



D a m i e n

B o d i e









# At your service

Charming us as Frances's lively assistant, *Winners & Losers'* Damien Bodie has hit the jackpot with endless job offers... from viewers looking for a PA!



Damien's won fans as Jonathan, Frances's very impressive PA.



Jonathan and Rhys share an awkward moment.

**JOB OFFERS ARE FAST PILING UP FOR** *Winners & Losers* star Damien Bodie. So much so, he's finding it hard to keep up with the rising demand!

Over the past two seasons, the former *Neighbours* actor has delighted viewers as Frances's (Virginia Gay) happy-go-lucky assistant, Jonathan. Now, everyone wants a piece of him.

"The best thing is people come up to me and go, 'I want an assistant just like you. Where do I hire someone like you?'" the 27-year-old laughs.

"But, the thing is, I want an assistant like me, too, because he is so caring and loves Frances dearly. He's always carefree and enjoying himself."

Sounds like Damien himself. Meeting the actor is like being greeted by a big puppy dog with boundless energy. In fact, you leave the interview telling yourself to love life a little more. With his infectious energy, it's little wonder casting agents have been so quick to snap him up.

"I auditioned for Jonathan when I was overseas," Damien says, recalling how he'd worked with series producer Maryanne Carroll on a show called *Short Cuts* years earlier.

"She remembered me from back then and had trust in me. She was in my corner, even though I was far away. I did about three auditions on tape and booked the job while I was in the States. It brought me back to Australia - it's my dream role."

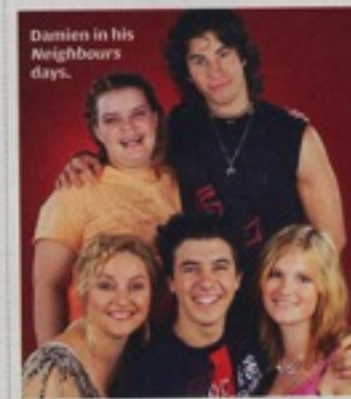
Being on set every day is a joy for Damien, who says the number one question he's asked by fans is if he's gay - like his character.

"People are always asking," he says with a smile. "But, I take that as a compliment, because it means they believe the character. If you play a villain and people hate you, then you're doing your job. I'm not gay, but I think they are the funniest people

I've ever met and that's why I love the energy of playing Jonathan."

This week in *Winners & Losers*, Jonathan finds himself in a spot of bother with his new squeeze, Rhys (Nick Simpson-Deeks). Yes, Jenny's (Melissa Bergland) Rhys! The former boyfriend who broke her heart by revealing he was gay. Uncomfortable with open displays of affection, Rhys's awkwardness comes to a head when the pair is out in public.

For Damien, playing a homosexual character can prove a tad challenging.



Damien in his Neighbours days.

"I have to pull back because I'm over-the-top in life anyway," he admits. "In fact, for Jonathan, I have to pull my energy back a lot more, because on screen I like to go, 'More, more, more', but there is a fine line."

"But, I have to say, I don't feel like I've done my job until I've been told 'No' by a director about 10 times during a scene, because that means I'm bringing ideas to the table. Sometimes they aren't right, but I just like to offer things up."

Following his stint as Dylan Timmins in *Neighbours* and guest roles in Aussie

dramas including *City Homicide*, Damien took off to America to stretch his acting wings, with great results.

"I went there to do improv training," he says. "All comedic actors have done it, like the people I admire, including Jim Carrey. I did some stand-up at Hollywood Improv, which is the same place where Jerry Seinfeld, Mike Myers and Jim Carrey performed. It was the scariest thing of my life! I don't think of myself as particularly funny and when it's your own material for seven minutes to make complete strangers laugh, it's like standing there naked and just saying, 'Judge me.'"

Damien also took some acting classes alongside Hollywood actress Heather Graham, 42, best known for her roles in *Boogie Nights*, *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me* and *The Hangover*.

"It was amazing, because you're working with elite artists," he says. "It was so rewarding."

Now settled in Melbourne, Damien lives with Ben Nicholas (left, centre) and Kyal Marsh, the boys behind *Neighbours'* Stingray and Boyd.

"After *Neighbours*, we all went our separate ways and travelled for a few years," he says. "Then we all ended up in Melbourne at the same time. It's great. Chaos is one word to describe it, though!"

As for *Neighbours*, Damien says he's grateful to be part of the iconic show.

"When you're there, you feel like part of a community - it's just got such a family vibe," he says.

"Stefan Dennis and Ian Smith were still there for the 20th anniversary and those are guys I admired growing up. They are a huge part of the show. I loved every second. It opened so many doors for me."

● Tuesday, 8.30pm, Channel Seven

REUTERS/PAUL WOODS





Damien Bodie

# What makes me happy

Proving laughter is the best medicine, the *Winners & Losers* actor is lending his support to this year's Red Nose Day. Here's what else gets him grinning...



### My best-ever holiday was...

"Christmas holidays during my childhood, spent with family in Pambula, NSW. It's where I learnt to ride a bike, and that inflatable boogie boards are useless."

### Supporting Red Nose Day makes me happy because...

"I get to be silly for a serious cause! The day helps to raise money for SIDS And Kids, for vital research, and to provide education and counselling support to many Aussie families who have experienced the sudden and unexpected death of their baby or child."

Red Nose Day is held on Friday, June 28. Show your support by buying a red nose and wearing it with pride! For more details visit [www.rednoseday.com.au](http://www.rednoseday.com.au)



### I feel happiest when I'm...

"Cuddled between my freshly washed sheets and soft pocket coil mattress following a warm shower!"

### The food that puts a smile on my face is...

"Cereal - I mix multigrain Weet-Bix, Just Right and organic fruit muesli. I soak it all in organic milk while I get ready and eat it in a large bowl."



### My happiest memory is of...

"Any first-time experience: my first *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* playset, completing a *Batman Returns* card collection, my first kiss, first trophy or first bungee jump."

### My favourite feel-good film is...

"*Toy Story*, a trilogy that relates to the importance of feeling remembered."



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## WINNERS ARE ALL GRINNERS

THE cast of *Winners & Losers* proved to be the big winners yesterday after a third season of the Melbourne-produced show was announced.

Channel 7 said production of series three would begin later this year, with stars Melissa Bergland, Virginia Gay, Zoe Tuckwell-Smith and Melanie Vallejo set to return.

The second season of *Winners & Losers*, from the same producers as *Packed to the Rafters*, is now airing and has attracted an

average national audience of 1.57 million per episode this year. The show also secured three Logie nominations including a win for Bergland for Most Popular New Talent.

"2013 is going to be a landmark year for Channel 7's drama department," Seven head of drama Julie McGauran said.

"Our drama slate is at full capacity, with the return of *Winners & Losers* as well as *Packed to the Rafters*, *Home and Away* and the new drama, *A Place to Call Home*."



L-R Mike Smith, Melissa Bergland, Stephen Phillips, Virginia Gay, Damien Bodie, Melanie Vallejo, Tom Wren, Zoe Tuckwell-Smith and Blair McDonough

No Kerr-fuffle

## SMART GIRL

A frequent visitor to Australia, music superstar Pink was a highlight of the Logies ceremony, with many of TV's younger actors telling TV WEEK that the thing they were most looking forward to was her performance of "Stupid Girls".

"It's fun being here," Pink said soon after she left the stage, although she admitted she wasn't very familiar with Aussie television. "I don't even watch TV at home. I watch movies, but I'm never home enough to watch TV. I'm kind of boring that way."

Pink was in Australia for a week and travelled here without her new husband, motocross rider Carey Hart. "It's like single life - I've seen him three times since the wedding," she laughed, adding that when they do get time together, they "take breaks every once in a while and hang out with the dogs, and get pampered and everything. We have four dogs. I love them!"

Although Pink has tied the knot, she's quick to state that she's not married and she's also not about to be controversial, as a song titled "President" on her latest album, *Dead*, demonstrates.

"I wrote a political song. What's the reaction been? Wonderful. Even"



*Neighbours'* Damien Bodie (left) and *Home and Away's* Jason Smith showed why facial hair is the new black.

## TV WEEK LOGIE AWARDS







**Twisted Broadway, Australia's Broadway Backwards, Set for Aug. 19; Chloe Dallimore and Damien Bodie to Host**

By *Carey Purcell*  
 09 Aug 2013

*Twisted Broadway*, an evening featuring actors singing songs originally written for the opposite sex, will be performed at Australia's NIDA Parade Theatre Aug. 19.

Advertisement

The event will be hosted by Chloe Dallimore, who recently starred in *The Addams Family* and serves as president of Oz Showbiz Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, which will receive the proceeds from the event.

Dallimore will be joined by co-host Damien Bodie ("Winners and Losers," "Neighbours").

Modeled after the New York tradition of *Broadway Backwards*, *Twisted Broadway* will feature performances by Helen Dallimore (*Legally Blonde*), Ben Mingay (*An Officer and a Gentleman*), Verity Hunt Ballard (*Mary Poppins*), Ian Stenlake (*Stingers*), Rodney Dobson (*Wicked*), Pippa Grandison (*Wicked*), Avigail Herman (*Cats*) and Tom Sharah (*It's Raining Me*).

Oz Showbiz Cares/Equity Fights AIDS demonstrates the Australian entertainment industry's dedication to those living with and touched by HIV/AIDS in Australia. Twenty people a week are diagnosed with HIV and over 50 percent of those living with the disease reside under the poverty line in Australia.

Tickets and more information are available by visiting [ticketek.com.au](http://ticketek.com.au).



"My family always have to call me on Christmas Day because I love sleeping in. They have to make sure I'm up and I'll get there by lunchtime so people can open their gifts. I always open my parcels really slowly, so it lasts longer."  
 - DAMIEN BODIE  
 WINNERS & LOSERS

"If I could have anyone over for Christmas I invite Jennifer Byrne. she's the best converser and she has so much joy. Suzi Quatro because she'd show us a thing and James Bond - just a little mischief into it."  
 - VIRGINIA GARDNER  
 WINNERS & LOSERS



**The living dead**

Emotions run high as Dylan turns up at his own funeral!

NEIGHBOURS BBC1 Wednesday

**D**ylan Timmins makes a surprise return to Erinsborough this week - at his own memorial service! While Ramsay Street residents believe that Dylan and Connor O'Neill perished in the plane crash, the boys have actually been hiding out in Tasmania, to avoid facing the law over their crimes.

"Dylan and Connor's motives aren't as bad as they seem," says Damien Bodie, who plays Dylan. "After the crash, they assumed that they were the only survivors. They also think that they're both likely to go to prison if they return home, which means their families won't want to know them - it's easier to stay dead!"

But with little more than the clothes on their backs, the lads are struggling to survive. And while scavenging through garbage at the side of a road, they make a shocking discovery...

"They find a newspaper containing an article about the crash," reveals Damien.

"Not only does it mention that Dylan's girlfriend, Sky, is still alive, but it also reveals that Stingray has confessed to the robbery, which changes everything for Dylan. He can't let his brother cop the blame for something he did."

While Connor decides to stay on the run, Dylan heads back home.

"His plan is to apologise to everyone and confess all about the robbery," says Damien. "But when he gets to the Scully house, nobody's there. It's then that he finds a letter revealing that his memorial service is that day!"

Dylan turns up at the service to find Sky in tears, his father, Kim, delivering a moving eulogy - and Stingray in handcuffs...

"Dylan walks up to his mum, Janelle - and you can imagine the look on her face," explains Damien. "At first, there's relief, but it turns to anger. Furious that he let everyone believe he was dead, Janelle hugs him and then slaps him!"

"Things aren't going to be as simple as Dylan hopes," adds Damien. "It's not looking good for him - or Stingray..."

**"IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD FOR DYLAN"**





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# TV WEEK

**IDOL**  
**BREAKDOWN**  
**SHOCK**  
How Damien saved Jess

As voted by you! **HOT!**

**WHY IZZY'S BACK!**  
NEIGHBOURS

**BACK ON?**  
Dylan & Sky's shock kiss

NEIGHBOURS

TV-WEEK COVER

**ER ER IDE!**  
★ Charmed  
Nic/Tech

**NEWS**

Ramsay Street gets ready to farewell two lovable rogues

TV-WEEK

# Leaving the Neighbourhood

**W**hen Damien Bodie and his co-star, Ben Nicholas, recently announced they were leaving *Neighbours*, many fans were broken-hearted.

Chatting to TV WEEK, Damien, who plays Dylan, Stingray's bad-boy sibling, now explains that after two years on Ramsay Street, it was time to go.

"Leaving was a joint decision (with the show's producers)," Damien (far left, with Ben) reveals. "I wanted to leave on a high - while my character was still having some fun with interesting storylines and while I was working with people who hadn't got sick of me! I think they realised it was time for Dylan to move on as well."

"I'd done a long list of children's TV series before *Neighbours*. This role has taught me so much and has set me up for the future."

Damien, 21, believes it's fitting that he and Ben, who plays Dylan's younger brother, complete their final scenes around the same time.

"I could not picture Dylan on the show without Stingray," he says. "We've become like brothers in real life, too."

As for what's next for the young actor, Damien is hoping to take a well-deserved break before reassessing his options.

"I'm just really happy kicking back and having a look around, as well as spending some time with friends and family," he says.

And while Damien's lips are sealed regarding how they will be written out of *Neighbours*, he does hint that they won't be relocating to Queensland, like many other one-time Erinsborough residents.

"It was so exciting when the producers sat down and explained what they wanted to do with the storyline," he says. "Ben and I were just blown away. We were so happy that they were going to give us a shot to go out with a bang. It'll be very dramatic."



**CROWN**  
**THE INTERNSHIP PREMIERE**  
 The Event: The star of *The Internship* Vince Vaughn was a late no show, but there was still a decent crowd at the premiere at Crown on Tuesday night.

Shura Taft and Andrew Whelan

Julie Kiriacou  
 confidential  
 @heraldsun.com

**CITY**  
**SOLOMON AND MARION AFTER PARTY**  
 The Melbourne Theatre Company play *Solomon and Marion* opens at the Fairfax Studio this week

Elise and Tom Elliott

Simone Callahan

Damien Bodie and Amy McDonald

**DAMIEN BODIE, WINNERS & LOSERS**

"I always celebrate Christmas Day with my dad and his wife and her three beautiful kids and my sisters. Then usually Boxing Day is at my mum's with my little brother Corey and my sisters. Christmas time is a special time, because everyone has it off and [there's] the family and big lunches and eating lots."

27

STORY: MICHELLE BATEMAN; MANNE: NICKLAS; LUCY: WINNERS PHOTOS; GETTY IMAGES

My dad is a self-educated artist, comedian and renovation king. We traditionally spend Father's Day sitting along the boundary of a local VFL match. It's the one day a year I don't mind the taste of beer, because it's with Dad."

*Winners & Losers'* Damien Bodie on his dad, Col.

113

Stephanie's one blonde who does have more fun, especially with Damien around!

**Damien Bodie WINNERS & LOSERS**

As you can see I wore a blue velvet jacket, silk yellow tie and in my defence, did match my shirt to my date's dress. Note to self: While arriving on a Harley-Davidson is cool, it's not ideal for your date's hair. Also, when your date isn't from your school and isn't your girlfriend (which mine wasn't – Heidi Valkenburg is an actress as well and we met while shooting a Channel Seven series called *Crash Zone*), every single male in your year will attempt to take that date off you!

Abba Earl

Formal Wars premieres





**Erinsborough army:** neighbourly types Damien Bodie, Ian Smith and Dichen Lachman do their bit for the Salvos. Picture: JESSICA O'DONNELL

# Ramsay St appeals

ACTORS from *Neighbours* are getting right behind the Salvation Army.

Ian Smith, Damien Bodie and Dichen Lachman — who play Harold, Dylan and Katya — are only too happy to endorse the annual door-knock appeal.

The Red Shield Appeal this weekend raises money for social programs from youth crisis and domestic violence, to homeless and disability services.

*Neighbours* producer Peter Dodds said the cast and crew backed the Salvos for their fantastic services.

Smith, as Harold, is well known for his connection with the Salvos and was

## Jordana Borensztajn

keen to show support outside the set.

"I had a Salvo connection when I was a youngster and it always left a very good taste in my mouth," he said.

"If I can ever do anything for them I most certainly will. They help everyone else; why not help them?"

In the past year, the Salvation Army helped 1.5 million Australians in crisis and this year it aims to raise \$59 million nationally.

DONATIONS can be made to collectors with Salvo ID tags; by calling 13 72 58 or at the website [www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au)

