

Finding Joy

Key Creatives

Producers – Billie Dean and Andrew Einspruch

Billie and Andrew are a husband and wife team who have produced theatre, music videos, docu-dramas, documentaries, and programming for cable and experimental television. *Finding Joy* is their first feature production.

Writer/Director – Billie Dean

Billie's background was as an actress and stand-up comic during the 1980s, performing both in Australia and overseas. As the comedy duo Einspruch and Dean, Billie and Andrew performed their successful show *Random Thoughts* in Australia and the USA. Billie has directed theatre, corporate videos, docu-drama and documentaries, including *Mamay Ourmore Shushima, (All Life is Precious)* (1993). Billie is often in front of the camera as well as behind it.

Billie is also a professional writer, beginning her working life as a journalist, writing about everything from movie and music reviews to natural therapies and personality profiles. Billie has written for theatre, including revues, her play "The Reluctant Soul", and stand up and sketch comedy material.

The Einspruch and Dean team has also written extensively for television and the print media. They have published 25 children's books and more recently wrote for the Aria and Logie Award winning children's show *Hi-5* and another children's show, *Cushion Kids* for Australia's Nine Network.

Finding Joy is Billie's first feature film.

Director of Photography – Anthony Jennings

Tony studied Cinematography at the AFTRS in 1993, winning the Fuji Film award for the short film "Falling". On graduating he stayed in Sydney working on a variety of productions. In 1995 he was accepted as one of three Cinematographers in the Camera Operators Encouragement Awards run by Panavision and Kodak. Since then, he has shot many productions including music clips, documentaries and television commercials.

Tony has lost count of the number of short films he has shot and worked on, but in the last decade he has won seven awards for his work, including three Australian Cinematographers Society Gold awards. He was a finalist in the PanaVISIONS awards and won first prize in "The Competition", a Kodak run National competition. *Finding Joy* was his second low budget feature.

Editor – Martin Thorne

Martin has worked in the film and television industry for many years, starting as a camera assistant on news and late night tape operation. He is also an active filmmaker, involved in many independent productions local to Sydney. From 1996-99 he helped run an association of filmmakers, IndyFilms, that educated and encouraged community film productions.

In 2000, Martin's short film *Habirth* was a finalist in the national film competition Nescafe Film Awards. As well as writing and directing, Martin edits and in 2001, he completed post production on two television pilots. *Finding Joy* is his first feature film.

Cast

Raffi

Raffi was a homeless dog who turned up at the dog-friendly household of Billie Dean and Andrew Einspruch one cold June day, just as Billie was beginning to write *Finding Joy*. He became the couple's sixth dog. Willow, the other dog in the film, is the seventh. Raffi was chosen to play the dog in the film because of his uncanny ability to look depressed or happy on cue. *Finding Joy* is his first film – that we know of.

Joy Brown and Peter Wolfman – Billie Dean and Andrew Einspruch

Billie's background is theatre, where she worked mostly as a comedian in both her own and other people's plays (although the role of Tiny Tim in a "Christmas Carol" could hardly be considered humorous). Billie was a stand up comic when she met her husband, improv whizz Andrew Einspruch, and found it much more fun being part of a comic duo in a show which combined improv, songs and sketches.

Einspruch and Dean were most applauded for their ability to create positive, clean humour, which all the family could enjoy, and for their New Age characters, David and Joanna, who had people from Australia and the USA cackling at their earnest antics. Billie and Andrew worked as presenters and performers in corporate videos, and cable and experimental television, notably on shows such as "Instant TV" and "Our Effect", before taking the leap to act in their first feature film, *Finding Joy*. Oh and Billie says she can sing marginally better than Joy – but only marginally.

Tessa – Janet Watson Kruse

Janet is a rising Melbourne actor, who has appeared in numerous short films, including *Vicious, For Better For Worse, Harold*, and *Refuse*, and educational videos for various organisations.

Janet has been involved in numerous theatre productions over the years, including "Whoever So Believes" by Kiera Lindsay, "The Bacchae", directed by Michael Cathcart, and more recently "The Seventh Seal", an Ingrid Bergman screenplay adapted for the theatre by David Symons.

Sally – Rebecca Barratt

Rebecca has worked extensively for television and film appearing in such films as *Mission Impossible 2* and *Pick Ups*, and such high rating series as *All Saints, Water Rats, GP*, and *Wildside*. She's not a naturopath in real life but a very dedicated actor who continued her acting studies in New York after she made *Finding Joy*.

Matt – Todd Dwyer

Todd began his acting career in 1995 with regular television work in such high rating series as *Water Rats, All Saints* and *Murder Call*. He also took the lead in the musical stage production "Numurka". *Finding Joy* is his first feature film. He does like dogs, and all animals and is not a bit like Matt. Shortly after making *Finding Joy* he took in a homeless dog who is now a much-loved member of the Dwyer family.

Nick – Cameron McCauliffe

Cameron has had an illustrious career in both stage and screen. He appeared in the feature films *Holy Smoke* and *The Venus Factory*, as well as numerous appearances in short films, television commercials and theatre. He's another actor who started his career in improv, notably Theatresports.

Tarquin – Tamsin Dean Einspruch

Tamsin was five when she made her acting debut in *Finding Joy*. Tamsin is the daughter of Billie Dean and Andrew Einspruch and loves performing, riding her pony, reading books and playing with her large menagerie of real and invisible animal companions.

Kris Quaid – Angry Anderson

Angry shot to fame as lead singer of Australian band “Rose Tattoo”, and has released numerous albums both with the group and as a solo artist. Angry appeared as Ironbar in George Miller's film *Mad Max 3: Beyond Thunderdome*. He was also in the 1992 Australian Cast of the play "Jesus Christ Superstar" as King Herod.

Tracey Fielding – Jenny Morris

Singer/songwriter Jenny Morris is one of Australia’s most consistently successful recording artists, with over 500,000 albums sold, including multi-platinum for ‘Shiver’ and Platinum for ‘Body & Soul’. Jenny has toured with INXS and Paul McCartney, and has been awarded Australian Female Artist of the Year several times by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA). Her recent album, the first with Yep! Records, features the single "Home"

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