

59<sup>th</sup> TV WEEK  
LOGIE AWARDS 2017



**Name: Adam Dixon**  
**Program: Say Yes To The Dress: Australia**  
**TLC/Foxtel**

If you have been a bride or involved in a wedding in any form, you know the most important item to be purchased is the wedding dress. But what style do you want? And how do you pick your dream dress without your best friends raising their eyebrows in disgust? Insert Adam Dixon. This Australian designer has been in the wedding game for 23 years, and this year used his knowledge to help guide 18 brides in *Say Yes To The Dress: Australia*. “Chill out, I say, chill out and enjoy the process and that’s my advice to them,” Adam says of working with nervous brides looking for the perfect dress.

The show is part of the successful franchise in America, but Adam didn’t want to try and copy his American counterparts.

“I think that Australia has a different sense of humour, we have a different way and I just thought I’m going to be myself,” he says.



**Name: Adriano Zumbo**  
**Program: Zumbo’s Just Desserts**  
**Channel Seven**

The dessert croquembouche became a household name in 2009 thanks to the creative flair of patissier Adriano Zumbo. He made numerous *MasterChef Australia* contestants tremble with fear when he revealed the masterpieces he was making them recreate. It was the croquembouche and his delectable macarons that had people lining up around the corner from his stores in Sydney to have a taste of his delicious work. Australians couldn’t get enough of his creative ideas, so in 2011 he released his first book, *Zumbo*, to give people a chance to be a pastry chef in their own homes. After creating this interest in all things sugar, the 35-year-old set out to host his own show in 2016 so the amateurs could go up against the pro. Adriano created a Willy Wonka-style kitchen to help make sweet dreams come true in *Zumbo’s Just Desserts*.



**Name: Andrew Creer**  
**Program: Tomorrow, When The War Began & Barracuda**  
**Network: ABC3/ABC**

Growing up in the land of the golden guitar, it seemed more likely for Tamworth local Andrew Creer to have a future in singing rather than acting. But for this 22-year-old, he wanted to learn as much as he could about the stage.

“I’ve always wanted to show what it’s like to be a country boy and an actor,” he says. “I’ve got stories to tell and I really want to be able to tell the Australian story and a story that a lot of people can connect to.”

At just 19, he headed over to Western Australia to study at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), and the big move paid off. In 2016, the young actor scored not one but two big roles in ABC dramas, *Tomorrow, When The War Began* as Kevin and in *Barracuda* as Wilco.

“I’m very blessed to get that sort of traction so soon,” he says.



**Name: Brad Kannegiesser**  
**Program: The Kettering Incident**  
**Showcase/Foxtel**

Being a jack-of-all-trades will come in good stead for Brad Kannegiesser's acting future. Since the age of five, his primary passion has been performing, but with the industry being a tough market to crack, he added a few strings to his bow over the years. As well as being professionally trained at NIDA, Brad took time away from the screen and stage to join the Australian Army, and also spent some time on the tools as a tradie.

However, when word spread that Foxtel drama *The Kettering Incident* was going to be filming in his home town of Tasmania, Brad did all he could to get a spot.

"I've been acting since I was really young, so when I heard about this show down here I hit my agent really hard to make sure I could get anything on this show," he said.

Not only did he get on, he impressed audiences in his role as Adam Holloway, an angry young logger.



**Name: Charles Wu**  
**Program: Doctor Doctor**  
**Nine Network**

Any time Ken comes on screen in *Doctor Doctor* you know you are about to be hit with some comedy gold. This comedic timing isn't just an accident. Actor Charles Wu has spent some time as a stand-up comic, hitting the pub scene in Perth after moving over from Singapore. Not only has he graduated from NIDA while living in Australia, but this actor can play guitar and hold a tune. In 2014, he released his first album, titled "Apartments", and is hoping to use his musical talents in future acting work. Charles has already appeared in Company B's *Samson* at the Belvoir theatre and was also seen in two episodes of Foxtel drama *Secret City* earlier this year.



**Name: Elias Anton**  
**Program: Barracuda**  
**ABC**

Putting your hand up to be the lead actor at the age of just 17 is a big ask. But it was one actor Elias Anton couldn't wait for. While studying for his year 12 exams, the Melbourne schoolboy was juggling 12-hour-a-day shoots for ABC drama *Barracuda*. Elias admits he put his all into the role as champion swimmer Danny Kelly and found it hard to switch off. "It made it good for when the director said action and I was on camera, but it was a lot to deal with when they said cut," Elias says.

As well as taking on the emotional pressure of the role, which is based on the Christos Tsiolkas book of the same name, Elias put in his all to be physically fit for the role.

"Working out has always been a passion of mine, but they needed to teach me the techniques, so we were training with Olympic athletes so we'd be able to look convincing as champion swimmers," Elias admits.



**Name: George Zhao**  
**Program: The Family Law**  
**SBS**

For actor George Zhao, 2016 is going to be the year that started it all. After studying for three years at the Wesley Institute, and graduating with a Bachelor of Dramatic Arts, the young actor scored his first role. Earlier this year he was seen in SBS comedy *The Family Law*, in the role of Andrew Law. George played the older brother to Benjamin. As well as television acting, he has also performed with Opera Australia in the production of *Aida*.



**Name: Geraldine Hakewill**

**Program: Wanted**

**Network: Channel Seven**

"I'm drawn to playing real, complex women," actress Geraldine Hakewill admits.

This explains why the 29-year-old took on the role of Chelsea in Channel Seven drama *Wanted* earlier this year. And since taking on the role alongside Rebecca Gibney, her star has been on the rise. The actress will now appear in two feature films, *The Pretend One* and Joe Cinque's *Consolation*.

"I just love really good writing and really good characters," she says.

Despite having the work rolling in, the actress, who graduated from WAAPA in 2008, knows that she needs to stay grounded.

"I do all sorts of work," she admits. "I want to make my own stuff, film shorts and I write music and I want to make an EP, so you've got to manage your career in a way where you can do the jobs that pay your bills but also keep your integrity."

**Name: Hayley Magnus**

**Program: The Wrong Girl**

**Network Ten**

After landing her first TV role in 2011 in the Foxtel drama *Slide*, actress Hayley Magnus had a taste for the small screen. She has been living and working in LA, but put her hand up to come back to Australia to star alongside Jessica Marais in the hit Network Ten show *The Wrong Girl* as the blunt and loveable Simone.

"I am quite loyal as a friend which is a key point of Simone," Hayley, 27, says. "I am probably not as honest as Simone, just out of fear. I really admire that, and I wish I could be, but I want people to like me too much."

As well as her work in *Slide* and *The Wrong Girl*, Hayley has appeared in the film *The Dressmaker* and will star in the upcoming thriller *Mojave*.



**Name: Hunter Page-Lochard**

**Program: Cleverman & Wentworth**

**ABC & Foxtel-SoHo**

Audiences were delivered a double dose of this talent in 2016. Hunter took on the starring role as Koen West in ABC hit *Cleverman*.

"I think this is a piece of gold," the 23-year-old says of the production. "To be able to audition for a role that is classified as someone with abilities and an arc that resembles that of a classic hero is so rare for me as an actor."

"I saw it as an opportunity for me to really showcase my ability, which I'm grateful for."

But if those piercing eyes look familiar to you, not from *Cleverman* but another favourite TV show, then perhaps you know him from season four of *Wentworth*. He played Shayne Butler, who was the son of the prisoner Joan Ferguson had a close relationship with before working at Wentworth. He has also appeared in feature films *The Sapphires* and *Bran Nue Dae*.



**Name: Jackson Heywood**

**Program: Home And Away**

**Channel Seven**

Getting his big break on Australian drama *Home And Away* didn't come as easy as most would think for Jackson Heywood. The actor had previously had smaller roles in *East West 101*, *Dance Academy* and *Teen Wolf*, but he was tested when he auditioned for a role in *Summer Bay*.

"My second audition went for eight hours," Jackson, 28, says. "It was the longest audition I have ever had, but it was fun and nerve-wracking."

In the show, Jackson plays Brody Morgan, part of the new family that has hit *Summer Bay*. "He's got a pretty tough shell and is a pretty reserved kind of character," Jackson says of his alter ego.

But, the actor admits he isn't too different from Brody.

"I think with every role you have to bring a big part of yourself," he says.





**Name: Jai Waetford**  
**Program: Neighbours**  
**Network Ten**

After becoming a household name during his time on *The X Factor Australia*, Jai Waetford hit the small screen again this year with his debut on long-running Australian drama *Neighbours*. It's been three years since Jai was on the singing competition, but he hasn't stopped working since then. The 17-year-old actor and singer has released two EPs and his first single "Your Eyes" peaked at number six on the ARIA singles chart.



**Name: Jordan Hare**  
**Program: The Secret Daughter**  
**Channel Seven**

Working alongside the talented Jessica Mauboy and Bonnie Sveen enabled young actress Jordan Hare to shine this year. *The Secret Daughter* was the 18-year-old's first television debut, but executives could tell she would be on our screens for many years to come. "Jordan Hare is a star in the making as young Harriet," producer Karl Zwicky says. Since wrapping filming for season one of *The Secret Daughter*, Jordan has recently completed filming the lead role of Trinity in Neil Triffett's anticipated feature film *EMO The Musical*, which is set to premiere early in 2017.



**Name: Dr Jordan Nguyen**  
**Program: Catalyst: Becoming Superhuman**  
**ABC**

If you were engulfed in the two-part Catalyst special *Becoming Superhuman* then you would've been introduced to the talented Dr Jordan Nguyen and the amazing work that he does. In 2012, Jordan completed a PhD in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) which saw him create a mind-controlled smart wheelchair, for high-level physical disability. It utilises cameras to perceive its environment, and provides the operator with autonomous guidance assistance during navigation. In the SBS series, we see him introduced to 13-year-old Riley Saban, with the doctor promising him the technology he is working on will give him super powers. "He stays ahead of the next big trends and designs life-changing technologies focusing on intelligent, futuristic and inclusive technology for the disability sector, and beyond," reads his mission statement.



**Name: Julian Maroun**  
**Program: Deep Water**  
**SBS**

It may have meant months at the gym preparing, but it certainly paid off for actor Julian Maroun. He was called up to be part of the SBS series *Deep Water* and also *Cleverman* in 2016. Julian studied acting at The West Side Actors Studio in 2013 and has also been on our screens in the miniseries *Catching Milat*. Away from television, the actor has been involved in the short film *Meat*, and the feature film *Gods Of Egypt*.



**Name: Kat Hoyos**

**Program: Here Come The Habibs!**

**Nine Network**

As Layla Habib on Nine Network's hit comedy *Here Come The Habibs!*, it would be easy to think actress Kat Hoyos has been on screens for many years. However, this is the first major role for the talent from Sydney's inner west. Kat has many skills in her tool belt, but admits she was hit with "no thank yous" like everyone else.

"I got rejected so many times, but kept on going," Kat says. "There were times when you feel down, but I never gave up."

Her resume is filled with parts on stage, in commercials and film clips, but taking on the role of Layla has been empowering for Kat.

"We all know Australia is a diverse country and we need to see more of that on television," she says.



**Name: Lilly Van der Meer**

**Program: Neighbours**

**Network Ten**

Not all 13-year-olds want to put their hand up for extra work. But for Gold Coast teen Lilly Van Der Meer, she had the acting bug early and just wanted to learn. She studied drama at TAFTA, Take 3 Studios, N.A.P.A and The Warehouse Workshop. And it certainly paid off! At just 17, the bubbly actress is working full-time in an industry she loves as Xanthe Canning on *Neighbours*.

"It's a real passion for me and something I've always wanted to do, so I'm very happy," she says.

The young star is still finishing high school, but admits it's on set each day she is learning more and more about the industry.

"When you have the chance to work on set everyday with such a talented cast and crew, you learn so much, not only about acting but yourself too," she says.

"There's nothing better than creating TV magic with people I can call my family."



**Name: Madeleine Clunies Ross**

**Program: Tomorrow, When The War Began**

**ABC3**

It was on the school stage where Madeleine had her biggest roles before her call-up to ABC3 drama *Tomorrow, When The War Began* this year.

At just 11 years of age she was in the classic production of *The Sound Of Music*. After getting a taste of being in front of the big lights she put her name down for many workshops at the Australian Theatre of Young People. Madeleine was then cast in their production of *Spur Of The Moment*.

It was the ABC drama that has propelled Madeleine onto the public stage, though. And with an Acting Diploma from Trinity College in her pocket, Madeleine's name is one we will no doubt see for years to come.



**Name: Matt Castley**

**Program: Doctor Doctor**

**Nine Network**

On screen, Matt's character, Ajax, has had a big secret kept from him. But away from the camera, there is no hiding the talent this 18-year-old has. The actor has starred in a number of national commercials and independent web series, such as *Kick-On Kids*. However, it was when Matt was just 15 years old that his talent was being noticed by some Hollywood heavyweights. He was chosen to attend a three-week acting course in Los Angeles.

"We had directors come and talk about the industry and what it's currently like to get a job and how to audition for a job," Matt says.

For his role as Ajax, Matt had to have the Aussie slang ready to roll, but he has had training just in case the offers come in from the United States.

"We were also given accent coaching and we were taught how to do an LA, New York and southern accent," he says of his studies in the States.



**Name: Orpheus Pledger**  
**Program: Home And Away**  
**Channel Seven**

If that cheeky smile looks familiar, you might know Orpheus' work from his days as a child actor. He appeared in *The Secret Life of Us* and *Marshall Law*, but was best known amongst the little ones for his time on *Silversun*.

However, it has been his time in Summer Bay as Mason Morgan where he has found a wider audience. It's an opportunity Orpheus doesn't take lightly.

"Moving out of home to start working on my biggest and longest role to date has been a major shift and the team at *Home And Away* have become like a family to me," the 23-year-old says of leaving his hometown of Melbourne. "I spend every day with the best cast and crew members and I'm so thankful for that."



**Name: Otis Pavlovic**  
**Program: Deep Water & The Code**  
**SBS & ABC**

Standing in his lounge room at just 12 years old, Otis Pavlovic was keen to show the world his creative talents. He posted a YouTube video of himself singing and asking people to follow him online. He didn't have to worry. In the years to come, Otis would be known on the Sydney theatre scene after performances in *Storm Boy*, *Waiting For Godot* and *The Winter's Tale*. This year, the television world saw his talents in *Deep Water* as Will Lustigman and *The Code* as Callum.



**Name: Penny McNamee**  
**Program: Home And Away**  
**Channel Seven**

Before working on *Home And Away*, the two biggest roles Penny had were on stage as a witch! She starred in both *Witches Of Eastwick* and *Wicked: The Musical*. The actress had various guest roles on Australian television, including *White Collar Blue*, *All Saints* and *Headland*. It wasn't until Penny received the call to join the cast of *Home And Away* that the actress felt like she had finally grabbed her dream job.

"No-one should get paid to have this much fun," Penny, 32, says. "We're constantly laughing [on set]. However, there's this real mentality of, 'Let's make this the best it can be.'"



**Name: Rob Collins**  
**Program: Cleverman & The Wrong Girl**  
**ABC & Network Ten**

On the theatre stage, Rob Collins had to be the king of the jungle in his turn as Mufasa in the hit production of *The Lion King*, but on the small screen he had to be the king in the kitchen.

In Network Ten's new show *The Wrong Girl*, Rob took on the role as Jack – the hot chef on set. But, being the cool chef took some work he admits.

"It felt like I was all over the shop on set when we were filming, but seeing the episodes, I think I did OK," he says.

It was a busy year for the NIDA graduate, with the father-of-three also taking part in the ABC drama *Cleverman*.



**Name: Sam Alhaje**  
**Program: Here Come The Habibs!**  
**Nine Network**

Getting into the mind frame of his Habibs' character Toufic meant a little trip around Sydney.

"I spent some time in places like Lakemba, Bankstown and Greenacre [before filming] to get a deeper understanding and then went to the eastern suburbs to spend some time there," Sam says.

Sam completed his training at The Actors Pulse drawing on the Meisner technique for film and stage. But, with a strong desire for comedy, he continued his study and undertook the Scott Sedita Comedy Intensive Technique, focusing specifically on sitcom acting techniques.

The show raised eyebrows when it first hit screens in 2016, but Sam believes there is no harm in the comedy they are making.

"I definitely think they for sure bring the culture with them and I guess one of the things you see is the difference between cultures [in the show], but I do believe there is a pretty strong variety of cultures already coming to Vaucluse [in Sydney]," he says.

**Name: Sarah Ellen**  
**Program: Neighbours**  
**Network Ten**



A video of her eyebrows dancing to hit song "Gangnam Style" already has more than one million views. So, to say that Sarah Ellen's star power is strong would be an understatement. This 18-year-old is a model, singer, actor and blogger, and has a large following on social media. Sarah attended Campbelltown Performing Arts High School from 2012 to 2014, as well as attending courses at NIDA and JMA Entertainment.

Stepping onto the set of *Neighbours* in her first major acting role was a scary one for Sarah – she was playing the daughter of Scott (Jason Donovan) and Charlene (Kylie Minogue)!

"I'm lucky to start with such an iconic show," Sarah says. "I love the cast and everyone on set; they're like a big, happy family."

**Name: Shalom Brune-Franklin**  
**Program: Doctor Doctor**  
**Nine Network**



After moving to Perth from her native London, Shalom was excited by all that her new city could offer. Back in the UK, she was more focused on athletics rather than acting. However, in high school she excelled in drama, a subject she thought she might've just sat at the back of the class for.

Once the acting bug hit, Shalom applied to attend WAAPA. Not only did she get in, but she won the inaugural Chris Edmund Performing Arts Scholarship set up by WAAPA graduate and Hollywood star Hugh Jackman. After graduating, she was snapped up for her role as Aoife in *Doctor Doctor*.

"I could not have predicted that it would be like this," Shalom says. "I just can't believe I've been in work since I finished."

"When I first got into acting, I didn't even really know who Shakespeare was — I'm from London so that's embarrassing, but it's true! But now I can't get enough."

**Name: Shannon Berry**  
**Program: Offspring**  
**Network Ten**



At just 16 years old, this young actress packed up her bags and moved to Melbourne to be part of the returning hit Network Ten drama *Offspring*. Taking on the part of rebellious teen Brody was exciting for Shannon.

"What drew me in to the character was her running away to try and get away from something she hates, but ends up finding something that she can fall in love with which is Billie (Kat Stewart)," she says.

Away from the cameras, Shannon was able to lean on Kat for support.

"She is such a caring and compassionate person," Shannon says. "I look up to her so much."

Shannon studied acting at Filmbites in Malaga in Western Australia and has also been involved in the SyFy hit *Hunters*.

"With acting, I am still trying to find my feet," she says. "I am also going on a journey, trying new things, meeting new people."



**Name: Shuang Hu**  
**Program: The Family Law**  
**SBS**

Sydney based actress Shuang Hu has been in numerous TV commercials since joining the industry in 2010. However, it was 2016 that saw her land her first major TV role in *The Family Law*. Shuang plays Candy Law in the SBS comedy.

“As far as first time series regular roles go, I think I’ve landed the cream of the crop,” Shuang says of the role. “I couldn’t have asked for a more supportive and professional cast and crew to work with.”

The actress hopes the series will bring the laughs to many Australian households, admitting it was hard for the cast to keep a straight face during filming.

“The great thing is, *The Family Law* is not just your typical Chinese-Australian family and I believe every Australian will be able to relate to the characters and situations being portrayed,” she says.



**Name: Tamala Shelton**  
**Program: Cleverman**  
**ABC**

While still at school deciding what she wanted to be when she grew up, this teenager was cast in the ABC drama *Nowhere Boys*. The success of the TV series saw Tamala cast for the movie-length episode in 2016, as well as a supporting role in *Cleverman*.

“I never really thought I’d end up acting, but I just absolutely love it,” Tamala says.

“Until *Nowhere Boys* I’d only really had a bit part in *Upper Middle Bogan* where I just did two days of filming, so for me it really was a dream come true to get a role like this.”



**Name: Tiarnie Coupland**  
**Program: Love Child**  
**Nine Network**

The piercing eyes of Tiarnie Coupland pulled at the heartstrings of *Love Child* fans when she took on the role of Maggie, a young girl on the hunt for her biological mother. It’s hard to believe that at just 19 years old this talent has been working for the past 10 years.

“I got into the entertainment industry at the age of eight and started off doing TV commercials and short films,” she says. “Since then it’s just been a flow-on affect. Now 10 years later I’ve started to be involved in more challenging and complex roles.”

Teen audiences know the actress for her part in the Netflix series *Worst Year Of Me Life, Again!* and her recent guest role on *Neighbours*.

Tiarnie is also an avid singer and has written original song called “Focus”.



**Name: Tilda Cobham-Hervey**  
**Program: Barracuda & The Kettering Incident**  
**ABC & Showcase/Foxtel**

Writing on your resume that your previous experience involved being part of the circus wouldn’t be common for most. But for actress Tilda Cobham-Hervey, it was the jump into the entertainment industry she needed to show off her creative flair.

“I started doing circus school when I was about nine, and then at 14 me and six and other members of the youth circus made a company,” she says.

Before stepping on to the set of *The Kettering Incident*, Tilda had been in the film *52 Tuesdays*, with her performances being labelled a standout at the Sundance Film Festival. *The Kettering Incident* was Tilda’s first big television role.

“It was such an amazing project for me to work on, because it was so different to anything I had done before,” Tilda, 22, says. “It was so challenging and much bigger.”

Audiences also saw Tilda’s talent shine again in the ABC drama *Barracuda*.

“I love Christos Tsiolkas’ writing, so I had read the book and loved that and was just so excited to even audition for that project,” she says.





**Name: TJ Power**  
**Program: Offspring**  
**Network Ten**

Joining the Proudman family on *Offspring* is a big ask for any actor. They are a tight-knit bunch with a loyal fan base. But for TJ Power, he was happy to go along for the ride. "I was thrown into the deep end from day one," he says. "They really put me through my paces."

The actor didn't need to stress, he already had some solid work under his belt before his turn in the Network Ten drama. TJ acted alongside Julia Roberts in *Eat Pray Love*, and also had roles in *The Sapphires* and *Underbelly*. He was nominated for an AACTA Award for his work in *The Little Death*, where he worked alongside Josh Lawson and Damon Herriman.



**Name: Trystan Go**  
**Program: The Family Law**  
**SBS**

Taking the top spot in your first TV role isn't an easy task, but at just 15 years of age, Trystan Go is happy to break all the rules. The young actor was chosen to portray Benjamin Law in SBS comedy *The Family Law*, based on the memoir by Benjamin. "He's pretty much in every scene, so a lot was required of him," Benjamin says of the busy role Trystan took on. "He was the one who was always on, always at the same level and eager to work. I don't think I saw him yawn once."

It wasn't Trystan's first time acting, he had performed alongside Gold Logie winner Lisa McCune in *The King And I*.

"I've done a lot of stage work previously, but this is so different and it was so, so much fun," he says.