



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

## FILMING STARTS ON GOOBER TODAY

### *First SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals initiative series starts production*

Filming starts on *Goober* today (May 13), the first of five new South Australian projects being produced through the joint \$500,000 **SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals initiative**.

*Goober* tells the story of Harry, an Uber driver, who lies somewhere on the autism spectrum and can't hold down any other job, but wants to make friends and a bit of money.

Harry is eternally optimistic - especially about his love for Wendy, the girl from his favourite drive-thru restaurant. Harry spends his life trying to turn passengers into friends, and Wendy into his girlfriend.

The series of 6 x 5 minute episodes features a South Australian cast and crew along with acclaimed Australian actor Shane Jacobson (*Kenny, The Dressmaker*) providing the voice of Harry's Dad.

*Goober* will be the first major acting role for South Australian Brendan Williams, who plays Harry. He stars alongside another South Australian, Ashton Malcolm.

The series is being filmed in a car over 6 days in locations including Glenelg, Seaford, Norwood and the City.

*Goober* is a collaborative project between Producer Kirsty Stark (*A Month of Sundays, Wastelander Panda*), Writer Ben Crisp and Directors Simon Williams and Brendon Skinner.

South Australian Film Corporation's (SAFC) Chief Executive Annabelle Sheehan said it was exciting to see filming start on the first of the SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals initiative projects.

"*Goober* has been developed by a highly motivated and talented team and provides great new opportunities for local emerging acting talent and crew. The project hooks into the hot topic of Uber drivers in an innovative way. We're really delighted to see the first of the SAFC/ABC iview original series underway, said Ms Sheehan.

"We're also excited by the great social media presence the team has created, with behind the scenes production footage on Facebook giving us a glimpse of life filming 6 days in one car."

**SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals initiative** was established to showcase the state's writing, filmmaking and production talent. It has funded five projects to each produce a series of 6 x 5 minute episodes to premiere exclusively on ABC iview.

Each of the project teams have given the chance to work closely with the national broadcaster including the Heads of its Factual and Comedy divisions.

Producer Kirsty Stark said *Goober* was developed specifically for the SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals initiative.

"It's great to see projects like *Goober*, which is being entirely created in South Australia, going into production as it really showcases the State's creative capabilities," said Ms Starke.

“*Goober* has also provided opportunities for local acting talent, and for the Directors it gives them their first opportunity to work with the national broadcaster.

“The project team is really looking forward to bringing *Goober* to iview later this year.”

To be kept updated on filming progress, follow *Goober* on Facebook where they will be posting live updates from the set <https://www.facebook.com/goobertv/>

Filming on the other **SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals initiative** projects will start over the next couple of months, with all final productions needing to be delivered to the ABC for screening later this year.

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For further information contact:

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**Footnote:**

The full list of **SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals** initiative grant recipients are:

**Goober**

**Producer: Kirsty Stark**

**Writer: Ben Crisp**

**Directors: Simon Williams and Brendon Skinner**

Harry is an Uber driver for three reasons: he really wants to make friends; he really needs the money; and he really can't hold down any other job. Harry also lurks somewhere on the autism spectrum. That's why he tries really, really hard to act normally. It's also why he tries so hard to be helpful, but for some reason, it never seems to work. Nevertheless, Harry is eternally optimistic - especially about his love for Wendy, the girl from his favourite drive-thru restaurant. Harry spends his life trying to turn passengers into friends, and Wendy into his girlfriend.

**Pop Ability**

**Writer/Director/Producer: Katrina Lucas**

**Writer: Lauren Drewery**

**Executive Producers: Susan McKinnon and Lauren Drewery**

The Sisters of Invention – the world's first pop girl group with disabilities – are challenging society's pre-conceived ideas about what a pop star looks like, what they can say and what they can do. After a successful first album and music video, they want to push their creative limits and establish themselves as professional singer/songwriters in their own right. But can they break free of the tough reality of living with a disability?

**Prisoners and Pups**

**Writer/Director/Producer: Shalom Almond**

**Executive Producer: Lauren Drewery**

Prisoners sign up to rehabilitate retired greyhound racing dogs to prepare them for life on the outside. The inmates have just a few weeks to learn how to train, socialise and transform the dogs into loving, family-friendly pets – and then face giving them up for adoption in the outside world. In turn, can the dogs help the inmates rebuild their lives? Can man and animal work together to create a better life for each other?

**Lost In Pronunciation**

**Producer: Julia de Roeper**

**Writers: Ivan Aristeguieta & Chris McDonald**

As Venezuelan comedian Ivan discovers what it means to be a real 'Aussie', his quest to becoming a permanent resident isn't so much about ticking a box on a form, but learning about the strange and unique customs that we take for granted, and that make us Australian. With the help of two Aussie roommates, a lesbian tradie and hipster vegan, he gets a firsthand insight into modern Australia and in the current climate of being an immigrant, what it takes to being one of the 'good ones' and how lucky we really are.

**Almost Midnight**

**Producers: Alex Keay and Peta Astbury**

**Writers: Stephen Banham and Aaron Casey**

**Director: Stephen Banham**

*Almost Midnight* is a coming-of-age romantic black comedy about a socially-inept young man named Dave. The tale is told in five minute real-time slices of Dave's life just before the New Year's countdown over six subsequent years. Through this fragmented technique, the audience is able to witness Dave's growth from the bumbling wall-flower to a fully-matured man, comfortable in his own skin. Dave's alcohol fuelled misadventures provide many tragicomic cringe moments until he finally learns that you can't hurry love.