

Media Release

Wednesday 2 July 19



“It was meant just for you...”

Asher Keddie and Richard Roxburgh explore sex, trust and consent in SBS drama *The Hunting* Premieres Thursday 1 August at 8.30pm

Introducing Kavitha Anandasivam and Alex Cusack

First look trailer [here](#)

Intense, compelling and timely *The Hunting* is about how teenagers traverse the complexities of relationships, identity and sexuality via technology. The four-part drama series from Adelaide’s **Closer Productions** will premiere on **SBS at 8.30pm Thursday 1 August**.

Starring **Asher Keddie** (*Offspring, The Cry*) and **Richard Roxburgh** (*Rake, Hacksaw Ridge*), *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 devastating consequences for the students and their families. Tackling themes of misogyny, privacy, sexuality and sexualisation, online exploitation, 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.

Asher Keddie said:

“There are so many hard-wired ideas we’ve grown up with that we’re realising are unacceptable. I have four and nine year old sons, and the world that they are navigating is vastly different to the one I grew up in. I think *The Hunting*, and the conversations it will inevitably ignite are really necessary, to stay on the front foot and to help raise emotionally intelligent, respectful human beings”

Richard Roxburgh said:

“This series explores deeply entrenched patterns of behaviour. It’s critical for us to understand that the ripples of this behaviour have consequences, and in particular, they permeate masculine culture everywhere. Any parent will be aware of the new pressures of dealing with the conundrums of social media once your children can go down the rabbit hole of accessible internet.”

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

“Tightly paced and gripping, *The Hunting* unpicks the choices of four diverse teens with compassion and humanity. This provocative modern drama will force audiences to face uncomfortable questions about social media and our online lives, and where consent and trust fits into this. This is vital viewing for anyone with a teenager in their life.”



Joining Asher and Richard 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 **Anna Lindner** (*Wolf Creek TV*).

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* airs over four weeks, premiering Thursday 1 August at 8.30pm on SBS, and on SBS On Demand.**

Join the conversation **#TheHunting**

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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