

NOOSA LIFE

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VISITING: Sigrid Thornton in Face to Face, during Noosa alive! 2017.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Sigrid Thornton is planning her winter escape to visit us here

■ Michele Sternberg

MUCH of her life has been spent in the public eye, but interviewing Australian actress Sigrid Thornton is like catching up with an old friend who you haven't seen in years.

And it has been years since I last met her face-to-face. Not that she would remember that particular encounter, but I certainly do.

Regardless, she was down to earth, pragmatic and just plain lovely when I called to speak to her.

This famous former Brisbane girl (who now calls Melbourne home) has a strong childhood connection with Noosa and speaks of our town with a genuine fondness.

And so it goes without saying that Thornton is looking forward to visiting us again for this year's Noosa alive! festival next month.

She'll be sitting down with our very own (and very famous) playwright David Williamson to talk about one of his much-loved plays, Face to Face, that was turned into a movie in which she starred.

The writer and the actress – sitting down with few hundred new friends in the audience to watch the film

FACE TO FACE

WHEN: Sunday, July 23
TIME: 12.30pm
WHERE: The J Theatre, 60 Noosa Dr, Noosa Heads
COST: \$22.50 – Adult
 \$17.50 – Concessions
 \$12.50 – NFS Members
DURATION: 2 hours

once more and engage in an 'In Conversation' with interviewer Mary Lou Stephens following the screening.

"I'm really looking forward to coming to Noosa, it'll be a couple of days of sunshine in the middle of winter," she says.

"I'm in Melbourne and it's not too bad actually today but the last two days it's gone chilly again.

"I have noticed over the years that Noosa is full of Melbournites - and can you blame them?"

From Brisbane she and her family would make regular "short breaks" to Noosa - not as easy to do when you're based in Victoria.

But she's adapted to her new home.

"I do love the four seasons," she admits.

The professional actress also loves a challenging character, and that is exactly

how she describes Claire Baldoni.

The story follows a young scaffold construction worker who is charged with assaulting his boss. By the end of the film, all our assumptions about guilt and blame are turned on their heads.

Thornton plays the spouse of the boss of the "young criminal".

"There are things that emerge about her story through the course of the film that were far from obvious at the start," she says of her character.

"Without wanting to give too much away, let's just say she has several issues that she had to work her way through; she's not exactly a bundle of laughs but the film has a lot of light moments - it flicks from comedy through to drama and back again.

"That's always fun for an actor.

"She's complex and that's the fun... she's a fun, complex, multi-dimensional character."

Thornton is full of praise for Williamson as a story teller and says the characters "all have their issues and all have their moments to shine".

"I haven't seen David in three or four years so it will be really lovely to see him again."

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