# Linda Jean Bruno

## STORM ACTORS

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U.S Visa status 01 Visa

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LA WEB SERIES FESIVAL San Francisco

International Film Festival

2003

WINNER

ORSEN WELLES AWARD

CALIFORNIA FILM FEST 2016



Linda Jean Bruno grew up in an Italian family restaurant in Melbourne where her first performances took place. She would entertain the diners and staff by moving tables and breaking in with a live theatrical show.

Linda Jean would soon transition to professional film and tv roles with her first appearance in 'The Way Back' a short by Lizette Atkins which won the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Her more recent credits include a recurring guest role of Maria Buraczek on 'Neigbours', Diamond in the Independent feature 'The Last Supper of the Damned' (which won the Orsen Welles Award at the California Film Awards) and lead in the short black comedy 'Kink'. The success of 'Kink' sees Linda Jean reprise the role of Sofia in the spin-off series 'Franco's World' which is currently in development.

Miss Bruno grew up between Australia and Italy and is fluent in Italian. She has lent her bilingual skills to many roles, most notably that of Italian immigrant Carmella Colonna on the ABC Drama '<u>The Doctor</u> <u>Blake Mysteries</u>'.

Other credits have included leads in various web-series and shorts which have gone on to win awards worldwide including <u>'Subclass</u> 417' (official selection at LA Web Fest and picked up by Channel 31).





When International chocolate brand <u>Cadbury</u> was searching for an SNL Kristen Wig/Tina Fey type for their Twirl Girl, Linda Jean's training at Los Angeles' best comedy institutes; The Second City, The Kahnstitute and Groundlings came into effect.

She has been praised for her comedic abilities and the edge that she brings to her roles. With an expressive face and naturally quirky and funny essence she would be perfect as the awkward,

Her indelible impression of an old Hollywood icon has caught the attention of many film makers and she is frequently cast in period pieces of the glamorous 40's, 50's and 60's. Her whimsical nature would lend perfectly to a mystical seductress trying to destroy the world.

Linda Jean is a multi-faceted actor who attributes her various styles and techniques to training in the United States and Australia, life experiences, travels and on set where she is constantly developing and evolving in her craft.

Linda Jean has an 01 Visa and can work between Australia and the U.S.



imdb.me/lindajeanbruno



https://app.showcast.com.au/profile/ LindaJeanBruno



https://app.castingnetworks.com/ talent/public-profile/ f8d53208-2f0d-11eba1a3-0291f623b406



https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCmEdXJ2oKJK0zTthbKwXcIQ

### THE TWO APPARENTLY DISTANT WORLDS INHABITED BY LINDA JEAN BRUNO

Linda Jean Bruno was once told that if you want to do something well, you have to choose one thing, and stick with it. A piece of advice the actor/restaurateur has firmly rejected.

She has found that combining her passion for acting and the management of her family's restaurant *Zia Teresa* has been advantageous to both careers.

But how does she do it all? According to Linda Jean, it takes a lot of commitment and perseverance.

'There was a time when I let people get into my head and convince me that acting is an unstable profession, but I don't see it that way anymore. Creatively I was missing it.' Bruno believes that as with any career, there is luck involved, but mostly its hard work and honesty that gets results. 'In that way, running the restaurant has helped me with my acting business.' She says.

'For a long time I tried to keep the two worlds separate' she says. 'I thought that if I mentioned that I had a restaurant, people would think I wasn't committed to acting, that I was unavailable... and vice versa. I wanted my team to know that I was there for them.'

Recently however, Linda Jean has come to recognise the important role the restaurant has played in her career as an actor. 'I never look at a script and think: I don't know who this character is. And that's because I've seen so many characters coming through the restaurant. It's a wonderful lesson in humanity and psychology. I just love people, watching people, establishing relationships and I think that comes from a lifetime of being in hospitality.'

Bruno was recently cast in an Italian-speaking role as immigrant Carmela Colonna in an episode of ABC's *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*.

I was lucky to work with an amazing female director, Fiona Banks on the episode', Bruno says, 'who really cared about the authenticity of the language and who this woman was. I ended up playing her bigger than the way she was written, inspired by all these strong characters that I've met in my life.

My aunties, and the strength of my Mum and her loving relationship with my Dad.'

When it came to the character's language, Linda Jean was nervous about the use of dialect. Despite her family's Calabrian heritage, she explains, standard Italian was always emphasised in their home and she never learnt her family's regional dialect. Luckily for Linda Jean, her restaurant *Zia Teresa* is a second



Above and below Linda shooting photos at her restaurant Zia Teresa in Brunswick East, Melbourne Photo Dhyan Verco





home for a large part of Melbourne's Italian community, with some regular customers remaining loyal for more than 30 years. When preparing the role of Carmela, Linda Jean invited Italian women to the restaurant for linguistic support. 'I just wanted to converse with them, and pick up some of their mannerisms. What you get is a mix of a lot of different dialects in one performance', she laughs.

Zia Teresa has been central to Linda Jean's acting career from very early on. As a child she would give performances in the restaurant, which remains faithful to the actor's memories of the iconic Lygon St eatery.

'There had been some changes, but I decided while I was starting to looking after the restaurant, that I missed the idea of what it was when I was little, and I brought it back to its rustic origins. (The restaurant) works really well when we are being true to our origins. People can really sense that honesty and they appreciate it.'



Photo Dhyan Verco

The honesty and humility that Linda Jean speaks of is reflected in Zia Teresa's mouth-watering menu. Her mother Teresa Bruno, remains, after more than 30 years, 'the heart of the kitchen' and specializes in regional rustic cuisine. 'Everything is seasonal and organic', Bruno explains. 'When figs are out of season for the Fichi Imprigionati , we use artichokes.'

The Gnocchi Quattro Formaggi, however, is never out of season, which is lucky for movie star Russell Crowe, who returned to the restaurant recently to order the dish. He remembered it from over twenty years ago, when the movie Proof was shot at Zia Teresa.

Just another seemingly serendipitous crossover of the world of film and television with that of the Brunswick East restaurant. Two worlds inhabited by Linda Jean Bruno, who isn't giving up acting for hospitality, or vice versa, any time soon.

# How Acting Darwinism Led To an Amazing International Career for Australia's Linda Jean Bruno





https://medium.com/@kkingme2003/how-acting-darwinism-led-to-an-amazing-career-for-australias-linda-jean-bruno-a4be843f0a23

"I adapt well to change. I think that has a lot to do with my upbringing and environment. I mostly grew up in restaurants; travelled a lot, and had minimal time with my parents...you learn to work fast, make the most of it, and adapt well to changes and changing people. My parents founded many restaurants in Italy and Australia, always working very hard. They were the most charming human beings I have ever known; absolutely loved people and were incredibly generous. They developed a flock of fans. When my father passed away, four priests held the funeral mass and the church was packed on all sides. As a child I couldn't understand why there were so many people there. I still walk down the street and hear, 'That's Franco's daughter' or 'That's Teresa's daughter" in both Australia and Italy. I was once given an exercise by a Casting Director to go up to strangers with the question, 'Which famous person do I remind you of?', to which they replied, 'Your mother.'...not exactly the outcome this Casting Director had intended."

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Above: Linda Jean as Maria Buraczeck on Neighbours.

While not unheard of for an Actor, Linda Jean Bruno's story is anything but commonplace. Travelling and the notoriety of her parents instilled a sense of self-reliance and creativity; two characteristics which serve an Actress very well. When a production crew utilized her parent's restaurant to film scenes for the feature film Proof, a vouthful Linda Jean watched Oscar-Winning Actor Russell Crowe display what a professional film Actor does. Bruno was hooked.

Interestingly, Linda Jean would receive immense international exposure via the same television production credited in achieving this for Crowe, Australia's longest running program *Neighbours*. *Neighbours* is an institution, an icon in Australia. It was inducted collectively into the Logie Hall of Fame in 2005. If there is any TV program created in Australia and known the world over, it most definitely is *Neighbours*. The show's storylines concerns itself with the domestic and professional lives of the people who live and work in Erinsborough, a fictional suburb of Melbourne, Victoria. It focuses primarily on the residents of Ramsay Street and its neighbouring area, which includes the 'Back Lane Bar', owned and operated by Linda's character [Maria Buraczek]. Being included in the cast of *Neighbours* immediately resonates with both the industry and the public. Linda Jean confirms, "This serial drama is a vital cultural export and you instantly feel the impact on foreign viewers and that huge *Neighbours* fanbase, particularly from overseas. I was definitely surprised at the speed and size of growth in my fanbase. I had *Neighbours* fans contacting me through my social media pages saying that they were really excited about my character."



Another pillar of the Australian television scene is *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* (distributed by the BBC). Bruno appeared as Carmella Colonna in this hit series which has been running for more than five years and has been recognized in Australia and as far as New York with awards for its excellence. Linda Jean felt particularly connected (via her own heritage and family) with the character of Carmella. A fiercely strong Italian woman, Carmella was portrayed as something vastly different than the stereotype of an Italian immigrant. Linda Jean reveals, "I felt a huge sense of responsibility in portraving Carmela, not only because of the integrity of the show, or the vast number of viewers it brought in but I wanted to portray her with honesty. This is something I had to fight for a little but I really believed in my version. The director [Fiona Banks] had called me in to see what I wanted to do. She threw some improv at me to see what I would do with it in the scene. It was exhilarating, because I had completely embodied Carmella so the improv came naturally. Working with an Award-winning director like Fiona is a blessing. She really aided in the development of my career and how I would approach roles from that point on. There were experiences leading up to that moment but it was really at that time that I had a different appreciation for the way I wanted to approach a character. Fiona opened that door and gave me permission to say that there's a different way we can approach this."



"International audiences are seeing more and more of Linda Jean Bruno."

The profession of a modern Actor is most certainly eclectic. While Bruno has appeared in numerous films at the movie theatre, she was also seen in a piece of pre-show entertainment that blanketed cinemas across Australia. *Follow Linda Jean's Journey* was created by DDB Sydney (the most awarded Australian agency at Cannes) for the City of Melbourne as a marketing campaign to celebrate the city's unique character. DDB (whose clients include: Westpac, McDonald's, Volkswagen, Virgin Australia, Skoda, Unilever, Johnson & Johnson, BT Financial Group, Society One, and Barilla) cast Bruno in this \$1.5 Million campaign titled "*Visit the Land of Inbetween*" featured on the streets and screens of Melbourne, with a range of advertising including print, outdoor, online, and social media. It seems that wherever you go in Australia, Linda Jean is somewhere close. There's something universally appealing about her. Her ability to communicate an identifiable persona with relatability (and tremendous talent) is the reason Australian audiences and, with increasing frequency, international audiences are seeing more and more of Linda Jean Bruno.

**Actress Australian Talent** 

### DZ DEATHRAYS REVEAL MUSIC VIDEO FOR THE AMAZING 'GINA WORKS AT HEARTS' THE ACCIDENTAL JOURNALIST

THE ACCIDENTAL JOURNALIST MARCH 18, 2014

Currently over in the states for a host of shows at SXSW, DZ Deathrays have today revealed the video for new single 'Gina Works at Hearts', the 2nd single to be taken from their forthcoming sophomore LP, 'Black Rat'. Seductive, tragic and addictive; the video was shot at Melbourne venue Platform One and sees the arrival of 'Gina' portrayed by Linda Jean Bruno with a depiction given to her by director, Noel Smyth, that shows there could be a nasty twist in the tale.



"Seductive, tragic and addictive"



With more details of "Black Rat's" UK release to come, 'Gina Works at Hearts' is available to download now through Australian label 'I OH YOU'. The incredible video can be seen (above).

Full article: http://www.gigsoup.co.uk/gigsouptv/music-videos/dz-deathrays-reveal-music-videoamazing-gina-works-hearts/ GIGsoup has all of the latest music news, album reviews, gig reviews and best new music.



Left; Actress Linda Jean Bruno with director Noel Smyth on the set of DZ Deathrays latest music video







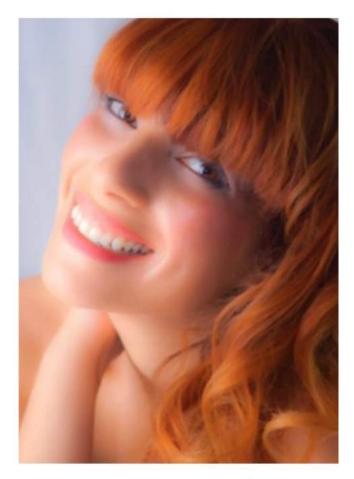
### The Commercially Balanced Linda Jean Bruno

Let's go way back in history to a time when boundaries were clearly drawn and adhered to for fear of repercussion. It was a previous century in a time known as the 1990s. It was a time when film Actors refused commercial roles or only agreed to have them screened in far off lands, with contracts stipulating they never air in their homeland. It was a somewhat ridiculous time. This delineation of prestige, implying a lack of equivalency makes no sense these days. You can see the biggest stars in the world on global ad campaigns: Amy Schumer and Seth Rogen in a Budweiser commercial, Samuel L. Jackson advertising Capitol One, Mila Kunis selling the mystique of Jim Beam Whiskey, Matthew McConaughey in Lincoln commercials (less than a year after winning an Oscar for his performance in Dallas Buyers Club), and even George Clooney doing Nespresso ads. It's purely a cash grab, right? Not so! During his appearance on Inside the Actor's Studio, Clooney himself has stated that commercials not only allow him to base his choice of film roles on purely artistic aims, but also flex a muscle not always utilized in film.



Those unfamiliar with being on set might utter, "A commercial is so short and there's almost no character development, how can this be interesting or challenging for an Actor?" Take the example of Linda's work for internationally recognized and respected chocolate 'superbrand' Cadbury. Award-Winning director Carl J. Sorheim auditioned Linda for the "Twirl Girl" and Cadbury readily approved her. With only a curt six seconds of running time, both the spot and the production process was an exercise in brevity and efficiency, which is important for a commercial Actress to internalize. Bruno expounds, "It's about conveying a lot in a very short time. When I describe the experience of sitting on that horse with green screen behind me and a fan blowing in my face, people are in hysterics. Each time Carl would direct something a little different while the art department kept adjusting the scene. I was kind of uncomfortably propped on a box to one side using my thigh muscles to navigate the motion of





When working on a commercial for Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ), Bruno discussed with director Max Reed her idea to inject some slightly manic humour into her role for comical effect. Linda Jean cultivated a shopaholic character which took the direction of the storyline into a more humorous direction and enhanced its particularity. While the role may be brief and generalized when she receives the casting brief, this Actress embraces the idea of "filling out" a character.

Bruno admits to staying in character during the entire shoot to the delight and entertainment of the crew, because those working behind the scene enjoy a few laughs during a long day's shoot. Playing against this former character type, Linda played the supportive mother of two children who playfully apply makeup to the bearded patriarch of their family in another commercial, this time for iconic Australian cordial brand, Cottee's. She was the "straight man" to the kids over the top comedy. Brian Patto served as director for the Cottee's advertisement and DP for previously mentioned ANZ Banking Group ad and states, ""I loved working with Linda Jean on both the Cottee's and ANZ commercials. Her professionalism was impeccable, especially with such tight shoots where there's no time to mess about. She consistently nails everything in two-three takes, which makes a huge difference! I've seen her in films before but many of these are dramas; she has incredible comedic timing and it was a delight to see this side of her."

# Farma*Vita*

Exposure is often the goal for many Actors. You can be the most talented individual in the world but if not enough people see you, or if the "right" people don't see you...it's all for naught. What commercials achieve so well is longevity and ubiquity. As with a song that becomes an earworm, seeing a certain Actor in a commercial sparks an interest for the public and production professionals. Being cast in long running campaigns can create the fertile ground for the familiarity with an Actor which leads to more offers. Linda Jean's appearance in campaigns like Liquorland (an Australian liquor chain that is part of the Coles Supermarket division and owned by Wesfarmers).



Based around the growing perception that big city racing days as too chaotic and crowded, we positioned country racing as "more relaxed" and "racing the way it's meant to be". The campaign also promoted race days as part of a whole weekend away in a holistic tourism offering. The campaign ran across every channel Digital, social, TV, radio and press along with collateral for individual events.

Country Racing Victoria's campaign has run for three consecutive years (including TV and print with billboards across the state), making her a recognizable face throughout Australia. Her association with Coles was so successful that she was included in the Coles Christmas Campaign as well as for Coles Car and Home Insurance. The insurance ads saw Linda Jean alongside celebrity builders from "The Block" (Keith Schleiger and Dan Reilly) and included TV spots, magazines, bust stops, radio spots, and virtually every advertising medium. Bruno found herself blanketing Australia with her recognizability increasing dramatically amongst a new demographic.

Describing her own individual assessment of the balance for the modern day Actress working in film, television, and commercials; Bruno comments, "I feel that an artist enjoys the challenge of finding different ways of bringing a character to life, that includes different types of productions. They all complement each other and make you a better Actor...if you pay attention to what you can learn. I've done so many commercials now that I really have a lot of fun with them. Obviously, they have a fast turnaround time and you're not able to have in-depth discussions with the creators. When working on a fast paced set, like that of the TV series Neighbours, the training and skills I honed on commercials benefitted me greatly in navigating this...as it did on some film sets. Some of the best creatives in Australia are working on commercials and I feel privileged to work amongst them."



Billboards of Country Racing Victoria campaign found throughout the city and freeways in the most prominent locations.





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> FORUMS

### Neighbours spoilers: Tyler Brennan could lose his job and it's all Elly Conway's fault

Will he be sent packing from the Back Lane Bar?

BY DANIEL KILKELLY 06/03/2017



Tyler Brennan suffers another setback on <u>Neighbours</u> next week as his new boss decides that it might be time to sack him - already!

Viewers have recently seen Tyler (Travis Burns) start work at the Back Lane Bar, needing all the money he can get now that he's living at the Backpackers with his girlfriend Piper Willis.

Sadly, Tyler's time as a barman looks set to be cut short when Elly Conway (Jodi Anasta) makes a major scene during one of his shifts.

Elly (Jodi Anasta) turns up at the bar to drown her sorrows following the sudden arrival of her troublesome ex Finn Kelly, only to completely lose it when he follows her there wanting to make amends.

Neighbours spoilers: Tyler Brennan could lose his job and it's all Elly Conway's fault



Tyler manages to deal with Elly professionally by escorting her off the premises, but it's still the final straw for his boss as she watches on.

Very unimpressed, Tyler's boss points out that this is the third time he's brought trouble to work with him. First of all his brother Mark made a spectacle of himself, then Piper was caught using a fake ID, and now this.

Tyler is devastated when he's branded bad for business, but is he bad enough to be fired?

If he is, the timing couldn't be worse as Tyler and Piper are already struggling with hardly any cash or food. So could Tyler's potential job loss spark an all-out crisis for the couple?

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https://www.digitalspy.com/soaps/neighbours/a822729/neighbours-spoilers-tyler-brennan-job-loss-elly-conway-blamed/



CHANNEL 5

Neighbours airs these scenes on Friday, March 17 at 1.45pm and 5.30pm on Channel 5.

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### **Promoted content**



### Subclass 417



filmmaking

It seems like everyone in the world is talking about immigration these days. It can be sobering, angering, inspiring...all of these things almost simultaneously. Everyone has a personal perspective on the subject, which is what led award winning Writer, Actor and Producers Christian Heath and Elijah Egan to create *Subclass 417*. This Docu-Comedy Web series follows Ryan and Ben, two 20-something struggling Actors trying to make it on a Working Holiday Visa in Australia. The series title, *Subclass 417*, is the official government title of this type of visa.



Linda Jean Bruno as Chloe in "Subclass 417"



While focusing specifically on British and Irish Nationals seeking a better life in Australia, the template is one that applies to many places. There is a consistent levity and heart to this story that is exponentially expanded by Actress Linda Jean Bruno as Chloe, the girlfriend of Ben. Known for her numerous award-winning and work Australia's films on internationally beloved hit TV program Neighbours, Bruno is often the reality that grounds and softens the sometimes juvenile male characters in this award-winning web series whose popularity led to it being picked up by Channel 31 in Australia.

Developed by Christian Heath and Elijah Egan, *Subclass 417* is a comedic slant on the influx of twenty-something English and Irish nationals who relocated to Australia in search of opportunities and a brighter future. The plight of immigrants is rarely carefree but the story Heath and Elijah have crafted seeks to concentrate on how unaware and somewhat disconnected Ryan and Ben (their characters) are from the gravity of their circumstances...at least for the most part. To ground them in reality, the story needed some strong relationship partners for this duo of new Australian residents.

Strong female leads with plenty of heart are often the linchpin for an audience in an immigration tale (ala Oscar-Winning-Actress Nicole Kidman opposite Tom Cruise in *Far and Away* and Oscar-Winning-Actress Kate Winslet opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in *Titanic*) and Chloe (Ben's love interest) was tailor made for Bruno to contribute in just such a manner, literally.



Much of the comedy in this web series stems from the misunderstandings and inadequacies of Ryan and Ben, reflected back at them by the wiser/more worldly partners. Chloe is the point of comparison for her boyfriend Ben in the docu-comic presentation of their behaviour in context, as well as the cutaway interviews wherein the reality of Ben's behaviour is voiced through Chloe as the ever-loving and forgiving partner (as opposed to Ben's skewed views). While Chloe is an academic overachiever and natural caretaker, Ben is obsessed with Kanye West and impressing others with his high end sneakers. There's a balance in the union between these two characters that is rooted in young romantic love.



Still of Linda Jean Bruno and actor, writer, creator Elijah Egan on set.

The chemistry of Bruno and Egan on camera sets the undertone that gives credence to this seeming personality mismatch, making it very much believable. While a vocal percentage of the entertainment industry bucks against online entertainment, *Subclass 417* is held up as a great success. Originally created and aired as a web-series, it has won a number of awards both nationally and internationally including: an Official Selection at Austin WebFest 2014 in Texas, Official Selection and award winner at LA WebFest 2014, and Official Selection at the Roma WebFest. No small part of the attention and accolades this witty and humorous production received is the fact that *Subclass 417* was picked up for broadcast TV by Australia's Channel 31, proving that the story was equally attractive to online and more traditional based viewing audiences. While she has had plenty of experience in award-winning films and internationally successful award-winning television programs, Bruno confirms that the web-series is enticing to her and many of her peers.

She notes, "This web series provided a medium through which I could show another side to my acting ability for the industry to consider. Telling my Agent or a Casting Director that I have an ability is one thing; it's another to be able to present them with a concise and entertaining snippet in context. The web series as a whole is about the skill of telling a story with limited time and limited budget. It's a TV series that can be easily shared with people all over the world. A web series can act as a more accessible and succinct showcase of ideas, skills, and talent for everyone working on the production; both in front of and behind the camera. The generally smaller teams also enables more input from each individual because the dialogue between cast and crew is generally more available. A web series by virtue of its very format is more accessible. Traditional broadcast TV is following the web-series with features like ondemand which make a program available anytime and anywhere." Only a few short years ago there was an unwritten rule that film professionals did not cross over into television but the excellence of cable TV programming has shattered that notion; web-productions seemed to be poised to mirror this occurrence as well. In addition to her upcoming film work, Linda Jean has been cast by Subclass 417's Director Max De Bowen (also known as Max Orter) for his TV series documentary "Inside Web Series" and a sci-fi short film entitled "Game On". Bowen, whose work has been featured in such prestigious festivals as the Cannes Court Metrage, brought Bruno aboard in particular for her innate sense of dark humour, comparing her to Aubrey Plaza. She'll also return to the web-series format later this year for the production *Franco's World*, where Linda will be playing alongside award-winning Actor and Writer Robert Rabiah. Written by Kelly King



















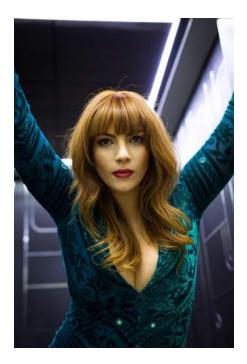




















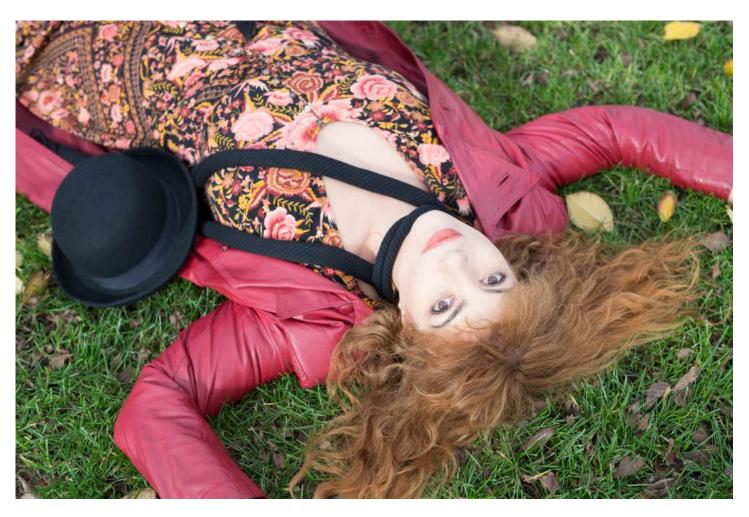




















**INDUSTRY EVENTS** 

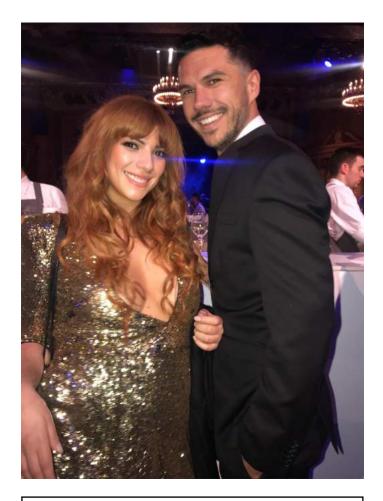


MIFF 2018 Blue Carpet



60th AACTA Awards, Sydney, 2018.





MIFF 2018 with Australian writer, director Goran Stolevski



MIFF 2018 with producer & actress Hanna Griffiths



Australians In Film & Screen Australia Los Angeles, 2019



60th AACTA Awards Sydney, 2018



Paramount Pictures, LA, 2019. Christmas Charity Event



At the Directors Guild of America for the 2020 Oscars Deadline Contenders with producer, actress Hanna Griffiths



Rikerte Riener Henrikerte Richerte Rich

Mary Queen Of Scots Australian Premier, 2019



2020 Oscars Deadline Contenders

