

Mother and Son



A playful comedy
about modern
family life



A show about ageing,
changing family roles,
and caring for **someone**
you love –
even when they're
driving you
up the wall

Following a breakup from his long-suffering girlfriend, journalist **Arthur (Matt Okine)** puts his future on hold to move back home with his widowed mother, **Maggie (Denise Scott)**.

A former nurse, Maggie used to be a firebrand – a renegade. But since the death of her husband Leo, Maggie has been...a little strange. With the *help* of older sister and arguable family favourite, **Robbie (Angela Nica**

Sullen), Arthur attempts to care for their mother – but it's not long before the mischievous Maggie is running rings around her hapless son.

With rich, warm characters, *Mother and Son* offers cheeky but poignant observations on growing older, dealing with grief, relationships and familial expectations – and is guaranteed to win hearts around the world.

A bold re-imagining of the long-running and **hugely successful ABC network comedy**

This re-imagining of an Australian classic was produced by **Wooden Horse** (*The Clearing, Stuff the British Stole*) and made in collaboration with the **Geoffrey Atherden**, creator of the much-loved original version.

Combines the talents of internationally recognised comedians **Matt Okine** (*The Other Guy, Stateless*) and **Denise Scott** (*Please Like Me, Jack Irish*). Alongside Okine and Scott, the ensemble cast includes **Angela Nica Sullen** (*La Brea, Bump*), **Catherine Vān-Davies** (*The Twelve, Barons*) and **Andrea Demetriades** (*Janet King, Crownies*) with special appearances

from **Jenna Owen** (*Queen of Oz, Joe vs. Carole*), **Justin Amankwah** (*Aftertaste, Shantaram*), **Virginia Gay** (*Safe Home, Winners and Losers*), **Tiriela Mora** (*The Castle*) and TikTok sensation **Zara Tate** among others.

**UHD 8 x 30' · Wooden Horse
FORMAT AVAILABLE**





Selling Points

- This hilarious and provocative re-imagining of the original series shines a timely lens on an ageing population and modern family life in a contemporary, multicultural Australia
- Warm, lively and funny, it is the perfect antidote to the doom and gloom of the last few years; the pandemic forced many of us to reconnect with family and this series will resonate all the more with audiences around the world as a result
- Possibility for returning series – noting that the original series of *Mother and Son* ran for six seasons; lauded for its fine characterisations and sharp-edged humour it won multiple awards and spawned a live stage show – as well proving a successful format, with local productions made in various international territories



Media

‘Set to charm a new generation’

– **The New Daily**

‘Shenanigans, wholesomeness and plenty of laugh-out-loud moments’

– **Mamamia**

‘Viewers are in for both laughs and relatable family moments’

– **TV Blackbox**

★★★★ ‘Feels like a breath of fresh air’

– **Sydney Morning Herald**

‘Likely to command a strong audience... perfect for a country whose ethnic composition is changing at a gallop’

– **The Australian**

‘Ambitious storytelling’

– **Mediaweek**

Synopses

A man with a mustache, wearing a green and white plaid shirt, is hugging a woman from behind. The woman has blonde hair and is wearing a patterned dress with orange, black, and white geometric designs. She is holding a small, round, patterned jar or container. They are standing outdoors in front of a brick house with a white window frame. The scene is lit with natural light, suggesting it's daytime.

Episode 1

After Maggie causes a fire in the family kitchen, Arthur tries to put her in an aged-care home so he can move forward with his own life, worry-free. Robbie attempts to sell the family home to make some cash.

Episode 2

Maggie tries to inspire a visit from her grandchildren. Arthur practices for an online game tournament with a troublesome young teammate. Robbie seeks a sperm donation from Arthur for her friends, Priya and Jasmine.



Episode 3

Maggie keeps going missing, leaving Arthur and Robbie to get creative in their attempts to keep track of her so that Arthur can go on a date. Arthur meets Maya, whose family has taken over the local dance studio that Maggie frequents.



Episode 4

Arthur battles with his identity when Maggie takes in a Ghanaian lodger at her house. Maggie and her new 'son' decide to run a Ghanaian food stall at the local markets. Arthur helps his ex-girlfriend Dee pack for her move to Canberra.





Episode 5

Arthur and Maggie both engage in sexual misadventures with disastrous results. Maggie is horrified to learn that her late husband Leo's restaurant has been leased. Robbie tries to convince Maggie to sign over her Power of Attorney.

Episode 6

Maggie and Arthur aren't speaking to each other after Arthur finds out Maggie's plans to take her health into her own hands. Maya and Arthur grow closer when Arthur agrees to review the new restaurant.





Episode 7

Arthur is determined not to take Maggie to Canberra with him to visit his ex, Dee, but Maggie has other plans. Maggie fears she is becoming 'invisible'. Arthur comes to terms with the nature of his relationship with Dee.



Episode 8

Arthur is concerned that Maggie's friend Heather may be a bad influence. Robbie's marriage faces a crisis after Arthur unwittingly gets involved. Maggie and Heather cause chaos at Tony and Maya's new restaurant.



Key Cast & Creatives

Matt Okine

Executive Producer, writer and star, Matt Okine is a multi-talented actor, writer, presenter and award-winning comedian, appearing on screens and stages around Australia and the world for over fifteen years; Matt was nominated for an 2017 AACTA Award for Best New Talent for his work on *The Other Guy* (seen on Hulu); he has also appeared in TV shows including *Stateless* (ABC, Netflix), *Orange Is The New Brown* (Channel 7) and *Doctor Doctor* (Channel 9), and feature films including *Aquamarine*, *Dora and the Lost City of Gold* (Paramount) and *Christmas Ransom* (Stan).



ARTHUR

Arthur wants what his parents had - but doesn't want to do any of the hard work to make it happen. With his father's recent passing, his ex-girlfriend's announcement that she is moving to Canberra, and the kitchen fire, started by Maggie, that almost burned down the house – Arthur finds himself hapless, discouraged and a little lost. Moving back into his childhood home to care for Maggie, Arthur soon realises how quickly their time is running out.

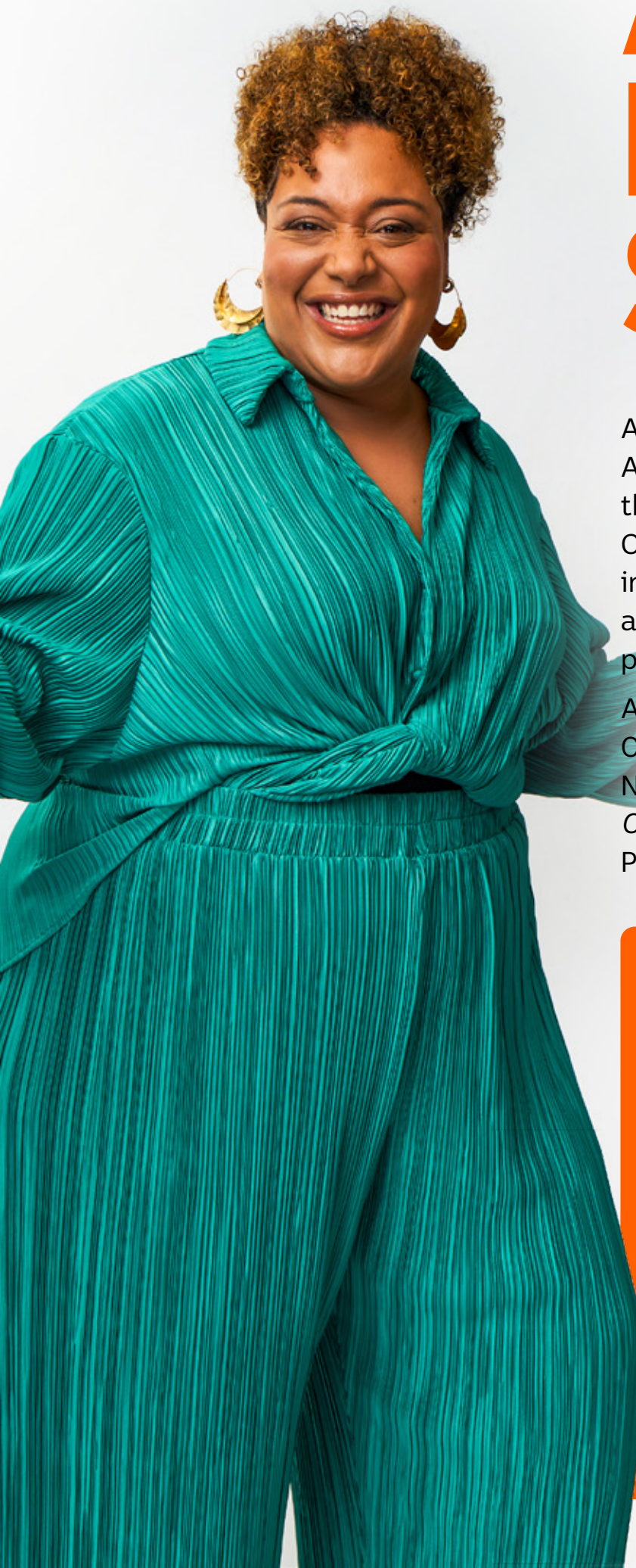
Denise Scott

Appearing on the comedy festival circuit for nearly thirty years, the highly accomplished comedian/broadcaster/writer/actor/presenter Denise Scott is a household name; in addition to adding published author to her credits, Denise has appeared in many favourite TV shows including *Please Like Me* and *Jack Irish*.

MAGGIE

In her youth, Maggie was an iconoclast. But now that restaurateur husband Leo has gone and Arthur has refused to take over the family business, Maggie is left with nothing to do but get old. Stubborn and mischievous, Maggie can sense the perpetual threat of 'being sent to a home' and isn't above playing the 'forgetful old woman' card to get her own way. Deep down, Maggie knows that her mind isn't what it used to be, and she's terrified of what the future might hold — so if she's going out, she's going to go out with a bang!





Angela Nica Sullen

Angela Nica Sullen is an Italian, African American woman from the United States. She grew up in California and on Noongar country in Western Australia. Angela is an actor, vocal coach, writer, MC and self-proclaimed comedian.

Angela's screen credits include Stan Original's *I Am Woman* and *Bump*, NBC's *La Brea*, *Home & Away*, *Pieces Of Her* for Netflix and *One Night* for Paramount+.

ROBBIE

Arthur's older sister, Robbie is competent, wily and resourceful – and far more adept at wheeling and dealing than her hapless younger brother. Robbie has a committed and (supposedly) monogamous relationship with her wife, Liz, and together they have two children, Keelan and Melody. Her confidence and air of success perpetuate her 'golden child' status with Maggie, who thinks she can do no wrong.

Catherine Văn-Davies

Catherine Văn-Davies is a multi-award-winning Vietnamese-Australian stage and screen actor. She has had an extensive career in theatre, performing at major arts institutions around the country and internationally, and in recent years has been a new face in Australian television.

Her screen credits include *Wolf Like Me S2* (Stan), *The Claremont Murders* (Ch 7), *The Twelve* (Foxtel), *Barons* (ABC), *Amazing Grace* (Nine Network), *Hungry Ghosts* (SBS), *The Letdown* (ABC), and *Fighting Season* (Foxtel).

MAYA

Maya is from a Vietnamese-Australian family. Branching out from their fruit & vegetable shop, the family takes over a local dance studio and – to Maggie’s surprise and horror – the site of Leo’s Feel Good African restaurant. Maya is lively, full of humour and quite fond of Arthur’s dorkiness. Unfortunately, Arthur is still hung up on Dee and runs the risk of getting in his own way. Maggie is naturally drawn to Maya too...but has to overcome her hostility before she can allow Maya into her heart.





Wooden Horse

Wooden Horse is a dynamic producing partnership between entertainment industry executives Jude Troy and Richard Finlayson. Bringing together their extensive international networks and working with the best creative talent on and off screen, Wooden Horse is focused on distinctive, provocative and bold storytelling for global audiences.

The company produced the hit factual series *Stuff the British Stole* with journalist Marc Fennell and production companies WildBear TV and Cream Productions (Canada) for the ABC and CBC along with the hit eight-part psychological thriller *The Clearing* for Disney +. Wooden Horse has also produced with Aquarius Films, two seasons of *The Other Guy* for Stan &

Hulu; and executive produced factual series *Waltzing the Dragon* with Benjamin Law for the ABC and AACTA Award- winning documentary *All This Mayhem* from the team behind *Amy* (James Gay Rees and Chris King).

Jointly, Jude Troy and Richard Finlayson bring decades of relevant industry experience to the project; Jude was previously EVP of TV Development & Acquisitions ANZ at global media group Entertainment One (eOne), and Richard Director of Television at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Producer/EP Jude Troy and EP Richard Finlayson are the production partnership behind *Mother and Son*.

Neil Sharma • Director

Neil Sharma is a multidisciplinary director, writer and film maker.

Mentored by Oscar-winning auteur Taika Waititi and acclaimed director Jeffrey Walker, Neil Sharma's directing credits include the hugely successful reboot of *Heartbreak High* (Netflix) and the SBS Digital Original Series, *Appetite* – which premiered at the International CANNESERIES Festival as the only Australian project invited into competition. He also directed *The Unlisted* (Netflix) and splinter unit for *Lambs of God* (Showtime).



Kriv Stenders • Director

Kriv Stenders is one of Australia's most renowned, respected and prolific film directors with numerous critically acclaimed and award-winning documentaries, television series and feature films to his credit.

He directed the award-winning film *Red Dog* along with its sequel *Red Dog: True Blue* and *Kill Me Three Times*, starring Simon Pegg, Bryan Brown, Alice Braga, Teresa Palmer, and Sullivan Stapleton.

Kriv's television credits include *NCIS: Sydney*, *The Last Days of the Space Age*, *Bump*, *Jack Irish*, *The Principal*, *Wake in Fright*, *The Pacific* and many more.

Tristram Baumber • Writer

A lifelong fan of scripted comedy, Tristram Baumber created and wrote the ABC TV comedy *Timothy*, starring Stephen Curry and Denise Scott. Quail TV and NBC London are currently developing *Timothy* for an international audience.

Tristram is co-creator/writer/executive producer of *The PM's Daughter*, and his other television credits include *Born to Spy*, *The Unlisted*, *The Cleanists* and *Wednesday Night Fever*.



Sarah L. Walker • Writer

Sarah Walker is a highly experienced Australian author, screenwriter and script producer. She was the lead writer on Lingo/ BBC1 ratings hit thriller *The Secrets She Keeps* and Foxtel's *The Twelve*; she co-created Network 10's *Wonderland* and was script executive on the prison drama *Wentworth*.

Among other work, she has contributed as a writer on high budget Netflix films; is currently in development with Charlize Theron's production company Denver & Delilah on a pilot for HBO; and has written an adaptation from book to series for MRC and Echo Lake with Elle and Dakota Fanning.



Todd Abbott

ABC Head of Comedy


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Matt and team suggested revisiting the 80s classic series – and the more excited they got, the more it became clear we absolutely had to make it!

Australia has changed a lot in 40 years, and this cheeky, fired-up, laugh-out-loud series reflects that beautifully.

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Jennifer Collins

ABC Head of Screen Content

“ ‘Matt...is bringing it into 2023...the warmth of it is just the perfect antidote to the [COVID] years. Having Matt and Denise at the heart of this show is a real gift to us...their relationship is so affectionate. It’s very heartfelt’.

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