

South Australian Writers and Directors



South Australian **Film Corporation**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
FILM CORPORATION



Acknowledgement of Country

The South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) acknowledges that we work on the traditional Country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains, and we pay respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, spiritual beliefs and relationship to land and waters and acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today. We extend this respect to other First Nations Language Groups and other First Nations.

Introduction

For more than 50 years the SAFC has supported, connected, and championed South Australian creative talent making and sharing South Australian stories on screen.

This brochure highlights just some of the diverse range of writing and directing talent in South Australia creating world-class film and TV productions – from BAFTA nominated feature films and those selected for premiere at Cannes, Sundance, Venice and Berlin, to internationally acclaimed series and global box office hits.

Find more South Australian screenwriters, directors, producers, creatives, crew and service providers in the SAFC's online SA Crew & Services Directory.

[SA Crew & Services Directory](#) →

Alies Sluiter

Writer/Director

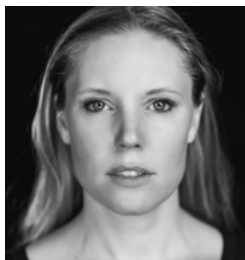
CREDITS

Aftertaste S2E5 (Director)

Boy on Fire (Writer/Director)

Myth (Writer/Director)

Ayaan (Writer/Director)



Alies Sluiter is an award-winning screenwriter and director who most recently directed an episode of the

second season of hit ABC comedy series *Aftertaste*, starring Rachel Griffiths and Erik Thomson.

For her short films, Alies has drawn domestic and international acclaim. *Ayaan* was longlisted for an Academy Award and screened worldwide, winning more than 30

awards including an ADG Award, Best International Short at Show Me Shorts Festival, Best Short Fiction at the ATOM Awards and Best Short Film at CinefestOz.

Her second short, *Myth*, took home the ADG Award for Best Direction in a Short, and won the Rebel8 Outstanding Emerging Female Director Award at the 2023 Flickerfest International Short Film Festival. Prior to becoming a director, Alies worked as a violinist and an AACTA nominated film

and TV composer. She has several feature films and TV series currently in development.

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Anna Lindner

Writer

CREDITS

The Sandcastle (in development)

A Beginner's Guide to Grief

It's Fine, I'm Fine



A Beginner's Guide to Grief



Anna Lindner is writer, creator and star of AACTA award winning dark comedy series *A Beginner's Guide to Grief* (SBS/

Viceland), which also saw her nominated for an Australian Writers Guild Award (AWGIE) and C21 Content London International Drama Award.

She is part of one of three filmmaking teams selected for the 2024 Film Lab: New Voices feature film initiative from the South Australian Film

Corporation (SAFC), Adelaide Film Festival (AFF) and Screen Australia as co-writer/director on *The Sandcastle*.

She is also the winner of the 2024 Adelaide Film Festival/Samstag Museum of Art \$100,000 Moving Image Commission, after being a selected artist for the Adelaide Film Festival 2023 EXPANDLab. She penned two episodes of AACTA award nominated comedy-drama series *It's Fine, I'm Fine* (SBS), which premiered in Competition at Cannes after receiving official selection at

CanneSeries 2022. As an artist, Anna finds great inspiration and curiosity in cultural taboos, mythology, folklore and the nature of the invisible.

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Craig Behenna

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Scarygirl (Writer)

OH YUCK! (Writer)

The New Adventures of Figaro Pho (Writer)

One Eyed Girl (Writer)



As a writer, producer and director, Craig Behenna most recently wrote the production draft for the animated feature

Scarygirl, starring Sam Neill and Anna Torv. His first live action feature, *One Eyed Girl* (written with Nick Matthews), won the Jury Award at the 2014 Austin Film Festival and was released in cinemas and on Netflix USA/EU/Australia.

Craig has written for animated and

live action TV including the *Figaro Pho* series, which won Best Children's TV on three continents – KidScreen New York, The Asian TV Awards and the AACTA Awards. He was the lead Australian writer for the live action/animation series *OH YUCK!* with Flying Bark Productions.

Craig's development and consultation includes story consult on Dev Patel's directorial debut *Monkey Man* (Universal / Bron Studios), development with Flying Bark Productions (Sydney),

Studio Bozzetto (Milan), POP Family Entertainment (Sydney) and work with other companies in Australia and Los Angeles.

FIND OUT MORE

IMDB →

Website →

CONTACT DETAILS

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Daniel J. Phillips

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Diabolic (Writer/Director, in development)

Awoken (Writer/Director)

Relesae (Writer/Director)

The Martyr (Writer/Director)



Awoken



Daniel J. Phillips is an award-winning film director. He studied Screen Production at Flinders University and freelanced as a

Director in Sydney for several years before returning home to Adelaide, South Australia to found Anomaly, a full-service creative agency.

Dan has directed over 100 TV commercials and online videos for clients worldwide, with his commercial portfolio including

work for Mitsubishi, Coopers, Great Southern Rail, and Renault.

In 2019, Daniel's debut feature film, *Awoken*, starring Erik Thomson, Sara West and Benson Jack Anthony, was released in 26 countries, securing a sale to Disney subsidiary Hulu in the US.

Daniel was one of the recipients of InDaily's prestigious "40 under 40" awards in 2020.

He is also a partner of Sunjive Studios Adelaide, the largest privately owned

film studio complex in Australia. Daniel is now preparing for his second feature film *Diabolic*, that will commence shooting in 2024.

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Danny Philippou

Writer/Director

Michael Philippou

Director

CREDITS

Bring Her Back

Talk To Me



Filmmaking twin brothers Danny and Michael Philippou's debut feature film *Talk To Me* took the world by storm,

making its international premiere at Sundance Film Festival 2023 and screening at Berlinale, SXSW and Adelaide Film Festival.

The film was acquired by A24 and has since become their highest-grossing horror film and second highest-grossing film overall,

bringing in over \$92 million USD in the box office worldwide. *Talk To Me* has won countless awards including AACTA Awards for Best Film, Best Direction and Best Screenplay and a Saturn Award for Best Horror Film.

The pair made their start as RackaRacka, online purveyors of comic horror and action. Their Youtube videos have been watched over 1.5 billion times and have amassed over 6.6 million subscribers. Named one of Variety's 2016 Fame Changers and ranked

fifth on Financial Review's Cultural Power List, the brothers have won numerous awards for their online work, including Best Overall at the Online Video Awards and the AACTA Award for the Best Web Show.

FIND OUT MORE: DANNY

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FIND OUT MORE: MICHAEL

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Erin White

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Under the Vines S1, S2 & S3 (Writer/Director)

Paper Dolls (Director, three episodes)

Wellmania (Director, four episodes)

The PM's Daughter (Director, five episodes)

Doctor Doctor S4 & S5 (Director, four episodes)



Erin White is a multi-award-winning writer and director whose work is characterised by nuanced and emotionally truthful performances, arresting visuals and seamless storytelling.

She is the creator of *Under The Vines* for AcornTV and TVNZ. In recent years, Erin has directed episodes of *Paper Dolls* for Paramount+/Helium Pictures, kids' series *The PM's Daughter* for ABC/Fremantle Australia and she was

the set-up director for *Wellmania* for Netflix/Fremantle Australia.

In 2020, Erin returned to Easy Tiger's *Doctor Doctor* S5 to direct two episodes for the Nine Network, after completing a block on *Doctor Doctor* S4 in 2019.

Her short *Dugong* screened in competition at Sundance and Aspen and was the winner of the Flickerfest and St Kilda Film Festival best screenplay awards. *Dugong* was nominated for two AFI Awards for Best Short Film and Best Screenplay,

and an Australian Directors' Guild Award.

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Hannah Kent

Writer

CREDITS

Run Rabbit Run



Hannah Kent is the bestselling author of *Burial Rites*, *The Good People*, and *Devotion*. She lives and works on

Peramangk and Kurna Country in South Australia.

Her original feature film, *Run Rabbit Run*, directed by Daina Reid and starring Sarah Snook, premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and was also selected for the Sydney Film Festival, with Netflix

acquiring a majority of global rights. Hannah is also writing screenplays for *The Good People* and *Devotion*.

Hannah co-founded the Australian literary publication *Kill Your Darlings*, and has written for *The New York Times*, *Vogue Australia*, *The Saturday Paper*, *The Guardian*, the *Age*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Meanjin*, *Qantas Magazine* and *LitHub*.

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Indianna Bell

Writer/Director

Josiah Allen

Director

CREDITS

You'll Never Find Me

Call Connect

The Recordist



You'll Never Find Me



Indianna Bell and Josiah Allen are an emerging directorial partnership based in South Australia.



Their debut feature *You'll Never Find Me*, also written by Indianna, premiered at the 2023 Tribeca Festival as part of the Midnights Section. It

travelled to Sitges, Fantastic Fest and Melbourne International Film Festival,

won Best Feature at SXSW Sydney 2023 and received a five star review from The Guardian.

Previously Josiah and Indianna's short drama *Call Connect* and psychological thriller *The Recordist* won the Jury Prize for Best Narrative Short at Austin Film Festival two years in a row. Indianna was also listed as one of the festival's "25 Screenwriters to Watch" in 2020.

FIND OUT MORE: INDIANNA

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[Website](#) →

FIND OUT MORE: JOSIAH

[SA Crew & Services Directory](#) →

[IMDB](#) →

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Kelly Schilling

Writer/Director

CREDITS

With or Without You
(Writer/Director)

*Gymnastics Academy: A
Second Chance* (Writer)

Maverix (Writer/Director)

*Two Twisted 'Delivery
Man'* (Writer/Director)

*Two Twisted 'Grand
Final'* (Writer)



With or Without You



Kelly Schilling is an AFTRS graduate and writer/director across film, television and online series. Her debut feature film

With or Without You, starring Marta Dusseldorp, Melina Vidler and Albert Mwangi, will premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival in October 2024.

Kelly has directed and written on a number of TV shows, including ABC/Netflix series *Maverix* and the Bryan Brown/Network Nine

Two Twisted series. She has won and been nominated for a mix of awards for her films and her writing, and has been attached to notable directors, including Phillip Noyce.

Kelly aims to create stories that find the extraordinary within the ordinary, and that give people hope. She is naturally drawn to creating and collaborating on adult/family dramas, love stories, comedies and thrillers – though is very open to exploring new avenues.

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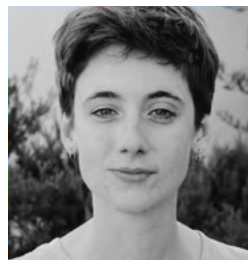
Lucy Campbell

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Monolith (writer)

The Big Nothing (director)



Having cut her teeth working as a script editor and coordinator for series including *Firebite* (AMC+),

Stateless (ABC/Netflix) and *Wolf Creek S2* (Stan), Australian writer and director Lucy Campbell has had shorts in festivals worldwide, and her series *The Big Nothing* has over one million views on Dust.

Her debut feature screenplay *Monolith*, directed by Matt Vesely,

had its international premiere at SXSW Film Festival 2023 and has played at festivals worldwide including AFF, MIFF, SXSW Sydney, Sitges Film Festival, Overlook Film Festival and Frightfest. Lucy won the Australian Writers' Guild John Hinde Award for Excellence in Science-Fiction Writing for *Monolith*, which was also nominated for Best Indie Film at the AACTAs and the film prize at Cinefest Oz. She is currently developing projects in Australia and the US.

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Kristian Leadbeater

Writer

CREDITS

Gymnastics Academy: A Second Chance

A Second Chance: Rivals (Additional Story)

Going for Gold (Additional Story)



Gymnastics Academy: A Second Chance



A graduate of the MAPS film school and an experienced writer and editor across film, television and documentary,

Kristian Leadbeater co-wrote Netflix's first South Australian series commission, *Gymnastics Academy: A Second Chance*.

A continuation of the two theatrically released *A Second Chance* feature films that he co-wrote with Adelaide producer Clay Glen, this family series

debuted at No. 1 both locally and internationally. Since its release on Netflix, Kristian has also written for and edited a series of novels, further expanding the world of *Gymnastics Academy*.

As a writer/editor, Kristian is able to apply his deep knowledge of story and narrative to the Post Production suite and recently edited the Adelaide Film Festival and London BFI Flare selected documentary, *Isla's Way*. Additional credits include the award-winning dating/cooking

show *Recipe for Love*, theatrically released feature films *Raising the Bar* and *Going for Gold* and the Keisha Castle-Hughes led *Find your Voice*.

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Marion Pilowsky

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Isla's Way
(Writer/Director)

Recipe for Love
(Writer/Director)

The Flip Side
(Co-writer/Director)

CWA Judgement Day
(Writer/Director)

Frida and Diego
(Writer/Director)

What We Know
(Co-writer/Director)



Marion Pilowsky is a writer and director whose work is characterised by the exploration of the fragile human

heart and how we respond to extraordinary events in our lives.

Feature documentary *Isla's Way* had its international premiere at the 2024 BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ International Film Festival and has also screened at Adelaide Film Festival, Sydney Mardi Gras,

Melbourne Queer Film Festival and the Antenna Doc Film Festival.

Feature dramedy *The Flip Side* starring Eddie Izzard had its international premiere at the 2019 Edinburgh International Film Festival and was acquired by SKY Movies (UK) and Freestyle Media (US).

Marion's short films and factual entertainment have screened at prestigious festivals including Toronto, Tribeca, London, Edinburgh, Sydney and Palm Springs. She is

currently working with Soho Moon Pictures on an Irish/Australian romantic drama series *Little Wood Valley*, based on an unpublished Maeve Binchy short story.

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Matthew Cormack

Writer

CREDITS

Jimpa 52 Tuesdays
The Hunting My Last Ten Hours with You
*F*cking Adelaide*



Matthew is an AACTA and AWGIE-winning screenwriter. His writing credits include feature film *52 Tuesdays* (Crystal Bear at Berlinale Film Festival, AWGIE Award for Original Screenplay), episodic series *F*cking Adelaide* for ABC, award-winning short film *My Last Ten Hours with You*, and writer and co-creator of limited series *The Hunting* for SBS (AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television).

Working with frequent collaborator, SA writer and director Sophie Hyde, Matthew co-wrote upcoming feature film *Jimpa* starring Olivia Colman and John Lithgow.

He has also worked in development, production, and sales with Adelaide-based Closer Productions across such projects as feature documentaries *Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure*, *Life in Movement* and *Sam Klemke's Time Machine*, hybrid doco/drama *I Want to Dance Better at Parties*, co-creator of

transmedia project *My 52 Tuesdays*, and script editor on feature drama *Animals* (2019) and ABC series *Aftertaste* (2021).

FIND OUT MORE

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Matt Vesely

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Monolith (Director)

Aftertaste (Writer/Script Producer)

System Error (Writer/Director)

My Best Friend is Stuck on the Ceiling
(Writer/Director)



Often combining his love of science fiction and horror with a sincere view of human relationships, writer/

director Matt Vesely has worked across both TV and film. His feature film directorial debut - science fiction thriller *Monolith* - was selected to have its international premiere at SXSW in 2023, and was nominated for the 2024 AACTA Awards for Best Indie Film.

Matt works as a story producer, writer and development executive with award-winning South Australian collective Closer Productions. Matt's latest short, *System Error*, was selected for the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival and opened the 2021 St Kilda Film Festival. He is also developing science fiction TV series *Immersion* for director Garth Davis and See Saw Films. He is represented by XYZ Films in the US and HLA Management Australia.

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Rosemary Myers

Director

CREDITS

Girl Asleep

Beep and Mort S1 & 2



Girl Asleep



Rosemary Myers is Artistic Director of Adelaide's Windmill Pictures. Her work spans theatre and screen with a

particular focus on children, young people and family audiences.

She co-created and directed *Beep and Mort*, a puppet-based series commissioned by ABC Kids. Series 2 was nominated for two AACTAs, a Kidscreen Award and a Rockie Award, and received awards from the

Australian Production Design Guild, Screen Producers Australia and the Australian Writers' Guild.

Her first feature film, *Girl Asleep*, opened the 2016 Berlinale Generation 14plus and went on to receive the 2016 MIFF Critics Award, the 2016 Seattle Film Festival Grand Jury Prize, the 2016 CinefestOZ Film Prize and eight AACTA Award nominations including Best Film and Best Director. In 2020, the film was nominated for the AACTA Byron Kennedy Award for Best Indie Film of the past decade.

As former Artistic Director of Windmill Theatre Company, Rosemary had oversight of 20 new plays. A multi-Helpmann Award winning theatre director, her shows have toured to venues and festivals across the world.

FIND OUT MORE

[IMDB](#) →

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Sandy Cameron

Writer

CREDITS

Mockbuster

Sam Klemke's Time Machine



Mockbuster



Sandy Cameron is an Australian Writers' Guild award-winning screenwriter and feature film

producer. His work has screened at Sundance, Toronto, Venice and SXSW film festivals, streamed on Netflix, Stan and Binge and been remade in foreign languages.

Primarily focused in the offbeat, comedic documentary space, he is also known for his work on

clever, scripted genre titles. He has been nominated for an AACTA Award and a company he co-founded has been nominated for Production Company of the Year by Screen Producers Australia. He has also worked extensively in screen funding agency and screen education roles, and is currently a Lecturer at Adelaide's UniSA.

His notable credits include *The Infinite Man* (as producer, SXSW 2014), *Sam Klemke's Time Machine* (as writer, Sundance 2015) and

Boys In The Trees (as co-producer, Venice 2016). He is both a writer and producer of upcoming documentary *Mockbuster* (director Anthony Frith).

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Sean Lahiff

Director

CREDITS

Carnifex

Smashed

Too Dark

My Generation: Age of Avatars



Sean Lahiff's feature directorial debut - *Carnifex*, a survival horror set in the Australian wilderness - had

its world premiere at Sitges 2022, followed by screenings at Cinejoy in L.A, the Adelaide Film Festival and was released by Universal in Australia. *Carnifex* has since sold worldwide and received great reviews, with Entertainment News calling it "the best *Jurassic*

World movie of the year, set in the Australian Outback".

Prior to *Carnifex*, Sean's short film *Smashed* had its world premiere at Berlinale 2017 and played festivals including Sitges, Palm Springs, Telluride Horror-Show and the Sydney Film Festival. He was awarded Best Director and Best Film at the South Australian Screen Awards and Best Film at the inaugural Stellar Film Festival.

Sean has unique insight into

directing thanks to a career in editing, visual effects and working with a great selection of revered directors and star-studded casts.

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Simon Butters

Writer

CREDITS

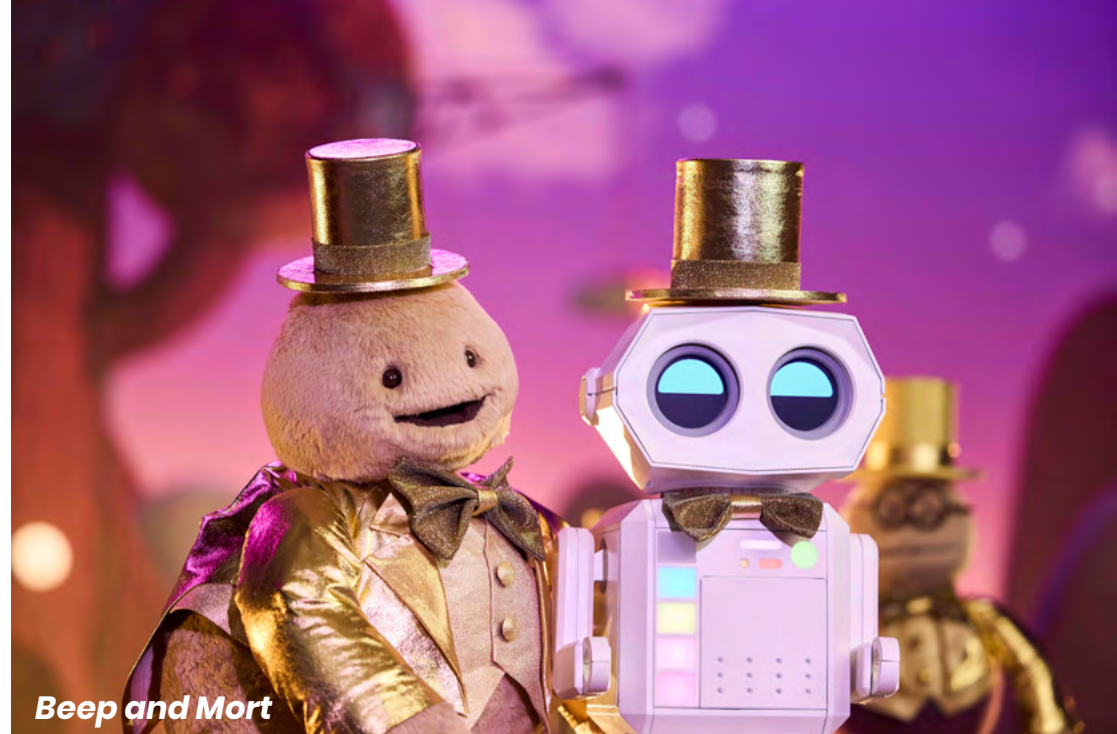
Beep and Mort S1 & 2

H2O: Just Add Water

Mako Mermaids

Wicked Science

Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures



Simon Butters is a writer for film, television and print. His television credits include *Wicked Science* series 1 and

2, *Scooter: Secret Agent*, *H2O: Just Add Water* series 1, 2 and 3, *Pirate Islands Lost in Fiji*, *The Elephant Princess* series 1 and 2, *Lightning Point*, *Mako: Island of Secrets*, *Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures*, *Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs* and *Beep and Mort* series 1 and 2.

Simon has developed a slate of feature films, television and digital media projects for various production companies for both adult and children's audiences.

He was the inaugural winner of the 2014 Australian Writers' Guild John Hinde Science Fiction Award for his feature film *Min Min*. Simon was also nominated for the 2017 Children's Book Council of Australia book of the year, 2017 Queensland Literary Awards, Griffith University Young Adult Book Award and the

2014 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature for his YA novel *The Hounded*.

FIND OUT MORE

[IMDB](#) →

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Sophie Hyde

Writer/Director

CREDITS

<i>Jimpa</i> (Writer, Director)	<i>Animals</i> (Director)
<i>Good Luck To You, Leo Grande</i> (Director)	<i>F*cking Adelaide</i> (Writer, Director)
<i>The Hunting</i> (Creator, Writer, Director)	<i>52 Tuesdays</i> (Writer, Director)



Good Luck To You, Leo Grande



Sophie Hyde is a founding member of Closer Productions and social impact company The Unquiet Collective.

Working primarily as a writer/director, Sophie most recently directed Emma Thompson in the four-times BAFTA nominated comedy, *Good Luck To You, Leo Grande*. Her debut feature drama *52 Tuesdays* won the Directing Award at Sundance 2014 and the Crystal Bear at Berlinale 2014.

She directed and produced feature comedy *Animals*, created, produced and directed episodic series *F*cking Adelaide* for ABC Australia and limited series *The Hunting* for SBS, and co-directed and produced Australian Documentary Prize winning *Life in Movement*.

Sophie is currently directing upcoming feature film *Jimpa* starring Olivia Colman and John Lithgow, which she co-wrote with SA writer Matthew Cormack.

Sophie believes in nurturing the

voices of other filmmakers and has been producer and EP on projects including feature documentaries *Shut Up Little Man!*, *Sam Klemke's Time Machine*, *In My Blood It Runs* and the Netflix Original documentary *The Dreamlife of Georgie Stone*.

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Stephen de Villiers

Writer/Director

CREDITS

The Burnt Half
(Writer/Director)

La Boheme on the Beach
(Broadcast Director)

The Rover of Tobruk
(Director)

*Gymnastics Academy:
A Second Chance* S1E4
(Director)

Before the Rain
(Segment Director)



The Burnt Half



Originally from South Africa, Stephen de Villiers is a multidisciplinary director working across drama, TV, documentary and commercials. His creative approach is unified by a belief that stories should reflect life's beautiful complexities with empathy and nuance.

His shorts have screened at festivals around the world, including the Short Film Métrage at Cannes, Giffoni

(Italy), Flickerfest (Sydney), Byron Bay and the San Francisco International Film Festival. In 2021 he was an episode director on Netflix series *Gymnastics Academy: A Second Chance*. In 2022 his documentary *The Rover of Tobruk* was acquired by Fox Sports (USA). His feature documentary, *The Burnt Half* tells the story of communities on South Australia's Kangaroo Island affected by the Black Summer bushfires, and was acquired by SBS for broadcast, with X4 handling international sales.

His feature film, *The Run*, a post-apocalyptic action thriller, is slated for production in 2024, with Global Film signed on to handle international sales.

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This brochure is an overview of selected writers and directors from South Australia, and is not exhaustive. This brochure is under regular review. To contact any of the practitioners listed, please use the details provided or refer to their listings in the SAFC's SA Crew & Services Directory.

For more information about filming in South Australia, please contact the SAFC Production & Development Team to discuss your needs.

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South Australian **Film Corporation**