue Moon has a new owner, and he's making life tough for Shirley.

Forced to keep her age and her motherhood a secret, she also has to jump through hoops to prove her worth to the new boss.

Shirley's world is turned on its head with the arrival of Maggie, a delinquent teen who shows up pregnant on the steps of Stanton House demanding to know the identity of her birth mother.

It's not long before Shirley is faced with the harrowing choice she was forced to make fifteen years ago when she gave up her first child...

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 telemovie **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. She also 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 franchise **Underbelly** and two seasons of the critically acclaimed **Love Child**.

Ella also had a 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**.

More recently Ella appeared in the hugely popular ABC series **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries**, and also made her debut appearance on U.S. television in the **NCIS** drama franchise.

Ella has most recently completed filming a role in the upcoming second season of **The Code** for ABC TV and is currently filming the telemovie **BROCK** for Network Ten.

Patricia

In the heart of the bustling Cross, Patty has inadvertently become the success she dreamed of.

Her crèche is full of babies and toddlers but Patty still clings to her desire to one day fall in love and have a family of her own.

It leads her into hot water when she falls for the wrong man and commits a startling betrayal.

Consumed by guilt and left with a brokenheart, has Patty ruined a dear friendship forever?

Harriet Dyer is Patricia

Harriet Dyer recently starred in Brendan Cowell's feature film **Ruben Guthrie**, which opened the 2015 Sydney Film Festival, the second season of the Nine Network's drama series, **Love Child** and the Jungleboys series **No Activity**, which screened on Stan. She will next be seen in Abe Forsythe's feature **Down Under**, Damien Power's feature **Killing Ground**, the second series of **Black Comedy** and the fourth series of **Rake**.

Harriet's performance in **Love Child**, earned her two 2015 TV Week Logie Award nominations – the *Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding Newcomer* and *Most Popular New Talent*. For the same performance, Harriet has also received a 2015 AACTA Award nomination for *Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama*. Her other television credits include ScreenTime's **Janet King** on the ABC, the ABC comedy **A Moody Christmas**, Network Ten's **Micro Nation** and **Packed to the Rafters**,

She has appeared on stage in *Brisbane* with the Queensland Theatre Company; *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*. Harriet graduated from the Actors Centre Australia in 2011.





Martha

Martha's relationship gets serious when Bowditch asks for her hand in marriage, throwing her past as well as her future into sharp focus.

Will becoming a doctor's wife spell the end of independence for her, and after finally locating her mother - will the ghosts of her past ever find peace?

Miranda Tapsell is Martha

Multi award winning 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 and for which Miranda received a Deadly Award Nomination for *Female Actor of the Year*.

Miranda is also renowned for her role in **Love Child**, recently receiving two TV Week Logie Awards - *Most Popular New Talent* and the *Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding Newcomer*. Miranda starred in season one of the popular ABC TV series **Redfern Now** and **Black Comedy**. Her other television credits include **Splash Content** for ABC, **Mabo** for Blackfella Films and **Who We Are** (season 3) for Foxtel.

Miranda recently appeared in 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; *Yibiyung* (lead) for Belvoir Street Theatre.

Miranda Tapsell will be seen next in Warwick Thornton's film **Words With Gods** and Foxtel's **Secret City**. She is currently filming **Wolf Creek the Television Series** – a ScreenTime production for Stan.

Annie

Struggling to make ends meet, Annie is given the opportunity of a lifetime when Shirley arranges for her to sing for the troops in Vietnam.

But the realities of war – death, disease and countless children orphaned – spur Annie to use her newfound fame to help the anti-war movement when she returns home, much to Chris' chagrin.

Gracie Gilbert is Annie

Gracie Gilbert is perhaps best known to audiences for her role as *Annie* in Nine Network's top-rating series **Love Child**, although she is no stranger to the small screen.

She appeared in the main cast role of *Ida Pender* in Screentime's **Underbelly: Squizzy** in 2013, as *Tammy* on the hugely popular Foxtel series **Slide**, and as *Vicki* in two series of **Lockie Leonard**. More recently, Gracie was seen in the miniseries **Gallipoli** for the Nine Network.

Originally from Perth, Gracie began her acting training as a child, and landed her first professional role at the age of 13 in the television series **Streetsmartz**. She has trained in both stage and screen technique at 16th Street Acting Studio in Melbourne and is undertaking tertiary studies in Arts/Law.

Gracie's professional stage debut was *Viola* in Shakespeare WA's production of *Twelfth Night*, for its Shakespeare in the Park 2014 season.





Dr Simon Bowditch

With his residency in question, Bowditch throws caution to the wind and asks Martha for her hand in marriage – but he doesn't receive quite the answer he expects!

Determined to regain his residency after his spectacular declaration, Bowditch tries to do all he can to win over the lady of his dreams.

Andrew Ryan is Dr Simon Bowditch

Andrew graduated from the Queensland University of Technology in 2006. His other television credits include **INXS** series, **Never Tear Us Apart, My Place, The Jesters** (Series 1 & 2), **Chandon Pictures, Double The Fist, All Saints, Reef Doctors** and **Underbelly: Squizzy Taylor** for The NINE Network. In 2014 Andrew received an AACTA Award Nomination for *Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama* for his portrayal of *Andrew Farriss* in **Never Tear Us Apart**. More recently, Andrew featured as *Molly Meldrum* in Network Seven's highly celebrated miniseries, **Peter Allen: Not The Boy Next Door**.

Andrew's film credits include **The Menkoff Method, Lemon Tree Passage, Not Suitable for Children, Tomorrow When The War Began, Black Balloon** and **All My Friends Are Leaving Brisbane**.

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** which was one of the finalist short films for Tropfest 2011. He also starred in the web series **The Future Machine**.

Chris

Determined to do what it takes to provide for his newfound family, Chris' intentions are noble but his dealings not necessarily legal.

Chris struggles with Annie's anti-war stance, just as the cops are not only on to his prior shady deals but willing to use them to turn Chris into a secret police informant.

Lincoln Younes is Chris

As one of Australia's best young talents, Lincoln is a versatile actor with accreditation consistently being added to his repertoire.

He 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.

In 2015, Lincoln completed filming the new Abe Forsythe feature film **Down Under** and starred in the miniseries **Hiding** for ABC TV.





Eva

A stylish, intelligent woman, Eva was a society wife to Patrick McNaughton for 16 years before Patrick's affair with Joan ended their marriage.

While she and Patrick struggled to have children, now as an independent divorcee, Eva has lost none of her determination to be a mother. It's this deep felt need that will bring her storming back into the world of Joan and Patrick with life changing results for all of them.

Maya Stange is Eva

Maya attended John Curtin Performing Arts High School in Perth and got her first break when she was sixteen in the film **Love in Limbo**, opposite Russell Crowe. She has worked in theatre, film and television ever since.

Her Australian film credits include **Galore** directed by Rhys Graham, **Garage Days** and **In A Savage Land**, both of which earned her AFI nominations. Maya has worked with Mark Ruffalo on the New York independent film **XX/XY** and Isabella Rossellini in the Showtime pilot **Filthy Gorgeous**.

Her theatre credits include, *Twelfth Night* directed by Richard Roxburgh for Belvoir Street Theatre, *Closer* for Sydney Theatre Company, *Pride and Prejudice* for Melbourne Theatre Company, *The Conjurers* for Playbox and *Below* for The Griffin Theatre Company.

Maya's television credits include the telemovies **Wicked Love** and **The Great Mint Swindle** both for Channel 9, **Rake** and **Redfern Now** both for ABC, as well as appearances in **The Principal**, **Tricky Business**, **Satisfaction**, and **Burn Notice** in the US.

Maya is currently filming **Wolf Creek** the Television Series – a ScreenTime production for Stan.

Maggie

Maggie is a delinquent fifteen-year-old girl who turns up drunk and pregnant on the steps of Stanton House, demanding to know who her birth mother is.

Maggie is a bona fide wild child, a kid who has been emotionally neglected and is deeply mistrusting of adults. She's a smart, manipulative ball of energy.

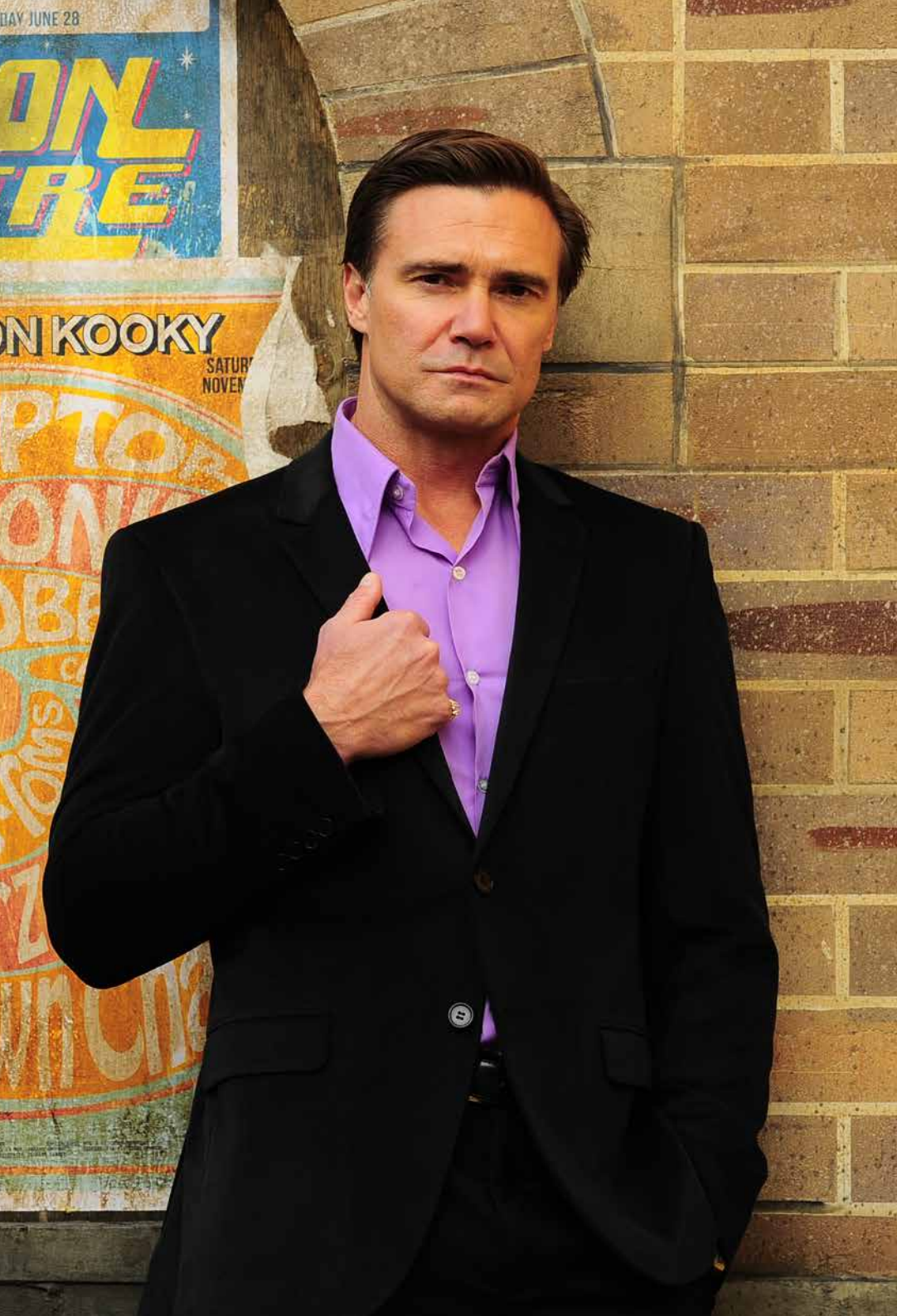
Tiarnie Coupland is Maggie

Tiarnie Coupland is an exciting upcoming Australian actress. She previously starred as the lead performer in ABC's **Worst Year Of My Life, Again!**, which was nominated for *Most Outstanding Children's Drama* for the 2015 TV Week Logie Awards. Tiarnie's other television credits include **Double Take** and **The Upside Down Show**.

In 2007, she made her film debut in Brian Andrews and Jane Forrest's film **The Final Winter**. Tiarnie's other film credits include **The Half Dead** and **Kiss of the Damned**.

Her theatre credits include *Burnt By The Sun* (New Theatre) and *BFG - Big Friendly Giant* (Black Box Theatre).





Leon

As the new owner of the Blue Moon, Leon is determined to make a success of the club – putting Shirley to the test.

Jeremy Lindsay Taylor is Leon

Jeremy Lindsay Taylor is an Australian actor. He finished his education at Newington College in 1991 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in Drama and Sociology, from the University of Newcastle.

Well known to Australian audiences for a variety of roles across film, television and theatre, Jeremy Lindsay Taylor has appeared in **Puberty Blues**, **Bikie Wars: Brothers In Arms**, **Wild Boys**, **Serangoon Road**, **Something in the Air**, **The Secret Life of Us**, **McLeod's Daughters**, **False Witness**, **Rescue Special Ops**, **Dance Academy**, **City Homicide** and in a principal role in the first three series of **Sea Patrol**.

Jeremy's feature film credits include **Tom White**, **Em 4 Jay** and **Bad Bush**. On stage he has performed for the Melbourne Theatre Company, The Malthouse Theatres, and has directed successful seasons of **The Packer** in Sydney and Los Angeles.

Nominated for the 2012 AACTA *Choice Award* for his outstanding portrayal of *Norman Bruhn* in **Underbelly: Razor**, Jeremy previously received an AFI Award nomination for *Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama* for his role in **False Witness**.

Jeremy has most recently appeared on television in **House of Hancock** and drama series **Gallipoli**. He has also recently featured in the short film **Second Hand** and feature film **Manny Lewis**. He will soon be back on screen in **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries** (series 3).

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.

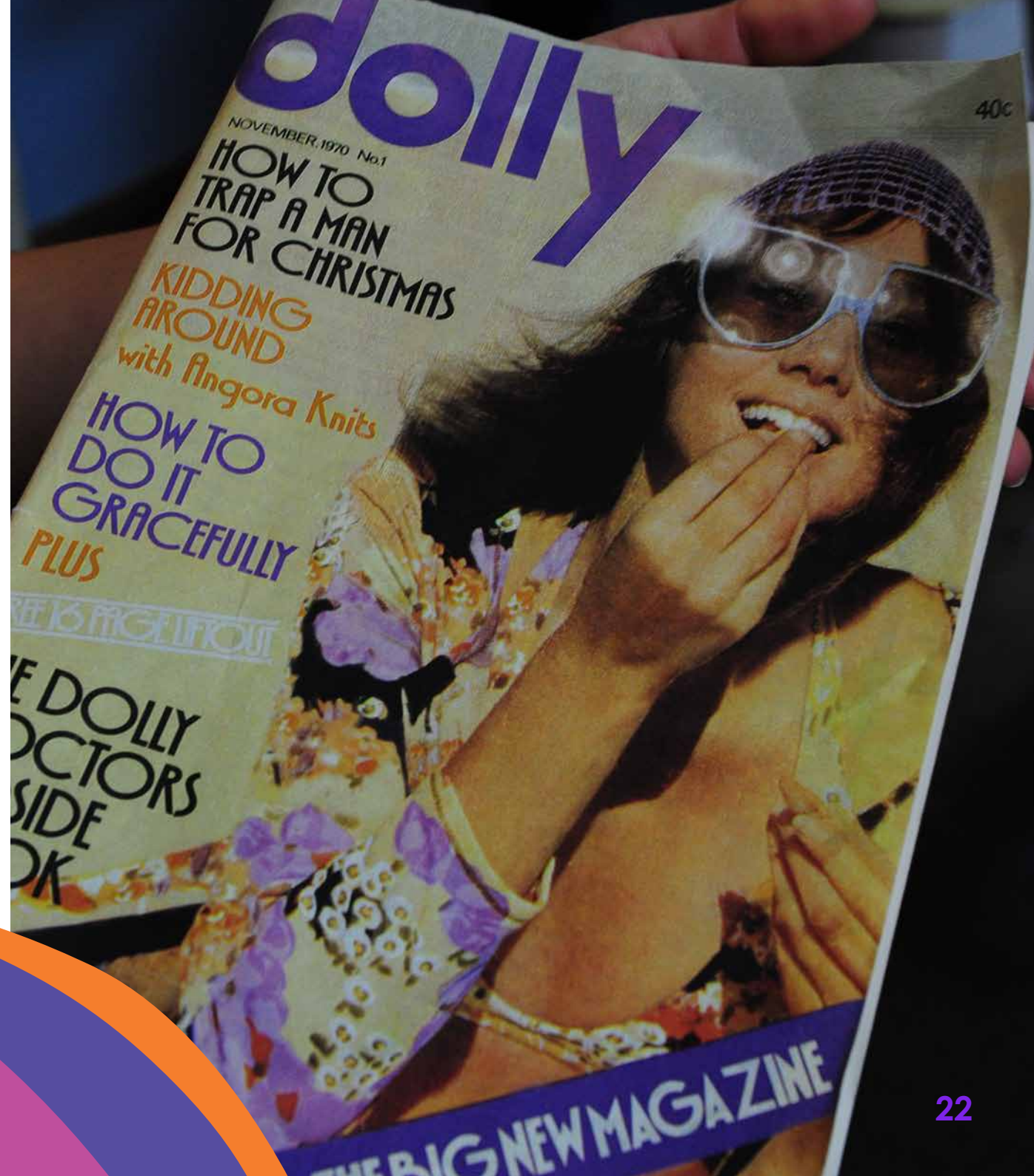
Tim has written, edited and produced some of Australia's most popular and critically acclaimed television series, mini series and movies. His credits include: **House Husbands**, season one and two of **Love Child**, **Old School**, **The Straits**, **Scorched**, **Stupid, Stupid Man**, **My Place**, **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.

Tim was most recently a writer and story consultant on Season Three of **House Husbands**.

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





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*.

But for the last twenty years her focus has been behind the camera working extensively as a writer, producer and director for both film and television working in the US, UK and Australia.

In Australia, Sarah has written on some of the top drama series including the critically acclaimed, award winning, **Love My Way**, two seasons of the Emmy nominated series, **Dance Academy** for which she received an AWGIE nomination for *Best Children's Screenplay* in 2010 and **The Alice** which garnered her a QLD Premier's Literary Award Nomination.

Recently, Sarah has been writing on the new season for Foxtel of the Channel 7 hit drama, **A Place to Call Home** and ABC's ratings winner **Dr Blake Mysteries**.

In the US, her credits include as writer, director and producer, **14 Million Dreams** (Sundance), **Clone Story** for M6 (France), **God In Government** (for PBS/awarded the Cine Gold Eagle), **New Type of Jazz**, **Directors on Directing** and **The Play's The Thing** for PBS for which she was recognised with an Emmy nomination. She was a co-creator on the 65-part tween show **Aliens Among Us** for the ABC and Channel 5 in the UK, writing and directing over 30 episodes.

Sarah has recently adapted the international best-selling novel, **Mice** by Gordon Reece for the big screen. The project has received Screen Australia funding with Tim White and Anna Vincent producing.

Sarah has created three new series all in funded development at major networks in the US, UK and Australia including AMC and NBC Universal working with producers at Essential Media, ITV Productions (UK) and Matchbox Pictures.

Tom HOFFIE - Producer

With a career spanning over three decades, Tom Hoffie is one of Australia's most experienced producers.

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 three of **Love Child**.



Sue Seary - Executive Producer

With over 26 years of experience in the Australian film and television industry, Sue Seary 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 four series of **House Husbands** for The NINE Network. Sue produced the first two seasons 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.



Episode 1

Written by: Tim Pye
Directed by: Geoff Bennett

Joan (Jessica Marais) is devastated to discover an infection has left her almost certainly infertile, while delinquent teen Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland) is determined to discover the identity of her birth mother. Matron (Mandy McElhinney) is on a mission to have Stanton House reopened while Bowditch (Andrew Ryan) quits his job, much to Martha's (Miranda Tapsell) disappointment.

Forced to continue living in the hospital whilst juggling work, a baby and a husband in remand, an exhausted Joan (Jessica Marais) collapses and is rushed into surgery. It's a dire result - an infection has left her almost certainly infertile.

Annie (Gracie Gilbert) is finally letting herself enjoy her time with Chris (Lincoln Younes), despite Matron's (Mandy McElhinney) presence in her life proving to always be a thorn in her side.

Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland), an out-of-control teen armed with a letter written by her birth mother, breaks into the abandoned Stanton House demanding answers. Her fed-up adoptive mother discovers Maggie is pregnant so relinquishes her to the State - sending her screaming back to the forbidding Tarramar Girls Home. Viv (Sophie Hensser) is on a quest to find Maggie's biological mother, but it's Shirley (Ella Scott Lynch) who finds Maggie's letter, and recognises her own writing. Maggie is the daughter she had given up fifteen years before.

Meanwhile, Matron (Mandy McElhinney) shoehorns her way onto the hospital board only to have her motion to reopen Stanton House defeated.

Thrilled with his decision to quit medicine, Bowditch (Andrew Ryan) proposes to Martha (Miranda Tapsell), but Martha is not prepared to marry someone who has thrown away their career.



Episode 2

Written by: Samantha Winston & Tim Pye
Directed by: Geoff Bennett

Shirley (Ella Scott Lynch) fights to keep her job at the Blue Moon as Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland) learns the truth of their relationship. Joan (Jessica Marais) uncovers McNaughton's (Jonathan LaPaglia) part in Greg Mathieson's death, and Viv (Sophie Hensser) loses her twins all over again.

Still reeling after discovering Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland) is her daughter, Shirley (Ella Scott Lynch) is dealt another blow when the new owner of the Blue Moon, Leon (Jeremy Lindsay Taylor), gives her an ultimatum – triple the week's takings or lose your job. Determined to succeed, Shirley capitalises on the U.S. soldiers flooding into the Cross, with a 24-hour 'Groove Train' gala. Amidst the preparations, she makes an uncomfortable visit to Tarramar Girls Home to return Maggie's letter - leaving the girl suspicious of her motives.

In a risky move, Viv (Sophie Hensser) befriends her twins' adoptive mother Faye (Jessica Donoghue), but when one of the twins is rushed to hospital, Matron (Mandy McElhinney) connects the dots.

Viv is taken to task for making contact with her babies and their adoptive mother, but it's nothing compared to the painful news she later receives - the twins are moving overseas permanently.

Meanwhile, Joan (Jessica Marais) is furious with McNaughton (Jonathan LaPaglia) when she discovers he witnessed Greg Mathieson's death (at the end of Season 2) and did nothing to save him. Joan suspects the sudden appearance of a pro bono lawyer who gets Jim (Matthew Le Nevez) out on bail is McNaughton's way of assuaging his guilt.

Chris (Lincoln Younes) wants to prove himself to Annie (Gracie Gilbert), but a lowly job at the hospital isn't appealing. He bolts, leaving behind a wad of cash and no word on when he'll be back.

A severe bout of morning sickness makes Annie too ill to perform, and she unexpectedly bails on the 'Groove Train' gig. Shirley heads to the Oasis to look for Annie but instead finds Maggie, who has escaped from Tarramar to confront Shirley about being her mother. Shirley admits the truth but says she can't be the mother Maggie needs. The situation intensifies when Maggie discovers Shirley had another child, Ben, and kept him. Irate and betrayed, Maggie runs, leaving Shirley shaken.





Episode 3

Written by: Christine McCourt

Directed by: Mark Joffe

Whilst being blackmailed by McNaughton's (Jonathan LaPaglia) estranged wife, Joan (Jessica Marais) rescues Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland) and other abused girls from Tarramar by agreeing to help Matron (Mandy McElhinney) reopen Stanton House.

Eva (Maya Stange) surprises her estranged husband McNaughton (Jonathan LaPaglia) with an ultimatum; she wants his help with a new fertility treatment so she can have another child, or else she will publicly name Joan (Jessica Marais) in their divorce proceedings. McNaughton is unmoving, refusing to administer experimental drugs. McNaughton informs Joan of Eva's plan, forcing Joan to admit to Jim (Matthew Le Nevez) that she once had an affair with McNaughton.

More pressing problems arise when Joan discovers that Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland) (and other young girls) are being sexually abused at Tarramar Girls Home. Desperate to get the girls to safety, Joan makes an unsavoury deal with Matron (Mandy McElhinney) - only by reopening Stanton House will Maggie and the other pregnant girls have somewhere safe to go.

As Matron convinces Norman (Richard Healy) to release the girls, Joan must persuade the retiring (and recalcitrant) Chairman of the Hospital Board to give Stanton House his blessing. At his retirement party, Joan puts on a charm offensive that succeeds – Stanton House will reopen.

Meanwhile, in defending Martha (Miranda Tapsell) against a racist slight, Bowditch (Andrew Ryan) gallantly pushes the inebriated Chairman into the pool, convincing Martha to propose to him in the process.

When Joan and Matron turn up to collect the girls from Tarramar, Norman has hidden Maggie. With Cynthia's (Lauren Esposito) help they find her, and not before time – as in desperation, Maggie has swallowed bleach and is convulsing on the dormitory floor.

As Maggie recovers in hospital, Joan is unexpectedly approached by Eva directly. Eva suggests she will not make good her threat if Joan administers the fertility drugs she wants.

Episode 4

Written by: Cathy Strickland

Directed by: Mark Joffe

As Joan (Jessica Marias) struggles to admit her infertility to Jim (Matthew Le Nevez), Annie (Gracie Gilbert) faces the death of her father (David Whitney), but not before he encourages her to go to Vietnam as an entertainer.

Annie (Gracie Gilbert) is filled with excitement about her chance to sing for the troops in Vietnam but a surprise visit from her mother, Eleanor (Helen Thomson), brings bad news; her father is on his deathbed and he wants to see her one last time.

Back in Newcastle, Annie introduces her family to Deanna, the baby they'd thought she'd given up. Tension mounts when Chris (Lincoln Younes) shows up, wanting to marry Annie and confirming Eleanor's suspicions that baby number two is on the way.

Annie's father dies, but not before he urges Annie to go ahead with her trip to Vietnam...

As Joan (Jessica Marais) begins Eva (Maya Stange) on fertility treatment, her relationship with Jim (Matthew Le Nevez) is strained. He wants her career to take a backseat to her family, but Jim himself can't keep a job because of his legal situation.

Meanwhile, Patty (Harriet Dyer) has developed a crush on Jim, impulsively kissing him at the crèche, leaving her riddled with guilt.

After receiving a reel of film from her brother Bernie, who is serving in Vietnam, Viv (Sophie Hensser) is convinced he's in trouble. She decides she'll join Annie in Vietnam as a nurse and locate her brother while she's there.

Matron (Mandy McElhinney) has Stanton House back up and running. Shirley (Ella Scott Lynch) tries to make life easier for Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland), sharing with her a secret hiding place she used when she was there.

Now receiving fertility treatment unbeknownst to McNaughton (Jonathan LaPaglia), Eva turns up on his doorstep with the intention of seducing him.

Meanwhile, struggling to accept the truth, Joan finally confesses to Jim, telling him she can no longer have children.



Episode 5

Written by: Tim Pye

Directed by: Peter Andrikidis

In Vietnam, Viv (Sophie Hensser) finds herself holding her newly orphaned baby nephew; Joan (Jessica Marais) confirms Eva (Maya Stange) is pregnant while Patty (Harriet Dyer) and Jim (Matthew Le Nevez) give in to their lust.

Although Annie (Gracie Gilbert) is a hit singing for the troops, Chris (Lincoln Younes) is furious with Shirley (Ella Scott Lynch) for arranging Annie's trip to a war zone.

Meanwhile, Viv (Sophie Hensser) is struggling to find her brother. His friend, Harry (Paul Pantano), is sketchy on the details, but admits that Bernie went AWOL days ago. Viv discovers Hoang (Maria Tran), Bernie's Vietnamese wife, and their child, only to have her confirm Bernie is dead. In the midst of a battle, Viv witnesses Hoang step on a land mine with tragic consequences. Viv is left with her now orphaned nephew in her arms, determined not to leave him alone...

Eva's (Maya Stange) fertility treatment has worked and Joan (Jessica Marais) confirms she is pregnant. Eva admits to Joan that McNaughton (Jonathan LaPaglia) is the father but he doesn't yet know... Meanwhile, Joan is convinced her own infertility has affected Jim's (Matthew Le Nevez) love for her.

Patty (Harriet Dyer) tries to take her mind off Jim by throwing herself into wedding preparations for Martha (Miranda Tapsell), but after a scuffle with an aggressive father at the crèche, Patty and Jim can no longer deny their chemistry and fall into each other's arms.

Maggie (Tiarnie Coupland) struggles at Stanton House and is terrified when she sees what it's really like to give birth. But the discovery of Shirley's (Ella Scott Lynch) teenage diary brings her a sense of comfort.



Episode 6

Written by: Cathy Strickland
Directed by: Peter Andrikidis

While Viv (Sophie Hensser) is forced to leave her orphaned nephew behind in Vietnam, Joan (Jessica Marais) is devastated when she learns that Jim (Matt Le Nevez) has done a runner to avoid going... taking baby James with him.

In Vietnam, Annie (Gracie Gilbert) is fed up with helping the war's propaganda machine as Viv (Sophie Hensser) deals with the bureaucracy of adopting her orphaned nephew. When the baby is diagnosed with Tuberculosis, he is denied a visa meaning Viv will need to stay in Vietnam a little longer. This is good news for her brother's friend Harry (Paul Pantano), who has fallen for her.

Annie is left distressed by the realities of a Vietnamese orphanage but further horrors await when the camp is shelled and she and Viv must be evacuated.

Amidst the chaos, Viv is forced to leave her nephew behind. She's utterly distraught as she and Annie are airlifted to safety.

After a scuffle in the crèche, Patty (Harriet Dyer) gives a statement in Jim's (Matthew Le Nevez) defense, but Pete (Ben O'Toole) - Viv's former boyfriend and now Police Sergeant - makes it clear that Jim's behaviour will be used against him in his manslaughter trial meaning he'll face years in prison.

Joan (Jessica Marais) implores McNaughton (Jonathan LaPaglia) to take the stand in Jim's defense but instead McNaughton tries to convince Jim that Joan would be better off without him. A warrant forces Joan to let the police enter their home, but Jim has gone and has taken baby James with him, leaving Joan heartbroken.

As plans for the hospital raffle are underway, Matron (Mandy McElhinney) accidentally breaks the prize television's futuristic 'remote control' and is forced to cough up for it at the charity auction.



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 first series of **The Code** for ABC TV, the TV Week Logie Award winning **House Husbands** and **Love Child** for The NINE Network, **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 The NINE Network. The second series of PLAYMAKER's **The Code** is currently in post-production.

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 14th Annual Screen Producers Australia Awards.