



**Media Release**

17<sup>th</sup> January 2019



## Asher Keddie and Richard Roxburgh to star in new SBS drama *The Hunting*

Seven-time Logie winner **Asher Keddie** (*Offspring*, *The Cry*) and AACTA / Logie winner **Richard Roxburgh** (*Rake*, *Hacksaw Ridge*) lead an ensemble cast in the new four-part SBS original drama *The Hunting*, which goes into production tomorrow in Adelaide.

Joining these screen icons are **Sam Reid** (*Bloom*, *Lambs of God*), **Jessica De Gouw** (*Arrow*, *Deadline Gallipoli*), **Luca Sardelis** (*Nowhere Boys*, *Deadlock*), **Yazeed Daher** (*The Heights*, *Safe Harbour*), and newcomers **Kavitha Anandasivam** and **Alex Cusack**. Rounding out this superb ensemble are **Pamela Rabe** (*Wentworth*), **Leah Vandenberg** (*The Letdown*), **Rodney Afif** (*Ali's Wedding*), **Sachin Joab** (*Lion*) **Elena Carapetis** (*Look Both Ways*) and **Anni Lindner** (*Wolf Creek TV*).

Produced by Closer Productions for SBS, with major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the South Australian Film Corporation, *The Hunting* intimately and dramatically imagines the lives of four teenagers, their teachers and families throughout the lead up, revelation and aftermath of a nude teen photo scandal.

When two high school teachers discover students are sharing explicit photos of their underage friends and peers online, the revelation has unbearable consequences for the students and their families. Tackling themes of misogyny, privacy, sexuality and sexualisation, online exploitation, toxic masculinity and gender, the series uses this singular event as a way of exploring some of the most pressing issues of our time and offering a vital portrait of modern, multicultural Australia.

**SBS Director of Television and Online Content, Marshall Heald** said:

“SBS is committed to telling stories that spark debate and drive understanding about some of the uncomfortable and often untold realities impacting contemporary Australia. *The Hunting* joins SBS’s critically acclaimed slate of local dramas, including *Safe Harbour*, *Sunshine* and *On The Ropes* as an intense and compelling series that delves into what is arguably one of the biggest issues of our ‘social media era’ – cyberbullying.

“We are delighted to be partnering with the hugely talented team at Closer Productions, who bring their impressive film and television credentials to this new series.”

**Producer/ Director Sophie Hyde** said: “With *The Hunting* we explore teens using technology within sexual context and reframe the conversation to be about trust and consent, considering how we are culturally responsible and exploring how we all navigate this. As co-creator and producer of the show I couldn’t be more delighted to work with our skilled, empathetic team and



partners to tell this story, and to be joined in directing by Ana Kokkinos, a filmmaking hero of mine, who brings her considerable skills and talent to this vital work.”

**Director Ana Kokkinos said:** “This is a powerful, thought-provoking story, imbued with complex characters, and drama with big ideas and questions. It is exciting to be working with such high calibre experienced actors as well as talented newcomers, who between them all, reflect the rich cultural diversity of our society.”

**Screen Australia’s Head of Production, Sally Caplan** said: “Directors Ana Kokkinos and Sophie Hyde are two filmmakers at the top of their game. This pair have proven their ability to bring challenging themes to screen audiences and this new series told from the perspective of high school girls from diverse cultural backgrounds will offer an important insight into current social and ethical issues facing our society.”

**South Australian Film Corporation’s Head of Production, Development, Attraction and Studios, Amanda Duthie** added: “Congratulations to Closer for achieving the first network-commissioned primetime long-form drama fully created in South Australia. In telling this timely story they have attracted outstanding cast, crew and creatives to the production, and with a 60 per cent female representation.”

*The Hunting* is created by **Sophie Hyde** (*Animals*, *52 Tuesdays*) and **Matthew Cormack** (*52 Tuesdays*, *F\*!#ing Adelaide*), directed by **Ana Kokkinos** (*Mustangs FC*, *Seven Types of Ambiguity*) and **Sophie Hyde**, and produced by **Rebecca Summerton** (*Animals*, *F\*!#ing Adelaide*), **Sophie Hyde** and **Lisa Scott** (*Pine Gap*, *Janet King*).

The series is written by **Matthew Cormack** and **Niki Aken** (*The Secret Daughter*, *Janet King*), executive produced by **Sue Masters** (SBS). Director of Photography is **Bonnie Elliott** (*Palm Beach*, *Romper Stomper*) and Editor is **Bryan Mason** (*Animals*, *52 Tuesdays*).

*The Hunting* is a Closer Productions production for SBS, with major production investment from SBS and Screen Australia, in association with the South Australian Film Corporation. International sales are handled by DCD Rights.

***The Hunting* will premiere on SBS and SBS On Demand later in 2019.**

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## **EDITORS NOTES:**

### ABOUT CLOSER PRODUCTIONS:

Closer Productions is considered one of Australia’s most innovative production companies working across drama, comedy and documentary. Closer’s feature drama *52 Tuesdays* premiered in Competition at Sundance 2014 winning Best Director Award for Sophie Hyde. The film also took out the Crystal Bear at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival and won Best Screenplay at the 2013 AWGIE Awards.

Closer’s documentary slate includes the feature films *Shut Up Little Man!* (Sundance 2011, theatrically released across the US by Tribeca Films, AACTA Award for Best Editing), *Sam Klemke’s Time Machine* (Sundance 2015, Rotterdam, HotDocs & AWGIE award for best



screenplay 2015) and *Life in Movement* (winner Foxtel Australian Documentary prize 2014). Closer has created many TV broadcast documentaries for SBS, ABC and Al Jazeera. They recently completed TV series *F\*!#ing Adelaide* for the ABC and feature film *Animals* starring Holliday Grainger and Alia Shawkat which premieres in Sundance in January 2019.

[www.closerproductions.com.au](http://www.closerproductions.com.au)