

Surviving Georgia

a footnote **FILM**

Surviving Georgia

With a mother like theirs, it's a wonder they made it this far.

A heart-warming romantic drama. 88 mins
Rating - M

FOOTNOTE FILMS in association with FILM VICTORIA presents
SURVIVING GEORGIA

PIA MIRANDA HOLLY VALANCE SPENCER McLAREN and CAROLINE O'CONNOR
with SHANE JACOBSON

Director of Photography JON WEBB Edited by CINDY CLARKSON

Produced by KATE WHITBREAD & SPENCER McLAREN

Music by BRETT APLIN Executive Producers ANTONY I. GINNANE, ANN LYONS,
SHAUN MILLER & ALEKSANDAR VASILJEVIC

Directed by SANDRA SCIBERRAS & KATE WHITBREAD

Written by SANDRA SCIBERRAS

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 **FILM VICTORIA**
AUSTRALIA

**Produced with the generous assistance of
Innovative Ideology & Lawlab Pty Ltd**

www.survivinggeorgiathemovie.com.au

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

The arrival of matching letters from their estranged mother Georgia (Caroline O'Connor) turns Heidi (Pia Miranda) and Rose's (Holly Valance) worlds upside down, starting a chain of events that ultimately leads them to discover that love, resolution and happiness can be found in the most unexpected places!

With a mother like Georgia it's a wonder they got this far.

LONG SYNOPSIS

SURVIVING GEORGIA is an intelligent, funny, moving and delightful romantic comedy starring some of Australia's most loved actors from film and television.

When we meet sisters Heidi (Pia Miranda) and Rose (Holly Valance) they are making their way through life in quiet, unassuming ways. Heidi works at the local glass factory where she remains obstinately single, seemingly oblivious to the amorous yearnings of her shy supervisor James (Spencer McLaren), whilst sister and single mother Rose moves from boarding house to boarding house towing her warm and cheerful son Albie (Toby Wallace).

They both appear to have come to terms with the pivotal event of their adolescence... being abandoned 12 years ago by their flirtatious, flamboyant, man hungry, impulsive and intemperate mother Georgia (Caroline O'Connor). Until one day identical pink letters arrive at the girls' addresses supposedly calling them to a meeting with her. The reality however, would appear to be that their mother has passed away, leaving them an old shop in their home town in the hills as an inheritance, if they agree to return home and live together for 6 months.

With no better offer in their lives, Heidi and Rose agree to move back to the country town where they grew up, and set about fixing up the shop, but it's not long until they discover their mother is alive and well, and as mischievously manipulative as ever! In the meantime Rose has formed an attachment to local boy turned local cop Johnnie (Shane Jacobson) who, in turn provides some much needed fatherly oversight for her son, Albie.

Mothers and daughters, the relationship between two sisters and the search for love all play a part in this warm-hearted, stunningly filmed motion picture, set in the beautiful and picturesque towns, hills and valleys of the Victorian countryside.

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Footnote Films is an exciting new Motion Picture Production Company, formed in 2009 by established industry creatives Kate Whitbread and Spencer McLaren. '**Surviving Georgia**' is the companies' first film under this banner. The founding credo is a desire is to have a company that develops and makes product of a commercial nature. Whitbread states that she and McLaren 'want films that have a connection to their audience. '**Surviving Georgia**' was our perfect first film together and the shoot was fully privately funded from like-minded people'. 'This is the first of many,' says McLaren, 'in a slate we are proud to be part of. We love films that move us and have chosen a line-up of exciting and diverse films.'

Kate Whitbread – Company Director/Co founder

Kate has worked as a freelance producer on a number of TV series and feature films, from 1994 to 1997, she worked as Associate Producer for Rosenbaum Whitbread productions. She then went on to being an independent producer for the next few years. In 2002 she raised private finance for and produced the independent low budget film **Deeper Than Blue** with Colin Friels. The film was invited to screen at the 50th Sydney film festival, and was officially selected to screen at the Rencontres Internationales du Cinema des Antipodes at St Tropez.

Kate also Produced the AFC funded feature **The Caterpillar Wish** in 2006, which won both an AFI for Suzie Porter's performance as Actress in a Supporting Role and an IF Award for Best Production Design. Kate made her debut directing film with the award winning short film **Out Of Order** (2008) where she met Spencer McLaren. In **Surviving Georgia** Kate both co-directed and Co-produced . 'I am thrilled to be embarking on this next venture with Spencer. We have a wonderful working relationship which I hope will lead to a very busy and productive next few years'.

Spencer McLaren – Company Director/Co founder

'**Surviving Georgia** is a very engaging and amusing film with which we believe our target audience will strongly identify with, leaving the theatre having laughed and cried. Too many wonderful Australian films have unspooled to empty cinemas. Kate and I are committed to making movies that audiences will love watching and hurry to tell their friends about.'

This company is going to be like no other because Kate and I each share a background that encompasses both acting and producing. We will draw on these experiences to play, direct, produce and create movies that people will enjoy and want to see'. McLaren says. 'Having our own Company means that we can pursue cinematic and commercial goals and objectives, and provide ourselves with the resources to achieve them.'.

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KEY CREW

Co Producers	Kate Whitbread & Spencer McLaren
Co Directors	Sandra Sciberras & Kate Whitbread
Writer	Sandra Sciberras
Executive Producers	Antony I. Ginnane, Ann Lyons Shaun Miller & Aleksandar Vasiljevic
Director of Photography	Jon Webb
Editor	Cindy Clarkson
Composer	Brett Aplin

KEY CAST

Heidi	Pia Miranda
Rose	Holly Valance
Johnnie	Shane Jacobson
James	Spencer McLaren
Georgia	Caroline O'Connor
Albie	Toby Wallace
Frank	Andrew Martin

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

By Sandra Sciberras & Kate Whitbread

Surviving Georgia tells the story of Georgia, a woman who, living on a small mountain, never truly understood the meaning of responsibility. Finding herself with two young daughters, Heidi and Rose, Georgia soon learns that single motherhood is simply not for her. When the daughters are at the tender age of 16 and 18, Georgia leaves them a letter telling them she has left for good and cannot come back.

Surviving Georgia is the sister's story, told through their romances and the tribulations of sisterhood. *"With Surviving Georgia we wanted to explore two key themes: the nature of abandonment, and the need to love, and the idea that in order to move forward one must come to terms with the past."*

"Stylistically we unashamedly committed this film to its genre - romance. In fact, we decided to open the film with a pink nail polished hand, writing a letter on pink paper with a romantic piece of music in the background, as our way of having fun with the concepts of what makes romance in films so...supposedly female. You get away with writing a lot of letters with pretty women in cream lace in period films – this is our modern period film moment"

Art direction and costume design came from warm tones and colours– shades of vanilla, pastels, rich lush greens and romantic clear blue skies. We chose sets that felt warm and nostalgic somehow- the milk bar and Heidi and Rose's house for example. But it was the mountain we were here for and all of us became acutely more aware of this once we began shooting. We moved scenes that were originally written for indoors and moved them to the more picturesque parts on the mountain. *"It is the early morning chimney smoke, the sunny moments on the mountain during the day and the sunsets that really bring the magic of the landscape out. It's what makes the mountain a character that the screenplay always intended. As directors it's our job to bring this out"*

The location was not an easy find. We had the choice of travelling to any mountain in the country really but in the end, we both had distant memories of this sweet village on a mountain somewhere. Neither director could quite remember which mountain it actually was and then we both remembered a place not far from the city of Melbourne called Warburton. Sandra remembered travelling there years ago and seeing fly-fishing in the local river as she drove in for a day trip one day. The image stuck because the scene of the fly-fishing was written into the script years later, yet she had forgotten where this place was. When Spencer and Kate travelled there to take a look, they knew too. This was a unanimous decision.

"We've chosen the Victorian mountain town of Warburton as the backdrop to the film because of its unusual valley feel and its beautiful running river alongside the township. It truly is very unique.. The mountain sits gently in the background of the township with the sound of a gentle running river. To us, that is special"

For people like Johnnie the mountain cop (Shane Jacobson), life here is perfect. He is content and sees the beauty all around him. He tells it like it is and you are drawn to his honesty. For Rose who hasn't lived in one place for more than six months since she left, all she wants to do is run. She is drawn to Johnnie and can't help but be intrigued by this man who seems to live life without baggage. For Heidi, the mountain feels safe, a place where she can hide in, away from her world of the city. Heidi, like Rose, is also running from her past but she is at a point in her life that she realises she has to deal with her demons in order to move forward. Heidi is the introvert and Rose the extrovert. But they are sisters who are two sides of the same coin.

The character of Johnnie played by Shane Jacobson is something very special to watch. Funny, warm and direct, he is the perfect no nonsense man to take on the likes of Rose, a girl too big for her own boots. He's got no problem bringing her down a peg or two. *"The script is full of classic 40's dialogue, reminiscent of screwball comedies; witty, over stated and direct. Both Shane Jacobson and Holly Valance bring this beautifully to their performances."*

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James, played by Spencer McLaren, is the man in the wings that's smart enough to know there is something special about Heidi. He is sensitive and gentle. He has been drawn to Heidi for a long time but has been too shy to make a move. When she leaves the city and goes back to the mountain he realises he may lose her for good and he decides to try to get close to her. Heidi doesn't make it easy for him but James is patient and represents the good men that Heidi never really felt she deserved. *"Spencer McLaren's performance of James is understated, quiet and extremely honest. A perfect choice for a character like Heidi, played by Pia Miranda who desperately needs to let go, get in her car and drive to the boy in the city"*. We also think that a lot of women will identify with Heidi in the way that she sometimes overlooks the good things that are right under her nose. James is a good man and Heidi's previous choices of men haven't always been the smartest ones.

In the script one of the most controversial characters was always Sandy and her bridesmaids. Finding the right balance in performance, between the silliness of Sandy's character and her entourage of cackling women, and the heart of what they represent, was quite a challenge. Sandy could so easily be misread. *"As directors, we had no problem with Sandy and her entourage being loud, annoying and yet somehow charming. Sandy is that kind of woman that intelligent women love to hate. Our aim is that our initial dislike for that 'type of woman' is hopefully challenged, as we get to see that what she really represents is simply a time in a girl's life where getting married to someone you truly love still means something girly. The world is full of girls like Sandy."*

Georgia is played by Caroline O'Connor and once again, if there was ever going to be a challenge bringing a complex character from script to screen it was going to be this one. *"It was vitally important that as directors we were able to bring to the screen the complexities and richness the screenplay offered but also the vulnerabilities of Georgia that would make the difference between whether an audience liked her or not."* Casting such an amazing actress as Caroline meant we could have as much fun with the many disguises and images Georgia wanted to give and then at a flick of a moment, have all the tears and drama you want from a good romance. These moments of melodrama are a delight on the screen. We understand that a lot of people won't like the character of Georgia and it is a challenge to make sure we allow this but also not lose the audience's desire to watch her on screen. Caroline is completely mesmerising as the character of Georgia and she brings such a brave performance to the screen. As an actor she knew this character may not be liked but we all wanted her motivations to be understood.

We wanted to show that all people are capable of doing bad things. And ask the question what is forgiveness really about? What are the benefits of it and do we all need to forgive in order to move on or do some of us not have this desire or even need it at all? It is an interesting question that the film explores.

"How do you survive, when the Mother that you wish for is not the Mother that you have? That is the question at the heart of this story."

Surviving Georgia, by the end of the movie is of course not about surviving your mother but about finding ways to survive your past, and seeking to improve your life the best way you know how.

Once the women find what they are looking for, within themselves, they see how the mountain changes. For Rose, it becomes a home, and for Heidi, it now becomes a case of 'home is where the heart is' and her heart is in the city with James.

In terms of the production we decided to split the directors role into two. Kate worked with the actors on performance and Sandra worked with Jon Webb on camera. It worked so well we can't wait to do it again.

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MAIN CAST BIOGRAPHIES

PIA MIRANDA - *Heidi*

Within a year of graduating with her BA, Pia Miranda landed the role of Karen Oldman, in the long running Australian TV series **Neighbours**, whilst also starring in the ABC series **Bondi Banquet**. This stellar beginning was followed closely by her ground breaking role as Josephine Alibrandi in the hugely popular Australian movie **Looking For Alibrandi**, directed by Kate Woods. Pia was awarded the Best Actress AFI for her performance in this critically acclaimed movie. Other Australian films, in which she has starred, include **Garage Days**, **Traveling Light**, **Right Here Right Now**, **The Girl Who Swallowed Bees**, **Three Blind Mice** and **The Tender Hook**.

Pia also continued her work in the world of Australian television with multiple star appearances in the enormously successful drama series **All Saints**, and featured in the popular drama **The Secret Life Of Us**, playing Talia. Her further roles in television have also included **Grass Roots** and **The Glass House**. The wonderfully versatile Miranda has, over the past 10 years, also starred in theatre, with roles in **The Wild Duck**, **Sweet Road**, and challenging roles in **Fireplace**, **The Glass Menagerie** and **The Unlikely Prospect Of Happiness**, with the Sydney Theatre Company.

HOLLY VALANCE- *Rose*

Holly Valance shot to fame in the internationally syndicated Australian soap **Neighbours** (airing in 57 countries) playing Flick Scully. In 2002 she transitioned into singing, resulting in three international hit singles including No. 1 smash **Kiss Kiss**, along with **Down Boy** and **Naughty Girl**.

Holly's debut album **Footprints**, released by Warner Bros., Music UK, went multi-platinum. In late 2003 she released **State of Mind**, including the top 10 single of the same name in Europe, Asia and Australia. After releasing that album she returned to acting and relocated from London to Los Angeles.

Additionally, Holly has enjoyed several high profile commercial campaigns, including one for **Pepsi** in Australia and South East Asia.

Holly Valance was last seen in box office smash hit **Taken** opposite Liam Neeson, written and produced by Luc Besson. Other credits include the Weinstein Co.'s **DOA**, FOX's **Prison Break**, HBO's **Entourage**, CBS's **Shark**, **Moonlight**, and **CSI NY**, and **Miami** and most recently in Australia **Big Momma's Boy**.

SHANE JACOBSON - *Johnnie*

Shane Jacobson is an Australian award winning actor. He began his career on the stage at the tender age of 10 in amateur theatre, performing throughout Australia and overseas. At age 18, Shane began his comedy career with regular theatre restaurant, musical theatre, stand-up and MC gigs. It wasn't long until the corporate world caught onto his talent for characterisation and a quick quip, hiring him to play to huge corporate functions impersonating business icons and luminaries. In 1999 both Shane and one of his many characters Sergio appeared regularly on Melbourne's Gold FM radio station. Shane's focus eventually moved towards the camera acting in prominent Music Videos, Short Films and TV Commercials whilst also working for all the major TV networks as a regular audience warm up guy.

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In 2006 Shane won the AFI Award for Best Lead Actor, the Film Critics Circle of Australia Award for Best Actor in a Lead Role and in 2007 the Film Ink Magazine Awards for Best New Comer and Australian Star of the Year Award at the Australian International Movie Convention all for his role as **Kenny**. Shane and his brother/director Clayton Jacobson shared the 2006 IF Awards for both Best Feature Film and Best Script and the 2006 Film Critics Circle of Australia Award for Best Original Screenplay for their film **Kenny**.

Shane's film and television credits include **Newcastle**, directed by Dan Castle, **Cactus**, directed by Jasmine Yuen-Carrucan and also starring Bryan Brown, **Kenny's World**, a television series for Channel 10 directed by Clayton Jacobson, **Charlie & Boots**, directed by Dean Murphy and also starring Paul Hogan, **Mordy Koots**, a comedy digital series created and directed by Clayton Jacobson, **TOP GEAR** Australia, and the forthcoming **Beaconsfield** for Channel 9

Shane's theatre credits include the Melbourne and Sydney season of **Guys 'N' Dolls** playing the character of "Nicely Nicely". A role for which he won a Helpmann Award – Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role, performing alongside Lisa McCune, Ian Stenlake, Marina Prior, Garry McDonald and Magda Szubanski

So far in 2010 Shane performed in the 12 week sell out season of **The Drowsy Chaperone** for the MTC, which also starred Geoffrey Rush, Robyn Nevin and Rhonda Burchmore, completed filming with Channel 9 as the host of their upcoming show **When I Grow Up** to be aired this year, and he just wrapped on **The Apprentice** – a short film for the Untitled feature produced by Peter Farrelly (producer behind hits such as Dumb & Dumber and There's Something About Mary) and Charles B. Wessler, also starring Anton Yelchin (Terminator Salvation and Star Trek).

www.shanejacobson.com.au

SPENCER McLAREN- *James*

Spencer is a graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art, BA in Drama. He has worked extensively as an actor throughout Australia, the UK, Asia, and America. His work has encompassed film, television, theatre, music theatre, audio recordings, and radio including projects such as the ground breaking hit show **The Secret Life of Us**, **Dr Who**, **City Homicide**, **The Lost World**, **Green Wing**, **Carousel** (West End), **Beauty and the Beast**, and **Footloose**. Career highlights include working alongside such Broadway luminaries as Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Maltby and Shire, and Jason Robert Brown, as well as assisting in the creative development of the smash hit musical **Priscilla Queen of the Desert** and the critically acclaimed **Holding The Man**. He has also taught acting for many of the main institutions in Australia including VCA, NIDA, and the National Theatre.

Most recently he has divided his time between performing and producing. Teaming up with Kate Whitbread to form Footnote Films, Spencer has strengthened his development skills and broadened his knowledge base in the areas of film and TV. He raised the private finance for the award winning short **Out of Order**, as well as currently developing a new TV series **The 12 Steps to Growing Old Disgracefully**. Theatrically his most recent production, **Fully Committed**, played to packed houses and won 5 star reviews from all major papers in Melbourne. His latest theatre project is bringing the 2005 film **Strange Bedfellows** to the stage as a major Musical opening in Oct 2011, written by Jon Stephens and John Foreman.

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CAROLINE O'CONNOR- *Georgia*

Caroline O'Connor's career has encompassed all areas of the entertainment industry. After playing the role of Velma Kelly in the Australian production of the musical **Chicago**, Caroline made her Broadway debut, and was invited back to New York in 2006 and London in 2007 to take part in their star-studded tenth year Gala performances.

Caroline has achieved tremendous success portraying Judy Garland in the world premiere of **End Of The Rainbow**, directed by Wayne Harrison. She received Best Actress at The Sydney Theatre Critics Awards, The Helpmann Awards, and when the show was produced at the Assembly Hall at the Edinburgh Festival, she also received The London Stage Award.

Caroline also starred in **Bombshells**, a one-woman play commissioned by the MTC, directed by Simon Phillips and written for Caroline by Joanna Murray-Smith. **Bombshells** played to packed houses in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. Then on to the Toronto Harbourfront Festival, the Edinburgh Festival (Fringe First) and The Arts Theatre in London's West End, for which she was nominated Best Actress in a Play at the prestigious Laurence Olivier Awards and won Best Solo performance at the London Theatregoers Choice Awards.

Caroline's West End productions include 'Mabel Normand' in Jerry Herman's **Mack and Mabel** (Olivier nomination for Best Actress in a Musical), **Romance, Romance, Street Scene** (ENO), **Hot Stuff, Matador, Budgie, The Rink, Cabaret, Me and My Girl, Showboat** (RSC), **Damn Yankees, Baby, Into the Woods, A Chorus Line**, and most recently playing **Mrs Lovett** in **Sweeney Todd** to much acclaim.

Other Australian productions include **West Side Story, Piaf, Man of La Mancha, Funny Girl** and **Mack and Mabel** with The Production Company. Caroline has performed with the Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras. Her own show, *From Stage to Screen*, has been presented in Adelaide, Melbourne, at the Sydney Opera House and filmed for ABC TV.

Her film work includes 'Nini Legs in the Air' in Baz Luhrmann's **Moulin Rouge** and 'Ethel Merman' in the Cole Porter biopic **De-Lovely**. She has recorded four solo CD's **What I did for Love, Stage to Screen, A Tribute to Piaf**, and most recently, **A Tribute To Garland**.

www.carolineoconnor.com

TOBY WALLACE- *Albie*

Originally from the UK, Toby Wallace emigrated to Australia a few years ago. He has trained in Dance, Drama and Singing. Toby commenced professional work with a little bit of modeling and a Schweppes Lemonade television commercial.

In 2008 at only 13 years of age he was cast in the major role of Tom in Kriv Stenders' period feature film **Lucky Country**. It is for this performance that Toby has been honoured with an AFI nomination for Best Young Actor. Since 'Lucky Country', Toby has worked on the comedy pilot **Oosh** for Fremantle Media.

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ANDREW MARTIN- *Frank*

Andrew is a graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and has worked extensively throughout Australia in Film, Television, Theatre, and Radio Drama.

His film credits include **Puberty Blues, An Indecent Obsession, Wills and Burke, Peaches, and Private Lives**. He first appeared on TV in **The Sullivans** followed by **Eureka Stockade, The Flying Doctors, This Man...This Woman, Embassy, McLeod's Daughters, Race Relations** and **City Homicide**.

His extensive theatrical credits include amongst others, **Tristram Shandy - Gent, The Three Musketeers, The Caretaker, Cyrano de Bergerac, In Celebration, Antigone**, and **Pete McGynty** for Melbourne Theatre Company

The Portage to San Cristobal of AH and **The Caucasian Chalk Circle** for Sydney Theatre Company and **Scenes from an Execution** and **The Crucible** for the State Theatre Company of South Australia.

Andrew took a 10 year hiatus from acting in the 1990's (when he worked as a theatrical producer) after which he returned to performing with a renewed passion. He has recorded over *25 radio features* for ABC Radio and is an accomplished voice over artist, having sold thousands of products over the years from chocolate and health products to cars and hardware!

He has written, directed and produced documentaries for ABC TV and is currently developing a music theatre production based on the songs of Paul Kelly called **The Last Train**.

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MAIN CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Kate Whitbread – *Co Director, Co Producer*

A graduate of the National Theatre Drama School, Kate brings a finely tuned sensibility to the needs of the actors under her direction. After graduating in 1986, Kate worked as an actor on various film and Television projects including **Evil Angels**, **Blue Heelers**, **The Magistrate**, **Country Practice**, **Neighbours**, **The Adman** (for Playbox alongside Shane Bourne) and had an ongoing role as Kelly the vet in over 70 episodes of **Bush Patrol**, a children's series for Channel 7.

After completing the AFTRS Extension Producer courses Kate also produced and directed a variety of fringe theatre productions between 1985 and 2000. She has worked as a freelance producer on a number of TV pilots and series and, from 1994 to 1997, worked as Associate Producer for Rosenbaum Whitbread productions.

In 2002 she raised private finance for and produced the independent low budget film **Deeper Than Blue**. Kate produced the AFC funded feature **The Caterpillar Wish** in 2006, which won both an AFI for Suzie Porter's performance as Actress in a Supporting Role and an IF Award for Best Production Design.

Kate made the award winning short film **Out Of Order** (2008) She and Co-Director Sandra Sciberras had previously teamed up on **The Caterpillar Wish**. Kate says of the working relationship with Sandra that while the division of labour and focus is split equally, her own acting background means she tends to spend more time dealing with the actors and their performance while Sandra is focused on the Director of Photography and the camera crew. 'But', she adds, 'we're all working together towards a common goal, that is to create an intelligent film that will move audiences where ever in the world they may be, as well as leaving audiences hopefully feeling good.'

Sandra Sciberras – *Co Director, Writer*

Sandra Sciberras graduated from the VCA School of Film and Television in 1995, where her graduate short film **Frail Mary** went on to receive numerous awards and International screenings. Her first feature as writer / director was an independently financed film **Deeper Than Blue**. It premiered at the Sydney International Film Festival in 2002 and marked the start of a decade long creative and collaborative partnership with Kate Whitbread who was the Producer.

2006 saw the release of **The Caterpillar Wish**. Critically and commercially successful, it was nominated at the Film Critic's Awards for Best Original Screenplay, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress. It went on to win an AFI award for Best Supporting Actress for Suzi Porter and an IF award for Best Art Direction. **Surviving Georgia** (2010) marks Sciberras' welcome return to writing and directing, with the result being a delightful and thoughtful romantic comedy. Sandra continues to develop projects as both writer and director, working with a variety of directors, writers and producers.

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Spencer McLaren – *Co Producer, Actor*

Spencer is a graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art, BA in Drama. He has worked extensively as an actor throughout Australia, the UK, Asia, and America. His work has encompassed film, television, theatre, music theatre, Audio recordings, and radio including projects such as **The Secret Life of Us, Dr Who, City Homicide, Green Wing, Carousel** (West End), **Beauty and the Beast**, and **Footloose**. He has also taught acting for many of the main institutions in Australia including VCA, NIDA, and the National Theatre.

Most recently he has divided his time between performing and producing. Teaming up with Kate Whitbread to form Footnote Films, Spencer has strengthened his development skills and broadened his knowledge base in the areas of film and TV. He raised the private finance for the award winning short **Out of Order**, as well as currently developing a new TV series **The 12 Steps to Growing Old Disgracefully**. Theatrically his most recent production, **Fully Committed**, played to packed houses and won 5 star reviews from all major papers in Melbourne. His latest theatre project is bringing the 2005 film **Strange Bedfellows** to the stage as a major Musical opening in Oct 2010, written by John Foreman and Jon Stephens.

Jon Webb – *Director of Photography*

Jon Webb was born and raised in England where he studied photography at Berkshire College of Art & Design. Upon graduating Jon was approached by the prestigious Holborn Studios, London to become a photographic assistant where he spent the next 2 years honing his craft and progressing from assistant to photographer.

In 1988 Jon decided to broaden his horizons and began travelling. He eventually settled in Melbourne, Australia where he quickly found work as a freelance photographer and began building his own studios, Decent Exposure. Over the years DE has grown to house some of Australia's finest photographers and consistently produces work of an outstanding quality.

Whilst building his photographic business, an opportunity arose to act as D.O.P. on a short film in 2000 which encouraged Jon to pursue his passion for film making and in 2001 he shot the award winning documentary "Save your Legs". With his unique style incorporating his photographic stills background, Jon has since shot numerous TVC's, Short Films, Music Videos and Documentaries on 8mm, 16mm, 35mm, DigiBeta, Mini DV HDV & RED. Surviving Georgia is Jon's first feature film.

Cindy Clarkson - *Editor*

A graduated from the Film and Television course at Curtin University (WA), specialising in film editing in 1985. In the past six years she has edited three 3 million dollar American dramas, a feature documentary with over 300 hours of combined archival/interview footage – **The Man Who Souled the World** as well as the independent features **Corroboree**, which screened at the Berlin Film Festival in 2008 and **Van Diemen's Land**, currently available on DVD. Other features include. George millers *Prey*, Jon Hewitt's dark drama **darklovestory**, Michael Vickerman's US martial arts drama **Warriors of Virtue2: Return to Tao**, Shane Luther's independent drama **The Merchant of Fairness**, Jon Hewitt's thriller **Redball** and Alkinos Tsilimidos' drama **Everynight...Everynight**.

Cindy has also worked on numerous documentaries, television projects and short films.

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Antony I. Ginnane – *Executive Producer*

Antony I. Ginnane is a 38 year veteran of the film and television industry. Since 1970 Ginnane has produced, co-produced and executive produced 60 feature films, TV movies and mini series in Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Canada, the Philippines and Eastern Europe including classics such as **Patrick, High Tide and The Lighthorsemen**, and more recently **Screamers, Ten Dead Men and Screamers 2: The Hunting and Arctic Blast**.

He was a partner in distribution company start-ups and joint ventures in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Hong Kong through the '80's before moving to Hollywood. From 1991 to 1995 he consulted to Fries Entertainment on film distribution and film financing and continues to advise various international film funding bodies.

His company, F G Film Productions (Australia) Pty. Ltd., has offices in Melbourne and Los Angeles and has a diverse slate of Australian productions in development including re-imaginings of **Patrick and Thirst**. Ginnane also oversees affiliate company IFM World Releasing's activities in worldwide distribution, acquisition and financing and has spearheaded its growth to a 150 title catalogue of movies, TV series and documentaries.

He is currently President of SPAA (Screen Producers Association of Australia), a member of the Producers Guild of America and BAFTA Los Angeles and served on the Board of IFTA from 2004-2008. He is a member of IFTA's TV, Legal and Export Alliance sub-committees. He has written numerous articles on the motion picture industry and served on many panels relating to film financing, distribution and co-production. His memoir "Reel Life Real Life – Some Scenes Objectionable" is due for publication in 2010. Ginnane is co-founder of SPAA's digital film festival, DigiSPAA, now in its fifth year

Shaun Miller – *Executive Producer*

Shaun is a Partner at Marshalls & Dent Lawyers (based in Melbourne) specialising in film and entertainment law. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (with Honours) degree and a Bachelor of Commerce degree both from the University of Melbourne. He also has attained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law from the University of Melbourne. Shaun has worked in both private commercial law and public law including at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). He has also worked in many aspects of the film industry including production (with filmmaker Paul Cox) and distribution and exhibition (with Sharmill Films and Cinema Nova).

He is currently Chair of the Board of the Victorian College of the Arts Film and Television School Course Advisory Committee, and has been a past board member of Channel 31 (community television) and the Melbourne Queer Film Festival. Shaun also lectures in film and entertainment law at Open Channel, the VCA, the University of Melbourne and RMIT. Over the last 10 years, Shaun has been the lawyer on numerous feature films, documentaries; television series and animations.

Recent projects that Shaun has worked on include the feature films **Gettin' Square, Suburban Mayhem, Mary and Max** and the soon-to-be-released film **Lou** as well as the television series **John Safran's Music Jamboree, Kick, The Abbey** and the telemovie **Curtin**. Shaun also acted for the producer of Adam Elliot's short animated film **Harvie Krumpet** which won an Oscar at the Academy Awards in 2004.

Surviving Georgia

Recent documentaries that Shaun has worked on include the international hit **The Secret** as well as **Bastardy** and **Lionel** (both of which were nominated for best documentary film at the 2009 AFI Awards). Projects that Shaun is currently executive producing include the feature film **Triple Happiness**.

Other areas of Shaun's law practice include trade mark law, defamation law and trade practices law. Shaun sees the role of today's film and entertainment lawyer as a "facilitator", that is, liaising with producers, government funding bodies, distributors, financiers and creative talent in order to get films and television programs onto the Big and Small Screen.

Ann Lyons – *Executive Producer*

Ann began her film industry career in 1977 when she first joined the Melbourne-based Studio Corporation and subsequently industry leader The Film House, a commercials and motion picture production group. She initially worked as an assistant to Fred Schepisi and later supervised post production activities.

She joined Antony I. Ginnane at F. G. Film Productions in South Melbourne in 1981 and collaborated on the production and financing of theatrical motion pictures in Australia and New Zealand including **Turkey Shoot, High Tide** and **The Lighthorsemen**; later supervising their Australian and international distribution. Lyons relocated to Los Angeles in 1993 and consulted to Fries Distribution, a leading film and TV movie producer and distributor, presenting its inventory of 100 titles internationally. While at Fries, Lyons supervised production and post production on Fries sci-fi production **Screamers** which was released in the USA by Columbia Tristar.

In 1996 Ginnane and Lyons set up IFM Film Associates Inc. in Los Angeles as a boutique international film sales licensing and executive production entity. After a successful launch at Cannes 1996, IFM has acquired and presented over 100 new productions including **Black Light, Pariah, Blind Heat, Under Hellgate Bridge, Reign in Darkness** and **In the Red**.

Lyons film and TV credits include **The Truth About Juliet** (Executive Producer 1997), **Black Light** (Executive Producer 1998), **Sweet Revenge** (Executive Producer 2000), **The Hit** (Executive Producer 2002), **The Big Red** (Executive Producer 2004), **Arctic Blast** (Executive Producer 2009).

Lyons returned to Australia in 1999 when IFM re-established its Melbourne Office from which South East Asian territories and Australasia sales are supervised. She now splits here time between Melbourne and Los Angeles and serves as Executive Vice President of both IFM Film Associates Inc., IFM World Releasing Inc. and F G Film Productions (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

Aleksandar Vasiljevic – *Executive Producer*

Aleksandar has been involved in the entertainment industry for over 30 years as a Performer, Director and a Producer. He has produced over sixty major shows in Australia, UK and the Middle East. Shows include **Barnum, Sweet Charity, Fiddler On The Roof with Topol, Hair, Last of the Red Hot Lovers, All My Sons, Amadeus, The Blue Room, Pirates, 1776** and Australia's smash hit comedy **It's A Dad Thing** to name a few. Aleksander has won a number of awards including Australia's prestigious green room award for best theatrical revival for **Fiddler on the Roof with Topol**.

Surviving Georgia

Aleksandar Vass had successfully written and Co produced the Australian comedy feature film **Nigel**. Aleksandar has recently completed the television pilots, **Hope, Song Writer, Television Comedy show, That's Huge**, and sitcom **At Your Service**. Currently in production is the documentary **Home Birth**.

Brett Aplin – *Composer*

Brett Aplin is an AFI and Australian Screen Music Award winning composer, known for his diversity and ability to craft scores that seamlessly enhance the narrative of film. A classically trained pianist, Brett won the 2000 Annual Pete Carpenter Fellowship (BMI Foundation, NYC) and travelled to Los Angeles to work with Emmy and Grammy award-winning television composer Mike Post, where he composed music for **Law and Order: Special Victims Unit**.

He has since focused on working with some of Australia's leading documentary film makers, including scoring the award winning **Ten Pound Poms, Rare Chicken Rescue, The Shadow of Mary Poppins** and **The Floating Brothel**. Brett has also worked internationally having recently scored the feature length drama-documentary **Secrets of the Forbidden City** for the BBC and The History Channel, and the documentary series **Inside John Lewis** for the BBC.

In 2009 Brett lent his talents to the acclaimed feature documentary **Indonesia Calling: Joris Ivens in Australia** which selected for the Melbourne and Brisbane International Film Festivals and at Amsterdam's prestigious International Documentary Film Festival IDFA, and the documentary films **Ocean's Supermum, A Thousand Encores: the Ballets Russes in Australia**, and Terry Carlyon's highly anticipated documentary on Melbourne's underworld killings **Dead Famous**.

This year Brett has completed work on his first feature film **Surviving Georgia** and is currently completing the score for the 4-part documentary series **The Making of Modern Australia** for the ABC.

Brett has been nominated for three APRA - Australian Guild of Screen Composers Awards, twice for Best Music for a Documentary for **The Floating Brothel** (2007) and **Secrets of the Forbidden City** (2008), and winning Best Music for a Short Film last year for **Lucy Wants to Kill Herself** (2009). He was awarded an AFI for his work on **Rare Chicken Rescue** in 2008

Surviving Georgia

FULL CREDITS

Directed by SANDRA SCIBERRAS & KATE WHITBREAD
Screenplay by SANDRA SCIBERRAS

Executive Producers SHAUN MILLER
ANTHONY I. GINNANE
ANN LYONS
ALEKSANDAR VASILJEVIC

Director of Photography JON WEBB

Editor CINDY CLARKSON

Compoer BRETT APLIN

Main Cast
In order of appearance

Georgia	CAROLINE O'CONNOR
Frank	ANDREW MARTIN
Heidi	PIA MIRANDA
Rose	HOLLY VALANCE
Albie	TOBY WALLACE
James	SPENCER McLAREN
Angela	KATERINA KOTSONIS
Johnnie	SHANE JACOBSON
Kathryn	HELEN HOPKINS
Sandy	ALYSSA McLELLAND
Doctor	JOHN MORRIS

Additional Cast

Young Johnnie	GRANT O'ROURKE
Cute Blonde	ISABELLE ALTMANN
Hippi	ALAN SEPPINGS
Cricketer	ANTHONY WOODCOCK
Heidi (Age 3)	CLEO BILLINGS
Rose (Age 1)	ISLA KONDRATENKOV
Heidi (Age 10)	STARRY MULLAN
Rose (Age 8)	MATILDA WHITBREAD-PHEE
Heidi (16)	ANIKA CARBONE
Rose (14)	GRACE WHITBREAD-PHEE
Repo Man	PATRICK CONSTANTINOU
Caretaker	KARL MICHAUD
Glass Blower	PHILIP STOKES
Glass Blower	SCOTT REDDING
Concierge	ROBERT DONALD

Surviving Georgia

Bully 1	CALEB SCIBERRAS
Bully 2	MAX WHITBREAD-PHEE
Bartender	JOHN R.K. SCOTT
Bridesmaid 1	ALICE FOULCHER
Bridesmaid 2	SYLVIE PAYNE
Mother of Bride	LILLY JONES
Paper Boy	JOEY PAISLEY
Andy Market	BEN DOWTHWAITE
Principal	MARK TWELLA

Volunteers

JOEL AMATORE	ELLIOT McLAREN	GINA BAINES
JESSICA ADLER	DENNIS ALBERTO	MARC BARTON JOHNSON
CLAIRE BAMFORD	WENDY BARNES	SANDI BLAKE
ALEXANDRA BARTON JOHNSON	BELINDA BELLADONNA	GILLIAN BROWN
CELESTE BLEWITT	BOR BROOKS	ANNABELLE CANNON
LIZ BURKE	MATTHEW BURNS	TONY CULPITT
SARAH CHARLWOOD	JENNA CORBETT	HILARY DAWKINS
SANDOR DANXI	VERITY DAWKINS	JESSICA FLEMING
CHRIS DIMMOCK	EVERARD FENTON	PETA GODENZI
EKATERINI FLORATIS	IAN GILES	JAQUI HAIL
R GOODING	JOHN HAIL	SOLOMON HILL
SHIRLEY HANSEN	MICHAEL HELDEN	ROSE HOULT
KRISTINA HIN	FRANK HOULT	CHARLES JOHNSTON
PAUL JACKSON	OOI JOHNSTON	DAGMAR LIMP
IAIN KEMP	DICK LEITH	RALPH LOGAN
KLAUS LIMP	DE LOGAN	MARLENE MAGEE
MARIE ANNE LUMSDEN-KEYS	JAMES LUMSDEN-KEYS	ALANA MICHAUD
LAURIN McDONALD	JOHN McLEOD	HANNAH OGILVIE
CARL MICHAUD	MARTIN ODWAZNY	JAMES PICKET
LISA OLIVER	GEMMA OSMOND	RHONDA SUMMER
FRITZ RAPPOLT	JACK RHYNSBURGER	MANSI SHARMA
MICHAEL SCHAMA	DOT SHADE	KERRY SLATER
IAIN SIMMONS	ERIC SLATER	EILEEN TURNLEY
DOREEN STANSFIELD	NICK TEOH	LUKE WHITESIDE
SARAH WARD	ROB WARDOR	JACKIE
CHRIS WRIGHT	MAX ZERYOD	
ABIGAIL STAPLETON		

Crew

Line Producer	ANTHONY WOODCOCK
Production Manager	CRAIG TURNLEY
Production Co-ordinator	KATE STRAUB
1 st Assistant Director	ADRIAN PICKERSGILL
2 nd Assistant Director	RACHEL EVANS- ARTIS
3 rd Assistant Director	KATE LANGTON
	EDDY BAKER
Continuity	VIVIEN MASON

Surviving Georgia

Script Editor	KATE WHITBREAD
A Camera Focus Puller	PETER WHITE
A Camera Assistant	KATHERINE SCHACHTE
A Camera Assistant	GRAEME CHEUNG
B Camera operator	CAM CROWLEY
2 nd Unit Cinematographer	CAM CROWLEY
Camera Equipment	DIGICINE
Sound Recordist	GLENN TAYLOR
Boom Operator	BEN CAREW
Production Designer	ALEXANDER O'BRIEN
Standby Props	LEETH KEOUGH
Set Dresser	PAIGE ANDERSON
Props Buyer	KATE BENNETT
Art Dept Co ordinator	KATE BOUMAN
Graphics	JAMES MELLOR
Art Department Assistant	LESLEY MCGEE
	INGA BASELIER
Locations Manager	ANTHONY WOODCOCK
Locations Assistant	KATE LANGTON
Key Hair and Make-up Artist	LOU McLAREN
Make-up Artist	AMANDA FORSYTH
Hair Dresser & Make-up	STACEY LEIGH
Additional Hair & Make-up	JODIE WATTS
Additional Hair	RHONDA ALEXANDRA
Additional Make-up	BRIALLEN JOHNSON
	BONNIE FRANCES
Costume Designer	ORIANA MERULLO
Costume Standby	BETHSHEBA FERRY
Designers Assistant	NICOLE COPPI
Costume Buyer	EKATERINI FLORATIS
Costume Assistant	CELESTE BLEWITT
	ANIKA CARBONE
	TONEEYA CARBONE
	NADIA GARUSSO
Key Grip	ADAM VITOLINS
Best Boy Grip	ADRIAN PAGANO
Gaffer	MICHAEL HUGHES
Best Boy Electrics	FRASER PILKINGTON

Surviving Georgia

Production Runners	SARAH CHARLWOOD, BRAHAM COHEN, MATTHEW KREMMER, HANNAH OGILVIE, JAMES SCHLUTER, TAMMI SHMERLING, GEORGIA SMITH, NICK TEOH, EILEEN TURNLEY, PAUL WATSON
Casting Extras Casting	FOOTNOTE FILMS KATE STRAUB DAGMAR LIMP EMILY OWENS
Safety Report Safety Officer/Stunt Coordinator	DANNY WOODROW DANNY WOODROW LANCE ARMSTRONG
Additional Safety	CHRIS WRIGHT
Catering	STEPHANIE "CHEFANIE" MORGAN CHRIS WRIGHT SPENCER McLAREN
Catering Assistant	HYDI JOHN
Additional Catering	WILD THYME CAFE
Unit	EDDY BAKER
Assembly Editor Assistant Editor	JAMES PORTANIER MALGORZATA SWIERCZAK
Post Production Facility	ROAR DIGITAL
Longform Manager Longform Co-ordinator	RODNEY BOLT SHANE BETTS EVELYN CRONK
Senior Colourist Online Editor Final Grade Colourist VFX Producers	COREY STEER MARK PITMAN COREY STEER MARK PITMAN COREY STEER
Online Composer Opening Titles Digital Deliverables Supervisor	MARK PITMAN COREY STEER RODNEY BOLT
Post Production Edit facility	WHYTE HOUSE

Surviving Georgia

Stills Photographer

LACHLAN MOORE
NARELLE SHEEHAN
MIKE BAKER
BRONWYN TERRY

Marketing Supervisor
EPK

ANDREW SUGARMAN
JOHN LUCAKS
MARLANE GHMED

Sound Post Production Facility

MIC SOUND
MUSIC & EFFECTS

Additional Sound Design &
Final Mix

MICHAEL SLATER

Dialogue Editor
Sound FX Editor
Foley Artist
Sound Re Recording Mixer

PETER PALANKAY
BRENDAN CROXON
GERARD LONG
DORON KIPEN

Loop Group

MARGARET ALLEN
JULIETTA BOSCOLO
PHILLIP CAMERON SMITH
SARAH HAGE
JAMES ROBERTSON
HEVAL SAYAN
VICTORIA STANFORD
STUART WILLIS

Insurance

BRIAN HOLLAND
HOLLAND INSURANCE BROKERS

Legal Services

SHAUN MILLER & REBECCA OLIVER
MARSHALLS & DENT LAWYERS

Motorolas

AUSTRALIAN 2 WAY RADIOS

Security/Traffic Management

STATE WIDE TRAFFIC

Surviving Georgia

SOUND TRACK AVAILABLE ON iTUNES

Original Score © 2010 Brett Aplin Productions Pty Ltd

Music Supervision

McLAREN HOUSE

Deep

Written by: C. Hill and P. Gwynedd

Performed by Charlton Hill

UMP/Monsoon Music

Administered by: Universal Music Publishing Pty Ltd

Master licensed courtesy of SONY Music

Nobody's Fool

Performed by Bronwyn Mulcahy

Used by permission of Bronwyn Mulcahy

Produced by Bronwyn Mulcahy and Steve Jones

© Bronwyn Mulcahy

Bitter Sweet

Performed by Bronwyn Mulcahy

Used by permission of Bronwyn Mulcahy and Steve Jones

Produced by Bronwyn Mulcahy and Steve Jones

© Bronwyn Mulcahy

So Close

Performed by Nicholas Roy

Written by Nicholas Roy

Licensed courtesy of Little Tribe

Available through Little Tribe Music

My Favourite

Performed by Michael Peter

From the album "Something Along Those Lines"

Used by permission of Foghorn Records © 2009

Foghorn Records & Fogsongs Music © 2009 Fogsongs.

All That You Love

Performed by Abi Tucker

Music by Brett Aplin

Lyrics by Abi Tucker

Available through itunes

Surviving Georgia

This movie would not have been possible without the support of:

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and to the babies that waited!**

**LILY EVE HANIGAN
LIV JACOBSON
DYLAN CHEUNG**

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This Film was shot entirely on location throughout the State of Victoria.