

Annette Davey landed her first big break in show biz at the unemployment office — in Sydney, Australia. "I'd gone to register to get paid, and they said, 'We have a job in film here. There's one position left!'" she recalls.

Growing up, Davey had dreamed of a film career, but her native Adelaide offered limited opportunities. Friends suggested she try her luck in Sydney, so at nineteen, she relocated. That job at the unemployment office was in fact the last spot in a grant-funded program that paid and trained women in all aspects of filmmaking.

Working alongside industry pros for six months, Davey honed her craft and received encouragement from her mentor, editor Rhonda MacGregor. "She said, 'You should really think about editing as a career. You have the right personality and natural talent.'"

Soon after, Davey graduated from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) and won the Qantas Award — a free trip anywhere in the world. "Luck kind of fell in my direction again," she says, explaining that MacGregor invited her to lunch in Sydney with Gabriella Cristiani, who'd won an Oscar for editing *The Last Emperor*.

"I ended up giving Gabriella a ride and showed her my work. She was moving to Hollywood, and I asked if I could visit. She said, 'Why

don't you just come and work with me?'"

Davey moved to Hollywood, courtesy of Qantas, and started assisting Cristiani. Before long, she was working on her own on films (e.g., *Waitress*) and series, including *Battlestar Galactica*, *Transparent*, *Better Things* and *GLOW*. A gig on Epix's *Get Shorty* led to her recent stint on Netflix's *Maid*.

"Once again, I got lucky," Davey says. "I'd only done two *Get Shorty* episodes, but I guess they were happy, because the show creator, Davey Holmes, recommended me to John Wells, the producer of *Maid*."

Accustomed to being the only woman in the room, Davey delighted in the female camaraderie on *Maid*. "We had three female editors, which never happens. We'd talk about music, look at each other's cuts and give notes. I really enjoyed that aspect of it."

More recently, Davey edited Hulu's limited series *Pam & Tommy*, and she's currently working on a feature film, *Dreamin' Wild*, starring Casey Affleck, Walton Goggins and Zoëy Deschanel.

Grateful to be busy, Davey never takes her good fortune for granted. "You have to see the luck and recognize it," she says.
—Hilary Hattenbach

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