



January 2017

### PRESS RELEASE

# Female Filmmakers put Diversity and the Dirty Thirties in the Spotlight

A brand new, refreshingly real, female-driven show is set to light up your screens in 2017. THIRTY is a drama/comedy web series about four women in Sydney, stumbling through their early thirties and trying to get their shit together.

Tricia-Lyn Morosin, wrote Season 1 after she hit thirty and realised the clock was ticking on her dreams. With no roles going for thirty-plus, half-Lebanese, size 16 women, she decided the best way to challenge the lack of diversity on our screens was to create a show that showcased real, wonderfully flawed women of different shapes, ethnicities and sexual orientations.

It's a female-driven producing/directing team, with award-winning Director, Leah Pellinkhof (Kenosis Kiss, Chook And Maureen) joining Ms Morosin and Actor/Producers, Madeline Beukers and Sarah de Possesse (Starting From... Now). Up-and-coming DOP Samuel Foster completes the core crew, and actors Alison McGirr and Prudence Holloway make up the remaining key cast members.

After reading the script, Leah immediately knew she wanted to be part of THIRTY.

"As a queer female director, it can be difficult to find projects I want to give my time to, let alone something that ignites my passion," said Ms Pellinkhof.

"The characters are feeling society's pressure to have a highly successful career and family.

"As someone who is pushing 40, who doesn't have their shit together, and feels like they should be far more advanced in every area of life – these characters offer a refreshingly realistic representation of what it's really like to be in your 30s."

After being cast as one of the leads, Sarah de Possesse, who has come off the back of the international hit lesbian drama, 'Starting From... Now', was inspired to jump onboard as a producer.

"This project resonated with me. It's funny, insightful and refreshingly candid. You can't help but be drawn into the characters' struggles, flaws and friendships," said Ms de Possesse.

"As a first generation Australian of mixed race, it's uplifting to see the momentum that's gathering behind the push for more diversity to be reflected on Australian screens."

Filming for Season 1 wrapped in December 2016, and thanks to a successful crowdfunding campaign, post production is well underway with a projected release date of May 2017.

To find out more about the series, visit: <a href="http://www.thirtytheseries.com">http://www.thirtytheseries.com</a>



# **SYNOPSIS**

Childhood mates Charlie, Anna and Bianca reconnect with Dalia, who has fallen off the grid after having a baby and moving to the suburbs. Together they navigate the peaks and pitfalls of love, work, family, sex and friendship. THIRTY is about four real, diverse women in Sydney, stumbling through their early thirties and trying to get their shit together.

# In your twenties, you think "I'll know what I'm doing by 30", but in reality:

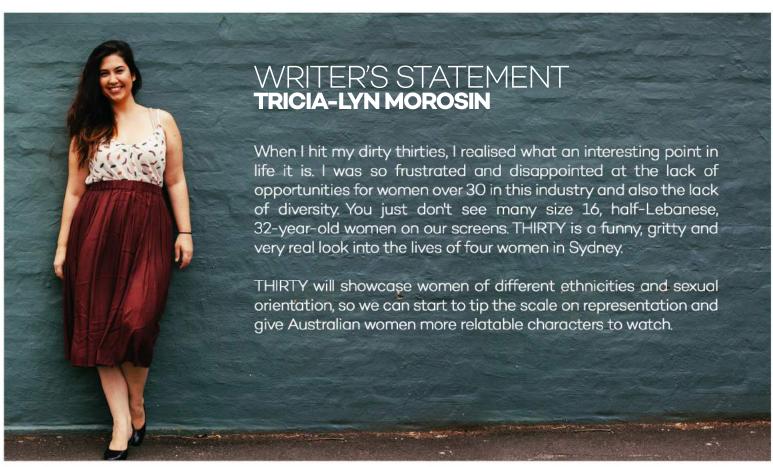
- a) your job sucks and your boss is a dick
- b) your husband/partner has morphed into a hairy behemoth with an inability to find the laundry basket
- c) you're single and wondering if you'll ever find (or even want) someone to spend your life with
- d) you're not falling pregnant because it isn't as easy as your high school teachers insinuated, or
- e) you've realised you'll never afford to buy a house. Like ever. Thank you Baby Boomers!

And, suddenly, the stakes are higher, with marriages, mortgages, children and ticking clocks all adding to the drama. THIRTY puts a lens on all of this and places women of all different ethnicities, sizes and sexualities in the foreground.

It's been written, produced and directed by women and stars a bunch of fabulous female characters. **Why is this important?** Because real women are drastically under-represented in Australian media.

Duration Genre Format Contact 6 x 10min episodes Comedy/Drama Web series - youtube Sarah de Possesse thirtytheseries@gmail.com 0410 347155 Release Facebook Instagram Twitter Website

May 2017
@thirtytheseries
@thirtytheseries
@thirtytheseries
www.thirtytheseries.com



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT LEAH PELLINKHOF

As a queer female director, it can be difficult to find projects that I want to give my time to, let alone something that ignites my passion - THIRTY is that project.

In the past I have had writers approach me to direct great projects that I have passed up due to the content - scripts containing misogynistic storylines, underdeveloped, or no, female roles etc. Saying no to these opportunities has been a conscious decision to ensure that I'm driving stories that I believe in. So I am thrilled to be on board a show like THIRTY.

The characters are feeling society's pressure of having a highly successful career and family. As someone who is pushing 40, who doesn't have their career and shit together, and feels like they should be far more advanced in every area of life - these characters offer a refreshingly realistic representation of what it's really like to be in your 30's.

Importantly, Tricia has created a fantastic mixed group of characters with diverse cultural backgrounds and sexual persuasions. I'm passionate about telling LGBTQI stories, and having strong, authentic lesbian characters is hugely important. I think that THIRTY has a lot to contribute to the Australian screen landscape.



# PRODUCER'S STATEMENT MADELINE BEUKERS

Reading Tricia's first draft for THIRTY on the train home from acting school had me jumping up and down on my seat in excitement.

We'd been told by countless teachers throughout our time at school that there aren't that many roles for women and if they do have roles they're hot, mindless sex objects.

It really excited me to see Tricia writing about every day women and she has inspired me to help challenge the representation of women on screen.

I also really like baklava.



# DID YOU THINK AND YOUR LIFE WOULD BE SET?



# PRODUCER'S STATEMENT SARAH DE POSSESSE

From the moment I picked up the script, this project resonated with me. It's funny, insightful and refreshingly candid. The characters that Tricia has created are so hilariously real that you can't help but be drawn to their struggles, their flaws and their friendships.

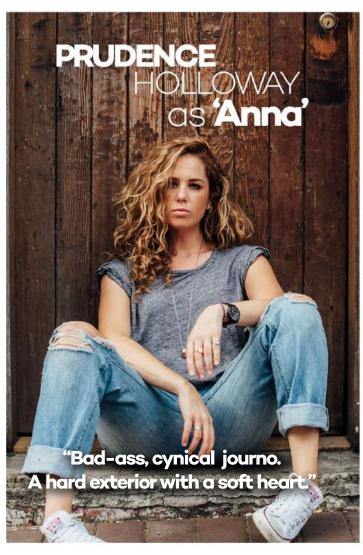
As a first generation Australian of mixed race, it's uplifting to see the momentum that's gathering behind the push for more diversity to be reflected on Australian screens. This diversity needs to be reflected across age, ethnicity, sexuality and gender, so that we have a screen culture that reflects society and contributes the broader human experience.

I'm so excited to be working with the dynamic and talented, female-driven cast and crew of THIRTY.









# **LEAH PELLINKHOF**

Leah Pellinkhof is an award-winning writer and director whose films include 'Kenosis Kiss', 'Count The Ways', 'Chook and Maureen' as well as the web series 'Queers Land'. A NIDA and AFTRS grad, Leah is proudly the Co-Artistic Director of the Queer Film Collective and is passionate about telling stories that represent the beautiful diversity that exists in the culture and subcultures of Australia

# TRICIA-LYN MOROSIN

Trish has had more than 10 years of professional writing experience in journalism and corporate communications, but after she hit 30, she realised the clock was ticking on living her dreams. This led her to Sydney Theatre School, where she completed a Diploma of Arts (Acting). Since graduating, she has taken a devised comedy show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which sold out and received rave reviews.

# **MADELINE BEUKERS**

Madeline has a degree in Media Arts and Production from UTS, and has produced and directed the short film 'Hold Her Down'. She is currently completing a Advanced Diploma of Arts (Acting) at Sydney Theatre School.

She was a co-creator and performer in the sell-out show, 'Poo Shame, Vagina Curiosity And Other Things That Won't Kill You', which received rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



# SARAH DE POSSESSE

For her breakout performance as Steph in the award-winning, international hit series Starting From.Now, Sarah won Best Actor (Female) at the 2016 Indiepossible International Film Festival and Best Supporting Actress at the 2015 NYC Web Fest. Her screen credits include 'Channelling The Echo', 'Pretend', 'The Women Who Were Never There', 'Rip' and 'The Move'. Sarah has performed onstage in a variety of shows, and is also a filmmaker, producer and founder of Catch That Wave Productions.

# PRUDENCE HOLLOWAY

Prudence is an accomplished actor and singer whose credits include The Girlie Show' as part of the 2016 Mardi Gras Festival, as well as Squabbalogic's critically acclaimed Australian premiere of 'Carrie The Musical' (Chris Hargensen).

She has appeared in 'Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens' (Tracey, PHP), 'Those the River Keeps' (Janice, PGT), and 'As you like it' (Rosalind, PGT). Prudence is also a regular in the Sydney music scene.

### **ALISON MCGIRR**

Alison McGirr, an Australian actress born to Irish parents, spent her childhood between Sydney and Ireland. Alison studied Fine Arts Acting at QUT in Brisbane, Australia and upon graduating received the Jennifer Blocksidge Award for 'Most Outstanding Actor'.

She made her debut on Australian soap opera 'Home and Away', followed by guest star roles on 'Penny Dreadful' and History Channel's 'Vikings'.

Principal photography for Season 1 wrapped in December 2016. Post production is now underway, with an expected release date of May 2017.

For more information, visit our website at:

# www.thirtytheseries.com



To download press kit images, please visit: **www.thirtytheseries.com/presskit**