



FIZZY & SUDS

Making Inclusive Television

Fizzy & Suds is a preschool factual series that captures the bubbly thrill of having your imagination blown by a newly discovered passion



Celebrating Diversity

Fizzy & Suds promotes a culture of inclusion through its seamless integration of neurodiversity and disability. The representation is authentic and shows genuine inclusive play, which is so important for all kids to see, and something that parents of children with disability really want to see represented.

Disability is a diverse part of the human experience for many, and creating many more chances to reflect this on screen is important.

This series embraced the opportunity to foster greater understanding and inclusion by engaging preschool audiences with authentic and meaningful representations of disability.”

Inspiration

One of the very rich areas of childhood development that we used as a guiding principle in the construction of our series, FIZZY & SUDS was Extreme Intense Interests.

There is documentation of infants through to young children developing ‘extreme intense interests’ (Ells) in very specific subjects. Research has found that nearly one third of children can have Ells. This can manifest as children having a passionate, sometimes bordering on obsessive, attraction to items in their interest category.

Extreme Intense Interests are common in neurodiverse kids. We wanted to respond to this in an especially deep and meaningful way. We made sure that our film making team reflected the neurodiversity of the audience that the series is serving. We made neurodiversity central to our production and postproduction. Inclusive casting to ensure racial and cultural diversity was also key across the series.



Developed with a Guiding Principle

EXTREME INTENSE INTERESTS (ELI'S)



Neurodiverse Focus

NEURODIVERSITY CENTRAL TO ALL ASPECTS OF PRODUCTION



Inclusive Casting

CELEBRATE THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN

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Early Childhood Team

We engaged neurodiverse, early learning specialists, Ramana Dienes-Browning and Darci Maher Dipiero to consult across the series on all aspects of our production.

Ramana Dienes-Browning, is a neurodiverse filmmaker and mother of a neurodiverse child. Ramana created protocols for casting, on-set experience, and sound design.

Darci Maher Dipiero conceptualised our Kids at Play and Kids Create activities and also supported the children on set.



RAMANA DIENES-BROWNING



DARCI MAHER DIPIERO



Ramana Dienes-Browning Neurodiversity Consultant

Ramana is a queer and autistic artist and filmmaker living on Dharug and Gundungurra land in the Blue Mountains, NSW. As a filmmaker Ramana is passionate about telling stories which explore themes of gender and neurodiversity.

Ramana has worked in multiple areas of the film industry for 15 years.

Ramana has worked as the neurodiversity consultant on ABC Kids television series Fizzy & Suds season 1 and 2 working closely with the producers to create a show which is accessible and authentically represents neurodivergence.

Ramana also worked with series 1 director Genevieve Clay-Smith as director's attachment and directed the episode on Robots in season 2.



"....it was incredibly heart-warming that this production was forging a change and implementing inclusive practices. Feedback from parents and neurodivergent children was that they enjoyed their day of filming, their accessibility needs were supported, resulting in a very positive experience and allowing them to participate in all of the filming. Some children wanted to and did come back on subsequent days to do more filming."

RAMANA DIENES-BROWNING

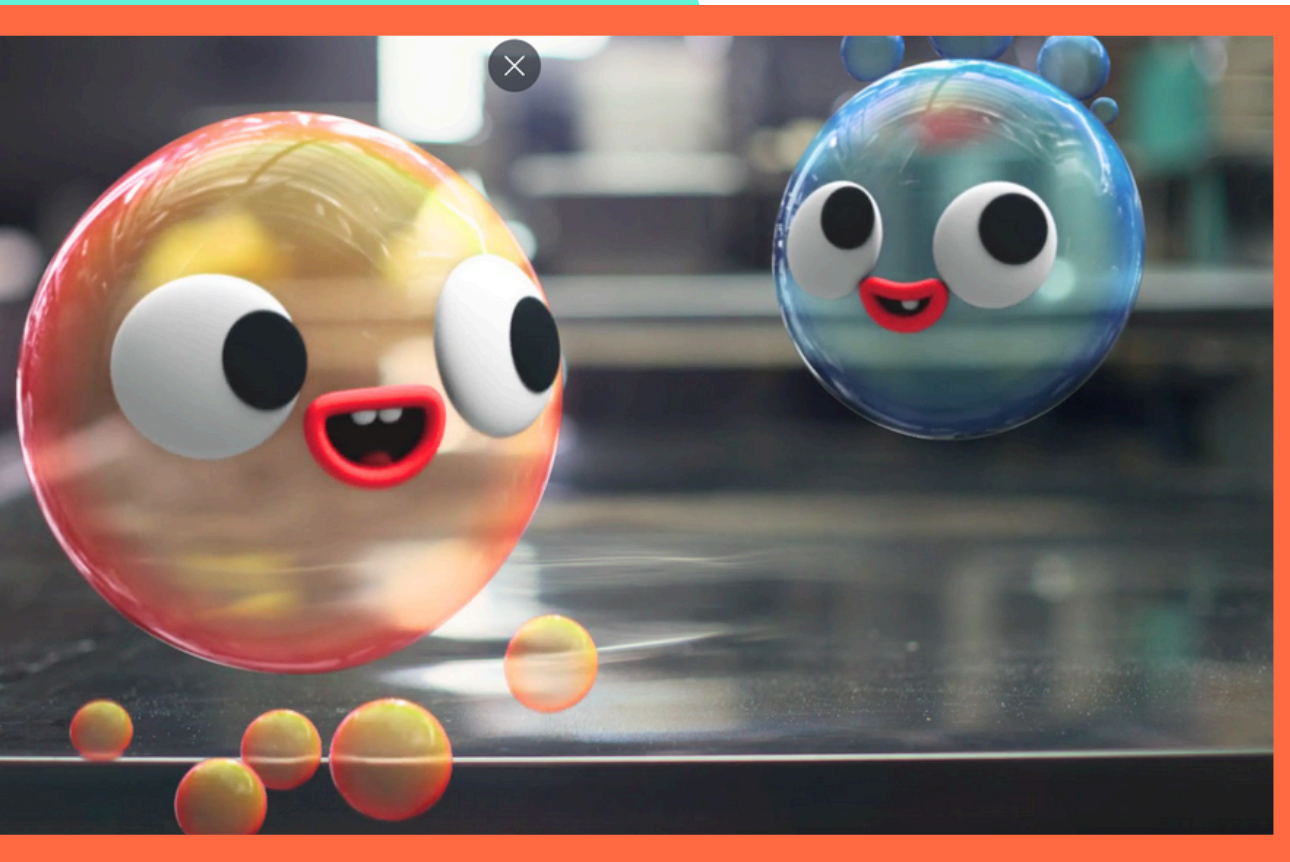
Inclusive Development

By Ramana Dienes-Browning

During development I had an initial meeting with Fizzy & Suds Producer Sam Griffin and discussed my ideas for neurodiversity inclusion and neurodivergent representation, the most integral being my suggestion that Fizzy or Suds be a neurodivergent character. I then created a detailed document outlining opportunities for neurodivergent representation and ideas on how the show could be accessible to autistic and neurodivergent children.

Key recommendations included casting a neurodivergent voice over talent for Fizzy, creating animated and vocal stims for Fizzy and establishing stims which were repeated and would be recognisable by the audience enabling authentic connection and representation. Fizzy was developed as a neurodivergent character and we worked in some great vocal and physical stims.

Another important component of the development phase was establishing guidelines for accessible and inclusive sound design. This began in the development phase and continued throughout the production. We created a section of the sound design bible on inclusive sound design which was based on both my lived experiences, experiences of other neurodivergent children and adults who I have consistent contact with, as well as extensive academic research.



Darci Maher Dipiero

Neurodiversity Consultant & Early Learning Specialist

I had the joyful privilege of working on Fizzy&Suds as both a play designer & a neurodiversity advocate—my first step into the colourful world of children’s media. As an autistic adult, I carry a deep passion for creating spaces for neurodiverse children to come exactly as they are, and be celebrated for it.

I believe play is more than fun—it’s a language, a bridge, a kind of magic. It’s how we make sense of the world and how we stay connected to wonder in a world that beckons you to forget so. I challenge myself to be playful at least once every day—whether by inventing a new game, dancing with no music, or seeing the ordinary in an extraordinary light.

Working on Fizzy & Suds allowed me to blend my love of design with my commitment to inclusion. I designed through the eyes of children who move, think, and feel differently—because difference truly is a satisfying brilliance.





"In our episode Planets, the idea of planets was the scaffold. But as we got more into the play design, we started thinking from these divergent perspectives, like spinning. When the children were engaged in the activity on screen, they picked up the hula hoops, and started spinning. A simple concept that became a "starburst" for the children. It wasn't the literal idea of looking like a planet - they were spinning, dancing and moving their bodies, it was about being bigger than just the concept of planets."

DARCI MAHER DIPIERO





Casting

Throughout casting of the series we created guidelines for an accessible audition specifically designed to meet the needs of neurodivergent children. We worked closely with our Neurodiverse Consultant, Ramana when creating the casting call outs to ensure that appropriate neurodivergent language and relatability was used. During auditions held for the voice over role of Fizzy, Ramana consulted and discussed the best ways to support the neurodivergent children to feel comfortable and allow them to engage easily in the process.

Casting protocols for our Kids at Play and Kids Create segments were designed to reach and engage a wide pool of applications to ensure that the series truly represents the diverse children of Australia.



"Amazing resource! We can't wait to come and be part of it," Aerin's mum.

On Set

When preparing the children for on-set filming both Ramana and Darci created guidelines for an inclusive film set for neurodivergent people and these practices were implemented in final pre-production and on set.

A visual document called a 'social story' was created which outlined in simple text and images what the filming day would look like and this was modified to reflect each 'Kids at Play' and 'Kids Create' filming day based on shoot schedule and storyboards. An additional document of what to bring and wear on the day was also created.

Both of these documents were sent out to all parents prior to filming, alleviating social and anticipation anxiety for the children and creating a sense of predictability and safety.

Safe quiet spaces were set up on set for both the children and crew to allow opportunity if anyone was anxious, had difficulty in regulating their emotions, or feeling overwhelmed. These spaces also had sensory devices, low lighting, comfy cushions and books for the children to feel safe and secure.

Feedback from parents was that this was incredibly helpful and alleviated stress and anxiety for their children, both neurotypical and neurodivergent.



"Thanks for organising this for us. It was a brilliant day which I'm not sure could be matched for Sophie."



Art Focus

In the series we have short standalone sequences called Thought Bubbles that explore the subject of the episode in unexpected and divergent ways. Thought Bubbles are funny, sometimes being even a bit Dadaist or Surrealist, but along with being entertaining, they also show children how they can think about the subject it in a new way.

We work with artists living with disability to create these cute divergent pieces. Our Thought Bubble producer, Gabrielle Joosten, Founder | Executive Producer of POST 11 worked with the clients of Northern Rivers-based disability support company RedInc to create original artwork for many of the Thought Bubbles. Gabrielle's team of professional animators then used various techniques to bring these artworks to life.

Our artists have an intrinsic way of looking at the world, hence producing creative, divergent, funny and entertaining sequences for both our pre-school audience and their parents.

RedInc

RedInc, a community center in regional Northern Rivers joined forces with Post-11 to help create unique animation thought bubble segments for series. This collaboration highlights a commitment to inclusivity and authentic representation in children's media and content creation.

Through a 6-week art program initiative combined RedInc's compassionate approach to disability services with Post-11's creative animation expertise.

RedInc's involvement ensures that the animation segments reflect genuine perspectives from individuals with disabilities. Providing these insights through artwork contributes to inclusive storytelling and fosters a better understanding of diverse abilities to participate in the creative animation process.

Post-11 was responsible for transforming the participants' artwork into visually appealing animation segments. Their efforts aim to both entertain and educate children about different perspectives, enhancing the overall message of "Fizzy and Suds."



Theme Song

Neurodiverse singer/songwriter, Jerrah Patston in collaboration with his longtime collaborator Sam Worrada, co-wrote the theme song for Fizzy & Suds.

Jerrah Patston is a musician from the Blue Mountains noted for his unique, whimsical style. He works at the Club Weld studio for neurodivergent musicians with collaborator Sam Worrada, and his third LP - Abandoned Cricket Games - is due out in August.

Jerrah has recorded at the Sydney Opera House, appeared on 7:30, played live at festivals, performed for Governor-General Sam Mostyn and provided music for the “one take romcom” Head Over Wheels and, of course, the children’s program Fizzy & Suds.

“I love to play live shows for kids, so it makes me very happy to have recorded the theme song for a great children's show like Fizzy & Suds,”

JERRAH PATSTON



AWARD Nominations



FINALIST

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FINALIST
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PRIX JEUNESSE
INTERNATIONAL
UNICEF
FINALIST
2024



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Tilt Media is a television production company focusing on premium content inspired by true stories.

Founded by Chris Hilton in partnership with Forte Corp Pictures, the venture based in Los Angeles and Australia, brings together a top-flight creative and management team utilising their extensive relationships with inspired talent and network executives from around the globe. We are committed to seeking out projects with grit, filmmakers with heart, and audiences with curiosity. We aim for diversity across format, story and talent.

