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Rachel Griffiths Returns Home to Make New Film Beautiful Kate

Rachel Griffiths is back in her homeland and working on new film, Beautiful Kate, her first Australian feature since a bit part in Ned Kelly.



Editorial Review

Remember when Australian actress Rachel Griffiths actually worked on Australian projects? Before she starred in American television dramas Six Feet Under and Brothers and Sisters? Well, Griffiths is back in her homeland and working on new film, Beautiful Kate, her first Australian feature since a bit part in Ned Kelly (2003). Hitting the big time alongside Toni Collette in Muriel's Wedding, Griffiths run of Oz movie roles in the 1990s has given way to her successful US small screen career.

Having begun shooting this week in the Flinders Ranges, under the direction of Rachel Ward (her feature film debut), Beautiful Kate will later pick up stumps and do more filming in Adelaide - something the South Australian Film Corporation must be hooting and hollering about. Based on a mystery novel by American author Newton Thornburg, Beautiful Kate also stars Ben Mendelsohn (Mullet, Australia), Ward's husband and all-around Aussie Bryan Brown (Dirty Deeds, Along Came Polly), Maeve Dermody (Black Water), and newcomer Sophie Lowe as Kate.

In the film, Ned Kendall (Mendelsohn) returns to his isolated family home after his sister (Griffiths) requests he say "see ya" to his dying father (Bryan Brown). Thing is, long-buried secrets begin to surface when Ned starts to think about his twin sister (Sophie Lowe). Ooh. Aah.

Strike us pink if this cast doesn't sound like the business, and not just because it marks the first time Griffiths and Mendelsohn have worked together since 1996's Cosi. Mendelsohn has hit a purple patch of late, having worked simultaneously this year on Nicolas Cage's Knowing and David Caesar's Prime Mover (and he's got about 35 upcoming features. Well, perhaps not 35, but lots). Besides the Brown/Ward star couple thing, getting small-screen star Griffiths to return home is enough to get us booking tickets.

Rod Yates