



Screen Australia, Roadshow Films, Memento Films International and Create NSW Present  
In association with  
Oombarra Productions & Bunya Productions

# THE DROVER'S WIFE THE LEGEND OF MOLLY JOHNSON



Written & Directed by Leah Purcell  
95 minutes / Australia / English / Sound 5.1&Stereo

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BUNYA  
PRODUCTIONS



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## LOGLINE

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*The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* is a reimagining of Leah Purcell's acclaimed play and Henry Lawson's classic short story. A searing Australian western thriller asking the question: how far do you go to protect the ones you love?

## SYNOPSIS

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In 1893 on an isolated property, a heavily pregnant woman named Molly Johnson (Leah Purcell) and her children struggle to survive the harsh Australian landscape; her husband is gone, droving sheep in the high country.

Molly then finds herself confronted by a shackled Aboriginal fugitive named Yadaka (Rob Collins). As an unlikely bond begins to form between them, secrets unravel about her true identity.

Meanwhile, realizing Molly's husband is missing, new town lawman Nate Clintoff becomes suspicious and sends his constable to investigate. The deadly encounter between Molly, Yadaka and the constable results in a tragic chain of events with Molly becoming a symbol of feminism and anti-racism.

*The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* is a reimagining of Leah Purcell's acclaimed play and Henry Lawson's classic short story. A searing Australian revenge tale and a stark revisionist Western, *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* offers a powerful new interrogation of Australian history and a universal story of what a mother will do to protect her children.



## A FILM, A STAGE PLAY AND A NOVEL

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*The Drover's Wife* *The Legend of Molly Johnson* is part of Leah Purcell's Indigenous reimagining of Henry Lawson's seminal, 1892 short story, *The Drover's Wife*. It spans theatre, literature and film and sees Purcell literally rewrite white Australian literary history, using Lawson's short story as a Trojan horse to enter the Australian psyche and shift it.

*The Drover's Wife* 'trilogy' is becoming a cultural phenomenon, a movement in its own right and an exploration of mediums that explore the compelling, multilayered richness of the story and Purcell's vision. Purcell's most subversive act may be Molly Johnson herself, whom Purcell has given a name not granted to the titular character of Henry Lawson's short story.

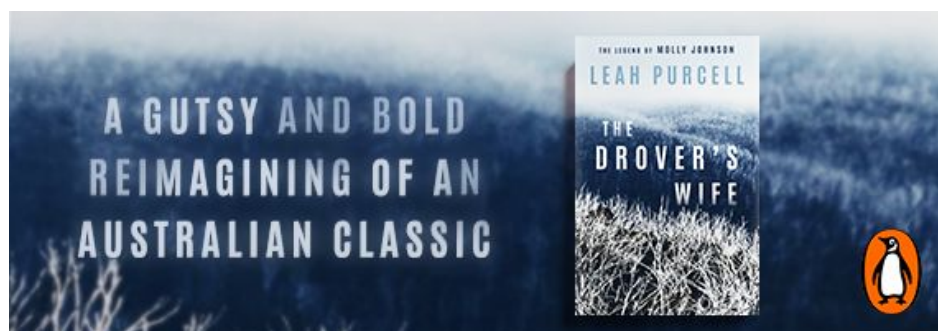
*The Drover's Wife* play (in which Purcell played the title role), premiered at Belvoir Theatre in 2016. The play won Best New Australian Work, Best Play, Best Direction and Best Sound Design at the 2016 Sydney Theatre Awards and Best New Australian Work, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Play at the 2017 Helpmann Awards. The script was awarded Best Stage Play, the David Williamson Prize for Excellence in Writing and the Major Award at the 2017 Australian Writers Guild Awards. It won the Nick Enright Award for Playwriting and the Book of the Year awards at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

*"This post-colonial retelling of The Drover's Wife is an important work. It pauses history's accretion of half-truths and delivers our cherished classics back to us, alive with a new muse."* The Guardian



*The Drover's Wife*, Purcell's debut novel, published by Penguin Random House in 2019, is a best seller in Australia.

*"A harrowing, utterly authentic, brilliantly plotted novel that explores race, gender, violence and inheritance."*  
Better Reading



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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*The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* film is based on my personal experience as a fair-skinned, Aboriginal woman who grew up in a small country town and now lives in the city. I'm a woman brought up by storytellers, within a culture where the tradition of storytelling is passed down and our histories are heard from the Black experience, not from white-washed history books.

As an Aboriginal creator, expressing what it means to be black within today's world through my work in film, television and theatre is vitally important to me. Our traditions can be destroyed, and our languages lost but our stories are ours, and ours to tell. My stories have black influences and I incorporate my own lived experience – of Stolen Generations, Mission oppression and small town racism and bias mentality, both black and white – and those of my ancestors. These are stories rarely considered. And they deserve consideration. I believe it is vitally important that our stories are told by us, for us for all to see and connect with. If I, as an Aboriginal storyteller, can't tell my ancestors' stories truthfully, then who can?

Through my work, I seek to shine a light on the truth of our Australian Aboriginal population. The characters I bring to the screen are not stereotypical, 'traditional looking' Australian Aboriginals and this is a deliberate choice to show both my own people and the wider community that we are as diverse in looks as we are in ways. Our storytelling lives in us still. And through the medium of film they will live long and for all.

The film is a contemporary form of Dreaming, it's a journey belonging to many but all leading to Molly Johnson. This Dreaming is a form of identity and cultural practice of ancient traditions. Through *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson*, this passing down of story is evident and deliberate throughout the film.

'Songlines' are another element of storytelling and I have brought this through the melodics in the contemporary composition of the music you will hear throughout the film. I was excited by the feminine quality that emerged from the score. I and the composer, Salliana Seven Campbell were drawn to a more produced melodic composition and we are influenced by our backgrounds of live music and performing in bands. I am extremely excited by the music – all instruments are played live for the recording by Salliana. I'm also proud of the sound design, it lends itself to the fable quality in the film and plays a significant part in weaving all of the storytelling layers found in the film.

I have had this story embedded in me for 42 years. My mother would read and recite Henry Lawson's *The Drover's Wife* short story to me from when I was five years old. I connected to the story deeply as I saw myself as the oldest son of the drover's wife. I would stop my mother from telling the end of the story and I'd finish it, saying to her the famous last line, 'Ma, I won't never go a drovin'.

*The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* is an action packed, emotionally engaging, Australian Western drama. It will entertain and move people deeply as they connect to the truth in the writing and in the performances. The essence of Henry Lawson's classic short story entwines with factual insight from family diaries about my great grandfather to create a compelling and multilayered yarn.

At my film's core is a mother who will do anything for her children and a young boy who will stand by his mother, no matter what. It's about love, protection, identity and the survival of family with a soul of ancient proportions. The story is intimate and also has an epic feel. It is unique in having as its protagonist an Aboriginal woman.

It's a story rich in themes and the mythology of generational Aboriginal storytelling, which is exciting for me to bring to film. It might be the first attempt of consciously structuring a film to attempt this ancient practice: the oral tradition of passing on knowledge through story.

I chose the genre (Western drama) because it allowed me to depict the true nature of 1893 and to push the truth to its extreme in a deeply felt and cinematic way. This genre allows me the freedom to go there and I feel it is the most powerful way to tell this story.

**Leah Purcell – Writer, Director, Performer**



## **DIRECTOR / WRITER / MAIN ACTRESS - BIOGRAPHY & FILMOGRAPHY**

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Leah Purcell is a proud Goa-Gungarri-Wakka Wakka Murri woman from Queensland, Australia. She is an internationally acclaimed playwright, screenwriter, director, novelist and actor and a cultural icon and activist, whose work stands at the forefront of the Black and Indigenous cultural renaissance and protest movement sweeping Australia and the world. Australian Financial Review named Purcell as one of Australia's Top 10 culturally influential people because '*she allows white audiences to see from an Aboriginal perspective*'.

Purcell is known to audiences internationally for her roles in *Wentworth*, *Redfern Now*, *Jindabyne* and *Lantana*. Her extensive body of work includes: in TV as a director: *Redfern Now*, *Cleverman*, *The Secret Daughter* and *My Life is Murder*, in theatre: *The Drover's Wife*, *Box the Pony* and *Don't Take Your Love to Town*, and in print: *Black Chicks Talking*, *The Drover's Wife* play and *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* novel.

Purcell's status as a cultural force is surreal to the woman who grew up as one of seven kids to a single, black mother in rural Queensland and in her own words was a 'C-average student' before she left as a teenage single mother and found her way to a grassroots theatre company in Brisbane. Self-taught and untrained in acting, Purcell cut her teeth by performing on stage and was awarded the Matilda award for best new talent in 1993.

Considered an Elder within her arts community, Purcell believes it is a privilege and her responsibility to make the most of her position as a storyteller and an ambassador for her community. Her work is political and personal – she casts a truthful, unsparing eye on feminist, Indigenous and First Nation themes and she also embraces personal and universal themes of womanhood, family, love and protection.

Leah's most current work sees her leading the cast of *Wentworth* in the role of Rita Connors for Fremantle and Foxtel. She has been nominated for Best Lead Actor in a Television Series for her work in *Wentworth*, and the series is distributed across more than 90 countries all over the world.

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*.

Leah then 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 Belvoir St. Theatre, the Sydney Opera House, the 1999 Edinburgh Festival and a season at the Barbican Theatre in London 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 includes: *Marriage of Figaro* (QTC) opposite Geoffrey Rush, *The Vagina Monologues*, Dorothy Hewitt's final play *Nowhere* (Melb International Arts Festival), *Beasty Girl: The Secret Life of Errol Flynn* (Melb International Arts Festival) for which she won a Green Room award (2004) for Best Actress; and Neil Armfield's *Stuff Happens* (Company B); then followed *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 and QPAC; *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*, *Don't Take Your Love to Town*, *Radiance* and most recently *The Drover's Wife*.

Film credits include: *Last Cab to Darwin* (dir: Jeremy Sims), *My Mistress* (dir: Stephen Lance), *Lantana* (dir: Ray Lawrence), *Lennie Cahill Shoots Through* (dir: Sarah Lancaster), *Somersault* (dir: Cate Shortland); *The Proposition* (dir: John Hillcoat); and *Jindabyne* (dir Ray Lawrence).

Other television credits include *Janet King series 2*, *Black Comedy*, *Love Child 2 and 3* *Mary: The Making of a Princess House of Hancock*, *Redfern Now 1 and 2*, *My Place*, *Love My Way* *McLeods Daughters*, *Starter Wife*, *GP*, *Water Rats*, *Cleverman*, *Beastmaster*, *The Lost World* and *Bad Cop, Bad Cop*.

*The Drover's Wife* *The Legend of Molly Johnson* was written by and directed by Leah. She stars in the leading role of film, and is a co-producer through her production company Oombarra Productions.

## PRODUCTION COMPANIES

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### OOMBARRA PRODUCTIONS:

Oombarra Productions is Leah Purcell and Bain Stewart's production company. Since 1996, under the banner of Oombarra and its forebear companies, Bungabura and Tahlee Productions, Purcell and Stewart have produced critically and audience acclaimed, iconic, Indigenous theatre, documentary, short film, visual art and publishing, including *Box the Pony*, *Black Chicks Talking* and *She. Say.*

Oombarra Production's current focus is the feature film, *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson*, in post-production. Filmed in late 2019, with the funding support of Screen Australia and Create NSW, it is slated for release in 2021 with Australian Distributor, Village Roadshow. The film is part of the 'Molly Johnson trilogy', which includes a multi-award winning play staged at Belvoir Street Theatre in 2017, and a bestselling novel, published in 2019 by Penguin Random House. The company is in development of a TV series based on *The Drover's Wife*.

Oombarra means Iron Bark Tree in the Indigenous language of the Gunggari.

#### BUNYA PRODUCTIONS:

Bunya has produced and collaborated on a slate of award-winning feature films, all of which have premiered at a top international film festival including: *High Ground* (Berlin), *Sweet Country* (Venice Competition and Toronto Platform) *Goldstone* (Toronto Platform), *Mystery Road* (Toronto), *Jasper Jones* (Shanghai), *Toomelah* (Cannes), *Mad Bastards* (Sundance) and *Satellite Boy* (Berlin and Toronto). In 2021 Bunya will release three features into Australian cinemas including *High Ground* (directed by Stephen Maxwell Johnson), *Loveland* (directed by Ivan Sen and starring Hugo Weaving and Ryan Kwanten) and *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* (written, directed by and starring Leah Purcell).

Bunya's television division produced the 2019 ratings hit *Mystery Road* starring Aaron Pedersen and Judy Davis which broadcast on the ABC, BBC4 and Acorn TV(US), won 5 AACTA Awards including Best Drama Series and won Most Popular Drama at the 2019 TV Week Logie Awards. *Mystery Road* Season 2, starring Aaron Pedersen and Sofia Helin (*The Bridge*) and directed by Warwick Thornton and Wayne Blair, premiered at the 2020 Berlin Film Festival in the Berlinale series section and aired on the ABC in Australia in April 2020. It won the 2020 AACTA Award for Best Drama Series and was the highest rating Australian adult TV drama series on free to air television last year.





## THE CAST

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### **SAM REID as Sergeant Nate Clintoff**

Sam's recent credits include the four-part series *Lambs of God*, alongside Ann Dowd, Essie Davis and Jessica Barden, which won a record number of AACTA Awards, the four-part SBS series *The Hunting* and the feature film *Waiting for the Barbarians* directed by Ciro Guerra.

Sam's additional TV credits include Steve McQueen's pilot *Codes of Conduct* for HBO and *Bloom*. He was one of the leads in *Hatfields and McCoy's* and played 'John Glenn' in ABC's *Astronaut Wives Club*. He can also be seen in ITV prequel *Prime Suspect 1973*.

Sam's feature film credits include a leading role in *Despite the Falling Snow* alongside Rebecca Ferguson, the male lead in *Belle* opposite Gugu Mbatha-Raw, *2:22* with Teresa Palmer and Michel Huisman, *The Limehouse Gollum*, opposite Douglas Booth and Olivia Cooke, Lone Scherfig's *The Riot Club* opposite Natalie Dormer and Sam Claflin, Yann Demange's film *'71* opposite Jack O'Connell, Susanne Bier's *Serena* with Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence and *The Railway Man* opposite Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman. Sam graduated from LAMDA early to appear in Roland Emmerich's *Anonymous*. For the stage, Sam was most recently seen in London in Conor McPherson's *Girl from the North Country*, which played at the Old Vic Theatre and transferred to the West End.

### **JESSECA DE GOUW as Louisa Clintoff**

Jessica De Gouw most recently appeared in *Vienna Blood*, *The Hunting*, and in *The Secrets She Keeps*, produced by Lingo Pictures, and *Fallout*.

In 2018 Jessica appeared in acclaimed ABC telemovie *Riot* alongside Damon Herriman. Prior to that she starred in two seasons of the award-winning WGN series *Underground*, executive produced by Akiva Goldsman and John Legend, the show broke records as the most-watched program on the network. Additionally, she played a recurring role in Billy Ray's Amazon series *The Last Tycoon*. Other TV credits include Greg Berlanti's popular CW series *Arrow* as the DC Comic character "The Huntress". Jessica co-starred in the Australian miniseries *Deadline Gallipoli* and played the co-lead in *Dracula* for NBC. Her earlier Australian TV credits include *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, *Tricky Business*, *Crownies* and *Underbelly*.

Jessica's film credits include *Otherlife* directed by Ben C Lucas, *These Final Hours* written and directed by Zak Hilditch, *The Rezort*, and *Cut Snake* for director Tony Ayres. Jessica recently shot *Gretel and Hansel*.

### **ROB COLLINS as Yadaka**

Born and raised in Darwin, Rob Collins graduated from the National Institute for Dramatic Arts. Rob's Film credits include *Top End Wedding*, *Undertow*, *Dhaka* and *Angel of Mine* and his television credits include *The Wrong Girl*, *Glitch Series 2*, *Cleverman Series 1 and 2*, *Secret City: Under the Eagle*, *Reef Break*, *Upright*, *Total Control* and series two of *Mystery Road*.

Rob's theatre credits include a national tour of *The Lion King* in the role of Mufasa and as Lysander in Sydney Theatre Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



### **ANTHONY COGIN as Robert Parsens**

Anthony (Tony) Cugin has worked extensively in the television and theatre industry. Selected theatre credits include *Hamlet*, *The Torrents*, *Mary Stuart*, *Harp in the South*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, and the award-winning Musical: *Muriel's Wedding* (Sydney Theatre Company); *The Drover's Wife* which received the Sydney Theatre and Helpmann award for best mainstage production (Belvoir); *The Detective's Handbook* (Hayes Theatre); and *Promises Promises* (The Production Company).

Tony's recent television credits include the AACTA award nominated *Dead Lucky*, *Love Child* and *Rake*. His film credits include *A Little TLC Goes A long Way* and *Deck Dogs*.

### **HARRY GREENWOOD as John McPharlen**

Harry Greenwood has appeared for Sydney Theatre Company in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Three Sisters*, *Cloud Nine*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Love and Information* (also Malthouse Theatre) and *Fury*. Other stage credits include Belvoir Street Theatre's *Back at the Dojo*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Once in Royal David's City*.

Harry's film credits include Jennifer Kent's *The Nightingale*, Mel Gibson's *Hacksaw Ridge*, *Kokoda* and the forthcoming *The Dust Walker*. His numerous short film credits include Jane Campion's *The Water Diary* and Peter Carstairs' *Pacific*. On television Harry was recently seen in the Nine Network series *Bad Mothers*. Other TV includes *Gallipoli* and *Old School*.

### **BENEDICT HARDIE as Trooper Leslie**

Benedict is an actor, writer, and director. His recent film credits include *Judy and Punch* written and directed by Mirrah Foulkes, and the worldwide box-office hit *The Invisible Man* by Leigh Whannell. His other film work includes, *Upgrade*, (SXSW audience award winner), *Hacksaw Ridge* (Academy Award winner), *The Water Diviner*, *The Light Between Oceans*, *Strangerland*, *A Single Rider* and *Observance*.

On television, Benedict's credits include *Mr Inbetween*, *The Commons*, *Secret City*, *The Letdown*, *Childhood's End*, *The Outlaw Michael Howe*, *Deadline Gallipoli*, *Molly* and the BBC Mini-Series *The Luminaries*. On stage, Benedict has performed for Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Belvoir, and Bell Shakespeare. With acclaimed independent theatre company, The Hayloft Project, Benedict directed, wrote, devised and performed in numerous award-winning productions including *By Their Own Hands*, *3xSisters*, *The Boat People*, *The Nest* and *Delectable Shelter*.

In 2015, Benedict was a nominee for the inaugural Casting Guild of Australia Sirius Award. Benedict is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts and a member of Actors Equity.

### **MALACHI DOWER-ROBERTS as Danny Johnson**

Malachi Dower-Roberts is an upcoming actor from Sydney. His Mum's family are Kamilaroi and his Dad's family are Bundjalung. He played rugby league for the Junior Bunnies and represented NSW and Nationally in Oztag. He also won a gold medal in Athletics. Malachi is a one of a kind character and has a funny and bright personality. *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* is his first big acting role and he enjoyed the experience immensely.

### **JOBE ZAMMIT as Henry James Johnson**

Jobe Zammit is from Broken Hill. He has a love of most sports, he swims competitively, plays football, participates in motocross, speedway, mountain bike racing and artistic skating. He enjoys going to the river fishing and doing water sports. He also enjoys painting and drawing and he has just started to teach himself how to play the guitar. Jobe enjoys spending time with his Mum, Dad and two brothers. *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* is his first acting role and he can't wait for his next acting opportunity.

### **NASH ZAMMIT as Joe Jr Johnson**

Nash Zammit is from Broken Hill. Nash is a sportsman. Beginning at the tender age of three, he was the youngest swimmer to complete pointscore trophy three years in a row. He races motocross, plays basketball, soccer, football, roller skating, and he has just started mountain bike racing. He enjoys going to the river fishing and doing water sports. Nash is the youngest of three brothers but never lets them win anything without a fight. He has a heart of a lion and never gives up on anything. *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* is his first acting role and he can't wait for his next acting opportunity.

### **AMAHLIA OLSSON as Delphi Johnson**

Amahlia Olsson was born in Port Augusta South Australia. She is an Anungu girl from the Yankunytjatjara tribe in the APY lands. She is the youngest of five siblings with two older sisters and two older brothers. She loves to sing anytime anywhere and is a great artist. She has a great memory and is very imaginative. She has been chosen to say the acknowledgement to country speech at her school assembly three times. As a five-year-old, this was the first time her school had chosen someone so young. Amahlia had no previous acting experience before *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson*.

### **BRUCE SPENCE as Father McGuiness**

Bruce Spence began acting in 1969 as an inaugural member of the revolutionary Australian Performing Group. His theatre credits include *A Cheery Soul*, *The Harp in the South*, *Dinner*, *The Secret River*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Endgame*, and *Under Milkwood* for Sydney Theatre Company; *Twelfth Night*, *Arturo Ui*, *The Servant of Two Masters* and many more for Melbourne Theatre Company. Bruce has appeared in nearly 100 films, some notable examples being *The Dry*, *Ace Ventura Part II*, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, *Finding Nemo*, *The Matrix Revolutions*, *Mad Max II*, *Mad Max III*, *Star Wars Episode III*, *Australia*, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *Mystery Road* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*.

Selected television credits include *Great Expectations: The Untold Story*, *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*, *Twisted Tales*, *Moby Dick*, *Beastmaster*, *Always Greener*, *All Saints*, *Legend of the Seeker*, *Rake* and the award-winning miniseries *Cloud Street*.

### **VICTORIA HARALABIDOU as Elpida Sava**

Equally at home on screen or on stage, Victoria's debut film role was the lead in the Martin Scorsese feature *Brides* along-side Golden Globe winner Damian Lewis. Her performance won her a Best Actress Award at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival. Most recent work for Australian television has been *Barracuda* for which she received a Logie Award nomination for Most Outstanding Supporting Actress, both seasons of the award-winning TV series *The Code*, *Deep Water* and *Hyde and Seek*.

Further small screen work includes *The Leftovers* for HBO, *The Informant*, *My Place*, *East West 101* – seasons 1 and 3 for SBS, *Home and Away*, *All Saints* and *The Strip*. Stage work includes Maria in *Sami in Paradise* directed by Eamon and *Stuff Happens* directed by Neil Armfield for the Belvoir theatre and the role of Mitzi in Agatha Christie's *A Murder Is Announced*. Other film work includes feature *Thirst*. Victoria has worked as dramaturge, assessor and writer at STC, Griffin and other theatres. In 2012 Victoria started her own production company VHS Productions, dedicated to producing and supporting new Australian work by culturally diverse female artists. Victoria's play *One Scientific Mystery or Why did the aborigines eat Captain Cook?* was selected for the 2012 National Play Festival.

### **MAGGIE DENCE as Shirley McGuinness**

Maggie Dence was the first female recipient of MEAA/Foxtel Lifetime Achievement Award. Her illustrious career over a number of decades includes roles in the films *Wake in Fright*, *The Big Wish*, *Look Both Ways* and *Peter Pan*, and in the television programs *Mavis Bramston Show*, *The Sullivans*, *Kingswood Country*, *A Town Like Alice*, *Neighbours*, *Black Comedy*, *Ready for This*, *Frayed* and *The Commons*. Her short film credits include *The Widow*, *Setaceous*, *Granny*, *Inside Water*, *The Mother Solution*, *Strangers*. Maggie began training at the Independent Theatre at the age of 16 and has appeared in numerous productions for companies such as Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir Street, Ensemble, Griffin, Q Theatre, South Australian Theatre Company and Marian Street.

### **NICHOLAS HOPE as Judge Eisenmangher**

Nicholas has worked in film, television and theatre in Australia, Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Spain. His first feature film role as the lead in Rolf De Heer's acclaimed *Bad Boy Bubby* won him the Australian Film Industry Award for Best Actor. He has more recently been seen in *The School*, *Jade of Death*, for which he won Best Actor at the Denver Series-Fest 2018. He played the potential villain in Zanny Begg's *The Beehive* and appears Peter Duncan's series *Fallout* for the ABC. Nicholas also provides the invisible voice *Random and Whacky Children's* Television series.

Nicholas' memoir *Brushing the Tip of Fame* was published in 2005, and he made his writer/director debut with the play *Little Gods* as part of the May Day Festival in 2013. He directed the sell-out production of Joel Drake Johnson's *Four Places* for Outhouse Theatre in July 2014 and directed his own play *Five Properties of Chainmale* for the Griffin Independent season in April 2015. He directed the short film *Like Gold* for The Hub Studios *The Bench Series* (2017), and produced Peter Hanlon's *The Reckoning of Christian Spencer*, currently on the festival circuit.

### **TAMMY MACINTOSH as Marti Murray**

Tammy MacIntosh is well known for her role as Dr Charlotte Beaumont in one of Australia's highest rating television dramas, *All Saints*. Her other television credits include *Crownies*, *Sea Patrol*, *Police Rescue*, *Farscape*, *The Flying Doctors*, *Something In The Air*, *Grass Roots*, *Stingers*, *State Coroner*, *Good Guys Bad Guys*, *Wildside*, *McLeod's Daughters*, *G.P.*, *Chances* and *East West 101*. She was more recently seen in the seventh series of *Wentworth* as Karen Proctor and all three series of *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* as Dr Mac.

In film, she has starred in Gale Edwards' *A Heartbeat Away* and Julia Leigh's *Sleeping Beauty*. Tammy's theatre credits include the Melbourne Theatre Company's production of *Shark Fin Soup*, the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *Private Lives*, and the Ensemble Theatre's *Blinded By The Sun*.

## **SEAN LYNCH as Jonathan Edwards**

Sean Lynch has spent many years working in the Australian film, television and theatre industry as an actor, writer and director. His most recent acting credits include the Vietnam war film *Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan*, the horror/comedy *Bloody Hell*, the television series *The End* as well as the Mel Gibson-directed *Hacksaw Ridge* and the latest *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*.

Sean is also an award-winning screenwriter and director, working both in Australia as well as New York, Dubai and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, Sean helped write and direct the first fictional Afghan police action/drama series *EagleFour* for Afghan television. The series follows an elite Afghan Police unit working to fight crime and insurgency on the streets of Kabul amidst the chaos of war. During his time making *EagleFour* Sean was also lucky enough to mentor and train some great and talented young Afghan filmmakers and writers.



## **PRODUCERS**

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### **BAIN STEWART – PRODUCER**

Bain Stewart is a leading Australian Indigenous independent producer working in film, theatre, TV, visual arts and publishing. Stewart, with Leah Purcell, whom he manages, founded Oombarra Productions in 2011, a successor to Bungabura Productions, founded in 1996. Bain Stewart is a proud Ngugi – Goenpul - Noonuccal Murri Man from Quandamooka in Queensland, Australia. Traditional owner and considered an Elder within his community, Stewart recognises this as a privilege and his and Purcell's responsibility to make the most of their position as storytellers and ambassadors in the community beyond media production.

Stewart generates ideas, stories, creates opportunities and realises them for multiple content platforms and his ambition is for Oombarra to be known for telling stories across books, plays, and screen content. He is



originating producer of *The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson* and Stewart negotiated a publishing deal with Penguin

Random House for Purcell to write a novel of *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson*, now a best seller.

Stewart originated and co-produced *The Drover's Wife* as a play with Belvoir Theatre Company in 2017. The play became a multi award winning critical and audience success, garnering Purcell multiple awards for writing and directing. Stewart is in discussions to take the play to international stages.

Stewart is driving a slate of feature film and TV projects with Purcell, including netball series, *Moxie Girls*, and the *RRG Trilogy: Ruby, Ruthie and Ginibi*, a TV series that chronicles the lives of three extraordinary Black Australian woman: Ruth Hegarty, Ruby Langford and Ruby Hunter.

Stewart has produced award winning books, doco's and plays including *The Drover's Wife*, *Box the Pony*, *The Story of the Miracle's at Cookies Table* and *Black Chicks Talking*. The book *Black Chicks Talking* became an official best seller. From the success of the *Black Chicks Talking* book Stewart leveraged an award-winning documentary film, stage-play and visual arts exhibitions, driving sales as a result of the exposure and profile of the other mediums.

## **DAVID JOWSEY – PRODUCER**

In 2009, David Jowsey formed BUNYA Productions with award winning filmmaker Ivan Sen. BUNYA Productions is an independent production company based in Sydney and the Gold Coast, Australia. David produced *Toomelah* by Ivan Sen, which was selected for the Cannes Film Festival 2011 in Un Certain Regard. David produced the 2011 Sundance selected feature film *Mad Bastards* by Brendan Fletcher and also *Satellite Boy* by Catriona McKenzie which premiered at the 2012 Toronto Film Festival and had its European premiere in the Generation section at Berlin 2013. David produced Ivan Sen's next feature *Mystery Road* which received a Special Presentation at the 2013 Toronto Festival. In 2015 David produced *Jasper Jones* based on the best selling novel and directed by Rachel Perkins, as well as Ivan Sen's *Goldstone* which premiered at the 2016 Toronto Festival "Platform" Section. David Jowsey produced *Sweet Country* directed by Warwick Thornton, which won the Special Jury Prize at the 2017 Venice Film Festival and the Platform Prize at the 2017 Toronto Film Festival. In 2018 David Jowsey produced the multi award winning TV series *Mystery Road*. David produced *High Ground* in 2019 which premiered with a special gala at Berlin 2020. Across 2019 and 2020 he produced a second series of *Mystery Road*, as well as the features *Loveland* by Ivan Sen and *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson* by Leah Purcell.

## **GREER SIMPKIN – PRODUCER**

Greer Simpkin joined Bunya Productions as Producer and Head of Television in March 2015 after many years working in editorial and production roles in broadcasting – ABC (Australia) and Channel 4 (UK).

Since joining Bunya, Greer has produced the award-winning television drama series *Mystery Road* (series 1 and 2) and the award-winning feature films *Sweet Country* and *Goldstone*. Greer was an Executive Producer on the feature film *Jasper Jones*. She was a producer on the feature film, *High Ground*, starring Simon Baker which screened as a Gala Presentation at the 2020 Berlin Film Festival, Ivan Sen's *Loveland* and Leah Purcell's *The Drover's Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson*.

Prior to joining Bunya, Greer was Deputy Head of Fiction at ABC Television. Greer was instrumental in commissioning a large slate of new dramas and narrative comedies including *The Code*, *The Slap*, *Rake*, *Jack Irish* and *Mabo* and was an Executive Producer of *The Code*, *Parer's War*, *Serangoon Road* and *The Secret River*.

## ANGELA LITTLEJOHN – PRODUCER

Prior to returning to New Zealand in 2000, Angela spent 15 years in the UK working in the film and television industry. She worked for 6 years as Drama Co-Production Executive and Programme Finance Manager at Channel 4 and Film4. Films made during her tenure included *Trainspotting*, *Secrets and Lies*, *Brassed Off*, *Welcome to Sarejevo* and Ken Loach's *Carla's Song*. TV Drama included *Queer as Folk*, *Anna Karenina*, *Sword of Honour*, *Longitude* and *Shackleton*.

Since returning to New Zealand she has produced feature films *Show of Hands*, *Apron Strings* and *Separation City*. She line-produced *Slow West* starring Michael Fassbender, Kodi Smit-McPhee and Ben Mendelsohn which won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2015. She was development and executive producer on *The Changeover* 2017. Her TV producing credits include the acclaimed TV drama series *Cleverman* Season 1 and 2, a NZ/Australian co-production with Rosemary Blight from Goalpost Pictures, Channel 4's BAFTA winning *Not Only But Always* and NZ on Air Platinum Funds tele-features *Tangiwai*, *Rage*, *Pirates of the Airways*, *Field Punishment* and TV drama series *Harry*. She was Series Producer on pre-school animation TV series *Kiddets* Season 1, the first NZ/China official TV co-production made by Richard Taylor's TV production arm Pukeko Pictures. In 2019 she joined Bunya Productions in Australia and produced Ivan Sen's feature film *Loveland*, and Leah Purcell's, *The Drovers Wife The Legend of Molly Johnson*. Both films due to release in 2020.

Angela has recently returned to NZ and joined forces with fellow producer Desray Armstrong and is currently in production on two feature films - Matthew J Saville's *Juniper* and Michelle Savill's *Millie Lies Low*.



## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - Mark Wareham

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Mark Wareham's extraordinary list of cinematography credits span feature films, television movies, mini-series, documentaries, music clips and commercials. Mark's feature films include *The Second*, *Don't Tell*, *Jasper Jones*, *A Month of Sundays*, *Felony* and the Sundance hit *Clubland*. His series credits range from projects as

diverse as the 2018 Camerimage selected mini-series *Mystery Road*, political thriller *Secret City: Under the Eagle*, for which he received an AACTA nomination for best cinematography in television 2019, sci fi series *Cleverman*, forensic drama *Harrow*, action adventure series *Wanted*, the highly acclaimed mini-series *Redfern Now*, season 4 of the AMC/Sony series *Preacher* and the recent Netflix series *Clickbait*. Mark also has an impressive list of action unit and second unit credits including *Anacondas*, *The Condemned*, *Triangle*, the Japan unit of *The Wolverine* and the Mandarin language romantic action adventure blockbuster *The Whistleblower*.

## **MUSIC COMPOSER - Salliana Campbell**

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Salliana is a freelance multi-instrumentalist performing on 5 String Violin, Nyckelharper, Octave Mandolin, Baritone Bowed Psaltry, Piano, Hammered Dulcimer, Hurdy Gurdy and Vocals. Salliana studied at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music which was where she met her bandmates of Tulipan whose achievements include an Aria nomination for their debut album, two European tours, North American Tour and winning Triple J's Unearth the World. She has performed with Bernard Fanning, Powderfinger, Kate Miller Heidke, Russell Morris, Kasey Chambers, Grant McLennan, Michael Leunig, Lior, Annie Lee (Kransky Sisters), Shane Nicholson, Brian Cadd, William Barton, Katie Noonan, Tyrone Noonan, Gyan, Geraldine Turner, Deep Blue Orchestra, Women in Voice, The Red Tree (QPAC), QLD Cabaret Festival, The Ten Tenors, Il Divo, Patrizio, QTC productions Grimm Tales (2010), QTC 1001 Nights (2013) and The Gothic Symphony (2010) .

Salliana has written soundtracks, string arrangements and recorded for La Boîte, Queensland Theatre Company, various short films/documentaries, Bernard Fanning, Russell Morris, Kate Miller-Heidke and countless independent bands. Her latest composition *Nightingale Floor* is a 20min piece for string orchestra and showcases each of the stringed instruments she plays. Her own band Speed of Purple has toured nationally and released their debut album "Beautiful Things" in 2008. In 2018 Salliana composed, recorded and performed the score for two debut theatre productions both premiered at QPAC. *DUCK* a QPAC production and Shake and Stir's *A Christmas Carol*.

## **COSTUME DESIGNER - Tess Schofield**

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Tess is a costume designer who works across film, television, opera and theatre. Tess has been awarded five AFI (now AACTA) Awards for Best Costume Design in a Feature Film and been nominated for, and won, Green Room, Helpmann and Sydney Theatre Critics Awards for her costume design in opera and theatre. Tess designed costumes for Hoodlum Entertainment's *Harrow* series 1 and *Tidelands*, ABC's *The Letdown* and BBC / Foxtel Television's *The Kettering Incident*.

Tess won the AACTA award for best costume design for *The Water Diviner*. Tess also designed costumes on the feature film *Dance Academy The Movie* and received an AACTA nomination for best costume. Tess designed the costumes for *The Sapphires*. Tess won an AACTA for Best Costume Design for her work on the film. Tess won AFI's for Best Costume Design for her work in the feature films *Spotswood*, *Dirty Deeds* and *Bootmen* and she received a nomination for *Mr Reliable*. Tess costume designed feature films *Così*, *Radiance*, *Diana And Me*, *Subterano*, *Greenkeeping* and *Unfolding Florence*. Tess's opera costume design includes: *La Traviata* for Opera Australia; *Sweeney Todd* for the Lyric Opera Chicago and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and *Peter Grimes* for Opera Australia and Houston Grand Opera. Theatre work includes *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *The Diary of a Madman* both of which travelled to BAM in New York. Tess has worked extensively at Belvoir and Sydney Theatre Company in Sydney highlights include: *The Secret River*, *Namatjira*, *The Wild Duck*, *The Adventures of Snugglespot and Cuddlepie* and *Little Ragged Blossom*, *Cloudstreet* (Including World Tour), *Toy Symphony*, *The Judas Kiss*, *The Seagull*, *Riflewind*, *The Great*, *Far Away* and *Victory*.

## EDITOR - Dany Cooper

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Dany Cooper is one of Australia's best known and most respected editors. Dany's recent credits include Blue Tongue Films' *Judy + Punch* (dir. Mirrah Foulkes), which has earned Dany her tenth ASE Award nomination as well as an AACTA nomination, it had its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival; as well as *I am Woman* (dir. Unjoo Moon, 2019) the highly anticipated Helen Reddy biopic for Goalpost Pictures which bowed at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival. Dany edited Causeway Film's *Cargo* (dir. Ben Howling, Yolanda Ramke/ Causeway Films, 2018); Simon Baker's *Breath* (See Pictures, 2018) and Jim Loach's *Measure of a Man* (Taylor Lane Productions, 2018). Other credits include Neil Armfield's *Holding the Man* (2015) with Goalpost Pictures, *Deadline Gallipoli* (dir. Michael Rymer/ Matchbox Pictures, 2015), series one and two of *Redfern Now* (Dir. Catriona McKenzie, Wayne Blair/ Blackfella Films, 2013) and the series *Puberty Blues* (dir. Glendyn Ivin/ Souther Star, 2013). Dany edited the hit film *The Sapphires* for Goalpost Pictures (dir. Wayne Blair, 2012), which screened at Cannes 2012 and opened MIFF as well as screening at Telluride and Toronto in which she received an ASE Award Nomination and won the AACTA Award for Best Editing.

She was nominated for a 2004 Emmy Award for her work on the TV miniseries *Battlestar Galactica*. Other US work includes television pilot *Haunted USA* (, *Queen of the Damned* (dir. Michael Rymer/ Warner Bros., 2002), *The Monkey's Mask* (dir. Samantha Lang, 2000), and *In Too Deep* (dir. Michael Rymer, 1999) for Miramax. Dany was nominated for AFI Awards for *The Well* (dir. Samantha Lang/ Southern Star, 1997), *Candy* (dir. Neil Armfield/ Sherman Pictures, 2005), *Beneath Hill 60* (dir. Jeremy Sims/ Paramount, 2009), which won the Film Critics Circle of Australia Award and the ASE Award and *Angel Baby* (dir. Michael Rymer/ Meridian Films, 1994), for which Dany won the AFI Award. She was also nominated for an AACTA Award for *Oranges and Sunshine* (dir. Jim Loach/ SeeSaw Films, 2010).



## PRODUCTION DESIGNER - SAM HOBBS

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Sam Hobbs is a production designer and art director whose feature film credits include *Little Monsters*, directed by Abe Forsythe, *Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan*, directed by Kriv Stenders, and the earlier films *September* and *Deck Dogz*. His television work includes *Les Norton*, *The Kettering Incident*, *Pulse*, *Janet King* and *Old School*.



## MAKE UP/HAIR DESIGN - JENNIFER LAMPHEE

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Jennifer Lamphee works on Australian and international productions with credits including *Les Norton*, *I, Frankenstein*, *The Wolverine*, *Rogue*, *Pacific Rim: Uprising*, Rachel Ward's new feature film *Palm Beach*, *Secret City*, *Mr Inbetween* and Bruce Beresford's *Ladies in Black*, for which she won the 2018 AACTA feature film award for Best Hair and Makeup.

## KEY CREDITS LIST

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### Cast:

MOLLY JOHNSON - Leah Purcell  
YADAKA - Rob Collins  
NATE CLINTOFF - Sam Reid  
LOUISA CLINTOFF - Jessica de Gouw  
TROOPER LESLIE - Benedict Hardie  
ROBERT PARSENS - Tony Cogan  
JOHN MCPHARLEN - Harry Greenwood  
DANNY JOHNSON - Malachi Dower-Roberts  
JOE JUNIOR - Jobe Zammit-Harvey  
HENRY JAMES - Nash Zammit-Harvey  
DELPHI - Amahlia Olsson  
JUDGE EISSENMANGHER - Nicolas Hope  
FATHER MCGUINESS - Bruce Spence  
MISS SHIRLEY MCGUINESS - Maggie Dence  
MARTI MURRAY - Tammy McIntosh  
MR EDWARDS - Sean Lynch  
ELPIDA SAVA - Victoria Haralabidou

### Creatives:

DIRECTOR - Leah Purcell  
WRITER - Leah Purcell  
PRODUCERS - Bain Stewart, David Jowsey, Angela Littlejohn, Greer Simpkin, Leah Purcell  
EXECUTIVES PRODUCERS - Neil and Hamish Balnaves @ The Balnaves Foundation, Anna Cerneaz and Graeme Wood @ Artology, Helen and Margaret Kirby, Ann Sherry, Andrew Wareham and Cecilia Ritchie  
CINEMATOGRAPHER - Mark Wareham  
EDITOR - Dany Cooper  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER - Sam Hobbs  
COSTUME DESIGNER - Tess Schofield  
HAIR and MAKEUP DESIGNER - Jennifer Lamphee  
COMPOSER - Salliana Seven Campbell  
CASTING - Nikki Barrett