



DAN SPIELMAN

ASHLEY ZUKERMAN

DAVID WENHAM

LUCY LAWLESS

THE CODE

ENTER & THERE'S
NO ESCAPE

INTRODUCTION

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 that 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 vehicle 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-behaviour bond.

Ned and Jesse Banks are gifted a poisoned chalice when a phone video of the outback accident arrives in their inbox. 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.

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*, *All Saints*), Dan Wyllie (*Rake*, *Puberty Blues*), Lucy Lawless (*Parks and Recreation*, *Xena: Warrior Princess*), Aden Young (*I Frankenstein*, *Rectify*), David Wenham (*Answered by Fire*, *Killing Time*), and Aaron Pedersen (*Jack Irish*, *Mystery Road*).

THE CODE was created by Shelley Birse and written by Birse, Blake Ayshford and Justin Monjo; directed by Shawn Seet (*The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, *Love Child*, *SLiDE*) and produced by Playmaker's David Maher, David Taylor and Shelley Birse. It is executive produced by ABC TV's David Ogilvy, Greer Simpkin and Carole Sklan.

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.

Premieres **Sun 21 September 8.30pm**





Dan Spielman is


NED BANKS

Part-time journalist at online publication 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 has established a reputation as one of Australia's leading theatre, film and television actors. Most recently, he starred in the ABC telemovie, *An Accidental Soldier*, directed by Rachel Ward. Dan has also 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*.

Dan made his feature film debut in Paul Currie's *One Perfect Day* for which he was nominated for an AFI Award and an IF Award for Best Actor. His follow up performance in *Tom White* 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. Recently, Dan starred as *Macbeth* in the acclaimed Bell Shakespeare production.



Ashley Zukerman is

JESSE BANKS

Jesse has a kink in the wiring. The closest diagnosis is Aspergers, 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 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 *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.



Adele Perovic is

HANI PARANDE

Hani is a hardcore hacker. She's been busted one too many times, and is now paying the price. 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 sometimes collide. Hani has never been good with authority and there's no saying she's about to start now.

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.



Lucy Lawless is

ALEX WISHAM

Alex teaches in a remote indigenous school. She's 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 can currently be seen as Diane, the girlfriend of Nick Offerman's Ron Swanson, on the critically acclaimed comedy *Parks and Recreation*. Lawless starred in five episodes of the show last season, and is expected to return. 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 the cult hit series *Xena: Warrior Princess*, 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*.

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 favourite *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.

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.



Aden Young is

RANDALL KEATS

As the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, he has 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 if he can stomach it for that long.

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*. His standout performance exhibited his intuitive approach to acting, and garnered notice and critical acclaim. He then followed 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, the acclaimed *Cosi*; *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 in 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 World War I drama *Beneath Hill 60* and Julie Bertucelli's *The Tree* opposite Charlotte Gainsbourg, which was 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. Since then Aden had a guest role in ABC TV's *Rake* (Series 3).

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.



David Wenham is

IAN BRADLEY

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Bradley is next in line for the throne. That he takes as a given - the only question is 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 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 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* alongside Johnny Depp.

David's awards include Best Actor at the 2003 AFI Awards, IF Awards, and The Film Critics Circle of Australia 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 of psychopath Brett Sprague in *The Boys*. Some of David's other feature film credits include *300*, *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 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*. He also won Best Lead Actor in a TV Drama at the 2006 AFI awards for the ABC miniseries *Answered by Fire*. David's 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* for which he was nominated as Best Guest or Supporting Actor in a Television Drama at the 2014 AACTA awards.

Most recently David directed the short film *Commission* featuring Hugo Weaving and Josh McConville, as part of the feature film *Tim Winton's The Turning*. For this David was nominated with *The Turning's* ensemble of filmmakers for both Best Direction and Best Adapted Screenplay at the 2014 AACTA awards.



Adam Garcia is

PERRY BENSON

Owner of online publication 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. 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's 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, nominated for Olivier Award for Best Actor). Young Al in *Birdy* (Comedy Theatre), Doody in *Grease* (Dominion Theatre) and Slide in *Hot Shoe Shuffle* (Queen's Theatre). He also played 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 credits 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*.



Chelsie Preston Crayford is

SOPHIE WALSH

After finishing university with Ned, Sophie bolted up the career ladder to become the youngest Director 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.

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 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* and *Hope and Wire* opposite veteran English actor Bernard Hill.

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.

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 and II* for Silo Theatre.

She recently debuted as a director with her short film *Here Now* which premiered in 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.



Paul Tassone is

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.

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 in a main role on *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 a series regular 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 Rafters*, *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.



Dan Wyllie is

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'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 a Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series in 2006.

Dan was recently seen in the ABC telemovie *The Broken Shore* alongside Don Hany and Claudia Karvan, and opposite Richard Roxburgh in the third series of *Rake*. He 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 also appeared in *Underbelly: Squizzy*, ABC TV's *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and the second series of *Puberty Blues*.

Other standout television performances include roles in *Bad Cop, Bad Cop*, *Two Twisted* and ABC TV's *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 was also in the feature length film anthology *Tim Winton's The Turning*. He is currently appearing in Rolf de Heer's feature film *Charlie's Country*. Dan has recently completed shooting *The Water Diviner*, starring and directed by Russell Crowe.



Aaron Pedersen is

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 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 recent years Aaron appeared alongside Guy Pearce in three ABC telemovies, *Jack Irish: Bad Debts*, *Jack Irish: Black Tide*, and *Jack Irish: Dead Point*.

In 2013 Aaron starred in Ivan Sen's critically acclaimed feature *Mystery Road* for which he won the Film Critics' Circle of Australia award for Best Actor. He was also seen in Warwick Thornton's *The Darkside*. Other 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* - a heartfelt piece that explores Aaron's relationship with his 34-year-old brother Vincent, who has a mild intellectual disability and cerebral palsy - won the Best Short Documentary award at the Melbourne International Film Festival. It was also nominated for an IF Award for Best Short Documentary and 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) which won him 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 was nominated for a Deadly Award 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.



Steve Rodgers is

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 has amassed an impressive list of theatre, film and television credits over the last twenty years.

His 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* (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's film credits include *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 aired on ABC TV in June. Steve's recent television credits include *SLiDE*, the US series *Terra Nova*, *Brothers in Arms*, *Devil's Dust*, *A Moody Christmas*, *Paper Giants: Magazine Wars* and ABC TV's *Old School*.

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 nominated for Best New Australian Work for the Sydney Theatre Awards. It played 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.



Aaron McGrath

CLARENCE BOYD

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

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

He plays the role of Joseph in Sarah Spillane's highly anticipated Australian film *Around the Block* and recently reprised 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.

EPISODE 1

written by Shelley Birse

Sun 21 September 8.30pm 

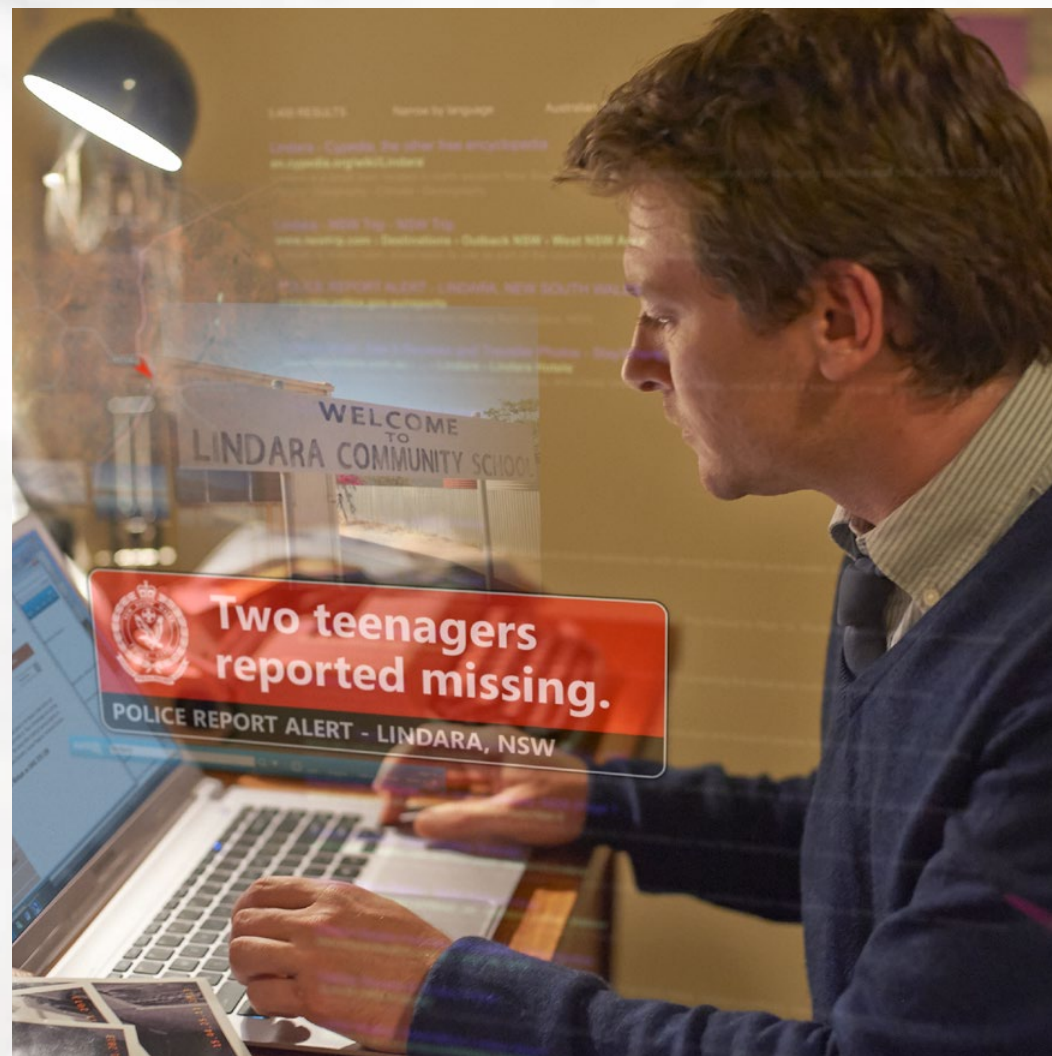
Ned Banks (Dan Spielman) has spent the last ten years juggling a stalling career as an online journalist with caring for his talented but troubled brother, Jesse (Ashley Zukerman).

When Alex Wisham (Lucy Lawless) sends him a video file of an accident in the outback involving two teenagers and a truck from a highly classified research facility, Ned thinks his big break has finally come. But the video file is corrupt.

With Jesse's help, Ned is able to clean up the video, and its contents are shocking. Ned and his boss Perry (Adam Garcia) attempt to publish the video online but the response is immediate and frightening: they're warned to leave the story alone or face serious repercussions.

The prospect of the accident going public is scaring powerful people in Parliament House. The Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, Randall Keats (Aden Young) and Director of Communications, Sophie Walsh (Chelsie Preston Crayford) are directed to feed one of their own Minister's infidelities to the press gallery in an attempt to distract them from the explosive story behind the accident.

However, the swift and stern reaction to the video drives Ned to investigate further, and he books a flight to the accident site - a decision that will have deadly consequences.



EPISODE 2

written by Shelley Birse

Sun 28 September 8.30pm 

As Ned Banks' plane touches down in the remotest corner of the state, he has no idea his brother Jesse is being interrogated by one of the most powerful law enforcement agencies in the country.

The Cyber Crime Unit, headed by Malcolm Coover (Steve Rogers) has been tracking Jesse's online activities and wants to know why he was hacking into a highly classified research facility, what files he downloaded, and who he's working for. They're also keeping 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 who is still seriously ill, and starts piecing together the details of the crash. What becomes clear is that the company who owns the truck is involved in research that they are desperate to keep secret.

Meanwhile, the company is fast distancing itself from its Head of Security, Andy King (Paul Tassone) who has gone rogue following the accident. With access to some of the country's most highly classified material, King is targeted by a whole host of powerful stakeholders radically vested in seeing him silenced.

Among them is Coover from the Cyber Crime Unit, who orders Lyndon Joyce (Dan Wyllie) to help find his old colleague and friend before things get completely out of hand.





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.

CHIEF LAW SERVER



Shawn Seet Series Director

Award-winning director Seet has directed and edited a wide range of popular Australian television series, 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 and Razor*, and the telemovie *Underbelly: Tell Them Lucifer Was Here*. He received the 2009 ADG Best Direction Television Drama Series Award for his direction of the episode *Business as Usual* in the series *Underbelly - A Tale of Two Cities*.

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 this time, *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.

Shawn was set-up director for *Love Child* in 2013, and his 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 tele-features *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.

Playmaker

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

The 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.

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 Logie nominated anthology co-produced with leading UK independent production company Shine; *Make or Break*, a telemovie for UKTV written and directed by Mike Bullen (*Cold Feet*) and starring Robson Green (*Wire in The Blood*).

CONTACT

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