

What Could Go Wrong?

Producer: Rob Innes - [rob@mashuppictures.com](mailto:rob@mashuppictures.com) - 0409 970 322

mashuppictures.com

# WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

EPK

The question of 'what could go wrong' has finally been answered as Veronica and Lewis share fifteen reimagined real short stories submitted by Australians.

Format: 15 X 4 min episode online series



Australian Government



## **SERIES LOGLINE**

The question of 'what could go wrong' has finally been answered as Veronica and Lewis share fifteen reimagined real short stories submitted by Australians.

## **SERIES SYNOPSIS**

Join Triple J presenters Veronica and Lewis as they attempt to answer the age-old question of what could go wrong -by revealing fifteen of Australia's maddest, craziest, and excruciating real-life stories. In this innovative and experimental short form documentary series, tales of when things have gone horribly wrong are reimagined and reinterpreted in creative and unique ways. From genre mashups, puppetry, surreal animation, satire and miniature model sets each episode tells a story using a completely different and often absurd style. Veronica and Lewis bring their own experience and comedy as they attempt to unpack the stories in *What Could Go Wrong* and discuss what we can learn (or not learn) about Australian life.

The irony of asking 'what could go wrong' is that often, something always does go wrong! Everybody has a horror story. In *What Could Go Wrong* we took a shortlist from a nationwide search, to understand the Australian experience of 'wrong'. From these tales we learn that Australians have a wicked sense of humour, and more often than not, we all get caught in a hairy situation.

Across the fifteen episodes, *What Could Go Wrong* tackles the big themes of travel, work, love, friends and family. With a diverse cast featuring YouTuber Ozzyman Reviews, Genevieve Morris, and comedians Aaron Gocs, Demi Lardner, Jimmy James Eaton, Scott Brennan, and the Granny Bingo guys, each story takes the very Australian approach of being able to look back and laugh at ourselves.

The series includes true tales of a Christmas choir performance gone wrong, finding an 'unexpected guest' in your hotel room, a wedding proposal that became national news for all the wrong reasons, an accident in high school that left a student with a lasting reputation, an attempt to win an ex-partner back that goes bad, chocolates spiked with a little extra something that create an unforgettable 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party, and a prank in a church that goes further than intended.

*What Could Go Wrong* challenges the traditional understanding of what makes a 'documentary', as the series experiments with different types of storytelling techniques. The series is produced for an online and social media release. Spanning 15 episodes and each one around four minutes in duration, the episodes are designed to be easily watchable and sharable online -whether on a phone, pad, laptop on ABC's social media channels or through ABC iview.

## **EPISODE ONE LINERS**

### ***Death by Xmas Carol***

What could go wrong singing Xmas carols? A nervous group of singers find out what it means to 'kill' at a performance.

### ***An Unexpected Guest***

What could go wrong in a dodgy hotel? When a traveler discovers an unwanted visitor in his room, things take an unexpected and surreal, turn.

***Ring of Fire***

What could go wrong with a wedding proposal? An adventurous plan is shattered when mother nature violently interrupts at the big moment.

***Blockbuster Video***

What could go wrong at your first job interview? An argument with her mum crashes a teenager's chance at scoring her ultimate job.

***Doctors Gone Wild***

What could go wrong with a piñata? A decision at a work party leads to an epic tale to save a workmate from his injuries.

***Broken Dick***

What could go wrong during sex? A teenager finds out the hard way that exams aren't always the most painful part of finishing school.

***Danger in the Daintree***

What could go wrong in a new job? Things go downhill fast as a series of events culminate in a heart stopping moment.

***Carnapper***

What could go wrong when you forget something? A simple misunderstanding turns an ordinary family night into a dramatic confrontation they'll never forget.

***Vegan Meat Show***

What could go wrong winning your ex back? A man realises he's made a terrible mistake but is in too far in to escape.

***Crap Dance Floor***

What could go wrong pooing at a party? A broken toilet forces a partygoer to do something the other guests will never forget.

***Lion's Den***

What could go wrong at an animal park? A tourist gets a close encounter with a lion that'll he never forget.

***Magic Plant***

What could go wrong at a magic show? Working with a popular magician should have been fun, but instead descends into secrecy and a manhunt.

***River Mattress***

What could go wrong on a family holiday? Mother and daughter remember a story very differently when one is swept away on a harrowing journey.

***Cocoa Fiasco***

What could go wrong making chocolates? After a mix up in the kitchen, a woman can only watch helplessly as a party descends into chaos.

## ***Swearing at a Priest***

What could go wrong with a prank? A foul-mouthed electrician's revenge prank on a priest goes much further than he intended.

### **KEY CREATIVES BIOS**

#### ***Rob Innes – Producer/ director / writer***

Rob Innes is a producer and director working in both unscripted and scripted content with a focus on innovative storytelling. In 2016 he was named as a “Ones to Watch” by the Screen Producers of Australia. After co-founding Mashup Pictures, Rob was then commissioned by the ABC for original documentary series *Housemates* (series 1 and 2), where he not only produced but also directed the series, and new hybrid documentary and comedy series *What Could Go Wrong?*, which he produced and co-directed. Rob has previously worked as a producer on the Princess Pictures’ ‘vlogumentary’ *My Year 12 Life* for ABC ME, spending a year working with the participants across 24 episodes. And with the feature film *Ride Like A Girl*, where he produced the filming of the making of documentary. He has also produced short form content such as documentary series *Busker Stories* which has more than 700,000 views on YouTube to date and directed the documentary film *Life and Death in Vientiane* which when released on Facebook, reached 160,000 views in the first week. His scripted short films have screened at festivals worldwide.

#### ***Scott Brennan – Writer/ director/ co-producer/ art department***

Scott has been working in television for over fifteen years, most notably as an actor in TV sketch shows *Comedy Inc* (Channel 9), and *Skithouse* (Channel 10). He has numerous other television credits as a comedian, actor, and writer, including: *The Edge of the Bush*, *Upper Middle Bogan*, *Agony Uncles*, *Slideshow*, *Lowdown*, *Judith Lucy’s Spiritual Journey*, *Neighbours*, and *Prank Patrol*. He has been performing, directing, and producing at the Melbourne Comedy Festival since 1999, and runs comedy workshops as well as mentoring young comedians, particularly for the Festival’s Class Clowns program. His show won the “Golden Gibbo Award” at last year’s Comedy Festival, and he has performed sell-out shows at the Edinburgh Fringe. In between all of this he is a prolific voice over artist, and writer for The Project. A founding member of Mashup Pictures, he has written, produced and directed for several series through the company.

#### ***Mish Armstrong – Executive producer***

Mish started in the film & television industry as an independent producer. She produced documentaries for SBS & ABC – including *Out of Our Minds*, *The Kokoda Trail*, and *The Fitzroy Stars*. Mish produced the feature drama *The Life and Death of Otto Bloom*, and the feature documentaries *Graceful Girls* and *Outsiders*. *The Life and Death of Otto Bloom* opened the 2016 Melbourne International Film Festival. Mish has been a Series/Supervising Producer on many factual/unscripted TV shows, recent credits include *Long Lost Family* (Ten), *True Story with Hamish & Andy* (Nine) and *The Block* (Nine). She has also Executive Produced the online/tv series *Housemates* and *What Could Go Wrong*. Currently Mish is Executive Producer of the online series *Property Banter*, which she developed and created.

*Aleck Morton – Editor / co-producer / director*

Aleck is an editor and illustrator. His creativity in and outside the edit suite has led him to work on a wide variety of productions from documentary, music videos, animation, commercials, short dramas to a wide variety of television and features. His experience in network TV has given him an extensive insight into the post production process, and he's known for being able to combine his technical skills with a deep understanding of narrative and character. His recent work has included the groundbreaking Netflix comedy special *Nanette*, feature film *Oddball*, and television series' *Tattoo Tales* (ABC), *Grand Designs Australia* (Foxtel), *Ask The Doctor* (ABC), *Project Runway* (Foxtel), *Bondi Vet* (Ten), *Have You Been Paying Attention* (Ten) and *The Project* (Ten).

*Richard Kickbush – Director of photography*

Richard Kickbush is a cinematographer with experience in 2D, 3D and now Virtual Reality. His work has taken him all over the world, on an incredible variety of documentary projects. His prior work covers the gamut of filmmaking genres, but his primary focus and passion is toward documentaries with social impact and giving others voice. *What Could Go Wrong?* was a great opportunity to use his range of lighting and camera experience to play with, mimic and parody disparate styles of video, a chance not often afforded in more traditional constructed or observational documentary.

*Paul Baxter – Sound mixer*

Baxter Sound has the experience and the expertise to really bring your script to life. With all-encompassing audio post production services, they have mastered the fine art of professional sound design and mixing in radio, television, online advertising, short films, animation, corporate videos, documentaries, multimedia, series, dramas, sports programs and theatre productions.

With over 26 years' experience in audio post production, senior sound designer and audio director, Paul Baxter, is a perfectionist in creating highly realistic soundscapes. He has a keen understanding of dramatic tension and comedic timing, resulting in effective communications that have earned him Gold, Silver and Bronze Cannes Lions, D&AD Yellow Pencils, AWARD Awards, MADC Awards, Clio Awards, One Club, Loerie Awards and London International Awards.

*Hugh Turrall – Director of Photography*

Hugh Turrall is a freelance cinematographer based in Melbourne, working on drama, documentary and comedy. He has previously worked with the MashUp team on *Housemates* and "SPAM" - a contribution to the Marriage Equality debate in 2017. He has lived long term in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and Vietnam and has travelled extensively.

*Devon Kong and Rachel Tan – Animators (Episode – Vegan Meat Show)*

Devon Kong and Rachel Tan are the duo behind New Final, a Melbourne-based animation studio with a charming hand drawn style. Devon is the founder and creative director of New Final. Prior to forming New Final, Devon worked at BES Animation as an animator on the *Kitty is Not A Cat* series – a kids cartoon that aired on Channel 7 in early 2018. He received his BA of Design from RMIT in Animation & Interactive Media, where he studied different forms of animation for television, websites, mobile apps and games. Rachel is an animator and illustrator. Before joining the team at New Final, Rachel worked as a freelancer for agencies and businesses around the world. She also worked as an effects animator on 'The Orchestra', an award winning animated film directed by Mikey Hill. She received her BA of Design in Animation & Interactive Media, graduating with honours from RMIT University.

### *Dru Shaw – Animator (Episode – Doctor’s Work Party)*

Dru Shaw is a 26 yr old dude born and raised in Kyabram, Victoria. He Graduated from RMIT Melbourne with a Bachelors of Animation and Interactive Media in 2017. Since then he has worked on the TV series 'Kitty is not a Cat' and has done freelance work for the YouTube channel 'Pencilmation'. His graduation short film 'Welcome to Shmeven 11' won best student film at MIAF in 2018. In his past lives he was a Tree and a Dolphin...not at the same time though, that would just be ludicrous."

### **PRESENTER BIOS:**

#### *Veronica Milsom*

Veronica Milsom is a Sydney based radio presenter, actress, comedian and writer. She is best known as co-Presenter of Triple j’s Drive show ‘*Veronica & Lewis*’, and as a cast member in the ABC’s sketch comedy series Shaun Micallef’s *Mad As Hell*.

After studying at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Milsom secured a role on ABC’s *Hungry Beast*, writing and performing in sketches as multiple recurring characters, including YouTube success, Avatar Two (10 million+ views).

In 2014, ABC TV and Screen Australia commissioned Milsom to co-write and perform in *The Record*, a mockumentary series she created for the Fresh Blood initiative which received nominations for Best Comedy Series, Best Performance and Best Writing at the 2014 Online Video Awards. In 2015, The Record was funded to go to pilot, produced by Porchlight Films (*Animal Kingdom, The Rover*). And in 2016, Milsom re-imagined the concept into a short film, *The Record: World’s Largest Family*, which has screened at Manchester Film Festival, Palm Springs, LA Webfest and is currently being internationally distributed by Flickerfest Intl.

Milsom has enjoyed success as a playwright, self-producing and starring in *Porky Pies*, a 2 hour comedy narrative, which boasted sold out seasons at Melbourne International Comedy Festival and abroad when it toured to Los Angeles & *Good Lord It’s Christmas*, a festive musical that played at Sydney’s Giant Dwarf theatre in 2016.

Elsewhere on stage, in 2014, Milsom debuted her solo sketch show *Do Not Irony* at the Melbourne International and Sydney Comedy Festivals, and later that year performed live sketch comedy at the Sydney Opera House alongside John Cleese, Martin Short & Ben Elton for the Just For Laughs Gala.

Adding to her extensive experience in radio working across ABC Radio (*triple j*), Southern Cross Austereo (*Perth’s 92.9, Perth’s Mix 94.5*) and DMG Radio Australia (*Perth’s Nova 93.9, Melbourne’s Nova 100*), Milsom continues her love of voice over and in 2017 played the role of Janice in ABC iview’s min-series animation *Bin Chickens*, alongside comedians Dave Eastgate and Sam Campbell. Other television credits include Presenter of the ABC2 series *Backseat Drivers*, series 2 of *It’s a Date, The Project, A League of Their Own* and *The Unbelievable Truth*.

#### *Lewis Hobba*

Lewis is a comedian and writer who first appeared on ABC’s ***Hungry Beast***. Most of the time Lewis is Presenting the drive show on triple j with Veronica Milsom (***Veronica and Lewis***). Lewis has written and directed TV for The Comedy Channel, Network Ten and the ABC, and has appeared on shows such as ***Spicks and Specks, The Feed, Gruen Transfer*** and ***The Chaser’s Media Circus***. Lewis has performed stand up at the Melbourne and Sydney comedy festivals, and was the head writer for the political comedy show/publication ***A Rational Fear***, which played around the country from Splendour in the Grass to the Sydney Opera House. Most recently Lewis wrote, produced and directed ***Mars 500*** which was awarded funding through the prestigious ABC/Screen Australia funding initiative Fresh Blood.

## PROGRAM MAKERS STATEMENT:

*What Could Go Wrong* started life as a series called *The Horrors*, inspired by the segments we produced called 'Horror Housemates' in our documentary program *Housemates*. As we started the search for real life tales, we found that many of them featured a 'what could go wrong' moment -where the people in the story should have known better! The premise then changed to refocus on exploring this question, of finding out what we can learn about Australian life and culture through the stories of when things have gone wrong.

This is a series that challenges the notion of what makes a documentary, by experimenting with different storytelling techniques and pushing the format. It's a hybrid mix of documentary and comedy, by exploring Australian stories and presenting them in ways not often found in traditional forms of documentary.

We had many stories that were submitted, and it wasn't an easy task to narrow them down to 15. We had to choose stories that could be turned into episodes, where there was a beginning, middle and end and spoke to the general premise of the series. From there, we had to find a way to reimagine the story that was authentic and true, but in a way that was innovative, original, and creative. We had a collection of styles we wanted to experiment with, and so some of the stories were matched with those styles, while other stories took longer to develop.

Being a small team, all the crew were involved in the creative process, with everyone pulling together to push the episodes to another level.

We were lucky to have Triple J's Veronica and Lewis from the beginning, who fully embraced the premise of the series and what we were trying to do. They brought their own style, personality and understanding of the stories, with their responses real. Veronica and Lewis use their own personal experiences to examine the stories.

Everyone has a horror story and we like to share these stories with each other. Through this series we have learned that Australians have a unique sense of humour, and these tales show how Aussies can laugh at ourselves -usually after the story. We also learn that people can do some pretty dumb things!

