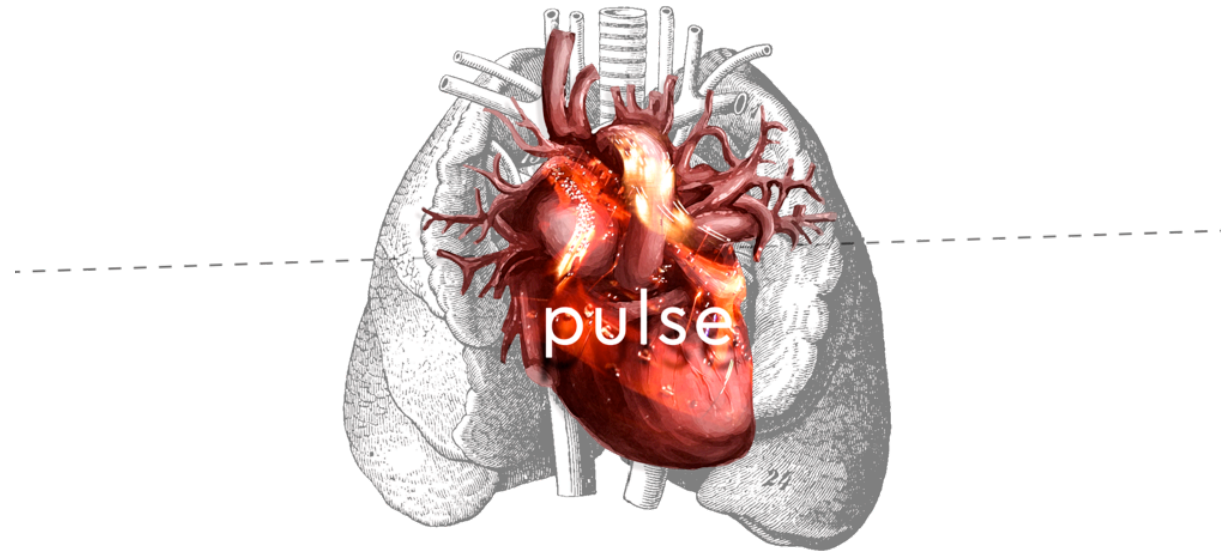




The Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Screen Australia present in association with Screen NSW
A Clandestine Beyond Production



media kit

as at 19.6.17

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pulse

about the production

Produced with major investment from Screen Australia in association with Screen NSW, PULSE is a Clandestine Beyond production for ABC, with international sales being handled by ABC Commercial.

PULSE stars **Claire van der Boom** (*Sisters of War*), **Andrea Demetriades** (*Janet King*), **Owen Teale** (*Game of Thrones*), **Liam McIntyre** (*Spartacus: War of the Damned*), **Arka Das** (*Top of The Lake*), **Pallavi Sharda** (*Lion*), **Blessing Mokgohloa** (*Hunters*), **Susie Porter** (*Seven Types of Ambiguity*), **Dalip Sondhi**, **Penny Cook** (*A Country Practice*) and **Renee Lim** (*Please Like Me*).

Inspired by a true story of a transplant patient who became a doctor, **PULSE**, created by **Kris Wyld**, **Michael Miller** and **Mel Hill**, is a high stakes drama set in and around the transplant unit of a busy western suburbs teaching hospital. When successful high-flier **Frankie Bell** (*Claire van der Boom*) is brought crashing to earth by chronic kidney failure she targets an alternate future. Eight years on she is in her second year as a practising doctor starting her first day in a Renal rotation. Driven to use her second chance to save others, Frankie must confront an ailing health system, and face her toughest challenge – learning to let go.

Produced by Clandestine Beyond, **PULSE** was produced by **Kris Wyld** and **Antony I Ginnane** with Beyond Entertainment's **David Ogilvy** and **Ron Saunders** and the ABC's **Sally Riley** and **Kym Goldsworthy** as executive producers. Written by **Kris Wyld**, **Michael Miller**, **Kristen Dunphy** and **Mandy McCarthy**, **PULSE** was directed by **Peter Andrikidis**, **Jennifer Leacey** and **Ana Kokkinos**.

pulse

synopsis

A high-flying financial analyst had it all ... before failing kidneys landed her at death's door, and a transplant offered her a second chance.

Inspired by the man who saved her life, **Frankie** (*Claire van der Boom*) alters course to become a doctor herself, working and learning in the high stakes, high pressure world of the cardio-thoracic and renal wards of a major teaching hospital.

Along with her colleagues, **Lou** (*Andrea Demetriades*) and **Tabb** (*Arka Das*), **Frankie** must face the political, personal and professional realities of working at the coalface of an ailing medical system.

But for **Frankie** especially, a hospital can be a dangerous world. Though uniquely qualified to understand her patients, as a transplant recipient she is also vulnerable to infection, and her compassion for others may just endanger her own life.

Frankie's determination to succeed takes her on a rollercoaster ride from terror to triumph, from heartbreak to happiness, from fragility to strength. She's driven to use her second chance to save others, but learns that's not always possible, and when you can't save the very person who saved you, sometimes the real gift is in letting go.

pulse

cast

DR FRANKIE BELL	Claire van der Boom
DR LOU TANNIS	Andrea Demetriades
PROF CHAD BERGER	Owen Teale
DR ELI NADER	Liam McIntyre
DR TABB PATEL	Arka Das
DR TANYA KALCHURI	Pallavi Sharda
DR ROWAN MITRI	Blessing Mokgohloa
DR MAGGIE CUTTER	Susie Porter
DR RUPERT STEELE	Dalip Sondhi
NUM CAROL LITTLE	Penny Cook
DR MONICA LEE	Renee Lim

pulse

crew

PRODUCERS	Kris Wyld & Antony I Ginnane
CREATED BY	Kris Wyld, Mel Hill & Michael Miller
DIRECTORS	Peter Andrikidis, Jennifer Leacey & Ana Kokkinos
WRITERS	Michael Miller, Kris Wyld, Kristen Dunphy, Mandy McCarthy & Mel Hill
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	David Ogilvy, Ron Saunders Sally Riley & Kym Goldsworthy
LINE PRODUCER	Carol Hughes
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Joe Pickering <small>acs</small>
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	Sam Hobbs
COMPOSER	Guy Gross
EDITORS	Nicole La Macchia, Mark Perry & Henry Dangar

pulse

episode one

Written by Kris Wyld & Mel Hill

Directed by Peter Andrikidis

Frankie Bell (*Claire van der Boom*) is a young high flier whose dreams come crashing down around her when she learns her kidneys have failed. **Without medical intervention, she will die.**

Eight years later, **Frankie** (*Claire van der Boom*) is now in her second year as a practising doctor, starting her first day in a Renal rotation. The stakes are high: **Frankie** wants to earn a permanent spot in Renal, caring for patients suffering the same way she did, and working under Renal Boss, **Chad Berger** (*Owen Teale*), the very doctor who saved her life. But Renal is fiercely competitive – only the strongest survive, so she must protect the secret of her transplant at all costs.

Frankie's best friend, **Lou Tannis** (*Andrea Demetriades*), wants to be a surgeon, but is confronting the limitations in her own cutthroat field. **Lou** needs support if she is to one day break into the boy's club of surgical training teams. Is her fling with hotshot surgeon **Rowan Mitri** (*Blessing Mokgohloa*) helping or hindering her progress? Female surgeon, **Maggie Cutter** (*Susie Porter*), is **Lou's** hardest taskmaster. But can she be brought round? Will she become the mentor **Lou** needs?

Meanwhile, **Frankie** and **Lou's** housemate **Tabb** (*Arka Das*) is starting his first day as an intern, terrified that he won't stand up to the pressures, particularly when faced with his prickly, wounded-warzone cardio registrar **Eli Nader** (*Liam McIntyre*), who cuts him no slack.

Frankie has a win in diagnosing the mystery behind **Zoe's** (*Melissa Bonne*) symptoms: **Zoe** needs a new heart. But **Frankie** is soon in strife again, after sending **Shawn** (*Daniel Amalm*) home without his life-saving dialysis. Of all people, **Frankie** should have known how critical it was and looked out for him, but instead couldn't confront her past. Finding her courage, she goes above and beyond to get **Shawn** back into dialysis in time to get him a transplant.

Zoe isn't so lucky – the donor heart is allocated to someone else, leaving her close to death. **Berger** warns **Frankie** that she is identifying too closely with her patients and that it's blinding her to the realities of medicine: she won't be able to save them all. He feels conflicted by the need to treat her as a doctor, but also as his patient. But after her dramatic first days **Frankie** is more determined than ever to make it in renal, to pay back the second chance she was given.

pulse

episode two

Written by Michael Miller

Directed by Peter Andrikidis

Frankie Bell (*Claire van der Boom*) takes on the system to save a patient, and lands in trouble. **Lou Tannis** (*Andrea Demetriades*) finds out it's not always wise to have an affair with a boss, and **Tabb** (*Arka Das*) questions his ability as a doctor. Frankie learns that her mentor, **Chad Berger** (*Owen Teale*), is as vulnerable as any one.

Frankie (*Claire van der Boom*) comforts a nervous **Zoe** (*Melissa Bonne*) in the lead up to her heart transplant, while also dealing with rebellious teen **Kelly** (*Selena Milinkovic*), who had a kidney transplant but has been lying about taking her medication.

Tabb (*Arka Das*) takes on Samoan outlier patient **Abe** (*Ray Chong Nee*), but after connecting with him on a deep level, **Tabb** loses him and questions his own ability as a doctor.

Zoe goes in for her heart transplant. But tensions rise in the theatre as personal politics interfere. **Lou** (*Andrea Demetriades*) calls stop, claiming to have seen **Mitri** (*Blessing Mkgohloa*) miss a stitch, but he doesn't listen, closing **Zoe** up.

Frankie saves **Kelly's** life, and finally gets through to the frightened teenager: this second chance at life is precious, and neither of them can afford to forget that. In an intimate moment, **Berger** (*Owen Teale*) reveals he has his own health issues. As they share a bottle of wine, **Frankie** is faced with the question: will she be able to save the man who saved her?

pulse

episode three

Written by Michael Miller

Directed by Jennifer Leacey

When a heart transplant patient dies, Frankie (*Claire van der Boom*) **fears the surgeons will close ranks to cover up a medical error. Lou** (*Andrea Demetriades*) **realises she and Frankie may be on different sides.**

Under **Eli's** (*Liam McIntyre*) tutelage **Tabb** (*Arka Das*) is struggling to prove his ability to be a doctor when the two are pulled into an emergency code on heart transplant patient, **Zoe** (*Melissa Bonne*).

Frankie (*Claire van der Boom*) is stunned when she does not survive. A meeting is called to establish whether there was a preventable error but **Mitri** (*Blessing Mokgohloa*) and the others in the operation close ranks, pressuring **Lou** (*Andrea Demetriades*) to keep her mouth shut.

After **Frankie** helps **Berger** (*Owen Teale*) deliver a renal patient's baby, he asks her not to reveal his brain tumour; they are now the keepers of each other's secrets. But this isn't the only secret **Frankie** is being asked to keep: **Lou** admits that she saw **Mitri** miss a stitch and was ignored. Was it arrogance that killed **Zoe**? And what will **Frankie** do with this new knowledge?

pulse

episode four

Written by Michael Miller

Directed by Jennifer Leacey

When a patient wants to turn off the device keeping her alive, Steele (*Dalip Sondhi*), the Head of Medicine, and her cardiologist, steps in to dissuade her. Lou (*Andrea Demetriades*) is caught between a rock and a hardplace when her friend Frankie (*Claire van der Boom*) undertakes an RCA into a patient's death, threatening her relationship with her two surgical bosses.

Worried about his failing health, **Frankie** (*Claire van der Boom*) urges **Berger** (*Owen Teale*) to undergo surgery on his brain tumour, but he refuses, not wanting to be seen as sick, or give up work.

She is asked to take on the roll of running an RCA – a root cause analysis – into **Zoe's** death. But **Lou** (*Andrea Demetriades*) sees this as misconduct – **Frankie** is biased, and has betrayed **Lou's** confidence by urging her to speak out against **Mitri** (*Blessing Mokgohloa*) – an act that would no doubt cost **Lou** her job.

Heart patient **Chrissy** (*Arianthe Galani*) is brought in suffering from her ICD – a device implanted in her heart to shock her back to life each time she arrests. The pain is traumatizing, and **Eli** (*Liam McIntyre*) fights for **Chrissy's** right to turn off the implant and choose her time to die.

Mitri gives **Lou** a ride home from the pub, hoping to convince her to stay quiet in the RCA. But it ends badly for both of them.

pulse

episode five

Written by Kris Wyld

Directed by Ana Kokkinos

When Berger (*Owen Teale*) learns **Frankie** (*Claire van der Boom*) has a fever, in the middle of a hospital outbreak, he forces her into hospital for treatment, putting her secret at risk of exposure.

When there is a hospital outbreak that targets the immune suppressed at City West Public Hospital, **Frankie Bell** (*Claire van der Boom*), along side other transplant patients, is in danger.

As patients fall like flies, **Berger** (*Owen Teale*) takes a protesting **Frankie** off potentially dangerous ward work to pursue the investigation into the outbreak with **Eli** (*Liam McIntyre*). This infuriates the renal registrar, **Tanya Kalchuri** (*Pallavi Sharda*), who wanted this investigation for her cv, and who sees **Frankie** as a potential threat.

Lou Tannis (*Andrea Demetriades*) is under pressure, also, as a teenage boy's mother refuses to allow her son the medical treatment he needs to deal with cancer.

Her bosses, **Mitri** (*Blessing Mokgohloa*) and **Cutter** (*Susie Porter*), want opposite things from her regarding the RCA into the death of a patient, and this affects her ability to treat the teenage boy. Luckily **Frankie** and **Eli** come to her aid.

Meanwhile **Tabb** (*Arka Das*) is dealing with a passenger plane pilot with a drinking problem. Whose duty is it to report this? Is it ever right to expose confidential patient details?

When **Berger** learns **Frankie** has a fever, he forces her into hospital for treatment, putting her secret at risk of exposure. She must ask rival, **Tanya Kalchuri** to take her place at a research presentation. And **Tanya** is determined to find out why.

pulse

episode six

Written by Mandy McCarthy

Directed by Ana Kokkinos

Tanya Kalchuri (*Pallavi Sharda*) must confess to **Frankie** (*Claire van der Boom*) that she invaded her medical files, a breach of professional ethics. While **Berger** (*Owen Teale*) works with **Eli Nadar** (*Liam McIntyre*), to save a patient from deportation.

Tanya Kalchuri's (*Pallavi Sharda*) illicit discovery of **Frankie's** (*Claire van der Boom*) transplant threatens her own career: she could be prosecuted for breach of ethics. **Chad Berger** (*Owen Teale*), forces **Tanya** to tell **Frankie**, who now must decide whether to report the misconduct or forgive **Tanya's** mistake.

Eli Nadar (*Liam McIntyre*) and **Frankie** are brought together when **Eli** asks **Frankie** to admit **Naza** (*Aanisa Vylet*), a Kurdish woman with multiple problems.

When police reveal that **Naza** has an expired visa and is an illegal immigrant, she flees the hospital. **Frankie** and **Eli** must track her down in hopes of saving both her life and the life of her baby. But **Eli's** own past in war-torn Syria rises to the surface, putting in jeopardy the growing relationship between he and **Frankie**.

Will they be able to trust each other with their wounds?

Berger, who is fighting his own health battles, saves the patient, but earns the wrath of Immigration Officers when he gives medical treatment to the refugee.

pulse

episode seven

Written by Kristen Dunphy

Directed by Peter Andrikidis

On the eve of an investigation into a possible medical error resulting in the death of a patient, Frankie (Claire van der Boom) realises that all doctors are fallible when faced with the reality of a health system that is not always perfectly able to cater for all.

Frankie Bell (Claire van der Boom) is part of a team investigating the death of a transplant patient. Was her death the result of a medical mistake? Can she get the truth revealed or will the medical staff involved back the surgeon, **Rowan Mitri (Blessing Mokgohloa)**, when he says no such mistake happened?

Frankie wants **Lou (Andrea Demetriades)** to speak out, but will she, when her own future as a surgeon is at stake? **Lou** is under pressure both from her friend, and **Maggie Cutter (Susie Porter)**, who wants **Mitri** discredited for her own professional reasons.

With the RCA findings looming, **Frankie** is on the night shift from hell, left alone to deal with multiple critical patients at once. When she prioritises a woman with an aortic tear, another patient dies, leaving his brain-damaged son without a carer. The death causes **Frankie** to question herself and what it means to make a mistake.

The RCA findings are presented and **Lou** finds the courage to speak up. But the RCA is a whitewash with the cause of **Zoe's (Melissa Bonne)** death remaining inconclusive, and the surgeon responsible, **Rowan Mitri**, apparently suffering no consequences. **Frankie** realises that all doctors are fallible.

pulse

episode eight

Written by Michael Miller

Directed by Peter Andrikidis

Chad Berger's (*Owen Teale*) days as a doctor are coming to an end, but he is determined to see through a complex set of paired kidney exchange transplants. Will he be able to do so, or will his own condition get to him, before he can?

Berger's (*Owen Teale*) brain tumour is progressing, his symptoms growing more extreme but he is determined to finish a complicated series of kidney transplants before dealing with his own medical options.

Tabb's (*Arka Das*) confidence is shaken when the brother of a deceased patient shows up with the same heart problem. **Tabb** is convinced he will have to resign before he kills this brother too, until he diagnoses a rare disorder and saves the patient's life.

Mitri (*Blessing Mokgohloa*) still struggles with the weight of guilt over **Zoe Mendosa's** (*Melissa Bonne*) death, and under **Lou's** (*Andrea Demetriades*) guidance he finds the courage to apologise to the husband **Sam** (*Troy Harrison*), finally taking responsibility for the operation's outcome.

Eli Nadar (*Liam McIntyre*) is concerned **Berger's** judgment is becoming impaired and urges **Frankie** (*Claire van der Boom*) to stop covering for him. But she is determined to help her mentor succeed with the complex domino of transplant surgeries and give **Berger** closure so he can deal with his own health.

Berger is forced to reveal his brain tumour and resign from the hospital, leaving **Frankie** and **Tanya** (*Pallavi Sharda*) to see the domino through. But when one of the donors pulls out at the last minute, derailing all six of the surgeries, **Berger** steps in with a radical solution ...

pulse

Dr Frankie Bell

As a *Renal Resident* at City West Public, Frankie is whip-smart, determined and fiercely protective of her secret: not only is she a transplant doctor, but a transplant patient too – a fact that, if discovered, she fears could destroy her career.

Claire van der Boom

is FRANKIE

Claire van der Boom is an award winning Australian actor who graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2005.

Early television roles include the series **Love My Way** and **East West 101**; the role of *Stella* in the Stephen Spielberg/Tom Hanks mini-series **The Pacific**, **The Man Who Got Away** for Screentime, and **City Homicide** for the Seven Network. Other roles include a series regular role in the television drama **Rush**, for which Claire was nominated in 2009 for a Silver Logie as *Most Outstanding Actress*; and the leading role of *Sister Berenice*, in ABC's telemovie **Sisters of War**, for which Claire won the *Most Outstanding Actress* 2010 Silver Logie.

In the US Claire has had numerous television roles, including the recurring role of British character *Rachel* in the CBS series **Hawaii Five-O**, opposite Alex O'Loughlin and Scott Caan; *Shirley* in **Masters of Sex** for SHOWTIME; and the guest role of *Anne Marie Flynn* in **Constantine** for NBC. Most recently, Claire was seen as *Marina*, a series regular in NBC's **Game of Silence**, created by David Hudgins.

In film, Claire has worked both locally and in the US. In Australia, Claire has played leading roles in Nash Edgerton's **The Square**; **Red Hill**; **Love Is Now and Broke**. In the US, highlights include Richard Loncraine's **Five Flights Up** with Morgan Freeman and Diane Keaton; a supporting role in Michel Franco's **Chronic** opposite Tim Roth; and the lead role of *Alison* in the feature film **Battlecreek**, directed by Alison Eastwood.

In theatre, Claire made her Off-Broadway debut in 2012 as *Karen* in the new David Rabe play *An Early History of Fire* for the New Group in New York. Later in 2012 Claire stepped in to take over a lead role in Sam Shepard's new play *Heartless* for the Signature Theatre. Claire returned to the stage in 2015 in *The Trouble We Come From* opposite Scott Caan for Falcon Theatre, CA, and again in 2016 in Melbourne Theatre Company's production of *Double Indemnity*, directed by Sam Strong.

pulse

Dr Lou Tannis

Lou is a talented surgeon, but will her emotional vulnerability allow her to break into the cutthroat boy's club of surgery? An affair with her boss may put everything she's struggled for at risk.

Andrea Demetriades

is LOU

Since graduating from NIDA in 2006, Andrea, originally from Western Australia, has worked consistently in film, television and theatre.

Feature films include the title female role in **Alex & Eve** (directed by Peter Andrikidis), as well as roles in **Around the Block** (directed by Sarah Spillane) and **Nerve** (directed by Sebastien Guy). Television includes a leading role in **Seven Types of Ambiguity** recently for the ABC, **Janet King** (Series 1, 2 & 3), and **Crownies** also for the ABC, **The Principal** (SBS), and guest roles in **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries** (ABC), **Mr & Mrs Murder** (Network 10), **Think Tank** and **All Saints** (Seven Network). Andrea also had a recurring role in the web series **Fragments of Friday** and has appeared in the Presto series **Talk About**. Andrea has worked in theatre across the country including leading roles in *Antigone* for Sport for Jove; *Arcadia*, *Arms and the Man*, *Perplex* and *Pygmalion* for Sydney Theatre Co; *The Dog/The Cat*, *The Book of Everything*, *Oedipus Rex* for Belvoir Theatre; *A Beautiful Life* for Riverside; *Intimate Letters*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *Pericles* for Bell Shakespeare Co; *Helly's Magic Cup* for the State Theatre Company of South Australia and *Winter* for the Griffin Theatre Company.

Andrea received the *Best Female Actor in a Leading Role in an Independent Production* at the recent 2016 Sydney Theatre Awards for her role in *Antigone*; in 2016, and was a recipient for the Equity Ensemble Award for *Most Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast* in the television series **The Principal**. She also received a nomination for the Inaugural 2016 Casting Guild of Australia Sirius Best Actress Award: Rising Star, as well as a nomination for the 2016 GLUGS Theatre Awards for *Best Actress* (Sydney Theatre Company/*Arms and the Man*); a 2014 Equity Ensemble nomination for *Most Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast in a Television Drama Series* (ABC/**Janet King**), a 2012 Equity Ensemble Nomination for *Most Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast in a television drama series* (ABC/**Crownies**), a 2010 Green Room Theatre nomination for *Best Actress* (Bell Shakespeare Company/*Twelfth Night*); and the 2009 Green Room Theatre nomination for *Best Actress* (Bell Shakespeare/*Pericles*).

pulse

Prof Chad Berger

Head of Renal and Frankie's mentor, Berger is the keeper of her secret and her rock. From a Welsh steelworker family, he is a larger than life, maverick physician who doesn't always play by the rules when it comes to looking after his patients.

Owen Teale

is BERGER

One of Britain's leading award-winning theatre actors, Owen Teale is best known on screen for his recurring role of *Alliser Thorne* in HBO's epic fantasy series **Game of Thrones**.

With an outstanding career spanning more than 25 years, his more recent screen credits also include **Houdini & Doyle**, **Ripper Street**, **River**, the television movie **Under Milk Wood**, **Stella** and **Line of Duty**, as well as appearances in **Silk** and **Torchwood**. His earlier credits include the role of *Dr Freisler* in the multi-award-winning **Conspiracy** for HBO, *John O'Brien* in Catherine Cookson's **The Fifteen Streets**, *Conor Devlin* in **Ballykissangel**, *Fluellen* in **Henry V** – as part of **The Hollow Crown**, *Ham Peggotty* in **David Copperfield** as well as a guest appearance in **Doctor Who**.

His feature film credits include the character of *Lopahkin* in **The Cherry Orchard**, **The Last Legion**, **King Arthur** and **Marco Polo**. Owen portrayed *Will Scarlett* in **Robin Hood** (1991) and *The Unknown Soldier* in Derek Jarman's **War Requiem**. He will next be seen in the upcoming **Nocturne**.

Nominated for a 1997 Laurence Olivier Theatre Award for his performance of *Torvald* in **A Doll's House** in London's West End, Owen received the coveted 1997 Tony Award – *Best Featured Actor in a Play* for the same role on Broadway.

His other theatre credits include *Creditors* at the Donmar Warehouse and BAM (directed by the late Alan Rickman), *Kurt* in *The Dance of Death* with Sir Ian McKellen which played in the Sydney Festival of 2004, the title role in *Macbeth*, *Bassanio* in *The Merchant of Venice*, *Mark Anthony* in *Julius Caesar*, *Hotspur* in *Henry IV*, and *Edmund* in *King Lear* for the Royal Shakespeare Company – through to the more recent *Under Milk Wood*, *The Broken Heart*, *Gaslight* and the role of *Briggs* in the recent production of *No Man's Land* with Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Patrick Stewart which won *Best Revival* at this year's Evening Standard Awards.

pulse

Dr Eli Nader

Recently returned from a warzone, Eli is now the *cardio registrar* at City West, and is plagued by a traumatic loss in his past. Quiet, guarded and prickly-edged, he is an excellent doctor and shares an undeniable chemistry with Frankie.

Liam McIntyre

is ELI

Liam McIntyre is best known for playing the lead role of *Spartacus* in the Starz television series **Spartacus: Vengeance** and **Spartacus: War of the Damned**.

Liam has recently filmed **The Haunted**, a supernatural horror for the Syfy Network. Prior to that he appeared in US series **The Flash** for the CW Network and starred opposite Rebecca Gibney in the Seven Network drama, **The Killing Field**.

Other television credits also include the award-winning HBO mini-series **The Pacific** and guest roles in the New Zealand comedy series **Auckland Daze**, Network Ten's **Rush** and the US comedy series **Con Man**.

In 2014, Liam made his feature film debut in **The Legend of Hercules**. He has since appeared in a number of features including **The Dream Children**, **Apple of My Eye** with Burt Reynolds and **Albion: The Enchanted Stallion**, with John Cleese and Jennifer Morrison.

Liam played the lead role in Microsoft Studios best-selling video game **Gears of War 4** which was released in 2016 to critical acclaim.

pulse

Dr Maggie Cutter

Hard-arsed and sharp shooting, Cutter has sacrificed everything in her life to carve a path through the surgical world. Now an excellent – and infamous – surgeon, she suffers no fools and respects only those with guts.

Susie Porter

is CUTTER

Susie Porter has built a reputation as one of Australia's most outstanding actors.

Her remarkable list of credits includes feature films **Summer Coda**, **Bootmen**, **Better Than Sex**, **Mullet**, **Paradise Road**, **Idiot Box**, **Two Hands**, **Feeling Sexy**, **The Monkey's Mask**, **Teesh and Trude**, the award-winning **Little Fish** and **The Caterpillar Wish**.

She was recently seen in **The Turning: On Her Knees**, one of a collection of short stories by Tim Winton and coming-of-age drama **Is This the Real World**. On the small screen, Susie recently starred in ABC's **Seven Types of Ambiguity**; played the lead role in **East West 101** (Series 1, 2 & 3), **East of Everything**, **RAN**, **My Place**, **Love My Way**, **The Secret Life of Us**, **The Jesters** (Series 1 & 2), **Sisters of War** and **Underbelly: Squizzy**.

Other recent television appearances include Network Ten's bikie drama **Brothers in Arms**, the family series **Puberty Blues** (Series 1 & 2), the comedy **Problems** and **It's a Date** (Series 2) and the telemovie **Dangerous Remedy**.

Her most recent theatre credits include the critically acclaimed *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *That Face*. Susie's upcoming work includes the just released **Hounds of Love**, **Don't Tell** and **Cargo**.

Susie has been widely acknowledged by her peers and the public with multiple AFI's, IF Awards, Logie Awards and AACTA and FCCA nominations for her work.

pulse

Dr Tabb Patel

Tabb is an intern and new to the hospital. Beneath the quick wit and a sense of humour that puts everyone at ease, he doubts his abilities to be a doctor. Why shouldn't he, when he finds himself at the centre of every disaster?

Arka Das

is TABB

Arka found his professional way into acting when he entered the regional Youth Shakespeare Festival in high school and in the following year won first place in the duologue category. Throughout university he appeared in various plays, culminating in *References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot* at The Griffin Theatre directed by Anthony Skuse to much critical acclaim.

He made his debut with the Ensemble Theatre in *Animals Out of Paper*, for which he was nominated for *Best Newcomer* at the Sydney Theatre. He returned to the Ensemble for *Casanova*, then appeared in *Beached* at the Griffin Theatre alongside a star-studded cast.

Arka then starred as *Farid* in the AACTA winning ABC series **The Code** and has since moved into working on feature films. Most notably he starred in the co-lead role of *TK* in the Australian feature film **unINDIAN** – a selection at the Montreal World Film Festival and released in cinemas in Australia, India and the Middle East. He recently worked on See-Saw Films and Weinstein Co.'s feature **Lion**, alongside Dev Patel, Rooney Mara and Nicole Kidman.

Other credits include roles in Australian feature films, **Down Under** by Abe Forsythe and a screen adaptation of Helen Garner's bestseller – **Joe Cinque's Consolation** directed by Sotiris Dounoukos. Arka will also appear in season two of award-winning series **Top of the Lake** directed by Academy Award winner Jane Campion.

Arka has also been writing and directing, with web-series content, documentaries, and short films under his belt and is hoping to continue creating more exciting and diverse content for TV and film in the future.

pulse

Dr Tanya Kalchuri

Pressured by her family, Tanya is an ambitious Renal registrar who sees Frankie as her main competitor and will do anything to get ahead.

Pallavi Sharda

is TANYA

Pallavi Sharda is an Australian Indian film and theatre actress and one of Bollywood's leading ladies. She most recently appeared in the 2016 Oscar nominated film **Lion** opposite Dev Patel and Rooney Mara and stars in acclaimed Indian director Srijit Mukherji's feature **Begum Jaan**.

Pallavi graduated with honours in Law, Media and Communications and French at the University of Melbourne before moving to Mumbai in 2010 to pursue a Bollywood career. Her breakthrough role came in the 2013 Bollywood film **Besharam**, in which she starred opposite Ranbir Kapoor. She followed this with a critically acclaimed performance in Vibhu Puri's feature **Hawaizaada**. Her other Bollywood credits include **Dus Tola**, **Love Breakups Zindagi** and **My Name Is Khan**.

Pallavi made her Australian film debut playing the female lead in Australian cricketing comedy **Save Your Legs** alongside Stephen Curry, Brendan Cowell and David Lyons. She also appeared in Anupam Sharma's Australian feature **unINDIAN**, with cricketer Brett Lee.

Pallavi has appeared as a panelist on the popular ABC series **Q&A** and joined SONY ESPN's team as their new face for the *Indian Premier League* in 2016. An advocate for the promotion of India-Australia relations and strengthening intercultural links between the two countries, Pallavi works extensively with NGOs in India to promote the empowerment of women. Recently the keynote speaker at the Asia Education Foundation's National Conference in Sydney, Pallavi is also on the board of advisors for E-Kutir, a socially focused enterprise based out of Odissa. Pallavi was an ambassador for 'OZ FEST' in 2012-2013, Australia's largest cultural festival in India, and in 2015 she was named Queen of 'Moomba', Melbourne's iconic cultural festival, alongside cricket's 'Spin King' Shane Warne.

pulse

Dr Rowan Mitri

Charming and charismatic, Mitri is a surgical god who takes what he wants, enjoys the benefits of his status, and can do no wrong. But his hubris may land him in hot water when a careless mistake causes a patient's death.

Blessing Mokgohloa

is MITRI

Blessing Mokgohloa is fast establishing himself as one of Australia's most exciting actors, garnering critical acclaim on both screen and stage.

In 2012 Blessing received a *Best Male Performer in Theatre* nomination at the Green Room Awards for his work in Paul Sirett's *Bad Blood Blues*. The production also picked up nominations for *Best Female Performer*, *Best Direction* and *Best Production*.

On screen, Blessing's international breakthrough role came in 2013 on the US hit series **Spartacus: War of the Damned**. His magnetic portrayal of *Castus the Cilician* gained him legions of fans worldwide. Most recently Blessing was part of the first season of Syfy Channel's **Hunters** series.

In Australia Blessing played the ever-wise and lovable *Jojo* in **Moonman**, one of the six programs commissioned as part of ABC's Comedy Showroom in 2016. His other local credits include **Newton's Law**, **Time of Our Lives**, **Neighbours** and the recently released feature film **Ali's Wedding**.

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Dr Rupert Steele

A bastion of tradition, Steele is *Head of Medicine* at City West – the big boss! Once passionate about patients, he now finds himself bound by the endless administrative red tape.

Dalip Sondhi

is STEELE

Dalip is of Indian origin, and grew up in London. He began his working life as a UK Metropolitan Police Officer spending time with the Crime Squad during the turbulent 1980s. He left the police to train as an actor and director. He has a *Masters in Performance Studies* from London's Central School of Speech and Drama, a Post Grad in *Theatre Education* from the University of London, and a BA (Hons) *Acting* from Middlesex University and Montclair State College (New York).

During the early 90s Dalip toured extensively with Caught in the Act and Soapbox theatre companies in the UK as well as performing at the Edinburgh Fringe. In 1994 he began directing and training actors, theatre makers and educators. Over the past 20 years Dalip has held senior positions and led staff teams at the UK's Hertfordshire University, Rose Bruford College and Australia's Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts – WAAPA. He completed his career as an Associate Professor in 2013 to entirely focus and return to his work as an actor.

Dalip recently worked alongside Timothy Spall in the Australian feature **Sucker**, played the lead in **Absolution** (Official selection Vancouver, Pasadena, Kansas) and in India, worked with Shraddha Kapoor in the upcoming **Half Girlfriend** and Vipin Sharma in the soon to be released Goan film **Baarish**.

Dalip is also co-producing a feature film with one of Australia's leading producers, Robyn Kershaw in collaboration with India's acclaimed Nandita Das and Australia's Dot West.

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Nurse Unit Manager Carol Little

As *Head Nurse* of the hospital, Carol is like a drill sergeant, bellowing orders to her nurses, but always there to help when the going gets tough. She's hard to impress, but loyal to those she respects.

Penny Cook

is CAROL

Penny Cook is a graduate of NIDA. She is perhaps best known for her television work, particularly as *Vicky* the vet in **A Country Practice** and *Elly Fielding* in **E Street**.

Other television acting credits include **The Restless Years, The Flying Doctors, GP, Young Lions, All Saints, Dance Academy, Neighbours** and **Rake**.

Penny has been involved in nearly 40 stage productions including *Hating Alison Ashley, The Heidi Chronicles, I Ought to Be in Pictures, Macbeth, Away, An Ideal Husband, Ladies in Lavender, Footloose, and Oklahoma*.

She was a presenter on the travel show **The Great Outdoors**, guest host on **Tonight Live with Steve Vizard** in the 90s, and is now often found MC-ing conferences and charity events.

Penny is an originating and life member of Griffin Theatre Company, and has been an Australia Day Ambassador for over 20 years.

Penny is extremely proud to be Chair of Monkey Baa Theatre Company www.monkeybaa.com.au.

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Dr Monica Lee

A burnt out surgical trainee turned Anesthetist.

Renee Lim

is LEE

Originally from Perth, Renee Lim now balances two careers: medicine, and in particular, health and emergency services, where she continues to work regularly, and performance, which has seen Renee develop a fine career in film, theatre and television, both as an actor and a presenter.

Renee's numerous presenting roles include being the lead presenter on the television series **Food Investigators** and a co-presenter on **Destination Flavour**, both for SBS. Renee can currently be seen co-presenting on ABC's **Ask the Doctor**.

Renee had a regular role on gritty crime drama **East West 101** and a recurring role on ABC's courtroom drama **Crownies**. Other past television credits include roles on Channel Seven's **Packed to the Rafters** and **All Saints**. More recently, Renee has appeared in all four seasons of **Please Like Me**, as well as the SBS mini-series **Deep Water**, Seven's **The Secret Daughter**, and **Wonderland** for Ten. She also voiced a prominent character in the NITV animated series **Little J and Big Cuz** and appeared in the webseries **The Weekend Shift** for SBS, and **The Newtown Girls** and **Atomic Kingdom**.

Renee's film credits include **The Salt Maiden**, **Dead Moon Circus**, **The Last One**, **Ad Nauseum**, **The Tunnel**, **First Date**, **The Suitor**, **Triple Happiness** and **Fallen**.

Onstage, Renee played the lead in the Bakehouse Theatre/Stage Directions production of *His Mother's Voice* at ATYP, and also starred in their production of *Coup D'Etat*. Other theatre credits include the one-woman show *It's Ok to Ask*, *We'll Always Have Wagga*, *Lovepuke*, *The Bridesmaid Must Die*, *Back to the 80s*, *Someday Suddenly*, *4 Faces of Love* and *Bare Boards Brave Hearts*.

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KRIS WYLD

Producer, Co-Creator & Writer

Kris Wyld has been involved in the creation, scripting, show running and producing of a number of Australia's landmark television scripted drama series.

She has enjoyed a long and fruitful association with both the ABC and SBS networks, and was part of the Roadshow Coote and Carroll writing team that, under Sue Masters, created the award-winning series **GP** (1989-1996) which ran on the ABC prime time for nine years.

Kris joined forces with Steve Knapman and Mike Jenkins to work on the creation of the landmark ABC crime drama series **Wildside**, which won many awards – including the AFI *Best Drama* for both seasons, *Best Mini Series*, and the Logie award for *Most Outstanding Drama*.

As part of Knapman Wyld Television, Kris has produced many hours of award winning television. Together they have created, written, and produced a number of successful drama series, including **White Collar Blue**, **The Strip** and **East West 101** (SBS 2007-2011). Season One of **East West 101** won an AFI for *Best Mini-Series*, Season Two won *Best Series* and Season Three won the first AACTA Award for *Best Drama Series*. Season two also won a Logie for *Most Outstanding Drama* and several international awards.

Kris started working with fellow producer, Tony Ginnane, on a gangster feature film which soon blossomed into the creation and development of television projects. They formed Clandestine TV and joined forces with David Ogilvy and Beyond Entertainment to create and produce **PULSE** for ABC.

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ANTONY I. GINNANE

Producer

Antony has been a successful and creatively lauded independent feature film producer for over 45 years – having produced 65 films. Highlights include **Patrick** (1978), **High Tide** (1987), **The Lighthorsemen** (1988), **Screamers** (1996) and **Patrick** (2013).

In addition to his producing career, Antony has worked in international and Australian distribution joint ventures; film financing and consulting in Australia, the USA, Canada, New Zealand, UK and Eastern Europe.

He maintains long term and close relationships with most of the key international sales agents and distributors. His UK and Canadian connections encompass television as well as film.

He is one of a handful of Australian producers who has maintained a profitable and sustainable production business over almost half a century.

Antony began his film career working with a series of first time film directors like Richard Franklin, Simon Wincer and Rod Hardy, who went on to forge successful careers in Australia and overseas, and has continued to nurture first time feature film directors like Mark Hartley, Sandra Scriberras, David Pulbrook and others.

Over the past year, Kris Wyld and Tony Ginnane have worked on the development of a joint venture company – Wyld FGA (trading as Clandestine Television) – to capitalize on the business experience, intellectual and creative strengths they both bring to the table.

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MEL HILL

Co-Creator & Writer

Mel Hill is a doctor at one of Sydney's largest hospitals. She initially graduated from the University of Sydney with the university medal and first class honours in economics. She was also a writer and editor on *Honi Soit*. Following this she worked in finance in New York and then, after obtaining her MBA from Stanford University, in strategic consulting with McKinsey & Co.

After receiving a kidney transplant in 2007 she quit her corporate to attend medical school, determined to make a difference in the lives of patients the way her doctors had done in her life. Since graduating from the University of Sydney with her medical degree, and a *Masters in Public Health*, she has worked as an intern, resident and now medical registrar at one of Australia's busiest hospitals dealing with patients requiring intensely complex medical care. She is also actively engaged in research, and has published numerous papers in the area of kidney disease and transplantation.

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MICHAEL MILLER

Co-Creator & Writer

Screenwriter and script producer, Michael Miller, who is a longtime collaborator of Kris Wyld, wrote four of the eight episodes of **PULSE**. He has written and script edited many highly-acclaimed television series. He recently won the AACTA Award for *Best Screenplay* for his episode of the hit two-part Seven Network telemovie **Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door**. Michael wrote and script produced the first season of the acclaimed ABC drama **Cleverman** starring Iain Glen, Frances O'Connor and Deborah Mailman, which was acquired by SundanceTV. He has written episodes of **The Doctor Blake Mysteries** and **The Time of Our Lives** for ABC TV, and **East West 101** for SBS.

Over his career, Michael has won three AWGIE Awards for *Best Episode in a Television Series*, including for his first ever television script. He has been shortlisted twice for the *NSW Premier's Literary Awards*, and also for the *Queensland Premier's Literary Awards*.

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DAVID OGILVY

Executive Producer

With over 25 years in the industry, David is one of Australia's leading executive producers of television drama.

In 1988 David traded a career in theatre to complete a postgraduate *Diploma in Film and Television* at Swinburne University receiving the *Graduate of the Year* award for excellence. His first screenplay **The Contract** was nominated for three AFI Awards, with David winning *Best Director*.

Invited to work with Film Australia in 1989, David expanded his interest in writing for children's and adult drama. His writing and script editing credits include **Escape from Jupiter, High Flyers, Pigs Breakfast, Outriders, Head Start, New Macdonald's Farm, Raggs, Blue Water High, Lockie Leonard** (Series 1 & 2), **Stormworld, Double Trouble** and **Dance Academy** as well as **White Collar Blue, Young Lions, The Strip, Rescue Special Ops, East West 101** (Seasons 1 & 2), and **The Straits**.

In 2011 David was appointed *Commissioning Editor of Fiction* for ABC TV. During his tenure, he was the executive producer of fifteen dramas including **Mabo, Janet King** (Seasons 1 & 2), **An Accidental Soldier, The Code** (Seasons 1 & 2), **Dangerous Remedy, Hiding, Paper Giants: Magazine Wars, Anzac Girls**, and Seasons Two, Three and Four of **Rake**.

David joined Beyond Entertainment as *Head of Fiction* in October, 2015.