

**DISSENTER STAGE**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**FEATURE SLATE: PHASE 1**

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# **- MISSION STATEMENT -**

**At Dissenter Stage Entertainment, we craft bold, provocative, emotionally resonant stories that defy convention and captivate global audiences. Rooted in Australia's vibrant industry, our mission is fearless innovation, uncompromising authenticity, and groundbreaking storytelling.**

# About *Dissenter* Stage...

**Dissenter Stage Entertainment** is an emerging indie Australian production company founded by Noel Vinson.

## **What defines us:**

- **Provocative, fearless storytelling**
- **Strategically designed projects that scale in ambition and reach**
- **Smart use of Australia's world-class film incentives to produce globally relevant cinema**
- **A clear vision: to build a body of work that hits as hard as it lasts**

# *What We're **Looking** For*

- **Seeking aligned co-producers, distributors, equity partners**
  - **All scripts ready or in advanced stage**
  - **Flexible on structure — bold on vision**
    - **Festival-driven, culturally defiant, comedy-focused**

**Our strategically curated 2025 feature slate comprises three bold films designed to scale both creatively and commercially, each distinctly positioned within the underserved adult comedy space:**

- ***Is That the Universe Expanding or Are You Just Happy to See Me?:* AUD \$1.5 - 2M (Contained Indie / Absurdist Dark Comedy)**
- ***Bounded in a Nutshell:* AUD \$3 -6M (Prestige Mid-Budget / Dark Comedy Noir)**
- ***god damn!:* AUD \$6 - 12M (Scalable Cult Breakout / Existential Road Comedy)**

**Each film builds upon the momentum of the previous, positioning Dissenter Stage Entertainment as an industry disruptor at major film festivals worldwide.**

# **Slate Overview**

**FILMS**

# Is That the Universe Expanding Or Are You Just Happy to See Me?

**STATUS:** Script Available

**GENRE:** Absurdist Dark Comedy

**LOGLINE:** When three deluded couples find themselves trapped at a swingers party during a bizarre lockdown, they realise the real threat isn't any impending apocalypse – it's their egos unravelling in front of each other.

**COMPS:** Triangle of Sadness (2022), This is the End (2013), Carnage (2011), Safety Not Guaranteed (2012)

**EST. BUDGET:** \$1.5 - 2 Million AUD

**PROPOSED TALENT:** Gary Sweet, Tim Minchin, Claudia Karvan, Glenn Howerton, and Celia Pacquola

**STORY DECK:** [CLICK TO VIEW](#)



THERE'S NO PATHOS IN AN ORGY



IS THAT THE  
UNIVERSE  
EXPANDING  
OR ARE YOU JUST  
HAPPY  
TO SEE ME?

# Bounded in a Nutshell

**STATUS:** Script Available

**GENRE:** Dark Comedy Noir

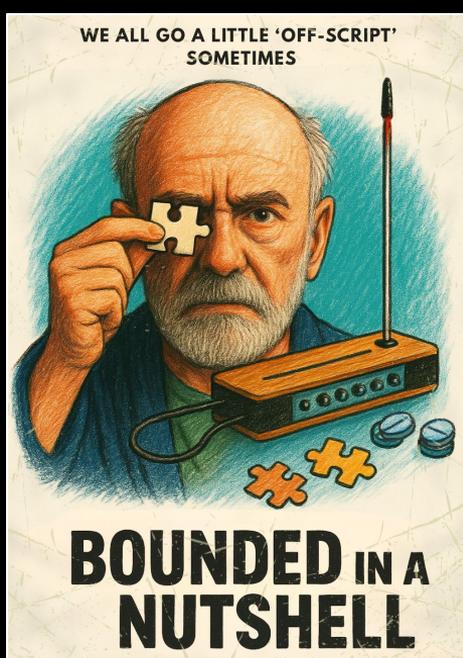
**LOGLINE:** Jack McAvoy just wanted to finish his puzzle in peace. But at Trinity Heights Psychiatric, peace means a dead patient, a living cover-up, and enough medication to tranquilise reality itself.

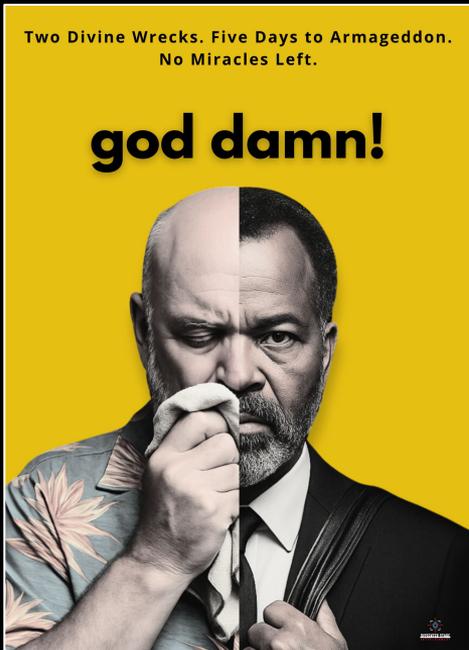
**COMPS:** One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975), The Big Lebowski (1998), Brick (2005), Memento (2000), Network (1976)

**EST. BUDGET:** \$3 - 6 Million AUD

**PROPOSED TALENT:** Gary Sweet, Miranda Otto, and Aaron Pedersen

**STORY DECK:** [CLICK TO VIEW](#)





# god damn!

**STATUS:** Script Available

**GENRE:** Existential Road Comedy

**LOGLINE:** Stripped of their powers and stuck in human form, a washed-up God drags a reluctant Devil on a robbery spree across Australia to stop Armageddon. Or maybe cause it.

**COMPS:** In Bruges (2008), Dogma (1999), The Nice Guys (2016), Good Omens (2019)

**EST. BUDGET:** \$6 - 12 Million AUD

**PROPOSED TALENT:** Gary Sweet, Jeffrey Wright, and Sophie Wilde

**SIZZLE REEL:** [CLICK TO WATCH](#)

**STORY DECK:** [CLICK TO VIEW](#)

**BONUS PROJECT**

# Geezer (An Original Series)

**FORMAT:** 3 Seasons x 12 episodes, 30 minutes each

**STATUS:** Pilot Script Available

**GENRE:** Dark Comedy / Sports Satire

**LOGLINE:** When a disgraced cricket legend is sentenced to coach the worst junior team in Sydney, chaos hits the pitch – and keeps swinging. With a cast of misfit kids, corrupt officials, and one very dead poodle, *Geezer* is a larrikin comedy of bad mentorship, class warfare, and accidental legacy.

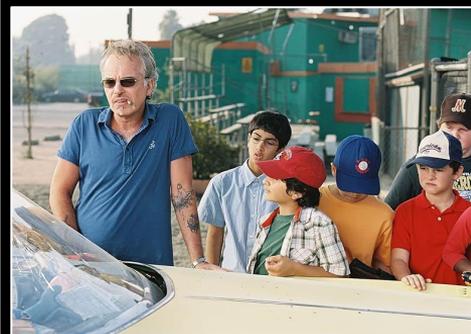
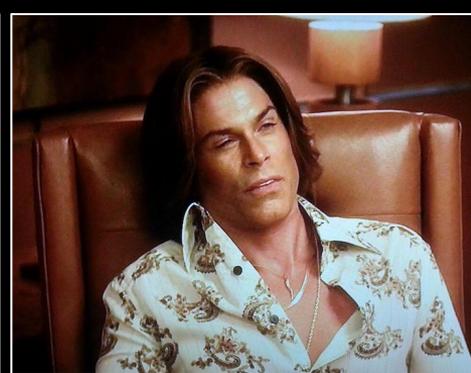
**COMPS:** Ted Lasso (2020), Shameless (2004), The Thick of It (2005), The Bear (2022)

**EST. BUDGET:** Approx. \$700K+ AUD / Episode

**PROPOSED TALENT:** Gary Sweet, Rachel Griffiths, and Richard Roxburgh

**POSITIONING:** Serial digital project - an extension of the Dissenter brand's irreverent voice.

**STORY BIBLE:** [CLICK TO VIEW](#)



# **STRATEGIC SLATE POSITIONING**

**Our slate is designed as a clearly defined trajectory, strategically scaling up both creatively and commercially. Each project compounds momentum from the previous film, moving seamlessly from a contained budget debut to increasingly ambitious and internationally marketable features all the while building on the rebranded profile of our lead talent.**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>STRATEGIC GOAL</u>	<u>TALENT POSITIONING</u>
<i>Is That the Universe Expanding or Are You Just Happy to See Me?</i>	A\$1.5 - 2M	Provocative Market Entry	Gary Sweet hits the cultural zeitgeist as the mischievous tech-billionaire swinger he was born to embody.
<i>Bounded in a Nutshell</i>	A\$3 - 6M	Critical Breakout, Tonal Expansion	Positions Sweet for critical acclaim, mirroring Alan Arkin's celebrated award-winning turn in <i>Little Miss Sunshine</i> .
<i>god damn!</i>	A\$6 - 12M	Global Breakthrough	Expands Sweet's international appeal, cementing his late-career renaissance as a fearless, versatile screen presence with broad audience appeal.

# - MARKET POSITIONING -

## ***Filling the Adult Comedy Gap:***

Dissenter Stage Entertainment targets the neglected adult comedy niche with sharp, intelligent, and unapologetic films. Each project is built to resonate with audiences tired of safe, sanitised content - hungry for risk, wit, and bite.

## ***Festival Disruptors:***

Our films are engineered to fire up controversy and create cultural tremors at festivals.

- ***Is That the Universe Expanding or Are You Just Happy to See Me?*** - Immediate attention-getter; provocative, darkly comedic entry ideal for midnight slots at festivals like *TIFF Midnight Madness, Venice Orizzonti, SXSW, MIFF*.
- ***Bounded in a Nutshell*** - Critically engaging, intellectually sharp comedy noir, strongly positioned for major festivals (*MIFF, TIFF, Sundance, Venice*).
- ***god damn!*** - Ambitious, existentially humorous feature with broad international commercial appeal, poised for major international festivals and wide distribution.

# *Gary Sweet - Rebranding an Australian Icon*

**Dissenter Stage Entertainment** strategically positions legendary Australian actor Gary Sweet for a powerful late-career resurgence. We are reintroducing Sweet playfully and memorably as "the coolest uncle you never had," leveraging his iconic status to connect with diverse global audiences.

*Universe* reintroduces Sweet as a charismatic tech-billionaire swinger - reconnecting mainstream and new demographics, *Bounded in a Nutshell* provides Sweet a nuanced, award-caliber role, positioned as an "Alan Arkin in *Little Miss Sunshine*" moment - primed for critical acclaim, and *god damn!* crowns Sweet's resurgence with a global, genre-busting role - as God (with FOMO).

Gary Sweet's storied career spans decades, with multiple awards and deep cultural resonance. His presence anchors the slate's credibility while amplifying its international visibility.





**Casimir Dickson, ACS**, is attached as cinematographer across all three features in the Dissenter Slate, bringing a unified visual identity that amplifies the trilogy's provocative tone. An ACS-accredited talent with over 20 years of experience and multiple national ACS awards, Casimir is renowned for his dynamic camera work, intuitive comedic rhythm, and collaborative spirit. His reputation as a fast-paced cinematographer who consistently delivers award-winning images - under even the tightest constraints - mirrors the energy and audacity at the heart of these films. Casimir's presence anchors the slate's technical excellence and positions it for a truly distinctive cinematic impact.

## ***Casimir Dickson, ACS - Three Films, One Vision***

# **FINANCING APPROACH & INVESTOR VALUE**

## **OUR APPROACH:**

- **40% Producer Offset - Structured for QAPE maximization.**
- **Private Equity (targeted) vs. Crowd Equity (selective visibility play)**
- **Culturally aligned investors - looking for impact, not just IP.**
- **Early Distributor Engagement + MGs.**
- **State Incentives (as applicable)**
- **Audience-backed campaigns (visibility tool only)**

## **WHY THIS WORKS FOR INVESTORS:**

- **Lowered Risk, Higher Upside**
  - **Government offsets reduce recoupment hurdles.**
- **Cultural Prestige**
  - **Strategic alignment with bold, globally positioned projects.**
- **Brand Equity**
  - **Be part of a disruptive, award-chasing new voice in cinema.**
- **Three-Film Slate**
  - **A portfolio approach - not a one-off gamble.**

**NOEL VINSON**

# FOUNDER | WRITER | DIRECTOR | PRODUCER



**Noel Vinson** is a writer, director, and producer based in Sydney, Australia. He is the founder of Dissenter Stage Entertainment, an independent production company focused on bold, provocative storytelling with global reach.

He is best known for *Jane* (2021), winner of Stage 32's 7th Annual Short Film Competition, and for the *Axmo Deus* anthology web series. He recently completed *deadfish*. (2025), a dark comedy short starring Gary Sweet – a “proof of voice” project that launched their creative collaboration.

Previous work includes *Dusters* (2020) and *The Malicious* (2019). He also hosts the true crime podcast *The Evidence Locker*, with a global audience in over 160 countries.

Originally from Los Angeles and forged in underground hip-hop, Noel brings a dissenter's instinct to every frame – crafting genre-defiant films designed to provoke, resonate, and endure.

*'deadfish'* is currently in festival consideration – private screener available upon request.

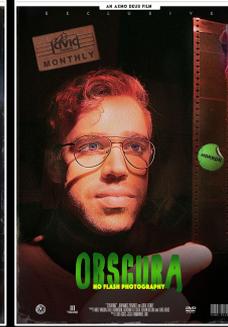
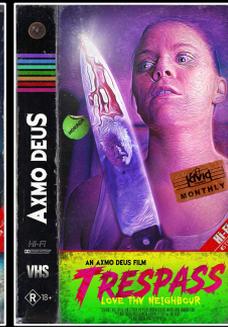
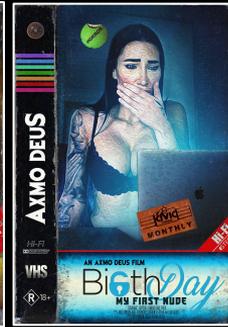
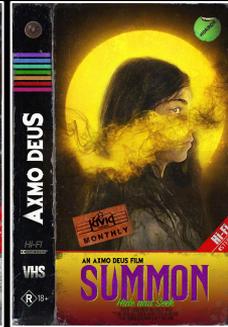
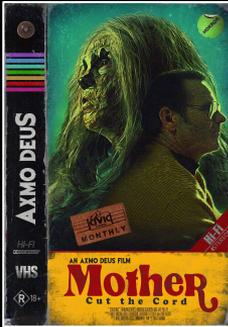
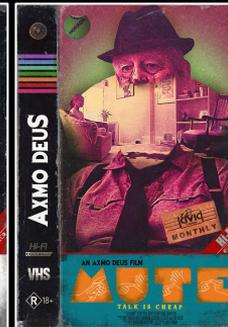
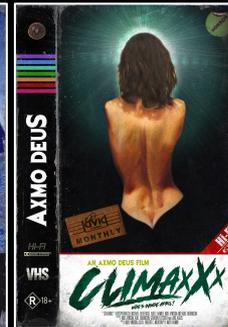
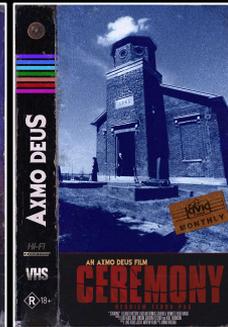
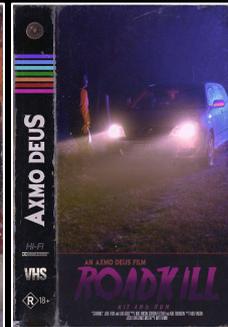
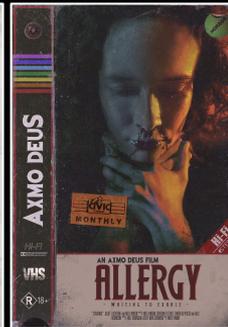
**DIRECTOR'S REEL**

# Company **Core** Values

- COURAGE – Boldly risk and challenge convention.
- AUTHENTICITY – Hold true to a fearless creative space, guided by ethical practices.
- EXCELLENCE – Deliver work that’s exceptionally undeniable.
- COLLABORATION – Champion partnerships that create and elevate.
- RESPONSIBILITY – Produce intentional films with a mindful footprint.

# PREVIOUS SUCCESSSES





# THANK YOU

Thank you for reviewing the Dissenter Slate: Phase One. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these films - and the vision behind them - at your convenience.



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