

RELEASED: Monday December 19

Relax after Christmas with three new comedies exclusive to ABC iview: *Goober*, *Almost Midnight* and *Lost in Pronunciation*

Three new 6x 5minute narrative comedy web series, *Goober*, *Almost Midnight* and *Lost in Pronunciation* – all collaborations between ABC and the South Australian Film Corporation - will launch exclusively on ABC iview during the Christmas/New Year week. The series showcases new South Australian screen talent both on and behind the camera.

Goober is about Harry (Brendan Williams), a too-friendly Uber driver, convinced that every passenger will be his next best friend. Harry is on the autism spectrum, and spends his days bemusing and confusing his passengers - despite the support of his dad (Shane Jacobson), always just a hands-free phonecall away with encouragement and wisdom.

Harry is eternally optimistic, especially when it comes to Wendy (Ashton Malcolm), who works in the booth at Harry's favourite drive-thru restaurant. Harry is convinced that any day now he and Wendy will be happily married. With a house. And six children. And a dog. All he has to do is summon the courage to talk to her about something other than ice-cream.

Goober comes to iview on Boxing Day. Written by Ben Crisp. Produced by Kirsty Stark. Directed by Brendon Skinner and Simon Williams. The show is from Epic Films - Screen Producers Association of Australia's 2016 Breakthrough Business of the Year.

Almost Midnight is a coming-of-age romantic comedy, with each of the six episodes set a year apart against the backdrop of that glorious moment when boundless promise and uninhibited drunkenness combine – the final five minutes of New Year's Eve. Dave (co-creator/writer and director Stephen Banham) wants a fairy-tale romance, but lacks the ability to meet or, more importantly, keep the woman of his dreams, Jen – especially when he's hampered by the appalling advice of his best friend and self-professed ladies' man, Acka (co-creator/writer Aaron Casey). Over six New Year's Eves, we witness Dave's growth from a bumbling wall-flower to a fully-matured man, comfortable in his own skin and ready for love. But when the clock strikes midnight, will he get his wish or turn into a pumpkin?

Almost Midnight comes to iview on Boxing Day. A We're Not Boys Production. Producers: Alex Keay and Peta Bulsara.

Lost in Pronunciation is a 'fish out of water' comedy series from the award-winning and fast-rising comedian, Venezuelan born Ivan Aristeguieta. It premieres Sunday 1 January on ABC iview.

Lost in Pronunciation is the autobiographical story of a young man who escapes the dangers of Venezuela only to find himself in ‘the lucky country’s’ safest, friendliest state – South Australia. With the help of two Aussie housemates, lesbian tradie Tia (Lori Bell), and her hipster vegan brother Scott (Nic Krieg), Ivan learns that to become a permanent resident isn’t so much about ticking boxes on a form, but adapting to the strange and unique customs that we may take for granted, but make us truly Australian. Created and written by Ivan Aristeguieta and Chris McDonald. Produced by Julia DeRoeper. A collaboration between ABC iview, the South Australian Film Corporation and JDR Screen

ABC Head of Audience & Digital Rebecca Heap and ABC Head of Comedy Rick Kalowski say: “Our first collaboration between ABC iview and the SAFC, designed to uncover some original and fresh short form digital content, unearthed some amazing new South Australian talent. These fantastic comedies are funny, original, moving, and exceptionally well-acted and made. We couldn’t be prouder to show Australian audiences *Goober* and *Almost Midnight* from December 26, and *Lost in Pronunciation* from January 1”.

The South Australian Film Corporation’s (SAFC) Chief Executive Annabelle Sheehan said she was delighted to see ABC iview launch the first three series created from the SAFC/ABC TV LABS.

“These three very different series are equally bold, and above all highly entertaining viewing. Short-form storytelling is a real art, and it is testament to the creativity of this fresh SA talent that they’ve produced such remarkably funny and poignant work. The ABC iview platform is the perfect place to launch the careers of these refreshing new storytelling voices, and I thank the ABC for their support of South Australian talent through this fantastic initiative.”

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