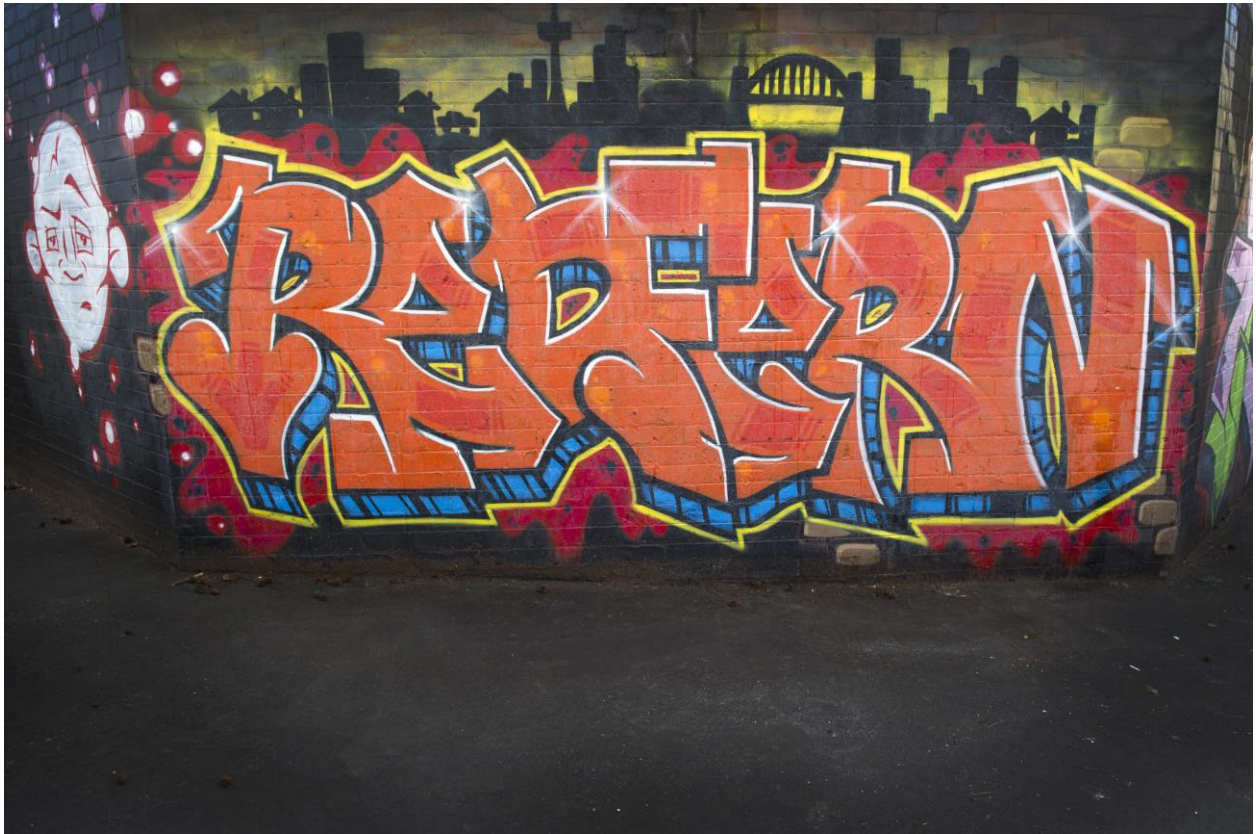


A BLACKFELLA FILMS Production  
in association with ABC TV, Screen Australia and Screen NSW

# Redfern Now

Extraordinary events in ordinary lives



## Media Kit

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As at 31.8.12



# Redfern Now

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## Telling six stories of ordinary lives unhinged by a single decision

Extraordinary events in ordinary lives.

Over six episodes, six different families,  
All of whose lives are changed by a moment's decision,  
an accident or a seemingly insignificant incident.

Groundbreaking television **REDFERN NOW** is a collaboration between some of Australia's most celebrated creatives.

Produced by **Blackfella Films** (*Mabo, First Australians*) the 6 x 1 hr drama series has been directed by **Rachel Perkins** (*Mabo, Bran Nue Dae*) and **Catriona McKenzie** (*Satellite Boy*), with **Wayne Blair** (*The Sapphires, Wish You Were Here*) and **Leah Purcell** (*Somersault, Jindabyne, Lantana*) both starring in and directing one of the stories.



Starring **Deborah Mailman** (*Mabo, The Sapphires*), **Leah Purcell**, **Dean Daley-Jones** (*Toomelah, Mad Bastards*), **Miranda Tapsell** (*The Sapphires*), **Jimi Bani** (*Mabo, The Straits*), **Shari Sebbens** (*The Sapphires*), **Wayne Blair** and **Kelton Pell** (*Cloudstreet, The Circuit*), **REDFERN NOW** has been produced by **Blackfella Films** in association with ABC TV, Screen Australia and Screen NSW.

## Redfern Now

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With internationally acclaimed British writer **Jimmy McGovern** (*The Street, Cracker, The Lakes*) working closely with the scriptwriters as Story Consultant, the series tells the powerful stories of six inner city households whose lives are changed by a seemingly insignificant incident.

When the series went into production the ABC TV's Head of Indigenous Department **Sally Riley** said “**REDFERN NOW** is the first drama project to go into production which has been developed by the Indigenous Department. It lays the foundation for ambitious Indigenous work and is part of ABC TV's priority to get more Indigenous work in front of prime-time audiences. **REDFERN NOW** has a wealth of inner-city stories that are rich and diverse. Coupled with the celebrated cast, it will make for compelling viewing.”

Redfern Indigenous Leader **Millie Ingram** said, "As a proud Aboriginal Elder of Redfern, I wish the production of **REDFERN NOW** every success in bringing an unseen and positive side of our community to Australian audiences."



Blackfella Films' **Darren Dale** said “We would like to acknowledge the generous and continued support of the Aboriginal leaders, authorities and community of Redfern. We have assembled an astonishingly talented team of Indigenous writers and directors and some of the best actors in the country to create what we think will be some of the most powerful, heartfelt and dramatic television of the year.

## Redfern Now

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Head of Screen Australia's Indigenous Department **Erica Glynn** said "We are committed to supporting our filmmakers strive for excellence in authoring their own stories and to ensuring a broad representation of Indigenous culture is enjoyed by all Australians. We are thrilled to be partnering with Blackfella Films and ABC TV in what is going to be groundbreaking television at its best".



## Key Creatives

<b>ABC Executive Producer</b>		Sally Riley
<b>Producers</b>		Darren Dale Miranda Dear
<b>Story Producer</b>		Jimmy McGovern
<b>Directors</b>	Family Pretty Boy Blue Sweet Spot Joyride Raymond Stand Up	Catriona McKenzie Rachel Perkins Leah Purcell Catriona McKenzie Wayne Blair Rachel Perkins
<b>Writers</b>	Family Pretty Boy Blue Sweet Spot Joyride Raymond Stand Up	Danielle MacLean Steven McGregor Jon Bell Michelle Blanchard Adrian Russell Wills Steven McGregor
<b>Line Producer</b>		Louisa Kors
<b>Casting</b>		Anousha Zarkesh
<b>Director of Photography</b>		Mark Wareham ACS
<b>Production Designer</b>		Felicity Abbott
<b>Editors</b>		Dany Cooper Nick Holmes
<b>Costume Designer</b>		Jan Hurley

# Redfern Now

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## Family

Directed by **Catriona McKenzie**

Written by **Danielle MacLean**

<b>Grace</b>	Leah Purcell
<b>Wesley</b>	Alec Doomadgee
<b>Lilly</b>	Shareena Clanton
<b>Evelyn</b>	Elaine Crombie
<b>Marcia</b>	Jada Alberts

**Grace** (Leah Purcell) and **Wesley** (Alec Doomadgee) haven't had a holiday for years - what with the two kids and his work there hasn't been time. Now they're off on the holiday of a lifetime and the taxi is waiting to take them to the airport. Grace just needs to pop back into the house for one last thing when the phone rings.



It's her nephew Tyler - his mother Lilly is off her meds and raving, and he and his little sister Maddi are desperate for help. Wesley can't believe her sister is messing things up for them again, but Grace knows she has to help, nobody else will. She'll be back in time to make the flight. But Lilly is in no mood to cooperate and Grace reluctantly has to have her committed.

As the police depart Grace looks at the kids – now what's she going to do? She calls Wesley and explains she can still make the flight if she can get one of her other sisters to look after the kids for a week or two. She won't be long. She finds a place for Maddi but as Tyler is turned away by one family member after another, it's clear that Lilly is a destructive force that they're all wary of. Grace takes Tyler home. The holiday is off. And more than that, they need to face the fact that if Lilly is ever to get better she needs extended care. Which means that the family will need to foster Tyler and Maddi longer term. But the next morning Tyler is gone and Wesley wants to leave it to the police. He's unable to come to terms with the fact that Grace has put somebody else's kids before her own, and threatens to leave if she brings Lilly's kids back. Grace finds Maddi and Tyler at the hospital and is astonished to discover that they walked ten kilometres to see their mum. Something her own spoilt kids would never do for her. When Grace and the children arrive back home Wesley is packing his bags, but it's Grace who leaves with Maddi and Tyler. They clean up Lilly's house and settle in. Wesley arrives to ask Grace to come back home and she agrees, but this time it's going to be on her terms.

## Redfern Now

### Leah Purcell

### *is Grace*



Leah Purcell is one of Australia's leading actors, with award-winning roles in theatre, film and television. Her first professional break came in 1993 when she was cast in *Bran Nue Dae*, touring Australia to rave reviews. After moving to Sydney in 1995, she was one of the first presenters on the RED Music Channel on Galaxy Pay TV (later Foxtel). A regular role in ABC TV's **Police Rescue** followed and in 1997 she was nominated for an Australian Film Industry (AFI) award for Best Actress in a TV Drama for her performance in **Fallen Angels**.

Since then, Leah has had an extensive on screen presence with film roles in **Lantana**, **Lennie Cahill Shoots Through**, **Somersault**, **The Proposition** and **Jindabyne**. Her television credits include ABC TV's **GP**, **Water Rats**, **Beastmaster**, **The Lost World**, ABC TV's **Good Cop**, **Bad Cop**; **Starter Wife**, **Love My Way**, **McLeods Daughters** and **My Place** also for ABC TV.

Leah conceived and co-wrote *Box the Pony* which was the smash hit of the 1997 Festival of the Dreaming and has since played to sell-out seasons at the Belvoir St. Theatre, the Sydney Opera House, the 1999 Edinburgh Festival and a season at the Barbican Theatre in London for BITE: 2000. The published text of the play won the 1999 NSW Premier's Literary Award and the 2000 Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Best Play. Purcell was nominated at the inaugural 2001 Sir Robert Helpmann Awards for Best Female Actor in a play for her performance in *Box the Pony*. Other theatre credits include *Marriage of Figaro* (QTC) opposite Geoffrey Rush, *The Vagina Monologues*, Dorothy Hewitt's final play *Nowhere* (Melbourne International Arts Festival), *Beasty Girl: The Secret Life of Errol Flynn* (Melbourne International Arts Festival), for which she won a Green Room award (2004) for Best Actress and Neil Armfield's *Stuff Happens* (Company B) for which Leah won the Deadly Award for Actor of the Year 2005 for her portrayal of this role.

She was also the recipient of the inaugural Bob Maza Fellowship award in 2006, as well as being nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Actress in a Leading role for her portrayal of Condeleza Rice in *Stuff Happens*. Further credits include *Stickybricks* (Sydney Festival), *The Good Body* (Adelaide Fringe Festival), *Parramatta Girls* (Company B), *The Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table* (Griffin Theatre, Malthouse Theatre & later at QPAC), for this role she was nominated for lead role as Best Actress in a Play for the 2007 Sydney Theatre Awards & 2007 GLUG Theatre Awards, *An Oak Tree* (Belvoir downstairs); Michael Attenborough's *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Almeida Theatre, London); Bell Shakespeare's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of *King Lear* opposite John Bell; *Blood Wedding* (Sydney Theatre Co), *The Dark Room* (Company B).

# Redfern Now

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## Alec Doomadgee



*is Wesley*

A well-known identity in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Community, Alec Doomadgee has numerous acting and presenting credits to his name.

Falling in love with radio at the age of 12 following a school trip to Townsville, Alec followed his dream and not only established the **BRACS Radio Station** in Doomadgee, but was the first presenter on air at the age of 14. In 1998 he moved to Mt Isa and worked for both **MOB FM** and **Imparja Television**, before becoming a field reporter for the **National Indigenous Radio Service** for the live broadcast of the **2000 Sydney Olympics**. In 2002 he moved to Brisbane and worked as a Presenter on 98.9 fm before taking over as Program Manager. Formerly the Gadigal Music Label/Kameyagal Studio Coordinator at Gadigal Information Service in Redfern Sydney, Alec is currently Associate Producer of Programming Operations at the Sydney Opera House.

As well as his outstanding radio career, Alec was one of the TV presenters in 2011 on the Channel Seven series **The Great Australian Doorstep with Spida Everett**, and has also presented **On The Edge** and **Volumz** for NITV. Furthering his acting, most recently Alec appeared in the feature **Benjamin Sniddlegrass and the Cauldron of Penguins** narrated by Stephen Fry, and in 2008 appeared in the short film **Joonba**.

## Shareena Clanton



*is Lilly*

After completing the Aboriginal Theatre course at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Shareena was accepted into WAAPA's full time Acting course which she graduated from in 2010.

Shareena had her feature film debut in the Australian comedy **Stone Bros.** which was released in 2009. Since graduating, she has appeared as a main cast member in the comedy series **Ben Elton's Live from Planet Earth** for the Nine Network. She also appeared in her first main stage theatre production *My Wonderful Day* at the Ensemble Theatre in Sydney. Shareena has recently completed a season of *A Comedy of Errors* in the role of *Adrianna* and *The Tempest* in the role of *Ariel* with Shakespeare WA. In 2011 Shareena was nominated for a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Newcomer.



## Pretty Boy Blue

Directed by **Rachel Perkins**

Written by **Steven McGregor**

**Aaron Davis**

Wayne Blair

**Robyn**

Rarriwuy Hick

**Constable Ryan Hobbs**

Stephen Curry

**Lenny Brewster**

Luke Carroll

**Aunty Mona**

Trisha Morton Thomas

**Nathan**

Richard Green

**Homicide Detective**

Nathan Page

**Aaron Davis (Wayne Blair) is proud of his police uniform, proud of the community in which he works and very very proud of his daughter Robyn (Rarriwuy Hick) and his 3 year old granddaughter Donna. Early morning, Aaron does his usual boxing training with local kids, he's had a good day despite some taunting from young troublemaker Lenny. He's finishing up back at the police station when Lenny is brought in all busted up and yelling abuse. He's been in a bad fight and Aaron is about to call for a doctor but stops when Lenny's taunting pushes him too far. From the cell Lenny calls out in pain but Aaron ignores him.**



When the cries suddenly stop Aaron realises that something is terribly wrong. He rushes to help but it's too late - Lenny is dead. And so Aaron's nightmare begins.

As word of the death spreads Lenny's brother tries to cause trouble but the young fellas are held back, talked around by family and community. Lenny's mother, Aunty Mona, asks whether her boy suffered but Aaron lies.

When Lenny's family is shown the cell surveillance tapes Aaron has to find the courage to go and tell Aunty Mona the truth.

All seems lost, but as Aaron leaves her house, Robyn and Donna are waiting for him.

# Redfern Now

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**Rarriwuy Hick**

*is Robyn*



Rarriwuy is a young Yolngu woman from a remote community in North-East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. She has lived a great diverse lifestyle which she brings through her performance. Her greatest inspiration is her Mother Janet Munyarryun – who was a founding member of the Bangarra Dance Company.

First and foremost a dancer and choreographer, Rarriwuy has performed at a number of high profile events including the 2004 Deadly Awards, the 2005 Danish Royal Visit and the Sydney Dreaming Festival 2005-08. Founder and choreographer of the dance group YAPA MALA, Rarriwuy choreographed a dance piece performed for the former US Vice-President Al Gore.

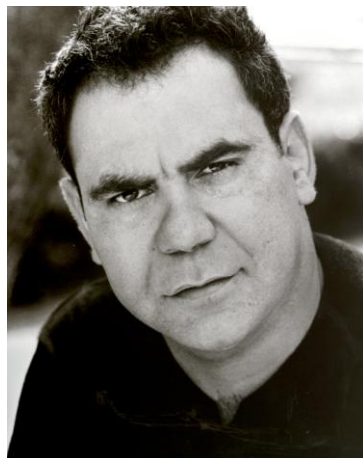
With theatre credits including the lead role in *Wrong Skin* (Ngurrumilmaramiriwu) and *Bloodland* with the Sydney Theatre Company and the Bangarra Dance Company, Rarriwuy has also featured in the short films **She Say** directed by Leah Purcell, **Scar** directed by Tiffany Parker and **The Hunter** directed by Margaret Harvey.

# Redfern Now

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## Wayne Blair

*is Aaron Davis*



As an actor, Wayne's work includes the theatre productions of *Jessus Hopped the Train*, *Stuff Happens*, *Run Rabbit Run*, *Conversations with the Dead*, *The Sapphires*, *The Dreamers* and *Cloudstreet* (International Tour) for Belvoir. For the Sydney Theatre Company he has appeared in *True West*, *Tot Mom*, *The Sunshine Club*, *Inheritance* and *The Cherry Pickers*. Wayne appeared in Queensland Theatre Company's productions of *The Sunshine Club*, *Black-ed Up* and *Loaded Stories*. Other theatre credits include *Skin* with Bangarra Dance Theatre, *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*, for the Bell Shakespeare Company; and for Kooemba Jdarra, *Black Shorts* and *Purple Dreams*.

His television credits include **Small Claims**, **Fireflies**, **Backberner**, **Water Rats**, **All Saints** and **Wildside**. Wayne's film credits include **Wish You Were Here**, **X**, **The Last Time I Saw Michael Gregg**, **Blessed** and **Mullet**.

For the theatre, Wayne has directed *Unspoken* at the Old Fitzroy and the Malthouse. *Stolen* and *7 Stages of Grieving* for the STC and *Njunjul The Sun* for Kooemba Jdarra and QPAC which he adapted from the book of the same name.

His written and direction of short films include **Face 2 Black**, **Black Talk**, **Jubulj**, **Kathy** and **The Djarn Djarns**. **Black Talk** won the Dendy Award in 2003 and **The Djarn Djarns** won the Crystal Bear Prize for Best Short in the Kinderfilmfest Section of the Berlin International Film Festival in 2005.

For television he has directed episodes of **Lockie Leonard** and **Double Trouble** both with Channel 9 and more recently **Dead Gorgeous**. Wayne recently completed directing the film version of **The Sapphires** which made its screen debut at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival.

# Redfern Now

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**Stephen Curry**

*is Constable Ryan Hobbs*



Multi award winning actor Stephen Curry became a household name with his breakout role in the Australian feature film **The Castle**, playing the character of *Dale Kerrigan*.

His other feature credits include **Rogue, Thunderstruck, The Night We Called It A Day, Take Away, The Nugget, The Wogboy**, and most recently **The Cup**. He also appeared in the IF Award nominated Best Short Film for 2008 **You Better Watch Out**.

On television Stephen is best known for his outstanding portrayal of *Graham Kennedy*, in the Fremantle Media & TV1 biopic, **The King**, receiving many awards including an *AFI Award for Best Lead Actor in a Television Drama*, the *Silver TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Actor in a Drama* and the *ASTRA Award for Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor*. More recently he appeared as *Sam Pickles* in the highly acclaimed miniseries **Tim Winton's cloudstreet** produced by Screentime for Showtime Australia. His other television credits include **Cliffy, Wilfred, :30 Seconds, False Witness, The Informant, The Secret Life of Us, Changi, Frontline, Queen Kat, Carmel and St Jude, Day of the Roses** and **Mary Bryant** to name a few.

Host of the **2008 AFI Awards**, Stephen has performed in various theatre shows including the famous sketches of Peter Cook & Dudley Moore in **Good Evening** at the Sydney Opera House, the Melbourne Comedy Festival and in Brisbane and Perth.

## Sweet Spot

Directed by **Leah Purcell**

Written by **Jon Bell**

<b>Indigo</b>	Dean Daley-Jones
<b>Allie</b>	Lisa Flanagan
<b>Keshen</b>	Damien Hunter
<b>Sonny</b>	Leonie Whyman
<b>Jumpy</b>	Cramer Cain
<b>Foreman</b>	Danny Adcock
<b>Billy Townsend</b>	Russell Smith

**Indigo** (Dean Daley-Jones) is a professional boxer so he knows how to hit a man - how to land the perfect punch, find the sweet spot. It's why he's good in the ring and it's why he's just served a six-year sentence for killing a man in a street fight.

He's home now reconnecting with his wife Allie (Lisa Flanagan) and his two kids, and things are getting back on an even keel as the family adjust to having him back after so long away. But a series of small incidents spark a jealous flame in Indigo – why does this guy Jumpy keep coming round to see Allie? Why does she know how many sugars Jumpy takes in his tea?

Keshen, Indigo's cousin, has found him a job on the building site where he works and he tries to hose Indigo down. But the green-eyed monster has got a hold of Indigo and things spiral out of control until Allie can take no more and throws him out. Wild with rage Indigo goes on the rampage after Jumpy, and Keshen has to step in to stop the fight. Indigo has Keshen pinned to the ground and his fist raised to strike. But in time he realises what he's doing and pulls back. It's a few months later and Indigo's leaving jail. He finally takes full responsibility for killing a man and in doing so has a real chance of getting his life back on track, but will Allie and the kids be there to meet him?



## Redfern Now

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### Dean Daley-Jones



### *is Indigo*

West Australian Aboriginal actor and Nyoongar tribe member, Dean Daley-Jones launched his feature film career playing the lead in the critically-acclaimed **Mad Bastards** directed by Brendan Fletcher, which was selected for the Sundance Film Festival 2011, and won the Deadly Awards *Film of the Year 2011*. Dean was also nominated as *Best Actor* for this role in the inaugural AACTA Awards (previously known as the AFI Awards) in 2012.

On the back of this success, Dean has also appeared in Ivan Sven's **Toomelah**, selected for *Un Certain Regard 2011* at the Cannes Film Festival and the feature film **Satellite Boy** directed by Catriona McKenzie, to be released later this year.

Dean takes an active role in mentoring other indigenous people with visits to community and correctional centres Australia-wide. Dean hopes his words will help inspire others to initiate changes and turn their lives around, just as he has done. Dean was a Guest Speaker at *Message Sticks 2012*, the annual festival celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists at the Sydney Opera House.

### Lisa Flanagan



### *is Allie*

With numerous credits to her name, Lisa Flanagan is best known for her outstanding portrayals of *Clarence* in the Paul Goldman feature **Australian Rules** and more recently *Anna* in Sarah Watt's **Look Both Ways**. Her other film credits include **Spike Up**, **The September Project**, **Opal Dream**, **Queen of Hearts**, **Free – 2002 POV**, **Say No** and **Black & White** directed by Craig Lahiff.

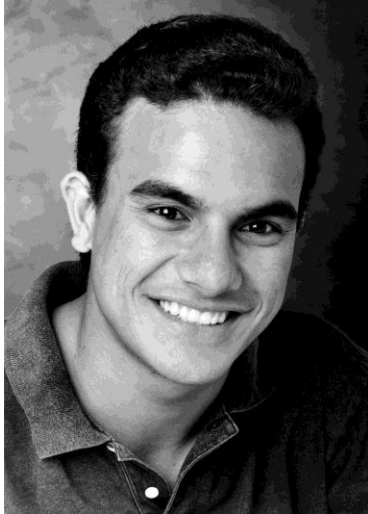
On television Lisa has appeared in **City Homicide**, **All Saints** and as a series regular in **Double Trouble** directed by Wayne Blair.

On stage Lisa has performed the one woman show *7 Stages of Grieving* at the State Theatre SA, Queensland Theatre Company and Sydney Theatre Company, as well as appeared in the productions of *Parramatta Girls* at the Belvoir, *My Girragundji* for Canute Productions, and *The Sapphires* for MTC/Company B Belvoir.

## Redfern Now

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### Cramer Cain



### *is Jumpy*

Cramer graduated from the University of Western Sydney Nepean with a BA (Theatre), an unusual choice of study for someone coming from a small Pacific island called Nauru.

His career since graduating has been diverse. He has travelled both here and internationally with the physical theatre performance group *Chrome*, appeared in the much acclaimed production of *The Happy Prince* with Kim Carpenter's Theatre of Image, worked as a Presenter/ Anchorman for *Sports Pacific Network (SPN)*, performed in Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* & launched his film career with the role of *Ari* in David Caesar's feature **Idiot Box**.

Cramer recently co-starred alongside Richard Roxburgh and Ioan Gruffudd, as the local guide *Luko* in the James Cameron produced 3D action thriller **Sanctum** shot in Queensland for Universal Pictures.

His love of action, adventure & the outdoors was truly satisfied when he was cast as *Eddie* the larrikin, dope smoking, Islander 'man in situ' of local business family *The Montebellos* in the recently screened ABC series **The Straits**.

# Redfern Now

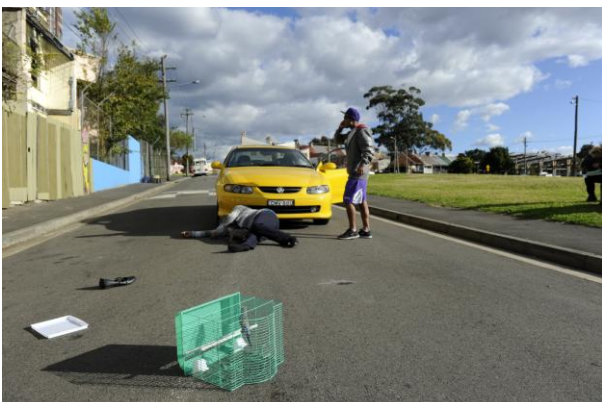
## Joyride

Directed by **Catriona McKenzie**

Written by **Michelle Blanchard**

<b>Coral</b>	Tessa Rose
<b>Julie</b>	Shari Sebbens
<b>Danny</b>	Rhimi Johnson Page
<b>Teneka</b>	Miranda Tapsell
<b>Gaz</b>	Kimi Swindells
<b>Aaron Davis</b>	Wayne Blair

**In her mid fifties, Coral (Tessa Rose), works in a food van, which sometimes brings her into contact with victims of abuse, which leads her to the mistaken conclusion that her daughter’s bruised face is the result of more than just an accident. As a result, Coral and her daughter Rosie don’t talk.**



On her way home from the pet shop one day, Coral is knocked down by a bunch of teenage boys in a stolen car. One of them, Danny (Rhimi Johnson Page), hadn’t wanted to be there in the first place and instead of running off like the others he checks to see if she is okay. He calls for an ambulance and the police are able to trace the call back to Danny’s mobile. He won’t dob his mates in and so takes the blame and is sent to Juvenile Detention.

Back at home Coral starts having dizzy spells and her granddaughter Julie (Shari Sebbens) is reluctantly brought in to help. Coral complains about her daughter Rosie “I knew she wouldn’t come” but Julie just wants her mum and grandmother to get on again – forgive and forget. When the spells get worse Coral is admitted to hospital and Julie agrees to stay on to look after the house until Coral is better.

Newly released, Danny turns up at the front door with some stolen birdseed to apologise to Coral but it’s Julie who answers and Danny, smitten, pretends he’s from the pet shop. Romance develops and all is going well until Coral is released from the hospital and reveals that Danny was one of the kids in the car that knocked her over. Danny tries to convince Julie and Coral of his innocence and they realise he’s telling the truth just as he’s caught in an accident. At the hospital Coral gives her blessing to the young couple, and realising finally that you shouldn’t judge a book by it’s cover, Coral is reconciled with her daughter Rosie.



## Redfern Now

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### Tessa Rose



### *is Coral*

With an extensive career in dance and theatre, Tessa received a Diploma in Dance from the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA).

Appearing in television shows **White Collar Blue**, **Corroboree Walk**, **Icam** and **Station ID** for ABC TV, Tessa has also starred in the stunning short films **Immortal Man**, **Lyan** and **Two Bob Mermaid** and most recently in Leah Purcell's short film **She.Say**.

Most recently performing in *Bloodland* for Sydney Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company, QPAC and Adelaide Festival 2012, Tessa's other theatre credits include *Luck of the Draw* for Darwin Theatre Company, *The Cherry Pickers*, *The Dreamers*, *Black Medea*, *Blacked Up*, *A Midsummer Night Dream* and *The Sunshine Club* for Sydney Theatre Company, *Home* for Last Seen Imaging, *Windmill Baby* and *Bratwurst & Damper* for Yirra Yaakin Ngoongar Theatre, *Black Chicks Talking* for La Boite Theatre, *Fountains Beyond* and *The Sunshine Club* For QTC, *Purple Dreams* and *Enuff* for Playwrights Conference, as well as *Mr. Takahashi and Other Falling Secrets*.

As a dancer Tessa has performed in *Fish* for Bangarra Dance Company, *Prisoners in the Garden* for Darwin Theatre, *Club Bub Exposure* for Belvoir St. Theatre Company as well as dancing in Yothu Yindi's music video for their song *Treaty*.

### Shari Sebbens



### *is Julie*

Shari is a proud Bardi, Jabirr-Jabirr woman born and raised in Darwin. At 19 Shari was one of ten young artists chosen for “SPARK”, the Australia Council for the Arts first theatre mentorship program. In 2006 she was accepted into Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) where she completed the certificate 3 course in Aboriginal Theatre. At the end of the year she auditioned for and was accepted into NIDA, graduating in 2009.

Shari is a proud and passionate advocate for Indigenous theatre especially the development of new and contemporary works. Through her training and opportunities’ at NIDA and exposure to Sydney’s art scene she has further developed her love for Shakespeare, film and television whilst maintaining her connection with home.

In 2011 Shari was cast in her first film role of *Kay* in **The Sapphires**. The film is based on the hit stage play of the same name. *The Sapphires*’ had its world premier at the special midnight screening at the Cannes International Film Festival, with a ten minute standing ovation.

Shari is currently starring in the world premiere of La Boite/Griffin Theatre’s production of Rick Viede’s *A Hoax*.

# Redfern Now

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## Miranda Tapsell

*is Teneka*



Miranda Tapsell was born in Darwin and her people are the Larrakia. She grew up in Kakadu National Park and began performing at the age of seven when she joined a tap dancing group. As a young teenager she was enrolled in summer short courses at NIDA and also performed with The Corrugated Iron Youth Arts Drama Group in Darwin.

In 2004 at 16 she won the Bell Shakespeare Company regional performance scholarship. After finishing school she was accepted to study at NIDA fulltime and graduated from the 3 year acting course in 2008.

Miranda has since performed the lead role in Wesley Enoch directed *Yibiyung* for Belvoir St Theatre & Malthouse Theatre Co. She then toured with Bell Shakespeare's *Actors at Work*, directed by Wayne Blair; has appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Darwin Theatre Co and also appeared in *Mother's Tongue* for Yirra Yaakin Theatre.

For film & television she was first cast as *Princess Desdemona* in the **Magical Tales** television series, and then went on to shoot a role in the feature film **Primal**.

Most recently Miranda shot the Wayne Blair directed film **The Sapphires** playing one of four lead characters, which premiered at this year's Cannes Film Festival Midnight Gala, and the telemovie, **Mabo**, for ABC TV premiered on the ABC in June.

# Raymond

Directed by **Wayne Blair**

Written by **Adrian Russell Wills**

<b>Raymond</b>	Kelton Pell
<b>Lorraine</b>	Deborah Mailman
<b>Aaron Davis</b>	Wayne Blair
<b>Timmy</b>	Ryan Corr
<b>Peter</b>	Jimi Bani

**Raymond** (Kelton Pell) and **Lorraine** (Deborah Mailman) **have it pretty sweet. House, four kids, Raymond has been nominated for an award for his services to community and is up for a promotion at work.**



However his wife Lorraine is accused of fraud. For the last six years she has claimed not to be in a full time relationship so she can claim family allowance payments, and a full pension. There's a written statement revealing the truth and it's clear they have been dobbed in. But by whom?

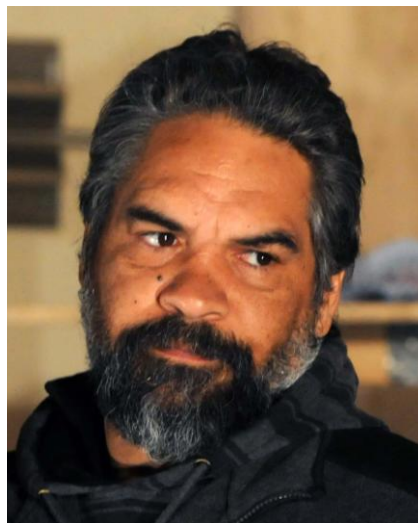
Lorraine faces serious consequences unless she agrees to repay the overpayments. She is devastated and desperate to find work.

All Raymond can think of is the bastard who dobbed them in. Raymond starts to suspect those around him, and in his obsessive pursuit of the truth everything that he's built - friendships, reputation, marriage - come crashing down. Too late he realises the truth he searches for is the very last thing he wants.

## Redfern Now

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### Kelton Pell



### *is Raymond*

Kelton Pell has built a reputation for being one of Australia's finest indigenous actors. Widely recognised for his role as Sam Wallan in SBS's highly acclaimed **The Circuit**, Kelton has also appeared in **Bush Patrol**, but is perhaps best known for his outstanding portrayal of *Bob Crab* in the critically acclaimed miniseries **Tim Winton's cloudstreet** produced by Screentime for *showcase*.

On the big screen, Kelton has appeared in **The Last Ride**, **Bran Nue Dae**, **Blackfellas**, **Australian Rules**, **Confessions of a Headhunter**, **Cold Turkey**, **Where Two Rivers Meet**, **September**, **One Night The Moon** and **To Hell and Back**.

In 2010, Kelton Pell used his unique charm to effect in the films **Aunty Maggie and the Womba Wagkun** and **Mad Bastards**, which was released in 2011.

Kelton Pell has enjoyed an illustrious theatre career over the last twenty years performing all around Australia. Theatre highlights include *Bloodland* with STC, the *Jandamarra* tour with Bunuba Film Productions, and Black Swan Theatre Company's *Bindjareb Pinjarra*, *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Coranderrk – We Will Show The Country* with Ilbijeri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre.

# Redfern Now

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## Deborah Mailman

*is Lorraine*



One of Australia's most celebrated actors Deborah Mailman received national acclaim in 1998 winning both the AFI and Film Critics' Circle Award for Most Outstanding Actress for her portrayal of 'Nona' in the film **Radiance**. Since then she has worked extensively in film, television and theatre and is most recognised for her role as 'Kelly' in the television series **The Secret Life of Us**.

Just completed filming of the third season of Southern Star's highly acclaimed production **Offspring**, Deborah's other television credits include the role of *Bonita Mabou* in the highly anticipated film **Mabo**, lead guest roles in **Rush**, **The Alice** and Bryan Brown's **Two Twisted**. Deb was also a regular television presenter, hosting **Playschool** and **Message Sticks** for the ABC and Lonely Planet's **Going Bush** for SBS.

**Mabo** was Deb's third collaboration with director Rachel Perkins, having also appeared in **Bran Nue Dae** and **Radiance**. Deborah's extensive film credits include **Dear Claudia**, **The Monkey's Mask**, Phillip Noyce's **Rabbit Proof Fence**, Ana Kokkinos' **The Book of Revelation** and **Lucky Miles**.

In 2011 Deborah completed production of PJ Hogan's **Mental** and Wayne Blair's **The Sapphires**, both due for release this year. **The Sapphires** recently received a standing ovation at its World Premiere at the prestigious Midnight Screening at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Deborah's most recent theatre credits include the role of *Antigone* for Company B and performances in *Mother Courage and her Children*, *The Lost Echo*, *The Bourgeois Gentlemen* and *Tales from Vienna Woods* for the STC Actors Company. Other credits include *As You Like It*, *The Small Poppies*, *Aliwa*, and *The Sapphires* for Belvoir St Theatre, Barrie Kosky's production of *King Lear* for Bell Shakespeare, *One Woman's Song* and *Radiance* for QTC and *The Taming of the Shrew* for La Boite Theatre. Her one woman show *The Seven Stages of Grieving* co-devised with director Wesley Enoch, toured both nationally and internationally to the London International Festival of Theatre and Zurich Arts Festival to critical acclaim.

Deborah recently made her directorial debut with the short film **Ralph** which premiered at the 2009 *Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival* and won *The Holding Redlich IF Award for Best Short Film* in the same year.

Deborah's outstanding performances have been acknowledged, amongst many others, with two TV Week Silver Logie Awards for Most Outstanding Actress in a television series for **The Secret Life of Us**, the Matilda Award for her stage performances in both *Radiance* and *The Seven Stages of Grieving*, the Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actress in the STC production of *The Lost Echo*, a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Actress in the theatre production of *The Sapphires*; the 2007, 2010 and 2011 Deadly Award for Best Female Actor and in 2003 was named NAIDOC Person of the Year. Deborah was the recipient of the 2010 InStyle Women of Style Award for her contribution to Arts and Culture. In 2010 Deborah won AFI Awards for her roles in *Offspring* and *Bran Nue Dae*.

# Redfern Now

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## Jimi Bani



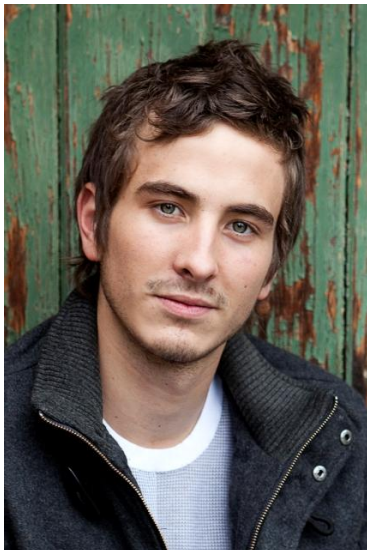
*is Peter*

Celebrated for his outstanding portraying of *Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo* in the Blackfella Films production **MABO** for ABC TV, Jimi is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

With credits including the SBS series **RAN** (Remote Area Nurse) which was shot in northern Australia, and most recently a leading role in the ABC drama **The Straits** directed by Peter Andrikidis, Rowan Woods and Rachel Ward.

Since graduating from WAAPA he has performed in several plays including the lead role in *Jandamarra* for Black Swan Theatre Company in WA, *Romeo and Juliet* for the Sydney Theatre Company, *Yibiyung* for Company B Belvoir in association with Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne, and *Krakouer!* for Deckchair Theatre in Perth. He has also performed in the play *The Sapphires*, for both the Black Swan Theatre Company and Company B, touring to both London and Korea. Jimi has received acclaim for his performances, including a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor for *Yibiyung* and a WA Equity Foundation Award nomination for Best Actor for his performance in *Jandamarra*.

## Ryan Corr



*is Timmy*

Ryan is the winner of the Australians In Film Heath Ledger Scholarship for 2011 and the 2010 Inside Film 'Out of the Box' award. He was nominated for Most Outstanding New Talent and Most Popular New Male Talent at the 2011 TV Week Logie Awards.

Ryan is a 2009 NIDA graduate, where his roles included *Algernon* in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Angelo* in *Measure for Measure* and *Zamislov* in *Summerfolk*. Since graduation, his television credits have included **Underbelly: The Golden Mile**, **Tangle** and Coby in the Seven Network's **Packed to the Rafters**. Other credits include **The Sleepover Club**, **Silver Sun** and **Blue Water High**.

Ryan's film credits include Spike Jonze's **Where the Wild Things Are**, **Jimmy Tension** for NIDA and the feature film **Not Suitable For Children**.

Ryan is about to appear in *Sex with Strangers* at the STC, opposite Jacqueline McKenzie.

# Stand Up

Directed by **Rachel Perkins**

Written by **Steven McGregor**

**Joel** Aaron McGrath

**Nic Shields** Ursula Yovich

**Eddie Shields** Marley Sharp

**Head McCann** Gillian Jones

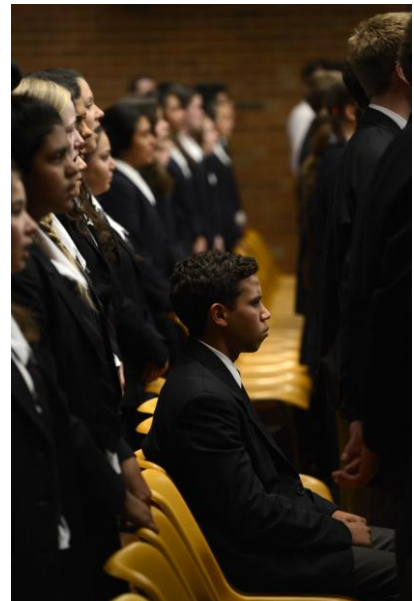
**Mr Parish** Ewen Leslie

**Aaron Davis** Wayne Blair

**Sixteen year old Joel Tait (Aaron McGrath) has just won an Indigenous scholarship to Clifton College – one of Sydney’s most elite private schools. It’s his first day and at assembly Joel’s teacher notices he’s not singing the national anthem. At home that night Joel is busy learning the words so he can join in. His father Eddie is troubled by this – he doesn’t want his son to sing the anthem ... or stand for it.**

Joel is torn between the traditions of the school and his father’s principles. He doesn’t want to let his father down but Joel is starting to invest in the school. Mr Parish (Ewen Leslie), the poetry teacher, has inspired him in a lesson about *The Windhover* and he’s doing well. And the most beautiful girl he’s ever seen is in his class.

When Joel continues to follow his father’s wishes the situation escalates until Joel is threatened with expulsion. His mother Nic (Ursula Yovich) is desperate to find a solution and can’t believe Eddie (Marley Sharp) is risking their son’s future. But Eddie won’t budge and Joel has started to believe his father is right.



Much to his mother’s despair Joel is expelled and the scholarship is awarded to another boy. But the next day one by one the remaining Aboriginal pupils refuse to stand and sing the Anthem.

At the Tait’s house, there’s a knock on the door. It’s the Principal and she’s there to offer Joel his place back, but on his terms.



# Redfern Now

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## Aaron McGrath

*is Joel*



Playing the role of *Joseph* in Sarah Spillane's highly anticipated Australian film **Around the Block**, Aaron McGrath's burgeoning career also includes the role of *Garadi* in **My Place Series 2** directed by Catriona McKenzie, the role of *Jay* in 360 Entertainment's **Your Choice**, as well as a part in the short film **Destiny in the Dirt** directed by Ella Bancroft.

## Ursula Yovich

*is Nic*



Ursula Yovich grew up in the Northern Territory, in Darwin and Maningrida. She has become one of Australia's most celebrated performers and has amazed audiences all over the world, appearing at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Carnegie Hall in New York, and the Concert Hall at the Sydney Opera House.

Her recent theatre credits include *Bloodland* for Sydney Theatre Company, *The Barefoot Divas* for Sydney Festival and *Waltzing the Wilarra* for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company. Ursula was also nominated for a Helpmann Award for her cabaret show *Magpie Blues*, which world premiered in Adelaide and toured major venues across Australia.

In film Ursula has featured in Baz Luhrmann's *Australia* and Ray Lawrence's *Jindabyne*. Other screen credits include *Murandak "Songs of Freedom"* documentary, *\$9.99*, *Arcadia*, *My Bed Your Bed*, *Blacktrax*, *Message Stick*, *Blue Heelers* and *Songlines*. Ursula is currently appearing in a one-woman show, *The Magic Hour* for Deckchair Theatre Company in Western Australia.

# Redfern Now

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## Ewen Leslie



## *is Mr Parish*

Ewen graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2000. His theatre credits include *Hamlet* and *Richard III* for the **Melbourne Theatre Company**, *The Wild Duck* and *The Promise* for **Company B** and *The Trial* for the **Malthouse Theatre Company**.

Ewen was a member of the STC's Actors Company in 2008 and performed in *The War Of The Roses*, *Gallipoli* and *The Serpent's Teeth*. Other theatre credits include *Paul* (Company B), *Riflemind* (STC), *Dead Caesar* (STC–Push Production), *Shakespearealism* (The Naked Theatre Co.), *Cross Sections* (Tamarama Rock Surfers Co.) and *This Blasted Earth* (Old Fitzroy Theatre).

Ewen's film credits include **Sleeping Beauty**, **Three Blind Mice**, **Katoomba**, **Kokoda** and **Jewboy**. He will next be seen in Tony Krawitz **Dead Europe**.

Ewen's television credits include Blackfella Films' **Mabo**, **Lockie Leonard**, season 2 of **Love My Way**, **The Junction Boys**, **All Saints**, **The Road From Coorain**, **Wild Cat**, **Bush Patrol**, **The Gift** and **Ship To Shore – Series 1 & 2**.

In 2010 he received the **Helpmann Award** and the **Green Room Award** for Best Actor for *Richard III* and a **Sydney Theatre Award** and a **Helpmann Award** for his performance in *The War Of The Roses* in 2009. Ewen also received an AFI nomination for his performance in **Jewboy** in 2005.

# Redfern Now

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## Catriona McKenzie

## Director – Family & Joyride

An experienced television drama director, Catriona McKenzie has recently directed her first feature film **Satellite Boy**.

Graduating with Honours from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) in 2001, Catriona has an outstanding list of credits including Emmy nominated **Dance Academy**, the TV Week Logie and AFI Award winning **My Place** series 1 and 2 for ABC TV, as well as **Satisfaction** for Showtime. Catriona was also the set up director for the award-winning SBS series' **The Circuit** and **RAN**, as well as **The Alice** for Channel Nine and **Fire Flies** for ABC TV.

With critically acclaimed and award-winning short films including **Box**, **The Third Note**, **Road** and **Redfern Beach**, Catriona also wrote and directed the multi-award winning documentary **Mr Patterns** for ABC TV and directed the half hour drama **Grange** for ABC TV. In 2007 Catriona spent time in the US as a director's attachment on the television series **Prison Break**.

Having commenced her career at multi-award winning commercials house Filmgraphics, Catriona has had her body of work showcased at *The Australian Centre of Moving Image* at Federation Square and has completed video installations for the *National Australian Museum* in Canberra, as well as the *4a Gallery* in Sydney.

In 2006 her script for **Satellite Boy** was accepted into the coveted Screen NSW *Aurora Development Program* (similar to France's Equinoxe), which has previously contributed to the development of the scripts for the features *Animal Kingdom*, *The Black Balloon*, *Somersault* and *Little Fish*.

Most recently Catriona was set up director for the anticipated ABC TV series **Redfern Now**, which was developed in collaboration with the award winning and internationally acclaimed creator Jimmy McGovern (*The Street*, *Cracker*, *The Lakes*).

## Rachel Perkins

## Director - *Pretty Boy Blue* & *Stand Up*



An independent director and producer, Rachel Perkin's Australian Aboriginal heritage (Arrernte/Kalkadoon nations) has informed her filmmaking in documentary and drama over her twenty year career. She has been an executive producer at SBS and ABC TV and has directed three dramatic features: **Radiance**, **One Night the Moon** and **Bran Nue Dae**. Her most recent feature **Bran Nue Dae** (2010), which she both directed and co-wrote, screened at Sundance, Berlin and Toronto Film Festivals and achieved a box office of \$7.5m in Australia. Rachel's films have screened at over 75 film festivals around the world.

Most recently Rachel directed the critically acclaimed film **Mabo** starring Deborah Mailman and Jimi Bani. Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic High Court decision, **Mabo** had a special Gala Premiere at the 2012 Sydney Film Festival before screening on ABC TV.

Her most recent documentary work, the seven-hour series **First Australians** (2009), which she wrote, directed and co-produced, was awarded Australia's top documentary honours including the AFI and IF Awards, UN Media Peace Prize, TV Week Logie, Screen Writers and Directors Guild of Australia Awards. **First Australians** has sold throughout the world and is the highest selling educational title in Australia.

Rachel's other documentary productions include the series **Blood Brothers** on which she was one of the writers, directors and producers as well as **Spirit to Spirit** - an international co-venture of indigenous partners from New Zealand, Scandinavia, Canada and Australia.

Most recently, Rachel was honoured to receive the inaugural *Contribution to Television IF Award* at the 2011 Jameson IF Awards.

## Redfern Now

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### Leah Purcell



### Director - Sweet Spot

Leah Purcell is one of Australia's leading actors, with award-winning roles in theatre, film and television. Her first professional break came in 1993 when she was cast in *Bran Nue Dae*, touring Australia to rave reviews. After moving to Sydney in 1995, she was one of the first presenters on the RED Music Channel on Galaxy Pay TV (later Foxtel). A regular role in ABC TV's **Police Rescue** followed and in 1997 she was nominated for an Australian Film Industry (AFI) award for Best Actress in a TV Drama for her performance in **Fallen Angels**.

Since then, Leah has had an extensive on screen presence with film roles in **Lantana**, **Lennie Cahill Shoots Through**, **Somersault**, **The Proposition** and **Jindabyne**. Her television credits include **GP**, **Water Rats**, **Beastmaster**, **The Lost World**, **Good Cop**, **Bad Cop**; **Starter Wife**, **Love My Way**, **McLeods Daughters** and **My Place**.

Leah conceived and co-wrote *Box the Pony* which was the smash hit of the 1997 Festival of the Dreaming and has since played to sell-out seasons at the Belvoir St. Theatre, the Sydney Opera House, the 1999 Edinburgh Festival and a season at the Barbican Theatre in London for BITE: 2000. The published text of the play won the 1999 NSW Premier's Literary Award and the 2000 Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Best Play. Purcell was nominated at the inaugural 2001 Sir Robert Helpmann Awards for Best Female Actor in a play for her performance in *Box the Pony*. Other theatre credits include *Marriage of Figaro* (QTC) opposite Geoffrey Rush, *The Vagina Monologues*, Dorothy Hewitt's final play *Nowhere* (Melbourne International Arts Festival), *Beasty Girl: The Secret Life of Errol Flynn* (Melbourne International Arts Festival), for which she won a Green Room award (2004) for Best Actress; Neil Armfield's *Stuff Happens* (Company B) for which Leah won the Deadly Award for Actor of the Year 2005.

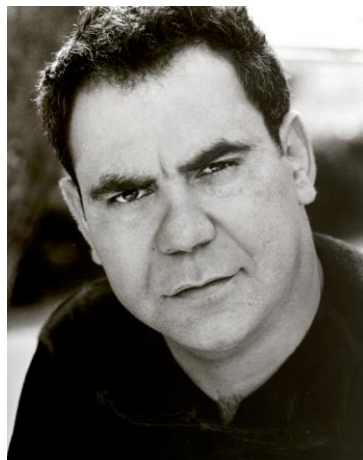
She was also the recipient of the inaugural Bob Maza Fellowship award in 2006, as well as being nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Actress in a Leading role also for her portrayal of *Condeleza Rice* in *Stuff Happens*. Further credits include *Stickybricks* (Sydney Festival); *The Good Body* (Adelaide Fringe Festival); *Parramatta Girls* (Company B), *The Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table* (Griffin Theatre, Malthouse Theatre & later at QPAC), she was nominated for this lead role as Best Actress in a Play for the 2007 Sydney Theatre Awards & 2007 GLUG Theatre Awards; *An Oak Tree* (Belvoir downstairs); Michael Attenborough's *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Almeida Theatre, London); Bell Shakespeare's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of *King Lear* opposite John Bell; *Blood Wedding* (Sydney Theatre Co), *The Dark Room* (Company B).

# Redfern Now

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## Wayne Blair

## Director - Raymond



As an actor, Wayne's work includes the theatre productions of *Jessus Hopped the Train*, *Stuff Happens*, *Run Rabbit Run*, *Conversations with the Dead*, *The Sapphires*, *The Dreamers* and *Cloudstreet* (International Tour) for Belvoir. For the Sydney Theatre Company he has appeared in *True West*, *Tot Mom*, *The Sunshine Club*, *Inheritance* and *The Cherry Pickers*. Wayne appeared in Queensland Theatre Company's productions of *The Sunshine Club*, *Black-ed Up* and *Loaded Stories*. Other theatre credits include *Skin* with Bangarra Dance Theatre, *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*, for the Bell Shakespeare Company; and for Kooemba Jdarra, *Black Shorts* and *Purple Dreams*.

His television credits include **Small Claims**, **Fireflies**, **Backberner**, **Water Rats**, **All Saints** and **Wildside**.

Wayne's film credits include **Wish You Were Here**, **X**, **The Last Time I Saw Michael Gregg**, **Blessed** and **Mullet**. Wayne has recently completed directing the film version of **The Sapphires** which debuted to a standing ovation at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

For the theatre, Wayne has directed *Unspoken* at the Old Fitzroy and the Malthouse. *Stolen* and *7 Stages of Grieving* for the STC and *Njunjul The Sun* for Kooemba Jdarra and QPAC which he adapted from the book of the same name.

His written and direction of short films include **Face 2 Black**, **Black Talk**, **Jubulj**, **Kathy** and **The Djarn Djarns**. **Black Talk** won the Dendy Award in 2003 and **The Djarn Djarns** won the Crystal Bear Prize for Best Short in the Kinderfilmfest Section of the Berlin International Film Festival in 2005.

For television he has directed episodes of **Lockie Leonard** and **Double Trouble** both with Channel 9 and more recently **Dead Gorgeous**.

# Redfern Now

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## Mark Wareham

## Cinematographer

One of Australia's foremost cinematographers, Mark Wareham's extraordinary list of credits spans feature films, television movies, mini-series and documentaries.

With a talent and passion for creative collaboration, Mark is highly sought-after by Australian and international directors with credits ranging from projects as diverse as the stunning filmed opera **Eternity Man** directed by Julien Temple, to the award-winning television movie **Scorched** and the Sundance Film Festival hit **Clubland**, directed by Cherie Nowlan and starring Brenda Blethyn.

Mark's other feature film credits include **Boytown**, **The Extra**, **Crooked Business**, **The View from Greenhaven**, **The Kings of Mykynos** and **Save Your Legs**, with second unit Director/DOP credits including **Anacondas: Hunt for the Blood Orchid**, **The Condemned**, **Invincible**, and the **Triangle**.

Most recently Mark has shot some of the most celebrated dramas in Australia including **The Underbelly Files: Lucifer**, **Slide**, **Panic at Rock Island**, and the ABC series **The Straits**.

Mark has recently been lauded for his beautiful photography on the critically acclaimed mini-series **Tim Winton's cloudstreet**, receiving the *Judges Award* at the 2011 Queensland Australian Cinematographers Awards, and the Australian Cinematographers highest accolade – *The Golden Tripod*. Mark was also recognized with a *Distinction* for his exceptional work on the celebrated television drama **Underbelly: Razor**.

# Redfern Now

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## Jimmy McGovern

## Story Producer



With his writing often based on real events or socially vital issues, Liverpool born Jimmy McGovern has built a formidable reputation writing powerful dramas for the stage and screen.

McGovern's writing credits read like a list of classic television. Having honed his skill working on **Brookside**, his major breakthrough came with **Cracker**, one of the best-loved UK TV shows of recent history and winner of the *Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Script*.

Jimmy's other television credits include RSJ Production **The Accused Series I & II** for the BBC and **The Street Series 1 – 3**, which won the *International Emmy for Best Drama Series 2007*, *RTS Award 2008*, *BAFTA for Best Drama Series 2007 & 2008* and *RTS Best Drama Series 2008*, as well as **Gunpowder, Treason and Plot, Sunday**, which won the *FIPA D'OR 2005: Grand Prize for Best Script*, **Liam**, the *BAFTA-nominated Dockers* and *BAFTA-nominated The Lakes, Heart* and *The South Bank Show Award Winner for Best Television Drama 1996* and *1996 BAFTA award winner Hillsborough*.



# Redfern Now

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## Darren Dale

## *Producer*

Darren Dale has been a company director of Blackfella Films, Australia's premier Indigenous production company, for over ten years. In 2008 Darren, together with Rachel Perkins, produced the landmark multi-platform history series **First Australians**, broadcast on SBS to over 2.3 million viewers and accompanied by an internationally acclaimed interactive website. Amongst **First Australians** many accolades were AFI, TV Week Logie, AWGIE and Director's Guild Awards.

In 2011, Darren produced the feature documentary **The Tall Man** for SBS, based on the award-winning book by Chloe Hooper. Premiering at the 2011 Adelaide Film Festival, the film screened at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) and was awarded the AWGIE Award for Best Broadcast Documentary, the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary and received 4 AACTA nominations including Best Feature Documentary. **The Tall Man** was released theatrically by Hopscotch Films in November 2011.

Darren has produced a number of acclaimed short films and documentaries that between them have screened at the Sundance, Aspen, Edinburgh, Toronto and Palm Springs International Film Festivals. The 2010 SBS documentary **Lani's Story** was the recipient of a United Nations Media Peace Award, the second consecutive year Darren was awarded this prize.

With his Blackfella Films business partner, Rachel Perkins, Darren co-curated the film program for the *Message Sticks Indigenous Festival* at the Sydney Opera House from 2002 until 2011.

Most recently Darren produced, with Miranda Dear, the critically acclaimed film **Mabo** starring Deborah Mailman and Jimi Bani. Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic High Court decision, **Mabo** had a special Gala Premiere at the 2012 Sydney Film Festival before screening on ABC TV.

Darren currently serves on the board of Screen NSW and the Council of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.

# Redfern Now

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## Miranda Dear

*Producer*

Producer Miranda Dear began her career with UK public broadcaster Channel 4 Television moving from Music & Arts through to Acquisitions where she became Senior Film Buyer. In 1997 she moved to Australia as Acquisition and Production Consultant and negotiated the Channel's involvement in a number of film funding and acquisition initiatives.

In 2000 Miranda joined SBS Independent as Senior Commissioning Editor Drama. Her commissions included **Harvie Krumpet**, **RAN (Remote Area Nurse)**, and the first long form drama features from directors Jessica Hobbs, Tony Krawitz, Rachel Ward and Matthew Saville (**So Close to Home**, **Jewboy**, **Martha's New Coat** and **Roy Hollsdotter Live**). She was the SBS Commissioning Editor for the feature films **Look Both Ways**, **Ten Canoes**, **Somersault**, **Australian Rules**, **Walking on Water**, and **Tracker**. And also for a number Indigenous drama initiatives which included Warwick Thornton's **Mimi** and **Green Bush**, Beck Cole's **Flat** and **Plain's Empty**, and Wayne Blair's **Black Talk** and **Djarn Djarns**.

In 2005 Miranda joined ABC TV first as an Executive Producer and then as Head of Drama. There she executive produced a number of programs including **Rake**, **Sisters of War**, **3 Acts of Murder**, **Curtin**, **Dirt Game**, **Bed of Roses**, **The Librarians**, **Rain Shadow**, **East of Everything**, **Bastard Boys**, **Valentine's Day**, and **The Silence**. She was the ABC commissioning editor for the feature films **Samson & Delilah**, **Bran Nue Dae**, **Here I Am** and **Eye of the Storm** and the short film series **The New Black**. And she also commissioned the series **The Slap**, **The Straits**, **Paper Giants** and **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries**.

Since 2010 Miranda has worked with Blackfella Films and most recently produced, with Darren Dale, the critically acclaimed film **Mabo** starring Deborah Mailman and Jimi Bani. Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic High Court decision, **Mabo** had a special Gala Premiere at the 2012 Sydney Film Festival before screening on ABC TV.

## About Blackfella Films

For twenty years Blackfella Films has created innovative and high quality content across documentary and narrative in both short and feature formats for theatrical, television and online platforms. Its award winning productions have distinguished its team as creators and curators of distinctive Australian content.

The company was founded in 1992 by writer/director/producer **Rachel Perkins** who was joined by producer **Darren Dale** in 2002. In 2010 Blackfella Films was a recipient of Enterprise Funding from Screen Australia. In 2011 Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale as directors of Blackfella Films were ranked number 16 in the **Encore Power 50**. In 2010, former ABC Head of Fiction, **Miranda Dear** joined Blackfella Films as producer on the company's drama slate.

A standout achievement for the company was the award-winning documentary series **First Australians**, which was awarded Australia's top honours for documentary including the AFI and IF Awards, the UN Media Peace Prize, TV Week Logie and Screen Writers and Directors Guild of Australia Awards. **First Australians** has sold throughout the world and is the highest selling educational title in Australia.

The feature documentary **The Tall Man**, produced by Darren Dale with executive producer Rachel Perkins, received the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary and was nominated for four AACTA Awards including Best Feature Documentary. It was released in cinemas nationally in November 2011 and was shown on SBS in February this year.

In 2011, Blackfella Films produced the critically acclaimed film **Mabo** starring Deborah Mailman and Jimi Bani. Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic High Court decision, **Mabo** had a special Gala Premiere at the 2012 Sydney Film Festival before screening on ABC TV.

In addition to its film and television productions, from 2002 - 2011 the company produced the annual Indigenous Film Festival *Message Sticks* at the Sydney Opera House, which toured to 13 venues nationally, and reached an audience of 15,000 Australians.

Rachel Perkins has been a board member of Screen Australia since 2009 and prior to that was a Commissioner of the Australian Film Commission from 2004 to 2008. Darren Dale is a member of the board of Screen NSW and the Council of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.