

The Australian Children's Television Foundation

presents

NOAH & SASKIA

A story about two teenagers who change each other's lives, from opposite sides of the world.

13 x 24 min comedy drama children's series

Noah & Saskia is produced by the **Australian Children's Television Foundation** in association with **CBBC**. Produced with the assistance of **Film Victoria** in association with the **Australian Broadcasting Corporation**. Financed with the assistance of **Film Finance Corporation Australia**.



International Distribution by:
Australian Children's Television Foundation
Level 3, 145 Smith Street
Fitzroy, Victoria 3065, Australia
Tel: 61 3 9419 8800 Fax: 61 3 9419 0660
Email: info@actf.com.au Web: www.actf.com.au

NOAH & SASKIA

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NOAH & SASKIA

Series Synopsis (short)

Two teenagers find each other from opposite sides of the globe, and change each other's lives. By projecting their ideal selves in a virtual world, they get a little closer to reaching their ideals in the real one.

NOAH & SASKIA

Series Synopsis (extended)

Saskia doesn't get it. All she did was go into a chat room seeking revenge on a guy who stole her music. Yet what she ended up with was the most important relationship in her life, with the most amazing person.

His name is Max Hammer, and after their first big meeting on-line, Saskia feels like she's known him her whole life. He seems to know everything that's going on in her head, in her music, and better yet, in her soul. He seems to have all the "S's" – strong, smart, sensitive and sensible. And best of all, he sees those same qualities in her.

Yep, Saskia's relationship with Max is perfect - or it would be, if he wasn't in the UK and she wasn't in Australia, and if he didn't think she was somebody completely different.

You see, Saskia has created an alter ego that she uses on-line. Her name is Indy and she's everything Saskia isn't - self-assured, carefree and sexy. And while she initially uses Indy as a mask, Saskia starts to realise that it's an easy way to explore the parts of herself that are blooming way down deep, the parts of herself she can't express any other way. Not yet, at least. And Saskia knows that if Max found out who she really is - a rather prickly, defensive, shabby looking teenager - the most fantastic friendship of her life would be all over in an instant.

That is, if Max was who he claimed to be, which of course he's not. In reality, Max is a fourteen year old dweeb named Noah, and he has no illusions. He knows that if Indy ever learned the truth, she would run screaming. They're partners in Noah's on-line comic, and they're a great team creatively – he takes care of the images, she takes care of the music. Indy is a great listener when Noah has a problem, and she thinks his advice is cool. All he has to do is make sure she never finds out who he really is. But that's okay, Noah's used to living a double life – geeky little brother of the school football hero by day, super-confident cyber marauder by night.

"Noah & Saskia" is about a little lie that leads to a bigger truth - that who you say you are is usually who you want to be.

Noah & Saskia

Features the following cast

From Australia:

Saskia:	Hannah Greenwood
Max:	Cameron Nugent
Renee:	Emily Wheaton
Deb:	Tracy Mann
Ernesto:	Bernard Angel
Gerald:	Damian Neate
Benny:	Julian O'Donnell
Theresa:	Alicia Gardiner

From the United Kingdom:

Noah:	Jack Blumenau
Indy:	Maria Papas
Clive:	Adrian Fergus Fuller
Phil:	Alex Potter
Eddie:	Eugene Simon
Bryce:	Andrew Grainger
Lena:	Rebecca Egan

Noah & Saskia

Creative Credits

Executive Producers: Patricia Edgar,
Elaine Sperber (BBC)

Producer: Patricia Edgar

Writers: Chris Anastassiades
Sam Carroll

Director: Pino Amenta

Director VFX: Paul Nichola

Created by: Patricia Edgar
Chris Anastassiades
Paul Nichola

Australian Children's Television Foundation

The Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) is a national non-profit organisation committed to providing Australian children with entertaining and innovative media made especially for them, which makes an enduring contribution to their cultural and developmental experience.

The ACTF has been at the coalface of children's television programming in Australia since its inception in 1982. The early 1980s saw virtually no television drama made especially for our children but over the past 20 years the ACTF has helped change that. The ACTF has carved a path into the international marketplace with our series selling to over 100 countries and being acknowledged as one of the premier producers of high quality children's television drama.

The ACTF is renowned for its high quality productions including the hits **Round the Twist** and **Crash Zone** and the acclaimed feature film, **Yolngu Boy**. The ACTF has now produced over 180 hours of children's drama and documentaries including **Noah & Saskia, Round the Twist, Crash Zone, Legacy of the Silver Shadow, Genie From Down Under, Lift Off, Li'l Elvis Jones & The Truckstoppers, Sky Trackers, Songs of Innocence, Touch the Sun, Winners and More Winners** and **Yolngu Boy**.

Noah & Saskia

Principal cast and character information

SASKIA'S WORLD

SASKIA LITRAS performed by HANNAH GREENWOOD

Saskia is fourteen years old and her greatest weapon is her mouth. She spends countless hours playing her guitar and dreams of being a musician - if only she could work up the courage to face an audience! Of course, this doesn't stop her from spending every spare moment composing new songs. She doesn't put much effort into her wardrobe and she's not in any real hurry to grow up. She's quick witted, and has learned how to 'handle' people - but when she's confronted with any kind of criticism, her quick comebacks and often comical, blunt responses are really nothing more than a well-disguised defense. Yet despite her natural edge, when she meets Max, she knows she needs something extra. And that's why she creates Indy - a smoother, stronger, sexier version of herself. When it comes down to it, Saskia would give anything to look in the mirror and see Indy staring back at her.

(BIO)

Hannah Greenwood performs the role of Saskia. Hannah is 16 years old and has been involved in theatre production since she was 11. Her television credits include **Legacy of the Silver Shadow**, *Horace & Tina*, *High Flyers*, *Short Cuts*, *Stingers*, and *State Coroner*.

MAX HAMMER performed by CAMERON NUGENT

Max Hammer started out as Noah's Internet alias and the hero in his web-based comic "The Very Real and Excellent Adventures of Max Hammer". Max is everything Noah wants to be. He's smart, strong, sensitive, capable, and respectable. And on the Internet, he's acquired a reputation as a highly intimidating cyber marauder - a far cry from his beginnings as a hand-drawn figure in Noah's London bedroom.

On the other side of the Pacific, Max enters Saskia's life as a faceless geek who steals her music from the Internet, and ends up becoming the most important person in her life. From the pages of the Max Hammer comic, Max springs to life - at least he does in Saskia's imagination. And when Saskia imagines Max in the flesh, she sees a tall, strong, good-looking, charming, witty and charismatic guy who accepts her for who she is. She knows he's not "real", that when she and Max walk on the beach together, it's not really happening, but that's how it feels. And that's all that matters to Saskia.

(BIO)

Cameron Nugent performs the role of Max. Cameron's major television roles have been in **Round the Twist** and *Seachange*. He has also appeared in *Halifax f.p.*, *Stingers*, *Blue Heelers* and **The Genie From Down Under**, as well as numerous television commercials.

RENEE performed by EMILY WHEATON

Unlike Saskia, 14 year old Renee sometimes seems as though she is in a hurry to grow up. She's a perfectionist and already has extensive plans for her life. She's a straight A student and likes her place at the top of the teenage food chain. Boys like her, girls like her, teachers like her - everybody likes her. And what's not to like? She's been Saskia's best friend for ten years, and it goes without saying that the pair would be lost without each other. Yet they're as different as chalk and cheese. Adolescence has been a real fork in the road with regard to their personal style and interests. While she sometimes seems superficial, deep down Renee would love to have Saskia's cutting wit and take-me-as-I-am approach to life. And Saskia would love to have Renee's boundless energy and enthusiasm. But that's why the friendship works. They need each other.

(BIO)

Emily Wheaton performs the role of Renee and this is her first major television role.

GERALD STEMPEL performed by DAMIAN NEATE

GERALD is the school's resident super-nerd. He's the most computer-literate kid in the whole of Melbourne. If you need help with something technological, Gerald's your man - for the right price. He's small for his age, but his ego makes up for it. And he's in love with Renee, along with half the male population of the school.

(BIO)

Damian Neate performs the role of Gerald. He appeared in the feature film *Take Away* and this is his first major television role.

ERNESTO performed by BERNARD ANGEL

Ernesto is Saskia's 17 year-old co-worker at the Chicken Coop. He's very easy on the eye, and endearingly earnest to boot. He plays flamenco guitar, and since quitting school, has worked at the Chicken Coop full time. Saskia thinks he's cute - but then again, so does every girl who works at the mall, and every girl who's ever shopped at the mall. But beneath the swarthy exterior, he's slightly left of perfect. He's from a close-knit family, but hasn't quite managed to free himself of their expectations. In fact, he goes out of his way to gain his Dad's approval, often sacrificing his own judgement to do so.

(BIO)

Bernard Angel performs the role of Ernesto. Bernard has appeared as a guest on the police drama *Blue Heelers*.

BENNY performed by JULIAN O'DONNELL

An old soul in a young body, Benny is Saskia's 10 year-old guitar teacher. He's a musical prodigy, and Saskia chose him as her teacher because he didn't mind her playing with her back turned to him. He's given up being a professional musician in favour of being a kid, and aside from the odd music lesson, spends his time playing with Lego and eating chocolate by the handful.

(BIO)

Julian O'Donnell performs the role of Benny. This is his first major television role.

THERESA performed by ALICIA GARDINER

Theresa is the Manager of the Chicken Coop, and Saskia's boss. She runs a squeaky-clean establishment and even makes the boys wear hair-nets. While she has a long fuse, she has no qualms about firing people if they bend the Chicken Coop Rules. She's a list-maker, a tireless workaholic, and her passion for the Chicken Industry knows no bounds.

(BIO)

Alicia Gardiner performs the role of Theresa. Alicia has also appeared in *Fergus McPhail*, *MDA*, *Marshall Law*, *After the Deluge*, *Seachange III*, *Dogwoman*, *Halifax f.p.* and *Queen Kat*, *Carmel & St Jude*. Theatre roles include *Mamma Mia* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Her formal qualifications include a Bachelor of Performance (Voice Major) from VCA, and a Bachelor of Performance (Drama Major) from Monash University.

DEB LITRAS performed by TRACY MANN

Deb is Saskia's mum. She is quite obviously the source of Saskia's smart mouth. She works as a medical courier, and hates cooking with a passion. When it comes to Saskia's quick wit and cutting comebacks, Deb can give as good as she gets. She treats Saskia as her intellectual equal, and is not even close to being an embarrassing mother figure. Her dream is to one day take a four week holiday in South America, and until that time comes, she's content to learn Spanish and decorate the house as if it were located smack bang in the middle of Peru.

(BIO)

Tracy Mann performs the role of Deb. Tracy is an Australian Film Institute Award Winner, and a Logie Winner. She is a veteran of Australian film, television and theatre, having performed numerous roles in many productions. These include *Crystal Clear*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Dinner With Friends* and *The Graduate* in the field of theatre; and *Sword of Honour*, *Sweet and Sour*, *Prisoner* and *Heartbreak High* amongst many more in the field of television. Her film credits include *Hard Knocks*, *How Wonderful* and *Reckless Kelly*. She is also very experienced in commercial voice over and narration. In addition to performing the role of Deb in "Noah & Saskia", Tracy is Drama Coach for the cast.

NOAH'S WORLD

NOAH KING performed by Jack Blumenau

At first glance, Noah seems like a geek. But really, he's just a little misunderstood. His father Bryce and brother Phil think he's a lost cause because he's not interested in devoting his life to football. And his best friend Clive thinks he's a dud because he doesn't sacrifice every waking hour to chasing girls. In reality, Noah just has different priorities. Such as his on-line comic "The Very Real and Excellent Adventures of Max Hammer". He's doesn't mind being known as the geeky little brother of the school football star by day, because by night, he's transformed into the super confident cyber-hero that is Max Hammer. The Internet gives Noah the freedom to flex his muscles and apply the charm, wit and verbal dexterity which are bubbling beneath the surface. He gets quiet satisfaction from the fact that his family are completely unaware they're living with a legend of the cyber world - one with fans scattered all over the globe.

(BIO)

Jack is 16 years old and has a full theatrical background. He has starred in many UK productions, including a recent prime-time remake of *The Railway Children* for Carlton TV and a recent role in the Working Title film *Jekyll & Hyde*, playing Ned. He also played the lead character in another children's drama series for CBBC1, *There's a Viking in My Bed*. Jack is a mad keen fan of football and supports QPR.

INDY performed by Maria Papas

At first, Saskia created Indy as her Internet persona because she needed something extra, something special, to gain Max's attention. But it's no accident that she created someone who is everything she longs to be. Strong, capable, witty, mysterious and charismatic, and all contained in a very nice package.

But across the globe, the flesh and blood Indy (or Noah's imagination of her) is creating a stir. From the moment she walked into Noah's life, things started changing. She did something he'd been longing for somebody to do - she threw down the gauntlet. In Indy, Noah sees a real challenge. He is quick to rise to it, and by doing so, he finds somebody who seems to bring out the best in him, and most importantly, someone who seems to truly understand him. It's merely a bonus that Indy's music is the perfect soundtrack to the Max Hammer comic, and he doesn't hesitate to offer her a creative partnership.

(BIO)

Maria as worked in Theatre and on film, including *The Truth About Love* and *Strike a Light*.

CLIVE WALSH performed by Adrian Fergus Fuller

Clive is Noah's best friend and he has one primary interest in life - girls. He believes himself to be an expert on the subject, and is more than willing to share his extensive knowledge with Noah, or anybody else who will listen. He's over the top and absolutely shameless, with energy to spare. He's a fast talker, a natural salesman and by far his own greatest fan. He fancies himself as a bit of a chameleon and is always trying to get away with different looks - clothes, postures, fake facial hair - you name it. Despite his lack of any actual success with girls which is obvious to everyone else, Clive believes he's an object of desire - he wouldn't just give Don Juan a run for his money, he'd leave him at the starting gate.

(BIO)

Adrian has appeared in BBC's *Grange Hill* and *Peter Pan*. He was also the Narrator in the Channel Four film, *Veronique*. Adrian loves skateboarding and also plays in a band.

EDDIE performed by Eugene Simon

Eddie is Noah's younger cousin. He's staying with the King family, sharing Noah's room, while his actress mother is away on tour. From the beginning it's clear that he's a walking disaster. He's a sickly child, with so many allergies, illnesses and weaknesses he has every adult for miles wrapped around his little finger. Behind his innocent, impish exterior is one of the greatest masterminds of manipulation the world has ever seen. But he meets his match in Noah, who exposes him for what he really is - an unfortunate kid who gets tossed from family to family while his mother is on tour, and all he really wants is to belong. And to have a place in Noah's comic.

(BIO)

Eugene appeared recently in CBBC's *My Dad's a Prime Minister*. He likes cricket and playing on his computer. His favourite show is *The Simpsons*.

PHIL KING performed by Alex Potter

Phil is Noah's older brother and chief tormentor. He's a bit slow and doesn't do well at school, so to make up for the lack of neural stimulation, he's always looking for a laugh at Noah's expense. Too bad they're completely mismatched in verbal battle - in fact, Noah practically has to speak in monosyllables just so Phil can understand. He's a man's man, a strong, macho type, the school's football hero and Bryce's pride and joy. You'd never guess he and Noah were related, and truth be told, both would prefer to deny it. He eats like a horse, and thinks, dreams, lives and breathes soccer.

(BIO)

Alex Potter is 18 years old. Alex's biggest role to date was Young Billy in the feature film, *Another Life*.

BRYCE performed by Andrew Grainger

Noah's dad, Bryce, was once offered a professional football contract until his knee packed it in and he had to settle for the less glamorous field of sporting goods supplies. He's is a solid and dependable husband and father, and has very firm ideas about what makes a man a man. He sees himself in Phil and has high hopes for his eldest son's professional sporting career. He'd be the first to confess that he's completely baffled by Noah's apparent reluctance to set foot on the pitch, but deep in his heart, he has faith that one day, Noah will see reason and sign up for the team. He just wants his boys to be football heroes, the likes of which the world has never seen, is that too much to ask?

(BIO)

Andrew Grainger's TV appearances include *Between the Lines*, *Heartbeat* and *Casualty*.

LENA KING performed by Rebecca Egan

Lena is Noah's mum. She is the one who keeps the King World revolving. Heaven forbid she get the flu – the household would fall apart. She is the one Noah and Phil look to for cues, especially when it comes to dealing with Bryce. She's more inclined to give advice than sympathy. She knows that timing is everything, and can calculate to the micro-second the best time to make her move. Her blind spot is her refusal to acknowledge that Noah is growing up. He's her baby, and he always will be.

(BIO)

Rebecca's TV credits include BBC Drama Series, *Murder in Mind*. Rebecca played 'Marilyn Tanner' in *Second Sight* and 'Amanda' in the series *Cardiac Arrest*.

NOAH & SASKIA

Behind the scenes

Series Producer, Patricia Edgar, former Director of the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF), initiated the concept for **Noah & Saskia** in 2000. Development of the series was driven by her desire to produce a series for kids that focused on the introspective side of their life and development, what they think and what shapes their thinking rather than what happens to them. This is a subject that is not explored in programs for them, in part because it is difficult to do and, as Patricia Edgar will tell you, that certainly proved to be the case.

"The shows that came to my mind were the *Singing Detective* where Dennis Potter follows the meanderings of a patient as he lies in a hospital bed thinking about his life and what is happening to him and his reactions. There is no logical structure and the audience has to gradually piece the information together. I thought the *Singing Detective* one of the most brilliant series I had ever seen and I wanted to do something equally as challenging for kids," says Patricia Edgar.

"The Internet was the place to set much of the action for **Noah & Saskia** including online chat spaces that would give the characters opportunities to express themselves in multiple ways. This allowed for a series that would explore new territory for television drama."

Patricia Edgar then consulted with Paul Nichola (Noah & Saskia's Visual Effects Director) who had worked with the ACTF creating the 3D children's authoring software **Kahootz** (the ACTF's 3-D multimedia authoring program that lets children create animated ideas and stories and share them online with children around the world).

Patricia and Paul took the cutting edge approach they had taken with **Kahootz** and applied it in **Noah & Saskia**.

"The amazing variety of online worlds we are creating, combined with the visual effects which are scattered throughout the show, makes the series a challenging and involving viewing experience for the current generation of kids, who are more visually agile than ever before," says Paul Nichola.

Noah & Saskia is set in Australia and the United Kingdom because at the outset Patricia Edgar wanted to work with Elaine Sperber, then Head of Children's Drama Production for the BBC. They had worked together previously on the ACTF/Disney series **Crash Zone** and had survived the rigors of International co- production. "I respected her experience and knowledge particularly in the scripting process. So I took the concept to her and she was interested, reserving final judgement until I could demonstrate the concept could be translated into well told scripts," says Edgar.

The series' Executive Producer, Elaine Sperber says "we talked about the idea of making any British/Australian co-production venture a truly organic one, rather than trying to forge an unhappy compromise between two country's audiences, characters and interests -- and we both thought we needed (at the very least!) a character from each country to drive a storyline forward with equal appeal. But most ideas of this kind are often inevitably weighted towards one co-producer's agenda or the other, and we wanted to find a balance if at all possible."

"Among other things, we were talking about the role of the internet in kids' lives, the ever-growing popularity of 'chat' and gradually we came up with the idea of two teens who meet on line, develop a friendship, but never ever meet in person. This was the kind of truly revolutionary idea in both style and content that Patricia and I are both interested in. We both love the idea of doing something completely new and modern, something which hasn't been done anywhere before!" says UK Executive Producer Elaine Sperber.

Chris Anastassiades then came on board. From the beginning Patricia Edgar wanted Chris as the main writer. In her view he was the only writer she had worked with who she believed would understand the concept and deliver what was wanted. Chris initially was willing only to take an editorial role but after two workshops and three failed drafts by different writers, Chris agreed to come on board as writer. Patricia had recently been introduced to Sam Carroll, a new young writer. She was impressed by Sam and saw in her a strong resemblance to the character of Saskia. Patricia thought that Sam would be able to bring authenticity to the character and decided to give Sam the opportunity to write a script for the series. The script so impressed the BBC that it got the **Noah & Saskia** concept over the line and into serious development.

The idea to alternate the episodes with one set in Australia and the other set in the UK came from Elaine Sperber following some difficulties with the structure of a 24 minute episode including all the ingredients and alternate worlds: Australia, the UK, *webweave* (the online environment where the characters chat) the fantasy worlds of both Noah and Saskia and Noah's online comic, *Max Hammer Media*. Alternating two worlds episodically is another approach that sets the series apart from anything else that has been done. We expected the two locations would provide contrasts.

Anastassiades was then to write the Noah scripts and Sam the Saskia scripts. Patricia Edgar's image of Noah was of the young Australian actor, Noah Taylor, in the John Duigan film *The Year My Voice Broke*. The UK lead turned out to be uncannily like Noah Taylor in all respects. Saskia was harder to pin down. We wanted a feisty, independent girl who was questioning life and the values of her peers and we found her in Hannah Greenwood.

To bring **Noah & Saskia**'s world of real teens and cyber dual identities to life, the production team has used a unique combination of live-action, animation and visual effects. Throughout the series, the actors playing Noah and Saskia interact with live action versions of INDY and MAX HAMMER in "real life" settings, while animated versions of INDY and MAX separately interact with each other in a number of animated internet environments, including *webweave*. Distinctive looks have been carefully designed for each of the various live-action and animated environments, so that shifts in perspective throughout the story are instantly recognisable to the audience.

Headed up by Paul Nichola, the team producing the animated sequences and visual effects combines the skills of the ACTF's New Media development team and Melbourne-based animation and effects studio Unreal Pictures. In addition to traditional animation and visual effects techniques such as CGI, motion capture and split-screen, the team has adapted the ACTF's animation software **Kahootz** to create a unique look for scenes set in the *webweave* chat space.

Noah & Saskia is a very multi-layered concept and, according to Elaine Sperber, "finding the right number and type of visual ways of telling the story was a real challenge. It took ages to get it right, but hopefully what we've ended up with represents a new way of getting at characters which is both insightful and entertaining."

Production commenced in May 2003 in Melbourne for 7 weeks and then the UK in August 2003 for 6 weeks. Collectively over 200 Australian and UK-based cast and crew worked on the series.

The 13 x half hour comedy drama series for 9–14 year olds is a rich and exciting blend of live action, animation and visual effects. The series will premiere on ABC TV on Tuesday May 4, 2004 at 5.30pm. **Noah & Saskia** is produced in association with ABC TV (Australia) and CBBC (UK), is financed by Film Finance Corporation Australia and Film Victoria, and will be distributed internationally by the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

NOAH & SASKIA

PRINCIPAL CREATIVES:

PATRICIA EDGAR – Executive Producer / Producer

Patricia Edgar has long been at the forefront in the development of children's television in Australia. She is responsible for a multitude of national and international award-winning productions and her exceptional contribution to children's education via the medium of television is nothing short of inspirational.

Dr Edgar established the Australian Children's Television Foundation in 1982, and remained its Director for more than 20 years. In this time she produced over 180 hours and \$100 million of award-winning children's television drama programs, sold to 101 countries. These programs include the series **Winners, More Winners, Touch the Sun, Round the Twist, Lift Off, Crash Zone, Legacy of the Silver Shadow, Sky Trackers, Li'l Elvis Jones and the Truck Stoppers, Kaboodle and The Genie From Down Under**, as well as the documentaries **Songs of Innocence** and **First Day** and the feature film **Yolngu Boy**. In 2002, Dr Edgar received the AFI Raymond Longford Lifetime Achievement Award.

ELAINE SPERBER – Executive Producer

Elaine Sperber began her career as an executive at the San Francisco International Film Festival before moving into television production where she worked for the Learning Corporation of America, London Films, and then HBO where she remained for five years as Vice President of Production.

Elaine moved to London in 1995 and began consulting for the Disney Channels before taking on the role of Head of Drama for Buena Vista in 1996. In 1998 she was Executive Producer for two new children's series including *Crash Zone* produced with the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

Elaine became Executive Producer for Children's Drama at the BBC in January, 1999, where she is responsible for a wide range of children's dramas including the long-running series *Grange Hill* and the BAFTA Award Winning *Pig Heart Boy*, *Custer's Last Stand Up*, and most recently *Bootleg*. She is now Head of Drama, CBBC, and recent successes include the adaptations of Philip Pullman's *I Was A Rat*, Jacqueline Wilson's *Story Of Tracy Beaker*, International Emmy winner, *Stig Of The Dump*, and AFI award winner *Out There*.

CHRIS ANASTASSIADES – Writer

Chris Anastassiades' unique comedic flair and outstanding ability as a writer have been responsible for many an industry success, encompassing the mediums of television, theatre and film.

In the field of children's television, his credits include **Lift Off 2, Li'l Elvis Jones and the Truckstoppers, Round the Twist 3, Crash Zone 2** and **Legacy of the Silver Shadow**. Other television credits include *GP, Acropolis Now, Shark Bay, Flying Doctors, Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left* and *The Col'n Carpenter Show*. For theatre, he co-wrote *Legends, Acropolis Now Live, Lift Off Live* and *Effie Exposed*. Add to this list two internationally acclaimed feature films, **Yolngu Boy**, and the big screen comedy sensation *Wog Boy* and *The Wannabes*.

SAM CARROLL – Writer

Sam Carroll is a new and exciting Melbourne-based writer who is rapidly making her mark on the Australian Television Industry. She began her career on the International MGM series *The New Adventures of Flipper*, and after two series and 44 episodes, graduated as a valued script editor and writer. She then joined the highly successful Nine Network drama series *Stingers*, where she worked as a script editor. Since leaving *Stingers* she has worked as a freelance writer. Her latest project is **Noah & Saskia**, on which she wrote 6 of the 13 episodes of the series. She is currently working on her first feature film *The Peach Tree*. She has a BA in psychology (University of Queensland).

PINO AMENTA – Director

Pino directed all 13 episodes of Noah & Saskia. He is one of Australia's most talented and prolific film and television directors. His long list of credits include **Legacy of the Silver Shadow**, **Round the Twist 3**, **Crash Zone 2**, *Farscape*, *Marshall Law*, *Acropolis Now*, *All the Rivers Run*, *Anzacs*, *The Flying Doctors*, *Sword of Honour*, *Nancy Wake* and *My Brother Tom*. Pino's film credits include *Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, *Heaven Tonight*, and the award winning children's film *What the Moon Saw*. Pursuing his comic bent and honing his skills as a producer, Pino was instrumental in creating, producing and directing 96 episodes of the sitcom *All Together Now*.

PAUL NICHOLA – Director (VFX)

Paul Nichola (GradDip in Cinematography) (AFTRS) is Director of Visual Effects. He has worked as a Film and Television Director, Director of Photography and New Media Director. He is the former Head of New Media at the Australian Children's Television Foundation, where amongst other projects he was responsible for initiating **Kahootz**, a CD ROM and integrated web community designed to enhance learning through collaboration.

His credits include the children's drama series **Lift Off**, the Japanese science fiction series *Ultraman*, and feature films *Grass*, *The Navigator*, *The Time Guardian*, *The Return of Captain Invincible*, and *The Club*, as well as the audio-visual museum *Story of Sydney*. He is the recipient of two Golden Tripod Awards for excellence in cinematography and the Ross Wood Senior Trust Award for achievements in 3D cinematography, awarded by the Australian Cinematographers Society.

NOAH & SASKIA

ONE-LINE EPISODE SYNOPSES

Episode 1 – “Tomorrow Never Knows” When a faceless geek steals her music, Saskia seeks revenge, only to find that the ‘geek’ is really a funny, charming guy called Max.

Episode 2 – “The Very Real and Excellent Adventures of Max Hammer” Faced with certain doom on the football pitch, Noah turns to his new friend Indy for inspiration.

Episode 3 – “Don’t Blame it on Hormones Polka” Saskia decides she’s in love with Max.

Episode 4 – “Walsh on Wimmin” Noah is humiliated by a school-yard rumour that he has an Internet girlfriend, and decides to set the record straight.

Episode 5 – “I Got Shades of Indy Blues” Saskia has to accept that she and Max are just friends and nothing more.

Episode 6 – “Eddie” Noah’s younger cousin Eddie comes to stay, and manages to jeopardise Noah’s relationship with Indy.

Episode 7 – “Piggy in the Middle Blues” Jealousy rears its ugly head, and Saskia is forced to choose between her best friend Renee and Max.

Episode 8 – “You’ll Never Be A Man” Noah realises how much he misses Indy when he has to endure a disastrous weekend of camping with Eddie, Phil and Bryce.

Episode 9 – “Extra Spicy” Saskia finally gets the opportunity to put a band together, and out of the blue, has her first ‘real’ kiss.

Episode 10 – “Almost” Jealous of Indy’s new boyfriend, Noah decides to sell the rights to the Max Hammer Comic and end it once and for all.

Episode 11 – “Don’t Give Me No Love Song Blues” Saskia is completely disillusioned by her belief that everybody, including Max, wants her to be something she’s not.

Episode 12 – “Would The Real Max Hammer Please Log On” Noah decides to take on Max Hammer’s persona, causing a disastrous domino effect.

Episode 13 – “Tonight Live With Noah and Saskia” Noah and Saskia put their friendship to the ultimate test and ask each other ten questions.

EXTENDED EPISODE SYNOPSES

Episode 1: "Tomorrow Never Knows" - Saskia vows to get revenge when one of her songs is stolen off the 'Net by a faceless geek named "Max Hammer". But when she goes in search of him on-line, everybody warns her – Max will mop the floor with her. Not one to back down from a challenge, Saskia re-invents herself as "Indy", and lures Max into a trap. But instead of a cyber storm-trooper, what she finds is a funny, charming guy. And to her further surprise, he offers her a partnership in his on-line comic. Could this be the beginning of a beautiful friendship?

Episode 2: "The Very Real and Excellent Adventures of Max Hammer" – For years, Noah has managed to avoid the school football team. That is, until now. His father, the football-mad Bryce, has been made coach, and Noah is forced into a try-out game against his obnoxious brother Phil, the team's star player. Noah turns to the one person he can trust for advice and inspiration... his new friend, Indy.

Episode 3: "Don't Blame it on Hormones Polka" – Saskia has only one explanation for her flourishing friendship with Max Hammer. It's love. It has to be. The problem is, everybody else thinks she's being ridiculous. How can you be in love with somebody you've never even met? After being ear-bashed by her mum Deb, her best friend Renee, and a bunch of girls at school, even Saskia starts to wonder... could it really be love?

Episode 4: "Walsh on Wimmin" – At school, Noah is greeted by giggles and whispers. The rumour has spread that he has a cyber girlfriend. Humiliated, Noah decides to sort things out once and for all, if only for his own peace of mind. On-line, he tells Indy they'll never be more than friends, almost managing to convince himself it's true... and he's shocked to learn that it is. Indy is thousands of miles away... in Australia...

Episode 5: "I Got Shades of Indy Blues" – Saskia refuses to budge from her bedroom. Her excuse: it's casual day at school, and she doesn't feel like being judged by the fashion police. But Deb and Renee don't buy it. Saskia's never cared what anybody thought before. Renee concludes that it must be about Max, and sets about getting Saskia to build a bridge and get over it.

Episode 6: "Eddie" – Noah's world is turned upside down when his younger cousin Eddie comes to stay. A sickly child with endless needs, Eddie manages to exhaust Lena, drive Phil and Bryce out of the house, and jeopardise Noah's relationship with Indy. Noah sets out to expose Eddie as a manipulative fake. Then Noah learns that Eddie is just an unfortunate kid who gets tossed from family member to family member, and all he really wants is to belong – and be part of Noah's comic.

Episode 7: "Piggy in the Middle Blues" – Saskia finds herself in a tight spot when she has to choose between going to the snow for Renee's birthday, and staying at home to write music for the 50th edition of the Max Hammer online comic. But as the pressure mounts for her to choose between her two best friends, Max mysteriously backs down. Saskia goes into a spin... Doesn't he like her music any more? Is there somebody else? Or is there another explanation?

Episode 8: "You'll Never Be A Man" – Bryce acquires a tent so strong it could survive re-entry into the atmosphere, and decides a camping trip with the boys is in order. But disaster strikes when a dry creek bed becomes a raging river, washing the tent away. Cold and miserable, Noah realises he misses Indy. And he discovers that even the thought of her is enough to spur him into action... Max Hammer style.

Episode 9: "Extra Spicy" – Saskia finds her spunky co-worker Ernesto playing guitar, and seizes the opportunity to put a band together. She bribes her ten-year old guitar teacher with chocolate, organises a jam for the next day and logs on to update Max. But her imagination takes over when she catches Ernesto with his arms around Renee. She calls the band off, instantly regretting it. But later, nobody is more surprised than Saskia when her first kiss comes out of nowhere...

Episode 10: "Almost" – Secretly, Noah is extremely jealous of Indy's new boyfriend, Ernesto. And now that the comic has become such a team effort, he finds he just doesn't have the motivation to do it without her. So when the Adder Comic Company makes an offer for the rights, he decides to take it. Is this the end of the Max Hammer comic strip? Or the end of what started as a beautiful friendship?

Episode 11: "Don't Give Me No Love Song Blues" – When Ernesto volunteers to play a duet with Saskia at a talent quest, she is initially over the moon. He plays her the soppy love song he has written for her and then coaches her on how to behave in front of his family. But when he hints she should wear a dress, she really starts to wonder. With Deb and Renee under Ernesto's spell, Saskia turns to Max. But even he tells her to "go for it". Has she got anybody she can rely on?

Episode 12: "Would The Real Max Hammer Please Log On" – Noah decides to take on Max Hammer's persona, and his life immediately gets better. However, the lives of Eddie, Clive and Phil instantly get worse. They each decide that Noah's rocky relationship with Indy is to blame, and decide to do something about it. One by one, they each go on-line and pose as Max Hammer, causing Indy such confusion that by the time Noah himself logs on, she is ready to call the friendship off.

Episode 13: "Tonight Live With Noah and Saskia" – Saskia is outraged when she discovers Max is still publishing his comic after their "break up", even though he promised her there would be no Max without Indy. But when she goes in search of him, she finds reason to believe he's actually only nine years old. Her entire world starts spinning... has this whole thing been a big fat lie? She decides she has to get to the bottom of it, and both she and Max agree to put their friendship to the ultimate test - discard their Internet identities and answer ten questions each - honestly.