

A Film By **Anna Dvorak**

The Choice To Love

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The Story



*It's not always just what we give,
but what we give up.*

LOGLINE

An Australian high school teacher cares for her elderly Czech mother and is faced with a difficult decision.

SYNOPSIS

Jana, a diligent high school teacher is offered an opportunity to advance her career while caring for her elderly Czech mother, Margita, and so must decide whether she will pursue further doing what she loves or remain looking after the one she loves.

Director's Statement

“When I consume art, I often see ‘love’ portrayed as a feeling, especially a romantic one. In this short drama, *The Choice To Love*, I explore the idea of love as a choice that needs to be made daily and that you can love someone you don’t necessarily like.

This work is inspired by true events and people in my life, but the story is fictional. I believe this film is timely with everything that has happened with the pandemic and is continuing to happen. COVID-19 has left vulnerable people, such as the elderly and disabled, even more at risk. This story reminds us to care for others and likewise our own health, especially our mental health.

This film also showcases a distinct intercultural point of view merging Australian culture with Eastern European while also encouraging more female voices in film, with an all-female cast and an over 80% female crew.”

- Director, Writer, Producer:
Anna Dvorak



Director's Biography

Anna Dvorak is a trilingual filmmaker from Sydney, Australia with a Czech and Slovak background and is a member of the Australian Directors Guild. She has a Bachelor of Communications, double majoring in Journalism and Media, Arts & Production from The University of Technology Sydney.

Anna's career has included not only film production but also podcast production, events, publicity and marketing. She has worked on various sets since 2018, ranging in genre and form, including films such as Taika Waititi's *Thor: Love & Thunder* and David Leitch's *The Fall Guy*.

Anna's previous work has screened at international film festivals, including her first short documentary, *Refined In The Fire*, which screened and won some awards at 18 international film festivals and was exhibited in Tasmania on *The Loop* in 2020 for International Women's Day.

In 2023, Anna is developing two feature documentaries called *Generation Rent* and *Extreme Minds*, while working on numerous other shorts.



The Cast



DIANA MCLEAN
AS 'MARGITA'

Diana has had a long career, over 50+ years, in TV, Film and Theatre and is best known by the public for her role as Vivienne Jeffries in *The Young Doctors*. On her return to Australia, after 16 years in UK and France, she appeared in many TV shows including *Water Rats*, *Murder Call*, *All Saints*, *Backburner*, *Number 96*, *Wonderland*, and is still remembered for playing Bess O' Brien in *Neighbours*.

Her miniseries include *Ben Hall*, *The Norman Lindsay Series*, *Winner Takes All*, and *A Model Daughter*, and *Between 2 Worlds* in 2020. Her most recent theatre has included; *The Cold Child* for Anthony Skuse at Griffin, *Colder* for Lachlan Philpot at Griffin, *Love & Money* at The Old Fitz, *Three Sisters* for Kate Retz & *Cry Havoc* at ATYP and *Julius Caesar* for Anthony Skuse at The New.



MEAGAN CARATTI
AS 'JANA'

Meagan is an actor, singer, writer, producer and VO Artist who has worked across theatre and screen in Australia. Some of her most notable screen credits include *Home and Away* and *DeadlyWomen*. Theatre credits include *Maria* in *West Side Story*, co-writer/lead *Morally Bankrupt* (*Butterfly Club*, Melbourne & Seymour Centre); *Tammy* in *Debbie Does Dallas: The Musical* (Australian premiere). Most recently Meagan played the role of *Mother* in *Mons Sans* premiere production of *The Various Methods Of Escape* by Amber Spooner.

Meagan has also founded & produced the annual *Voices For Change* charity concerts from 2008-2017, raising awareness and much-needed funds for women's & children's charities, and is the director & producer of *Follow Your Bliss Productions*.



GENIE NEVINSON
AS 'MARIA'

Gennie is an accomplished Australian actress, voice-over artist and storyteller whose career began as a child actor in the Disney classic Greyfriars Bobby and has gone on to encompass a succession of memorable roles in television and film from Penny the Air Hostess in the early Minder series to Deidre Chambers - the other woman- in Muriel's Wedding.

Gennie has played feature roles in almost every tv series, in both Australia and the UK, including All Saints, Star Cops, Packed To The Rafters, The Professionals and most recently Between Two Worlds and The Twelve.

The Cast



TABITHA LAW
AS 'EMMA'

Tabitha is a graded Stunt Actor Provisional who has been working as a qualified stunt performer since the beginning of 2022. She has also worked as a crew member across various sets to better familiarise herself with the industry and hence has also co-produced The Choice To Love. Tabitha's stunt credits include Stan's Wolf Like Me 2, ABC's Significant Others, Paramount +'s The Last King Of The Cross, Home And Away, Sean Penn series C*A*U*G*H*T and most recently was cast in the new Ryan Gosling film The Fall Guy,

Tabitha continues to invest in her skill set by acting, horse riding, parkour, stunt training and doing all that she can to add value to any production she takes part in.



CINEMATOGRAPHER

Stephanie Jewell is an emerging cinematographer based in Sydney and Canberra. Since completing her bachelor's degree in film production, Steph has collected credits across film, TV, music video and documentary, including George Miller's Mad Max: Furiosa and the Paramount + Series The Last King Of The Cross. Her work in the industry as a camera, lighting and grip assistant has helped her exponentially grow as a cinematographer.

The Crew



EDITOR

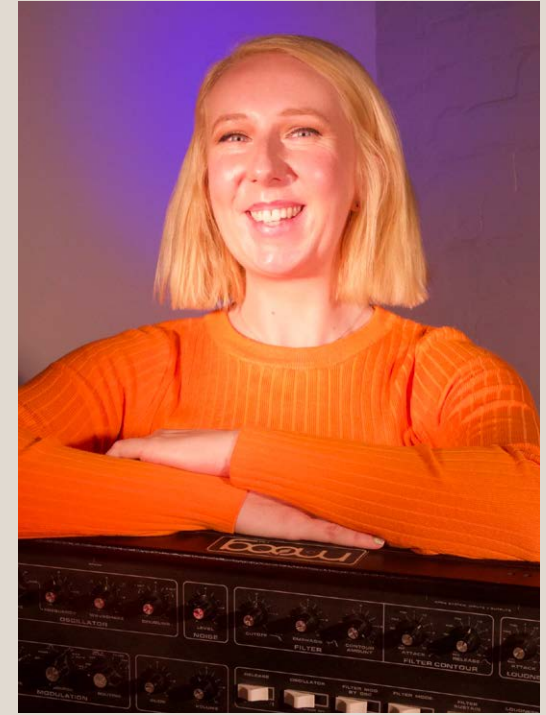
Timothy Hadwen is an Editor and Assistant Editor for film and television based in Sydney, Australia. His experience includes work on feature films such as Bosch & Rokit (assistant editor), Poker Face (assistant editor) and a wide variety of short dramas and documentaries as an Editor. A large portion of past work has been accepted to screen at film festivals in Australia and overseas. He also is a member of the Australian Screen Editors guild executive committee and has a Bachelor of Communications and Media degree, which was attained with High Distinction.



**PRODUCTION
DESIGNER**

Elise Zeman is an emerging production designer based in Sydney with a Czech background. In 2022 she found her passion for the arts while working as a nurse and began art-directing photo shoots and short films. Elise was recently accepted to study a Master of Arts Screen: Production Design course at the Australian Film Television and Radio School starting in 2023 and is excited to further build upon her existing knowledge and skills in the art department.

The Crew



COMPOSER

Sophia Christopher is a screen music composer, songwriter, and music producer based in Sydney, Australia, whose musical versatility sees her shine in contemporary music with a foundation in traditional film scoring narrative techniques. She composed the original songs, lyrics, and score for pop film musical *MumLife* (2022), which had its premiere in competition at Cannes Film Festival 2022, and has also composed for documentaries and short films including *Hyde* (2021), which was nominated for Best Film Score at the Horror Fest in Austin, TX. She has a Masters in Film Scoring from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) and is a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, where she was awarded a highly contested scholarship. Sophia's unique musical versatility and passion for storytelling and collaboration sees her as one of Australia's most exciting up-and-coming screen music composers.



**SOUND DESIGNER/
MIXER**

John Hresc is a sound designer and owner of the Sydney Sound Brewery, a sound studio based in Sydney, Australia. John has worked over the past 20+ years on a variety of projects that range from feature films, documentaries, commercials, web series and short films. This versatility allows him to bring a dynamic energy to his work, giving each project a unique and experienced approach.

A number of John's projects have screened at various local and international film festivals gaining nominations and awards for the best sound. Some of his most recent notable works include Ruby's Choice, Lonesome and Malibu Crush.

The Crew



GAFFER

Ashley Parker studied a bachelor of media arts and production at the University of Canberra, then completed an Honours thesis on lighting and cinematography. She has won two gold ACS awards for her cinematography - being the first woman to receive a gold award in the ACT branch. Cinematography became a way to facilitate her real passion, which is Lighting. Ashley has worked in lighting since 2020, with experience in long-form television drama (Class of 07, Last king of the Cross, Queen of Oz), rigging electrics (Thor love and thunder), commercial lighting, short films, corporate videos and music videos.





Full Credits

Director Anna Dvorak
Writer Anna Dvorak
Producer Anna Dvorak
Co-Producer Tabitha Law

Cinematographer Stephanie Jewell
Production Designer Elise Zeman
Editor Kezia Suryaputra
Composer Timothy Hadwen
Sound Designer Sophia Christopher
John Hrese
Julian Oliver

CAST
Jana Meagan Caratti
Margita Diana McLean
Maria Gennie Nevinson
Emma Tabitha Law



First Assistant Director

Nicky Elliott

Second Assistant Director

Isabella Conti-Morato

First Assistant Camera

Matthew Ong

Second Assistant Camera

Elisa Heath

Lighting Assistant

Tyler Garad

Michael Thompson

Sound Recordist

Alex Moore

Boom Operator

Emily James

Sound Assistant

Joshua Brennan

Script Supervisor

Anya Vallentin

Acting Supervisor

Aimee Patmore

Production Runner

Joshua Brennan

Art Assistant

Hreryung Choi

Additional Art Assistant

Nicole Ng

Costume Supervisor

Monia Tjandra

Costume Assistant

Gabrielle Egan

Hair & Makeup Artist

Kim Audrey Garcia

Aira Gail Bonifacio

Unit Stills Photographer

Julia Firak

Sound Mixer

John Hrese

Colourist

Ben Lawford

Graphic Designer

Yasmeen Audrelia

EXTRAS

Ava Jones

Ava Turnbull

Bella Fluke

Charlotte Lim

Claire Hwang

Emily King

Isabella Cooper

Kayla Ingleolson

Maddison Calcott

Myer Calder

Nehir Hatipoglu

Rebecca Kuper

Sienna Cook

Zoe Turnbull

TECHNICAL DETAILS

<i>Run Time</i>	12 mins
<i>Format</i>	Digital
<i>Language</i>	English, Czech
<i>Genre</i>	Drama
<i>Country</i>	Australia

SPECIAL THANKS TO

VA Digital Hire, TRC Lighting and Bruce Young ACS for supplying us with gear.

Pymble Ladies' College and all their staff especially Dr Kate Hadwen & Michael Griffiths.

Smith & MacDonald Creative Management especially David Smith for helping us with casting.

To everyone who gave feedback on the work especially the script over the 4 years of writing it including Jane Castle ACS, Eve Spence, Margaret McHugh, Murray Clapham, Ruby Challenger, Tin Pang, Hugh Lloyd & Jack Allen Keech.

Last but not least my family and friends for all their support, especially my parents Lubica & John Dvorak. Also those who are no longer with us but have influenced me and my work so much, including my grandmothers Margita Kozar and Anna Dvorak, my Aunty Jana Dzoganik and relatives Marta & Fred Vickers.

Made at The University of Technology 2022.

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where this production was made, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Choice To Love Soundtrack



Listen now to our film's original music composed by the talented Sophia Christopher.

AVAILABLE ON THESE PLATFORMS:





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(Writer, Producer & Director)

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