

Media Release

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Love. Art. Obsession.

Don't miss the highly anticipated six-part thriller *The Doll Factory*, from Thursday 7 December on SBS and SBS On Demand

Based on Elizabeth Macneal's bestselling novel, Esmé Creed-Miles, Mirren Mack, Éanna Hardwicke, and George Webster lead a stellar cast in this bewitching period drama

Stream the entire series free on SBS On Demand, or tune in for double episodes weekly at 9:30pm on SBS

****Watch the trailer [here](#)****

****Images [here](#)****

****Interviews available****

SBS and SBS On Demand are excited to announce the highly anticipated limited series ***The Doll Factory*** will arrive on **Thursday 7 December** for Australian audiences to **stream free in full on SBS On Demand, with double episodes rolling out weekly at 9:30pm on SBS**. The six-part thriller series is adapted from the bestselling novel of the same name by Elizabeth Macneal.

Esmé Creed-Miles (*Hanna*) stars as Iris, a frustrated artist, who spends her days creating mourning dolls alongside her twin sister Rose, played by **Mirren Mack** (*The Witcher: Blood Origin*, *The Nest*). By night, Iris secretly paints herself naked in the cellar, displaying a fantastical creativity that she is forced to subdue during the day whilst living under the watchful eyes of Mrs. Salter, played by **Pippa Haywood** (*Magpie Murders*). **Éanna Hardwicke** (*The Sixth Commandment*) is Silas, a taxidermist who hopes to one day find an item so unique he will be catapulted to fame. **George Webster** (*Wedding Season*, *Masters of the Air*) is Louis, a painter and member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, searching for his next muse.

In a city humming with anticipation for the Great Exhibition, their three worlds collide, and Iris is offered an opportunity to escape and start a new life. To do so, she must abandon her sister and

sacrifice her reputation. As Iris' world expands, she finds herself challenging patriarchal beliefs, exploring her sexuality, and starting to experience the things she has always dreamed of. But alongside her newfound independence, a story of dark obsession begins to unfold.

The series also stars **Sharlene Whyte** (*Stephen*), newcomer **Reece Kenwyne-Mpudzi**, **Freddy Carter** (*Shadow and Bone*), **Saoirse-Monica Jackson** (*Derry Girls*), **Laurie Kynaston** (*The Sandman*), **Jim Caesar** (*The Witcher*), **Akshay Khanna** (*Chloe*), **Aysha Kala** (*The Undeclared War*) and **Nell Hudson** (*Outlander*).

Author, Elizabeth Macneal said: "It might sound like a cliché, but to have my novel turned into a TV series is a dream come true. It has been an extraordinary process to see ideas that once existed only in my head, coming to life on set and now on screen. Each scene has been perfectly rendered - from the artist Louis Frost's lavish painting studio, to the doll shop where twins Iris and Rose paint the faces of china dolls. *Buccaneer* has been a joy to work with, and Charley Miles's script excited me from the very first page. I can't wait to share this story with viewers!"

SBS Channel Manager, Natalie Edgar and SBS On Demand Channel Manager, Haidee Ireland said: "We're thrilled to add the highly anticipated limited series *The Doll Factory* to our extensive collection of local and international premium content. At SBS, we're proud to champion a variety of stories from around the globe and deliver an immersive selection of titles. *The Doll Factory* sits perfectly alongside a host of acclaimed thrillers, noir, and period cinema available for free to Australian audiences. We can't wait to travel back in time to Elizabeth Macneal's 1850's London to follow this enthralling tale!"

Buccaneer Executive Producer Anna Burns said: "We are so excited for viewers to enter the world of *The Doll Factory*. We couldn't be more proud of what our incredible creative team – led by Charley Miles, Sacha Polak & Cathy Brady – have created, and of our phenomenally talented cast. Thank you, once more, to Elizabeth Macneal for giving us the gift of her debut novel, to Paramount+ for being such supportive collaborators throughout, and finally to our partners at Cineflix, SBS and TVNZ for recognising the potential of the show so early on."

Tony Wood, Anna Burns and Richard Tulk-Hart are Executive Producers for *Buccaneer*. Charley Miles is the series screenwriter and is also Executive Producer. Sacha Polak (*Hanna*, *Dirty God*) is Director, Cathy Brady (*Wildfire*, *Can't Cope*, *Won't Cope*) is the second Director, whilst Suzanne McAuley (*Magpie Murders*, *Maigret*) is Series Producer and Julie Harkin (*I May Destroy You*, *Becoming Elizabeth*) is Casting Director.

Cineflix Rights will be distributing the series internationally and New Zealand's TVNZ have also boarded the historic thriller.

Stream all episodes of *The Doll Factory* free on SBS On Demand from Thursday 7 December, or tune in for double episodes weekly on Thursdays from 7 December at 9:30pm on SBS.

Screeners and images for media use are available on the **SBS Screening Room**.

For more information, interviews and images please contact:

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About Paramount+

Paramount+ is a global digital subscription video streaming service from Paramount that features a mountain of premium entertainment for audiences of all ages. Internationally, the streaming service features an expansive library of original series, hit shows and popular movies across every genre from world-renowned brands and production studios, including SHOWTIME®, CBS, Comedy Central, MTV, Nickelodeon, Paramount Pictures and the Smithsonian Channel™, in addition to a robust offering of premier local content. The service is currently live in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Australia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland and South Korea.

For more information about Paramount+, please visit www.paramountplus.com and follow @ParamountPlusUK on social platforms.

About Buccaneer

Buccaneer is a London-based international content production company led by joint CEOs Tony Wood and Richard Tulk-Hart.

The company's mission is to partner with the industry's best talent, global streaming platforms and broadcasters around the world to create premium scripted content for the international marketplace. Buccaneer currently has projects with partners including Paramount+, NRK, Acorn and ITV.

Buccaneer works with a world-class stable of literary and directing talents including Lars Lundström, Øystein Karlsen, Jenni Fagan, C.J.Tudor, Hans Rosenfeldt, Charley Miles, Ingeborg Topsoe, Sandhya Suri, Irvine Welsh, Dougray Scott, Elizabeth MacNeal, Rose Lewenstein, Baltasar Kormakur and John Brownlow. Productions include **'Desi Rascals'**, the award-winning co-production with Gurinder Chadha (*Bend It Like Beckham*) for Sky and scripted drama **'Marcella'** which aired to global critical acclaim and saw Anna Friel winning an Emmy for her lead performance as Marcella Backland. The company is currently in production on the second season of Irvine Welsh's **'Crime'** for ITVX starring Dougray Scott (*Mission: Impossible 2*, *Batwoman*, *The Woman in White*), **'Whitstable Pearl'** season 2 starring Kerry Godliman (*After Life*) for Acorn TV, **'The Burning Girls'**, Hans Rosenfeldt's (*Marcella*, *The Bridge*) adaptation of CJ Tudor's bestselling novel for Paramount+ and **'So Long, Marianne'** with Øystein Karlsen's Redpoint Productions (*Dag*, *Lilyhammer*, *Exit*, *Whitstable Pearl*) and Connect3 Media for NRK.

Buccaneer Media is a partnership with Canada's Cineflix Media.

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About Cineflix Rights

Cineflix Rights is the UK's largest, truly independent TV content distributor to broadcasters and streamers worldwide with a catalogue of premium standout scripted series and movies as well as must-watch returning factual programming from some of the world's most creative producers. Our growing scripted slate includes *Last King of The Cross*, a new crime drama featuring Tim Roth and Lincoln Younes for Paramount+ Australia; supernatural drama *Reginald the Vampire* starring *Spider-Man's* Jacob Batalon for SYFY US; *Irvine Welsh's Crime*, the acclaimed author's riveting adaptation of his bestselling novel starring Dougray Scott in his International Emmy®-nominated role as Ray Lennox for ITVX/BritBox; International Emmy® Best Drama Award-winning Israeli espionage series *Tehran* for Apple TV+; French thriller *Rebecca*, an Official Selection at Séries Mania 2021; Acorn TV's cozy crime procedural *Whitstable Pearl*; award-winning Israeli police corruption series *Manayek*; global hit police procedural *Coroner*; and International Emmy®-winner *Marcella*.

Established in 2002, Cineflix Rights is based in London, and is part of the [Cineflix Media](#) group of companies.

About SBS

SBS holds a unique place in the Australian media landscape, inspiring all Australians to explore, respect and celebrate our diverse world and in doing so, contributes to an inclusive and cohesive society. From its beginnings in 1975, SBS has evolved into a contemporary, multiplatform and multilingual media organisation with a free-to-air TV portfolio spanning six distinctive channels in SBS, National Indigenous Television (NITV), SBS VICELAND, SBS Food and SBS Movies, and the recently launched SBS WorldWatch; an extensive radio and audio content network providing more than 60 culturally and linguistically diverse communities with services in their own language; and an innovative digital offering, including streaming destination SBS On Demand, available to audiences anytime, anywhere. Visit us at sbs.com.au

About TVNZ

TVNZ is New Zealand's state-owned, commercially funded broadcaster. Our purpose is to inspire the conversations of Aotearoa, and enrich the lives of New Zealanders by sharing the moments that matter to our communities, regions and people. Each day, TVNZ reaches more than 2 million Kiwis through channels TVNZ 1, 2, DUKE and online entertainment platform, TVNZ+. Visit us at tvnz.co.nz.

About Charley Miles

Charley Miles's acclaimed debut play BLACKTHORN was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Further celebrated plays include DAUGHTERHOOD and THERE ARE NO BEGINNINGS, the latter of which was an *Observer* Top Ten for 2019. Miles sold her first series IN MEMORIAM to HBO Max, with Buccaneer and Participant producing. She is currently working on an adaptation of the graphic novel MAGGY GARRISSON, with Mammoth producing, for Sky. Miles is repped by Marnie Podos at Under New Mgmt.