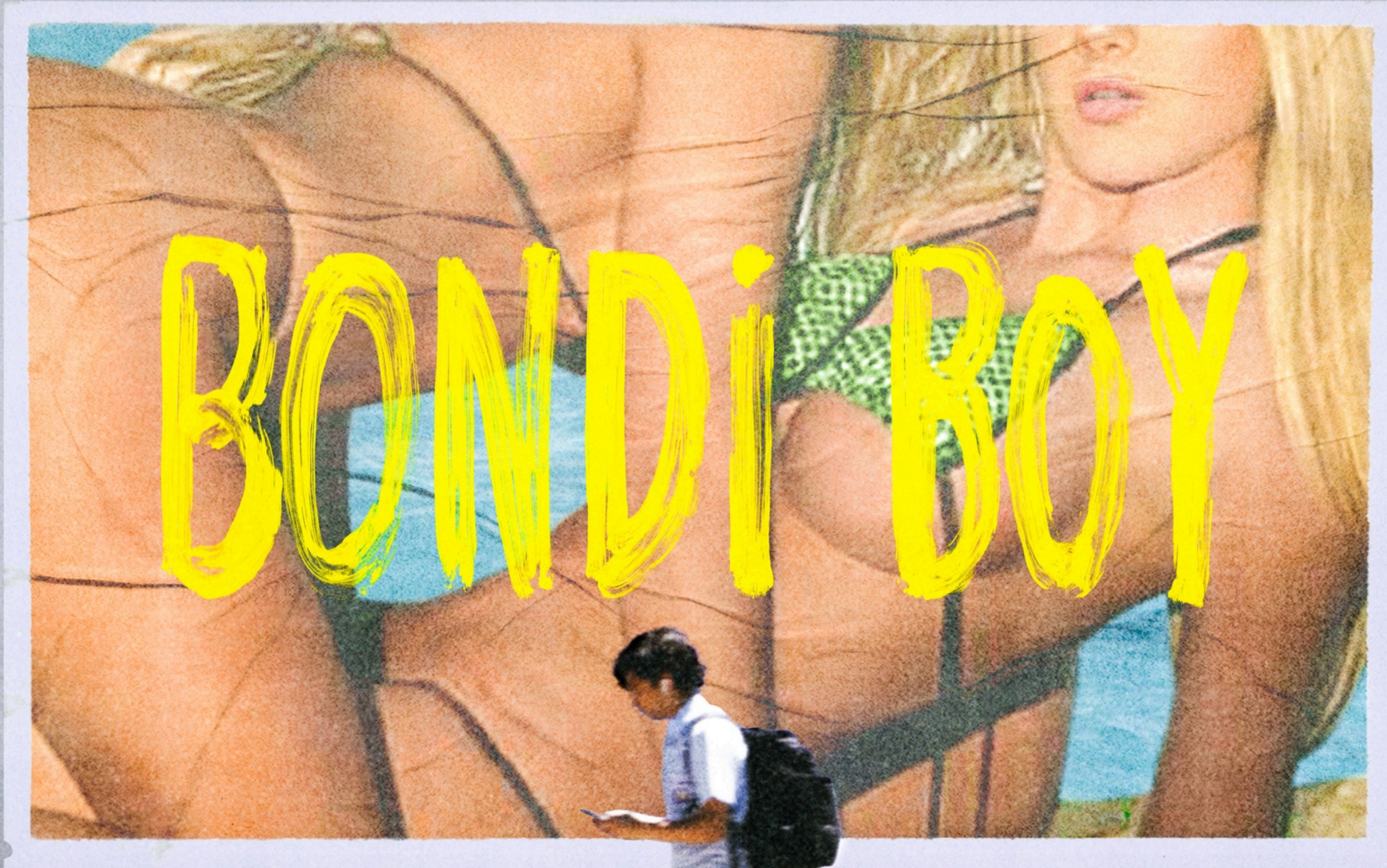


ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



A FILM BY **RHAVIN BANDA**

Produced by **Forest Lin & Will Suen** | Cinematography by **Ben Powell**
Production Design by **Keya Cawood** | Costume Design by **Natalie Ling**
Edited by **Will Suen & Cristobal Olguin** | Hair & Makeup Design by **Connie Duff**

Title Design by **Joe Parker-Rees** | Graphic Design by **Neesha Chockalingam**
Sound Design by **Josh Wermut, John Kassab & Zachary Casella**
Featuring **LET DOWN** by **RADIOHEAD** © Warner Chappell Music Ltd.

LIGHTS
ON

T P
THE
POST
LOUNGE



LOGLINE

02 of 16

Radhesh Balasubramanian, a high school student in Sydney's whitewashed suburb of Bondi, betrays close relationships and his own self worth in order to claw his way up the social ladder.

BONDI BOY

LIGHTS
ON

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

BONDI BOY



“

Writing BONDI BOY was my way of reckoning with the racism that I exhibited as a teenager - towards my best friend, my mother, and myself.

We shot the majority of the film in 2018, but only completed it in 2025. I'd love to say this was by design...

...but truthfully, it took this long to get to the finish line because I was so afraid of laying my insecurities so bare and unvarnished on the screen that I never wanted to stop tinkering with it.

As arduous as this process was, though, I think the film benefited from it.



“

Shooting with these memories so fresh gave the footage immediacy and authenticity...

... but having the time, the years, to process it all in the edit afforded me more perspective on the material.

The film ended up being less a portrait of my high school experience, and almost more a portrait of how I processed it in the years following.

“

*BONDI BOY is of course set in Bondi, Sydney, yet doesn't include one shot of our famous beach. The sun isn't warm and inviting... **it's harsh and stark, highlights blown out and clipping.***

I hoped to reveal a harsher, dirtier side of the Bondi I knew growing up...

...reflecting the racist, sexist underbelly of the cheery, friendly – and whitewashed – Aussie image we're known for internationally.

Sydney may be diverse, but it's nowhere near as inclusive as we hope it is.

BONDI BOY

**LIGHTS
ON**

“

*Our story unfolds intimately yet loosely, with a focus on daily rituals to convey character and motivation. We wanted to weave our narrative thread so lightly **it almost creeps up on you.***

Chantal Akerman, Andrew Haigh and Kelly Reichardt's works were key points of reference.

We felt this was the best approach to capture the subtle internalisation and reciprocation of racial and sexual biases that Radhesh succumbs to as the school term goes by.

BONDI BOY**LIGHTS
ON**

“

It was also a difficult film from a production standpoint.

Featuring all kinds of brands, famous personalities - even existing music - would be considered ridiculously ambitious for any debut short to clear.

***Somehow, we got there...** Dev Patel, Freida Pinto, Avan Jogia and others expressed support for the approach we were trying to take, and allowed us to have their likenesses appear in key scenes in the film.**

BONDI BOY

*And of course, **Radiohead**.*

*We were stunned when they liked our film enough to agree to our shot-in-the-dark request to feature “**Let Down**”, one of my favourite tracks of theirs, as a centrepiece in the film.*

**(we ended up having to cut Avan's scene though... so sorry dude!)*

**LIGHTS
ON**

“

With BONDI BOY, not only I - but audiences too - are able to look back at moments from my childhood with distance and maturity...

... and hopefully come away with a more empathetic understanding of how our society doesn't just victimise minorities, but turns them into victimisers, against each other - and themselves.

- RHAVIN BANDA

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Rhavin Banda (he/him) is a British-Australian filmmaker, born in 1997. He is of Sri Lankan, Malaysian and Punjabi descent, working between Sydney and London.

Stepping on his first film set at age 15 in MAD MAX: FURY ROAD, he worked his way up through projects such as THE INVISIBLE MAN, SHANG CHI and MR INBETWEEN (S2) to his place as the youngest location scout and manager in Australia.

Today, he frequently works with Causeway Films, running the department on films such as TALK TO ME, BRING HER BACK and THE FOX.

Rhavin is currently developing a black comedy-drama short film titled METH MONK, following the students at a Buddhist temple in rural NSW caught in a power struggle when their beloved head abbott is outed for smoking meth.

He's also developing a range of feature-length screenplays, including a psychedelic slasher set at a trance rave in the Australian bush, co-written with Will Suen (SWEET JUICES).



RHAVIN BANDA
ACTOR/WRITER/DIRECTOR

THE TEAM



WILL SUEN
PRODUCER

Will began his career as the ultimate slasher, with professional credits across pretty much every department, including (but not limited to) Gaffer, Editor, and Standby Props.

He eventually crawled up the credits list to produce and direct commercials, music videos and short films.

His most recent short film, SWEET JUICES (Fantasia, SXSW Syd, Fantastic Fest), is currently making the rounds in the festival circuit.

He's also the co-founder of Half Symbolic Films, a boutique film distributor most notably responsible for bringing the works of Masaaki Yuasa to cinemas across Australia.



FLAVIO ARMONE
DISTRIBUTOR / SALES AGENT

Flavio studied film history in his hometown of Turin, Italy. He started working at film festivals in 2004 and founded Lights On, an international distribution agency, in 2015.

Lights On's shorts have premiered at some of the most prestigious festivals worldwide, such as Semaine de la Critique – Cannes, Sundance, Venice, Locarno and Quinzaine des Réalisateurs – Cannes.

Lights On is a world distributor of quality films based in Italy, passionate about supporting the most talented and original emerging filmmakers from around the world.

THE TEAM

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FOREST LIN
PRODUCER

Forest is a Chinese-Australian producer, screenwriter and director from Western Sydney.

He earned his stripes as a PA on PETER RABBIT 2, SHANG CHI and THOR: LOVE AND THUNDER, eventually finding his way into script supervising such films as THE FALL GUY and ANYONE BUT YOU.

Currently, Forest is developing an 8x60 Australian magic realism romance titled JUPITER JAZZ with producing partner / showrunner Shiyan Zheng.



MAHVEEN SHAHRAKI
CONSULTING PRODUCER

Originally from Iran, Mahveen soon found her home within the Australian film industry with her strong eye for identifying compelling stories and linking gifted individuals to launch original work.

Mahveen has produced such features as ELLIE & ABBIE (AND ELLIE'S DEAD AUNT) - which featured as a program highlight in Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) - and THE ROOSTER, starring Hugo Weaving - winner of the 2023 Australian Director's Guild (ADG) Award for Best Director.

Mahveen was selected as a 2020 'One To Watch' Producer by Screen Producers Australia for her creative passion, commercial knowledge and ability to deliver quality international products.

BONDI BOY



CAST & CREW

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CREW

Written and Directed by Rhavin Bandaranayake

Producers Forest Lin, Will Suen, Rhavin Banda

Consulting Producer Mahveen Shahraki

Associate Producer Mathew Panayiotou

Cinematographer Benjamin Powell

Editors Will Suen, Cristobal Olguin

Edit Consultant Shiyan Zheng

Production Designer Keya Cawood

Costume Designer Natalie Ling

1st Assistant Director Lenny Choy

Production Manager Tiffany-Jayne Martin

Assistant Producer Benn Spillane

2nd Assistant Director Forest Lin

3rd Assistant Director Ian Kyster

Additional Assistant Director Mathew Panayiotou

Script Supervisor Michael Wray

Additional Script Supervisor Mikaeli Stanton

Additional Cinematographers Tom Pennell, Otto Khoo

1st Assistant Camera Felix Maude, Clint Katt

2nd Assistant Camera Nazeem Hartley

Gaffer Tahsin Rahman

Lighting Assistants Luke Gasparra, Dean Strothers

Sound Recordist Martin Demian

Costume Assistant Eloise Jones

Makeup & Hair Designer Connie Duff

Makeup Artist Assistants Lenara Abbazova, Tish Dawson, Elyse Shi

Stills Photographer Clare Hawley

Pre-Production Assistants Natalia Cartney, Bronte Waters, Mahveen Shahraki, Charles Myers

Casting Assistants Roderick Gadaev, Kea Cranko, Lachlan Gandy

Catering Rina Bandaranayake

Visual Effects Artists Paco Ortiz, Sebastian Reategui, Joseph Smallman, Reuben Turkey

VFX Assistants Vincent Nguyen, Thomas Morphett, Krishan Mistry

Graphic Designers Joe Parker-Rees, Neesha Chockalingam

Onscreen Graphics Artist Willow Driver

Sound Designers Josh Wermut, John Kassab, Zachary Casella, Georgia

Collins, Rory Steuart

Composer Dylan Thomas

Colourist Baro Lee

Assistant Editor Marcio Souza

Online Editor Sebastian Reategui

DCP Technician Tiago De Sousa

Spanish Subtitles Ramón Briant

Portuguese Subtitles Tiago De Sousa

CAST

Radhesh Balasubramanian Rhavin Bandaranayake

Li Clarke Parkinson

Matteo Nelson Blattman

Lachlan Benn Spillane

Liam Yan Shurunov

Mum Sareena Barnes

Mrs. Gedler Mathilde Anglade

Cathy Emma Cocks

Winnie Claudia Chen

Caitlyn Bronte Guggisberg

Tayla Madeleine Jurd

Leah Juliet Lochrin

Anti Harriet Bridges-Webb

Ms. Toll Jan Begg

Mr. Mansberg John Van Putten

Ancient History Teacher Craig Walker

Indian Tourist Sukhaj Deepak

Shopkeeper Edgar Lu

Radhesh Stand-In Ian Kyster

Radio Man Jeremy Peek

Senior Class leisha Acampora, Damian Blazquez, Hudson Brande, Boleyn

Day, Elise Gray, Marina Koevnikov, Byron Lawrence, April O'Gallagher,

Brendan Palmer, Mathew Panayiotou, Keanu Pena Cook, Trey Schuster-

Tagaloa, Tara Selvakumaraswamy, Cynthia Son, Jessica Summers, Heyley

Tolmie

Teachers Samantha Aungle, Sebastian Castillo, Louise Ferges, Mia Suzanna

Hopping, Weona (Nina) Hung, Fredrika Lahdenranta, Bobby Lee, David Nash

SPECIAL THANKS

Lizz Vernon, Dillon Mak, Holly Monksfield, Laura McGenniss, Dave Pitcairn, Joseph Chebatte, Barret Griffin, Shiyan Zheng, Marg Cortez, Sejon Im, Louise Todd-Smith, Luca Bianchino, Ramón Briant, Rohahn Mundul, Avan Jogia, Dev Patel, Freida Pinto, Kumail Nanjiani, Aziz Ansari, Courtney McBroom, Google Inc., Pornhub, Waverley Council

MUSIC

"Let Down"

Composed by Colin Greenwood, Thomas Yorke,

Jonathan Greenwood, Philip Selway,

& Edward O'Brien

Performed by Radiohead

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By arrangement with Beggars Group Media

Filmed on stolen Gadigal Land. Australia was, and always will be, Aboriginal Land.

BONDI BOY

LIGHTS
ON

SPEC SHEET

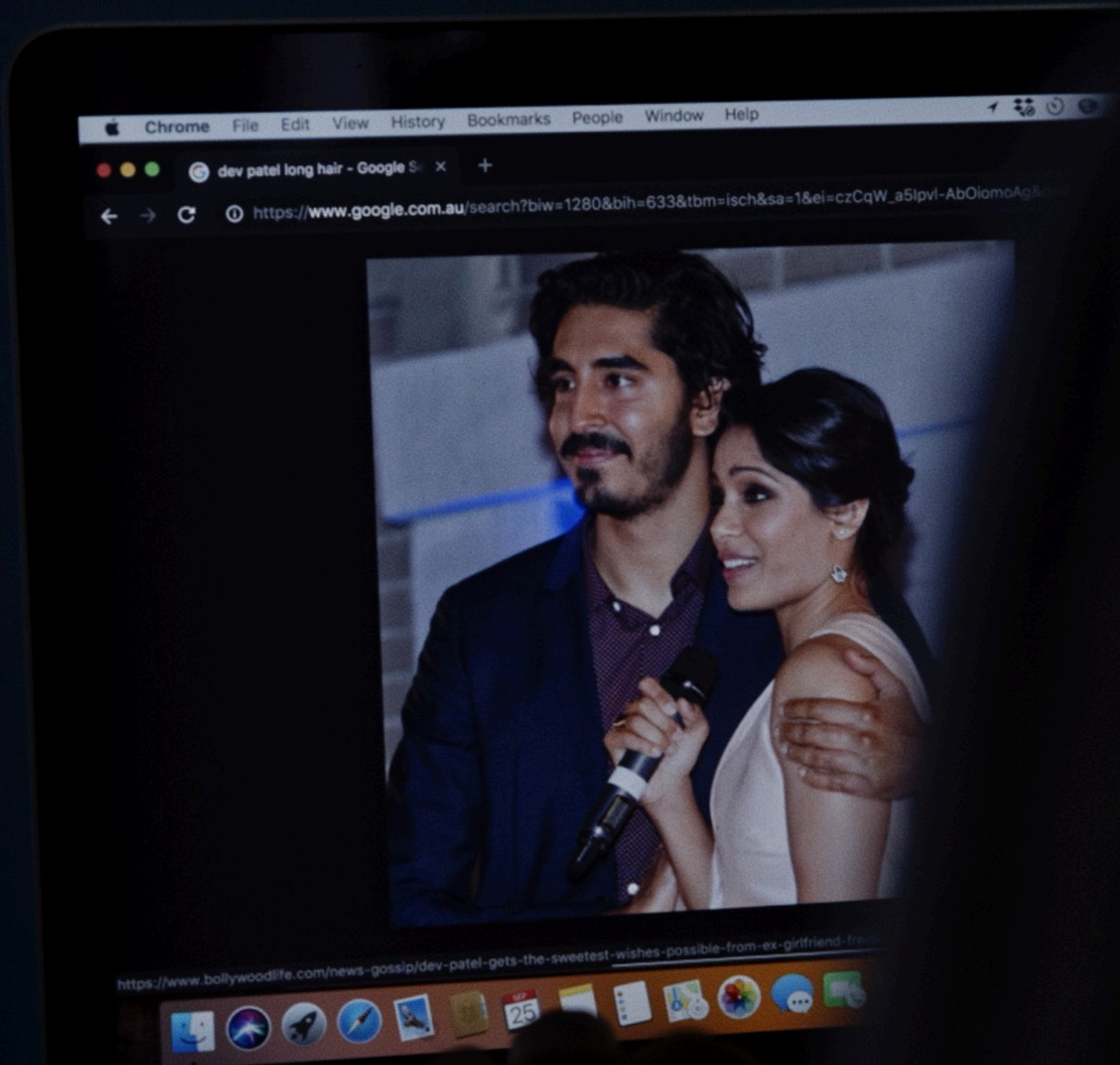
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Country **Australia**
Year of Production **2025**
Length **11min**
Language **English**
Shooting Format **Digital**
Ratio **1.85:1**

BONDI BOY

**LIGHTS
ON**

CONTACT INFO



Actor/Writer/Director

Rhavin Banda

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Producer

Will Suen

contact@wsuen.com | +61 433 243 355

Producer

Forest Lin

forestlin3459@gmail.com | +61 478 570 150

Distributor

Flavio Armone

Co-founder & Managing Director - Lights On Film
lightson@lightsonfilm.org

FILMED ON STOLEN GADIGAL LAND.
AUSTRALIA WAS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, ABORIGINAL LAND.

BONDI BOY



THANK YOU

BONDI BOY

