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Starting from... Now! is coming to SBS 2



The Aussie web series with a global audience continues on the small screen.

By Jeremy Cassar

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Those who only a few years ago viewed the web-series as a lesser art form than its larger-screen ancestors must be kicking themselves.

With fans in 227 countries and viewership figures that rival network television, the Aussie series Starting from...

Now! has emerged as a champion in the online arena – and it's found a home on SBS 2 in March.

For those unfamiliar...



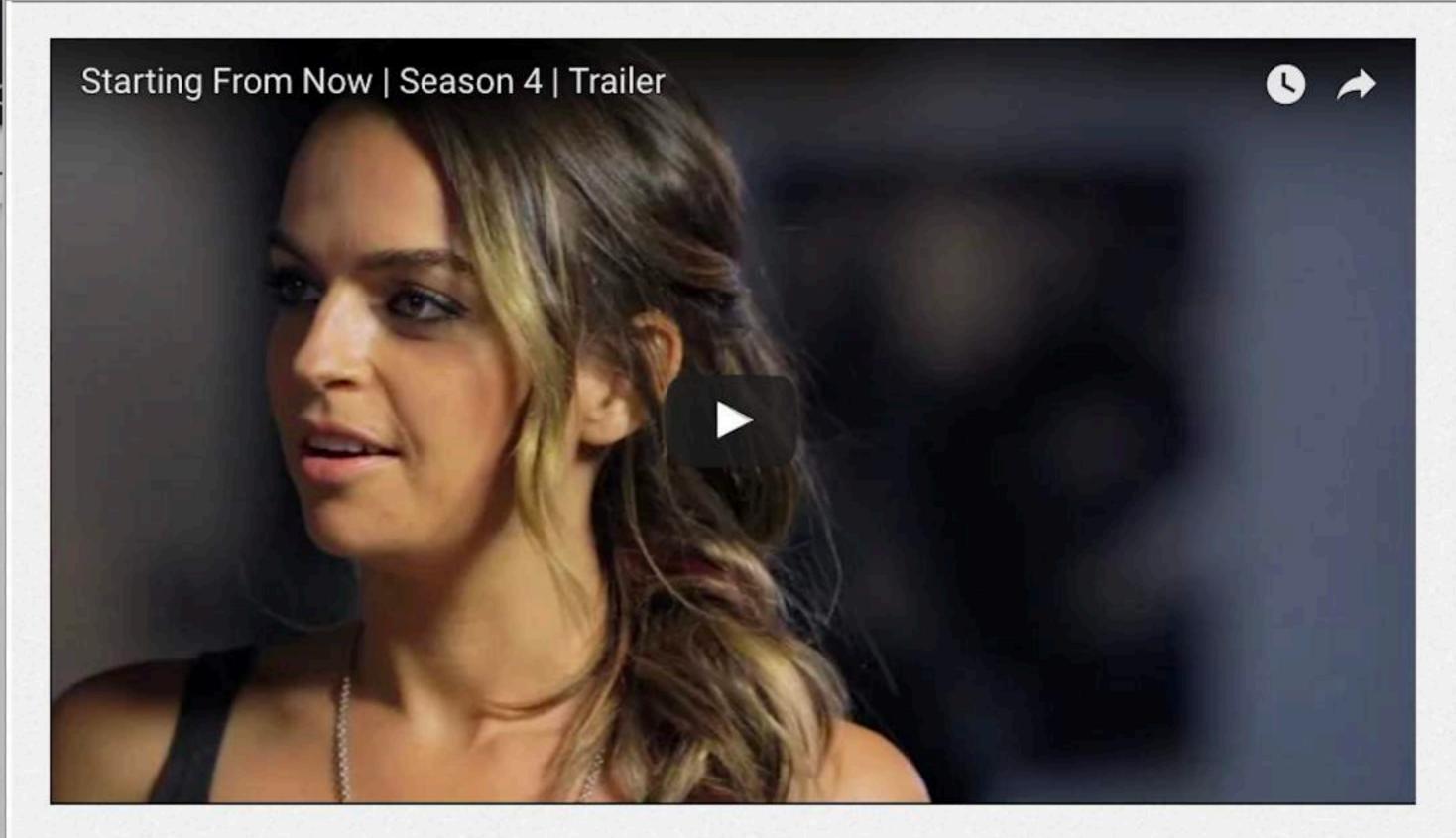
An intimate scene from Starting From...Now!

Starting from...Now! hones in on the lives of four gay women in inner-city Sydney. Debuting in 2014, the series began as a cutesy, no-frills, conversational offering, but gained a widespread following thanks to its bold exploration of unvoiced issues in the lesbian community. As its popularity grew over the second and third seasons, so too did its confidence, and thus its overall quality and effectiveness.

Loyal fans have helped to keep the show's engine running, dipping into their pockets to contribute to production costs. Online critics echoed the viewers, selecting the series for awards contention at Hollywood, Miami, NYC, Berlin, Rio and Montreal webfests.

Now moving into its fourth season, Starting has matured into a meaningful soap opera. Its four leads have settled into their roles and relationships, and their stories of love and lust and loyalty are only just beginning.

Here's the trailer for season 4:



The Characters

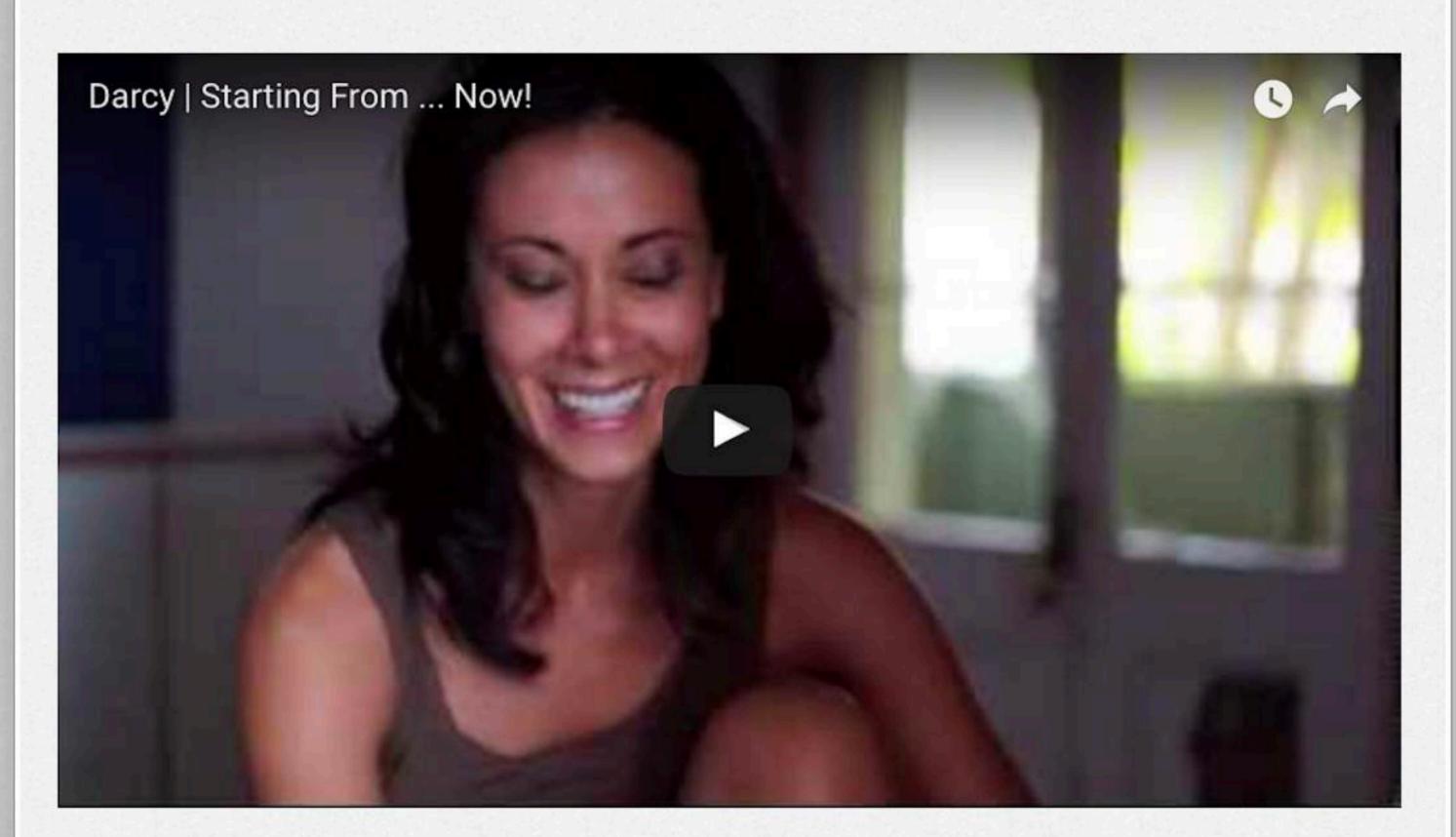


From L-R: Emily (Bianca Bradey), Darcy (Rosie Lourde), Steph (Sarah de Possesse) and Kristen (Lauren Orrell).

From the outset, viewers online fell in love (and lust) with the four leads. Not only thanks to the episodes in which they appeared, but also the additional in-character interviews uploaded to the channel.

Creator Julie Kalceff (who was one of the writer/directors on the hugely popular web series *The Newtown Girls*) enjoyed the creative freedom of telling a story online, exploring the world of her characters through interesting experiments separate to the series itself.

In one such experiment we meet Darcy - a character the cheeky Kalceff named after *Pride and Prejudice*'s Mr. Darcy - played by Rosie Lourde:



(Don't miss SBS Sexuality's upcoming interview with Rosie.)

And don't miss Starting from... Now! season 4 when it premieres on Monday 7 March, 9.15pm on SBS 2.

You can start your journey with seasons 1-3, available on SBS On Demand from 22 February.