



South Australian Film Corporation



MEDIA RELEASE: Monday 3 August 2020

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BACK IN PRODUCTION WITH AFTERTASTE

Filming has commenced today on ABC comedy *Aftertaste*, the first major production to shoot in South Australia since the global shutdown caused by COVID-19. Rachel Griffiths, Wayne Blair and Susan Prior join Erik Thomson in the six-part comedy series from Adelaide's Closer Productions.

Minister for Innovation and Skills David Pisoni said 110 South Australian crew and cast commenced work today on the first production to get underway in the state since COVID.

"The rigorous work done by the South Australian Film Corporation to support Adelaide's Closer Productions has resulted in screen production re-starting in the state. We welcome the news that 76 crew and 34 cast from South Australia are back working in our local screen industry," Minister Pisoni said.

"The production will also employ almost 200 local extras," he said.

"SA Health has also played a vital role in enabling production to restart safely, and we warmly thank the additional 10 interstate cast and crew for their cooperation and willingness to adhere to SA Health regulations and quarantine requirements."

CEO of the South Australian Film Corporation Kate Croser said the SAFC-commissioned Deloitte Risk Assessment Tool was crucial to ensuring the production could meet its COVID-safe requirements.

"The Risk Assessment Tool has been instrumental in navigating the path back to production, and providing the framework and structure needed to get this production up and running within COVID-Safe guidelines," Ms Croser said.

"We congratulate Closer Productions on this home-grown ABC primetime comedy commission, the first for a South Australian company, and their determination to get this great new series on screen. They are paving the way for other productions to start shooting in South Australia.

"It is also fantastic to partner again with the ABC to deliver high-quality television content following the success of flagship dramas *Stateless* and *Operation Buffalo*, and the recent ABC Children's titles *First Day* and *Are You Tougher Than Your Ancestors?*"

Producer Rebecca Summerton said "With the support of ABC, Screen Australia and SAFC, we are delighted to commence filming today. We have a terrific cast and crew and are looking forward to bringing this irreverent new comedy to audiences soon."

Producer and star Erik Thomson said, "I am thrilled to be finally donning the chef whites and working with such an exciting cast and crew. The Adelaide Hills is the perfect backdrop for our irreverent take on food culture, and the notion of the notorious celebrity chef."

Erik stars as Easton West, an internationally renowned yet volatile celebrity chef who has a spectacular fall from grace and returns to his hometown in the Adelaide Hills. West endeavours to rebuild his career and restore his reputation, with the help of his talented, young, pastry-chef niece Diana (Natalie Abbott).

Joining Erik in the star-studded ensemble is **Rachel Griffiths** (*Total Control, The Wilds*), **Wayne Blair** (*Mystery Road, Top End Wedding*), **Susan Prior** (*Glitch, Frayed*), **Peter Carroll** (*Crazy Rich Asians, The Power of The Dog*), **Remy Hii** (*Harrow, Spider-Man: Far From Home*), **Natalie Abbott** (*Muriel's Wedding The Musical*), Adelaide's own **Kavitha Anandasivam** (*The Hunting*) and **Justin Amankwah** (*Fat Pizza vs Housos*).

Created by Julie De Fina and Matthew Bate and directed by Jonathan Brough (*The End, Rosehaven, The Family Law*) *Aftertaste* will film across Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills region over the next five weeks and will premiere next year on ABC.

Production Credits: *Aftertaste* is a Closer production for the ABC, with major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the South Australian Film Corporation and financed with support from the ABC. Producers: Rebecca Summerton, Matthew Bate and Erik Thomson. Executive Producers: Julie De Fina and Rachel Griffiths. ABC Executive Producer: Rebecca Anderson.

IMAGE: Erik Thomson and Natalie Abbott

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7n9u1bek7q78tzt/AABMmFkpoWMa8VATDQyfuClha?dl=0>

MEDIA CONTACT

SAFC: Cathy Gallagher 0416 227 282 | cathy@abcgfilm.com

ABC & *Aftertaste*: Yasmin Kentera, ABC TV Publicity 0418 813 071 | Kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au