



A BLACKFELLA FILMS AND WERNER FILMS PRODUCTION

In association with Screen Australia, Screen NSW and  
Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF)  
for ABC TV

# "Ready for This"



Media Kit



"Ready for This"

## About the Production

**READY FOR THIS**, is the new teen drama series from the producers of the multi award-winning *Dance Academy* and *Redfern Now*.

Set in inner city Sydney, **READY FOR THIS** follows six teenagers, all elite within their own field, who have come to live at Arcadia House in pursuit of their dreams. For some it's the opportunity of a lifetime, for others it's a last chance. Strangers, some a long way from home, the last thing they expect to find is family.



The extraordinary ensemble cast includes **Aaron McGrath** (*The Code, Redfern Now, The Doctor Blake Mysteries, Glitch*), **Leonie Whyman** (*Redfern Now*), **Madeleine Madden** (*The Code, Jack Irish: Dead Point, Redfern Now*), **Liam Talty** (*Home*), **Majeda Beatty** (*X Factor Season 6*), **Christian Byers** (*Puberty Blues Season 2*) with **Christine Anu** (*Dance Academy, Outland*) and **Lasarus Ratuere** (*The Mule, Mabo, Terra Nova*).

Also featured are **Hamish Michael** (*Black Comedy, Janet King, Redfern Now*), **Jimi Bani** (*Redfern Now, Mabo*), **Merwez Whaleboat** (*Mabo*), **Carla Bonner** (*Wentworth, Neighbours*), **Damian de Montemas** (*Carlotta, Packed to the Rafters*), **Tammy Clarkson** (*Redfern Now*), **Tony Briggs** (*Wentworth, Broken Shore, Redfern Now*) and **Ryan Johnson** (*Hiding, House Husbands Season 3, Love Child*).

A joint venture between Werner Film Productions and Blackfella Films, **READY FOR THIS** is being produced by Big Chance Films for the ABC, in association with Screen Australia and Screen NSW, with international sales by the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF). The series is being produced by **Joanna Werner** (*Dance Academy*) and **Miranda Dear** (*Redfern Now, Mabo*).




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and executive produced by **Joanna Werner, Darren Dale**, ABC's commissioning editor **Simon Hopkinson** and the ACTF's **Bernadette O'Mahony**.

Executive producer **Darren Dale** said: "A concept forged through mutual admiration and respect, Werner Film Productions and Blackfella Films are delighted to be producing **READY FOR THIS** for the ABC through our joint venture Big Chance Films. This aspirational series highlights the challenges and adventures of elite teens brought together in pursuit of their dreams."

**READY FOR THIS** is the collaboration of two exceptional Australian producers and we're thrilled to bring this landmark new drama to our ABC3 audience. After the success of *Dance Academy* and *Nowhere Boys*, our audience is ready to be captivated by these exciting new characters and storylines," said ABC TV's Head of Children's Television, **Deirdre Brennan**.

Launching with a special one-hour premiere, followed by 12 half hour episodes, **READY FOR THIS** is set to screen later this year.





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## Synopsis

**READY FOR THIS** is the story of six teenagers, all elite in within their own field. They have come to live at Arcadia House in pursuit their dreams. For some it's the opportunity of a lifetime, for others it's a last chance. Strangers, some a long way from home, the last thing they expect to find is family.

Six teenagers move into a hostel, Arcadia House, each with a different agenda and different dreams. A long way from home, they must find a path through the new challenges and adventures that the big city offers while dealing with all the trials of growing up.

**Zoe** (*Madeleine Madden*) moves to Sydney to attend a sports high school in the hope of fulfilling her long-held Olympic dreams. **Zoe** learns that to succeed, she needs to strengthen her mind as well as her body.

A rising talent in the AFL world, **Levi** (*Aaron McGrath*) reunites with his estranged father and deals with his tumultuous relationship with **Zoe**.

Away from parental pressures, Arcadia House is an avenue for **Dylan** (*Liam Talty*) to pursue his passion for electronic music and graffiti art.


Coming from a religious and conservative family, **Ava** (*Majeda Beatty*) must gain the confidence to accept who she truly is, as well as overcome her fear of performing in public.

After her mother passed away, **Lily** (*Leonie Whyman*) got caught up in the wrong crowd. Her father moves her to Arcadia house in the hope that new friendships and passions will allow her to finally overcome her grief.

**Lily's** one friend at school, **Reece** (*Christian Byers*), has a secret. An invitation to come and stay at Arcadia House is the solution he desperately needs. There, his ability to connect with each of the different personalities allows him to become the heart of the group.

In the mix are **Vee** (*Christine Anu*) and **Mick** (*Lasarus Ratuere*), the "caretakers" of this motley crew. **Vee**, who only took the job to get by, gradually realises that the teenagers could be the connection back to the world that she's been looking for. Sports all-rounder **Mick**, is the man of the house and is fatherly, funny and supportive.

In order to survive the year, the teenagers will need to come together. They start off as strangers, and end up as a family.








# "Ready for This"

## Key Cast

<b>Ava Ban</b>	Majeda Beatty
<b>Reece Scott</b>	Christian Byers
<b>Zoe Preston</b>	Madeleine Madden
<b>Levi Mackay</b>	Aaron McGrath
<b>Dylan Brockman</b>	Liam Talty
<b>Lily Carney</b>	Leonie Whyman
<b>Vee</b>	Christine Anu
<b>Mick</b>	Lasarus Ratuere

### *Also featuring*

<b>Alice</b>	Holly Kingston
<b>Nat Brockman (Dylan's Dad)</b>	Jimi Bani
<b>Coach Beaton</b>	Carla Bonner
<b>Mr Bott</b>	Hamish Michael
<b>Coach Domaleski</b>	Damian de Montemas
<b>Nevile Preston (Zoe's Dad)</b>	Tony Briggs
<b>Grace Mackay (Levi's Mum)</b>	Tammy Clarkson
<b>Mrs Ban (Ava's Mum)</b>	Merwez Whaleboat
<b>Rose Preston (Zoe's Mum)</b>	Lisa Flanagan
<b>Dave</b>	Ryan Johnson






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## Key Crew

<b>Directors</b>	Daina Reid Adrian Russell Wills Tony Krawitz	<i>Episodes 1, 2, 3, 4</i> <i>Episodes 5, 6, 7, 9</i> <i>Episodes 8, 10, 11, 12, 13</i>
<b>Producers</b>	Miranda Dear Joanna Werner	
<b>Executive Producers</b>	Darren Dale Joanna Werner	
<b>Story Producer</b>	Liz Doran	
<b>Writers</b>	Liz Doran Jon Bell Giula Sandler Josh Mapleston Kristen Dunphy Kirsty Fisher Leah Purcell Steven McGregor Greg Waters	<i>Episodes 1, 2, 3, 10 &amp; 13</i> <i>Episode 2</i> <i>Episode 4</i> <i>Episode 4 &amp; 8</i> <i>Episode 6</i> <i>Episode 7</i> <i>Episode 9</i> <i>Episode 11</i> <i>Episode 12</i>
<b>Line Producer</b>	Ally Henville	
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Martin McGrath ACS	
<b>Production Designer</b>	Felicity Abbott	
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Xanthe Heubel	
<b>Hair &amp; Makeup Designer</b>	Dalia Fernandez	
<b>Sound Recordist</b>	Tim Lloyd	
<b>Editors</b>	Rodrigo Balart Nick Holmes Mark Perry	<i>Episodes 1, 2, 3, 4</i> <i>Episodes 5, 6, 7, 9</i> <i>Episodes 8, 10, 11, 12, 13</i>
<b>Casting</b>	Anousha Zarkesh	



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Ava Ban



A shy islander girl, Ava's incredible voice is one thing she cannot hide. Living in Arcadia House gives her the chance to pursue her musical talents. Away from home in the Torres Strait, Ava is able to overcome her fear of performing and accept herself for who she truly is.

Majeda Beatty

is Ava

Majeda-Mo' Tapalinga's roots stem from Indigenous Australia, the Torres Straits and African American heritage. From a performing arts family, Majeda is a talented singer, rapper, beat boxer and dancer.

From the age of five, Majeda has performed professionally with her family's group *The Beatty Clan*. Touring schools throughout Australia performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander songs and dances, Majeda is a proud young ambassador for her culture.

Following a successful audition for *Gondwana Choir* in 2009, Majeda appeared in the celebrated Qantas advertisement singing 'I Still Call Australia Home', and travelled abroad to Shanghai for the World Expo in 2011. Further to this, she performed on Channel Seven's **Sunrise** for Oprah, Nicole Kidman, Keith Urban and Hugh Jackman.

Collaborating with her sister to form their own music group, *Majikhoney*, the girls write, create and perform their own original songs. After *Majikhoney* reached the Top 24 in Channel Seven's **X Factor Australia** in 2014, Majeda received mentoring from Dannii Minogue, Jessica Mauboy and James Blunt.

Most recently, Majeda toured Brisbane, Melbourne, the Torres Straits and South Korea showcasing both Indigenous cultural performing arts and *MajikHoney* material.

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## Reece Scott



Lacking stability at home, Reece is the one most in need of a family. With his artistic talent and capacity for friendship and loyalty, Reece becomes an invaluable member of Arcadia House.

## Christian Byers

One of Australia's rising young actors, Christian Byers attracted international attention starring as *Spark* in **December Boys** alongside Daniel Radcliffe.

Nominated for the AFI *Young Actor Award* for his performance as *Ashmol* in **Opal Dream**, Christian's other film credits include *Brislee* in Miro's Bilbrough's **Being Venice**, *Jacob* in **Hey Hey It's Esther Blueberger** and *Tim* in **The Tree**. His short film credits include *Jack* in Julian Ryan's **Purple Flowers**.

Christian's television credits include *Elmo* in **Panic at Rock Island** and *James Cunneen* in **Blood Brothers**. More recently he featured as *Jase Falconer* in **Underbelly: Badness** and *Woody* in **Puberty Blues: Series 2**.

is Reece



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Zoe Preston



Zoe has always dreamt of becoming the next Cathy Freeman. Seeing this move as just a stepping-stone to Olympic glory, it's a big shock when for the first time in her life, she is not the fastest. This year she'll fall for the wrong boy, risk everything by playing a new sport and learn that winning isn't just about having the fastest legs - it's also about having the strongest mind.

Madeleine Madden

is Zoe

Madeleine Madden is a young rising star with an impressive list of credits to her name. She first came to the nation's attention by being the first Australian teenager to deliver an Address to the Nation on behalf of the *Generation One* campaign's call for action to create a better future for indigenous people. Her eloquent and considered speech was watched by more than six million people on national television in 2010.

**Around The Block** was her first feature film. Previous film credits include the lead role in the Keaton Stewart directed short **The Hoarders** as well as numerous other short films, most notably the lead role in the award winning short film **Ralph**, directed by Deborah Mailman.

Madeleine has appeared in ABC TV's critically acclaimed series **The Code** as *Sheyna*. She has also appeared in **Redfern Now Series 1 & 2**, **Jack Irish: Dead Point**, **The Moodys** and **My Place**.

"Ready for This"

Levi Mackay



When Levi's mother leaves Sydney for Darwin, the budding AFL player moves into Arcadia House. His romance with Zoe and an unexpected reunion with his father makes him realise that his connection to his culture runs deeper than he thought.

Aaron McGrath

is Levi

Aaron has forged an impressive acting career for someone of his age.

He recently wrapped the ABC series **Glitch** in which he plays the role of *Beau*. He appeared as *Clarence* in the AACTA award winning **The Code** and as *Joseph* in Sarah Spillane's Australian feature film **Around the Block**.

His burgeoning career also includes the role of *Joel* in **Redfern Now** Series 1 and 2, *Winston* in **The Doctor Blake Mysteries**, *Garadi* in **My Place Series 2** and *Young Odin* in **The Gods of Wheat Street**.

Aaron's other credits include the short film **Destiny in the Dirt** directed by Ella Bancroft, the 60 Minute re-enactment of the **Lindt Café Siege**, the title role in documentary **Jackey Jackey**, *Jay* in 360 Entertainment's **Your Choice** and the 2013 Yellamundie Festival as part of Moogahlin Performing Arts Inc.

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## Dylan Brockman



Dylan has spent his whole life being a role model and he's sick of it. Using his musical talent to score a place at the Sydney Institute of Music, he uses this move as a chance to finally escape his family's glare. At first, exploring his rebellious secret talent is fun, but Dylan soon realises that he's too smart to be this stupid.

Liam Talty

Born in Cairns, Queensland, Liam Talty began acting when he joined the school drama class in Year 11.

In 2013, Liam was accepted into the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA) where he studied dance, music and acting and completed a *Diploma in Performing Arts (Music)*.

Liam has performed in various live music gigs as well as appearing in several stage performances including the ACPA and QPAC's production of *Blak Electric*. He also featured in the 2014 *Beyond Blue* Corporate DVD.

**Ready for This** is Liam's television debut.

is Dylan

"Ready for This"

Lily Carney



Still coming to terms with the recent death of her mother, Lily was begrudgingly sent to live in Arcadia House by her father after she got caught up with the wrong crowd. Despite her initial desire to escape, Lily soon sees Arcadia House as an opportunity to start afresh.

Leonie Whyman

is Lily

One of Australia's rising young actors, Leonie made her television debut in the lead role of *Waruwi* in ABC TV's **My Place**.

Leonie's other television credits include *Selene* in the first and second series of ABC TV's critically acclaimed **Redfern Now**, and most recently in **Redfern Now: The Telemovie**.

An accomplished dancer, singer and musician, Leonie has been dancing since the age of three, and was mentored by the Bangarra Dance Theatre while performing with the NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Company in 2012.

# "Ready for This" Vee



Once with a promising singing career, Vee lost her way and took the job at Arcadia House to simply survive. Resistant at first, she gradually starts to connect with the teenagers and by the end of the year, she's fiercely protective of them all.

Christine Anu

is Vee

Christine Anu is a national treasure. Trained in dance at the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) her illustrious career spans two decades including music, theatre, dance, film and television.

Christine has made widely acclaimed appearances in Baz Luhrmann's **Moulin Rouge**, **The Matrix Reloaded** and **Dating the Enemy**; on television in **Wildside**, **The Alice**, **East West 101**, **Playschool**, **Outland**, **Dance Academy** and was a judge in Channel 7's **Popstars**. Christine's success on stage includes *Bad Boy Johnny and the Prophets of Doom*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Kissing Frog*, *Rent*, *Rainbow's End*, *Parramatta Girls* and *The Sapphires* for which she received the *Judith Johnson Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Musical* at the Sydney Theatre Awards.

Christine is a multi-award winning recording artist, including ARIA *Song of the Year* for *My Island Home*, ARIA *Best Female Artist* for *Stylin Up* and ARIA *Best Video* for Bazmark's *Now Until The Break of Day* with David Hobson. She has toured nationally and abroad, including Vietnam, North America, China, Middle East and Papua New Guinea. Christine has also performed at many momentous events, including Sydney 2000 Olympics Closing Ceremony, Women of APEC, G'Day Australia, 50 Years of Television, APEC Cultural Performance, Sydney Paralympics, FINA World Swimming Championships, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Carols in the Domain and flicked the switch to launch National Indigenous Television in Australia.

Christine is an exceptional keynote speaker who resonates with people and provides a real community focus while delivering key messages in all kinds of arenas and platforms, including charity, community, education, entertainment and politics.

For Stylin Up Entertainment, Christine is the co-creator of the ARIA and Deadly nominated children's brand *Chrissy's Island Family* and the successful concept shows *Ladies of Jazz* and *Women of Soul*.



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Mick



Sports all-rounder and qualified social worker, Mick is the authority within Arcadia House. Fatherly, funny and supportive, Mick's wisdom helps the kids transition from their disparate backgrounds into city life.

Lasarus Ratuere

is Mick

After making his television debut in the 2011 telemovie **The Digger – A History**, Lasarus appeared as *Richardson* in **Terra Nova** alongside Jason O'Mara, Shelley Conn and Christine Adams.

In 2012, Lasarus secured the role of *Malcolm Mabo* in the critically acclaimed and multi-award winning telemovie **MABO** starring Jimi Bani and Deborah Mailman and directed by Rachel Perkins.

More recently, Lasarus appeared in the Australian comedy/drama feature film **The Mule** and the short film **SPORT**.

A graduate of The Actor's Conservatory, Lasarus' stage credits include *Paul* in the Belvoir Street Theatre's 2015 production of *Kill the Messenger* and Baz Luhrmann's production of Opera Australia's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2012.



# "Ready for This"

## Episode One

**Writer: Liz Doran**

Elite teens from around Australia find placement in Arcadia House, a hostel in Sydney. Shy island girl **Ava** must cope with a new, cool music school, a haunted bedroom and her desire to make friends despite her crippling shyness. A chance encounter sees her join a singing group and she finally finds the courage to confront the 'ghost'.

**Levi** and **Zoe** meet and form an instant attraction but an old family feud keeps them apart. **Zoe** struggles to find a connection with the other girls in her elite athletics squad, and must also face the fact that down here in Sydney, she is not the fastest runner.

**Lily**, a tough girl from Kempsey, spends the whole of her first week scheming to find a way back home. An offer from a stranger to drive her home worries the others and **Zoe** finally sacrifices her chance to make friends when she rushes back to stop **Lily** from making a potentially dangerous mistake.

Rich boy **Dylan** defies his parents, who think he's come to Sydney to study classical violin, when he secretly changes his course to electronic music production. His elaborate bedroom studio is eventually outed as the house 'ghost'.

## Brand New Me

**Director: Daina Reid**

## Episode Two

**Writers: John Bell and Liz Doran**

**Mick** and **Vee** resort to a team-building scavenger hunt to get the kids to harmonise but **Lily** escapes the event and heads out to find the Sydney she remembers from her early years with her mother.

Disappointed that things have changed and her quest was hopeless, **Reece** shows her a part of Sydney that is still the same.

As **Dylan**, **Levi**, **Ava** and **Zoe** find a new connection through the competition, **Reece** and **Lily** return to the house with the winning item in the scavenger hunt at the last minute. **Lily** finally starts to accept that maybe Arcadia House is the right place for her after all.

## The Golden Sneaker

**Director: Daina Reid**





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## Episode Three

## The Solo

**Writer: Liz Doran**

**Director: Daina Reid**

When an opportunity to further develop her budding friendship with **Jasmine** leads to an opportunity to sing with a famous DJ, **Ava** must face the question of how far she is prepared to go to succeed in this new city.

But coming face to face with her overpowering fear of performing in public and the realisation that she has let herself be pressured into this whole situation because she is too shy to speak up for herself, makes **Ava** face some tough lessons.

When all the housemates sneak out to watch **Ava** sing, and are inevitably caught, **Vee** is furious. Her punishment fits their crime but the night out helps to bond them as a group.

## Episode Four

## Shadow Boxing

**Writer: Giulia Sandler**

**Director: Daina Reid**

**Levi** discovers **Reece** has a troubled home life, and not only that, is also homeless and sleeping rough in the school gym. After spending the day with **Reece** and seeing the grim reality of his home life, **Levi** invites **Reece** to come back and stay at Arcadia House.

**Dylan** receives a visit from his high profile Dad and **Lily** challenges **Zoe** to a boxing match to settle things between them.

When **Dylan's** dad organises what he thinks will be a treat, having **Dylan** play his violin for a famous concert violinist, both are embarrassed when **Dylan's** lack of practice becomes clear. **Dylan** has a chance to come clean about changing his course but doesn't find the courage.

**Ava** and **Zoe** discover the truth about **Lily's** mum and the girls start to get a little closer.





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## Episode Five

## Blank Canvas

**Writer: Josh Mapleston**

**Director: Adrian Russell Wills**

Out one night doing his stencil work, **Dylan** is confronted by the local graffiti crew. He gets away but the next day realises that one of the crew is a student at SIM, **Ryan**. He finds the courage to come clean to **Ryan** and before he knows it, is finally part of a 'graff' crew.

A brush with the law sees **Mick** furious. **Dylan** agrees to tell his parents he has switched courses and in return **Mick** promises to vouch for him.

**Zoe** and **Levi** grow close and a chance encounter leads to the inevitable kiss.

**Reece** is handed a form that he thinks requests him to identify as Aboriginal. Torn by his desire to stay in the house, and emboldened by **Levi**, he asks **Lily** if he should just lie. **Lily** is hurt that **Reece** didn't confide in her and their friendship is sorely tested. Thinking he'll have to leave the house forever, **Reece** apologises and tells **Lily** that her friendship means everything to him. Only a last minute reprieve from **Mick** and **Vee**, as well as support from all the other housemates - including **Lily** - saves the day and names **Reece** as belonging to the "Arcadia House Mob".

## Episode Six

## Back on Track

**Writer: Kristen Dunphy**


**Director: Adrian Russell Wills**

A major athletics meet brings **Zoe's** family down from Darwin to visit, compelling **Levi** and **Zoe** to suppress their growing romance.

But discovery is inevitable and when the two families meet, they discover that **Zoe** and **Levi** have been secretly seeing one another – tensions explode.

**Zoe** is forced by her father to admit that she was feeling ashamed by the arrival of her large and enthusiastic family and he tells her that she should never forget where she came from – and never stop being proud of that.

Faced with a choice between family obligation and teen romance, **Zoe** chooses her family and breaks up with **Levi**.





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## Episode Seven

## Fresh Meat

**Writer: Kirsty Fisher**

**Director: Adrian Russell Wills**

**Ava** meets cool roller-derby-chick **Macy** who encourages her, **Zoe** and **Lily** to get wheels under their feet and join her roller derby "fresh meat" trials.

**Dylan** gets into deeper waters with **Ryan** and the lads and his allegiance to the crew is finally tested when he says no to their request to steal some spray cans.

Meanwhile **Levi's** charm offensive to woo back **Zoe** implodes when he makes a brave confession of his affection. Knowing that her obligation to family trumps all, **Zoe** rejects him even though her own heart is breaking.

## Episode Eight

## The Crocodile

**Writer: Josh Mapleston**


**Director: Tony Krawitz**

**Levi's** Dad, **Jimmy**, is released from jail and **Levi** is forced to face a lot of unresolved questions about their relationship.

When **Jimmy** fails to show up to an important football game, it is **Zoe** who secretly brings father and son together.

**Dylan** and **Ava** struggle when they are forced to work together on a song.

Meanwhile **Lily** meets **Bridie**, (**Macy's** girlfriend) who tells her that she's really needed on the debating team. After some initial resistance, **Lily** accepts that debating is something that she loves and agrees to join the team.







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## Episode Nine

**Writer: Leah Purcell**

## The Birthday Party

**Director: Adrian Russell Wills**

**Lily** overcompensates when she organises a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party for **Reece**.

He's never had a party before and **Lily** pulls out all stops, but when **Mick** is called away to a family emergency, the inevitable happens - gatecrashers swamp the house. Just as the party is in full swing, **Lily** takes herself away and she realises that the whole thing has been a tactic to avoid facing the anniversary of her mother's death. A chance encounter with some rowdy gatecrashers will have dire effects in the weeks to come.

**Ava** and **Macy** kiss for the first time and **Zoe's** jealousy over **Levi** and **Alice** being together results in her tipping an entire bowl of punch on **Alice's** head.

## Episode Ten

**Writer: Liz Doran**

## It's Not You

**Director: Tony Krawitz**

The dream draws closer for **Zoe** when she learns about an Australian Athletics Federation (AAF) high altitude training camp in Colorado, and for **Levi** when he learns that his grand final game will be watched by an AFL Scout.

**Lily** discovers that a photo of her has become a meme and suddenly her face, (in an embarrassing way), is all over the internet. She tries to shake it off but in the end confesses to **Vee** that all she wants is her mother.

**Zoe** risks everything when she participates in the roller derby out of anger at **Alice** and **Levi** – and is injured. She is dropped from her coveted spot on the relay team. Not only that, **Alice** forces her to ask **Levi** about his true feelings and his hesitation sees him lose **Alice** and **Zoe**.

In the face of strong competition, **Levi** loses his confidence and the grand final, but **Jimmy** is there to put things in perspective.





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## Episode Eleven

**Writer: Stephen McGregor**

A 'boys day' at the beach leads **Dylan** and **Levi** to get into trouble with the Police and **Ava** is introduced to a day of fame with **Ngaiire**.

**Lily** is still upset and has spent the last three weeks doing nothing but going to school and then spending the weekends in her room. Despite everyone's efforts to get her out, she needs this time to recover.

## A Wonderful Day

**Director: Tony Krawitz**

## Episode Twelve

**Writer: Greg Waters**

It's the lead up to **Ava's** final showcase and her stage fright is causing her serious issues. **Macy** tries to help but it's **Vee** who has the best solution – Koorioke. When **Ava** takes **Vee's** advice and sings only to **Macy** – she finally has the courage to be a star. An expected arrival makes the night complete when **Ava's** Mother arrives from the TSI.

**Zoe's** best friend **Kodie** arrives from Darwin for time trials but instead of a happy reunion simmering resentments overflow and **Zoe** finds herself unexpectedly in competition with **Kodie** and **Alice**. Determined not to let **Alice** beat her again, **Zoe** underestimates **Kodie** and finds herself knocked out of contention for the summer training camp in Colorado.

The only consolation is a late breaking admission of her feelings for **Levi** - which he gladly reciprocates.

That night **Ava** and **Macy** finally kiss – unfortunately their kiss is witnessed by **Ava's** Mum who demands that **Ava** leave with her immediately!

## Stage Fright

**Director: Tony Krawitz**



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## Episode Thirteen

## My Life

**Writer: Liz Doran**

**Director: Tony Krawitz**

As the year closes, each housemate attempts to cling onto the dream they began with.

**Zoe** must swallow her pride, make up with **Alice** and claim her last chance to get to Colorado by winning the relay for Kellett St.

**Levi** has to stop trying to please everyone, including **Zoe**, and finally make a choice about where he's going to spend the summer. Risking his new romance, he decides to spend it with his Dad.

**Lily** faces her fear when she confronts the "meme" boys at debating and **Reece** questions his place in the house.

**Dylan** races off to get **Ava** back to SIM in time to do her showcase, but **Ava** isn't allowed to sing. She encourages **Dylan** to go onstage where he performs a spoken word piece that blows his teachers away. In spite of everything – **Dylan** is starting to find his voice.





## "Ready for This"

Liz Doran


Story Producer

Liz has written for many TV series including **The Secret Life of Us**, **Carla Cametti PD**, **The Miss Fisher Murder Mysteries**, **Love Child**, **Please Like Me**, and **Sugar Rush** for Channel 4 in the UK. **Sugar Rush** was nominated for a BAFTA and won the International Emmy Award for *Best Children and Young Adults Drama Series*.

She worked on all three seasons of **Dance Academy**, firstly as the story editor for Season 1 and then as a writer and story consultant for Seasons 2 and 3 and was nominated for an AWGIE for scripts from both seasons.

**Please Like Me**, for which she is the script producer as well as co-writer on several episodes, has won an AWGIE, four AACTA's including *Best Screenplay* and *Best Comedy Series* and was nominated for an International Emmy Award in 2014. Season 3 of **Please Like Me** is currently in production.

In 2014, Liz also wrote the first episode for **Molly**, a 2 x 90 minute series for Channel 7 about Molly Meldrum, Countdown and the birth of Australian music. Liz currently has several television series in development.





## "Ready for This"

Daina Reid

Director (Episodes 1,2,3,4)

Daina Reid started her career in the film and television industry as a comedy writer and actor appearing alongside Eric Bana, Shaun Micallef and Rachel Griffiths before making the move behind the camera. Over the last decade, she has cemented her position as one of Australia's most sought-after directors of premium event television.

She has been a frequent collaborator with award-winning producer John Edwards on projects including **Paper Giants: The Birth of Cleo** (Southern Star/ABC) the story of journalist and editor Ita Buttrose and heir to Australia's most powerful publishing family Kerry Packer who started Cleo magazine in 1972 and **Howzat! Kerry Packer's War** (Southern Star/Nine) which followed Packer's rise to the most influential man in the history of Australian sport. Both mini-series received AACTA award nominations for *Best Direction*. Following the success of *The Birth of Cleo*, Daina directed the follow up **Paper Giants: Magazine Wars**, the story of the golden years of the glossies and the 'battle' waged by Nene King and Dulcie Boling to make their publication the number one in Australia.

Last year, she directed **Nowhere Boys** for Matchbox Pictures/NBCU. From the showrunner behind *The Slap*, **Nowhere Boys** is a high-concept action-adventure series.

More recently, Daina directed the mini-series **Never Tear Us Apart: The Untold Story of INXS** for the Seven Network and Shine Australia. **Never Tear Us Apart: The Untold Story of INXS** premiered to over 2.8 million viewers and is scheduled on Showtime in the US later this year.

She directed the two-part television mini-series adaptation of the award-winning historical novel **The Secret River** by Kate Grenville, which premiered at Sydney Film Festival and screened on ABC1. The story, set in 1806, follows William Thornhill who is sentenced to New South Wales for life only to be drawn into a terrifying conflict that will leave a bloody and indelible stain on Australia's history. Daina's other television credits include **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries**, **Offspring**, **Rush** and **City Homicide** to name a few.

Her first feature film, **I Love You Too**, about a commitment-phobe and a New Ager who buddy up to win over the women of their respective dreams starred Yvonne Strahovski and Peter Dinklage.







## "Ready for This"

Adrian Russell Wills

Director (Episodes 5,6,7,9)

Adrian Russell Wills is a filmmaker with a passion for telling stories that challenges the audience, always seeking the unusual and the unique. To entertain is to pack a punch, leaving audiences thinking about the world they were taken into days later. This approach defines his career, which began in 1999 with his award winning short film **Angels**. From there he went on to study directing at AFTRS, directing short films and short documentaries before making the transition to documentary with the critically acclaimed **Our Bush Wedding** in 2005. The one hour film screened on SBS as part of the NIDF **Loved Up Series**. Adrian continued exploring the documentary form, co-writing and directing **When the Natives Get Restless** (2007), a confronting exploration of racism and disadvantage in Dubbo, NSW.

In 2006, Adrian was chosen as one of 13 directors to take part in the highly acclaimed 'Bita Black Business' Drama Initiative through the Australian Film Commission. He also wrote and directed short films **Jackie Jackie**, the film screening at Melbourne International Film Festival, Flickerfest and overseas at Santa Barbara Film Festival and **Bourke Boy**. **Bourke Boy** was developed through the Screen Australian Indigenous Unit for ABC, screening at local and international Film Festivals and awarded the Best Indigenous Film at St Kilda Film Festival in 2010. That same year he was named by Margaret Pomeranz as one of her top ten filmmakers to watch as part of Sydney's 10x10 Creative. He also had two projects selected to open the 2010 Message Stick Film Festival, documentary **Boxing for Palm Island** and the short **Daniel's 21<sup>st</sup>**.

More recently, Adrian has moved into writing and directing television drama. He has directed an episode of the Southern Star/Network Ten series **Rush**, written for the critically acclaimed Blackfella Films drama series **Redfern Now** (Series 1&2) and directed episodes of **Redfern Now Series 2** and **The Gods of Wheat Street** for Every Cloud Productions. Adrian recently finished working on Pursekey Productions documentary film **88**, the Brindle Films series **8MMM Aboriginal Radio** and episodes of the second series of **Wonderland** for Fremantle Media.

Adrian will next direct a block of the fourth season of Foxtel's **Wentworth**.





## "Ready for This"

Tony Krawitz

Director (Episodes 8,10,11,12,13)


In 2013 Tony directed three episodes of **Devil's Playground**, a six part drama series about the sexual abuse scandals inside the Catholic Church for FOXTEL and Matchbox/NBC Universal. **Devil's Playground** was awarded the *Best Mini-Series* award at the 2015 AACTA awards. The show was also nominated for three other AACTA awards including *Best Direction in a Television Drama*. Tony's recent work includes directing half of an eight episode miniseries for Porchlight Films and Foxtel, **The Kettering Incident**.

In 2012 Tony directed the feature film **Dead Europe** based on the award winning book by Christos Tsiolkas. The film had its international premiere at the Toronto Film Festival and has screened at many other festivals including London, Sydney, Melbourne, and Thessaloniki as well as in competition at the Istanbul Film Festival. **Dead Europe** was nominated for *Best Film* at the Film Critics Circle Awards and received five AACTA nominations.

In 2010 and 2011, Tony wrote and directed the feature length documentary **The Tall Man** for SBS TV based on the best-selling book by Chloe Hooper. **The Tall Man** had its international premiere at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival. The film was released theatrically in Australia. It was also awarded the Walkley Award for *Best Long Form Documentary*, the AWGIE award for *Best Documentary Script*, *Best Documentary* at the ImagineNATIVE Film Festival in Toronto, *Best Documentary* and the Finders Award at the Australian Directors Guild awards and was nominated for four AACTA awards.

Tony wrote and directed the critically acclaimed **Jewboy** which premiered in Un Certain Regard at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival and which went on to screen at many festivals including Sundance. The film won three AFI Awards, the AWGIE Award for *Best Original Telemovie* as well as the Film Critics Circle Award for *Best Australian Short Film*. It was also released theatrically by Dendy Films.

On Australian TV, Tony has directed episodes of the television miniseries **The Surgeon** for Southern Star/Channel Ten and **City Homicide** and **All Saints** for Channel Seven. In 2007 he was awarded the *Best Director* award from the Australian Director's Guild for an episode of **All Saints**.





## "Ready for This"


Miranda Dear

Producer

In 2010 **Miranda Dear** joined Blackfella Films from the ABC where she worked first as an executive producer and then as Head of Drama. At the ABC she commissioned the drama series **The Slap, The Straits, Paper Giants, Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries**, the first series of **Rake** and many more.

Prior to that Miranda was Senior Commissioning Editor Drama at SBS Independent, responsible for the commissioning of film and TV series from Australian independent producers: amongst them the Academy Award winning animation **Harvie Krumpet** and award-winning feature films **Look Both Ways** and **Somersault**. Miranda began her career with UK public broadcaster Channel 4.

In 2011 Miranda, together with Darren Dale, produced the critically acclaimed telemovie **Mabo**, which screened as a Special Presentation at the Sydney Film Festival 2012. In 2012 Miranda and Darren went on to produce the ground breaking series **Redfern Now** for ABC1. The series has received many accolades including the 2013 and 2014 TV Week Logie for *Most Outstanding Drama Series*, and the 2014 AACTA Award for *Best Television Drama Series*. The last installment of Redfern Now is a telemovie, **Redfern Now Promise Me** which was shot in 2014 and aired on ABC 1 in April 2015, to great critical acclaim.





# "Ready for This"

Joanna Werner


Producer/Executive Producer

Joanna Werner is a two time Emmy Nominated, AFI and multi Logie award winning television producer specializing in live action drama series. Joanna established Werner Film Productions in 2008, which went on to be named the 2012 Australian Children's Television Producer of the Year. The company's first production, the acclaimed teen drama series **Dance Academy**, first screened in 2010 in Australia and has gone on to be a global success. Joanna is the Executive Producer, Producer and Co-Creator of **Dance Academy**.

**Dance Academy** is currently screening in over 160 countries around the world with the first and third seasons being recognised with nominations at the International Emmy Awards. The series has taken out two Logie Awards for *Most Outstanding Children's Program*, as well as multiple *Gold Plaques* at the Chicago Film Festival's Television Awards, *Bronze and Silver World Medals* at the New York Festival's International Television and Film Awards and Kidscreen Awards for *Best Teen/Tween Series* and *Best Companion Website*. **Dance Academy** has been nominated for nine *Australian Writer's Guild Awards* (won twice) and has won three *Australian Director's Guild Awards*.

Previously Joanna produced the hit tween series **H2O - Just Add Water** and **The Elephant Princess** for Jonathan M Shiff Productions.

Joanna is currently Executive Producer/Producer/Co-Creator on the teen drama **Ready For This** for ABC in Australia and is producing a prime time political thriller for Foxtel, which shoots in July 2015. Werner Film Productions is currently developing a number of projects for teen and prime time audiences.





# "Ready for This"

Darren Dale

Executive Producer

Darren Dale has been a director of Blackfella Films since 2000.

In 2008 Darren, with Rachel Perkins, produced the landmark multi-platform history series **First Australians** for SBS. In 2011, Darren produced the feature documentary **The Tall Man**, which screened at TIFF, and received the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary. In 2012 he and Miranda Dear produced the telemovie **Mabo** for ABC1 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark High Court decision.

In collaboration with Emmy-Award winning UK writer Jimmy McGovern and Miranda Dear, Darren has produced two series of **Redfern Now** for ABC1, which won the TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series in 2013 and 2014, and the 2014 AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series. A **Redfern Now Telemovie** will screen in 2015.

In 2014 Darren produced the acclaimed documentary series **First Contact** for SBS which has recently won *Most Outstanding Factual Program* at the 2015 Logies. He is currently producing the documentary series **DNA Nation** for SBS.

Darren currently serves on the board of Screen NSW and the Council of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, and in 2012 was the recipient of the prestigious AFTRS Honorary Degree.

