



THE SECRET DAUGHTER

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THE SECRET DAUGHTER STORY



THE SECRET DAUGHTER stars Jessica Mauboy as Billie Carter, a part-time country pub singer whose life changes forever after a chance meeting with wealthy city hotelier Jack Norton, played by acting legend Colin Friels.

Having come to Walperinga in search of his long lost child, Billie pretends to be Jack's secret daughter in order to get her own Dad Gus (David Field) out of trouble.

Billie and Jack spend one night talking under the stars – telling each other their dreams and regrets, but the next morning things take a tragic and unexpected turn.

When Jack's youngest son, Jamie (Matt Levett), arrives in Walperinga to get some answers – he meets Billie.

Their attraction is instantaneous – but it gets complicated when Jamie starts to believe that Billie may indeed be the daughter Jack was looking for.

In the end, to save her Dad from the town crook, Bruno (Salvatore Coco), and to hopefully get \$25K in hush money from the Nortons, Billie 'admits' to being the secret daughter and drives to Sydney with Jamie.

From a small country town to five-star city living, Billie soon finds that her decision comes with a whole new set of issues.

CAST

Jessica Mauboy
David Field
Matt Levett
Jared Turner
Rachel Gordon
Jordan Hare
Bonnie Sveen
Salvatore Coco
J.R. Reyne
Erin Holland
Libby Asciak
Johnny Boxer
Terry Serio
Harriet Gordon-Anderson
Jeremy Ambrum
Amanda Muggleton
John Batchelor
Renee Lim
Ryan O'Kane

with

Colin Friels

Billie Carter
Gus Carter
Jamie Norton
Chris Norton
Susan Norton
Harriet Norton
Layla Chapple
Bruno Rossi
Dan Delaney
Della Jensen
Rachel Rossi
Lloyd Dobson
Carmine
Zoe Menkell
Shorty
Connie Di Maria
Nick Mackay
Vivienne Hart
Charlie Stryver

Jack Norton



PRODUCTION CREDITS

THE SECRET DAUGHTER is a Screentime, a Banijay Group company, production for Channel Seven produced with the financial assistance of Screen Australia and Screen NSW.

Seven's Director of Network Production, Brad Lyons, said: "Seven is the home of Australian drama and we're immensely proud to be bringing another great Australian story to the screen. Jessica Mauboy is an amazing talent and this is a terrific yarn full of warmth, humour and music."

Screentime CEO Rory Callaghan, added: "We are delighted that this heart-warming production has attracted a cast of such depth and calibre."

Sony Music Entertainment Australia will release a Jessica Mauboy album entitled *The Secret Daughter* including covers and original songs featured in the series.



Directors

Leah Purcell
Geoff Bennett
Paul Moloney

Script Producer

Greg Haddrick

Writers

Justin Monjo
Greg Haddrick
Louise Bowes
Keith Thompson

Producers

Kerrie Mainwaring
Karl Zwicky

Executive Producer

Rory Callaghan

Director of Photography

Joseph H. Pickering ACS

Production Designer

Tim Ferrier

Costume Designer

Jenny Miles

Hair & Makeup Designer

Sheldon Wade

Editors

Antonio Mestres
Peter Crombie

Casting

Anousha Zarkesh



JESSICA MAUBOY PLAYS BILLIE CARTER



Losing her mother when she was young, Billie has spent her upbringing 'town-hopping' with her irresponsible but lovable Dad, Gus.

With music her refuge, she dreams that one day she will find her place in the world...a place where she truly belongs.

"Billie Carter is a bold, beautiful, caring woman on a mission," Jessica says. "I really wanted to explore the rawness of this young woman; her connection with music, her connection with her country and with the people she loves so dearly."

The role - which mirrors Jessica's life in many ways - was made for her. Executive Producer Rory Callaghan says: "The character was created for Jess Mauboy. It was a case of looking at a wonderful performer and thinking what role would suit her."

Producer Karl Zwicky adds: "Billie is a young women who's come from rural Australia and learns how to discover herself and make it big in reality. It was mirroring Jess' own journey."

Biography

One of Australia's most successful female artists, Jessica Mauboy is from outback Australia with her family originating from the Indigenous tribe KuKu Yalanji.

Her musical journey began in 2006 with *Australian Idol*, and since then Jessica has sold over 2.5 million units in Australia, achieved fourteen Top 30 hit singles from three studio albums, and received numerous awards including the 2014 ARIA Award for Best Female and the 2012 Aria Award for Best Pop Release.

In 2010, Jessica added actress to her title when she made her film debut in the Australian film musical *Bran Nue Dae*, which also starred Academy Award winner Geoffrey Rush.

This was followed up with a starring role in the internationally celebrated and multi-award winning feature *The Sapphires*.

Premiering at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival, the musical feature was released internationally to rave reviews, with Jessica receiving both the AACTA Award and AFCA Award for Best Supporting Actress for her outstanding portrayal of Julie.

As well as her own sell-out national tours, Jessica has performed with international artists including Beyonce, Flo Rida and Chris Brown and has entertained celebrities, dignitaries and presidents including Barack Obama, as well as appearing on both *Oprah Winfrey* and *Ellen Degeneres*.

Throughout, Jessica has been actively involved in lending her hand to charity and is a key role model to the Indigenous community in Australia with involvement in many organisations ranging from mentoring, performing and education.

Jessica also became one of few notable Australians to feature on the iconic *Sesame Street* when she filmed the *Five Kangaroos* in Alice Springs with some of the students from the Yipirinya School.

In 2014 Jessica made history when she was invited to perform as a guest at the Eurovision Song Contest in Denmark, being the first non-European solo artist to do so.



DAVID FIELD PLAYS GUS CARTER



Gus, Billie's loveable but irresponsible Dad, has little self-censorship.

His uncanny knack for finding trouble is legendary - but no matter what, Billie is the centre of his world.

"Since his wife died, he's a man who's lost," David says. "He's a man with a great sense of now but not much use for the past or the present and that makes him irresponsible."

According to Executive Producer Rory Callaghan, David brings a "light-hearted, scallywag sense of entertainment" to the Aussie larrikin.

There's also a tender warmth, especially in his scenes with on-screen daughter Billie. "I have complete respect for him," Jessica says. "We connected so easily, he became my dad, like a second father."

Biography

David Field has enjoyed an exceptional career in Australian film and television, and is undoubtedly one of the country's most highly renowned actors.

He commenced his film career as the lead in the multi-award winning *Ghosts of the Civil Dead* and has continued to work in other critically acclaimed features such as *Chopper*, *Gettin' Square*, *Two Hands*, *The Night We Called It A Day*, *The Oyster Farmer*, *Blackrock* and *Silent Partner*.

David's recent films include *Last Cab to Darwin*, *Now Add Honey*, *The Inbetweeners 2* and *The Rover*.

His other credits include John Duigan's feature *Careless Love*, Ivan Sen's feature *Mystery Road*, *The Long Goodbye* and *The Battle of the Damned*. David will next be seen in Abe Forsythe's black comedy, *Down Under*.

Well-known for his regular role as Terry Jarvis over four series in *City Homicide*, David recently featured in the original Stan series *No Activity*, the critically-acclaimed mini-series *Catching Milat* and *The Gods of Wheat Street*.

David's other television credits include *A Moody Christmas* and its follow up *The Moodys*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* (series 2), *Wild Boys*, *Rake* (series 1), *Wilfred*, *The Circuit*, *Rescue Special Ops*, *Blackjack* (series 1 and 2), *Stingers*, *Wildside*, *Blue Heelers* and *Farscape*.

He has worked with many major theatre companies in Australia, with his most recent performance being the Ensemble Theatre's *A View from the Bridge*.

With the Sydney Theatre Company he performed in *Victory and La Dispute*, for Belvoir - *Small Poppies*, *The Little Cherry Orchard*, *The Governor's Family*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Deadheart*, and for the State Theatre Company of South Australia - *The Dying Gaul*, *The Club* and *The Swan*.

David has also enjoyed great success as a director with credits including *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *Dealer's Choice* at the State Theatre Company of South Australia, and *Misanthrope* and *Pauline Hambone* at Belvoir.

As a director, David is highly renowned for his feature film *The Combination*. Following its success, David rejoined forces with the lead George Basha to co-direct *Convict*.

David has received multiple AFI's, IF Awards, Helpmann Awards, Sydney Theatre Critic Awards and FCCA nominations for his work.





MATT LEVETT PLAYS JAMIE NORTON

Jack's youngest son, Jamie, is a dreamer, a romantic, and an adventurer.

Full of charm and a zest for life, he's the Norton most likely to break your heart. "He's an adventurous, romantic, fun loving guy who's a bit lost in the world," Matt says. "What Jamie wants more than anything is to bring his crazy, dysfunctional family together again."

Biography

Recipient of the prestigious *Heath Ledger Scholarship* in 2015, Matt Levett is one of Australia's most promising young actors.

Since graduating from the Western Australian

Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), he has appeared in many film and TV productions.

Most recently he featured as Brendan Mahoney in *Matchbox's* AACTA and TV Week Logie Award winning miniseries *The Devil's Playground* and as Andrew Swanson in *A Place to Call Home* (Series 1 and 2).

His other television credits include *Winners & Losers*, *Dance Academy*, *Rescue Special Ops*, *Bed of Roses*, *Home and Away*, *Two Twisted* and *All Saints*.

Matt also played the lead role of Len Smithy in the Australian feature film *Drown* and most recently featured in the mini-series *Wolf Creek*.



JARED TURNER PLAYS CHRIS NORTON

Biography

Born in New Zealand, Jared moved to Australia with his family at an early age, where he grew up in the Western Suburbs of Sydney.

Upon realising that he probably wasn't going to make it as a star NRL player for the Parramatta Eels, Jared took to acting.

After finishing high school, he completed a three-year acting degree at Theatre Nepean and graduated in 2000.

Jared worked on numerous theatre and screen productions in Sydney before landing a leading role in the award-winning New Zealand feature film *Fracture*, based on best-selling Kiwi author, Maurice Gee's novel *Crime Story*.

Jared continued to work in New Zealand, starring in several acclaimed TV dramas including *Outrageous Fortune*, *Go Girls* and *The Almighty Johnsons*, playing Ty Johnson.

Jared has also worked on a number of international film and television productions including *30 Days of Night*, *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans*, MTV's *The Shannara Chronicles*, and as real life British SAS hero Tommy Palmer in the soon to be released action drama *6 Days* based on the terrorist takeover of the Iranian Embassy in London, April 1980.

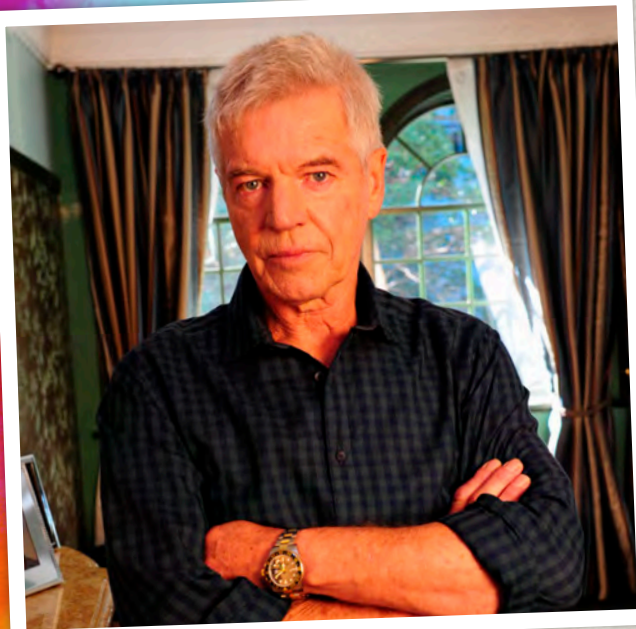
Handsome and sensible, Chris is Jamie's older brother and a man governed by duty.

Having always craved his father's approval, he feels the need to maintain a strong family unit...at least in appearance.

"Chris is the son who wants to follow in his father's footsteps but never feels like he lives up to the expectations of his father," Jared says. "As a result, Chris has sort of disconnected himself from emotion."



COLIN FRIELS PLAYS JACK NORTON



A self-made millionaire, Jack owns the prestigious Norton Hotel, which in its hey-day was the destination for 'musos' and celebrities alike.

Losing his battle with cancer, Jack is on a mission to find his long lost daughter born from an affair 26 years ago.

"It's a privilege to just sit and talk to her," Colin says about working with Jessica. "You get someone so delightful like Jessica, you can't complain."

Biography

One of Australia's best-known actors, Colin Friels has extensive Australian film credits including the crime comedy *Malcolm* (1986) - a role that earned him the Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award for Best Actor and remains one of his best loved roles.

Other roles include *A Heartbeat Away* (2010); *Tomorrow When The War Began* (2009); *Matching Jack* (2009); *The Informant* (2007); *The Nothing Men* (2007); *Tom White* (2003) for which he was nominated for an Inside Film Award and Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award; director Mark Joffe's hit comedy *The Man Who Sued God* (2001) with Judy Davis and Billy Connolly; Alex Proyas' sci-fi thriller *Dark City* (1998), the critically acclaimed *Angel Baby* (1995); the heart-warming *Così* (1996), which also starred Toni Collette and Rachel Griffiths, *Rolf de Heer's Dingo* (1991), Gillian Armstrong's *High Tide* (1988), the Maralinga story *Ground Zero* (1987); the D.H. Lawrence classic *Kangaroo* (1986), and the critically acclaimed adaptation of author Helen Garner's *Monkey Grip* (1982) with Noni Hazlehurst.

Most recently Colin has appeared in *The Eye of the Storm* (2011) alongside Judy Davis, Geoffrey Rush and Charlotte Rampling.

Colin's international films include Bruce Beresford's *A Good Man in Africa* (1994); *A Class Action* (1991), opposite Gene Hackman; *Spider-Man*; director Sam Raimi's *Darkman* (1990); and *Prisoners* (1981), opposite Tatum O'Neal.

Very well known to television audiences in Australia, Colin spent several years on screen in one of his familiar roles as Frank Holloway in the popular television series *Water Rats*, a role that earned him the 1998 People's Choice Award for Best Actor in a Television Drama.

In recent years, Colin has appeared in telemovies *Blackjack*, *Killing Time* alongside David Wenham, *Wild Boys* and *Jack Irish: Bad Debts* alongside Guy Pearce and Shane Jacobson. Colin was most recently seen in the tele-movie *Schapelle* as Mick Corby.

Other memorable television appearances include *Halifax fp* (for which he received the 1995 AFI Award for Best Actor in a Television Drama); the 2001 ABC miniseries *The Farm* with Greta Scacchi; *Stark* (1993) based on Ben Elton's novel of the same name, and *My Husband My Killer* (2001).

Colin has worked extensively in theatre for all major companies. His work includes performances for Company B in the successful 2012 production of *Death of a Salesman* (for which he received the 2013 Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Play); the Sydney Theatre Company 2002 production of *Copenhagen* (for which he received the 2003 Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Play); Judy Davis' production of *The School for Scandal* in 2001, the title role in *Macbeth* (1999) and Richard Wherrett's 1994 production of *The Temple*.

He also appeared on stage opposite Bryan Brown in the Sydney Theatre Company production of *Zebra*.

Other theatre credits include *Macbeth* (STC), *The Cherry Orchard* (Royal Queensland Theatre Company), *Hamlet* (STC), *Endgame* (MTC) and most recently *Mortido* (Belvoir).



RACHEL GORDON PLAYS SUSAN NORTON



Sophisticated, beautiful, ambitious and ruthless, Susan is the much younger wife of Jack Norton.

She is a perfect fit for the five-star hotel and heaven help anyone who gets in her way.

"I love this character because she has a really good mask you have to have when you run a hotel," Rachel says. "Unexpected things keep happening to her and it just keeps getting worse."

For Susan, the arrival of Jessica Mauboy's Billie threatens the foundation of her entire existence.

"It was this real clash of worlds to see how those two women interact," Rachel says. "I love that it was two women with different strengths and vulnerabilities who had to find a way to communicate."

Biography

A graduate of the National Institute Dramatic Art (NIDA), Rachel is one of Australia's most respected actresses.

Her theatre credits include *King Lear* and *Macbeth* (Bell Shakespeare); *Between Two Waves* (Griffin Theatre Company); *Concussion* and *Don Juan* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Let the Sunshine* and *Ninety* (Melbourne and Queensland Theatre Companies); *Managing Carmen* and *Wit* (Ensemble Theatre); *Boeing Boeing* (New Theatricals); *All Things Considered*, *Death Defying Acts*, *Last Nights Of Ballyhoo* and *Crimes Of The Heart* (Marion St Theatre) *Out There* (Hair Of The Dog Inc), *Taming Of The Shrew* (EHJ Productions) and *Big Hair In America* (Hot House Theatre Company).

She was also Assistant Director on The Ensemble Theatre production of *Seminar* in 2013.

Rachel's film credits are *Razzle Dazzle* and *Thunderstruck*.

Rachel's television credits include *The Moodys*, *The Gentlemen's Guide to Knife Fighting*, *A Moody Christmas*, *Home and Away*, *Neighbours*, *Blue Heelers*, *The Cooks*, *The Coast*, *White Collar Blue*, *Farscape*, *All Saints*, *Backberner*, *Never Tell Me Never* and *Big Sky*.

In 1994, Rachel received a Logie Award nomination for Best Female New Talent for her role on *Blue Heelers*.

In 2007, Rachel was personally trained by Al Gore and The Australian Conservation Foundation as a Climate Change Presenter for The Climate Project.





JORDAN HARE PLAYS HARRIET NORTON

Sixteen going on 25, Harriet is a teenage rebel with a mountain of hidden insecurities.

She deals with her grief in the only way she knows how - by acting out.

Only Billie understands what she's going through and gives her the attention and connection she craves.

Harriet loves having a secret sister and she'll do anything to keep Billie around.

"Harriet is a teenager; a kid who wants to be accepted and loved," Jordan says. "She wishes she was more normal, more like her peers."

Producer Karl Zwicky says, "Jordan Hare is a star in the making as young Harriet, the younger sister."

She's a slightly spoiled, 16-year-old who lives under the thumb of her mother but who forms an instant bond with Billie."

Biography

One of Australia's emerging young actresses, Jordan Hare recently completed filming the lead role of Trinity in Neil Triffett's anticipated feature film, *EMO The Musical*, which is set to premiere early next year.

The Secret Daughter is Jordan's Australian television debut.



BONNIE SVEEN PLAYS LAYLA CHAPPLE

Irreverent, shameless and hilarious, Layla is Billie's best friend.

They both love music and simply hanging out.

"*The Secret Daughter* centres on someone with a musical dream so it's essential that you've got someone that is incredibly well versed in being a story teller through music," Bonnie says.

But things become slightly complicated between the best friends when she starts seeing Billie's new 'brother', Jamie.

Biography

Tasmanian-born, award-winning actress Bonnie Sveen is one of Australia's most promising young talents.

A graduate of National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Bonnie played the role of Violet in NIDA's first feature film in co-production with the Australian Film Television and Radio School, *Before the Rain* and in 2011 she portrayed the role of Chadara in *Spartacus: Blood and Sand* which was filmed in New Zealand.

Starring as Ricky Sharpe on *Home and Away* for the last three and half years, Bonnie received the 2014 TV Week Logie Award for Most Popular New Talent.

She has also been nominated for Best Actress at the 2015 and 2016 TV Week Logie Awards.

Also a talented artist, Bonnie celebrated her first art exhibition in 2014, displaying a series of 12 acrylic and ink paintings at the RAW Exhibition.





SALVATORE COCO PLAYS BRUNO ROSSI

Bruno is Walperinga's resident bad guy with fingers in more illegal pies than he can count.

If he can scam, squeeze or threaten a quid out of you, he will.

Biography

With a career spanning over 25 years - as an actor, singer, voice artist and entertainer - Salvatore Coco is one of Australia's most accomplished performers.

Most recently he starred in SBS' critically acclaimed drama *The Principal* and *Catching Milat* for Channel Seven.

His other notable television credits include *Underbelly: The Golden Mile*, *East West 101*, *Home and Away*, *Love My Way*, *Water Rats*, *Heartbreak High* and *A Country Practice* to name just a few.

On film Salvatore starred in Shirley Barrett's comedy *Walk the Talk* and Chris Burnham's *Almost*, and has featured in Disney's *South Pacific*, Dein Perry's *Bootmen*, *Looking for Alibrandi*, *Air Tight*, the award winning *Two Hands* and *Heaven's Burning*.

Salvatore's theatre credits include *The Rules of April* and *The Pond* both finalists for the Short and Sweet Theatre Festival, *Macbeth* for Exposure Production, 3606202 for the Sydney Theatre Company and *Alex & Eve* for the Bulldog Theatre.



J.R. REYNE PLAYS DAN DELANEY

Billie's on-again, off-again boyfriend, Dan is a Walperinga local and the self-appointed frontman of their band.

Biography

J.R. Reyne has been a lifelong performer whether it be singing with award-winning artists and producers across the globe or acting on Australian screens.

J.R. released his debut album at the age of 20 to acclaimed reviews, has been the front man for bands Rushcutter and The Paradise Three, who were described by *Rolling Stone Magazine* as 'artists you should know about' and toured his solo show across America, Asia, Australia and the UK.

At home he is known for his recent guest role on *Winners and Losers* and as Taj Coppin on *Neighbours*.

Having just returned from touring Europe with Cat Power, as well as playing the lead in the new Paul Kelly musical *Deeper Water*, J.R. is currently working on his forthcoming album.



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