

WHY ARE YOU  
LIKE THIS



 ABC  
COMMERCIAL

From the producers of the hit series  
*Heartbreak High*





# THREE FRIENDS NAVIGATE THE DIVISIVE SOCIOPOLITICAL HELLSCAPE THAT CONSTITUTES CONTEMPORARY LIFE, LEAVING A PATH OF DESTRUCTION IN THEIR WAKE

Mia, Penny and Austin are storming through their early twenties in the divisive socio-political hellscape that is 2021. They are barely coping with their growing independence, struggles with money, and dreams that seem unachievable.

Mia, fierce and narcissistic, is aware of the social capital she has as a bi, South Asian woman, and milks her position at the intersection of these minorities for all it's worth. Whether that's keeping a job she's objectively terrible at, or exploiting creeps on the internet for cash, Mia gets exactly what she wants – at the expense of everyone around her.

Anxious and righteous Penny is on a quest to be the ultimate ally to Mia – and every other person who has potentially experienced oppression. She is quick to leap to the (usually unnecessary) defence of those wronged and is always the first to stand up against the bigots (real or imagined). Penny is ready to Do The Work. She will support Muslims, organise protests, and denounce a once beloved and now problematic idol – all in the name of justice.

Penny's housemate, Austin, has never had to work. An artist, struggling to break through in the competitive drag scene, he is experiencing a bad case of the clinically diagnosed blues. He goes to a therapist once though, so it's probably fine.

Through six hilarious and unapologetic episodes, we see these three characters follow their questionable modern day moral codes in confronting the complex social issues of an outrage driven world, leaving a path of destruction in their wake.

This transgressive – and very funny – series is created by incredible young talent, including co-creator and actor Naomi Higgins (who has written for *Get Krackin*), Mark Samuel Bonanno from the comedy team Aunty Donna (as seen on Netflix) and illustrator/writer/lawyer Humyara Mahbub.

**HD 6 x 30'**  
**WAYLT Holdings**



# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

‘Meet the future of Australian comedy television’

– [Marie Claire](#)

‘Nihilistic and zeitgeist-y comedy’

– [Vanity Fair](#)

‘A rare achievement: an edgy show with a knack for exploring touchy subjects from a fresh perspective’

– [NME](#)

‘Socially righteous, morally confused and bloody funny – these three friends are needy, irritating, absurd and completely relatable’

– [Broadsheet](#)

‘Must (repeat: must) watch viewing for anyone who’s ever used the term ‘micro-aggression’ incorrectly’

– [Pedestrian](#)

‘We’re absolutely obsessed with this new gem’

– [Girlfriend](#)

‘A must-see comedy that’s as satirical as it is candid and relatable’

– [Concrete Playground](#)

‘Follows in the more diverse and nuanced footsteps of series like *Insecure*, *Chewing Gum*, or *Search Party* but with a distinctively late-millennial/Gen Z edge’

– [Junkee](#)

‘All the characters are well-drawn and the performances are excellent’

– [The Australian](#)





# INSTAGRAM ENGAGEMENT

Love this show! Personal, sharp satire that's as brutal as it is funny ❤️

[@genfricker](#)

The best show E V A ❤️❤️❤️

[@workshoppceramics](#)

can we also talk about how EVERY beat of this show is perfect? literally every moment is hilarious and keeps the energy at a perfect level. boomers could never

[@erikaphoenixcreates\\_](#)

BRILLIANT SHOW FINALLY STH NEW AND REFRESHING 🙌🙌🙌

[@asaecriss](#)

Watched the whole thing in one day!

Loved it so much. ❤️❤️

[@icequeen\\_212](#)

We desperately need a season 2! Please!

We have rewatched numerous times!!

[@navsid](#)

Enjoyed every second 🙌

[@joshoo бага](#)

So good 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

[@\\_carlyanne\\_\\_](#)

Absolutely loved it. 🙌 Really original 🙌

looking forward to another series!!!

[@sarah\\_harbs](#)





# EPISODES

## EPISODE 1

### I Love Gay

Mia goes on the hunt for a new job, while Austin supports Penny as she strives to make change at her all-male tech startup.

## EPISODE 2

### The Pressures of Late Capitalism

Penny decides to empower the women at a misogynistic client's office. Mia forces Austin to help her tackle a mooncup situation.

## EPISODE 3

### Dick or Pussy of Colour

After another bad date with a white guy, Mia decolonises her pussy. Penny tries to become best friends with Mia's other best friends, and Austin starts to spiral.





# EPISODES

## EPISODE 4 **Hey Rich Baby**

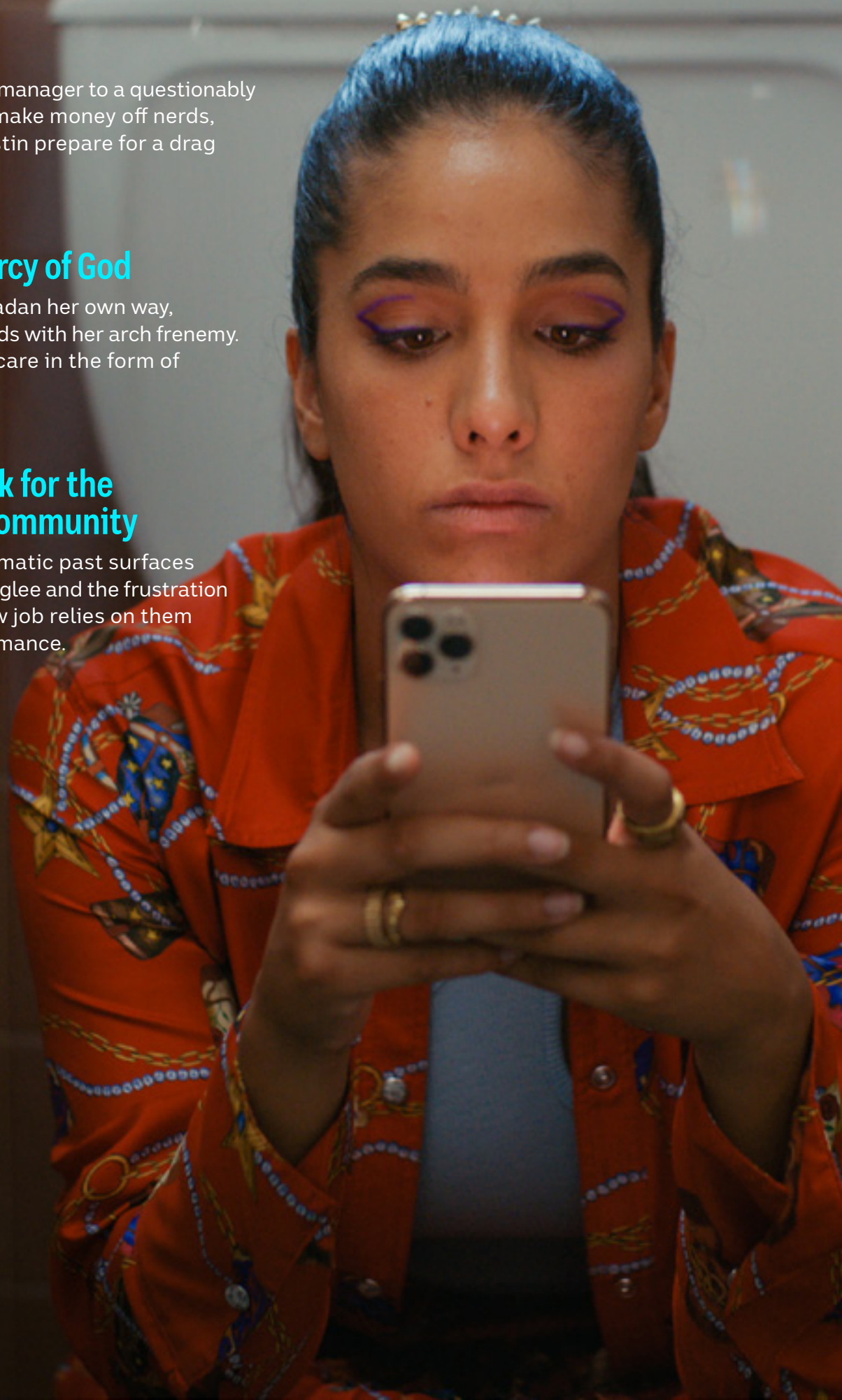
Mia appoints herself manager to a questionably young cosplayer to make money off nerds, and Penny helps Austin prepare for a drag competition.

## EPISODE 5 **The Infinite Mercy of God**

While Mia does Ramadan her own way, Penny becomes friends with her arch frenemy. Austin pursues self-care in the form of expensive skincare.

## EPISODE 6 **I Will Not Speak for the Entire Queer Community**

Penny's idol's problematic past surfaces online, much to Mia's glee and the frustration of Austin, whose new job relies on them attending her performance.





# CAST

## Penny

### NAOMI HIGGINS

Naomi Higgins is a writer, actor and performer who got her start in stand-up comedy in Melbourne. Naomi co-created, co-wrote and stars in *Why Are You Like This*. She has also written for the series *Get Krackin'*, is a regular panellist on *Gamey Gamey Game* (YouTube) and, has a budding channel on Twitch. She has appeared on ABC, SBS, Adult Swim and Comedy Central Australia.

## Mia

### OLIVIA JUNKEER

Olivia Junkeer is best known to audiences for her regular role as Yashvi Rebecchi on *Neighbours*. Born and raised in Melbourne, Olivia is the eldest of three children with an Australian mother and a Sri Lankan born father. During her time at *Neighbours*, Olivia also starred in the online series of *E-High*, produced by Fremantle in association with *Neighbours*.

## Austin

### WIL KING

Wil King's TV and film credits include Channel 9's *Metrosexual*, Dan Kelly in *Lawless: The Real Bushrangers* for Foxtel, the lead in feature film *The Empty Pocket*, and multiple short films.

On the stage, he has appeared as Charles Manson in *Sneakyville*, in Tommy Murphy's *Strangers in Between* and in *Q* among other credits.





## CREATIVE TEAM

### Creator & Writer

#### Naomi Higgins

Naomi Higgins is a writer, actor and performer who got her start in stand-up comedy in Melbourne.

### Creator & Writer

#### HUMYARA MAHBUB

Humyara Mahbub is a writer, illustrator and lawyer based in Sydney.

### Creator & Writer

#### MARK SAMUAL BONNANO

Mark Samuel Bonnano is part of the award-winning comedy collective Aunty Donna (*Big Ol' House of Fun* on Netflix) and is a writer, performer and director.



## CREATIVE TEAM

### Script Producer **NIKI AKEN**

Niki Aken is an award-winning writer and script producer for television, working across drama and comedy. She co-wrote *The Hunting* for SBS / Closer Productions – which won an AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television – and wrote an episode of *The Newsreader* (ABC), winner of Best Drama series at the AACTA Awards and the TV Week Silver Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series.

She script produced the critically acclaimed comedy-drama series *Upright*, starring Tim Minchin, for Foxtel and Sky UK and wrote on series two and three of legal thriller *Janet King* for ABC. Niki also co-wrote the historical WW1 mini-series *ANZAC Girls*, which was the highest rating drama on ABC in 2014 and won the 2014 Best Adapted Screenplay AWGIE.

### Directors & Executive Producers **JESSIE OLDFIELD & ADAM MURFET**

Jessie Oldfield and Adam Murfet are an award-winning directing duo from Melbourne. Their unique voice spans narrative television, short films and commercials. Jessie and Adam began their career making art-house fashion films, this quickly captured the attention of the commercial world, and soon had them working all over the country for major brands.

Harnessing the style and wit they are known for, the pair have now transposed their distinct tone to long form narrative work.

*Why Are You Like This* was their first foray into narrative television, and they have since directed episodes of the hit show *Heartbreak High* (Fremantle Media and Netflix Australia) and upcoming ABC series *Turn Up the Volume* (Matchbox Pictures).



# CREATIVE TEAM

## Producer

### SARAH FREEMAN

Sarah is a creative producer passionate about telling female-driven stories that broaden the scope of which people and narratives come to grace our TV screens.

After an extensive career in television commercial production, Sarah was compelled to make work about protagonists rather than products and moved to Matchbox Pictures to work alongside executive producer Tony Ayres. She was associate producer on the second season of Emmy nominated series *Mustangs FC*, working with executive producer Amanda Higgs, and in 2019, Sarah undertook a Film Victoria producer placement at Margot Robbie's production company, LuckyChap Entertainment in Los Angeles.

Recently, she was producer on the hit series *Heartbreak High* (Fremantle Media and Netflix Australia).

## Executive Producer

### AMANDA HIGGS

Amanda Higgs joined Matchbox Pictures in 2015, producing the award-winning adaptations *Barracuda* and *Seven Types of Ambiguity* for ABC TV and the International Emmy nominated *Mustangs FC*.

She is in development on Andrew Bovell's *Things I Know to Be True* for Amazon Prime, partnering with Blossom Films, and *Bad Behaviour*, a limited series for SBS. Previously Amanda co-created and produced the popular twenty-something drama *The Secret Life of Us* for the Ten Network and Channel 4. The series won the Logie for Most Outstanding Drama three years running.

Amanda was presented the ADG Cecil Holmes Award in 2004 for services to directors.

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