



A proud moment for Miranda on the red carpet in her hometown Darwin.



Miranda and Gwilym share a hug and proud moment.



Miranda proudly talking to her hometown audience prior to the screening. A very touching moment for her and all who were there.

Darwin-born movie star Miranda Tapsell.

RESIDENT CELEBRITY

A BIGGER DREAMTIME

PHOTOGRAPHY MAIN IMAGE
JOHNNY DIAZ NICOLAIDIS
PHOTOGRAPHY RED CARPET
GEORGE FRAGOPOULOS
WORDS NANNETTE HOLLIDAY

A five-year labour of love for her home region saw Territorian Miranda Tapsell's movie *Top End Wedding* debut at Sundance Film Festival in January this year, and premiere in Darwin in April.

Darwin born, but raised in Kakadu, multi-award-winning Larrakia-Tiwi woman Miranda Tapsell not only co-authored but also stars in the all-Australian rom-com *Top End Wedding*. 'I'm thrilled at showcasing the Northern Territory's spectacular beauty and culture, our Aboriginal community and home-town strengths,' Miranda said. 'I also got to know my Tiwi family better.'

While US film reporters criticised the typical Aussie dialogue, US citizens are in awe of the extraordinary landscapes.

'You can't help falling in love with the Territory,' Miranda's co-star Gwilym Lee said. He arrived here immediately after finishing *Bohemian Rhapsody* (he played Brian May). 'Being here again for the Darwin premiere has reminded me how beautiful it is. The vibrant colours, friendly people and easy lifestyle — everything I don't have back in London.'

Packed to the brim with Aussie belly-laughter humour, *Top End Wedding* resonates well with all Australians and, while a reminder of *Crocodile Dundee* from 1986, it has a deeper underlying story that doesn't go unnoticed, with the audience quickly wiping away their tears.

Miranda has done an excellent job of coherently squeezing the various aspects of her life and the people close to her into the movie. 'We've immortalised their lives, language and cultures,' Miranda beams. 'Our production manager is a Tiwi woman, and she made sure the Tiwi people were 100 per cent across what our intentions were. They were so excited to have us there the Tiwi choir even wrote a special song welcoming Lauren (Tapsell's character) back into the community. They didn't have to do that. Gwilym and I were so emotional when we first heard it.'

'Plus, growing up going to Throb, I also wanted to show that Darwin is just as rainbow as Sydney, and that is proudly celebrated. After meeting the Tiwi Sister Girls at Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, I also knew they had to be in the film.'

Miranda has a jam-packed year ahead finishing a film adaptation of Jane Harper's book *The Dry* with Eric Banner, plus she's back in *Doctor Doctor* and doing *A Christmas Tree*, a family animation, later in the year. Back in London, Gwilym is in a series about Catherine the Great. 'Australian Tony McNamara wrote *The Great*, so I'm still keeping Australia in my life,' he said.



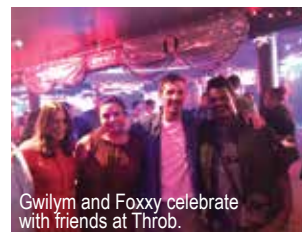
Miranda with Foxy Empire and Shari Sebens.



Gwilym with Mark, Tim and Kate at the after party at Throb.



Director Wayne Blair at the Darwin Premiere.



Gwilym and Foxy celebrate with friends at Throb.