



**A Jonathan M. Shiff Production**



# **Pirate Islands**

**A MODERN GIRL IN A PIRATE WORLD**

## **Media Kit**

**July 2002**

For further information please contact  
**JONATHAN M SHIFF PRODUCTIONS PTY LTD**  
ACN 005 914 563



**A MODERN GIRL IN A PIRATE WORLD**

373 Bay Street

PORT MELBOURNE VIC 3207 AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61 3 9646 1900 Fax: +61 3 9646 8900

Email: info@jonathan-m-shiff.com.au

# Shooting Schedule

<b>Production:</b>	<b>October 2001 – April 2002</b>
<b>Delivery Episodes 1 – 13:</b>	<b>October 2002</b>
<b>Delivery Episodes 14-26:</b>	<b>January 2003</b>

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**JONATHAN M. SHIFF PRODUCTIONS**

# Production Office

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## Synopsis

There's plenty of action and adventure when 15 year old Kate and her younger brother and sister are zapped into their computer game and find themselves in a land of eighteenth century Pirates. Marooned in an exotic archipelago, the three children set up base in a secret tree house and battle the sinister Captain Blackheart, and his motley band of fearsome Pirates.

Kate meets a stranded group of Castaway Children, lead by the dashing Mars, a fearless leader who helps Kate in her quest and between whom sparks fly. Their only way home is to win the game by beating the Pirates to the ultimate prize and hidden treasure, - The Golden Idol - which is guarded by an evil ghost. Kate's electronic wizardry is pitted against the Pirate's swashbuckling skills.



# Episode One Liners 1-13

## EP ONE LINER

- 1 Kate, Nicholas and Sarah are zapped into PIRATE ISLANDS, the ultimate adventure computer game where Kate has to pit her electronic wizardry against the Pirate's swashbuckling skills.
- 2 Chased by the cruel Captain Blackheart, Kate must find a safe haven for her family to survive.
- 3 Kate is in trouble when her attempt to steal the scanner off the Pirate Ship goes horribly wrong.
- 4 After stealing Blackheart's treasure map, Kate must devise a plan to save Nicholas from walking the plank.
- 5 Kate embarks on a desperate attempt to free her brother from Blackheart's ship.
- 6 Kate finds the path to Haunted Island and comes face to face with more than she expected.
- 7 Kate must break her own rule when Mars is injured by Blackheart.
- 8 Perry is forced to join the Pirates after Carmen expels him from the tribe.
- 9 Nicholas must rescue Kate and Mars from the evil clutches of Blackheart.
- 10 Carmen is ordered to use her medical skills to cure Blackheart's nightmares.
- 11 Blackheart sets a trap, determined to eliminate Kate from Pirate Islands.
- 12 Kate must get help from Captain Quade after Blackheart calls her bluff.



# Episode One Liners 14 - 26

## EP ONE LINER

- 1 4 Kate is forced into a deal with the bloodthirsty Cutthroat Jack.
- 1 5 Kate is determined to get the best sword on the island, even if it belongs to Blackheart.
- 1 6 Carmen leads a movement to vote Mars out of leadership, after he spends too much time with Kate.
- 1 7 Carmen and the tribe search for Kate's hideout, whilst the tribe decide who they really want as their leader.
- 1 8 Kate and Nicholas must escape into an unprogrammed area of the game, whilst Mars is convinced Kate has betrayed him.
- 1 9 Mars and Kate declare a temporary truce when Blackheart confronts them with Carmen.
- 2 0 Blackheart captures Sarah and devises a cunning plan to find Kate's hideout.
- 2 1 Blackheart faces mutiny and sends Pirate Islands into digital chaos.
- 2 2 Kate and Mars must resolve their differences in a network of perilous tunnels.
- 2 3 Kate and Mars grow closer, whilst Carmen joins forces with Blackheart.
- 2 4 Kate discovers the way to Secret Island.
- 2 5 There is a desperate race to the Golden Idol when Carmen betrays Kate again.
- 2 6 Kate draws on all her gaming instinct in her last chance to leave the island and defeat Blackheart forever.

## Cast

KATE REDDING

**Brooke Harman**

NICHOLAS REDDING

**Nicholas Donaldson**



SARAH REDDING	<b>Eliza Taylor-Cotter</b>
MARS	<b>Oliver Ackland</b>
CARMEN	<b>Lucia Smyrk</b>
PERRY	<b>Darcy Bonser</b>
LIZARD	<b>Madeleine Jay</b>
BLACKHEART	<b>Collin Moody</b>
DUGAL	<b>Jim Daly</b>
DARCY THE DANDY	<b>Jasper Bagg</b>
CUTTHROAT JACK	<b>Andy McPhee</b>
FIVE SPICE	<b>Franklyn Ajaye</b>
GIANT	<b>Ziggy Crowe</b>
UGLY SAM	<b>Russell Allan</b>
NED CROW	<b>Graham Jahne</b>
THE GHOST OF CAPTAIN QUADE	<b>John Stanton</b>
SPANISH PETE	<b>Derrick Murphy</b>

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## Crew

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

**Jonathan M. Shiff**

PRODUCERS

**Kay Ben M'Rad**

**Jonathan M. Shiff**

CASTING

**Daniel Scharf**

WRITERS

**Jo Rippon Casting**

**Annie Fox**

**Peter Kinloch**



DIRECTORS

ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

ORIGINAL MUSIC

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

EDITORS

PRUDUCTION MANAGER

POST PRODUCTION & VFX SUPERVISOR

SCRIPT EDITORS

CONCEPT DEVELOPED BY

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANTS

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

PRODUCTION RUNNERS

**Kris Mrksa**

**Stephen Davis**

**Keir Shorey**

**Jo Watson**

**David Phillips**

**Michael Joshua**

**David Rapsey**

**Meg Mappin**

**Richard Jasek**

**Grant Brown**

**Jonathan M. Shiff**

**Greg Millin**

**Laszlo Baranyai A.C.S H.S.C**

**Danny Beckerman**

**Ric Formosa**

**Brian Alexander**

**Philip Watts**

**Angie Higgins**

**Chris Page**

**Barry Lanfranchi**

**Greg Millin**

**Joanne Watson**

**Michael Boland**

**Meg Mappin**

**Michael Joshua**

**Joanne Watson**

**Michelle Venutti**

**Ron Sinni**

**Valerie Williams**

**Kate Charleston**

**Colin Heidke**

**Ian "Scooter" Welbourn**

**Matty Flynn**

**Nick Humphries**

## Crew

ASSISTANT TO JONATHAN M. SHIFF

SCRIPT COORDINATOR

1<sup>ST</sup> ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

2<sup>ND</sup> ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

3<sup>RD</sup> ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ATTACHMENT

2<sup>ND</sup> UNIT DIRECTOR/

DIRECTOR'S ATTACHMENT

2<sup>ND</sup> UNIT D.O.P (PORT DOUGLAS)

2<sup>nd</sup> UNIT D.O.P (MELBOURNE)

**Stacey Auld**

**Simon Butters**

**Paul Walton**

**Liz Edwards**

**Heath Kerr**

**Jessica Fall**

**Jeffrey Walker**

**Gary Bottomley**

**Bruce Phillips**



**A MODERN GIRL IN A PIRATE WORLD**

CONTINUITY

**Julie Bates**

**Ted Green**

FOCUS PULLER

**Francesca Bosch**

CLAPPER LOADER

**Sunny Wilding**

STEADICAM OPERATOR

**Ian McMillan**

COSTUME DESIGNER

**Monica O'Brien**

COSTUME SUPERVISOR

**Rachel Nott**

COSTUME ASSISTANT

**Joanne Wilson**

STANDBY COSTUME

**Harriet Oxley**

MAKE-UP & HAIR DESIGN

**Tess Natoli**

MAKE-UP/HAIR ASSISTANTS

**Lea Dixon**

**Rebecca-Jane Smith**

**Samantha Pattison**

**Lousie Coulston**

**Fiona Munday**

**Gretchen Thornburn**

SOUND RECORDIST

**Joan Kelly**

BOOM OPERATORS

**Chris O'Shea**

GAFFER

**Daryl Pearson**

BEST BOY

**Antony Tulloch**

THIRD ELECTRICS

**Tom Sangster**

KEY GRIP

**Oliver Petrovic**

GRIPS

**Craig Smith**

**Jarrood Barnes**

TUTOR

**Catherine Menzies**

## Crew

HAPERONE (PORT DOUGLAS)

**Angel Hayes**

LOCATION MANAGER (MELBOURNE)

**Greg Ellis**

LOCATION MANAGER (PORT DOUGLAS)

**Karen Jones**

UNIT MANAGER

**Andrew Campbell**

UNIT ASSISTANT

**Roger Simpson**

ART DIRECTOR

**Mandi Bialek-Wester**

ART DEPT. CO-ORDINATOR

**Leah Mackenzie**

BUYER / DRESSER

**Anita King**

BUYER / DRESSER

**Adrian Flather**

BUYER / DRESSER

**Paul Macak**

ART DEPT RUNNER

**Natarsha Nicholson**

STAND BY PROPS

**Tim Disney**



**A MODERN GIRL IN A PIRATE WORLD**

ASSISTANT STANDBY PROPS	<b>Michael Klug</b>
ART DEPT ATTACHMENT/ STORY BOARD	<b>Shane McGrath</b>
ARTIST	
ART DEPARTMENT ATTACHMENT	<b>Sabine Kurz</b>
PROPS MAKERS	<b>Hugh Davies</b>
	<b>Roger Mitchell</b>
	<b>Gary Tippett</b>
	<b>John Wrigglesworth</b>
	<b>Simon Field</b>
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER	<b>Chris Vance</b>
LEAD FORMAN	<b>Frank Kopacka</b>
CARPENTERS	<b>Paul Pockock</b>
	<b>Martin Croydon</b>
	<b>Craig "Sol" Sutherland</b>
	<b>Willy Davidson</b>
	<b>Brendan Wolf</b>
	<b>Ross Murdoch</b>
	<b>Hugh Anderson</b>
SCENIC ARTIST	<b>Graham Matthews</b>
BRUSH HANDS	<b>Janie Christophersen</b>
	<b>Richard Veith</b>
DRAFTSPERSON	<b>Clint Ingram</b>
SFX COORDINATOR	<b>Steve Carpenter</b>
SFX SUPERVISOR PORT DOUGLAS	<b>Andrew Jones</b>
SFX ASSISTANT	<b>Brett Anderson</b>
STUNT COORDINATOR	

## Crew

MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR/SWORD	<b>Michael Pringle</b>
CHOREOGRAPHER	<b>John Fairhead</b>
SAFETY SUPERVISOR	<b>Barry Clemments</b>
ADDITIONAL SAFETY	<b>Port Douglas Catering</b>
CATERERS	<b>Sweet Seduction</b>
	<b>Dennis Wisken</b>
STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER	<b>Rebecca Fleming</b>
UNIT NURSE (MELBOURNE)	<b>Carol Monaghan</b>
	<b>Ron Houghton</b>
UNIT NURSE (PORT DOUGLAS)	<b>Sarah Hallam</b>
EXTRAS CASTING	<b>Neil Wood</b>
TELECINE COLOURISTS	<b>Peter Balfour</b>
	<b>AAV – Digital Pictures</b>
POST PRODUCTION	<b>Anna Phelps</b>
AAV LIAISON	<b>Noel Macwhirter</b>
FINAL GRADE: TELECINE COLOURIST	



**A MODERN GIRL IN A PIRATE WORLD**

ON LINE EDITORS

**George Awburn**

**Guy Mackinder**

**John Handby**

**Paul Buckley**

**Mike Dunn**

**Kylie Simons**

**Soundfirm**

**Helen Field**

**Ralph Ortner**

**Ron Feruglio**

**Gerry Long**

**Steve Burgess**

**CINEVEX**

**Ian Anderson**

**STAGE & SCREEN TRAVEL**

**AND FREIGHT SERVICES**

**PEACE OF MIND**

**Bob Simpson**

**KODAK AUSTRALASIA**

3D DIGITAL DESIGNER/ARTISTS

COMPUTER SCREEN GRAPHICS

SOUND POST PRODUCTION

SOUNDFIRM LIAISON

SOUND SUPERVISOR/MIXER

SOUND DESIGNER/EDITOR

FOLEY ARTIST

FOLEY ENGINEER

FILM LABORATORY

TRAVEL

CHAFFEUR DRIVEN CARS

FILM STOCK

## Crew

NIT VEHICLES SUPPLIED BY  
INSURANCE

LEGAL ADVISORS

UNIT PUBLICIST

**STARWAGONS AUSTRALIA**

**Pty Ltd**

**H.W WOOD AUSTRALIA**

**Tony Gibbs**

**SHIFF & COMPANY**

**Julia Adams**

**CLPR**

**Natasha Henry**

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# Principal Cast

## **BROOKE HARMAN as Kate Redding**

Brooke Harman plays the lead role of Kate Redding, a confident teenager who wants to be in control and win. Having spent a good portion of her life playing computer games, Kate employs every gaming trick she knows in her attempts to defeat the evil Captain Blackheart and escape from Pirate Islands with her brother and sister.

Brooke began her impressive television career six years ago in the award winning children's television series THE WAYNE MANIFESTO. She has since starred in the television series MISERY GUTS, BEASTMASTER and FLIPPER as well as having had guest appearances on HOME & AWAY and ALL SAINTS.

The sixteen year old also starred in the feature film TILL HUMAN VOICES WAKE US and the telemovies FINDING HOPE and STEPSISTER FROM THE PLANET WEIRD. Brooke recently won the role of Maggie in the yet to be released feature film NED KELLY.



## **NICHOLAS DONALDSON as Nicholas Redding**

Nicholas Donaldson plays the role of Nicholas Redding, the younger brother who prefers to steer clear of danger whilst Kate dives right in. Nicholas provides a voice of reason to his siblings, but when it comes to a rescue mission - he rises to the occasion.

Nicholas Donaldson has played principal roles in theatrical productions of DR DOLITTLE, FORTESQUE and TWELFTH NIGHT.



# Principal Cast



**ELIZA TAYLOR-COTTER as Sarah Redding**

Thirteen year old Eliza plays Sarah, the imaginative youngest sibling whose special bond with nature on the island helps to keep her family out of trouble.

PIRATE ISLANDS is Eliza's first professional role on television. She has previously performed in school plays and is a member of The Australian Youth Choir.



**OLIVER ACKLAND as Mars**

Oliver Ackland plays the charming and spirited character Mars, the only person mad enough to challenge Blackheart, except for Kate.

Oliver played the lead role of Vince in the television series THE OUTRIDERS and has also appeared in the series ALL SAINTS.

Having studied drama with the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP), Oliver starred in their 2000 performance of THE BIRDS. Oliver also performed in the short film THEREFORE I AM.



## Principal Cast

**LUCIA SMYRK as Carmen**

Lucia Smyrk plays the competitive and strong Carmen, who endeavours to keep Mars and Kate apart at any cost.



Lucia has studied music since 1996, and has performed in the musicals THE MIKADO, THE SOUND OF MUSIC and BUGSY MALONE. Lucia has also starred in theatrical productions of CROMWELL STREET and POETRY IN MOTION. Before her role in PIRATE ISLANDS, Lucia played the lead role of Anne in the Channel Seven drama series SHORT CUTS.

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### **DARCY BONSER as Perry**

Darcy Bonser plays the lonely Rainforest Tribe's lookout, Perry. When Nicholas arrives on the island Perry gains a friend, however such distractions are dangerous for the tribe.

Darcy has appeared on the television programs STINGERS, BLUE HEELERS and NEIGHBOURS. Darcy has also performed in theatrical productions of OSCAR WILDE, THE SECRET GARDEN, OLIVER and DEATH OF A SALESMAN.

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### **MADELEINE JAY as Lizard**

Twelve year old Madeleine Jay plays Lizard, a member of the Castaway Kids who is energetic and full of life. Madeleine's television credits include ROUND THE TWIST, NEIGHBOURS and BLUE HEELERS.

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## **Principal Cast**

### **COLLIN MOODY as Blackheart**

Collin Moody plays the malicious Captain Blackheart. First mate to the murdered Captain Quade, Blackheart's aim is to find the treasure that they amassed together.



Most recently Collin played the regular role of Tom on the ABC series SOMETHING IN THE AIR. Collin has also appeared on television programs which include WILDSIDE, G.P., A COUNTRY PRACTICE and THE FLYING DOCTORS.

An established theatre performer, Collin has acted in Sydney Theatre Company productions of TITUS ANDRONICUS, THE CRUCIBLE, MACBETH and THE HOMECOMING, as well as the Melbourne Theatre Company's production of THE DUCHESS OF MALFI.

Collin starred in the feature films PENAL COLONY, ROAD TO ALICE and THE WAYFARERS.



### **JIM DALEY as Dugal**

Jim Daley plays the role of Dugal, Blackheart's clumsy yet faithful servant.

With a professional career spanning nearly fifty years, Jim Daley has a gift for comedy appearing on the television programs THE GAMES, THE MICALLEF PROGRAM and BACKBERNER. Jim has also appeared in SOMETHING IN THE AIR, BLUE HEELERS and STATE CORONER.

Jim's feature film credits include THAT EYE THE SKY, EVERY DAY EVERY NIGHT, THE INCURABLE ROMANTIC and HARRY'S WAR.

## Principal Cast

### **JIM DALEY as Dugal** (continued)

An established theatre performer, Jim received the 1996 Victorian Green Room award for Most Outstanding Performer in Fringe Theatre for THE 8:16 VODKA



SYNDROME and was nominated for the same award in 2000 for his performance in THE PROCEDURE.

Jim Daley also appeared as Curly the Hologram in the Jonathan M Shiff Production THUNDERSTONE III.

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### **ANDY McPHEE as Cutthroat Jack**

Andy McPhee plays the bloodthirsty Cutthroat Jack, a heartless brute who takes great pleasure in doing Blackheart's dirty work.

Andy's versatility as an actor has earned him a wealth of television appearances on programs such as THE SECRET LIFE OF US, BLUE HEELERS, STINGERS, SEA CHANGE, NEIGHBOURS, ON THE BEACH and GOOD GUYS BAD GUYS.

Andy has also appeared in a number of classic Australian films which include BAD BOY BUBBY and PHARLAP.

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## Principal Cast

### **JASPER BAGG as Darcy The Dandy**

Jasper Bagg plays the role of DARCY THE DANDY, a lazy pirate who prefers to lounge around on a canvas than set it to sail.

Jasper's television credits include major guest appearances on programs such as STINGERS, BLUE HEELERS, JANUS, NEIGHBOURS, ROUND THE TWIST, and the Jonathan M. Shiff Productions' THUNDERSTONE and HORACE & TINA.

Jasper has received numerous theatrical awards, including the 1993 Lyrebird Award for Best Actor for his role as John Proctor in THE CRUCIBLE. Jasper is



President of the Independent Performance Committee and for the past four years has been President of the Chambers Theatre Company in Melbourne.

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### **JOHN STANTON as The Ghost of Captain Quade**

John Stanton plays The Ghost of Captain Quade, a ghost who plans to guard the location of his hidden treasure for all eternity.

John Stanton has a wealth of experience in performance, and has appeared on numerous television shows which include GOOD GUYS BAD GUYS, HALIFAX f.p and HOMICIDE. He has also appeared in the feature films RENT A COP, VACANT POSSESSION, TAI PAN and PHARLAP.

John has appeared in the Melbourne Theatre Company stage productions of THE MISANTHROPE, KING LEAR, A DOLL'S HOUSE, BETRAYAL, MACBETH and THE RIVALS. He has also performed in numerous productions with both the Queensland and Sydney Theatre Company.

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## Principal Cast

### **FRANKLYN AJAYE as Five Spice**

Franklyn Ajaye is an accomplished musician, writer, comedian and actor. A regular guest on Network Ten's THE PANEL, Franklyn also appeared in the Working Dog mockumentary FRONTLINE.

Franklyn's feature film credits include classics such as THE BURBS, STIR CRAZY, CONVOY, CAR WASH, HOLLYWOOD SHUFFLE and THE JAZZ SINGER.

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### **ZIGGY CROWE as Giant**



Ziggy Crowe's feature film credits include TROJAN WARRIOR and THE HARD WORD. Ziggy is the subject of an entry for the 2002 Archibald Prize.

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## Principal Crew

### **JONATHAN M. SHIFF      Creative Producer & Executive Producer**

Jonathan M. Shiff founded Jonathan M. Shiff Productions in 1988, establishing an innovative and independent boutique production house, which has quickly become a world leader in children's television programming.

The 'hands on' Creative Producer and originator of all programming for the company, Shiff was formerly a practicing Attorney and left his legal practice to undertake the Director's Course at Australia's prestigious Swinburne Film and Television School in Melbourne.

Graduating from film school, Shiff became a legal consultant to the industry and a freelance AD. He acted as a stringer for Paramount's Entertainment Tonight producing and directing Australian based stories, before Australian television producer Crawford Productions employed Shiff as a trainee producer.

Since then, Shiff's productions have won awards across the globe, including the British Academy of Film & TV Award (BAFTA) for both **OCEAN GIRL** (1998) and **THUNDERSTONE** (1999). **THUNDERSTONE** Series 1 and 2 also won the ATOM (Australian Teachers of Media) Awards for Best Children's Television Series in 1999 and 2000 respectively, and in May 2001, **HORACE & TINA** also received the prestigious award.

Shiff has most recently been awarded the **2002/2003 Australian Institute of Export: Australian Export Hero Award for Screen Production** as well as



the **2001 Screen Producers of Australia (SPAA) Children's Producer of the Year Award.**

In 2000 Jonathan M. Shiff Productions and Daniel Scharf Productions forged a joint venture to produce the children's TV series, **CYBERGIRL**, which premiered on Network Ten in July 2001 and went on to win the **2001 AFI Award for Most Outstanding Children's Television Series.**

In August 1999, Shiff was appointed a director of the Film Finance Corporation Australia.

Jonathan M. Shiff's credits include **SECRET ANIMALS, KELLY, OCEAN GIRL, THUNDERSTONE, HORACE & TINA** and **CYBERGIRL.**

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## Principal Crew

### **DANIEL SCHARF    Creative Producer**

Daniel Scharf has worked as a Producer for over fifteen years on quality shorts, documentaries, feature films and television.

He was the Australian producer on the first German/Australian Co-Production feature film, **THE PRISONER OF ST. PETERSBURG**, starring Noah Taylor and Solveig Dommartin. Scharf was also the Australian Producer on the French/Australian Co-Production feature film **ISABELLE EBERHARDT**, starring Mathilda May, Tcheky Karyo and Peter O'Toole.

Daniel has produced two feature films for Geoffrey Wright: The headline grabbing and highly acclaimed **ROMPER STOMPER** starring Russell Crowe and Jacqueline McKenzie; and **METAL SKIN** which starred Aden Young, Ben Mendelsohn, Nadine Garner and Tara Morice.

Working in the area of TV Documentaries, Daniel has produced two Brian McKenzie documentaries for ABC TV, **A PLACE TO BELONG** and **PAT & EDDY'S GREYHOUND RACING FAMILY.**

Daniel has also worked as Line Producer on the feature films **HURRAH** and **MUGGERS**, and on the Children's TV Series **THUNDERSTONE II.**



Daniel went on to Co-Produce **THUNDERSTONE III** for Jonathan M Shiff Productions. In 2000, Daniel Scharf Productions and Jonathan M. Shiff Productions forged a joint venture to produce the children's television series, **CYBERGIRL**, which went on to win the **2001 AFI** for **Most Outstanding Children's Drama Series**.

Daniel Scharf Productions is currently overseeing the development of a number of high quality feature films and telemovies based from novels and original stories.

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## Principal Crew

### **KAY BEN M'RAD Executive Producer**

Kay Ben-M'Rad is the General Manager of Jonathan M Shiff Productions, responsible for the management of the company as well as the raising of finance for television productions and co-productions. Previously the company's Financial Controller, Kay was appointed to her present position in July 1995.

Prior to joining Jonathan M Shiff Productions in 1992, Kay spent three years as Production Accountant for the Jim Henson Creature Workshop based in Hampstead, London.

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### **GREG MILLIN Story Editor**

Graduating from the University of Melbourne's School of Medicine, Greg was working in his own medical practice when he wrote the feature film **THE CLINIC**. Encouraged by his nomination for Best Original Screenplay in the 1982 AFI Awards, he gave up medicine to become a professional writer.

Since then, Greg has built up an extensive list of television series and serials, including **POLICE RESCUE**, **HEARTBREAK HIGH**, **BIG SKY** and **MEDIVAC**. Greg also story edited the first fifty episodes of **G.P.** His writing credits on the popular series include the first episode and two highly acclaimed episodes dealing with AIDS. On the completion of the Jonathan M. Shiff Production **HORACE &**



**TINA**, Greg was appointed Head of Development at Jonathan M. Shiff Productions.

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## Principal Crew

### **RICHARD JASEK**     **Director**

Czech born director Richard Jasek has won many awards for his work in television, including first prize in the Australian Video Festival in 1989 for **A SOLDIER'S TALE**. His television drama **SON OF ROMEO** was awarded two prizes, including the Gold Penguin, at the Australian Television Society Awards in 1990. Similarly, the Australian Cinematographers' Society awarded **SON OF ROMEO** two 1990 Gold Awards.

Throughout his career Richard has consistently lectured and held workshops in subjects such as Actor/Director Techniques (most recently at the National Film & Television School in the UK) and Multi-Camera techniques (at the Queensland College of the Arts and AFTRS.)

Richard's extensive experience in directing Australian television drama is highlighted by his directing of multiple episodes of acclaimed programs such as **THE SECRET LIFE OF US, NEIGHBOURS, HEARTBREAK HIGH, MURDER CALL, BLUE HEELERS, STINGERS** and **SOMETHING IN THE AIR**.

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### **GRANT BROWN**     **Director**

Grant Brown completed a Bachelor of Arts at Queensland's Griffith University in 1982 and received a Diploma in Film Production Techniques at North Sydney Technical College in 1989.

Since this time, Grant has worked as a director extensively in the Australian television industry. Grant has directed multiple episodes of well known Australian programs such as **STINGERS, BLUE**



**HEELERS, SOMETHING IN THE AIR, ALL SAINTS, MURDER CALL, HOME & AWAY and NEIGHBOURS.**

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## Principal Crew

**LASZLO BARANYAI ACS HSC      Director of Photography**

Laszlo Baranyai graduated from the Hungarian Film School Academy in 1982 having completed his degree in Cinematography, which included the study of Fine Arts and Philosophy, as well as filmmaking. He shot several feature films in Hungary and is an accredited member of the Hungarian Society of Cinematographers (HSC).

In 1988 Laszlo emigrated from Hungary to Australia where he continued his career as a cinematographer. His Australian feature film credits include **TRUE LOVE & CHAOS, CRACKERS** and the award-winning **SOFT FRUIT**. His television credits include episodes of the ABC-TV series **RAW-FM, SHORT CUTS**, the Australian Children's Television Foundation and BBC co-produced children's series **THE GENIE FROM DOWN UNDER**, and five episodes of the ABC children's series **EUGENIE SANDLER P.I.** In 1998 Laszlo was awarded accreditation to the Australian Cinematographers Society.

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**BRIAN ALEXANDER      Production Designer**

Brian Alexander graduated from the prestigious Swinburne Institute of Technology having completed a Graduate Diploma of Applied Film and Television.

Since 1985 Brian has worked as Production Designer on the highly acclaimed ABC television series **SEACHANGE**, as well as the feature film **MALL BOY**. Brian has worked on a number of television programs as Art Director, including **SOMETHING IN THE AIR, RAW FM, CRACKERS** and the Jonathan M. Shiff Production **HORACE & TINA**.

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## JONATHAN M. SHIFF PRODUCTIONS CORPORATE PROFILE

**Founded in 1988, Jonathan M. Shiff Productions Pty Ltd is Australia's leading producer of high quality children's programming. The company's impressive catalogue of drama and documentary series has been sold to more than 130 territories worldwide entertaining an audience of millions of children.**

Executive Producer Jonathan M. Shiff - the company's founder, originator and creative producer of all programming is a graduate of Australia's prestigious Swinburne Film and Television School, and was formerly a practicing Attorney and Solicitor for 14 years.

Jonathan M. Shiff Productions have received numerous accolades which include BAFTA Awards for **OCEAN GIRL** and **THUNDERSTONE**, the **2001 Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award for Best Children's Television Drama** for **CYBERGIRL**, with Jonathan M. Shiff receiving the **2001 Screen Producers of Australia (SPAA) Children's Producer of the Year Award**.

During 2002 the company has an extensive production slate which includes:

- **WICKED SCIENCE – 26 x half hour live action comedy series - \$A10 million**  
Currently in pre-production, **WICKED SCIENCE** tells the story of two teenagers who are mysteriously turned into wizards of science. She wants power – he wants to stop her. And as a cloned T-Rex looms over Rose Park High their struggle for supremacy begins.
- **IRONBARK DIARIES – 52 x half hour live action drama serial - \$A16 million**  
A European co-production, **IRONBARK DIARIES** is a teenage soap series set on an Australian ranch. The series is currently in development.
- **PIRATE ISLANDS – 26 x half hour live action adventure series - \$A10 million**  
There's plenty of action and adventure when 15 year old Kate and her younger brother and sister are zapped into their computer game and find themselves in a land of swashbuckling pirates! **PIRATE ISLANDS** is co-produced with Tele Images and has been pre-sold to Network Ten Australia, The Disney Channel Australia and ZDF Germany.

During 2001 the company's production slate included:

- **HORACE & TINA**, a 26 x half hour, \$11m live action comedy series
- **CYBERGIRL**, a 26 x half hour, \$10m live action adventure series

Continued . . .



Of Shiff's previous productions, **HORACE & TINA** features two extraordinary state-of-the-art animatronic characters: Horace – three foot tall, grumpy, over two hundred years old, and the world's greatest mischief maker; and his elder sister, the 271-year-old Tina – an incurable romantic who loves to meddle and give advice. The series also stars Jasmine Ellis as 13 year old Lauren Parker, who discovers she is the only person who can see Horace & Tina and has to keep the existence of her two bizarre houseguests secret, without her family and friends thinking she's going crazy.

Continuing Shiff's tradition of high quality children's product, **CYBERGIRL** is the story of a fun loving teenager who just happens to be out of this world. When a teenage prototype plunges from space into the world of young Jackson Campbell, she changes his life, and the fate of River City forever. Unable to resist using her superpowers whenever there is a crisis, **CYBERGIRL** soon becomes the obsession of Rhyss, a sinister software mogul who is determined to find and exploit her. Utilizing special effects and stunts to create spectacular action sequences, Cybergirl is the superhero for a new generation.

**THUNDERSTONE** is an award winning futuristic live action drama series. It tells the story of 15 year old Noah who lives in the future when no animals roam the Earth. By unlocking the secrets of time travel Noah finds a way of bringing animals from the past to re-populate the world.

**THUNDERSTONE** is set in a variety of terrain including the dry, dusty Australian outback, lush green riverlands and wild beaches. The series features elaborate sets and production design depicting Earth in two future time zones – the first, an underground city called North Col and the second, a vast expanse of untouched wilderness called Haven. All three series of **THUNDERSTONE** screened nationally and internationally.

In 1999 **THUNDERSTONE** was awarded the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award for Best International Children's Programme - an extraordinary achievement given Shiff's previous series **OCEAN GIRL** won the same BAFTA award in 1998. **THUNDERSTONE** also won the 1999 and 2000 Australian ATOM Award for Best Children's Television Series, and in May 2001, the company's latest series **HORACE & TINA** also received this prestigious award.

The company's production **OCEAN GIRL**, a live action children's fantasy series of 78 x half hours is the story of a mysterious young girl from the ocean, her companion a humpback whale and their discovery by the inhabitants of a futuristic underwater research colony. **OCEAN GIRL** is set in the lush tropical rainforests and underwater over the spectacular coral reefs of Far North Queensland, Australia.

The Disney Channel USA acquired all four series of **OCEAN GIRL** - a rare achievement in the export of Australian television. In addition to the 1998 British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award for Best International Children's Programme, **OCEAN GIRL** was nominated in the Best Children's Drama category by the Australian Film Institute. It was also nominated for a 1995 Cable Ace Award and was a finalist in both the 1995 and 1996 New York Festivals for Best Children's Drama.

The company's program catalogue also includes **KELLY**, a series which combines elaborate stunt and action sequences with warm stories displaying positive family values - a formula that has a proven appeal to a worldwide audience. **KELLY** is the story of a retired police dog and two young children growing up in an Australian seaside community.



The company completed two series of **KELLY**, each of 13 x half hour episodes. In 1992 **KELLY** was voted Best Children's Television Series by the junior student panel for the ATOM (Australian Teachers of Media) Awards.

Other credits include **MY ZOO**, a 26 x 5 minute pre-schoolers wildlife magazine series (in co-production with Tribal) and the 12 x half-hour series **THE SEARCH FOR THE WORLD'S MOST SECRET ANIMALS**. Shot in six countries, this wildlife documentary series introduces children to over 400 of the world's most endangered and exotic animals.

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