



NOWHERE BOYS

GET LOST IN THE
MYSTERY

3

ABC



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Take a journey into the unknown
EPIC NEW SERIES

STARTS **THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER AT 6.30PM**

3
ABC

NOWHERE BOYS

Follow the action-packed adventures of four mismatched teenage boys who return from a school excursion to discover they're stuck in a parallel world into which they were never born, during ABC3's new fantasy series, **Nowhere Boys** (13 x 26 min).

Combining supernatural action-adventure elements with comedy and genuine human drama, the series tracks the journey of alpha jock Jake (Matthew Testro), Goth Felix (Dougie Baldwin), nerd Andy (Joel Lok) and the golden child Sam (Rahart Sadiqzai) in their quest to find out what happened to them and how they can return home.

The series begins when the boys get lost while trekking through dense forest on a school excursion. After surviving a terrifying night trapped by a violent lightning storm the boys expect a heroic reception when they return home. Instead they discover that they are now total strangers to their friends and families – they don't exist anymore. All public records of them have vanished and the world has reconfigured itself, Felix's disabled brother can walk and Jake's struggling parents are now leading successful lives.

The boys are now forced to fend for themselves and grapple with basic questions of survival. While trying to prove they still exist, Sam discovers he has a doppelgänger called Sammy (Jesse Williams) and Andy's scientific obsession with finding a rational explanation for their bizarre situation nearly kills him. As more strange accidents begin to befall them the boys start to wonder if something otherworldly is out to get them.

When Felix comes into possession of an ornate talisman through the eccentric Phoebe (Michala Banas) who runs the local magic shop, he discovers that when all the boys are together they possess magical powers. He soon realises that these powers allow the boys to use the talisman to ward off the demonic force that is threatening them.

However, as the demon grows more powerful, it gains the power to possess both humans and animals. And to make matters worse the boys' new-world mothers simultaneously succumb to mysterious ailments triggered by the boys themselves.

As relationships are tested and new alliances and friendships are forged, the boys are forced to come together to protect themselves against the demonic force, uncover the mystery surrounding them, and find their way home.

NOWHERE BOYS THE 5TH BOY

Nowhere Boys: The 5th Boy is an interactive game which offers fans a unique online experience and an exciting companion to the TV series. Available on the ABC3 website from Thursday, November 7, the game gets players to take on the persona of a fifth boy who, like the **Nowhere Boys** of the series, is lost in a strange world and must find his way home.

During the game, players will journey through an unknown world called Negative Space, where the **5th boy** is pursued by a mysterious force known only as 'The Darkness'. Through the worlds the **5th boy** is drawn to a strange apparition, a woman, who promises to help and get him home... if he helps her to rebuild a powerful talisman.

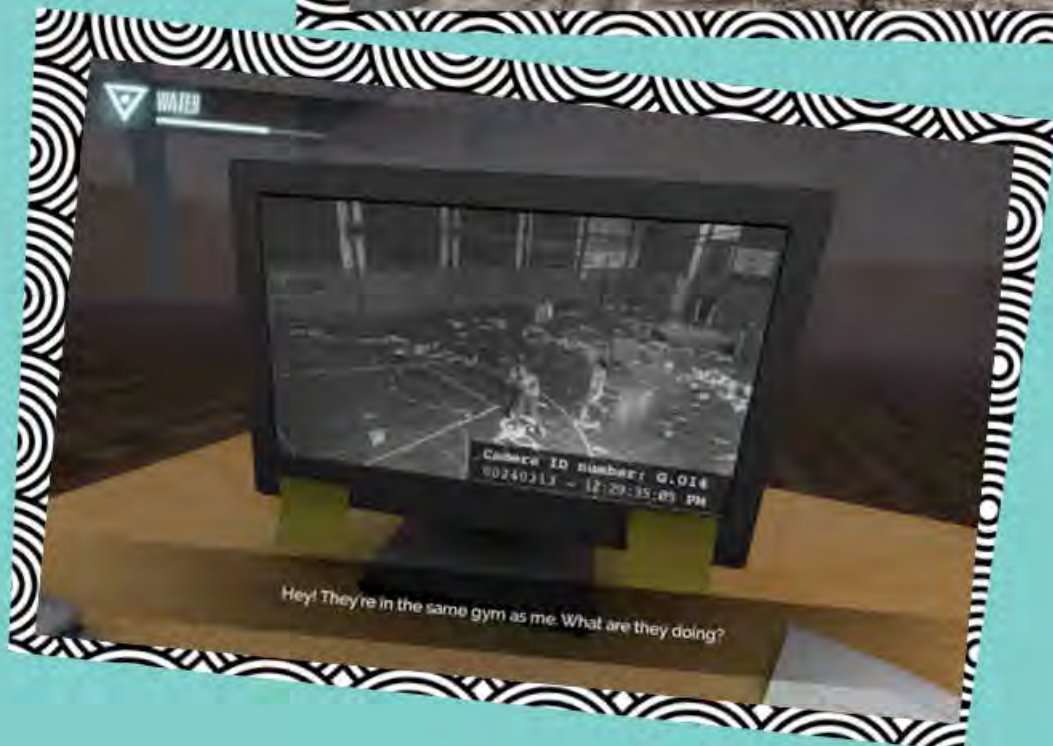
The player's quest becomes a bid for survival that tests the limits of their ability as they travel through the five elemental worlds – Earth, Air, Water, Fire and Spirit – before confronting 'The Darkness' in a climactic battle. Each of these worlds is unlocked at key stages during the TV broadcast schedule.

As the player advances on their journey they begin to see the **Nowhere Boys** and other characters in the TV series through 'tears' that appear between the dimensions. Before long it becomes clear that they share a common enemy with the **Nowhere Boys** and that they will play an integral role in helping the **Nowhere Boys** get back home.

TV AND GAME CROSSOVER

There is an exciting and unique crossover created between the game and the TV series for our fans. These two platforms have been carefully intertwined to give the player the feeling that they are directly influencing outcomes on the TV show.

The player will pass objects through dimensions and then see them actually appear in the TV series during the next transmission. These objects help the **Nowhere Boys** on their mission and are often key to their survival. As the game progresses the player will piece together an additional narrative that tells the story of how the **Nowhere Boys'** fate directly impacted on the **5th boy's** life, providing knowledge of the **Nowhere Boys'** universe that is far greater than that of any of the characters in the series.



EP 1

Thursday, November 7 at 6.30pm on ABC3

Four mismatched year ten students – Andy, Felix, Jake and Sam – are unwillingly grouped together for an orienteering exercise in the rugged Bremin Ranges on the outskirts of their hometown, Bremin.

Half way through the orienteering course they decide to take a short-cut which very quickly gets them lost and stuck in a freak lightning storm. Searching for a way out of the forest, the boys' fertile imaginations run amok as they start to hear creepy sounds. But there is something really out there... a ferocious, snarling *Thing* stalks the boys from the undergrowth.

When the boys finally make it out of the forest and back to Bremin – alive and triumphant – they discover that no one seems fazed by their disappearance. Has something happened to Bremin while the boys were lost in the forest? Or has something happened to the boys?

EP 2

Thursday, November 14 at 6.30pm on ABC3

After their heroic survival, Felix, Andy, Jake and Sam return to their Bremin lives but are shocked that their families and friends no longer recognise them or miss them.

Andy's scientific senses are in overdrive as he forms a hypothesis that their loved ones have experienced a collective amnesia as a result of the trauma of the boys going missing. But Andy's high concept theory isn't able to explain other strange goings-on.

The bewildered boys have no choice but to band together once more to try to get to the bottom of their terrifying new predicament.



EP 3

Thursday, November 21 at 6.30pm on ABC3

The boys' survival instincts kick into gear as they scavenge for food and set up a home in a derelict shed, but they're still coming to terms with their weird new reality. It's one thing to be forgotten, but it's starting to look like they never existed.

Andy, Felix and Jake break into Bremin High searching for proof of themselves in the school records. Meanwhile, Sam finds a romantic carving made by himself and his girlfriend, Mia (Tamala Shelton). Buoyed by what he considers to be tangible proof that he exists, Sam searches for Mia to confirm things, but is crushed and stunned by her reaction.

As if these setbacks aren't enough, the Thing that stalked them in the forest makes a scary return...

EP 4

Thursday, November 28 at 6.30pm on ABC3

Huddled together and terrified, the boys weather the freak storm that lashes their hideout. Only Felix doesn't believe this is a simple storm – he thinks there is dark magic at work.

The next morning, the boys emerge to discover strange configurations of debris scattered around their hideout. The differences between Andy's scientific rationale and Felix's magical ideas come to a head and the group parts ways. Andy and Jake head to Lily Lau's (Cecilia Tan) restaurant to obtain bait to trap the panther which Andy believes has caused the markings while Felix and Sam head to the local esoteric bookshop, Arcane Lane, in search of more mystical answers.

While Felix buys an amulet for protection, Andy has convinced himself that he and the other boys are actually in a state of unconsciousness. Driven to test his new theory, Andy sets out in search of a stimulus powerful enough to jolt them all back into a state of consciousness. He decides to throw himself in front of the local school bus in an effort to 'wake up'. Will the other boys be able to stop him in time?





EP 5

Thursday, December 5 at 6.30pm on ABC3

Felix goes to hang out with his 'once brother' Oscar (Sean Rees-Wemyss), only for them both to come under attack from a swarm of malevolent bees. Escaping to the relative safety of the Arcane Lane, Felix searches for a spell to combat the swarm – but his ability to interpret magic only makes Phoebe more suspicious of him.

Meanwhile, Bremin's Sergeant Gary Riles (Damien Richardson) is hot on the boys' trail after their destruction of the school gymnasium – and Jake is shocked to realise that this diligent copper is actually the new world incarnation of his formerly deadbeat dad.

Still being chased by the swarm, Felix and Oscar race back to the hideout. Felix's first spell fails to stop the swarm, until he gets a brainwave – and a powerful new talisman. Gathering the elements that the other boys unwittingly possess and combining these with the talisman, Felix tries a new spell. But will it work?

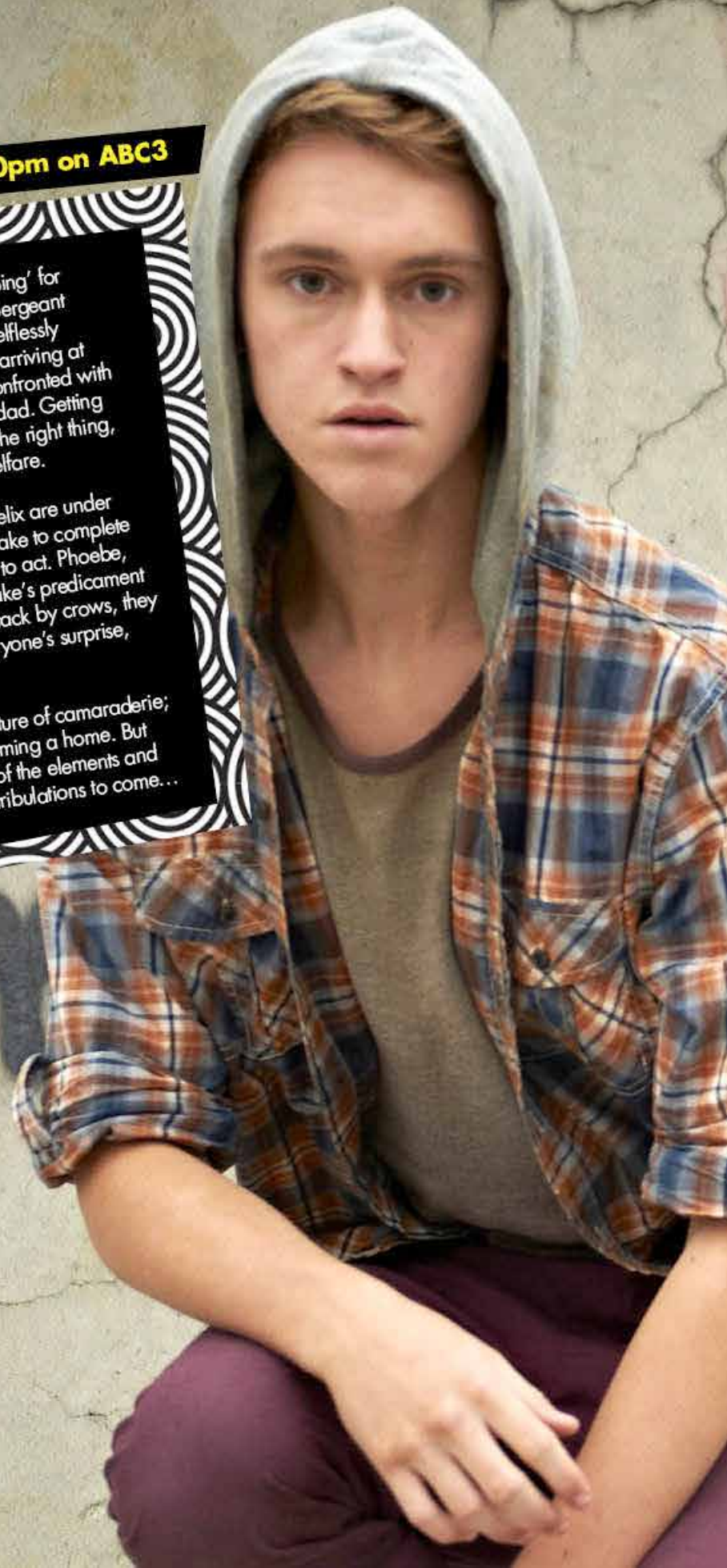
EP 6

Thursday, December 12 at 6.30pm on ABC3

Jake and Andy decide to do some 'free shopping' for supplies at a milk bar but a chase ensues as Sergeant Gary arrives on the scene. Mid-chase, Jake selflessly sacrifices himself to help Andy escape. After arriving at the police station, tension builds as Jake is confronted with this respectable alternative to his real-world dad. Getting nowhere with Jake despite his desire to do the right thing, Gary has no option but to bring in child welfare.

Reunited at the hideout, Sam, Andy and Felix are under siege by the demonic crows, but without Jake to complete the elemental foursome Felix is powerless to act. Phoebe, who has been following Felix, hears of Jake's predicament and offers to help the boys. Still under attack by crows, they head for the police station where to everyone's surprise, Phoebe claims to be the boys' aunt.

Back at the hideout, the boys are a picture of camaraderie; their rudimentary shelter is finally becoming a home. But their comfort is short-lived, as the fury of the elements and the baying of hounds promises more tribulations to come...





EP 7

Thursday, December 19 at 6.30pm on ABC3

In an effort to allay the growing suspicions of the Bremin community, the boys return to school. While Andy deals with his new golden-boy status, Jake reestablishes himself with his old friends and Felix continues to bond with Oscar, Sam struggles with real loneliness for the first time in his life. In desperation, Sam acts out in a bid to win back Mia, but another painful rejection forces Sam to realise that he must change his selfish ways in order to be accepted – especially when faced with the reality that smarmy rival Sammy represents the old Sam.

Adopting a less selfish approach, Sam starts to make real headway with Mia – but their chemistry is ruined by the arrival of vicious canines. Summoning all of his courage Sam protects Mia as the possessed dogs descend upon the school and all hell breaks loose.

When the boys find each other and flee for their lives, they find themselves cornered by the hellhounds. With no option, Felix openly uses his magic in front of the other boys. The ravenous beasts quickly revert to their sedate former selves, but the boys now have a few questions for Felix...

EP 8

Thursday, December 26 at 6.30pm on ABC3

Having narrowly survived the dog attack at Bremin High, the boys turn their suspicions towards Phoebe, believing she could be the reason they are in this parallel universe. Arriving at the Arcane Lane, the boys split up: Felix and Sam follow Phoebe, while Andy and Jake head into the 'witch's lair' to see what kind of secrets they might uncover.

Felix and Sam's intrigue grows when they discover Phoebe visiting all of the places where the boys were attacked. They confront Phoebe who reveals that she thinks a restoring demon is on the boys' tail. The boys then reluctantly reveal the circumstances behind their arrival into Bremin. Convinced of Felix's magical abilities, Phoebe brokers a deal: she'll help the boys get home, providing Felix helps her find and reverse the spell which saw her sister, Alice, go missing ten years earlier.

Meanwhile, the demon continues to gather strength and inhabits its first human host: the formidable Lily Lau (Cecilia Tan), Andy's sister...





EP 9

Thursday, January 2 at 6.30pm on ABC3

The boys return to the Bremin Ranges and hope to replicate the conditions of the first excursion in a bid to return home. But this time they aren't grouped together for the excursion, so they defy Mr Bates and run back into the forest together. As a storm builds and the boys draw closer to their potential return, each is forced to grapple with the question of whether they are better off returning to the old world, or staying in this new universe.

The boys find the area where they previously spent the night, as Felix spots the disturbingly familiar spiral carving. He catches a glimpse of an altar – could this be the very same place where Phoebe's sister Alice went missing?



EP 10

Thursday, January 9 at 6.30pm on ABC3

The boys make a midnight call to Arcane Lane, their only resort after Gary's discovery of the hideout, however, Phoebe is reluctant to help the boys after being stood up. But when Felix shows her evidence of Alice that he found in the forest, Phoebe's belief that Felix can bring her back is reignited. As Felix delves into the Book of Shadows, Andy hits the books with his newfound appreciation of the science of magic.

Sam, meanwhile, finds himself unusually removed from his friends and increasingly infatuated with the talisman. At school, the demon possesses Mia and convinces Sam to destroy the talisman suggesting that it is the very thing keeping the boys in the parallel world. So Sam steals the talisman from Felix and smashes it apart. Now nothing can stop demon Mia, as she hunts Felix through the labyrinth of corridors and classrooms.

When Andy questions why the demon keeps targeting Felix more than the others, he changes the subject. But does Felix know more than he's letting on?



EP 11

Thursday, January 16 at 6.30pm on ABC3

It's Mothers Day. Like a moth to a flame, Jake instinctively seeks out his old world mother Sarah and is delighted to receive a welcoming response from her, as their bond continues to strengthen.

Felix discovers that he needs all four boys to repair the talisman, which sets the boys to search for Jake. When Andy, Felix and Sam encounter their mothers at a fun run event, they are shocked when all three mothers suffer severe allergic reactions to them. However no one receives a greater scare than Jake, when Sarah falls unconscious. In a panic, he calls an ambulance.

Believing that this is another insidious tactic by the demon, the boys return to Phoebe, but it doesn't take long for the boys to realise that it is they who are causing their mothers to fall ill. Magic and science come together when Felix finds a spell which he believes will save the mothers – but they each need to find a special item that links them to their mothers in order to activate the spell. Will the boys be able to save their mothers in time?



EP 12

Thursday, January 23 at 6.30pm on ABC3

As the fallout from Felix's betrayal threatens to tear the boys apart, Felix is offered a glimmer of hope when he learns that Oscar is 'the fifth element'; the missing ingredient needed to reactivate the talisman and bring the boys home.

But the demon, now inhabiting Mr Bates (Nicholas Loghlan), has other plans. Strong and conniving, Mr Bates manages to separate Felix from the boys. On the run, Felix tracks down Oscar and finally confesses to him that they are brothers from a parallel universe. However, Mr Bates catches up to them and the demon inhabits Oscar. After capturing Felix, Mr Bates and Oscar head to the Bremin Ranges.

Meanwhile, Andy, Jake and Sam reunite with Phoebe and prepare themselves for a final showdown with the demon... and a final chance to return home.



EP 13

Thursday, January 30 at 6.30pm on ABC3

The demonic Bates and Oscar take Felix to the forest, with Sergeant Gary Riles in pursuit. However, when Gary eventually catches up with them, he too becomes possessed. Felix manages to free himself as the possessed hosts continue to hunt him down.

On the run, Felix stumbles upon Roland. Just as Roland convinces Felix that he is better off trying to make things right, the pair are caught by the demonic trio of Bates, Gary and Oscar. Felix leads the possessed trio away so that Roland can try to find the other boys.

No match for the ever-strengthening demon threat, Felix is again captured. Tying Felix to a tree, the demon constructs the familiar spiral centrifuge around Felix, signalling the arrival of a furious storm.

As Roland finds Phoebe and the boys, they spot a twister and race towards it, arriving at the altar which in turn activates the talisman. As the storm reached a crescendo, the now possession-free Oscar joins the boys and they yell out the unmaking spell, hoping it will make things right...



ANDY

PLAYED BY JOEL LOK

THE REAL WORLD

A geek and unflinchingly logical, Andy's mind and imagination are second to none. He also knows everything about Bear Grylls' survival skills. The only boy in a Singaporean-Chinese family, Andy has been mothered three times – by his grandmother, mother, and older sister. He would do anything for some freedom.

NEW REALITY

Andy gets his first taste of freedom and can now be the man of action he's always wanted to be – he becomes more outgoing and self-reliant. He even finds himself with a girlfriend for the first time. As a man of science Andy is initially skeptical about Felix's 'magic' but he eventually accepts it and studies it with zeal.

Joel Lok

Joel's talent was obvious at a very early age with his standout performance in the 2007 feature film *The Home Song Stories* (directed by **Nowhere Boys** showrunner Tony Ayres). Joel played the lead role of Tom and won the IF Award for Best Actor, as well as being nominated for the AFI for Best Young Actor and the Golden Horse Award for Best Supporting Actor. Joel has also played guest roles in television shows such as *Tangle*, *Thank God You're Here* and *Sea Patrol*.



FELIX

PLAYED BY DOUGIE BALDWIN

THE REAL WORLD

Felix is intelligent, sarcastic, and an eternal cynic. Very much a loner, with few social skills, he has only one friend – Ellen, a fellow Goth. Felix's brother, 12-year-old Oscar, broke his neck while the pair were playing and is now in a wheelchair. The family has collapsed under the strain of Oscar's disability and although they are close, Felix feels responsible for Oscar's accident. He develops an obsession with witchcraft and hopes one day to use magic to help his brother where science has failed.

NEW REALITY

When Felix cast the spell that dumped the boys in a parallel world he wasn't aware there would be consequences. The spell was solely designed to fix Oscar, which it did, but he did not expect it to erase their existences. As the series progresses, his magic skills grow stronger. He de-Goths and befriends Oscar. Felix's mother is also nicer to him in this reality. In some ways he regains the family he lost after Oscar's accident. Aside from some bumps in the road, he's kind of enjoying this new reality.

Dougie Baldwin

Dougie made his professional television debut playing Shawn Van Winkle in ABC1's *Upper Middle Bogan*. He attended Helen O'Grady Drama Academy from age nine to 14, performing in plays such as *The Legend of William Tell*, *Fancy That*, *Perfect Scandal*, *Not a Normal Soap*, *The Triumph of Trevor Truelove* and *The School Reunion*.

Dougie is also in the process of writing and performing a solo piece based on the life of one of the world's greatest imposters, Frank Abagnale.



JAKE

PLAYED BY MATT TESTRO

THE REAL WORLD

Popular, athletic, and confident, Jake is a perennial winner who is capable of playing schoolyard bully, especially to Felix. However, his home life is far from perfect. His single mother struggles financially, working two jobs to pay the bills with little help from his dad. Jake and his mother are very close and he assumes a mountain of responsibility around the house.

NEW REALITY

Jake wonders if the world is better without him. His mother is now a Lexus-driving, successful real estate agent, and is married to Jake's science teacher. Furthermore, Jake's real father Gary, now a police sergeant, has gone from loser to pillar of the community. Used to surviving on his own, Jake becomes the 'den mother' in their hangout and finds a genuine friendship with Andy.

Matt Testro

Matt Testro is making his television debut in **Nowhere Boys**. His training has included a 2011 Junior Acting Intensive Course at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), the TAFTA Acting for Camera Course, as well as a Hollywood Immersive Acting Course in 2012 with Margie Haber which took Matt to Los Angeles. This eight-day course with some of LA's top acting coaches landed Matt a US agent at United Entertainment. Matt is a keen musician who is as passionate about his guitar as he is about his acting.



SAM

PLAYED BY RAHART SADIQZAI

THE REAL WORLD

Sam is the golden boy, effortlessly cool and naturally gifted. Everything comes easily to him. He even has the most popular girlfriend, Mia. Coming from the 'perfect' happy family, he has two brothers, lives in a great house, and everyone gets along. Deep down, perhaps Sam takes everything he has for granted?

NEW REALITY

For the first time, Sam has to fight for something. Well, everything actually. He finds his family still has three boys! Along with the two brothers, his parents have another son named Sammy who is even dating Mia. Sam focuses on trying to win back Mia - he's attentive, interested, and makes an effort (as Sammy too takes Mia for granted). Sam is making waves with his 'brothers' too, who are protective of Sammy. Of all the boys, Sam wants his old life back the most.

Rahart Sadiqzai

17-year-old Rahart Sadiqzai is no stranger to the performing arts and is best known for his recurring guest role on *Neighbours* as Alistair O'Loughlin. Rahart is a true triple threat; he can sing, dance and act. His dance crew A2D won the Hip-Hop Internationals held in Las Vegas. He has also appeared on *Prank Patrol* and in television commercials.

KEY CREW

TONY AYRES

SERIES CREATOR, PRODUCER AND SHOWRUNNER

Tony Ayres is an award-winning showrunner, writer and director in television and writer/director in feature films. He is also one of the founding members of Matchbox Pictures.

Tony is acting as executive producer on the upcoming ABC TV series *Old School* and Foxtel's *The Devil's Playground*. He also recently directed *Cockleshell* as part of *The Turning*, an anthology of films based on Tim Winton's book of the same name, and is about to direct his third feature film, *Cut Snake*.

Previous to this, Tony was the showrunner and a director on ABC TV's award-winning *The Slap*, and is currently executive producer on the US adaptation of the series for NBC. Tony's other scripted television work includes producing the comedy series *Bogan Pride*; directing the telemovie *Saved*; and executive producing the telemovie *Underground: The Julian Assange Story*.

BETH FREY

PRODUCER

Beth Frey is a multi-award-winning film, TV and cross-platform producer. In 2001 she received Film Victoria's Greg Tepper Award, given by Film Victoria to a filmmaker for outstanding achievements.

Her long list of film and TV credits includes *Dr Sarmast's Music School*, a finalist for an AACTA Award for Best Feature Documentary; and *Rollerboy*. Frey was also responsible for the action comedy *The Long Lunch*; award-winning TV drama *Stranded*; multi-award-winning animation *MUTT*; the award-winning short drama, *A Telephone Call For Genevieve Snow*, as well as ABC TV's factual documentary series *Next Stop Hollywood*, *You Exposed*, *Once Bitten* and *Podlove*; and one-offs *Embedded With The Murri Mob* and *Vietnam Nurses*, amongst many others. **Nowhere Boys** is her first TV drama series as producer.

DAINA REID

DIRECTOR

Daina Reid directs for both film and television. Her credits include: ABC TV's *Paper Giants: The Birth of Cleo* and *Howzat! Kerry Packer's War*. Both received AACTA award nominations for Best Direction in Television. After wrapping on **Nowhere Boys** she began shooting *Never Tear Us Apart: The Untold Story of INXS*.

Daina comes from an acting background, with credits such as: *Kath & Kim*; *The Micallef Program*; *Very Small Business*; *Newstopia*; *SeaChange*; and *Full Frontal*.

CRAIG IRVIN

DIRECTOR & WRITER

Craig graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2005 where he was awarded the John Vickery Scholarship and Best Film honours for his graduating film *Best and Fairest*, which screened at numerous film festivals in Australia and internationally.

His semi autobiographical short film *Tethered* was awarded the Rouben Mamoulian award for Best Director at the 2011 Sydney Film Festival. Recently, he has been working on a slate of projects with Matchbox Pictures. In 2011 he was the writing and directing intern on the critically acclaimed *The Slap*. His involvement in **Nowhere Boys** has been extensive from researching the series and co-writing the series bible, to writing and directing three episodes.

KEY CREW

PETER CARSTAIRS

DIRECTOR

Peter Carstairs directed his first short film, the award-winning *Gate* in the year 2000. Peter was then accepted into the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) where he made two more films – *Afterwards* and *Little Blue*. Upon graduation from AFTRS in 2002, Peter was awarded the school's highest honours – Best Director, Best Drama Director, and Most Outstanding Documentary.

After leaving film school, Peter co-wrote and directed his critically acclaimed debut feature film, *September*. **Nowhere Boys** adds directing series television to his body of work.

ALISTER GRIERSON

DIRECTOR

Alister Grierson attended the prestigious Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS). In 2005, his short film *BOMB* won several awards at Tropfest, and later in 2012, it was one of 16 films from 20 years of Tropfest finalists chosen to screen in the 'Best of the Best' Tropfest competition in Las Vegas.

He then co-wrote and directed the feature film *Kokoda*. In 2009, director James Cameron invited Grierson onto the set of *Avatar* to discuss the 3D cave diving drama *Sanctum*, and he will helm the television movie *Parer's War* filmed this year.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Created by Tony Ayres. Produced by Tony Ayres and Beth Frey. Executive Producers: Michael McMahon and Helen Panckhurst. Directed by Daina Reid (Episodes 1-4), Peter Carstairs (Episodes 5-7), Craig Irvin (Episodes 8-10) and Alister Grierson (Episodes 11-13). Writers: Roger Mon, Rhys Graham, Craig Irvin, Elise McCredie, Polly Staniford, Shanti Gudgeon.

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