

# Bay Of Fires PRESS PACK

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## 1. Bay Of Fires Press Release

Showcasing Tasmania's rugged west coast, Bay Of Fires, tells the story of Stella (Marta Dusseldorp), who unexpectedly finds herself in a small, remote community. But it's not the kind of place they put on postcards – it is instead rife with simmering feuds, crime and sometimes, murder.

Award-winning actress Marta Dusseldorp leads an impressive line-up of established and emerging stars, filming on the West Coast of Tasmania, on ABC's eight-part darkly comedic crime series Bay Of Fires, produced by Archipelago Productions and Fremantle Australia.

Starring alongside Marta is acclaimed actress Kerry Fox (Conversations with Friends), Toby Leonard Moore (Billions), Rachel House (Stateless), Yael Stone (Orange is the New Black), Nicholas Bell (The Newsreader), Tony Barry (Harrow), Oscar Redding (The Twelve), Bob Franklin (Please Like Me) Kim Ko (Wentworth), Matt Nable (Mr Inbetween), Stephen Curry (June Again), Roz Hammond (How to Please as Woman), Pamela Rabe (Wentworth), Robert Rabiah (Safe Harbour) Emily Taheny (Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell), Nikolai Nikolaeff (Stranger Things) Andre de Vanny (Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries), Ilai Swindells (Retrograde), Anthony Sharpe (Fires), and Rhys Muldoon (Les Norton). Rounding out the cast are rising stars Imi Mbedla (Australia's Got Talent), Ava Caryofyllis (Dirt Music), Mackenzie Grant (The Next Step), Ben Knight (Upper Middle Bogan) Peter Sammak (Rake), Jalen Sutcliffe (Black Comedy) and newcomer Mitchem Everett.

ABC's Head of Drama, Entertainment and Indigenous Sally Riley says, "Featuring a brilliant cast led by the multi-talented Marta Dusseldorp and the off-kilter humour of Andrew Knight, riveting storylines and filmed against the stunningly beautiful backdrop of Tasmania's West Coast, ABC audiences will be captivated by Bay Of Fires."

Co-creator and producer Marta Dusseldorp says, "Bay Of Fires is a highly original, place based story of community and intrigue. Through Stella's fall from grace we are introduced to a plethora of authentic, strange and somewhat dangerous characters living in an undiscovered part of the world. Individually they are greedy - together they are deadly."

Fremantle's Executive Producer for Bay of Fires Brett Popplewell says, "Bay Of Fires is one of the most ambitious and exciting productions Fremantle have co-produced in recent years and a project we're very proud to have in our catalogue. It brings to life Marta, Andrew and Max's vision in a visually striking and emotionally resonant way, telling a compelling story that is certain to capture audiences around the world".

The award-winning creative team includes co-creator/writers Andrew Knight (Jack Irish) and Max Dann (Spotswood). Directors Natalie Bailey (Retrograde, The Unusual Suspects) and Wayne Blair (The Sapphires, Total Control).

Bay Of Fires is an Archipelago Productions and Fremantle Australia production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the ABC and Screen Tasmania, with support from Vic Screen. ABC Executive Producers Sally Riley, Alex Baldwin



and Louise Smith. Executive Producers Andrew Knight, Brett Popplewell and Greg Sitch. Producers Yvonne Collins and Marta Dusseldorp. Fremantle will distribute the series internationally.

## **2. Series Outline**

Anika Van Cleef is the last person you would expect to find living in a remote community in Tasmania. Betrayed and in danger, she has no other option but to trust a stranger who claims to be on her side, accept a new name she hates (Stella Heikkinen), and move her family to Mystery Bay — a town so remote it eludes GPS. Mystery Bay isn't the kind of place they put on postcards. There are no waterfalls, murals, or floral clocks, and the natural beauty that is there (a dense, primordial forest) — the town does its very best to hide.

## **3. Episode Descriptions**

### **Episode 1**

Targeted by two hitmen, successful CEO of ProperAus Finance, Stella narrowly escapes with the help of a mysterious woman called Airini. Stella is instructed to pick up her kids, Otis and Iris, and prepare to leave town immediately if she wants to stay alive. After sneaking home to pack a bag, Stella is horrified to discover that her boyfriend, Johann, is leading the hitmen trying to kill her. She meets with Airini and is given a new identity, a burner phone, and three one-way tickets to a small town in Tasmania- Mystery Bay. They are to remain there until further notice.

The family arrive in Mystery Bay- fondly renamed as Misery Bay- a strange town with equally strange inhabitants. The locals aren't exactly welcoming of the new arrivals and are mostly unhelpful, hostile, or just downright confusing. They meet Jeremiah, a rough tow truck driver, Jodie, the owner of the rarely frequented pub, Connor, the local mechanic and Magda and Heather, who have a beloved pet pig called Truffles.

Francis- a dodgy real estate agent, eventually gives them keys to their new house, which Stella tells the kids they will be living in longer than expected. They soon discover it is falling apart- the floorboards are rotten and there are gaping holes throughout various rooms. During the night, the family are woken by trucks passing through the property's front yard. Just as Stella decides to go outside and assess the danger, she falls through the floor to a cellar below.

### **Episode 2**

Jeremiah turns up at Stella's house to fix the rotten floorboards, so Stella and the kids go to stay in the local motel until it's done.

Frankie the town matriarch, and her younger brother Arthur, begin asking questions about Francis selling Stella the house. Frankie introduces herself to Stella. In the spirit of being neighbourly Frankie brings Stella a casserole.



Stella, Otis and Iris get more acquainted with the townspeople. Iris befriends Graham, an older blind man who lives in the motel. Otis meets Elysha, the daughter of Thaddeus and Bethel who run "The Community" on the edge of town, and Stella finds herself somewhat less irritated by Jeremiah. They also meet Bong Cha- the discerning motel owner and her helper Sammi, a young tech guy also living in the motel.

When Stella and Otis relationship becomes particularly strained, she calls Airini in the hopes of leaving, but Airini insists that the family must remain in Mystery Bay. Stella decides to reveal the truth to Otis in the hopes of regaining trust and connection. However, it only adds to his criticism of her parenting skills and resentment towards her.

Upon returning to the house when Jeremiah is finished, the floorboards have been redone, and to Stella's surprise - it's beautiful. Stella begins to feel more comfortable with Jeremiah who is proving to be more helpful and less grumpy than she initially thought.

She takes the kids for a picnic by the lake, and for the first time since the beginning of the ordeal, Stella feels somewhat happy but that feeling doesn't last long.

### **Episode 3**

Robin, a public servant is sent to Mystery Bay to investigate suspicious government payouts to people in town. But when she tries to locate the people listed in the file, she is left with more questions than answers.

Stella, Otis and Iris attend an uncomfortable dinner Frankie's and meet her gang of adopted children. Frankie tries to get more information around why the family has come to Mystery Bay and grows increasingly suspicious of Stella.

Otis and Iris start attending the local school where Otis finds himself increasingly drawn to Elysha.

Stella and Jeremiah get further acquainted when he gives her a lift home from town. She also meets his father, Joseph, and learns about his brother Billy. Stella persists in trying to get out of Mystery Bay and sends Airini the USB that Kumar had left her in the hopes of it giving some much needed answers.

### **Episode 4**

Stella receives help from Jeremiah to dispose of a body in the Tasmanian wilderness. However, after becoming separated from Jeremiah and losing the raft, Stella finds herself lost.

When Jeremiah comes back for her, they spend the night in an abandoned hut where their curiosity in each other increases.



Meanwhile, Frankie now feels her control of the townsfolk is under threat and orders Stella to be picked up.

Seeking answers Airini enlists the help of an old friend to try and make sense of ProsperAus Finance and have the hitmen arrested.

## **Episode 5**

To reassert her power, Frankie puts Stella on trial in front of the townsfolk, however Stella negotiates to pay the entire town a large sum of money every two weeks with no idea of how she is going to do it.

Now threatened by the townspeople's growing disloyalty to her, Frankie orders punishments to those who sided with Stella during the trial.

As Airini continues her investigation into ProsperAus Finance, she calls upon an old colleague to help decode Kumar's USB vindaloo recipe. Getting dangerously close to solving the case, she begins preparations for the trial and organises a private plane out of Mystery Bay for Stella and the kids and tells her to prepare to leave at a moment's notice.

Tensions rise between Otis and Stella, and his resentment grows when she forgets his birthday. Otis and Elysha's interest in each other grows as the pair deepen their connection. However, Elysha informs Otis she can only be with someone from inside The Community and is already promised to another.

As Stella, Otis and Iris make try to make their escape from Mystery Bay, things start to unravel.

## **Episode 6**

Returning to Mystery Bay after their failed attempt to escape, Stella receives important documents Airini posted to her only to find its contents unreadable. She calls upon her allies in the town- Sammi, Magda and Heather, who use their former skills to help her crack the code.

Frankie continues to lose support after punishing several townsfolk for being disloyal to her. After an awkward dinner party, Jeremiah and Stella come together to take action against Frankie's Bay of Fires operation and find themselves closer than ever.

Stella's father, the former CEO of ProsperAus Finance, appears in Mystery Bay attempting to convince her to return home with the kids. Wary of his intentions and who he may be working for, both Stella and Iris are dubious. Meanwhile, Johann starts trying to locate Stella's whereabouts.

Meanwhile, Otis runs away to pursue Elysha and after refusing Stella's wishes to come back home, he comes face to face with the dangers of Thaddeus and The Community.



## **Episode 7**

With her 'Bay Of Fires' operation sabotaged by Stella and Jeremiah, Frankie finds herself in hot water when unable to pay her 'business partner' or the townspeople who grow increasingly impatient with her. Furious and desperate, she launches a violent investigation to find out who is responsible.

Knowing that Frankie will be on a warpath, Jeremiah hatches a plan to protect Stella by steering attention off her and onto himself.

While Jodie seeks to protect Jeremiah and convinces him to leave Mystery Bay with her for good. As they plan their escape, Jeremiah says goodbye to a confused Stella, but also pays a visit to police officer Jason- leaving him with a specific set of instructions.

Meanwhile, the hitmen arrive in Mystery Bay to kill Stella and the townsfolk rally to protect her.

Magda and Heather finally crack the code to get into the ProsperAus account- only to discover a crime so large that Stella doesn't know what move to make next.

Meanwhile, Otis is held captive by Thaddeus and The Community and Elysha takes a risk to help him.

After his terrifying experience during the 'Bay of Fires' operation, Jack runs away from Frankie and seeks comfort in his newfound friendship with the postman, Charlie.

## **Episode 8**

After several failed attempts to have Stella murdered, Johann and his hitmen arrive in Mystery Bay and he is determined to finish the job himself. When Stella is informed of her ex-lover's arrival, she leads him to Frankie's farm.

Meanwhile, Stella plans to take the get the townsfolk the money she promised them and the townspeople all come together to help her – but will they be able to pull it off? And just how far is she willing to go?

Unable to shake Stella from his mind and accidentally receiving love advice from Johann, Jeremiah returns to Mystery Bay to be with Stella.

While Frankie, left scrambling for support and desperate to regain control, goes to Thaddeus for help.

Now bonded through their experience at The Community, Otis and Elysha are closer than ever. Elysha begins to learn what a life outside of the Community looks like, and Otis begins to reconcile his relationship with his mother.



Jack pays a visit to Frankie to inform her he is staying with Charlie.

#### 4. Character Descriptions & Actor Biographies

**ANIKA/STELLA (Marta Dusseldorp)** is a high achieving woman from a family that values success over empathy. She's not the world's greatest mother - but that doesn't stop her pretending she is. So what if she can't cook or iron a school shirt? What she can do is manage a multi-million-dollar corporation and bring it into profit blind folded. Forced to take shelter in the remote town of Mystery Bay. Stella must survive and protect her children, by throwing out the old rule book and drawing on skills not even she is aware she has.

##### **MARTA DUSSELDORP**

Award-winning actress Marta Dusseldorp has worked extensively in theatre, film and television for over 30 years and is one of Australia's most recognised actresses. Marta received the AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress in a TV Drama for ABC's Janet King in which she plays the title role and was also an Associate Producer. She starred in the popular series A Place to Call Home for Foxtel/Seven and in the ABC series Jack Irish opposite Guy Pearce. She has been nominated multiple times for AACTA and TV Week Logie Awards in Lead Actress categories for her work in these productions. She most recently appeared in the TV series Wentworth and The Twelve for FOXTEL and in the film Ellie and Abbie.

Marta is the Director of Archipelago Productions in lutruwita/Tasmania. She has co-created Bay Of Fires with Andrew Knight and Max Dann and has produced and starred in the eight-part television series mainly shot on the West Coast of Tasmania.

Archipelago recently produced Women Of Troy with Ten Days On The Island at the Theatre Royal in which Marta also performed. Marta is also developing other television series, feature films and theatre with various partners.

**JEREMIAH (TOBY LEONARD MOORE)** Jeremiah could have been a captain of industry, or a respected pillar of the community — but he never got the chance to be any of those things. Instead, he's dirt poor, self-reliant, self-taught and has a strong code of ethics. When not re-building an old boat, he runs the Mystery Bay tow trucking business.

##### **TOBY LEONARD MOORE**

Toby is best known for his work in US film and television including as 'Bryan Connerty' in Billions, in Daredevil and John Wick. In 2020, Moore appeared as 'David O'Selznick' in David Fincher's Academy Award winning Netflix film Mank alongside Gary Oldman and in season two of Condor.

Moore was most recently seen in the AACTA nominated series The Unusual Suspects bringing him home to Australia and working alongside his wife Michelle Vergara Moore for the first time.



Other television credits include Mystery Road Season 3, The Pacific, Blue Bloods, White Collar, , Dollhouse, and Underbelly: The Golden Mile.

His theatre credits include Suicide, Incorporated, Stag, Dead Caesar, Saturn's Return and Peribanéz.

**FRANKIE (KERRY FOX)** President of the local CWA. Frankie is a hardworking, down to earth, craft loving matriarch who controls a lot more than the local cake stall at the town fete. She believes in family, demands loyalty, and makes her own rules. She runs an unofficial foster home for stray youths and her home is a revolving door to those who are down on their luck and longing for community. For her the definition of her community is unfaltering alliance to Frankie.

### **KERRY FOX**

Kerry Fox is one of New Zealand's most internationally respected and awarded actors. She appears in the BBC/Hulu series Conversations With Friends, Claire McCarthy's feature The Colour Room and the Netflix series Half Bad.

Kerry's recent directorial debut, the short film Topping Out, was selected to premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival & has screened in festivals in Europe & America.

Her other recent film credits include Rare Beasts for the 2019 Venice Film Festival, Little Joe at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival, Baghdad In My Shadow at the 2019 Locarno Film Festival, Top End Wedding, The Rehearsal which premiered at the 2016 New Zealand International Film Festival and also screened at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival, Patrick's Day, Neil Armfield's Holding The Man and The Dressmaker and Downriver which premiered at the 2015 Melbourne International Film Festival.

Kerry's body of work includes An Angel At My Table for which she was awarded the New Zealand Film Award for Best Actress, the San Sebastian Film Festival Award for Best Actress and the Venice Film Festival Elvira Notari Award for Best Performance; The Last Days Of Chez Nous which earned her the Asia-Pacific Film Festival Award for Best Supporting Actress; and Intimacy which saw her win the Silver Bear Best Actress Award at the Berlin Film Festival and the film win the festival's Golden Bear for Best Film.

She has also starred in Shallow Grave, Welcome To Sarajevo, Richard Flanagan's The Sound Of One Hand Clapping, Country Life, The Gathering, The Hanging Garden, Storm, Bright Star, Intruders and Burning Man, Mayhem, Brakes, War Book, Trap For Cinderella, Mister Pip and Mental.

Kerry has appeared in numerous television productions in the UK including Déjà Vu, Waking The Dead and Trial And Retribution, the telemovie The Affair and Mr Wroe's Virgins. In 2010, Kerry starred in Rowan Joffe's BAFTA Award winning telemovie The Shooting Of Thomas Hurndall and in 2011, appeared as Oriel Lamb in the ground-breaking Foxtel television series Cloudstreet based on the novel by Tim Winton. She also appeared in the third and final season of the popular Seven Network series Wanted.





Kerry is an accomplished theatre actor having recently performed in Tennessee William's *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* at London's Apollo Theatre, Andrew Bovell's *Speaking In Tongues* at London's Duke of York's Theatre and Noel Coward's *The Vortex* at the Rose Theatre.

**AIRINI (RACHEL HOUSE)** At first glance, Airini is a professional, non-assuming woman who enjoys being a part of her local church choir. A straight talking senior official in AFSSO, she tells Stella almost nothing about herself or how she has access to a vacant property in Tasmania.

### **RACHEL HOUSE (NGĀI TAHU, NGĀTI MUTUNGA)**

Rachel is one of New Zealand's most highly regarded actors. She has had a long and celebrated career both locally and internationally on stage, TV and Film. Highlights of her career include *Moana*, *Thor*, *Boy*, *Hunt For The Wilderpeople*, *Penguin Bloom*, *Cousins*, *Millie Lies Low*, *Going Going*, *Next Goal Wins*, *Cowboy Bebop* and the recent feature *The Portable Door*. She is also a celebrated voice artist having starred in *Sherwood*, *The Lion Guard*, *Underground Uglies*, *Amphibia* and recently *Princess And Pony*, *100% Wolf* and *Koala Man*.

As an acting coach she has also worked alongside Jane Campion for *Top Of The Lake* and *Power Of The Dog* and with Taika Waititi for *Boy*, *Hftw*, *Jojo Rabbit* and *Next Goal Wins*. Her recent TV credits include *Heartbreak High* for Netflix and *Foundation Season 2* for Apple TV+.

She is also an award-winning theatre director most notably for the reo (Maori language) version of *Troilus And Cressida* performed at the Globe Theatre in London. She studied at Prague film school where she won Best Director and the Audience Award for her two short films. She has directed commercials for ASB with *Curious films* and Auckland Transport with Adrenalin road safety "Yeah, nah" commercials aimed specifically at young Māori, which she also wrote - these super low budget commercials went viral garnering over a million hits. Rachel has also been awarded an Arts Laureate, NZOM, Mana Wahine (WIFT) and Te Waipuna a rangi (Matariki awards) as an actor and director.

**OTIS (IMI MBEDLA)** Otis is fifteen and he is angry. He's smart, highly critical and lost. After their unexpected dash to Tasmania he tells his mum he doesn't want any part of it. He's done the research. Tasmania has the highest proportion of cigarette smokers out of all the other states. It also has the highest unemployment, lowest incomes, least educated, poorest longevity, highest teenage pregnancy, highest petty crime and worst domestic violence. But gradually, he too comes to love it.

### **IMI MBEDLA**

Imi Mbedla was born in the Republic of South Africa and moved to Australia at the age of 2. As well as being an actor, Imi is an accomplished hip hop dancer. His television credits include the ABC series *How To Do Stuff Good*, *Ready Set Dance* for Nickelodeon and numerous advertising campaigns for both Australia and America. He has appeared in a



number of music videos and was thrilled to work on Marvel feature film Thor: Love And Thunder as an Asgardian Kid.

**IRIS (AVA CARYOFYLLIS)** Iris is an old soul in a young body. Self-aware, wise beyond her years, odd, a loner and is always matter of fact. She secretly believes that she is the glue that holds the family together. Iris doesn't hate anyone. She goes with the flow. Unlike her brother, Iris is open when moved to Mystery Bay where she immediately adopts a stray goat and quickly forms friendships with Graham and Jeremiah.

### **AVA CARYOFYLLIS**

Ava was born in 2011 in Sydney, Australia. She began acting when she was 5 years old. Her film credits include the Netflix feature Kate, Little Monsters, Dirt Music, Hearts And Bones, On Halloween and most recently as Young Jane Foster in the Marvel film Thor: Love And Thunder.

Television credits include Foxtel series The Twelve and before that as Little Julia in Chris And Julia's Sunday Night Takeaway. Ava has also featured in over 25 television commercials.

As well as acting Ava enjoys singing and is learning the flute and the ukulele.

**THADDEUS (MATT NABLE)** Thaddeus is the leader of the 'The Community' - that live on the fringe of Mystery Bay. Their way of life is an isolated one - fenced off grounds, completely cut off from modern technology and outside influence. Thaddeus devout and considers all non-believers to be sinners and unworthy of his time or sympathy. To allow for a peaceful co-existence between Mystery Bay and The Community, an unspoken agreement has prevailed since the beginning - they stay out of each other's way.

### **MATT NABLE**

Matt is an Australian actor, writer and director. In 2007, Nable wrote and played the lead in the critically acclaimed The Final Winter. Following that success, he headed to the U.S. where he played the lead role in the television pilot SIS.

Nable went on to star in feature films including The Killer Elite, 33 postcards, k-11 and The Turning. Other feature film credits include Riddick, Fell, Around The Block, Son Of A Gun, Hacksaw Ridge, Incarnate and Jasper Jones. In 2018, Nable wrote and starred in the Australian feature film 1%. Followed by The Dry in 2021, and in 2022 Poker Face.

On the small screen, Nable starred in East West 101, Underbelly: Badness, Bikie Wars: Brothers In Arms, Arrow Season 3 and 4, Winter and the mini-series Gallipoli. In 2016 he was seen in the US TV series Quarry, Legends Of Tomorrow and the ABC mini-series Barracuda, with his performance as swimming coach 'Frank Torma' garnering him an AACTA nomination. He then starred in Hyde & Seek and the mini-series Blue Murder: Killer Cop as well as Mr Inbetween Seasons 1-3. Followed by the ABC series Wakefield, and the co-production The Sounds. In 2022, he featured in The Twelve for Foxtel and in The Year Of for Stan.



Nable has also published three books with Penguin: We Don't Live Here Anymore, Faces In The Clouds and Guilt. His most recent book Still for Hachette is now a number one Australian best seller.

Most recently Matt wrote the script and made his directorial debut for the feature film Transfusion for Stan starring opposite Sam Worthington. Transfusion won the Howard Frank Van Norton Award for Best Film at the 2022 Veteran's Film Festival Red Poppy Awards.

**FRANCIS PIKE (STEPHEN CURRY)** Friendly, affable and liked among his peers, Francis is the Mystery Bay Real Estate Agent. He is a man who increasingly finds himself walking a tightrope. Francis knows when to smile, when to laugh, when to talk hard-ball, and most importantly, when to look the other way. But sometimes his ambition clouds his judgement.

### **STEPHEN CURRY**

Stephen Curry has been entertaining Australian audiences since his breakout performance as 'Dale Kerrigan' in the classic Aussie movie The Castle. He has had leading roles in many film and television productions, including most recently feature films June Again and Lone Wolf, as well as the Paramount+ series Spreadsheet. Other projects include Mr Black, Pine Gap, Hounds Of Love, The Time Of Our Lives, Redfern Now, Hiding, Rake, Cloudstreet, The Cup, False Witness, The Informant, The Secret Life Of Us and Thunderstruck to name a few. His performance in The King won him the AFI award for Best Actor, a Silver Logie award for Most Outstanding Actor and an ASTRA award for Best Actor in a Drama. Stephen was also the recipient of the Best Actor award at the Film Critics Circle Awards of Australia for his performance in the feature Hounds Of Love.

**ROBIN (Yael Stone)** Robin is a public servant working for the Department of Finance. She is the kind of person who knows how many paperclips are left in the box at any given time, or perhaps gets a deep sense of calm from colour coding her stationery. She is sent Mystery Bay to investigate some dodgy government payouts and has the unfortunate task of asking questions of the townsfolk.

### **Yael Stone**

Yael is best known for her 7-season portrayal of 'Lorna Morello' in Orange Is The New Black earning her 3 SAG Awards for Outstanding Comedy Ensemble and Emmy Award Nominations for Outstanding Comedy and Outstanding Drama. More recent screen credits include Del Katherine Barton's feature film debut, Blaze. Feature film Blacklight with Liam Neeson. Firebite, an outback vampire series created by Warwick Thornton and Brendan Fletcher. High Maintenance, Picnic At Hanging Rock, Deep Water, Childhood's End and Celeste Barber's Netflix series Wellmania. Yael has enjoyed an extensive career in the theatre and has received numerous nominations and awards for her onstage performances.

**JOHANN (NIKOLAI NIKOLAEFF)** Good looking, supportive, smooth talking and affectionate - Stella considered Johann a pretty good catch. Johann felt some affection for Stella - but it wasn't enough. He is now part of the team sent to kill her.

### **NIKOLAI NIKOLAEFF**



Niko recently completed the feature film Last Voyage Of The Demeter as Petrofsky. He featured in the fourth season of Stranger Things as well as Bruised, starring and directed by Halle Berry (an award-winning entry at TIFF 2020). He also starred in the Pete Berg film Mile 22 and had a great supporting role in the Disney feature Togo directed by Ericson Core. Other Television credits include The Oa, Six, season one of Daredevil and a starring role in the NBC Comedy Camp. His career began as a child actor in Australia with numerous TV shows in that market including Crash Zone for Disney, season two of The Saddle Club, Wicked Science S2 for ABC, a season of Power Rangers and three seasons of the hit series Sea Patrol. Niko speaks fluent Russian.

**GRAHAM (NICHOLAS BELL)** Graham lives in the Mystery Bay motel. A blind and softly spoken, philosophical soul he stays out of Frankie's way for the sake of keeping peace. When Stella arrives in town, he forms an unlikely friendship with her daughter, Iris, and offers Stella guidance and wisdom whenever he can.

### **NICHOLAS BELL**

Nicholas is well known in the Australian entertainment industry since moving from Britain over 25 years ago. His feature film roles include most recently Elvis (dir: Baz Luhrmann), as well as Noise, I Love You Too, Caterpillar Wish, Charlotte's Web, Opal Dreams, Bad Eggs, The Great Raid, Take Away, Ned Kelly, The Dish, Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark, Kath & Kimderella, Crawlspace, Mission Impossible II, The Craic, Dark City, Shine, Hotel Sorrento and I Frankenstein. He has performed numerous roles for major theatre companies in Australia and the UK. Theatre credits include The Architect, North By Northwest, Madagascar, The Hypocrite, Enlightenment, Festen, Dumbshow, Memory Of Water, all for MTC, North By Northwest Australian Tour, Warhorse, The Great, The Wintering, Richard III, Loves Labours Lost, Red Noses, Hamlet, Henry V. Notable television roles include Thai Cave Story, Shantaram, as well as Wanted (series 1 & 2), The Ex-PM (series 1 & 2), Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, The Games, Newstopia, Stingers and Satisfaction.

Other television roles include How To Stay Married, A Place To Call Home, True Story With Hamish & Andy, The Bureau Of Magical Things (series 1 & 2), Underbelly Files: Chopper, Mad As Hell, Seven Types Of Ambiguity, Time Of Our Lives, Winners & Losers, Power Games, Childhood's End and Parer's War. He was the recipient of the Best Actor Award at the New York City International Film Festival in 2011 for his performance in the short film Afterglow directed by Nadine Garner. In 2001 he also accepted the Award for the Most Outstanding Comedy Program, on behalf of the cast and crew of the Australian comedy series The Games at the TV Week Logie Awards.

**JOSEPH (TONY BARRY)** Stubborn, proud, and rough as guts, Joseph is Jeremiah's wheelchair bound father. You can usually locate where he is at any given moment by following the sound of loud cursing or cackling laughter. He has a penchant for offending people - usually to do with his wildly inappropriate sense of humour. A man who isn't afraid to voice what he is thinking.

### **TONY BARRY**



Tony Barry was an iconic Australian actor with a career spanning four decades. Tony's career began in 1977 with *The Mango Tree*, *Weekend Of Shadows* and *Break Of Day*. His career continued to blossom with credits in film, television, radio, theatre and various documentaries. Tony's film credits include *Paperback Hero*, *Mullet*, *The Crop*, *Ned*, *The Night We Called It A Day*, *A Man's A Gotta Do*, *Lennie Cahill Shoots Through*, *Father*, *My Kind Guem-Ja*, *The Silence*, *Solo*, *Middle Of Nowhere*, *Hunt Angels*, *Cross Life*, *Providence Park* and *When The Dust Settles*. Some of his most notable film credits include *Australia*, *Home By Christmas* and *Mystery Road* and most recently the feature film *Seriously Red*.

His television credits include *City Life*, *Wildside*, *Stingers*, *All Saints*, *Halifax F.P.*, *Water Rats*, *Hero's Mountain*, *Grass Roots*, *Blackjack*, *Go Big*, *Hell Has Harbour Views*, *Four Corners*, *Chifley's 50 Days*, *False Witness*, *Dirt Game*, *Paper Giants*, *Wild Boys*, *Time Of Our Lives* and *Rake* and most recently *Harrow* and *Total Control*. His theatre credits include *A Local Man with the Ensemble Theatre*, *King Lear with Bondi Pavilion* and *Fallen Angels with Galaxy Theatre in New Zealand*. He has received many prestigious awards including the Asia Pacific Screen Award, High Distinction in Best Performance by an actor for *Home By Christmas*. New Zealand Qantas Award for Best Actor in a Feature Film for *Home By Christmas*. Tony has also received a Penguin Award for the best single performance by a supporting actor in a miniseries for playing Nipper Jackson in *Scales Of Justice*. Sadly, Tony passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022. We were honoured to have him play Joseph - may he Rest In Peace.

**JODIE (EMILY TAHENY)** Jodie runs the local pub. She's a pragmatist. Smart, driven and funny, she is all too aware of wasting away in a town dubbed 'Misery Bay'. She and Jeremiah keep each other company and although fond of him, she's too much of a realist to call what they have 'love'.

### **EMILY TAHENY**

Emily is an actress and singer with a particular flair for comedy. She has worked extensively on screen in various comedic and dramatic roles. Emily made her television debut as part of the ensemble cast in the long running Channel 9 sketch series, *Comedy Inc.* She is a regular core ensemble member of the award-winning ABC comedy series *Shaun Micallef's Mad As Hell* and has been nominated for the AACTA's 'Best Comedy Performance' award.

Other selected television appearances include; *Secret Bridesmaids Business*, *How To Stay Married*, *The Ex-PM*, *Get Krack In*, *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, *House Husbands*, *Open Slather* (also as co-writer), *Never Tear Us Apart: The Untold Story Of INXS*, *Spicks And Specks*, *Stupid Stupid Man*, and *The Chaser's War On Everything*. Emily's film credits include *The Flip Side* opposite Eddie Izzard, *That's Not My Dog*, *The Heckler* and *Now Add Honey*.

Emily and her sister Fiona co-wrote and co-produced the critically acclaimed *Fiona, Her Sister and Some Guy* touring Edinburgh and Melbourne where they were awarded the MIFC 'Best Newcomer' award.



**BRONY MCCLEISH (EMILY MILLEDGE)**, Brony was adopted into Frankie's foster family in Mystery Bay. After spending a one-off night with local cop, Jason, she fell pregnant with their son, Buzz. She finds pleasure in the small things - her friendship with Jack, Buzz sleeping peacefully in her arms and although she finds Jason's constant attempts at rekindling a romance completely annoying, she sometimes catches herself in a moment of enjoyment with him.

### **EMILY MILLEDGE**

Emily has appeared on television in Fires for the ABC, along with Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, Paper Giants II: Magazine Wars, The Mystery Of A Hansom Cab and The Saddle Club. Her stage credits include The Heartbreak Choir for MTC, the Australian Premiere of David Bowie and Enda Walsh's ground-breaking musical Lazarus, Adele In The House Of Bernarda Alba for MTC, and the Critical Stages production of Therese Raquin.

Other notable stage roles include Dorothy in The Wizard Of Oz for Belvoir; Antigone for the Malthouse; Gaybies, the titular role in Carrie: The Musical; The Good Person Of Szechuan, under the direction of acclaimed Chinese Director Meng Jinghui (Malthouse and Beijing and Shanghai Festivals); and The Production Company's season of La Cage Aux Folles. Emily has worked closely with The Rabble, one of Australia's most exciting and boundary-breaking theatre companies, in Joan (Theatreworks), Frankenstein (Malthouse Theatre), Room Of Regret (TheatreWorks/Melbourne Festival) and The Story Of O (MTC Neon). For Red Stitch Theatre in The Feather In The Web and Out Of The Water.

**CONNOR (BOB FRANKLIN)** Connor runs the Mystery Bay garage. However, first job was a tango instructor and he is a brilliant clay pigeon shooter. Connor also has a keen interest in UFO's believing his wife was abducted by aliens. She went down to the delicatessen to buy a roast chicken one afternoon and never came back.

### **BOB FRANKLIN**

Bob Franklin is an award-winning stand-up comic, writer, director and actor. He has been twice nominated for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Most Outstanding Show Award and has won the MICF Piece of Wood Award, the Sunday Age Best Comedy Show of the Year Award and the Melbourne Fringe Best Comedy Award. His television and film work includes Bad Eggs, The Librarians, Stupid, Stupid Man, Please Like Me, Jack Irish and Thank God You're Here.

He has written and directed two short suspense films. He most recently directed two episodes of Little Lunch for the ABC, Frank Woodley's stage shows, I, Woodley and King Clown, Death Of A Daulman, Lano And Woodley Fly and Tom Ballard's Enough. He followed up his Australian Shadows Literary Award-winning 2010 collection of short stories Under Stones with the release of his first novel Moving Tigers in February 2015.

**JASON (ANDRE DE VANNY)** Jason is the local police officer in Mystery Bay. A few years ago, Jason and Brony spent a drunken night together – one of the greatest nights of his life. That night they conceived their son, Buzz and although they don't parent together, Buzz and



Brony are Jason's pride and joy! Sadly, his caravan is both his home and the local police station.

### **ANDRE DE VANNY**

Andre recently appeared in acclaimed Irish monodrama Swansong (Old Fitz Theatre), and the award winning Of Mice And Men (Sport For Jove Theatre Co). In 2015 he won Best Actor at the Melbourne Green Room Awards for his work in Glory Dazed (Red Stitch Theatre Co). Other theatre credits include Red (Melbourne Theatre Company) and the Australian tour of War Horse (National Theatre of London). His film credits include the upcoming feature The Hard Road, as well as The Pacific, Nightmares & Dreamscapes, Salem's Lot, and Hercules. His TV credits include Blue Heelers, Mda, Canal Road, Rush, City Homicide, Killing Time, Miss Fishers Murder Mysteries and The Doctor Blake Mysteries.

**ARTHUR (OSCAR REDDING)** Frankie's younger brother and her greatest ally, Arthur is a stunted thespian who dreams of the dazzling lights of Broadway. He has an exceptional gift for remembering dates, quotes and music from any iconic musical, which he regularly performs for Frankie and her less enthusiastic family.

### **OSCAR REDDING**

Oscar has been working in the industry for over 30 years across theatre, film and television as an actor, director, writer and producer. Over forty theatre productions Oscar has had the privilege to work with some of Australia's most exciting and respected theatre makers and companies including Ilbijirri, Belvoir, Malthouse, Yirra Yaakin and the Sydney Theatre Company. Some of his film and television credits include Sea Change, The Turning, Redfern Now, Puberty Blues, Beaconsfield, The Principal, Deep Water and The Secret Life Of Us. He's recognised internationally for his roles in both Jane Campion's Top Of The Lake and the feature film Van Diemen's Land that he co-wrote with director Jonathan Auf Der Heide. Most recently he featured in the Foxtel production The Twelve and The Royal Hotel a See Saw film that he co-wrote with director Kitty Green, which stars Julia Garner and Hugo Weaving.

**MAGDA (PAMELA RABE)** With a photographic memory, Magda is probably the cleverest person in Tasmania. Over the years she had an array of lovers around the globe, but when she met Heather in Tasmania, her life changed overnight. Magda now enjoys a simpler, slower existence in Mystery Bay. Her time is spent with Heather truffle hunting, doing crosswords, and going for long walks with their beloved pet pig, Truffles.

### **PAMELA RABE**

Pamela is one of Australia's most prolific and highly awarded actors. Her work in television includes The Secret Life Of Us, Mercury, The Bite, Stingers, Fucking Adelaide, The Hunting, Rosehaven and most recently Wentworth, for which she won a Silver Logie award for Most Outstanding Actress in 2018, and the AACTA award for Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama in 2015.

Pamela has appeared in several feature films including Sirens alongside, Paradise Road, Vacant Possession, Cosi, and The Well, for which she won the 1997 AFI, Stockholm Film Festival and Variety Club awards for Best Actress. For her work in theatre and musicals, she has been awarded 3 Helpmann Awards for Best Actress for The Children, The Glass



Menagerie and Grey Gardens, 8 Green Room Awards, a Sydney Critics' Circle Award and a "Mo" Award. Other notable credits include The Dance Of Death, Ghosts, The Cherry Orchard, The Wizard Of Oz, The War Of The Roses, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Hamlet, The Season At Sarsaparilla, Mother Courage And Her Children and Barry Kosky's The Lost Echo.

Pamela has also directed plays for the Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company and the Malthouse Theatre. Pamela will next be seen in Amazon original series Deadloch.

**HEATHER (ROZ HAMMOND)** Heather moved to Mystery Bay back in 1972. A hippie who built her own mud brick house on land no-one seemed to be using and now owns by default. She met Magda at the local "organic truffle association collective" gathering in 1986. They've been inseparable ever since.

### **ROZ HAMMOND**

A highly accomplished actor, writer and director, Roz recently appeared in the series Irreverent. More recent drama roles include the three-part Jack Irish telemovies, Five Bedrooms and The Heights. Other notable credits include AFI award winning The King and ABC telemovie Curtin, ABC comedies Please Like Me and The Letdown. Roz has appeared in 10 seasons of award-winning Shaun Micallef's Mad As Hell and played the controversial character Christine in the ABC comedy The Librarians. She was a core cast member in 3 seasons AFI winner The Micallef Programme, 3 seasons of Skithouse and ensemble member for two seasons of Thank God You're Here.

Film credits include Muriel's Wedding and The Dish, together with internationally acclaimed short film Titsianna Booberini. She has performed lead roles for Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Sydney theatre companies. Her own self-penned theatre shows have toured internationally with Roz receiving a Best Female Performance nomination at the Dublin Fringe and best show at the Glasgow Comedy Festival for Full Blown Rose. She was nominated for The Golden Gibbo at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival for Garden Ho. Her third show Gym And Tonic toured nationally and was nominated for Best Theatre at the Perth Fringe Festival 2014.

Her writing credits include her own plays, and for television, Home And Away, It's A Date, Little Lunch, Polly Flowers, Small Tales And True and skithouse. Her short story Because You're Worth It was included in The Best Comedy Writing Anthology of 2015. As director her theatre credits include the Greg Fleet biopic These Things Happen, This Is Not A Love Song and the television pilot, Shine Bright and 2017 short film Busting Out The Bells. As a producer, she was awarded Best Show at Adelaide Fringe Festival 2017 and Critics Circle Award Winner at Adelaide Fringe 2017.

**BONG CHA (KIM KO)** Runs the Mystery Bay Motel. Bong Cha's loyalty is only to herself and to the paycheck. She's tough, judgemental, and pragmatic enough to keep Frankie on side.

### **KIM KO**





Kim has appeared in notable TV shows including Neighbours, Wentworth, Utopia, and Secret Bridesmaids' Business. Kim previously appeared in award-winning short films including Drum Wave, Heart Station, and Mother Tongue on SBS. She performed at the Fringe Festival in The Intelligent Design Of Jenny Chow and at the Comedy Festival in Fairytale News. She also participated in creative development for two Malthouse Theatre productions; Going Down, and Little Emperors.

Kim graduated from the Full Time Program at Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia in 2014, and previously trained with the VCA Drama School. Her background is Malaysian Chinese and she migrated to Australia in 2005. She's multilingual in seven languages, with Mandarin being her first language. She's musically trained in instruments (piano, Chinese yangqin), singing, and dancing. She also loves writing and published her debut novel July Seventeenth in 2020. In between acting and training, she is a practicing medical doctor.

**SAMMI (ILAI SWINDELLS)** A millennial computer-whizz with a dark sense of humour, Sammi oversees the control unit for Frankie's DIY CCTV system run from the Mystery Bay Motel.

#### **ILAI SWINDELLS**

Ilai got his acting debut after he attended an open casting call in his home state; Queensland for the Foxtel teen drama SLiDE. Having always wanted to be an actor from a very young age, being born in Townsville and then growing up in Central QLD. His most notable credits include Open Slather in which he performed and created original characters in a sketch series alongside local comedic giants; Magda Szubanski, Gina Riley and Jane Turner.

Landmark TV series Redfern Now and lead role as Ramsay in the Award-winning ABC series Retrograde centered around and filmed in 2020 Covid pandemic. Plus lending his voice for the titular character in the popular animation feature and series 100% Wolf. He will next be seen in feature film 5 Blind Dates opposite the lead actress and creator Shuang Hu. Ilai has also worked as a presenter for TV and Radio; having racked up some decent mileage on the airwaves of Triple J.

**MANFRED (ANTHONY SHARPE)** A man who has more beard than face. He is the local School Run Bus Driver. Manfred used to be a roadie for rock groups, such as The Eagles and the Grateful Dead. He lives a quiet life now and is into affirmations, self-help, and smoking hooch.

#### **ANTHONY SHARPE**

With a career spanning over 20 years Anthony Sharpe has performed in some of Australia's best-known series. Breaking out as 'Cecil Yates' in the award winning and global hit series Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries Anthony earned an Equity ensemble award nomination. He went on to appear in US films Robert The Bruce, Hunters Moon and in Nova Vita season one. Since returning to Australia, Sharpe has continued working in major films and series including Black Water Abyss, Crypt Of Tears, Fires, Blacklight and Joe Vs Carole. Most



recently Anthony has worked on the feature film Kid Snow, award winning ABC comedy series Fisk and TV series Black Snow.

**REG (ROBERT RABIAH) and KERRY BROWN (ELLE MANDALIS)** Reg and Kerry run the Mystery Bay Thai restaurant. They utterly detest each other, and when they aren't cooking the most horrific tasting Thai food imaginable, they're at each other's throats.

### **ROBERT RABIAH**

Robert Rabiah won Best Actor (Monaco Charity Film Festival) for his performance in Face To Face by Michael Rymer, Best Writer at the Australian Writer's Guild (Monte Miller Award) and Best Writer at the National Literary Awards (Fellowship of Australian Writers). His other notable distinctions include a Top 5 Award at the first Spaamart (Screen Producers Association of Australia Film Market) a Spark Award given by the Australian Film Commission.

He was nominated for Best Actor at the 2012 AFI/AACTA's, 2011 Inside Film Awards and received a nomination for Best Actor in an Ensemble at the annual Australian Equity Ensemble Awards (the only actor-voted awards in Australia) for his performance in Safe Harbour, which went on to win for Best TV Movie/Mini-Series at the International Emmy® Awards. His film and television show credits include Chopper, Deadline Gallipoli, Jack Irish, Ali's Wedding, Below, Secret City, Safe Harbour, along with TV series Irreverent and feature film Land Of Bad.

### **ELLE MANDALIS**

Elle won an AFI award for her performance in the Ana Kokkinos film Only The Brave. Elle has featured in numerous feature films such as James Vinson's Slant, Ana Kokkinos's Head On and Down River directed by Grant Scicluna. For television, Elle's credits include Olivia in Gristmill's Back In Very Small Business, ABC's Fires, How To Stay Married on Network Ten, Working Dog's Utopia, Matchbox Pictures Nowhere Boys, Rush, Tangle, Offspring, Dead Gorgeous, Dirt Game, Last Man Standing, Scooter, The Forest, Blue Heelers, Marshall Law, Mda, The Secret Life Of Us, Something In The Air, Thunderstone, Raw Fm, Correlli and A Country Practice. Her theatre credits include Antigone (The Store Room), Snoop (Melbourne Theatre Company) and Bear Hunt (Hoist Theatre Group). Elle is also the Co-Director of two successful Acting and performance training Schools in Melbourne -Brave Studios and Greentree Acting School.

**TARQUIN (BEN KNIGHT)** Tarquin also runs the Mystery Bay op-shop. Thickset and heavily tattooed, he is loyal to Frankie and has a fondness for Graham. He once fell in love with the wrong girl and this mistake cost him dearly, yet he still secretly pines for her.

### **BEN KNIGHT**

Ben is a Queensland teacher who made the move to Melbourne eight years ago to pursue comedy and acting. He has sold out his past two Melbourne International Comedy Festival runs and was a NOVA FM radio favourite with his monthly (w)rap ups. His TV credits include



Five Bedrooms, Upper Middle Bogan, The Warriors and Offspring and films roles include The Merger, Judy & Punch and Spiderhead.

**DRAGO (PETE SAMMAK) AND STRETCH (JALEN SUTCLIFFE)** Drago and Stretch came to Frankie's make-shift foster family at a similar time. Having never known family, both are utterly loyal to Frankie and refer to her as mum. They crave her approval, and like making her proud.

#### **PETE SAMMAK**

Pete has been acting for over a decade – making his speaking debut on Underbelly Razor. Since then Pete was the main cast in the feature film Convict directed by George Basha and David Field and received critical praise on stage as Sherker in the AACTA and SPAA nominated show Taking On The Chocolate Frog. His recent film role is Mad Max – Furiosa and he has also been cast as a lead in an drama series being developed by WME IMG, Greg Haddrick and Grant Thompson.

#### **JALEN SUTCLIFFE**

Jalen is a proud Darumbal and Papua New Guinean man, also a national actor, comedian & musician from Townsville, NQ. Throughout his illustrious early career Jalen has had multiple amazing opportunities such as performing at QPAC, the G20 Summit as well as performing in the opera Pecan Summer at the Sydney Opera House as a member of the SBO (Short Black Opera) company established by the amazing Deborah Cheetham. Jalen also starred in and wrote for season 4 of Black Comedy as well as featuring on season 3, 4 & 5 of Rosehaven. Jalen has been blessed to take out the national final of Deadly Funny, which is a part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

**ELYSHA (MACKENZIE GRANT)** Like most teenagers, Elysha, the daughter of Thaddeus is plagued with confusing contradictions. A member of The Community, she is attracted to the outside world, but simultaneously fearful of it.

#### **MACKENZIE GRANT**

The role of Elysha is Mackenzie's first professional performance. Mackenzie lives in Tasmania and in 2022 was completing year 11 at High School.

**JACK MCCLEISH (MITCHEM EVERETT)** Frankie's only biological child, Jack is quickly learning how to serve his family. Jack had little interest in his cultural heritage - until a friendship with the local postie, Charlie, introduces him to his Palawa identity.

#### **MITCHEM EVERETT**

The role of Jack is Mitchem's first professional acting role. He is a proud young Pakana, Trawlwoolway northeast bunurong kulin nation Aboriginal man who is dedicated to cultural education. Mitchem specialises in dance choreography, traditional tools as well as past and present cultural practices and shares these knowledges with schools and the broader community through different workshops and programs. His artistic practice with dance and woodwork naturally flows from his interests and cultural connections.



## 5. History of the Project

Andrew Knight and Marta Dusseldorp have worked together for over a decade on various projects, from 'After The Deluge' to the 'Jack Irish' telemovies and television series. They love working together and even managed to remain great friends whilst creating Bay Of Fires.

Back in May 2020, Marta suggested a show based in Tasmania (her home now) to Andrew and sent him an article about: "A destructive pre-dawn raid that had seen Tasmania Police send another message to the state's Outlaw motorcycle gangs that they are not welcome. At 4.30am on a Thursday a police armoured vehicle rammed its way through a heavily fortified property of the Outlaws."

Andrew thought about Marta's idea, and then they discussed it some more over the phone as the world went to shit.

"One day I took a call from my old mate Marta, who had this idea about making a series in Tasmania and I'd forgotten how determined and forceful she is and then next thing I called Max Dann who also lived in Tas and I'd worked with him and asked if he wanted to get involved, then bit by bit the story came together. Then Sally Riley at the ABC almost immediately said yes to developing and series and the next thing we've dragged a crew to shoot during the coldest winter on the West Coast of Tasmania."

While writer Max Dann who also resides in Tasmania and has a strong connection to the place and the people who populate it, had been dabbling in a story of someone who winds up in Tasmania and things go horribly right or wrong – depending on who you are talking to.

Andrew also suggested it was time to see Marta's natural comedic style whilst maintaining a taunt and complicated plotline. "As part of the creative process we tried to not do what anyone expects. Marta always gets cast as the upper-class serious woman but if you know her privately, she's clumsy and funny as hell so it was fun to play with that dynamic and she's terrific in the series, I think she will blow people away."

On June 1st, 2020, Marta, Andrew and Max set up a zoom call and Stella was born! Over even more zoom calls (thanks to the pandemic) they created a story using their imaginations, collective experiences, local folklore, a local journalists' experiences and some Tasmanian historians who gave them little inspirations and hilarious observations.

Mixed in with a little creative inspiration from Ozark meets Fargo meets Schitt's Creek. Together the three creatives wrote the bible and a draft of a first episode, with thanks to funding from Screen Tasmania, they then pitched the concept to Sally Riley and Louise Smith at ABC and quickly went into development. The project was subsequently introduced to Fremantle Australia who signed on as co-producers.

Their first official brainstorming zoom room was held on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 and included:



Andrew Knight (VIC) – co-creator/writer, Max Dann (TAS) – co-creator/writer, Marta Dusseldorp (TAS) – co-creator/producer/actor, Alice Addison (NSW) - writer, Darlene Johnson (VIC) - Indigenous story consultant, Andrew Anastasios (VIC) - writer, Willoh Weiland (TAS) – Screentas Writer’s Attachment. Various consultants were brought into the writer’s room and contributed authenticity to story lines including Dave mangenner Gough (TAS) – palawa indigenous story consultant.

“There are few shows that can advance a whole industry. From the moment the idea for Bay Of Fires landed on our desks we shared Marta and Andrew’s belief that this could be one of them. While the enormous economic benefits that come with regional centres hosting shows like Bay Of Fires were always expected, it was the positive engagement of the local community and their ever-increasing sense of wellbeing and optimism that was most surprising. Bay of Fires has not only been a boon for the industry but also Tasmania and we are confident it will continue to be for the foreseeable future.” Said Alex Sangston Executive Manager, Screen Tasmania.

Marta and partner Ben Winspear had driven through the town of Zeehan during a tour of their Archipelago Productions play ‘Venus and Adonis’. Ben suggesting this as the ideal place to shoot the 8-part series and the ‘Mystery Bay’ location was found. “Marta said we must film on the West Coast, and once we got there it was the most extraordinary, hauntingly beautiful place and Zeehan looks like a movie set of an old Western.” said Andrew Knight.

Season One was filmed over a pretty cold winter on the incredible West Coast of Tasmania. “We were lucky to film on palawa land in Queenstown, Strahan and Zeehan which has this heritage Gaiety theatre in which we filmed some great scenes.” said Block Two Director Wayne Blair.

ABC Executive Producer Louise Smith said “The ABC was drawn to Bay Of Fires for many reasons, however of particularly note was the calibre of the creative team in Marta Dusseldorp, Andrew Knight and Max Dann, and the unique world in which the series was set. The location of Western Tasmania in all its wild beauty was a compelling offering and the surprising array of characters and their distinct chequered pasts had us captivated as their truths are revealed across the series.

“Supporting Marta, Andrew, Max and Yvonne’s vision, along with directors Natalie Bailey and Wayne Blair was a treat. Their story brains bring a delicious mix of menace and humour, and every episode allows us to laugh and be shocked in unexpected ways. We are excited to share with our ABC audiences in 2023.”