

BREAD UPON THE WATER

Forgive us our sins...

A cinematic still showing the silhouettes of a man and a woman in profile, facing each other. They are positioned in front of a large window, with soft light from outside creating a hazy, atmospheric background. A green plant is visible on the right side of the frame. The overall mood is contemplative and intimate.

LOGLINE

Newlywed Bonnie thought she'd married into the perfect family until the return of their disgraced and now repentant church pastor reveals fault lines in their convictions and threatens to tear the family apart.

SYNOPSIS

Pastor Arnold's church turned Bonnie's life around. In it, she found healing from her troubled past and met Micah Bailey, her future husband. Micah's dad Colin ran the church's soup kitchen, his mum Nora helped with the women's ministry, and his brother Nathaniel was studying at the church's college to be a missionary with his fiancé Meghan. For Bonnie, it all seemed too good to be real.

So when Pastor Arnold had an affair with Meghan and the two of them left the country, Bonnie's fairytale shattered. Bonnie and Micah now attend Colin's small house church, a reactionary group for people wounded by Arnold. They also help in Colin and Nora's new grassroots food bank. Nathaniel, heartbroken and disillusioned, abandoned his faith and turned to drugs.

With the Bailey's lives barely on a new equilibrium, Arnold has returned, seeking the family's forgiveness and opening a local homeless shelter for an interstate charity. Bonnie wants to pardon him but Colin refuses to accept that Arnold's contrition is genuine and sets out to expose Arnold as a fraud to his new employers. Micah initially supports his father and Bonnie finds herself caught between her love for the Baileys and her faith-based urge to forgive.





CHARACTERS

Bonnie (23)

Childhood for Bonnie felt like being trapped in a parental sparring match. When she met and fell in love with Micah, she couldn't believe that loving families like his existed. Startled by Colin's anger at Arnold's return, Bonnie begins to question the perceived perfection of her new life.

Micah (24)

Offered a temp job by one of the elders at Arnold's old church, Micah keeps it secret from his strong-willed father. His new boss's influence soon has Micah seeing Arnold with fresh eyes. For the first time in his life, Micah considers stepping out of Colin's shadow... and it terrifies him.

Colin (54)

When he found God in his 30s, Colin channelled his gift of fixing things into fixing broken people, but after the scandal, he watched his son Nathaniel spiral out of control and out of his life. Colin knew where to lay the blame – he won't allow Arnold to bring such pain to other families.

Arnold (32)

The son of a celebrity pastor, Arnold followed his father's footsteps into the pulpit of his own church. His bold vision and charisma led to spectacular growth, undone in a heartbeat when his moral failings were exposed. He lost his family and ministry but claims his time in the wilderness has deepened his faith. And so he's come back, saying that he wants to make restitution.



A group of people are seated around a wooden dining table in a dimly lit room. In the center, a man with a white beard and glasses wears a red baseball cap. He is looking towards the camera. To his right, a woman with dark hair is seen in profile, looking towards him. In the foreground, the back of a man's head and shoulders are visible as he sits at the table. The table is set with plates of food, glasses of water, and a small bowl. A modern, multi-tiered pendant light hangs above the table. In the background, a window with a grid pattern is visible, and a doorway leads to another room. The overall atmosphere is intimate and contemplative.

THEMES

What principles are we prepared to compromise to keep the peace? And how genuine is that peace when past wounds are taboo and skeletons are left to rattle in their closets? Bonnie and Micah grapple with the need to fully leave Colin and Nora's protective but stifling nest to mature in their own faith and relationship. Can they do so without irrevocably breaking their familial bonds?

Bread Upon the Water is a feature drama film that serves as a microcosm of our fractured society. What is the path to peace amid the world's misery and pain?

MOOD



THE TEAM

A masters graduate of Melbourne Uni's filmmaking program, Luke has a passion for telling grounded, real-world stories with cinematic flair.

His award winning short films display a compassion for everyday people and nuanced execution. They have screened at Flickerfest, Gold Coast Film Festival, Adelaide Film Festival, and international fests like Manchester and In The Palace. Luke's short 'A Stone's Throw' was supported by the SA Film Corporation and the Adelaide Film Festival Premiere Fund.

Luke wrote for the AACTA nominated feature documentary 'The Last Daughter' (Netflix) and script supervised hit horror film 'Talk to Me'. Alongside co-writer Simon Kennedy, Luke is developing 'Bread Upon the Water', a psychological drama in the vein of 'Ordinary People' and 'Women Talking'.



LUKE WISELL
DIRECTOR & CO-WRITER

Simon is the co-creator of 'Safe Harbour', an International Emmy winning TV series that put refugee issues in the context of a psychological thriller. It screened on BBC, Hulu, and SBS.

His latest credit was as one the writers on NITV's Logie winning feature documentary 'Incarceration Nation'. He also directs, produces, and stars in Songs with Simon, a YouTube channel of kids' songs that has 640 million views and 1.3 million subscribers.

Before becoming a screenwriter, he was a physiotherapist, managed and performed in a rock band, and had stints as a youth and worship pastor. He saw his fair share of brokenness and pain in all these roles but also saw many cases of healing and restoration. The stories he now tells tend to reflect life's complexities while exploring pathways to redemption and hope.



SIMON KENNEDY
CO-WRITER