

Thirty Get Your S!@# Together

Have you ever stepped back and taken a look at your life thus far? You reminisce on your childhood, teenage years and maybe the young adult lifestyle being experienced right now and say to yourself that yes everything seems to have gone your way thus far; then you reach the 30s and the following things happen: your job sucks and your boss is a dick.

Your husband/partner has morphed into a hairy behemoth with an inability to find the laundry basket, you're single and wondering if you'll ever find (or even want) someone to spend your life with, you're not falling pregnant' because it isn't as easy as your high school teachers insinuated, you've realised you'll never afford to buy a house. Like ever, and, suddenly, the stakes are higher'

If you're looking for a helpful guide on how to cope with life in the 30s, then this program... might not be of use but it will definitely give you some insight, especially from the perspective of 'four real, diverse women in Sydney' who are about to enter that era of life. Welcome to the web series Thirty.

Thirty is a miniseries that, as mentioned above, follows the story of four thirty-something women from various walks of life as they 'navigate the peaks and pitfalls of love, work, family, sex and friendship' of their (and our) current day and age. The four women in this particular story are: Dalia, an 'ex-SAHM Warm with a surprisingly grubby sense of humour' played by Tricia-Lyn Morosin (who also wrote the screenplay); Anna, a 'bad ass journo & cynical, but has a soft heart' played by Prudence Holloway; Charlie, a 'lawyer. Type-A. Perfection in a power suit' played by Alison McGirr; and Bianca, an 'intelligent, goofy school teacher. Anal-retentive & chronically single' played by Sarah de Possesse (who also is the co-producer). Completing the line-up of the fabulous all-women team of creative geniuses are those behind the scenes – proudly queer and passionate director Leah Pellinkhof and equally enthusiastic producer Madeline Beukers.

For these creative women, they aim to make the series a lens that gives a very real representation of the issues that all thirty-something women (regardless of background) face both in the arts industry and in normal society – this aim driven by their own life experiences (making this series semi-autobiographical to some degree) and their ideal for women to be better represented on-screen. "When I hit my dirty thirties, I realised what an interesting point in life it is. I was so frustrated and disappointed at the lack of opportunities for women over 30 in this industry and also the lack of diversity. You just don't see many size 16, half-Lebanese, 32-year-old women on our screens" Morosin notes as she reflects back on her 10 years of professional journalism and corporate communications writing experience in addition to her recent training at the Sydney Theatre School and her breakthrough comedy show's performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. "THIRTY will showcase women of different ethnicities and sexual orientation, so we can start to tip the scale on representation and give Australian women more relatable characters to watch."

Pellinkhof, Beukers and De Possesse also echo the sentiment of creating a sense of realism when it comes to depicting women and their lives on screen:

"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." – De Possesse

"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 s!@# 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." – Pellinkhof

"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." – Beukers

Furthermore to this unyielding drive, the creative forces behind Thirty also boast serious streaks of experience about them. In addition to Tricia's well-versed skills in the writing industry, there is also Pellinkhof's NDA and AFTRS qualifications which has led her to direct such award-winning projects as Kenosis Kiss, Count the Ways, Chook and Maureen and Queers Land; De Possesse as an award-winning actor has starred in numerous productions such as Starting Now, >

channelling the Echo, Pretend, The Women who were Never There, Rip and The Move, and as a film-maker has spearheaded the operations of Catch That Wave Productions; Prudence Holloway is an accomplished actor and musician who has experience on stage performing *Carrie The Musical*, *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens*, *Those the River Keeps* and Shakespeare's *As You Like It* as well as being a part of the 2016 Mardi Gras Festival act *The Girlie Show*; and Alison McGirr, an alum of the Queensland University of Technology with a degree in Fine Arts Acting, brings to the table her Jennifer Blocksidge Award for Most Outstanding Actor and her small but noticeable roles in big hits such as *Home and Away* in 1998 and, more recently, in *Penny Dreadful* alongside Josh Hartnett.

As it stands now, *Thirty* is almost finished with principal photography for the first season (which will consist of six 10-minute episodes) with filming due to start soon. However, funding to cover costs of post-production, distribution and marketing is needed and the campaign for this funding can be found at Pozible (another online crowdfunding venue) with a budgetary deadline set for 23rd December for a possible release in early 2017. **P**

