



HARVEY ZIELINSKI

2018

Immediately after graduating from The National Theatre Drama School in 2017 as their Cybec Foundation scholarship recipient, Harvey was selected to be the Red Stitch Actors' Theatre graduate ensemble member.

Red Stitch Actors' Theatre is at the forefront of Australian contemporary theatre, and hundreds of actors from around Australia apply for the graduate position each year.

Throughout 2018, Harvey performed at Red Stitch in Taylor Mac's *Hir* (opposite Belinda McClory, *The Matrix*), Annie Baker's *The Antipodes* and Tennessee Williams' *Suddenly Last Summer*. He was Assistant Director on Catherine-Anne Toupin's *Right Now*.



As George Holly in Suddenly Last Summer

**“AN INCREDIBLE POOL
OF TALENT... A
COMPELLING,
ABSORBING
EXPERIENCE...
HAUNTING, HORRIFIC
AND RICHLY POETIC...
A BREATHTAKING
PRODUCTION.”**

- WEEKEND NOTES

2018

That same year, Harvey was twice recognised as one of Australia's best emerging talents; receiving a [Casting Guild of Australia Rising Star Award](#), and becoming the first ever transgender [Heath Ledger Scholarship top ten finalist](#).

After a week spent in LA, a star-studded ceremony at The Chateau Marmont and being profiled by Vogue magazine, Harvey signed with his US talent manager, Will Douglas.

Harvey also received an Ian Potter Foundation grant in 2018 and booked a guest role in *Get Krack!n S2* (ABC).



Jake Terrey, November 2018

'Our industry will only get stronger as we embrace, celebrate and support!' Harvey Zielinski becomes the first transgender nominee for the Heath Ledger scholarship as finalists are announced for its 10th anniversary

By Candice Jackson For Daily Mail Australia
02:52 21 Aug 2018, updated 04:15 21 Aug 2018



The Daily Mail, 2018



The Standard Hotel, HLS 2018

Bethany Whitmore
Whitmore's first role was playing Debra Messing's daughter in the 2007 US miniseries *The Starter Wife*. Since then she's won parts in festival favourite *Get A Kick* and, most recently, *The Family Law* and *Picnic At Hanging Rock* - all while completing high school.
"One of my goals is to create my own content. I want to go behind the scenes, as well as star on screen, so I want to be able to fund my own work. In terms of acting, my aim is to have flexibility to be able to pick and choose my own work, work that is really interesting, and to tell stories I think need to be told and to make people think. Storytelling is really important to me. I think it's vital to human history and we need to tell it for future generations - what we were like and the lessons they can learn from us and to keep traditions that we have. Stories are really important and movies are there for people when we need them. I want to make movies that are there for people."

Harvey Zielinski
The first transgender finalist of HLS, Zielinski started acting at eight. Since transitioning in 2015, he has paved a new path as a male actor with roles in TV and theatre, enjoying the freedom of self as well as societal acceptance. "It means a lot to be welcomed in such a profound way. As someone from a diverse background who sometimes questions whether or not there's space for me in this industry to have someone extend their hand and say there is, and that I'm one of 10 to Heath Ledger Scholarship finalists, is very important to me.
"Before [transitioning], I pulled into the shadows, and when I transitioned it was like the roles fitted me better; I can go deeper, I can be more expressive. A performer has to be in harmony with their body and I was really disconnected, but now I consider myself quite a physical performer, especially doing theatre... it was like an unleashing, it was hugely positive for my craft."

Gemma Bird Matheson
Matheson, who is of Papua New Guinean, English, South African and Scottish descent, most recently starred in *Neighbours* and co-created *The Housemate* for the ABC and Screen Australia.
"Being associated with Heath Ledger and the legacy he left - the sense of community he created for Australians in Hollywood and the legacy of giving back to others - is really inspiring.
"It's really exciting to be part of this Australian scholarship. This is what Australia looks like, it isn't just what has typically been shown in the past. So to be part of such a diverse group of young actors representing the Heath Ledger Scholarship is really important to me, especially because I also write and just co-created *The Housemate*. Something I am super-pasionate about is creating diverse stories and creating opportunities for actors who aren't typically what Australians have looked like in the past on TV."

Vogue Magazine, December 2018

2019

Just five months after signing with Grandview, Harvey booked series lead Abel in the Catherine Hardwicke (*Twilight*) directed sci-fi series [Don't Look Deeper](#). Abel is a ruthless “fixer,” doing the dirty work for his prolific brother Noah’s (Kaiwi Lyman - *Den of Thieves*) tech empire. *Don't Look Deeper* joined The Roku Channel on January 14th, 2022 and is currently being reconfigured into a feature film to be sold at Cannes Film Market.

Other series leads include Don Cheadle (*Avengers: Endgame*), Helena Howard (*The Wilds*) and Emily Mortimer (*Lars and the Real Girl*).

Harvey received an O1 visa for the USA.



As Abel in Don't Look Deeper

FILMLINK



[Read more: Film Ink - Look Deeper](#)



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CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT, FEATURED, NEWS

A Chat with Quibi's 'Don't Look Deeper' Star Harvey Zielinski



BY DENNY PATTERSON
AUGUST 11, 2020



[Read more: Out Front Magazine](#)



As Abel in Don't Look Deeper

2020

Harvey played Detective Jones in writer/director Katie Found's feature *My First Summer* (STAN), opposite Markella Kavenagh (*The Lord of the Rings*), Maiah Stewardson and Steve Mouzakis (*Prison Break*). The Guardian named MFS as one of the ten best Australian films of 2021 and in 2022 it sold internationally to Salzgeber, Peccadillo, Nexo Plus, Supo Mungam and Outplay for a Q2 2022 release.

Harvey performed an original 15-minute monologue in *Gender Euphoria* at the Melbourne International Arts Festival and Sydney Mardi Gras Festival et al.

"A highlight for me was Harvey Zielinski...a beautifully distilled account of forming one's identity, where what was left unsaid sang loud."

- ArtsHub (Gender Euphoria)



As Detective Jones in My First Summer (STAN)

2020

Harvey recorded the audiobook narration for Craig Silve (*Jasper Jones*) *Honeybee*, earning him an Australian Book Industry Awards Best Audiobook nomination. *Honeybee* won the 2021 Indie Book Award for Fiction and was the 2020 Dymocks Book of the Year.

In his own literary news, Harvey received Australian Broadcasting Commission Fresh Start Fund development support for his feature film concept, *Sweet Milk Lake*.

Harvey began coaching actors through his Melbourne studio.



Nick Simpson-Deeks, 2023

2021

Harvey played Laertes in the Malthouse Theatre production of *Because the Night* (directed by Matt Lutton), from March - July. The *Because the Night* cast included Belinda McClory (*The Matrix*) and Rodney Afif (*Pirates of the Caribbean, Hotel Mumbai*).



As Laertes in *Because the Night*

2021 marked a significant acceleration in Harvey's career, with credits including:

- Vincent in *Love Me* for Warner Bros., starring Bojana Novakovic (*I, Tonya, Birds of Prey*) and Hugo Weaving (*The Matrix, The Lord of the Rings*)
- Whittaker in *Spreadsheet* for Paramount+ starring Katherine Parkinson (*The IT Crowd*)
- Jake in *Metrosexual S2* for 9Now and OUTtv
- "Harvey" in *Why Are You Like This* for ABC/Netflix
- The narration for Yves Rees' novel, *All About Yves*
- Narration for Claire Thomas's (*Fugitive Blue*) *The Performance*

2021

Harvey's screenplay *Sweet Milk Lake* was amongst 9 projects selected for accelerated development with [Impact Australia 2](#) (the brain-child of Ron Howard, Brian Grazer and Tyler Mitchell), and amongst 6 projects selected for the [Film Victoria/SBS/Arenamedia Originate program](#). Harvey established his own production company, Very Famous Films.



As Vincent in Love Me (Warner Bros.)



As Whittaker in Spreadsheet (Paramount+)

“After being mistaken for his alpha, cis twin brother by his estranged and dying dad, a soft-spoken trans man relishes the opportunity to be “one of the boys”; until the weight of the lie becomes heavier than his need for the truth.”
- *Sweet Milk Lake* logline

2022



Harvey was once again selected as a top six [Heath Ledger Scholarship finalist](#).

The final judging panel included Chris Hemsworth (*Avengers: Endgame*), Nina Gold (*The Power of the Dog*), Jacki Weaver (*Animal Kingdom*), Alia Shawkat (*Search Party*), and Rachel Perkins (*Bran Nue Dae*).

Harvey booked the series regular role of Gez Rahme in [Deadloch](#) (Amazon Prime 2023, Kate McCartney/Kate McLennan).

Sweet Milk Lake received [Screen Australia](#) development support.

Harvey became a Malthouse Theatre Company commissioned playwright.



Nick Simpson-Deeks June 2023

2022

Harvey was the Director's Attachment on *The Newsreader S2* (Emma Freeman, Werner Films for the ABC).

Sweet Milk Lake was one of 42 feature projects selected worldwide for the 17th annual Ontario Creates Film Financing Forum at TIFF. After attending TIFF, Harvey went on to LA to study Alexander Technique with Kristof Konrad at Alexander Techworks.

Harvey directed, starred in and co-produced a test shoot for SML, supported by the Originate initiative, Ferocious Entertainment and WeirAnderson Films.

Harvey played Chris in the Angus Cameron play *Cavemxn* at Chapel off Chapel, directed by Bronwen Coleman. *Cavemxn* received [4 stars in The Age](#).



Nick Simpson-Deeks June 2023

2023

Harvey attended a Directing Intensive at AFTRS, and completed a course in Directing Actors with Sundance Collab.

Gender Euphoria returned to Arts Centre Melbourne and Darlinghurst Theatre in Sydney.

Harvey's debut feature screenplay *Sweet Milk Lake* was fully financed and greenlit by the inaugural [VicScreen/Arenamedia/ScrAus/SBS Originate initiative](#). Harvey will co-direct and co-produce, as well as starring.

[Deadloch](#) was released on Amazon Prime in over 240 countries on June 2nd, and quickly became the #1 Amazon show in Australia, #2 in the UK, #8 in the US and #5 in the world.

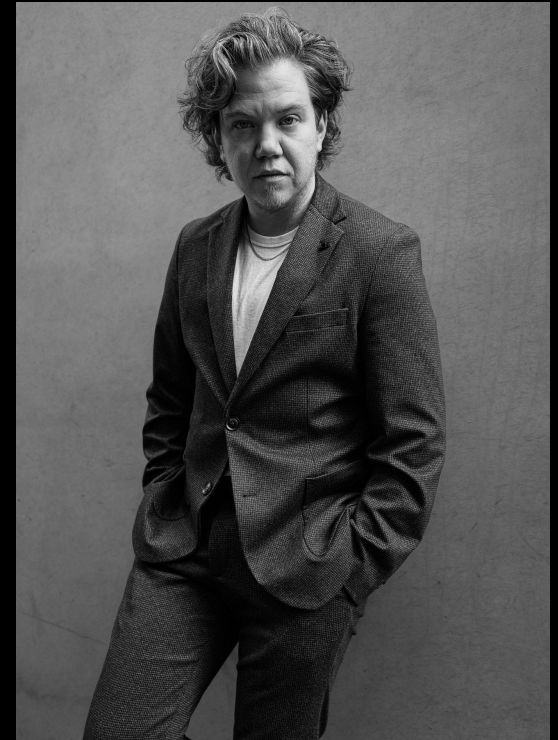
Harvey played a lead role in ABC series [White Fever](#), created by Ra Chapman, due for release in 2024. Harvey is also a writer on the series.

Harvey played Nick in *Whose Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at Red Stitch, opposite Kat Stewart and directed by Sarah Goodes. The production sold out before opening and was met with rave reviews.

Harvey was part of a CNFDL writer's room adapting a best-selling novel to limited series, and directed his first TVC.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- ◆ [*The Sydney Morning Herald* interviews Harvey as a 2018 top ten Heath Ledger Scholarship finalist \(2018\)](#)
- ◆ [*VicScreen* interviews Harvey on *Sweet Milk Lake* \(2022\)](#)
- ◆ [Harvey's interview with Viktoria Bitter for *The V Spot* podcast \(2020\)](#)
- ◆ [Harvey's showreel on IMDb](#)
- ◆ [Self-tape - Rabbit Hole](#)



Nick Simpson-Deeks, June 2023

In the USA, Harvey is represented by Artists First. In Australia, he is represented by Mollison Keightley Management.
