



# IN LIMBO

STARTS WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 9PM

**TV** | **iview**



## EPISODIC SYNOPSES

### Episode 1

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 9pm on ABC TV and ABC iview

Just before Christmas, Charlie is helping his best friend Nate build a cubby house for Nate's daughter, Annabel. Nate's wife Freya zooms in from London with a surprise blind date for Charlie, who is 12 months separated from his wife. The date goes swimmingly, aside from Charlie accidentally calling Lily an alcoholic. Charlie is on top of the world when he returns to Nate's house later that night. But his world comes crashing down when he opens the front door and discovers Nate's body.

Charlie decides he needs to step up to help those left behind, in particular Freya and 8-year-old Annabel, and he sets about finishing the cubby house. Freya arrives home early from London with a sexy surprise for Nate and is shocked to find Charlie at the house. He delivers the devastating news that Nate has gone. Later that night Charlie confronts an intruder in the cubby house. He braces for a confrontation but is shocked to discover the intruder is Nate – he's back, in ghost form.

Charlie thinks he's going crazy, but Nate assures Charlie it isn't a drunken hallucination, he is real and he's here to stay. Nate says he has been trapped in limbo until he puts something right in the world of the living. He begs Charlie to help.

#### **Short synopsis:**

Charlie is rocked by grief when his best friend, Nate, dies. But Nate soon returns as a ghost trapped in limbo, and he needs Charlie's help to break free.



## Episode 2

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 9pm on ABC TV and ABC iview  
Available to stream on ABC iview from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Freya attempts to follow the trail of the missing \$30,000 that Nate transferred from their joint account just days before he died. Charlie tries to balance the 'reality' that his friend has returned in ghost form while he attempts to step into Nate's shoes and support his grieving widow. Nate enlists Charlie's help in the first of many capers in a bid to rescue Nate from limbo.

Meanwhile Nate's very Catholic mother Maria (Lena Cruz) and father Frank (Russell Dykstra) settle their campervan out the front as they make their presence strongly felt, and widow and mother-in-law battle it out over the nature of Nate's funeral, as they await the report from the Coroner.

### Short synopsis:

Freya and Charlie are shocked to discover that Nate transferred \$30,000 to a secret bank account before he died. What kind of trouble was he in? Meanwhile, Nate enlists Charlie's help in a bid to rescue him from limbo.



## Episode 3

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 9pm on ABC TV and ABC iview  
Available to stream on ABC iview from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May

It's time for Nate's funeral and there have been some compromises around the service. For now, Maria and Freya are presenting a civilised front. At the church, all Charlie's angst and preparation over the eulogy comes to a head. It begins poorly, with an anxious congregation, but once Charlie sees Nate in the wings, he finds his moment, channels Nanna Grace (Jan Nary) and brings the crowd to laughter and tears.

Charlie is still avoiding his ex-wife, Beth, while being led on another escapade with Nate to try and release him from limbo. Workmate Niko (Aaron Fa'aoso) struggles big time at the wake and at the end of a long, emotional day, Charlie finds solace with Lily – his first sex since Beth, Nate notes as he offers up unwanted sex tips. Even after the funeral and the wake, Nate's confidence that he would have crossed over and escaped limbo by now was apparently unfounded.

Freya discovers the missing \$30K was put into a secret account by Nate set up on the day of the work Christmas party, and enlists Charlie's help to discover more about that day.

### Short Synopsis:

It's Nate's funeral and all Charlie's angst and preparation over the eulogy comes to a head. Freya also discovers the missing \$30k was transferred to a secret account by Nate.



## Episode 4

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 9pm on ABC TV and ABC iview  
Available to stream on ABC iview from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May

To keep his grief – and his ghost – at arm’s length, Charlie needs to keep busy, so he returns to work, where the boys have erected a flag for Nate. Nate convinces Charlie that his ticket out of limbo is a last-minute ‘Santa’ shop to save Bella’s Christmas. Charlie reluctantly agrees to a work psych test before he can go back up in the crane. Frank opens up to Charlie about the shame he feels about past deeds and his guilt around Nate’s death. And while the family puts on a stoic face around the Christmas table, the tension is broken by a surprise message from Nate.

Maria shares her version of Nate’s death, leaving Freya flabbergasted and Charlie leaping to Maria’s aid. Charlie discovers Beth has a new boyfriend and there’s a date with Lily on offer, which Charlie abandons when he gets a distress call from Freya. She has received a mystery package. Could this be related to the missing money?

### Short Synopsis:

Charlie and Freya seek comfort in each other, blurring the lines of their friendship. A mystery package arrives on Freya’s doorstep that raises further questions about the final days of Nate’s life.



## Episode 5

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 9pm on ABC TV and ABC iview  
Available to stream on ABC iview from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May

After spending the night on the couch with Freya, Charlie is forced to lie to Nate to cover his growing guilt. Jay, observing the growing domestic nature of Charlie's presence, warns him about getting too close to Freya. The tension between Maria and Freya comes to a head, Freya explodes and Maria and Frank head off. Niko finds out his kids are no longer coming for Christmas and hits the pub and pokies. Charlie wants to support him and on Nate's urging breaks into Niko's apartment.

Freya visits the bank to stave off financial ruin and warms to the idea of accepting Shenali's (Georgina Naidu) offer to move to London. She meets with Wayne (Jordi Webber) and offers to sell him the business. On the trail of the missing money, Charlie discovers that the address Nate's watch was sent from was the home of an ex-girlfriend of Nate's, and believes that Nate must have been having an affair. Charlie drinks heavily then climbs up the work crane. Nate begs him to come down and not to jump. Charlie insists he only wanted to feel what Nate was feeling to make sense of it all. Then, angrily, Charlie charges off to look for more clues.

### Short Synopsis:

Charlie is determined to uncover the truth about the \$30K, as Jay warns him against getting too close to Freya.



## Episode 6

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 9pm on ABC TV and ABC iview  
Available to stream on ABC iview from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May

When Charlie is served divorce papers from Beth, Nate lights on the idea that this must finally be his ticket out of limbo. He will coach Charlie to win Beth back. It's short-lived, though, as when he arrives, he discovers Johan (Josh McConville) is not only living with Beth but they are expecting a baby. It's a lost cause. And he's no closer to getting Nate out of limbo and out of his life. Lily suggests they stop seeing one another until Charlie resolves his relationship with Freya. Charlie meets Alison King (Vanessa Moltzen), who is shocked to hear about Nate's death and rejects any suggestion of an affair. She is a local real estate agent now and was helping Nate buy land for him and Freya to build their forever home.

Freya opens her Christmas present to reveal a framed photo of Nate on the land and breaks down.

Charlie tells Nate how much he misses him, the real him. And then, after weeks of bottling his emotions up, Charlie finally tears up and asks Nate's advice on whether he should see someone to help. Freya does a swerve on the London plan and makes an offer to Maria that they move in temporarily. Outside the counsellor's office, Nate and Charlie exchange New Year's resolutions and they blurt out to each other 'I love you'. Charlie heads into the session, looks out and sees Nate giving him the thumbs up. It's a first step.

### Short Synopsis:

As Charlie uncovers the mystery of the missing \$30k, it only raises more questions as to why Nate chose to end his life.

# Character and Actor Biographies



## CHARLIE (Ryan Corr)

Charlie is a practical man who believes every problem has a solution if you work hard enough to find it. He is a tower crane driver; and, as a trained ‘chippy’ he is naturally skilled with his hands – he can fix almost anything. He’s a loyal friend who always puts others first; a trait forged after watching his father abandon his family when he was young. Charlie swore he wouldn’t follow that selfish path and would be there for people when they need him.

Charlie and Nate grew up on the same street and have been friends ever since. Charlie idolised Nate – who was older, cooler and more confident – like the big brother he never had. As adults, this reverence blinded Charlie to the demons Nate was battling. Charlie will strive to atone for that by supporting Freya and Annabel, but this will bring with it a fresh sense of guilt. As his relationship with Freya and Annabel deepens, Charlie begins to wonder if his actions are entirely selfless. He always wanted a family of his own and now there is one right in front of him that needs him. Would it be so wrong if he took over the role Nate vacated? Across the season, Charlie will search for a

reason to explain why Nate suicided. Charlie won’t find a simple answer, but he will eventually learn to turn the search inward, where he’ll discover an even more pressing question: can he ask for help now that the dark clouds are gathering above him?

## RYAN CORR

With a long list of impressive credits, Ryan's charismatic on-screen presence and the breadth of his emotional and comedic range ensure he is in constant demand. Ryan has recently wrapped on feature film *Catching Dust* from director Stuart Gatt, and can currently be seen in the role of Ser Harwin in the *Game of Thrones* prequel, *House of the Dragon*, telling the story of House Targaryen.

Ryan's past feature film credits are compelling and varied, including work with some of the industry's most imaginative and fascinating directors and writers. He starred in Stephen Johnson's 1930s action-thriller *High Ground*, which premiered at the 2020 Berlin International Film Festival; led Maziar Lahooti's debut feature film *Below*, and joined an extremely commanding cast in *Mary Magdalene*, from renowned director Garth Davis. Previous film work includes the award-winning *Hacksaw Ridge*, from director Mel Gibson; *The Water Diviner*, under the direction of Russell Crowe; Greg McLean's *Wolf Creek 2* and Spike Jonze's *Where the Wild Things Are*. Recent television work includes *Wakefield* (ABC/Jungle Entertainment), *The Commons* (Stan Australia), *The Secrets She Keeps* (Channel Ten/Lingo Pictures), *Hungry Ghosts* (SBS/Matchbox Pictures) and the award-winning first season of *Bloom* (Stan Australia).

Recognised regularly in the industry for his striking performances, Ryan received a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the 2019 Australian Film Critics Association Awards for his work on Bruce Beresford's period drama *Ladies in Black*. He was also nominated for an AACTA Award for his lead role in *1%* (AKA *Outlaws*), and his outstanding portrayal of Tim Conigrave in Neil Armfield's adaptation of the book *Holding the Man* earned him nominations for Best Actor at the AACTA and Film Critics' Circle Awards. His charming, comedic performance in the feature film *Not Suitable for Children* saw him



awarded Best Supporting Actor at the Film Critics' Circle Awards, and nominated for Best Supporting Actor with AACTA. Ryan was named the GQ Breakthrough Actor of 2015 and has received both the Australians in Film Heath Ledger Scholarship and the IF Out of the Box awards. His small screen performances have occasioned Logie nominations in the categories of Most Outstanding New Talent and Most Popular New Male Talent.

With several main cast TV credits to his name as a teenager, Ryan studied at NIDA. Upon graduation his career continued with full momentum, including lead roles on series such as *Love Child*, *Tangle* and *Redfern Now*, among many others.

Ryan made his professional stage debut in *Sex with Strangers* for the Sydney Theatre Company (STC), a two-hander alongside Jacqueline Mackenzie. He was later reunited with the company in 2015 for its production of *Arcadia*.

Also a skilled voice actor, audiobook narrations include *Moonlite: The Tragic Love Story of Captain Moonlite* and *The Bloody End of the Bushrangers* both by Garry Linnell for Penguin Random House.

## NATE (Bob Morley)

Nate was an adventurous soul whose warm heart and cheeky humour brightened every room he entered. He was a loving husband and dedicated father. He was popular and successful, running his own landscaping business with his wife, Freya. When seen through Charlie's eyes, Nate is almost larger than life; a slightly mythical man who moves through the world with ego-free confidence. But beneath the charisma and easy charm there was a side of his personality Nate kept hidden – one often tormented by anxiety and depression.

As a ghost, Nate can't articulate exactly why he took his life (the answer isn't simple), but he will help guide Charlie to a better understanding of mental health struggles. Ghost Nate retains all his wit, charm and sparkle, and after an initial period of trepidation, Charlie welcomes his presence, not yet ready to let go of his old friend. But while Nate is garrulous and fun when he and Charlie are off on their many adventures, he is struck by sadness whenever he sees Freya or Annabel.



## BOB MORLEY

Bob Morley is an actor of Filipino-Australian descent best known for his role as Bellamy Blake in the CW's *The 100*. He grew up in a small town in country Victoria, where he studied drama at school. After graduation, Morley moved to Melbourne and began studying an engineering degree until a year later, when he decided to enrol in Creative Arts at La Trobe University. Shortly after, his career developed in theatre and short films.

This year Bob will also be seen on screen in *Love Me*, sci-fi horror *I'll Be Watching* and *Dead On The Dearborn*.

Before playing the role of Peter K on season 1 and 2 of *Love Me*, Bob spent seven years - and seven seasons - as the lead of THE CW's *The 100*, which he was nominated for a TCA for "Best TV Actor in a Sci-Fi/Fantasy Series." He also won E! Alpha Male 2018 & 2017 Award which is the most popular TV Actor.

He stars in the indie feature *The White City*, opposite Thomas Dekker and Haley Bennet for directors Tanner King Barklow (Oscar-nominated producer of the documentary "*The Invisible War*" which also won The Independent Spirit Award) and Gil Kofman (writer/director of the critically acclaimed independent film "*The Memory Thief*"). He played a lead in the Australian feature *Blinder*, directed by Richard Gray and starred as 'Aidan' in the hit Australian series *Neighbours*. His other Australian credits include *Roadkill* opposite Sophie Lowe, Xavier Samuels and Georgina Haig and leads on the Australian TV series *The Strip* and *Home And Away*, which earned him a Logie Nomination for 'Best New Talent.'

He has proved to be a versatile, confident, and captivating actor both on stage and screen.



## FREYA (Emma Harvie)

Freya is a vibrant personality with a razor-sharp wit and a liver capacity that belies her lithe frame. She is strong and forthright. Having worked in a traditionally blokey industry all her life, she's developed solid armour and a wicked counter-punch. Freya knew Nate much better than Charlie, but even she never realised he was at risk of suicide. Freya is trying to keep it together for her daughter while navigating a maelstrom of emotions – chief among them, anger. Freya is Australian on her late father's side and British on her mother's. After the shock of losing Nate, she will be tempted to leave the land of her birth and move to the land of her mother's birth. London looms as a clean slate for Freya, a place where she won't be instantly recognised as 'the wife of the man who killed himself'. But Brisbane has always been home, a home she shared with Nate, so leaving it will not be an easy decision.

## EMMA HARVIE

Emma is currently starring on the Binge original series *Colin From Accounts* as *Megan* opposite Harriet Dyer and Patrick Brammall. Previously, she starred in the second season of the ABC/Netflix series *The Letdown* as "Anoush." Prior to that, she appeared in ABC's *Diary Of An Uber Driver* and the ABC/Sky/HBO Max series *Frayed*. She has also amassed an impressive list of credits on stage, including *Wherever She Wanders* (Griffin) *My Brilliant Career* (Belvoir), *Dance Nation* (STCSA/Belvoir), *The Last Wife* (Ensemble Theatre), *The Wolves* (Belvoir), *The Astral Plane* (Belvoir 25A), *Wrath* (KXT/JackRabbit), *A Cheery Soul* (Sydney Theatre Company), *The Harp in the South Parts 1 and 2* (Sydney Theatre Company), *The Hypochondriac* (Darlinghurst Theatre Company), *The Wolves* (Redline Productions), *Taking Steps* (Ensemble Theatre), *The Players* (Bell Shakespeare), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Sydney Theatre Company), *Orfeo ed Euridice* in the Art Gallery of NSW (Spectrum Now Festival). Film credits include *Ladylike* (Chekhov's Gun Productions). A graduate from the Actors Centre Australia, Emma also studied at The Atlantic Acting School in New York.

## JAY (Shabana Azeez)

Jay is Freya's younger sister. Jay is charismatic, smart, sassy and always up for a good time. She is unflinchingly honest and her dark sense of humour is a welcome relief for Freya when the rest of the world is treading on eggshells around her. Jay bounces from casual job to job (presently hospitality), never has any money and is regularly two hours late to appointments. Despite these shortcomings, Jay will always be there for Freya in her time of need. She is a wonderful, fun Aunty and has a special bond with Annabel.



## SHABANA AZEEZ

Shabana recently played the lead role of Irene in the feature film, *Birdeater* (dir. Jack Clark & Jim Weir). Her TV credits include guest roles in *Nautilus* for Disney+, as well as ABC's *The Letdown* and *Why Are You Like This?*, SBS's *The Hunting*, and Channel 9's *Metrosexual*.

She co-won Best Female Actor at Tropfest in 2019 and was nominated for Best Performance at Stellar Film Festival and Best Actress at the South Australian Screen Awards for her work in Leela Varghese's *Crush*.

As half of comedy band The Coconuts, Shabana received strong reviews for *Brown on the Outside, White on the Inside* at Adelaide Fringe in 2023, was a 2019 Raw Comedy South Australian State Finalist and is developing a web series with the band's content.

She made her theatre debut in RUMPUS's production of *The Wolves* in 2019 and has since worked with South Australian theatre companies including State Theatre Company South Australia and ActNow Theatre. Passionate about telling stories that push the envelope, Shabana has worked with a number of female directors, queer creatives, and culturally diverse teams of storytellers.



## ANNABEL (Kamillia Rihani)

Annabel is Nate and Freya's daughter. Smart and emotionally mature, Annabel cuts through the double-speak and radiates pure truth. More than the adults, Annabel saw more of her father's sadness and struggle. She misses Nate and mourns his loss, but progresses with a childlike resilience. Annabel is the star player in her under-10s soccer team.

## KAMILLIA RIHANI

Kamillia's love for all things performing arts began at a very young age. She filmed her first commercial at the age of 4 and has gone on to work on countless global campaigns.

Kamillia's on-screen credits include the AACTA Award-winning series *The Twelve* (Foxtel/Easy Tiger) and the feature film *Christmas Ransom* for Stan.

## MARIA (Lena Cruz)

Nate's mother, Maria, of Filipina heritage, is a devout Catholic who is dedicated to family and faith. But her belief in a wise and benevolent God is severely challenged by Nate's death and its manner. Maria's winged vision of Nate causes tension between her and Freya, who is not religious and doesn't want Annabel converted during a vulnerable time. Despite their clashes, Maria loves Freya deeply and is a willing support to her daughter in law, both practically and emotionally.

## LENA CRUZ

Lena is an accomplished actor and singer with an impressive range of experience in theatre and on screen.

Most recently, Lena appeared on Netflix's *Wellmania* as well as Stan's *Bump*. Her other screen credits include: *The Unusual Suspects*, *The Letdown*, *Shortland Street*, *Dirt Game*, *Comedy Inc*, *Watch with Mother*, *All Saints*, *The Very Trevor Ashley Show*, and the feature films *I Am Woman*, *Here Out West*, *The Wannabes*, *The Night We Called it a Day*, and *Upskirt*. She is also appearing in the second season of Binge's *Love Me*.

Her musical theatre career has seen her playing roles in *Fame*, *Hair*, *An Officer and A Gentleman*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Chess*, and most recently *Into the Woods*. She has co-written and co-starred in the cabaret shows *The Singer's Guide to the Universe*, and *About Face*, and her one-woman shows *I'm a Stranger Here Myself* and *Bitter Sweet*. Lena is credited with creating the role of Cynthia in the original production of *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*.

In 2021, she performed in the world premiere production of Sydney Theatre Company's *Playing Beattie Bow*, and previously appeared in their satirical hit *The Wharf Review* in 2019. She has also played Lady Macbeth the Bell Shakespeare school tour of *Macbeth* and starred in Belvoir Street Theatre's production of *Mother Courage and Her Children* and *Monkey* for Theatre of Image. Lena studied musical theatre at WAAPA, and is a member of the MEAA.

## FRANK (Russell Dykstra)

Frank is Nate's dad. He is a reformed alcoholic who has been sober for thirty years. Frank was a violent drunk and he almost lost his family because of it. He slowly made amends and the second act of his life has been much gentler. Frank believes he didn't provide his boy with all the tools to survive, or a shoulder to lean on when Nate was struggling. To make amends Frank throws himself into his role as a Grandad and he also begins to draw closer to Charlie, who he views as his only remaining 'son'.

## RUSSELL DYKSTRA

Russell has had a successful career in film, television and theatre spanning over 30 years. Russell made his feature film debut in the critically acclaimed *Soft Fruit*, for which he received an AFI Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role and was nominated for a Film Critics' Circle of Australia Award. He appeared in *Romulus My Father*, which also saw him nominated for an AFI Award for Best Supporting Actor. Other films include *Slam*, *Oranges and Sunshine*, *Clubland*, *Lantana*, *Garage Days*, *Ned Kelly*, *View From Greenhaven Drive*, *The Wannabes* and *Hey Hey it's Esther Blueburger*.

Russell appeared in the successful ABC television series *Rake* (Series 1, 2, 3 & 4) (AACTA Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama, Series 4). Other television credits include *Fires*, *Why are You Like This?*, *Spirited*, *Wild Boys*, *My Place*, *Scorched*, *Black Jack*, *Irreverent* and most recently *The Last King of the Cross*.

Russell's theatre credits include *God of Carnage*, *Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *The Unlikely Prospect of Happiness* for the Sydney Theatre Company; *Twelfth Night*, *Born Yesterday* for Melbourne Theatre

Company; *Baby Teeth*, *Toy Symphony* and *Stuff Happens* for Belvoir, earning him a Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actor and a Sydney Theatre Critics Award respectively; *The Addams Family* for New Theatricals; and *The Lion King* for Disney Theatrical, for which he received a Helpmann Award and a Helpmann Award nomination respectively.

## NIKORA (Aaron Fa'aoso)

Nikora is a close mate of Charlie's and Nate's. He is a brickie, originally from Cairns, but who has moved to Brisbane to be close to the work. He misses his two daughters (5 and 6), but needs the work to get himself back on track after some serious gambling losses. He's battled a problem with gambling for years and it cost him his relationship and meant he has limited his access to see his kids. But Niko is trying to tame his demon and get his life back on track so he can be the best dad he can be. He is a prankster who loves a drink and a laugh and a good time with mates. (Eps 1, 3, 4, 5)

## AARON FA'AOSO

Aaron Fa'Aoso is best known for his appearances in ABC's *Black Comedy*, which was nominated for Most Outstanding Comedy Program at the 2015 Logies and won an AACTA for Best Direction. Aaron was most recently seen in the series *Reef Break* on ABC (US), *Going Places* on NITV and as the host of two seasons of his food documentary series *Strait To The Plate* on SBS/NITV, which he also created and produced. He can be heard as the voice of 'Old Dog' in the ABC animated series *Little J & Big Cuz*.

He first came to prominence in 2004 with his performance as 'Eddie' in the critically-acclaimed SBS mini-series *R.A.N.*, for which he received nominations for an AFI Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama and a Logie Award for Most Outstanding New Talent. Aaron then joined the multi award-winning SBS series *East West 101*, for which he received a 2011 Monte Carlo TV Festival award nomination for Most Outstanding Actor. In 2012 he was nominated for an AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actor, and the show was awarded Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast in a Television Drama Series at the Equity Awards.

In 2012, Aaron Associate Produced and starred opposite UK actor Brian Cox in the ABC crime drama, *The Straits*. The series is based on his original idea and produced by Matchbox Pictures. His other television credits include the Nine Network drama series *Hyde & Seek*, the German series *Munchen 7*, *City Homicide*, *Sea Patrol* and Screentime's *Bikie Wars: Brothers in Arms* on Network Ten.

In 2009, Aaron made his feature film debut in Sue Brooks' *Subdivision*. His other feature film credits include Stephen McCallum's feature *1%* and Ivan Sen's feature film *Goldstone*, which opened the 2016 Sydney Film Festival.

Aaron is also an accomplished stage actor and a four time Deadly Award nominee for Male Actor of the Year for his performances in *R.A.N.* and *EAST WEST 101*.

## LILY (Philippa Northeast)

Lily is a friend of Nate's and Freya's who they met through the soccer club. Lily is a GP; she is smart, funny, stylish and cultured. She's recently out of a messy relationship and is looking for a fling to get her mojo back. She is surprised to discover she has electric chemistry with Charlie and she develops genuine 'I wonder what it would be like' feelings for him. But when she senses Charlie and Freya's friendship is becoming 'complicated' she pulls away; she's been hurt before and she isn't going to make the same mistake twice. (Eps 1, 3, 4, 6)

## PHILIPPA NORTHEAST

Philippa will next be seen in the highly anticipated second season of *The Newsreader*, for ABC. Most recently, Philippa played the lead role in *A Royal Runaway Romance* for the Hallmark Channel. Prior

credits include the co-lead in the feature *Standing up for Sunny*, directed by Steven Vidler and starring *Breaking Bad's* RJ Mitte. The film had its world premiere at the Sydney Film Festival and won Best Independent Feature film at the AACTA Awards.

Philippa is well known to Australian audiences for her main cast role of Evelyn on *Home & Away*. The role was her television debut and she was a firm audience favourite. Other credits include *Drop Dead Weird*, *Bondi Slayer*, several short films and voiceovers. Having trained with 16th St Studios, St Martin's Youth Theatre and the Young Bards at The Australian Shakespeare Company, stage credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pericles* and *Twelfth Night*. She has also undertaken an Advanced Diploma of Producing at AFTRS.

## **SHENALI (Georgina Naidu)**

Shenali is Freya's Mother. She is wealthy and aloof, not fond of gratuitous displays of affection (like hugs), but big on gratuitous displays of wealth. She moved from her native England when she married Freya's and Jay's Australian father. They had kids together in Brisbane, but the marriage soured. When they separated – when the girls were teenagers – Shenali moved home to the UK, leaving the girls in the (very capable) care of their father. She loves her girls, but in her way. When Freya is devastated by the loss of Nate, Shenali will offer support the way she knows best, practically and financially. (Eps 3, 4, 5, 6)

## **GEORGINA NAIDU**

Georgina Naidu is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts. Georgina is best remembered for her role as Phrani Gupta on the much-loved ABC TV series *Seachange*. Her most recent work includes the upcoming second series of Binge's *Love Me*, Nine Network biopic *Warnie*, SBS series *A Beginner's Guide To Grief, Harrow* (Series 3), *Clickbait*, Kitty Flanagan's ABC series *Fisk*, Network Ten series *Playing for Keeps* and *How to Stay Married*.

She has appeared as a guest on numerous television series which include *Rosehaven*, *Newton's Law*, *Offspring*, *At Home with Julia*, *Please Like Me*, *Wentworth*, *The Beautiful Lie*, *Winners & Losers*, *Mr & Mrs Murder*, *Time of Our Lives*, *City Homicide*, *Satisfaction*, *MDA*, *Blue Heelers*, *Something in the Air*, and *Stingers*.

Her film credits include *Ali's Wedding*, *Vessel*, *The Boys Are Back in Town*, *Playing for Charlie*, *Mall Boy*, *Dead Letter Office* and *Road to Nhill*.

Georgina has worked extensively in theatre, not only as an actor but also as a writer. In 2005 Georgina's play *Yellowfeather*, which she wrote and performed in, had its world premiere at the Sydney Opera House before touring nationally and internationally. Selected theatre credits include *Dance Nation*, *Minnie & Liraz*, *Ganesh Versus the Third Reich*, *Attract Repel*, *Fearless N*, *The Habib Show*, *Macbeth*, *Run Rabbit Run*, and *The Book Keeper*.

## **BETH (Jane Harber)**

Beth is Charlie's soon-to-be ex-wife. Beth is an Office Manager at an architecture firm. She is smart and hard working; she wasn't university educated, so she's worked her way up. She and Charlie built a good life together and had a strong relationship, but they drifted apart and when they hit their 30s they began to want different things. Beth still cares for Charlie and wants to support him through the loss of Nate, but she has a big secret she needs to tell him first. (Eps 3, 4, 6)

## JANE HARBER

Jane Harber is best known and well loved for her role as 'Zara Perkich' in Channel Ten's Logie Award-winning and hugely popular television series, *Offspring*. She recently completed the second season of the award-winning ABC series *The Newsreader* and the US feature film *Sleeping Dogs*, starring Russell Crowe. Jane was last seen in the ABC anthology series *Summer Love*, the ABC/Netflix series *Maverix* and Nine Network miniseries *Informer 3838*. Her other most notable credits include 'Cora Benson' in the hilarious ABC comedy series *A Moody Christmas* and the follow up series *The Moodys*, regular appearances in sketch comedy series *The Elegant Gentleman's Guide To Knife Fighting*, her portrayal of Michele Bennett in *INXS: Never Tear Us Apart*, and social media influencer 'Coco' in the ABC hit comedy *Back In Very Small Business*. She has also appeared in *Blue Heelers*, *The Secret Life Of Us*, *Underbelly*, *Lowdown*, *House Husbands*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *My Life Is Murder*, and the US thriller *Pretty Little Stalker* on Netflix.

An all-rounder, Jane has trod the boards opposite Lisa McCune in the impactful dramatic-comedy *Gloria* and in the world premiere of Working Dog's *The Speechmaker*, both at the Melbourne Theatre Company. In 2018, Jane joined Rove McManus and Joel Creasey as a team captain in Channel Ten's entertainment program, *Show Me The Movie*. She also co-wrote the *Offspring* spin-off web series, *St Francis*, which aired in 2017.



## PRODUCER STATEMENT

Nate Webb had a perfect life – or so it seemed – until the day he took his own life.

The devastation, grief and blame that is part of the ripple effect of suicide is explored via this charismatic, much-loved fictional character of Nate. To ensure they approached these issues with truth and sensitivity creator Lucas Taylor and Producer Jennifer Cummins approached some of the most lauded researchers and practitioners in the world of men's mental health and suicide prevention in this country. Heiress Films had worked with this team of advisors on [Man Up](#) and the subsequent campaign [Boys Do Cry](#) – winner of B&T Best Ad campaign of 2022 with re-written lyrics to the Cure's Boys Don't Cry – a Co-Production with The Hallway. Both projects had a significant impact on changing men's behaviour to seek help. The Advisory Board represents a diversity of organisations including Movember, Orygen and University of Melbourne.

The statistics on suicide worldwide are alarming. 8.6 people suicide every day in Australia. 75% of those are men. It is the biggest killer of Australians from 18 – 44 and it is largely preventable.

On a personal level this is a story that has impacted Lucas Taylor and having worked with Heiress Films on Man Up, he approached Jennifer with an idea. They saw the opportunity to create an entertaining series about men and masculinity with a very serious message, ripe for change. Bunya Productions came on as producing partners bringing all the care, energy



and ideas they are known for - to the table. Todd Abbott at the ABC bravely leapt in, admiring the ambition to take a big swing at a serious subject through comedy.

The humour and heart at the core of *In Limbo* gives it the power to shine a light on the growing mental health challenges facing Australia. In particular, the staggering rate of male suicide and our need as a society to redefine what modern masculinity looks like.

The series is intended to encourage a national conversation around male mental health. With relatable characters, this bold comedy broaches a taboo subject and tonally navigates the complex territory of grief and friendship aiming to ignite these difficult conversations.

We are delighted to have created a comedy series to entertain and make people laugh. Wouldn't it be great if, after viewing the series, conversations were starting at tables, on couches, and in homes across the country.

## The Ghost World

*In Limbo* may be a social realist ghost story, but it is still a ghost story, so it is important to understand the rules of the world. It is never confirmed if Nate is a 'real' ghost, or a grief-fuelled manifestation of Charlie's imagination – that is for individual viewers to decide. Charlie's interactions with Nate present as 'real', but there is the chance they might be imagined. In this way it is similar to the early seasons of *The X Files*, where every spooky phenomenon had a Mulder explanation (paranormal) and a Scully explanation (scientific).

The ghost world that Nate relays to Charlie is an odd place. Much like Australia, it is a multi-faith society with Catholics, Muslims, Jedis and atheists all rubbing shoulders. And much like Australia, none of these religions are 'true', except to the spirit who believes them. Nate, as a lapsed Catholic, experiences some elements of Christian mythology, but like his beliefs in life, it's a mixed bag.

As a ghost Nate is not omnipotent, he can only hear and see what is in front of him in the room – so if something happens to Charlie when Nate isn't there he won't be aware of it. Which makes it possible for Charlie to keep secrets from Nate.

There are strict rules governing limbo, which are enforced by the bureaucrats who run the place. As the series unfolds we will learn more of these 'ghost rules' and more absurd details about limbo. We are witness to Nate's ever-evolving discoveries of his own ghost powers as the series progresses. Dandruff – a thing of the past; flickering lights – occasionally his doing – often just a storm; and better than the BOM, Nate is confident of his storm-smelling predictive powers.

This bizarre version of the afterlife will serve as a distinct counterpoint to the grounded world of suburban Brisbane, where life goes on and our characters are busy trying to navigate a life-changing tragedy the only way possible – one day at a time.

# Mental Health

The *In Limbo* production team were grateful to have a mental health advisory group working with them during the development and production of the series.

## **Advisory Group**

**Professor Jane Pirkis** is the Director of the Centre for Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. She has worked in the suicide prevention field for around 25 years and has a particular interest in reporting and portrayal of suicide in news and entertainment media. Recently, she has conducted a number of studies considering how media-based interventions might be used in suicide prevention. She is a past Vice President of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), and was a founding Co-Chair of IASP's Suicide and the Media Special Interest Group. She is the Editor-in-Chief of *Crisis*. She was the recipient of the IASP Stengel Award for Outstanding Research in the Field of Suicide Prevention (2019) and the University of Tasmania's Distinguished Alumni Award (2017).

**Dr. Zac Seidler** is a clinical psychologist, researcher and leading men's mental health expert. He currently holds dual roles as the Director of Mental Health at Movember and a Senior Research Fellow with Orygen at the University of Melbourne, where he leads the Young Men's Mental Health Research Lab. Zac has devoted several years to the goal of reducing the staggering male suicide rate, treating and researching men's mental health with over 75 peer-reviewed articles published in the area. Zac is a member on the advisory committees for Life in Mind, White Ribbon, Migration Council of Australia, the National Mental Health Commission and Suicide Prevention Australia. Zac has appeared on the ABC, BBC, Sky News and in *The Guardian*, *The Age* and *Vice* for his work.

**Associate Professor Simon Rice** is a Principal Research Fellow at Orygen; Centre for Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. His research focuses on men's experiences of mood disorders, youth mental health and athlete mental health. He is a Senior Clinical Psychologist in Orygen's Youth Mood Clinic, which supports young people experiencing complex depression, including suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

## IN LIMBO Quotes

*"In Limbo is a passion project for me as I've always been drawn to that wonderful place where comedy and tragedy meet. Exploring universal themes of friendship, love and grief, I hope the show not only makes people laugh, but also makes them reflect on the relationships they hold dear and shed the odd tear."* - **Lucas Taylor, Writer/Creator**

*"I first met Lucas in Los Angeles in October of 2019. What was meant to be a three hour mentoring session for Australians in Film turned into over three years of working on his brilliant idea for 'In Limbo'. It's been a joy working with Lucas on a show that is taking such a big swing. The ambition of making a comedy that is at times joyful and silly while also being a drama about something people don't tend to talk about was both exciting and scary. I hope I didn't mess it up too much!"* - **Trent O'Donnell - Set up Director and Director of Eps 1 & 2**

*"The casting choices made all the difference on this show. By working with seasoned dramatic actors of the highest calibre, I felt that we were able to bring authenticity to the comedy. No cheese. That felt essential given the sensitive subject matter."* - David Stubbs , Directors of Eps 3 – 6.

*"From the moment I read the first scene of Lucas's pilot script, it was clear this series had the potential to be something very special. This talented team has delivered a show that will make people laugh, cry and think a lot about life, death and love."* – Todd Abbott, Head of Comedy for the ABC

## Director Biographies

### TRENT O'DONNELL

Trent O'Donnell is a director, creator and writer who has worked extensively in the US and Australia.

Most recently he directed the season two finale of *Hacks* for HBO Max and was set up director for the hit comedy *Ghosts* for CBS. Trent is the creator, director, co-writer and executive producer of *No Activity* for Paramount+. He is the co-creator, writer and director of *A Moody Christmas*, which was remade in the US by CBS for Fox, and *Review with Myles Barlow*, which was remade in the US as *Review* on Comedy Central. He was the producing director of Fox's hit comedy *New Girl* for four seasons. His episodic work includes *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *The Good Place*, *The Letdown*, *Colin from Accounts*, *Grace & Frankie*, *A.P. Bio*, *Saved by the Bell*, *Problems*, *Woodley*, *Laid* and many others. He recently co-wrote and directed the feature film *Ride the Eagle* with Jake Johnson, Susan Sarandon and JK Simmons.

He has won multiple Best Comedy AACTAs, Best Comedy at SPA, Best Comedy Writers Guild Awards, Best Ensemble Comedy Awards.

### DAVID STUBBS

An Emmy Award-winning filmmaker with an eye for the uncomfortable truths in everyday life, David has moved between drama, documentary, music videos and digital projects in a 35-year career that's been eclectic and highly accomplished, most notably as the director and co-producer on feature films *Daffodils* (2019), *Belief: The Possession of Janet Moses* (2016); television drama miniseries *Black Hands* (2020); and series/digital projects such as *Reservoir Hill* (2010 & 2011) and *Girl versus Boy* (2013-2015). In 2023 he is also helming Warner Brothers' mini series *The Bishop* (working title).

David's films and television have screened internationally on networks, Netflix and at numerous prestigious film festivals. In 2010 David won an International Emmy Award, a Qantas Media Award and in 2017 was judged Best Director Documentary at the New Zealand Film Awards.

# Writer Biographies

## LUCAS TAYLOR

Lucas Taylor is a multiple AWGIE and SPA award-winning writer and director. He is the creator, executive producer and writer of the hit Stan Original series *Black Snow*, starring Travis Fimmel.

Lucas's previous television credits include; *Harrow* (ABC), *Vikings: Athelstan's Journal* (History), *Secrets & Lies* (Ten), *Texas Rising: The Lost Soldier* (History) and *The Strange Calls* (ABC).

In 2019 Lucas was the winner of the John Hinde Award for excellence in science fiction writing for his virtual reality feature film *Eleven Eleven*. Created for NBCUniversal Studios, *Eleven Eleven* premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival and was part of the official program at the Venice International Film Festival.

In 2017 Lucas's virtual reality documentary *Inside Manus* (SBS) won the SPA Award for best interactive production. The film premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival and was part of the Cannes Film Festival's Innovation showcase.

From 2012-16 Lucas was Creative Director at Emmy and BAFTA award-winning production company Hoodlum. His work at Hoodlum included multiplatform campaigns for major film and television properties including *The Bourne Legacy* (Universal) and *Dance Academy* (ABC). Lucas was also a key member of Hoodlum's development team, which generated hit shows including *Harrow* (ABC) and *Five Bedrooms* (Ten).

## TAMARA ASMAR

Tamara Asmar has amassed credits in a variety of genres, formats and roles. Tamara is currently story producing and writing on *NCIS: Sydney* (Paramount+/CBS, Network 10) and just completed script producing and writing on Series 2 of the award-winning *Love Me* (a Binge/Foxtel original series for Warner Bros. International Television and Wildflower Films). Tamara wrote the pilot episode for the AWGIE-nominated SBS drama series *On the Ropes* and wrote on four seasons of Easy Tiger's *Doctor Doctor*.

Tamara was script editor on the ABC's *Cleverman* Series 2 and also worked as script editor and writer on *Love Child* Series 2. She has written extensively for the ABC's *Crownies* and *Tricky Business* for Channel Nine, among other things, and is currently in development on several projects with local and international production companies.

# Producer Biographies

## JENNIFER CUMMINS

For 30 years Jennifer has made television: intimate, human stories for large audiences. For many years with Australia's national broadcaster, the ABC, and for the last twenty years through her boutique production company Heiress Films, based in Sydney. Along with her team, she unearths stories with heart and humour, which might shift minds or at best prompt change. Whether that be stoic men at risk of suicide, (*Man Up/ABC*), teenage parents raising their children (*Life Series/ABC*), a couple on the brink of separation (*Making Couples Happy/ABC*), an infertile couple seeking adoption in Korea (*From Korea With Love/SBS*) or a community of country children in search of someone to believe in them (*Outback Choir/ABC*).

For the last five years Jennifer has been developing a raft of scripted projects. With years of storytelling and finding the drama in everyday life, she is energised to work with scripted projects to capture characters we care about and to bring these fresh stories to a new audience.

*In Limbo* – in production partnership with the highly talented team at Bunya Productions is her first scripted series to air on Australian screens.

## DAVID JOWSEY

David Jowsey has had an extensive career as a film and television producer. In 2009 he formed BUNYA Productions with award-winning filmmaker Ivan Sen. David was producer of the 2011 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema-selected feature film *Mad Bastards*, directed by Brendan Fletcher. The same year David produced *Toomelah* by Ivan Sen. The film was selected for the 2011 Cannes Film Festival in Un Certain Regard. David also produced the Toronto Film Festival 2012 selection *Satellite Boy*, directed by Catriona McKenzie.

In 2013, David produced and self-distributed *Mystery Road*, by Ivan Sen. The film had its premiere with a Special Presentation at the 2013 Toronto Film Festival. This was followed by Ivan Sen's *Goldstone*, a sequel to the film *Mystery Road*, which premiered In Competition in Platform at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival. In 2015 David produced *Jasper Jones*, based on the best-selling novel, directed by Rachel Perkins and starring Toni Collette and Hugo Weaving, which premiered at the 2017 Shanghai Film Festival.

In 2016 David produced the period western *Sweet Country*, directed by Warwick Thornton, which received its world premiere In Competition at the 2017 Venice Film Festival winning the Special Jury Prize and the Platform Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival.

David produced both series of the television drama *Mystery Road* and the prequel *Mystery Road Origin*, as well as the SBS/NITV series *True Colours*. He also produced feature film *High Ground*, starring Simon Baker, which screened in a Gala Presentation at the 2020 Berlin Film Festival, Leah Purcell's *The Drover's Wife* and Ivan Sen's *Loveland*, starring Ryan Kwanten, Hugo Weaving and Jillian Nguyen. David produced Ivan Sen's latest film *Limbo*, starring Simon Baker, Rob Collins and Natasha Wanganeen, which premiered In Competition at the 2023 Berlin Film Festival.

## ANGELA LITTLEJOHN

Angela is a seasoned international screen producer and executive who has worked in the film and TV industry for the past 30 years. Prior to returning to New Zealand in 2000, Angela spent 15 years in the UK working in the film and television industry. She worked as Drama Co-Production Executive and Programme Finance Manager for Channel 4 drama and Film4. Film & TV made during her tenure included *Trainspotting*, *Secrets and Lies*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Queer as Folk*, *Brookside* & *Hollyoaks*.

Her film credits include Anthony McCarten's *Show of Hands* and Sima Urale's *Apron Strings*, *Slow West*, *Separation City* and *The Changeover*. Her TV producing credits include *Cleverman Season 1 & 2*. She co-produced Channel 4's BAFTA-winning *Not Only But Always*, starring Rhys Ifans. She was Series Producer on the pre-school animation TV series *Kiddets*, the first NZ/China official TV co-production.

Her recent producer credits include Ivan Sen's feature film *Loveland*, and Leah Purcell's *The Drovers Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson*, Matthew J Saville's *Juniper* (starring Charlotte Rampling) and Michelle Savill's *Millie Lies Low*.

## GREER SIMPKIN

Greer Simpkin joined Bunya Productions as Co-Managing Director and Producer in March 2015.

Since joining Bunya, Greer has produced all three series of award-winning television drama series *Mystery Road* as well as the SBS mini-series *True Colours*.

The *Mystery Road* franchise has won a total of 15 AACTA Awards and a TV Week Logie Award for Most Popular Drama. The series has been a ratings hit; the second series was the highest rating Australian drama on free to air in 2020, the third series, *Mystery Road: Origin*, was the highest rating drama on ABC iView in its 15-year history.

Greer has produced the award-winning feature films *Sweet Country*, *Goldstone*, *High Ground*, *Loveland*, *The Drover's Wife* *The Legend of Molly Johnson* and was an Executive Producer on *Jasper Jones*. Greer is a Producer on Ivan Sen's *Limbo* which premiered In Competition at the Berlin Film Festival in 2023.

Prior to joining Bunya, Greer was Deputy Head of Fiction at ABC Television. Greer was instrumental in commissioning a large slate of drama and comedy including *The Code*, *The Slap*, *Rake*, *Paper Giants*, *Cliffy*, *Jack Irish*, *Please Like Me*, *Devil's Dust*, *Miss Fisher*, *Dr Blake* and *Mabo*. Greer was also an Executive Producer of *The Code*, *Hiding*, *Parer's War*, *Serangoon Road* and *The Secret River*.

Before joining the ABC, Greer lived and worked in the UK. She was a Programme Finance Executive for Channel 4, Head of Production for Mentorn Films and a Producer for acclaimed photographer and filmmaker Brian Duffy.