


TRANSMISSION

Presents

THREE SUMMERS



Directed by **Ben Elton**/ In cinemas **2 November 2017**

Starring **Robert Sheehan, Rebecca Breeds, Michael Caton and Magda Szubanski**

PUBLICITY REQUESTS:

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IMAGES

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SYNOPSIS

From internationally renowned director Ben Elton comes *Three Summers*, an ensemble comedy that embraces the diversity of modern Australia. At a summer music festival, the feisty lead singer of an Irish folk band (Rebecca Breeds) meets a folk music-hating Theremin player (Robert Sheehan) and sparks literally fly.

Characters surrounding this awkward romance include a fiercely Aussie Morris Dancer (Michael Caton), an indigenous dance troupe, a group of wine-loving empty nesters, a power tripping security guard, a wannabe girl band and some musical asylum seekers. In fact, all manner of stories collide under the meddling eye of community radio super star, Queenie (Magda Szubanski) who welcomes the campers back three summers in a row for a folkling good time.

Fusing romance, music and Ben Elton's trademark wit and satirical edge, *Three Summers* delivers an engaging folk tale of contemporary Australia with the soundtrack and belly laughs for the summer to come. Also starring Deb Mailman, John Waters, Kelton Pell, Jacqueline McKenzie, Peter Rowsthorn, and the Bondi hipsters' Christiaan Van Vuuren and Nick Boshier.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

As a storyteller and comedian, Australia (and Western Australia in particular) has greatly shaped Ben Elton's thinking. The inspiration for his fictional "Westival" festival is a small country town music event that happens at the end of April. The Fairbridge Music Festival – now in its 25th year – is a WA institution, and Ben has visited with his family year after year, sometimes with some well known friends in tow. One year even Emma Thompson was spotted alongside him.

The picturesque setting presented itself as an ideal canvas for cinematic and comedic storytelling. Something that captures the "national kaleidoscope" of contrasting individuals who gather together each year under the same tent in search of music and companionship. Equally, through telling the story over a set time, to observe children growing up, couples breaking up and watch other relationships blossom. Along the way it might reveal something about the heart of the nation.

The real festival has a tremendous warmth and happiness that's empowering and positive. Which raises the question: Do we all get along despite our differences or because of those differences.

FROM THE PRODUCERS

There are few more recognisable personalities in entertainment than Ben Elton. He likes to tell how he first came to Australia in 1986 on a comedy tour with Rik Mayall when there was a requirement for each overseas performer to be supported by two local performers. So not wanting to be lumbered with four other comics they chose a girl band instead, The Jam Tarts, with bassist Sophie Gare. Sophie subsequently became his wife and he's been grateful to the regulator's ever since! So the connection with Australia and the local music industry is a long and very real one. And we were delighted that Ben chose to turn his trademark comedy of good cheer and social commentary towards an Australian cinema audience, particularly something with a touch of romance at its core.

From the moment the script was completed Ben's positive outlook was infectious, attracting a wave of public, private and Government support, along with a dream ensemble cast.

At its heart, *Three Summers* is a story about inclusion and harmony, and it's been a joy to see those sentiments played out during the making of the film. We hope that sense of goodwill can be shared by everyone who sees it.

FROM THE DIRECTOR BEN ELTON

The idea for *Three Summers* came about during one of my family trips to the Fairbridge Folk Festival in WA. I was sitting in the bar tent doing some people watching, there's such a rich tapestry of humanity at these sorts of family music events and so much comedy. People from different walks of life suddenly living in a field together with only sheets of canvas and polyester between them. Everybody's equal in the queue for the portaloos!

It also struck me that while the festival never seemed to change the people attending it surely must. One year's sweet busking kids would be next year's grumpy goth teens. Young lovers would come back as married couples, then maybe divorcees. So it occurred to me that this would be a great structure for a multi story ensemble comedy. Following a group of Festival Folk across three summers. Meeting them for just two days each year and seeing how they changed and what they learned. A comic celebration of our shared humanity warts and all!

A collection of interconnected stories all revolving around a central misfit romance. Probably the most significant of those other stories for me personally is that of the refugee boy, Jafaar. My father was a boy refugee having fled from Nazi Germany to the UK and I'm an immigrant myself, so understand what it's like to be on the outside looking in.

I love that this story also concerns musicians. I married a bass player and live music's always played a big part of my life. I've been around gigs a lot, even doing a bit of roady-ing for my wife in Melbourne pubs in the early 90's! I've also done the books for musicals with Queen and Andrew Lloyd Webber, so a comedy set at a music festival was a pretty good fit for me. I thought of including the Theremin because my brother in law plays it and I always knew it could be very funny on film. Most musicians I know are a bit purist about their art and the mis match romance between a Theremin playing Techno geek and an earthy, rootsy fiddle playing folk chick struck me as a great meeting of opposites. Great for romantic tension!

It was then just a matter of finding the right actors to play them. I cast Rebecca Breeds as Keevey very early in the process. She was exactly the type of person I had in mind when I wrote the part, honest, natural and with a wicked sense of humour. From her first audition I absolutely knew I didn't need to look any further. Casting Roland took a bit longer. Finding someone who could channel an irritatingly purist geekiness whilst still playing a romantic lead was a tough combination. Roland is the one non Aussie character in the movie and I originally made the character English like me. In fact Robert Sheehan auditioned with a brilliant English accent and I cast him on that. But as we talked more about the roll it just seemed obvious to make use of his natural Irish brogue. Not least because his genuine Irishness gave me a great foil for Keevey's crowd pleasing Aussie "Irish" folk band. A lovely extra comic element to add to their story. It's wonderful when working with great actors inspires the script.

And as for the rest of the cast! Well how lucky was I? Great comic acting is about absolute commitment to character. The sillier the line or situation, the more honest the delivery needs to be. With comedy it's got to come from the heart and as writer and director it was sheer joy to work with actors who brought such exuberant naturalism to their characters.

I wrote the parts of Queenie the radio host and Henry the Morris Dancer very much with Magda Szubanski and Michael Caton in mind so you can imagine how I felt when they came on board! As I was with all the members of this stellar ensemble. The whole cast was a joy and I can honestly say that from the moment we started shooting it was impossible to imagine anyone else in any of the roles.

John Waters, who plays Keevey's dad Eamon, is also a brilliant singer and musician, and the moment he agreed to do the film I wanted to put a song in for him. It's the only purely musical moment in the film and he does it so movingly. Hard to believe a gale was blowing outside and we almost had to close the production down when the safety officer saw parts of the marquee tent lifting from the wind. Somehow John still made it feel like an intimate room. Rebecca also turned out to be a great singer and had a lot of fun recording her numbers with the band. We only play snippets in the movie but that's her own voice and she even mastered some Irish dance steps for us which isn't easy when you also have to mime some inspired fiddle playing!

Filming in the same location as the festival that inspired the movie was a real privilege and quite unusual. It meant we were able to link true location footage with our fictional narrative. We shot for three days at the actual festival with a small documentary size crew including our Cinematographer Katie Millwright and Production designer Clayton Jauncey. And so when we returned to the location with our actors and full crew a few months later it felt like home. It was a logistical nightmare for Clayton because it meant he had to reverse engineer the design of the festival, but I'm thrilled with the way the documentary footage fits into the film. It really looks like our characters were there. To stage something of that scale would have been impossible with our tight budget and, even if we'd had the resources, it wouldn't have looked half as good.

But none of it would have been possible without the support of the people in and around Mandurah, Pinjarra and Fairbridge itself. All our background artists came from the surrounding region and there were plenty of them! All giving of their time and their passion simply for the love of seeing this story told.

The local indigenous community were also on board from the outset. Since one of the central stories in the film is an Aboriginal one – a clash of dance cultures shall we say! - I couldn't possibly have approached this part of the movie without taking advice and guidance from the Bindjareb community. Local elder Koodah Cornwall gave important cultural feedback from the early draft of the script, along with a wonderfully warm welcome to his traditional land.

On the evening before the first day of the shoot all the cast and crew joined the Bindjareb Middar Dance Group in a Chitty Chitty dance in the smoke of our opening fire ceremony. But getting the fire started in the first place was an hour long test of my inferior bush skills (and all the other white males present), much to the amusement of the surrounding ring of women. A wink and a nod between Kelton Pell and Koodah should have been enough to let us know that all the technique in the world won't compensate for green wood!

Creating a film that celebrates Australian community wouldn't have been complete without including a soundtrack that reflected the rich diversity of local music. My wife made the initial broad selection for me, she has much better taste than I have and a wonderful ear for the contemporary scene. The kids helped too, throwing in suggestions.

One of the most satisfying aspects to the whole editing process was trying out different ideas and fitting the tracks to the stories. It was an absolute labour of love and, in keeping with the spirit of the film, the music community came together and every artist we approached agreed to allow us to use their track.

THE MUSIC

Whoever said music was the food of love didn't play the theremin

Originally known as the etherphone, thereminophone^l or termenvox, the theremin, is an electronic musical instrument controlled without physical contact by the thereminist (performer). It is named after its Soviet inventor Leon Theremin who patented the device in 1928.

The instrument's controlling section usually consists of two metal antennas that sense the relative position of the thereminist's hands and control oscillators for frequency with one hand, and amplitude (volume) with the other. The electric signals from the theremin are amplified and sent to a loudspeaker.

The theremin was used in movie soundtracks such as *Spellbound*, *The Lost Weekend* and Bernard Herrmann's *The Day The Earth Stood Still*. This has led to its association with eerie situations. Theremins are also used in concert music (especially avant-garde and 20th- and 21st-century new music) and in popular music genres such as rock.

Theremins and theremin-like sounds started to be incorporated into popular music from the end of the 1940s and this has continued, with varying popularity, to the present.

The Beach Boys 1966 single *Good Vibrations* - though it does not technically contain a theremin - is the most frequently cited example of the instrument in pop music. The song actually features a similar-sounding instrument invented by Paul Tanner called a Tannerin . Upon release, the single prompted an unexpected revival in theremins and increased the awareness of analog synthesizers. In response to requests by the band, Moog Music began producing their own brand of ribbon instruments which would mimic the sound of a theremin.

Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin used a variation of the theremin (minus the loop) during performances of *Whole Lotta Love*. The Rolling Stones also used the instrument on the albums *Between the Buttons* and *Their Satanic Majesties Request*.

THE SONGS

Every summer has its soundtrack, songs that captures the spirit, joy and energy the holidays and good weather bring.

Three Summers packs a fair few of these into its 100 minutes...

Spring to Come by John Butler Trio
Follow The Sun by Xavier Rudd
Somebody I Used To Know by Gotye
We Wont Run by Sarah Blasko
Message Patrick James
Its Nice To Be Alive by Ball Park Music
Brother by Matt Corby
Let's Cruise by Set Mo
New Friends by The Tommyhawks
Fred Astaire by San Cisco
Too Much Time Together by San Cisco
SloMo by San Cisco

Lanterns by Birds of Tokyo
Maybe Tomorrow by Goldenhorse
Beautiful To Me by Little Birdy
The Same Man by Dan Sultan
Never Be by Meg Mac
Got It Bad by Leisure

It's an all Australian soundtrack including a few home grown WA bands such as John Butler Trio and Little Birdy. Local band The Tommyhawks were first spotted while filming at the real Fairbridge Festival and Ben was so taken with their performance he wanted to ensure their music was included in the film.

Universal Music are releasing a soundtrack album to coincide with the film's release.

THE CAST

ROLAND PLAYED BY ROBERT SHEEHAN

Robert made his acting debut in Aisling Walsh's acclaimed feature film *Song For A Raggy Boy*. Since then, features include *Ghostwood* (Maxim Pictures), *Summer of the Flying Saucer* (Magma), *Season of the Witch* (Atlas Entertainment), *Cherrybomb* (Generator Entertainment), *Killing Bono* (Cinema Three), *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* (Constantin Film), *The Road Within* (Amasia Entertainment), *Anita B* (Jean Vigo Italia), *The Messenger* (Gateway Films), *Moonwalkers* (Partizan), *Jet Trash* (Aimimage), *Geostorm* (Warner Bros), *Bad Samaritan* (Electric Entertainment) and *Mute* (Liberty Films).

He has recently finished filming a lead role in Peter Jackson's *Mortal Engines* for MRC/Universal.

Television includes *Foreign Exchange* (Magma Film/9 Network Australia), *Young Blades* (Insight/PAX TV), *Bittersweet* (RTE), all three films in the BAFTA award winning *Red Riding* trilogy (Revolution Films/Channel 4), multi IFTA award winning *Love Hate* (for which he was twice nominated for Best Actor) for RTE/Octagon Films, BAFTA award winning *Misfits* (for which he was also BAFTA nominated for Best Supporting Actor) for *Clerkenwell/E4*, *The Borrowers* for Working Title/BBC, *Me and Mrs Jones* for BBC/Hartwood Films, *The Accused* for BBC and, most recently *Fortitude for Fifty Fathoms*/Sky Atlantic.

On stage he has appeared at the Old Vic Theatre in the title role in *The Playboy of the Western World*, directed by John Crowley and as Richard III in Trevor Nunn's *The Wars of the Roses*.

KEEVEY PLAYED BY REBECCA BREEDS

Rebecca started her career in the long running teen surfing drama series *Blue Water High* for Southern Star / ABC Television. She then went onto play Ruby Buckton for over four years in Network 7's ever popular *Home and Away* for which she received a most popular actress Logie nomination.

This was followed by the mini series *Molly* - a bio pic on music legend Molly Meldrum, also for Network 7.

More recently she made the move to live in New York and is now regularly seen on US screens.

She has appeared on the multi award winning teen drama *Pretty Little Liars* and hit shows *We Are Men*, *The Originals*, and *Miranda's Rights*.

Rebecca's film credits include *Bhaag Mikha Bhaag*, *Newcastle* and now *Three Summers*.

HENRY PLAYED BY MICHAEL CATON

During his illustrious 40-plus year career, Michael Caton has performed in television, theatre and film both here in Australia and abroad. Michael became a household name in the '70s as the popular character of Harry Sullivan in *The Sullivans*, a role for which he won two Logie Awards. In 2014, Michael was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of Cinema Operators Australasia, for his distinguished career and contribution to the industry.

Michael was also awarded the prestigious AACTA Award for Best Lead Actor in 2015 for *Last Cab to Darwin*. One of the highlights of his film career thus far has been playing the legendary role of Dale Kerrigan in the much loved (and much quoted) feature film *The Castle*.

Further film credits include *The Interview*, *The 13th Floor*, *Monkey Grip*, *Hoodwinked* and *Strange Bedfellows*. His other television credits include *Stingers*, *The Flying Doctors*, *The Les Darcy Story*, *Great Expectations*, *Blue Heelers*, *All Saints*, *Wildside*, *A Country Practice*, *Homicide*, *Cop Shop*, *Packed to the Rafters* and *Hot Property*.

Michael has starred in a string of successful stage plays and musicals including *Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert – The Musical*.

QUEENIE PLAYED BY MAGDA SZUBANSKI

Magda is one of Australia's most loved and respected actors. She is best known for her role as Mrs Hoggett in the Academy Award and Golden Globe winning film *Babe* and its sequel *Babe: Pig In The City*, and also for her performance as Sharon Strzelecki in the hit television series *Kath and Kim* and feature film *Kath and Kimderella*.

Magda has co-written and performed in some of Australia's most successful television comedy shows including *Fast Forward*, *D Generation* and *Full Frontal*. She also co-wrote and produced the series *Something Stupid* and *Big Girl's Blouse* for which she originally created the character Sharon Strzelecki. She also wrote, produced and starred in the series *Dogwoman*.

Magda teamed up with the Babe creators again to voice the box office hit *Happy Feet* and sequel *Happy Feet 2*. Her other film credits include *Santa's Apprentice*, *The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course* alongside the late Steve Irwin, *The Golden Compass* opposite Nicole Kidman and Australian films *Dr Plonk* by Rolf De Heer and *Bran Nu Dae* by Rachel Perkins.

In addition to her acting work, in October 2015 Magda released her hugely successful first book, *Reckoning*, which has won several major awards including the 2016 ABIA Book of the Year.

EAMON PLAYED BY JOHN WATERS

John Waters is one of Australia's pre-eminant actors.

With theatre credits spanning many productions in Australia and the United Kingdom, John has performed lead roles in *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* for Harry M Miller Productions, *They're Playing Our Song* for JC Williamsons. *A little Night Music*, and *Talk* for Sydney Theatre Company, *The Sound of Music* for Gordon Frost, *Oliver!* For Cameron Makintosh, *Rocky Horror Show* for New Theatricals, the self written *Looking Through a Glass Onion* for Theatre Royal (which played for six months on London's West End) and Gomez in the New Theatricals production of *The Addams Family*.

John's television work is equally extensive with series roles on *All Saints* for which he was nominated for the 2006 Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama as well as a lead role on *Underbelly: The Golden Mile*.

As well as his 20 year involvement with the iconic Australian children's show *Play School*, his other television credits include *City Homicide*, *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, *The Man From Snowy River*, *Singapore Sling*, *All The Rivers Run*, *Rush* and *Division 4* for which he was awarded the TV Week Silver Logie for Best New Talent in 1975.

More recently John starred as Darcy in five seasons of the hit series *Offspring* and as Edgar in season four of *Rake*. He also featured in the critically acclaimed mini series *Anzac Girls* and *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*.

His impressive list of feature film credits includes *Stealth*, *The Sugar Factory*, *High Country*, *Breaker Morant*, *Eliza Frazer* and Pino Amenta's *Boulevard of Broken Dreams* for which he received the AFI (AFI) Best Actor Award. In 2014, John appeared in a lead role in *Return To Nim's Island* and the Burleigh Smith feature *You Cant Play The Game If You Don't Know The Rules*. John will soon be seen in Paul Currie's film *2.22* opposite Teresa Palmer.

An accomplished musician, John has released a number of recorded albums and EP's adding to his illustrious career. He recently returned from a US tour of his self written one-man show: *Lennon Through a Glass Onion* – part monologue part concert show which focus' on the man and phenomenon which was John Lennon.

PAM PLAYED BY DEBORAH MAILMAN

The multi award winning Deborah Mailman is one of Australia's most highly respected actors.

Receiving national acclaim in 1998 for her portrayal of Nona in the film *Radiance*, with Deborah receiving both the AFI and Film Critics' Circle Award for Most Outstanding Actress, her other film credits include *Mental*, *Bran Nue Dae*, *Dear Claudia*, *The Monkey's Mask*, *Rabbit Proof Fence*, *The Book of Revelation*, *Lucky Miles* and the internationally celebrated and award winning feature *The Sapphires*. She recently starred in the box office sensation *Paper Planes* and the delightful *Oddball*. She recently appeared in the feature film *A Few Less Men*.

In television Deborah, has created some of Australia's most enduring characters including her TV Week Silver Logie Award winning portrayals of Bonita Mabo in *Mabo*, Kelly in *Secret Life of Us* and Lorraine in *Redfern Now*. Deborah has held outstanding roles in *Offspring*, *Rush*, *The Alice*, *Two*

Twisted, Jack Irish, Black Comedy and Tomorrow When the War Began. She was also a regular television presenter, hosting *Playschool* and *Message Sticks* for the ABC and Lonely Planet's *Going Bush* for SBS.

As well as the latest instalment of the much-loved series *Offspring*, last year saw Deborah in the critically acclaimed *Cleverman*, the Stan original series *Wolf Creek*, based on the feature films that were an international box office success and the fourth season of *Please Like Me*. This year will see her in a new ABC comedy *Get Krack!n* as well as a return to *Offspring* and *Cleverman*.

One of Australia's most celebrated theatre actors, Deborah's stage performances include the Matilda Award winning performances in *Radiance* and *The Seven Stages of Grieving*, the Helpmann Award *Best Supporting Actress* role in the STC production of *The Lost Echo* and the Helpmann Award nominated role for *Best Actress* in the theatre production of *The Sapphires*.

In 2015, Deborah co-hosted the *Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Awards* (AACTA) ceremony alongside Cate Blanchett for Network Ten.

JACK PLAYED BY KELTON PELL

Kelton Pell has built a reputation for being one of our finest indigenous actors. He has enjoyed an illustrious theatre career over the last twenty years performing all around Australia. Kelton appeared in Bunuba Film's production of *Jandamarra* which toured the Kimberley region, as well as the Black Swan Theatre Company productions of *Endgame*, *Bidnjareb Pinjarra*, *Twelfth Night* and a *Midsummer Night's Dream*. As well as performing with the Deckchair Theatre Company and the South Australian Theatre Company, Kelton has also participated in *Ink kata*, a bi-cultural contemporary music/theatre piece at the State Opera of South Australia. He has performed with Urban Theatre Company's production of *The Fence*, a unique project made for the Festival of Sydney and Kelton was also part of the production *Corranderk: We Will Show the Country* at the Sydney Opera House. Kelton performed in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *Bloodland*, which also toured nationally and was recently seen in their remount of the *Secret River*. For Yirra Yakin he appeared in *The Fever and The Fret*. He was recently seen in Performing Line's *The Season*.

On the big screen, Kelton has appeared in *Mad Bastards*, *Aunty Maggie and the Womba Wagkun*, *The Last Ride*, *Bran Nue Dae*, *Blackfellas*, *Australian Rules*, *Confessions of a Headhunter*, *Cold Turkey*, *Where Two Rivers Meet*, *September*, *One Night the Moon* and *Stone Brothers*. *Looking For Grace* is a feature directed by Sue Brooks, that Kelton appears in alongside Richard Roxburgh and Radha Mitchell. Last year saw Kelton in *Red Dog: True Blue*, directed by Kriv Stenders.

Widely recognised for his role as 'Sam Wallan' in SBS's highly acclaimed *The Circuit*, Kelton has also appeared in *Bush Patrol*, as 'Wazza', Showcase's production of *Cloudstreet*, the television series based on the award-winning novel by Tim Winton, Wayne Blair's extraordinary *Redfern Now*, *Hard Rock Medical*, the comedy series *The Moodys* and more recently in the ABC TV series *The Gods Of Wheat Street* and the *Redfern Now* telemovie. Kelton also appeared in the recent doco-drama *Death or Liberty*.

PROFESSOR WELLBORN PLAYED BY JACQUELINE MCKENZIE

One of Australia's most renowned actors, Jacqueline graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 1990. Jacqueline's feature film career is extensive with her most notable

performances including films such as *Angel Baby*, *Romper Stomper*, *Talk*, *Roses Are Red*, *Mr Reliable*, *A Cut In The Gates*, *Peaches*, *Kiss Kiss (Bang Bang)* and *Beneath Hill 60*.

In 2014, Jacqueline was reunited with Russell Crowe in his self directed feature *The Water Diviner*. She also starred in Paul Cox's feature film *Force of Destiny*, opposite David Wenham. In the US she has starred in films such as *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* and *Preservation*.

Her US TV credits include *The 4400*, *Mental*, *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*, *Without A Trace*, *NCIS Los Angeles*, *Hawaii Five-O* and *Desperate Housewives*.

Jacqueline has been awarded two AACTA (AFI) Awards for her roles in the film *Angel Baby* and the television movie *Halifax fp: Lies of the Mind*, and was nominated once again in 2015 for *The Water Diviner*.

LINDA PLAYED BY KATE BOX

A NIDA graduate, Kate has worked across film and television for many years, with a particular interest in comedy. In 2015 she received an AACTA Best Lead Actress nomination for her role in Josh Lawson's film *Little Death*. Other films include *The Daughter* and *Oranges and Sunshine*. Main television credits include *Rake*, *Offspring*, *Paper Giants* and *Old School*.

OLIVIA PLAYED BY CAROLINE BRAZIER

Best known in recent years for her role as Chrissy Merchant in the Channel Seven's *Packed To The Rafters* and Cleaver Green's long suffering ex wife Wendy in ABC's *Rake*, Caroline is a familiar face on our television screens. She trained at NIDA and also has an extensive theatre career.

TONY PLAYED BY PETER ROWSTHORN

Peter has been an actor, stand up comedian and presenter for several decades but still best known as the long suffering husband Brett Craig from the popular television sitcom *Kath and Kim* and the feature film *Kath and Kimderella*. He also appeared regularly on *Thank God You're Here* and *Talkin About Your Generation*.

BAKTASH PLAYED BY MAHESH JADU

These days Mahesh works primarily overseas and played a main role in the high profile Netflix series *Marco Polo*. He also made an appearance in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Dead Men Tell No Tales*. His Australian television career includes roles in *Neighbours* and *Winners and Losers*.

DEXTER & JULES PLAYED BY CHRISTIAAN VAN VUUREN AND NICK BOSHIER

Better known as *The Bondi Hipsters*, comedy duo Christiaan and Nick were natural choices to play Keevey's vacuous one night stands in *Three Summers*. The pair became You tube sensations in 2014 attracting millions of viewers with their satirical portrayal of fashionistas Dom and Adrian. They went on to create two series *Soul Mates* for the ABC.

JESSE PLAYED BY JOSEPH PEDLEY

Joseph started his acting career young, with one of the lead roles in the feature film *Satellite Boy*. He then went back to school to study, but returned briefly to the screen to perform in *Abbreviation* one of the short films in the *The Turning*.

BOB PLAYED BY SAM LONGLEY

Sam has been working as an actor, comedian, writer and director since the mid nineties. Highlights include *Horse Head*, *DIY: Disaster Movie*, *Thisbe*, *Not Like Beckett*, *Bindjareb Pinjarra*, and the feature film *Where The Wild Things Are* with Spike Jonze.

DIAMOND PLAYED BY ADRIANE DAFF

Adriane is an actor and theatre writer and performer. She studied theatre arts at WAAPA with additional training in New York, Paris and Sydney. Aside from *Three Summers* her screen credits include *Cant Win Do Try*, *Other Life*, *DAFUQ?* and *Ashbecclee*.

FEMINASTY PLAYED BY EMBLA BISHOP, CHRISTINA OLDHAM & STEPHANIE CACCAMO

As a patron of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Ben was keen to audition the next generation of actors. All three members of the band were final year students.

RUBY AND JAFAR PLAYED BY NICHOLA BALESTRI AND AMAY JAI

Newcomers Nichola and Amay won their respective roles through the tried and tested process of audition. But afterwards discovered a surprising connection to Ben. It turns out that Nichola was attending the same school as Ben's children and Amay shared an 18th birthday celebration with them, which also coincided with the gala screening of *Three Summers* at the Melbourne International Film Festival.

BEN ELTON - WRITER & DIRECTOR

Ben Elton is a multi award winning novelist, playwright, television writer, screen writer and lyricist. He is also a theatre, screen and TV Director, a Stand Up Comedian and a very occasional actor. Born in Catford South East London in 1959 Ben was state educated and studied drama at Manchester University where he now holds an honorary Doctorate. He began his professional career in 1981. Ben married Australian musician Sophie Gare in 1994 and became an Australian citizen in 2004. He and Sophie have three children and live in Fremantle Western Australia.

NOVELS.

Stark (1989) *Gridlock* (1991) *This Other Eden* (1993) *Popcorn* (1996) *Blast From The Past* (1998) *Inconceivable* (1999) *Dead Famous* (2001) UK No 1. *High Society* (2002) *Past Mortem* (2004) *The First Casualty* (2005) *Chart Throb* (2006) *Blind Faith* (2007) *Meltdown* (2009) *Two Brothers* (2012) *Time. And Time Again* (2014)

Six of the above were UK No 1 Bestsellers. Ben Elton's novels have also been hugely successful in Australia (three No 1's) and are published around the world.

TELEVISION

The Young Ones (1982/4) Writer (with Rik Mayall and Lisa Meyer). *Alfresco* (1982/4) Performer and Co Writer with Stephen Fry. Hugh Laurie and Emma Thompson. *Happy Families* (1985) Writer. *Blackadder 2* (1983) Co Writer with Richard Curtis. *Filthy Rich & Catflap* (1986) Writer. *Saturday Live* (1986/7) Comedian/Host. *Blackadder The Third* (1987) Co writer with Richard Curtis. *Friday Night Live* (1988) Comedian/Host. *Blackadder Goes Forth* (1989) Co writer with Richard Curtis. *Ben Elton The Man From Auntie* (1990 and 1994) Writer/Performer. *The Thin Blue Line* (1995/6) Writer/Co Director. *The Ben Elton Show* (1998) Writer Performer. *Blessed* (2005) Writer/Director. *The Wright Way* (2013) Writer/Co Director. *Upstart Crow* (2016/17) Writer. Ben also wrote *Mr Bean's 'exam' episode*.

STAND UP COMEDIAN.

Ben has been one of the UK's most successful live acts for almost thirty years. He last toured in 2005/6. In 1990 he co hosted the *Nelson Mandela Celebration* at Wembley Stadium. He hosted the *Brits* in 1997 and 1998 and *The Royal Variety Performance* in 2000. He writes all his own material.

STAGE WRITING, PLAYS AND MUSICALS

The New Review (1985) With Richard Curtis. *Gasping* (1990) *Silly Cow* (1991) *Popcorn* (1997) *Blast From the Past* (1998). *The Beautiful Game* (2000) Book and Lyrics, music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. *We Will Rock You* (2002) Book, Music by Queen. *Tonight's The Night* (2004) Book. Music by Rod Stewart and others. *Love Never Dies* (2010) co wrote book. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

FEATURE FILM

Maybe Baby (2000) Writer/Director. *Three Summers* (2017) Writer/Director

Other directing work includes *Silly Cow*, *The Thin Blue Line* (with John Birkin) *Blessed*, *The Wright Way* (with Dewi Humphries) *We Will Rock You*, *Tonight's The Night* and *The Beautiful Game*, reworked as *The Boys In the Photograph*.

MAJOR AWARDS

Three **BAFTA's** (best Comedy *The Young Ones* and *Blackadder*).

Two **Olivier's** (*Popcorn* and *We Will Rock You*).

The Royal Television Society Writers Award (*Man From Auntie*).

British Comedy Award (*The Thin Blue Line*).

Public and Professional **Jury Awards at Reims** (*Thin Blue Line*).

Crime Writers Association **Golden Dagger Award** for Crime Writer of the Year (*Popcorn*).

WH Smiths People's Choice Fiction Award (*High Society*).

Prix Polar International Crime Writer Award (Amitiès Mortelles (Past Mortem, French edition).

Critics Circle Best Musical Award (*The Beautiful Game*).

In 2007 Ben Elton was awarded the **Special Golden Rose D'Or** at The International Television festival in Lucerne Switzerland for his life time contribution to the Television Arts.

MICHAEL WRENN - PRODUCER

Michael has been in the film industry for over 20 years working in exhibition, distribution, production, sales and acquisitions in the UK, France and Australasia.

Since 2000 he has settled in Australia and New Zealand having run development for the New Zealand Film Commission, managed Australasian acquisitions for Celluloid Dreams and Maximum Films, created the distribution Curious Distribution and worked with Arclight Films on all aspects of development and production.

Previously he was Head of Distribution for Momentum Films in the UK (now EOne) as well as senior roles with Alliance Atlantis, Kinowelt and Electric Pictures. In 2013/14 Michael was an Executive Producer on Kim Mordaunt's *The Rocket* (Berlin Best First Feature, Crystal Bear and Amnesty Prize), Ivan Sen's Cannes selected *Mystery Road*, Chris Fitchett's *The Fear of Darkness* and Gillian Armstrong's *Women He's Undressed* on Orry Kelly.

He is also producer on the adaptation of Ron Rash's *The World Made Straight*, filmed in North Carolina with an international cast including Noah Wyle, Jeremy Irvine and Minka Kelly. The film was directed David Burris and released in the US in 2015.

SUE TAYLOR- PRODUCER

Sue Taylor has been a filmmaker for over 30 years, working across all types of productions ranging from documentaries, children's entertainment, drama, and feature films.

She established her own production company in 2001 and received the SPA Drama Producer of the Year Award in 2004. Her productions been nominated and won several AFI/ ACCTA,, Logie and Critics Circle Awards for projects that include the children's series *Minty* and *Time Trackers*, the primetime mini series *The Shark Net*, the telemovies *3 Acts of Murder* (directed by Rowan Woods) and *An Accidental Soldier* (directed by Rachel Ward), and the feature films *Last Train To Freo* (directed by Jeremy Sims), *The Tree* (directed by Julie Bertucelli) and *Looking For Grace* (directed by Sue Brooks).

The Tree, an Australia / France co-production starring Charlotte Gainsbourg was selected to close the Cannes Film Festival in 2010 and has now screened around the world with sales to 40 countries.

More recently, she completed the feature film *Looking For Grace*, a co-production with Gecko Films and Unicorn Films, written and directed by Sue Brooks. The film was selected for official competition at the 2015 Venice Film Festival and in competition at the inaugural “platform” screenings at the Toronto International Film Festival.

KATIE MILWRIGHT – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Katie is an award winning director of photography across film, television and documentary. Her features include *Looking For Grace* which screened in competition at the Venice Film Festival and for which she won a Gold ACS Vic Award; *Sucker*; and *The Wedding Party*, which was nominated for best cinematography at the New York International Film Festival; won Best Film at the LA Comedy Festival; Best Film at the Los Angeles Movie Awards; Best Feature Film at the New York International Film Festival; and Best International Feature at the Manhattan Film Festival.

For her photography on Ben Hackworth’s feature *Corroboree* which screened at festivals in Berlin, Toronto, Sydney and Melbourne, Katie won the 2007 Gold ACS Vic Award.

In television Katie shot the first series of *Please Like Me*, directed by Matt Saville and the second series of *Laid*, directed by Abe Forsyth and Ben Chessell’s telemovie *The Heartbreak Tour*, which won a Silver Vic Award.

Katie was also the director of photography on Matchbox Picture’s Anatomy Series: *Skin* and the documentary *Utopia Girls* by Jasmin Tarasin.

CLAYTON JAUNCEY – PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Clayton has been working as a Production Designer for over 20 years and has credits on feature films, tele-features, series television, dramatized documentaries and television commercials. His credits include the feature films *Hounds Of Love*, *Last Cab To Darwin*, *Looking for Grace*, *Paper Planes*, *Kill Me 3 Times*, *The Turning*, *Drift*, *Beneath Hill 60*, *Blame* and *Last Train to Freo*, the telemovies *An Accidental Soldier (Nominated Best Production Design 2013 AACTA awards)*, *Panic at Rock Island*, *Three Acts of Murder* and *Rapture of The Deep* (Granada Germany) The critically acclaimed mini-series *The Shark Net* and the AFI and Logie awarded television series *Lockie Leonard*. In 2015 *Hunters* - US TV Sci Fi series. In 2011 Clayton Jauncey was awarded the Australian Production Designers Guild award for design on a feature film for *Beneath Hill 60*.

PETER PRITCHARD - EDITOR

Peter Pritchard has over thirty years of media industry experience, as a documentary and drama editor, director and writer. Peter’s credits include AIF and Logie award winning Children’s drama series *Lockie Leonard* and ACCTA award winning documentary series *SAS Warriors*. He also edited episodes of Logie and AFI nominated drama series *The Circuit* and Walkley nominated documentary *Saving Andrew Mallard*.

MARK ANDERSON - REGIONAL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Mark has worked in regional Australia all his professional life. He is a former CEO at Fairbridge Village and joined the production team when it became clear that his knowledge and understanding of what was possible within the Peel region was central to the making of the film.

Having lived and worked in regional WA for many years he was able to create an important bridge between the needs of the production and the community who were keen to participate at every level. His involvement with the indigenous community and finding training opportunities for young locals has meant that several are now working full time within the industry.

MAIN CREDIT LIST

SCREENWEST AND LOTTERYWEST

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL FILM FUND

AND SCREEN AUSTRALIA PRESENT

AN INVISIBLE REPUBLIC AND TAYLOR MEDIA PRODUCTION

Written and Directed by	BEN ELTON
Produced By	MICHAEL WRENN & SUE TAYLOR
Director of Photography	KATIE MILWRIGHT ACS
Production Designer	CLAYTON JAUNCEY
Costume Designer	TERRI LAMERA
Original Music	ADAM GARE and SOPHIE GARE
Editor	PETER PRITCHARD
Casting Director	LEIGH PICKFORD, MAURA FAY CASTING
Executive Producers	MICHAEL WRENN SUE TAYLOR, MARK ANDERSON GARY HAMILTON
Production and Post Manager	TENILLE KENNEDY
First Assistant Director	JOHN FAIRHEAD
Cultural Advisor	KOODAH CORNWALL

Cast (in order of appearance)

Queenie	MAGDA SZUBANSKI
Keevey	REBECCA BREEDS
Eamon	JOHN WATERS
Roland	ROBERT SHEEHAN
Linda	KATE BOX
Henry	MICHAEL CATON
Olivia	CAROLINE BRAZIER
Ruby	NICHOLA BALESTRI
Nigel	DAMON LOCKWOOD
Barbara	MICHELLE NIGHTINGALE
Jafaar	AMAY JAIN
Courtney	STEFANIE CACCAMO
Indiana	CHRISTINA ODAM
Maddison	EMBLA BISHOP
Tony	PETER ROWSTHORN
Glenys	HELEN SEARLE
Neil	JAMES SOLLIS
Cherie	ALEX JONES
Diamond	ADRIANE DAFF
Pam	DEBORAH MAILMAN
Delivery man	BEN SUTTON
Smoko	PAUL MONTAGUE
Dexter	CHRISTIAAN VAN VUUREN
Theremin Fan	MELISSA RUSSO
Jesse	JOSEPH PEDLEY
Kelti	TJIIRDM McGUIRE

Jack	KELTON PELL
Gwyn	NIKKI JONES
Bob	SAM LONGLEY
Frodo	ANDREA GIBBS
Professor Wellborn	JACQUELINE MCKENZIE
Snooty Woman	MONICA MAIN
Koolaz Fan	ALBERT FAN
Baktash	MARESH JADU
Jools	NICK BASHIER
The WArrikins	PETER BELL, IAN SIMPSON, ALISTAIR JOHNSTONE