

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. We pay respect to Kurna Elders, past and present. We recognise Kurna people's enduring cultural heritage, spiritual beliefs and relationship to land and waters – understanding that these are as important to Kurna people today as they ever were. We extend this respect to other Aboriginal nations and language groups.

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.

Alies Sluiter

Writer/Director

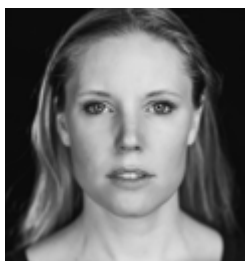
CREDITS

Boy on Fire

Aftertaste S2E5

Myth

Ayaan



Alies Sluiter is an screenwriter and director whose credits include award-winning short *Boy on Fire* and ABC

comedy series *Aftertaste*, starring Rachel Griffiths and Erik Thomson.

Alies has drawn domestic and international acclaim for her short films. *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. Her most recent work, *Boy on Fire*, won Best Australian Film at Flickerfest 2026 and was nominated for an award at the St

Kilda 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.

FIND OUT MORE

IMDB ➔

Website ➔

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Anna Lindner

Writer

CREDITS

The Sandcastle (in development)

A Beginner's Guide to Grief

It's Fine, I'm Fine



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 was co-writer/director on *The Sandcastle*, one of three projects 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.

She was also awarded 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.

FIND OUT MORE

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Anthony Frith

Writer / Director

CREDITS

Mockbuster

The Land That Time Forgot

Lessons from a Middle Class Artist



Mockbuster



Anthony Frith is a writer and director with a love for absurd pop-culture anomalies. His work has taken him to

Boston, where he studied the art of churning out novelty songs with cult musician Matt Farley in *Lessons from a Middle Class Artist*; to Burbank, where he made his feature debut directing a trashy dinosaur movie for the legendary studio The Asylum in *Mockbuster*.

You can usually find Anthony deep in the rabbit holes of internet folklore, always on the hunt for strange stories from the fringes of pop-culture.

FIND OUT MORE

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Craig Behenna

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Scarygirl

OH YUCK!

The New Adventures of Figaro Pho

One Eyed Girl



One Eyed Girl



As a writer, producer and director, Craig Behenna's credits include the production draft for 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 →

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Daniel J. Phillips

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Diabolic

Awoken

Release

The Martyr



Daniel J. Phillips is an Australian filmmaker known for blending psychological intensity with atmospheric genre

storytelling.

His work often explores themes of faith, repression, identity, and moral consequence through a distinctly cinematic lens.

His feature film *Diabolic* established him as a bold voice in contemporary

horror, combining religious mysticism with grounded emotional realism.

Drawing on character-driven narratives and striking visual compositions, Phillips crafts stories that examine the human cost of belief and the darkness that can exist beneath it.

His films have screened at festivals internationally and garnered critical attention for their tension, thematic depth, and uncompromising tone.

FIND OUT MORE

IMDB →

Website →

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Danny Philippou

Writer/Director

Michael Philippou

Director

CREDITS

Bring Her Back

Talk To Me



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.

Their sophomore film *Bring Her Back*, backed by A24 and starring Sally Hawkins, also attracted worldwide critical acclaim and took home another 10 AACTA Awards.

Danny and Michael made their start on Youtube as RackaRacka, with

over 6.9 million subscribers and 1.5 billion views. 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 PHILIPPOU

IMDB ➔

FIND OUT MORE: MICHAEL PHILIPPOU

IMDB ➔

Dario Russo

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Dad's House

The Fox

Danger 5

Italian Spiderman



Dario Russo is writer/director working in comedy across feature film and series. He created, co-wrote, and directed the viral

web series *Italian Spiderman* during the early years of YouTube and went on to co-create the cult television show *Danger 5*.

Dario's debut feature film *The Fox*, which he wrote, directed, edited and composed the score for, had

its international premiere at SXSW 2025 and was selected for Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney film festivals. Starring Olivia Colman, Sam Neill and Jai Courtney and produced by Causeway Films (*The Babadook*, *Talk To Me*), *The Fox* won the Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature at the Calgary Underground Film Festival, as well as the Audience Award for Best Feature at the 2026 Sydney Film Festival.

Dario is a co-creator and co-

showrunner on the upcoming animated comedy series *Dad's House* for Netflix, along with co-creator/co-showrunners Michael Cusack (*Smiling Friends*) and David Ashby (*Danger 5*, *Italian Spiderman*).

FIND OUT MORE

IMBD ➔

CONTACT DETAILS

www.dariorusso.com ➔

Emma Hough Hobbs

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Lesbian Space Princess

On Film



Emma Hough Hobbs (she/they) is a queer artist from Adelaide. They're an award-winning filmmaker, animator and production designer.

Alongside South Australian writer/director Leela Varghese, Emma co-wrote and directed their Teddy Award-winning debut feature film *Lesbian Space Princess*, which placed second for the Panorama Jury prize at the 2025 Berlinale.

Lesbian Space Princess was nominated for seven AACTA awards including Best Film, and won Best Indie Film.

Emma's short, the inaugural Hanlon-Larsen Fellowship film *On Film* was In Competition at SXSW Sydney 2023 and won Best Animation at the South Australian Screen Awards.

Emma is a "huge nerd" for all things animation and genre, and this passion translates directly into their love for also creating new and exciting genre projects.

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Erin White

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Under the Vines S1, S2 & S3

The PM's Daughter

Doctor Doctor S4 & S5

Austin S3

Paper Dolls

Wellmania



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 starring Rebecca Gibney and Charles Edwards. Erin has recently directed episodes of *Austin* S3 for ABC/BBC/Northern Pictures, filmed in

South Australia, *Paper Dolls* for Paramount+/Helium Pictures, kids' series *The PM's Daughter* for ABC/Fremantle Australia and was the set-up director for *Wellmania* for Netflix/Fremantle Australia. Erin has also directed across Easy Tiger's *Doctor Doctor* S4 and S5 and has been nominated for Australian Directors' Guild Awards for her work on *Sando*, *The PM's Daughter*, *Other People's Problems* and her short, *Dugong*.

Erin's short films have received local and international success, with nominations and wins for AFI awards,

IF Awards, Flickerfest, St Kilda Film Festival, Sydney Film Festival and the Munich International Festival of Film Schools. Erin is a co-founder of Adelaide-based Hardy White Pictures with producer Michelle Hardy.

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Hannah Kent

Writer

CREDITS

Run Rabbit Run



Run Rabbit Run



Hannah Kent is the multi-award winning and bestselling author of novels *Burial Rites*, *The Good People*, and

Devotion, and memoir *Always Home, Always Homesick*. She lives and works on Peramangk and Kaurua 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 BELL

[IMDB](#) ➔

[Website](#) ➔

FIND OUT MORE: JOSIAH ALLEN

[IMDB](#) ➔

[Website](#) ➔

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Joshua Tyler

Writer

CREDITS

Top End Bub

Top End Wedding

Plonk

100% Wolf

Tashi



Joshua Tyler co-wrote and produced the film *Top End Wedding* (Universal) and picture book *Aunty's Wedding*

(Allen & Unwin) with Miranda Tapsell.

Top End Wedding premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, was the highest-grossing Australian film of 2019, became an international festival darling and was nominated for Best Film at the AACTA Awards.

Joshua was the showrunner on *Top End Bub*, the spin-off series for Amazon Prime and ABC. *Top End Bub* was nominated for two AACTA awards, including Best Narrative Comedy and won one. *Top End Bub* received critical acclaim and ranked among the top 10 most-watched shows on Amazon Prime and did the same on ABC iView in its second window.

Joshua starred in and co-wrote two seasons of the half-hour comedy *Plonk* (Stan, iTV).

Joshua is an award-winning playwright, winning the Jill Blewitt Playwrights Award of 2001.

FIND OUT MORE

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Katharine McPhee

Writer

CREDITS

Love Is in the Air

Killer Whale



Katharine McPhee is a screenwriter and script consultant. She co-wrote *Love Is in the Air*, which reached the global

number-one position on Netflix and stayed in the Global Top 10 for two weeks and garnered more than 70 million views.

She co-wrote *Killer Whale*, starring Virginia Gardner and Mel Jarnson, released theatrically by Lionsgate in North America in January 2026,

with an Australian theatrical release by Rialto and on demand on Prime Video.

She graduated from Flinders University with Honours in Screen (Film) Studies. Katharine is a recipient of the Colin Thiele New Writing Scholarship and has been long- and short-listed for the John Hinde Award. She has been mentored in initiatives, including with Universal Pictures Home Entertainment Group. Katharine has worked in a number of writers' rooms.

Katharine traverses various genres as a writer, but a linking thread is underestimated women rising above adversity. She is represented by 3 Arts Entertainment, Los Angeles.

FIND OUT MORE

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Kelly Schilling

Writer/Director

CREDITS

With or Without You

*Gymnastics Academy: A
Second Chance*

Maverix

*Two Twisted 'Delivery
Man'*

*Two Twisted 'Grand
Final'*



With or Without You



Kelly Schilling is an AFTRS graduate and an Australian screenwriter and director who works across film, television

and online series.

In 2025, Kelly's debut feature film, *With or Without You* enjoyed a successful theatrical release and is streaming on Netflix. The film was nominated for the 2026 AACTA awards for Best Indie Film and Best Supporting Actress in Film for Marta

Dusseldorp.

Kelly has directed and written on a number of TV shows including ABC/Netflix series *Maverix* and 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 and is open to exploring new opportunities.

FIND OUT MORE

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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, the family

series debuted at No. 1 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, editing the Adelaide Film Festival and London BFI Flare selected documentary *Isla's Way*. Additional credits include 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*.

FIND OUT MORE

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Leela Varghese

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Lesbian Space Princess

I'm The Most Racist Person I Know

Crush



I'm The Most Racist Person I Know



Leela Varghese (she/her) is a writer and director known for telling joyful, comedic and impactful stories. Alongside

South Australian writer/director Emma Hough Hobbs she co-wrote and directed her debut feature, *Lesbian Space Princess*, which was selected for the Panorama section of Berlinale 2025, where it won the 39th Teddy Award and placed second for the Panorama Audience Award. The

film was developed through the South Australian Film Corporation's Film Lab: New Voices initiative, with funding from SAFC, Adelaide Film Festival and Screen Australia.

Leela's short film *I'm the Most Racist Person I Know* premiered in the Narrative Short Competition at SXSW Austin 2025, where it won the Special Jury Award and was selected for the Redbreast Unhidden campaign curated by actor Andrew Scott.

She is a three-time AACTA Award

winner, winning Best Indie Film and Best Original Song for *Lesbian Space Princess* and Best Short Film for *I'm the Most Racist Person I Know*.

FIND OUT MORE

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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.

FIND OUT MORE

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Madeleine Parry

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Hannah Gadsby:

Nanette

Murder Mouth

Graduation

Tough Jobs

The Angels: Kickin' Down

The Door



The Angels: Kickin' Down The Door BTS



Madeleine Parry's arts practice as a director spans documentary, fiction, stage and screen.

She has written, directed and produced across 12 commissioned projects from micro to million dollar budgets. Titles include the Peabody and Emmy-award winning *Hannah Gadsby: Nanette* for Netflix, and five critically-acclaimed, multi-award winning documentaries, all made

before the age of 25. In multi Best Film award-winning *Murder Mouth* Madeleine killed her own food for the first time in an exploration of what it means to eat other living things, while *Maddie Parry: Tough Jobs* for ABC out-rated the competition in its prime-time slot.

Madeleine has also created immersive VR for Adelaide Film Festival and directed five star stand-up comedy for the Edinburgh and Adelaide Fringe.

Her work is known for engaging with complex realities with compassion, insight and wit.

FIND OUT MORE

IMDB ➔

Website ➔

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Marion Pilowsky

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Isla's Way

Recipe for Love

The Flip Side

The Ride

Frida and Diego

What We Know

My Little Sumo

In A Million

The Ride



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 on two thrillers, an SA-set feature and UK/Australian 4x1 hour limited series.

FIND OUT MORE

IMDB →

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Matthew Bate

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Shut Up Little Man! – An Audio Misadventure *The Defenders*
Sam Klemke's Time Machine *Aftertaste*
Eat The Invaders



Matthew Bate is a founding member of Closer Productions. His feature films include *Shut Up Little Man! – An Audio*

Misadventure (Sundance 2011), *Sam Klemke's Time Machine* (Sundance 2015, AWGIE Award for Best Feature Script), and *The Defenders* (Audience Award, Sydney Film Festival 2023).

Matt's short film *I Want to Dance Better* at Parties won the 2013 Dendy Award, and his VR project *Summation*

of Force premiered at Sundance's New Frontier in 2018.

In 2020, he co-created and wrote the ABC comedy series *Aftertaste*.

Most recently Matt wrote and directed the six-part ABC factual series *Eat The Invaders*, hosted by Tony Armstrong.

FIND OUT MORE

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Matthew Cormack

Writer

CREDITS

Jimpa

52 Tuesdays

The Hunting

My Last Ten Hours with You

*F*cking Adelaide*



Matthew Cormack 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 limited series *The Hunting* for SBS (AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television), for

which he was also co-creator.

Working with frequent collaborator, SA writer and director Sophie Hyde, Matthew co-wrote 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, was co-creator of transmedia project *My 52 Tuesdays*, and script editor on feature drama *Animals* and ABC series *Aftertaste*.

FIND OUT MORE

IMDB ➔

Website ➔

Matt Vesely

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Monolith

Aftertaste

System Error

My Best Friend is Stuck on the Ceiling



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 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.

FIND OUT MORE

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Rosemary Myers

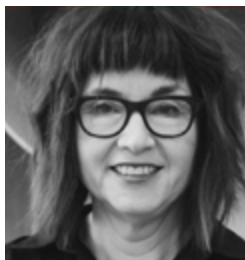
Director

CREDITS

Bananas in Pyjamas

Beep and Mort S1 & 2

Girl Asleep



Rosemary Myers is Artistic Director, Screen of Adelaide's Windmill Production Company. 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.

A multi-Helpmann Award winning theatre director, her shows have toured to venues and festivals across the world.

FIND OUT MORE

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Sandy Cameron

Writer

CREDITS

Mockbuster

Sam Klemke's Time Machine



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 Bing 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 feature documentary *Mockbuster* (Adelaide Film Festival, 2025).

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Sean Lahiff

Director

CREDITS

Wolf Creek: Legacy

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 LA and the Adelaide Film Festival. With a theatrical release in Australia by Universal, and following worldwide sales, *Carnifex* won great reviews with Entertainment News calling it "the best Jurassic

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

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's latest work includes directing *Wolf Creek: Legacy*, the

third installment of the worldwide hit horror franchise, made in South Australia. 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.

FIND OUT MORE

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Shalom Almond

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Songs Inside

Prisoners and Pups

My Long Neck

Love-Heart Baby

The Love Market



Shalom Almond is an award-winning multi-AACTA nominated Australian documentary filmmaker who is

passionate about making character-driven, observational, social issue documentaries.

Her feature documentary *Songs Inside* was nominated for three AACTA Awards, won the Cinefest Oz \$100,000 Film Prize for Best Australian Feature Film, Audience Award for Best Documentary at Adelaide Film

Festival and Sydney Film Festival and Documentary Australia Prize for Best Australian Documentary.

Shalom's work is renowned for her natural ability to form strong and trusting rapport and relationships with her subjects and their environments.

Shalom was the recipient of the SAFC's inaugural Lottie Lyell Award in 2019 and her films have been broadcast on television and screened at film festivals in Australia and around the world.

Her previous titles include *My Long Neck*, *Prisoners and Pups*, and *The Love Market*, which won Best Feature Film at the 2009 SA Screen Awards and Best Documentary at the 2009 St Kilda Film Festival.

FIND OUT MORE

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Simon Butters

Writer

CREDITS

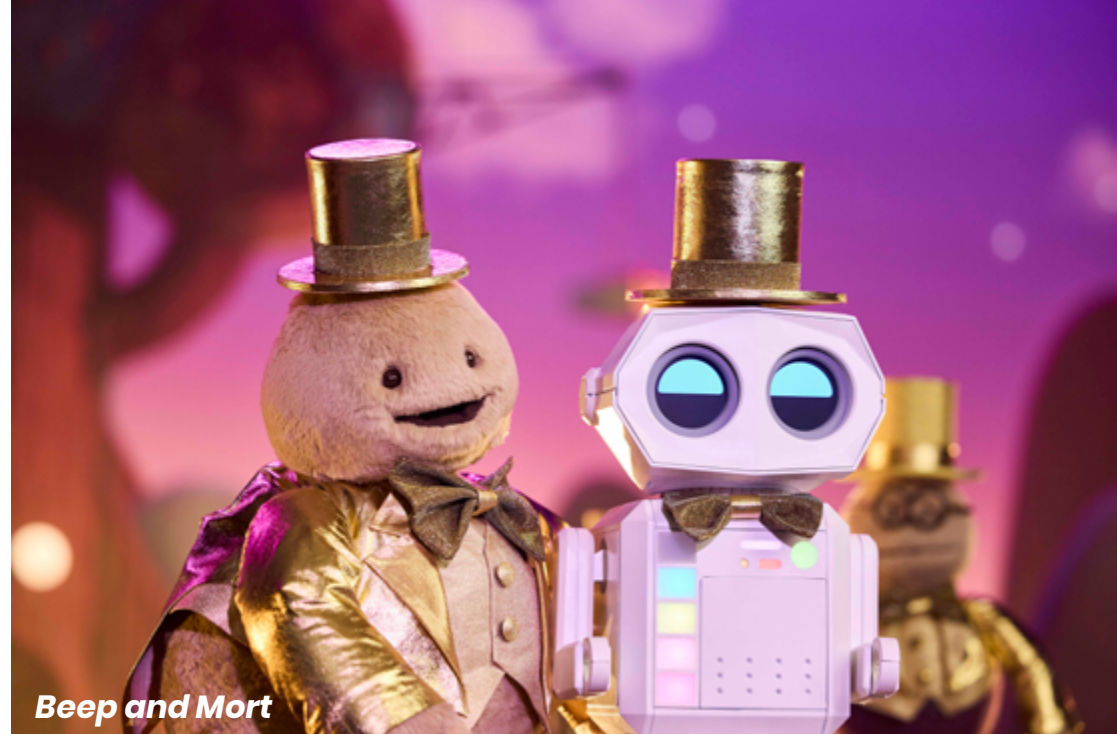
Beep and Mort S1 & 2

H2O: Just Add Water

Mako Mermaids

Wicked Science

Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures



Beep and Mort



Simon Butters is a writer for film, television and print. His television credits include *Wicked Science* S1 and 2,

Scooter: Secret Agent, *H2O: Just Add Water* S1–3, *Pirate Islands Lost in Fiji*, *The Elephant Princess* S1 & 2, *Lightning Point*, *Mako: Island of Secrets*, *Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures*, *Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs* and *Beep and Mort* S1 & 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

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Sophie Hyde

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Jimpa

Good Luck To You, Leo Grande

The Hunting

Animals

*F*cking Adelaide*

52 Tuesdays



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

Sophie's 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* and directed Emma Thompson in the BAFTA and Golden Globe nominated comedy, *Good Luck To You, Leo*

Grande. Starring Olivia Colman and John Lithgow, Sophie's feature film *Jimpa*, which she directed and co-wrote with South Australian collaborator Matthew Cormack, premiered at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival.

Sophie also created, produced and directed episodic series *F*cking Adelaide* and limited series *The Hunting*. She co-directed and produced Australian Documentary Prize winning *Life in Movement*.

Sophie believes in nurturing the

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

FIND OUT MORE

IMDB ➔

Website ➔

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Stephen de Villiers

Writer/Director

CREDITS

The Run

Bloom

The Burnt Half

La Boheme on the Beach

The Rover of Tobruk

Gymnastics Academy: A Second Chance S1E4

Before the Rain



The Run



Stephen de Villiers is a South African-born Australian writer/director and alumnus of the AFTRS directing course.

Working across drama, documentary and television, his work often blends scale and spectacle with intimate, character-driven storytelling. At the heart of his work is a belief that life is beautifully complex, and that stories should be told with empathy, nuance and emotional honesty.

Stephen has collaborated with internationally recognised actors including Calan Mulvey (*300: Rise of an Empire*), Felix Cameron (*Boy Swallows Universe*), Charlotte Maggi (*Rebel Moon*), Nicholas Hope (*Bad Boy Bubby*), Ian Roberts (*Tsotsi*), and Sean Cameron Michael (*24, Black Sails*).

His work has screened at more than 60 international festivals, including Giffoni, Flickerfest, Byron Bay and the San Francisco International Film Festival, with earlier work selected for

the Short Film Corner at Cannes.

His debut feature film, *The Run*, a dystopian action thriller, premiered at Adelaide Film Festival 2025, with Rialto leading an Australian theatrical release.

FIND OUT MORE

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Timothy David Piper

Writer/Director

CREDITS

Kangaroo Island

Farmed and Dangerous



Timothy David is an award-winning Australian writer and director. His debut feature film, *Kangaroo Island*,

received international recognition, winning Best Australian Director at the London Director Awards and Best Debut Feature at the Montreal Independent Film Festival. The film was nominated for four Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards, including Best Picture, and achieved strong

audience reception both in Australia and internationally.

Prior to filmmaking, David built an internationally recognised career in advertising and branded content. His work includes campaigns ranked No. 1 by Adweek for the 21st century, alongside honours at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, D&AD, and Clio Awards. He was named among the “World’s Top 50 Creative Thinkers” by Creativity Magazine and recognised in Time Magazine’s “Top 200 Most Influential

People” for his work in branded filmmaking.

David is co-founder of Piro Inc., a New York-based creative company, and continues to develop film and television projects from South Australia.

FIND OUT MORE

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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.

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

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South Australian Film Corporation