



The Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Screen Australia, the ACT Government and Screen ACT  
In association with Screen NSW  
present  
A Playmaker Production

# THE CODE

A Political Thriller in Six Parts



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# THE CODE

## Synopsis

**Stretching from the spectacular red desert of Australia's outback to the cool corridors of power in Canberra, THE CODE tells the story of two very different brothers who unearth information those at the highest levels of political power will kill to keep secret.**

In the middle of the outback a stolen 4WD collides with a transport truck. Two local kids in the car are hurt. Badly. Someone should have called for help. But they didn't.

They didn't because that 'someone' works for a major stakeholder in an international research project no-one talks about.

The kids' accident would have remained a mystery if it weren't for Ned (*Dan Spielman*) and Jesse Banks (*Ashley Zukerman*) – a young internet journalist desperate for a break, and his troubled hacker brother on a strict good-behavior bond.

Ned and Jesse Banks are gifted a poisoned chalice when a phone video of the outback accident arrives in their in-box. And posting it online will cost them more than they ever imagined. Together, they suddenly become the unlikeliest crusaders for democracy.

The decision to dig deeper drags the brothers into the darkest heart of politics, and the web of black marketeers and the international agencies who monitor and manipulate them.

The question is just how far those in authority will go to keep their explosive secret safe.

And just how far the two brothers will go to reveal the truth.

# THE CODE

## About The Production

A new six-hour political thriller produced by Playmaker for ABC TV, **The Code** was filmed on location in Sydney, Canberra and Broken Hill.

The outstanding ensemble cast includes Dan Spielman (*An Accidental Soldier, Offspring*), Ashley Zukerman (*The Slap, Rush*), Adele Perovic (*SLiDE*), Adam Garcia (*Coyote Ugly, Bootmen*), Chelsie Preston Crayford (*Mystery of a Hansom Cab, Underbelly: Razor*), Paul Tassone (*Underbelly*), Dan Wyllie (*Rake, Puberty Blues*), Lucy Lawless (*Spartacus*), Aden Young (*I Frankenstein, Rectify*), David Wenham (*Answered by Fire, Killing Time*), Aaron Pedersen (*Jack Irish, City Homicide*).

**The Code** was created by Shelley Birse and written by Birse, Blake Ayshford and Justin Monjo. Directed by Shawn Seet (*Love Child, SLiDE*) and produced by Playmaker's David Maher, David Taylor and Shelley Birse. It is executive produced by the ABC's David Ogilvy, Greer Simpkin and Carole Sklan.

Playmaker's David Taylor and David Maher said, "Shelley Birse has crafted a rollercoaster ride of a thriller with a wonderfully warm and original heart. Great writing has attracted a dream cast and crew and we're proud to be producing the series for ABC TV."

ABC TV Head of Fiction Carole Sklan said, "The extraordinary sibling relationship at the heart of **The Code** brings great warmth and humour to this bold and original work, which examines the power of an independent voice in a world of duplicity and danger. Having such a wonderful cast speaks volumes for the strength and complexity of the storytelling."

A Playmaker production for ABC TV, **The Code** was developed through the Scribe Initiative and is produced with the assistance of Screen Australia, Screen NSW, the ACT Government and Screen ACT.

# THE CODE

## Key Cast

Ned Banks

Jesse Banks

Hani Parande

Perry Benson

Sophie Walsh

Andy King

Lyndon Joyce

Alex Wisham

Randall Keats

Ian Bradley

Tim Simons

Malcolm Coover

Clarence Boyd

**Dan Spielman**

**Ashley Zukerman**

**Adele Perovic**

**Adam Garcia**

**Chelsie Preston Crayford**

**Paul Tassone**

**Dan Wyllie**

**Lucy Lawless**

**Aden Young**

**David Wenham**

**Aaron Pedersen**

**Steve Rodgers**

**Aaron McGrath**

# THE CODE

## Key Crew

<b>Producers</b>	David Maher David Taylor
<b>Executive Producers</b>	Carole Sklan David Ogilvy Greer Simpkin
<b>Creator and Producer</b>	Shelley Birse
<b>Writers</b>	Shelley Birse      Episodes 1, 2, 4 & 6 Blake Ayshford      Episode 3 Justin Monjo      Episode 5
<b>Director</b>	Shawn Seet
<b>Line Producer</b>	Diane Haddon
<b>Production Designer</b>	Michelle McGahey
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Bruce Young
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Nina Edwards
<b>Make Up &amp; Hair Designer</b>	Wendy de Waal
<b>Editor</b>	Deborah Peart ASE
<b>Composer</b>	Roger Mason

# THE CODE

## The Code... Episode One

**When Ned and Jesse Banks publish a video of a mysterious accident in the outback involving two teenagers and a truck from a highly classified research facility, they face the full weight of a political machine desperate to keep the truth off the front pages.**

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**Ned Banks** (*Dan Spielman*) has spent the last ten years juggling a stalling career as an on-line journalist with the care of his talented but troubled brother, **Jesse** (*Ashley Zukerman*). When **Alex Wisham** (*Lucy Lawless*) the teacher of the kids involved in the accident, tells him she has phone footage of the crash, Ned thinks his big break has finally come. With **Jesse's** help, **Ned** is able to clean up the video. Its contents are shocking, and the decision to publish will light the wick on a story too explosive to be contained.

The prospect of the accident being made public is scaring the powers that be in Parliament House. The Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, **Randall Keats** (*Aden Young*) and Director of Communications, **Sophie Walsh** (*Chelsie Preston Crayford*) are given the task of delivering the press gallery something more distracting to report in the hope that the larger story behind the accident can remain out of the public domain.

The decision to publish the video of the accident will earn **Ned**, and his boss, **Perry** (*Adam Garcia*) a savage response. They're told to leave the story alone or face serious repercussions. Realising there is more to the story; **Ned** decides to investigate on the ground out West - a decision with deadly consequences.

# THE CODE

## The Code... Episode Two

**As Ned investigates the truck accident in the remote town of Lindara, Jesse comes face to face with the 'extraordinary' new powers of the law.**

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As **Ned Banks** (*Dan Spielman*) plane touches down in the remotest corner of the state, he has no idea that his brother is being held for questioning by one of the most powerful arms of the law in the country. The Cyber Crime Unit, headed by **Malcolm Coover** (*Steve Rogers*) has been tracking **Jesse's** on-line activities with increasing concern. They want to know why **Jesse** (*Ashley Zukerman*) was hacking into a highly classified research facility, they want to know what files he copied and whether he's working for someone else. They also have a keen eye on **Jesse's** newest cyber playmate **Hani Parande** (*Adele Perovic*). **Hani** is of Iranian descent and has a bumpy history with Coover and the Cyber Crime unit.

Out west, **Ned** meets **Clarence** (*Aaron McGrath*), one of the kids from the car accident and starts piecing together the details of the crash. What becomes clear is that the company who owns the truck is involved in research beyond what is publicly known.

They are distancing themselves fast from the Head of Security, **Andy King** (*Paul Tassone*) and his actions following the accident. **King** has gone rogue. With access to some of the most highly classified material in the country, there are a whole host of stakeholders who have a radically vested interest in **King** being quietly brought back to the fold. **Lyndon Joyce** (*Dan Wyllie*) has been called in with the hope that his old connections with **King** will help locate him before things get completely out of hand.

# THE CODE

## The Code... Episode Three

**Wracked by guilt that Jesse has paid such a high price for trying to help his investigation – Ned fears the worst when he discovers Jesse missing.**

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Convinced that the Cyber Crime Unit are monitoring him, **Jesse** (*Ashley Zukerman*) and **Hani** (*Adele Perovic*) secretly go on the run. They head south to the family's holiday house where they hope to remain under the radar long enough to find out some answers.

Ned is not the only one looking for Jesse. **Andy King's** meeting with blackmarketeer buyer **Niko Gaele** doesn't go well. **Andy** only has half the promised delivery and without the lot, the deal is in doubt. **Andy** knows **Jesse** copied the files he needs on the night of the accident - the question is whether he will find **Hani** and **Jesse** before **Ned** does.

**Ned** leans on one-time girlfriend and Parliamentary Director of Communications, **Sophie Walsh** (*Chelsie Preston Crayford*) to help him. She has access to confidential files, and having given **Ned** the 'Lindara' accident leak in the first place, feels some responsibility.

**Ned** eventually tracks **Hani** and **Jesse** down the coast where he finds them trying to crack the heavily decrypted files **Jesse** took. The connection between **Hani's** father and the research facility has **Ned** increasingly suspicious about **Hani's** sudden interest in his brother. Rejecting his concerns, **Jesse** fronts **Hani**, but the truth is worse than he imagined.

When **King** finally tracks **Jesse** down, only one man is left standing.



# THE CODE

## The Code ... Episode Four

**Ned and Jesse are on the run, and running out of options ... their house has been ransacked, their phones bugged, their every computer stroke tracked. Nowhere to hide, no one to turn to – no choice but to hunt down the truth in Lindara in the hope that it will save them.**

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Forced into an uneasy alliance in order to try and find **Jesse**, Hani's relationship with the intelligence community does little to convince Ned she's an ally worth having, but she's the only lead he's got.

Now questioning the research project **Jesse** hacked, **Sophie** is hauled into the office of the Deputy Prime Minister **Ian Bradley** (*David Wenham*) and given the clearest of warnings.

Finally turning up, **Jesse** is ragged, paranoid and unsure whether he has just killed a man. Having to face the truth - whatever the outcome - **Ned** and **Jesse Banks** are now officially on the 'most wanted' list. They have little choice now but to turn back to Lindara to try and find enough answers to the puzzle to stand as their own defence.

Clarence remains in hospital, his health deteriorating fast. With Alex's help, **Ned** and **Jesse** are able to hack into the hospital system and begin piecing together the link between Sheyna's death and Clarence's condition.

Finally cracking the code of the encrypted files, **Jesse** realises the players come from the highest echelons of power, with the full force of authority at their command.

And **Ned** is offered a deal ... **Jesse's** safety in return for his silence.

# THE CODE

## The Code ... Episode Five

**Ned and Jesse are forced into an impossible choice – Hani's life in exchange for technology capable of wiping entire cities from the face of the earth.**

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Working hard to stick to the new rules of engagement - leave the hottest story of his life alone, in order to keep his brother out of jail - for **Ned** (*Dan Spielman*), the gag cuts deep.

As **Andy King** (*Paul Tassone*) watches the deal he has worked so hard for crumble, he turns his attention to **Hani** (*Adele Perovic*) and her family. The results are brutal and desperate - the actions of a man with nothing left to lose.

Observed by those well up the ladder, **King's** erratic actions are threatening to derail a plan with heavier stakes than even he knows about. Something will have to be done about **King**.

**Ned** and **Jesse** (*Ashley Zukerman*) are faced with an impossible choice, do they hand over technology with potentially catastrophic potential in exchange for **Hani's** life?

**Ned** and **Jesse** suddenly find themselves brokering a deal, not with middle management, but with the deal's architect, **Niko Gaelle** – and **Niko** makes **Andy King** look like an angel.

# THE CODE

## The Code ... Episode Six

**Unless Ned and Jesse take action, their fates will be sealed, their story repackaged and the truth will remain neatly beneath the radar. It is time to do something radical.**

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**Ned** and **Jesse Banks** have gambled high – they've handed over the technology in exchange for **Hani's** safety. As soon as they have her back, they will call in the police and have **Niko Gaelle** stopped before he can get out of the country. A fine plan, except that **Hani** is not safely returned at all, and **Ned** and **Jesse** have just made themselves part of the supply chain for the deadliest blackmarket in the world.

Wanted by the police and desperate to find **Hani** before time runs out, **Ned** and **Jesse** scramble to try and claw their way towards the truth.

News of the exchange has everyone from the PM down on high alert, their intel points to a path through diplomatic channels out of Australia. If the players can be caught red-handed it will provide rock solid support for a significant pre-emptive strategy in the region and keep **Ian Bradley's** (David Wenham) international allies happy.

But this too is a gamble with unforeseen consequences. **Ned** and **Jesse** will find themselves holding the most dangerous information in the country and being smart and brave enough to get it into the public domain is the only thing that will save their lives.

# THE CODE

## Ned Banks

**Part-time on-line journalist at Password, part-time carer for his brother. Ned is sitting on a decade of buried sacrifice. He is about to get his moment in the sun. But the price will be high.**

Dan Spielman

**is Ned Banks**



Dan Spielman has established a reputation as one of Australia's leading theatre, film and television actors. Dan has appeared in some of Australia's leading television shows including **Offspring**, **Raw FM**, **Blue Heelers**, **Wildside**, **Stingers**, **Farscape**, **The Secret Life Of Us**, **Satisfaction**, **Mary Bryant**, ABC's **My Place** and **Darwin's Brave New World**. Most recently, he starred in the ABC telemovie, **An Accidental Soldier** directed by Rachel Ward.

Dan made his feature film debut in Paul Currie's **One Perfect Day** for which he was nominated for an AFI Award for *Best Actor* and an IF Award for *Best Actor*. His follow up performance in **Tom White**, directed by Alkinos Tsilimidos, earned him a Film Critics Circle Award for *Best Supporting Actor* and an AFI Award nomination for *Best Supporting Actor*. In 2011, Dan was seen in Daniel Nettheim's **The Hunter**, alongside Willem Dafoe and Sam Neill. He has also featured in a number of short films including Patrick Hughes' **The Lighter** and **The Director**, Nash Edgerton's **The Pitch** and Damon Herriman's **The Date**, for which he won a Tropfest *Best Actor Award*.

Dan has been nominated several times for his theatre performances which include *A Golem Story*, *Knives In Hens*, *The Ham Funeral* and *The Journal of the Plague Year* for the Malthouse Theatre, Simon Phillips' *The Seagull* for the Melbourne Theatre Company, *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* for the Sydney Theatre Company, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Art of War*, Benedict Andrews' *The Season at Sarsaparilla*, *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, Barrie Kosky's *The Lost Echo* and *Mother Courage and her Children* as a founding member of the Sydney Theatre Company's Actors Company and over a dozen productions for the Keene/Taylor Theatre from 1998-2002. Most recently, Dan starred as 'Macbeth' in the acclaimed Bell Shakespeare production.

# THE CODE

Jesse Banks

Jesse has a kink in the wiring. The closest anyone's come is Asperger's, but even that's not a perfect fit. As funny and bright as he is socially challenged, Jesse has channelled his talents into hacking – a small pocket of the world where he can truly shine.

Ashley Zukerman

is Jesse Banks



Ashley Zukerman graduated from the VCA in 2006. He is best known in Australia as Snr. Cnst. Michael Sandrelli in **RUSH**, which earned him a Logie nomination for Most Outstanding New Talent.

Other television credits include major recurring roles in Fox's **Terra Nova** and the Nine Network's **Underbelly: Squizzy**, a multi-episode arc for HBO's miniseries **The Pacific** and guest roles in **Mr & Mrs Murder** for Network 10, ABC's

**Lowdown** and **The Slap**, and independent feature films **Blame** and **Bushweed**.

Theatre credits include **Angels In America** and **As You Like It** for Belvoir Street Theatre, **The History Boys** and **The Hypocrite** for MTC, **This Is Our Youth** for Inside Job Productions, of which Ashley is a founding member, and **BC** for The Hayloft Project for which he received a Green Room Award for Best Male Supporting Performer.

Ashley has recently been cast as one of the leads in WGN America's 13 part series **Manhattan**. The show, from writer Sam Shaw and director Thomas Schlamme is set during the clandestine mission to build the world's first atomic bomb and will go into production in March 2014.

# THE CODE

Hani Parande

Hani is a hardcore hacker. She's been busted one too many times, and is now paying the price by 'helping' the authorities. Hani's family is from Iran – she left when she was young and sits in the impossibly tricky position of loyalty to two cultures that hardly know each other. Hani has never been good with authority and there's no saying she's about to start now.

Adele Perovic



is Hani Parande

Best known for her highly praised role as *Lone-Wolf Eva* in the Fox8 television series **SLIDE**, Adele will next be seen in the feature film **Fell** starring Jacqueline McKenzie, Matt Nable and Daniel Henshall.

Receiving the Australian Acting Academy Scholarship in 2005, Adele graduated from the University of Southern Queensland with a Bachelor of Theatre Arts in 2010.

Since graduating Adele has featured in shorts **You Can Be Here** and **Joy Of Sex** by Daniel Whelan and Sam Dixon, and the ABC2 television series **The Strange Calls**.

On stage, Adele recently starred in **Eight** for Exhibit: A Theatre.

# THE CODE

Perry Benson

Owner of *Password*, equal parts Peter Pan and Bret Easton Ellis, Perry has built a small empire on cheap jokes and poor taste – because so much of the real world is just too ridiculous to take seriously much of the time. His news site is part parody, part politics. Perry is about to get a story that will drag him kicking and screaming into broadcasting the truth.

Adam Garcia



is Perry Benson

His theatre credits include Foreman in *Tap Dogs* (Novello Theatre), Chip in *On the Town* (Théâtre du Châtelet Paris and ENO at the London Coliseum), Fiyero in *Wicked* (Apollo Victoria Theatre), Protagonist in *Death: or The Playground* (Stella Adler Theatre Los Angeles), Tyler in *Where Do We Live* (Royal Court Theatre), Chris in *Cadillac Ranch* (Soho Theatre), Tony Manero in *Saturday Night Fever* (London Palladium. Olivier Award

for Best Actor nomination), Young Al in *Birdy* (Comedy Theatre), Doody in *Grease* (Dominion Theatre) and Slide in *Hot Shoe Shuffle* (Queen's Theatre). He has just been playing the role of Bill Calhoun in Trevor Nunn's Chichester Festival Production of *Kiss Me Kate* that transferred into the West End. Adam was nominated as Best Supporting Actor in a Musical at the 2013 Olivier Awards for his performance.

Television includes **Camp** (NBC/Universal), **Threesome** (Comedy Central), **The Best Possible Taste** (BBC4), **Got To Dance** (Sky1), **House** (NBC/Universal), **:30 Seconds** (Comedy Channel), **Flight of the Conchords** (HBO), **Hawthorne** (Sony), **Britannia High** (ITV), **Mr Eleven** (ITV), **Doctor Who** (BBC), **Riot at the Rite** (BBC) and **Miss Marple - Body in the Library** (Granada).

Films include **A Woman Called Job**, **Every Emotion Costs**, **Standing Still**, **Kangaroo Jack**, **Loves' Brother**, **Fascination**, **The First \$20 Million is Always the Hardest**, **Coyote Ugly**, **Riding in Cars with Boys**, **Bootmen** and **Wilde**.

# THE CODE

Sophie Walsh

After finishing University with Ned, Sophie bolted up the career ladder in Parliament House to become the youngest Head of Communications in a government department. Age and gender have meant Sophie has had to work twice as hard to get there. Sophie wrestles with an unfortunate mix of altruism and ambition. Staying there just might cost more morally than Sophie is prepared to pay.

Chelsie Preston Crayford



is Sophie Walsh

Since graduating from Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School in 2008, Chelsie has won high praise and numerous awards and nominations in New Zealand and internationally. Her feature film work includes **Home By Christmas**, directed by Gaylene Preston in which Chelsie played her real life grandmother opposite Martin Henderson, Taika Waititi's **Eagle Vs Shark** (Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival), Anthony McCarten's **Show Of Hands** and Taika

Waititi and Jemaine Clement's latest Sundance hit **What We Do In The Shadows**. Chelsie was awarded *Best Performance in a Short Film* at the 2007 New Zealand Screen Awards for her role in Peter Salmon's **Fog**, winner of the *audience vote* at Cannes Film Festival Critics Week.

Her television credits include the Australian smash hit **Underbelly: Razor**, where her portrayal of notorious Kings Cross madam Tilly Devine won her the Graham Kennedy Award for *Most Outstanding New Talent* at the 2012 Logie Awards. Her other TV credits include **The Mystery Of A Hansom Cab**, **Dripping In Chocolate**, **Hope And Wire** opposite veteran English actor Bernard Hill.

On stage, Chelsie has starred in *Carnival Of Souls* which was staged in Auckland, Perth and Sydney Arts Festivals, Silo Theatre's productions of *Ruben Guthrie*, *That Face* both directed by Shane Bosher and numerous works for The Basement including *The Vagina Monologues*, *Dog Sees God* and her own play *Broken China*. She is currently starring in *Angels In America Part I&II* for Silo Theatre.

She recently debuted as a director with her short film **Here Now** which premiered in the *New Zealand's Best* competition at the New Zealand International Film Festival selected by Alison Mclean. The short film earned her praise as a writer and director, along with a nomination for *Best Actor* in the Show Me Shorts Film Festival.



# THE CODE

Andy King

**Andy has worked Special Forces in hot-spots around the globe. Retired early after a stabbing, he returned to Australia, and with the help of old friend Lyndon Joyce, set up a private security firm, servicing the public and private sectors. Andy is about to become a middleman in a game bigger than he can imagine.**

Paul Tassone

is Andy King



As an actor, writer and director, Paul has had an indelible career in theatre, film and television. After completing a BA in Theatre and Drama from Murdoch University, Paul launched his professional career in 1992 with *Karagiozis Down Under* for the Deckchair Theatre Company.

As an actor, his theatre credits have since included *My Love Plays* for Bastard Amber Theatre, *Escapades* for Umbrella Theatre Company, *The Lift* for the Festival of Perth, David Williamson's *The Club* for Effie Crump Theatre, Stephen Sewell's *Buried* and Buzo's *Slam Dunk*, both for the Black Swan Theatre Company, as well as Moira Buffini's **Silence** at the Enmore Theatre. Paul also co-wrote and performed in the WA Youth Theatre Company's *Obsessions*. In

1994, Paul joined Insomniac Productions in Italy for their tour of *The Lift* and then settled in London to study at the famed Lee Strasberg Institute.

Making his television debut in the 1993 drama **Secrets**, starring Rachel Griffiths, the following year Paul co-hosted the afternoon show **The Buzz** and wrote and starred in the short film **Decaffeinated**. The film won *Best Film* and Paul won *Best Actor* at The WA Film and Video Festival. Following starring roles in two SBS short films, Paul was cast in the sports teen drama **Sweat**, playing the role of *Don "The Don" Majors* opposite Heath Ledger and Martin Henderson.

More television roles followed with **All Saints** (two different roles in two years), **Water Rats**, the Kingswood Country sequel **Bullpit**, the telemovie **Mumbo Jumbo** and roles in the USA Telemovies **First Daughter**, **Silent Predators** and **Airtight**. Paul was next cast in the recurring role of *Eddie Bird* in the series **Love Is A Four Letter Word**.

Cast as the main role of *Nelson Curtis* on Australia's top rating drama **All Saints**, Paul starred in the show for five years. Upon leaving, he starred as Moses in the critically acclaimed low budget film **Men's Group**. He was instrumental to the success of the film, which was awarded *Best Film*, *Best Screenplay* and *Best Actor* at the 2008 Filmink Awards.

The following year saw Paul join the cast of **Home and Away** as series regular *Reverend Hall*, as well as a role in the Oscar short listed short **The Ground Beneath**. He played crooked cop *Dennis Kelly* in **Underbelly The Golden Mile**, before going on to roles in **Rescue Special Ops**, **Packed To The Rafter** and **City Homicide** and telemovie **Panic At Rock Island**.

Currently based in LA, Paul has two feature films in development and the film **Concealed** awaiting release.

# THE CODE

Lyndon Joyce

A federal police officer, Lyndon's worked all over the world. He is tough enough to speak softly, smart enough to play dumb and cynical enough to keep the truth from always going straight upstairs to the boss.

Dan Wyllie



is Lyndon Joyce

Dan's breakthrough role was in the 1990 film **Spotswood** alongside Anthony Hopkins. This was followed by notable film performances in **Muriel's Wedding**, **Romper Stomper**, **Holy Smoke**, **The Thin Red Line**, **Peter Pan**, **Animal Kingdom** and the James Cameron produced **Sanctum**.

Dan's television performances include a leading role in the award-winning series **Love My Way** for which he won the TV Week Silver Logie Award for Most Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series in 2006. Other standout television performances include roles in **Bad Cop**, **Bad Cop**, **Underbelly**, **Two Twisted** and the ABC

series **Bastard Boys** and **Curtin**. He also played the lead role in ABC mini-series **The Shark Net**, an adaptation of the Robert Drewe memoir.

Dan has had a long and close association with Sydney's Company B Belvoir Theatre performing in **The Lieutenant Of Inishmore**, **The Alchemist**, **Suddenly Last Summer**, **Twelfth Night**, **Summer Of The 17th Doll**, and most memorably the international theatre tour of Tim Winton's **cloudstreet** in which he played Fish Lamb.

In 2011 Dan appeared in several feature films including **The Hunter** opposite Willem Dafoe and Sam Neill, the Australian thriller **Bait**, and Rolf de Heer's **The King Is Dead**. He also appeared in the critically acclaimed showcase series **Tangle**, and Network Ten's **Puberty Blues** for which he received an AACTA nomination for *Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama*.

Dan continued his working relationship with the award winning producers John Edwards and Imogen Banks in 2012 by returning to the third series of **Tangle** and appearing in the critically acclaimed series **Puberty Blues** for which he received an ACCTA nomination for *Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama*.

Last year Dan also appeared in Channel NINE's **Underbelly: Squizzy**, the ABC's **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries** and the feature length film anthology of the Tim Winton short stories **The Turning**.

Dan was recently seen in the ABC tele-movie **The Broken Shore** alongside Don Hany and Claudia Karvan, and opposite Richard Roxburgh in the third series of **Rake**. This year he will also be seen in the second series of **Puberty Blues**, and in Rolf de Heer's feature film **Charlie's Country**.

Dan is currently shooting **The Water Diviner**, starring and directed by Russell Crowe.

# THE CODE

Alex Wisham

**Alex teaches in a remote indigenous school. Passionate about the kids and impossible to intimidate... up until now. Alex has a burning addiction to fairness and she will rock the boat no matter the cost.**

Lucy Lawless



**is Alex Wisham**

Lucy Lawless can currently be seen as *Diane*, the girlfriend of Nick Offerman's *Ron Swanson*, on the critically acclaimed comedy **Parks and Recreation**. Lawless did five episodes of the show last season, and is expected to return in the fall. She was also just seen in Academy Award winning director Jane Campion's miniseries **Top of the Lake**.

Before joining the hit NBC comedy, Lucy spent three years working in her homeland New Zealand on the STARZ series **Spartacus**. Lawless' portrayal of the complex and often wicked *Lucretia* delighted critics and fans alike. The show

broke all records for STARZ and turned the network into a top destination for original programming.

Lawless, a New Zealander, rose to international fame through her groundbreaking performance as the title character in **Xena: Warrior Princess**, the cult hit series also executive produced by **Spartacus** producers Rob Tapert and Sam Raimi. She solidified her "fan-boy cred" when she joined the critically acclaimed SyFy Channel series **Battlestar Galactica** as *D'Anna/Number Three*.

In addition to these roles, Lucy has continued to demonstrate her versatility with a wide range of television work, both comedy and drama, in such notable projects as **Flight of the Conchords**, **Curb Your Enthusiasm**, **The L Word**, **CSI: Miami**, **Burn Notice** and **The X-Files**.

In film, she played *Aspen* in Adam Sandler's **Bedtime Stories**, *Mother Superior* in the cult favorite **Bitch Slap**, a dominatrix in **EuroTrip**, and had cameos in Raimi's **Spider Man**, and Tapert's **Boogeyman**.

In 2013 she was on stage performing in two different versions of *Chicago*, playing *Mama Morton* in the Hollywood Bowl Summer Series in Los Angeles and *Velma* in the Auckland Theatre Company's radical reworking for two months at the end of the year back in New Zealand.

Lawless is a member of the board of the Starship Foundation, the fundraising body for the Starship Children's Hospital in her hometown Auckland. She was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2004.

# THE CODE

Randall Keats

**The Prime Minister's Chief of Staff – It's one of the hardest gigs in the house. Hardened by fifteen years of cut-throat politics, Randall knows the location of enough skeletons to keep him safe for the rest of his career, he's just not sure he can stomach it that long.**

Aden Young



is Randall Keats

Aden Young has acquired an impressive list of film, theatre and television credits since his screen debut as a 17th Century French missionary in Bruce Beresford's **Black Robe**. This standout performance exhibited his intuitive approach to acting, and garnered notice and critical acclaim. He then followed this performance up with the action thriller **Sniper**, alongside Tom Berenger. His early credits also include **Love In Limbo**, **Shotgun Wedding** and **Broken Highway**, which screened in official competition at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival.

In 1994, he starred in Paul Cox's **Exile**, and the love quadrangle drama **Metal Skin** for which Aden earned an AFI nomination for Best Actor. He was honoured with the Australian Critics Circle Award for this role.

Other notable performances include, **River Street**, which earned him another AFI nomination for Best Actor, the acclaimed **Cosi**, playing an impish and egotistical theatre director; **Hotel De Love**; **Lucky Country**; Bruce Beresford's **Mao's Last Dancer**; **Cousin Bette**, starring opposite Jessica Lange and Elizabeth Shue, **Collision Course**, **The War Bride** with Anna Friel and Brenda Fricker, and Mark Lee's directorial feature debut, **The Bet**.

In 2004 Aden was seen on stage with the Sydney Theatre Company's sold out season of **Hedda Gabler**, alongside Hugo Weaving and Cate Blanchett. He also toured with the company to New York in 2006. In 2007 Aden appeared in the US television series **The Starter Wife**, alongside Judy Davis, Miranda Otto and Debra Messing. His other television credits include **After The Deluge**, **Two Twisted**, and the multi award winning **East West 101**.

In 2009 Aden appeared in the acclaimed First World War drama **Beneath Hill 60** and Julie Bertucelli's **The Tree** opposite Charlotte Gainsbourg, which was honoured as the closing night film of the 2010 Cannes Film Festival. His more recent film appearances were **Cooktales**, **The Killer Elite** alongside Robert De Niro, **I, Frankenstein** playing the title character and **Frontera**. Recently Aden played the lead in Academy Award winner Ray McKinnon's US series **Rectify** which premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival to favourable reviews. Since then Aden completed filming on the ABC's **Rake** (series 3) alongside Richard Roxburgh.

Behind the camera, Aden has written and directed the award winning shorts **The Order** and **The Rose Of Ba Ziz** starring Hugo Weaving. He has also worked extensively as an editor with the internationally acclaimed filmmaker Paul Cox on several drama and documentary features.

# THE CODE

Ian Bradley

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. He is next in line for the throne – that he will take it is a given, the question is only when. He has a fearsome reputation - fools, whingers, prevaricators – none of them survive long in his company. Bradley is lightning quick and as capable of charm as demolition. That this makes his colleagues nervous, gives Bradley immense pleasure.**

David Wenham



is Ian Bradley

David Wenham has received critical acclaim for his diverse performances in film, theatre and television. He is one of Australia's most respected actors.

Best known internationally as *Faramir* in Peter Jackson's critically acclaimed second and third **Lord Of The Rings** instalments **The Two Towers** and **Return Of The King** in which he shared in the Screen Actors Guild Award®, Broadcast Film Critics Award and National Board of Review Award in the category of Best Ensemble. He has recently appeared in **Oranges And Sunshine** alongside Emily Watson and Hugo Weaving; **Pope Joan**; Baz Luhrmann's **Australia** with Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman and **Public Enemies**

starring alongside Johnny Depp.

David's accolades include Best Actor Awards at the 2003 Australian Film Institute (AFI) Awards, IF Awards, and The Film Critics Circle of Australia (FCCA) for **Gettin' Square**, Best Actor nominations at the AFI Awards for Paul Cox's **Molokai: The Story Of Father Damien, The Bank** and **Better Than Sex**; and a Best Actor nomination at the 1999 FCCA Awards and AFI Awards for his haunting portrayal a psychopath named Brett Sprague in **The Boys** alongside Toni Collette. Some of David's other feature film credits include **300**, in which he worked with director Zack Snyder, **Moulin Rouge!**, **Cosi**, **Married Life**, **Van Helsing**, **The Children Of Huang Shi** and **The Proposition**. David's most recent film is **300: Rise Of An Empire**, reprising his role as 'Dilios'.

David is well known to Australian television audiences as the lovable *Diver Dan* in the award winning ABC TV series **Seachange**, a role that earned him an AFI Award nomination in 1998. He won the same award the previous year for the critically acclaimed ABC TV miniseries **Simone De Beauvoir's Babies**. His recent television credits include **Killing Time**, **Dripping In Chocolate**, Jane Campion's **Top Of The Lake** alongside Elizabeth Moss and Holly Hunter and **Better Man** with Bryan Brown and Claudia Karvan.

Most recently David directed the short film **Commission** featuring Hugo Weaving and Josh McConville. **Commission** will screen as part of the feature film collaboration of iconic Australian writer Tim Winton's **The Turning**. Other contributors include Cate Blanchett, Rose Byrne, Miranda Otto, Richard Roxburgh, Simon Stone, Robyn Nevin and Mia Wasikowska.

# THE CODE

Tim Simons

**A community cop at the pointy end of remote policing, and Alex's ex-partner. He has a love hate relationship with most things – the community, his job, Alex.**

Aaron Pedersen



is Tim Simons

Aaron Pedersen transitioned into acting, after initially training as a journalist at the ABC. Through his work on **Wildside**, **Water Rats**, **MDA**, **Territorians**, **Grassroots**, **Queen of Hearts**, **Black Jack**, **East West 101** and **The Secret Life of Us**, Aaron has been able to champion the changing representation of Indigenous people in Australia. More recently, he played the lead role in the SBS mini-series, **The Circuit**, and starred in the Seven Network series, **City Homicide**. In 2012, Aaron appeared alongside Guy Pearce in two ABC telemovies, **Jack Irish: Bad Debts** and **Jack Irish: Black Tide**.

In 2013 Aaron starred in Ivan Sen's feature **Mystery Road**, for which he is also an Associate Producer. **Mystery Road** screened in Special Presentation at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival. He was also seen in Warwick Thornton's **The Darkside**, and will next appear in the third telemovie **Jack Irish: Dead Point** on the ABC. Aaron's film credits include Suri Krishnamma's **Bad Karma** with Ray Liotta and Dominic Purcell, **Dead Heart**, **Saturday Night**, **Grange**, **Unfinished Business**, **Mimi**, and **Mirror Images**.

Aaron's short documentary, **My Brother Vinnie** is a heartfelt piece that explores Aaron's relationship with his 34-year-old brother Vincent who has a mild intellectual disability and cerebral palsy. The film won the Best Short Documentary award at the Melbourne International Film Festival, was nominated for an IF Award for Best Short Documentary and Aaron received a Deadly Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Film.

His theatre credits include *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Black Swan), *King Lear* (MTC), *Black Medea* (Company B/MTC), *Eating Ice Cream with Your Eyes Closed* (QTC) *The Club* (STC), *Journey To Horseshoe Bend* (Sydney Symphony), *No Way To Forget*, *Harry's War* (Darwin Theatre) and *Conversations with The Dead* (Playbox) winning the 2002 Green Room Award for Best Male Actor in a Leading Role. The same year, Aaron won the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Indigenous Individual Award. In 2005, he was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in *Eating Ice Cream with Your Eyes Closed*. In 2007 and 2013, Aaron received a Deadly Award nomination for Male Actor of the Year and won the award in 2003 and 2011. He was the recipient of the Bob Maza Fellowship in 2007.

# THE CODE

Malcolm Coover

**Malcolm Coover heads up the fastest growing unit of law enforcement in the country. He's one of the few people who have a genuine sense of just how bad things are going to get out there in cyberspace. Holding back that tide means some toes are going to get trodden on and Coover is not above a bit of treading.**

Steve Rodgers



**is Malcolm Coover**

Steve trained as an actor at Theatre Nepean in Sydney's west and has amassed an impressive list of theatre, film and television credits over the last twenty years.

Steve's stage credits include *That Eye The Sky* Burning House Theatre; *Last Cab to Darwin* Pork Chop Productions; *Three Sisters*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, *Democracy*, *The Miser*, *Riflemind* and *Dance Better At Parties* for the Sydney Theatre Company; *Dreams in White* The Griffin. *The Boys Next Door*, *All My Sons*, *Lobby Hero*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Diving for Pearls* and *Humble Boy* Ensemble Theatre; *A Midsummer*

*Night's Dream* and *Macbeth* Bell Shakespeare Company; *The Pillow Man*, *Twelfth Night*, *Night on Bald Mountain*, *Cloudstreet*, *The Blind Giant is Dancing*, *Measure For Measure* and *The Kiss* - Belvoir Street Theatre.

Steve has worked with some of Australia's best screen directors, having appeared in films such as **The Men's Group**, **Bitter and Twisted**, **The Money**, **You Can't Stop the Murders**, **The Bank**, **La Spagnola**, **Oscar and Lucinda**, **Dead Heart** and **Children of the Revolution**. Most recently he filmed **I Want To Dance Better at Parties**, which screened at the Adelaide Film Festival in 2013 and will show on the ABC in 2014. Steve's recent television credits include **Slide**, the Steven Spielberg produced US series **Terra Nova**, **Brothers In Arms**, **Devils Dust**, **A Moody Christmas**, **Paper Giants 2: Magazine Wars** and he recently completed filming alongside Bryan Brown and Sam Neill in ABC TV's new series **Old School**.

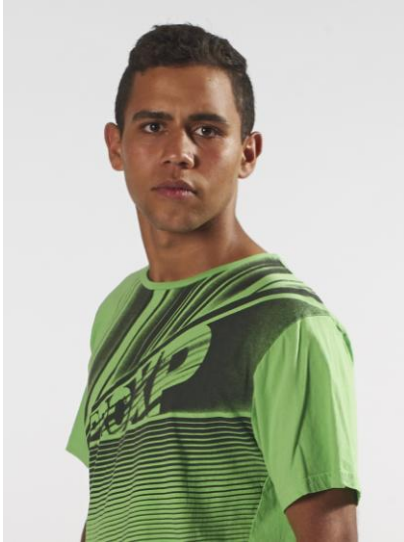
As a writer Steve's first full-length play, *Ray's Tempest*, was short listed for the Patrick White Playwrights' award, nominated for Best New Australian Work for The Sydney Theatre Awards and received two main-stage productions at Belvoir St and the MTC. He then wrote *Savage River*, which was developed by Playwriting Australia and nominated for Best New Australian Work for the Sydney Theatre Awards. It received productions at The Griffin, MTC and the Tasmanian Theatre Company. His most recent work *Food* played at Belvoir St in 2012, La Boite and Geelong in 2013 and will tour extensively throughout Australia in 2014. As well as writing for television and mentoring other writers, Steve has been a proud member of MEAA for over twenty years.

# THE CODE

Clarence Boyd

**A young kid in the wrong place at the wrong time.**

Aaron McGrath



**is Clarence Boyd**

Aaron has been working steadily in film and television for the past 3 years.

He plays the role of *Joseph* in Sarah Spillane's highly anticipated Australian film **Around the Block** and has most recently been seen reprising the role of Joel in **Redfern Now Series 2**.

His burgeoning career also includes the role of *Garadi* in **My Place Series 2**, the title role in documentary **Jackey Jackey**, *Young Odin* in **The Gods of Wheat Street** and Jay in

360 Entertainment's **Your Choice**.

Aaron's other credits include the short film **Destiny in the Dirt** directed by Ella Bancroft and the 2013 *Yellamundie Festival* as part of Moogahlin Performing Arts Inc.



# THE CODE

Shelley Birse

**Creator and Producer  
& writer of episodes 1, 2, 4, 6**



Shelley has written and script edited some of Australia's most respected and award winning television dramas. She began her career on the ABC series **GP**, story editing the final series, and then moved on to co-create, associate produce and co-write the 26 part series **Love is a Four Letter Word**. Shelley has written for **Wildside**, **Young Lions**, **Satisfaction**, **Rush** and **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries**.

Shelley has also worked extensively in children's drama, including the AFI and Logie Award winning and BAFTA nominated **Lockie Leonard**. Her episode won a Best Children's AWGIE award in 2010. She has worked in animation and live action children's series in both Australia and Germany. She wrote extensively for the hugely popular **Blue Water High**, including the publication of a novel based on the series.

In 2011 she was selected to participate in Playmaker's Screen Australia Enterprise funded Scribe Showrunner Initiative.

# THE CODE

Shawn Seet



## Series Director

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

Best-known for his work directing episodes of the celebrated crime television drama franchise **Underbelly**, Shawn has directed episodes of **Underbelly's The Golden Mile**, **Razor**, and the telemovie **Underbelly: Tell Them Lucifer Was Here** and received the 2009 ADG *Best Direction Television*

*Drama Series Award* for his direction of episodes of **Underbelly - A Tale of Two Cities: Business as Usual**.

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

Set-up director for **Love Child** in 2013, Shawn's most recent credits include **Camp** for NBC and **House Husbands** for Channel 9, as well as **SLiDE**, **:30 Seconds**, **Dangerous**, **The Alice**, **Headland**, **Fireflies** and **The Secret Life of Us** and the telefeatures **Loot** and **The Mystery of a Hansom Cab** for ABC TV.

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

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

# THE CODE

## ABOUT PLAYMAKER

PLAYMAKER was established in 2009 to produce writer-driven drama for broadcasters both locally and internationally.

Principals David Taylor and David Maher are award winning and Emmy nominated producers with a combined 45 years of television network, US studio and independent production experience across all genres.

Prior to starting PLAYMAKER, Maher and Taylor headed Fox's Australian television production and development arm, Fox Studios Australia, a respected player in the Australian and international television markets.

Commissioners include all of the Australian commercial television networks, Foxtel, TVNZ, BskyB and the BBC. They have also co-produced and developed programs with some of the UK's leading independent drama companies.

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

PLAYMAKER's SCRIBE program, an initiative to develop show-running talent has produced four original commissioned drama series since it began in 2011, with more to be announced in the coming months. Prior scripted production highlights for the principals include:

**Supernova**, an AFI nominated comedy series and the first original all Australian sitcom produced for the BBC; **Crash Palace**, a primetime serial for networks and News Limited cable platforms internationally; **Love Bytes**, a TV Week Logie nominated anthology co-produced with leading UK independent production company Shine and **Make or Break**, a telemovie for UKTV written and directed by Mike Bullen (*Cold Feet*) and starring Robson Green (*Wire In The Blood*).



L-R David Taylor and David Maher