

2020 AACTA AWARDS

DRAMA SERIES HANDBOOK



Contents

Bloom	3
Doctor Doctor	5
Halifax: Retribution	7
The Heights	9
Home and Away	12
Mystery Road	14
Wentworth	16

Bloom

Production Company: Playmaker Media

Broadcaster: Stan

Candidate Summary

Best Drama Series Candidates

David Maher

David Taylor

Glen Dolman

Sue Seary

Lead Actor

Bryan Brown - *Ray Reed* (Episode A, Episode B)

Lead Actress

Phoebe Tonkin - *Young Gwen* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actor

Toby Schmitz - *John* (Episode A, Episode B)

Jackson Heywood - *Young Ray* (Episode B)

Ed Oxenbould - *Luke* (Episode A, Episode B)

Thomas Ersatz - *Shane* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actress

Genevieve Morris - *Rhonda* (Episode A, Episode B)

Jacqueline McKenzie - *Anne* (Episode A, Episode B)

Bella Heathcote - *Young Loris* (Episode A)

Jacki Weaver - *Gwen Reed* (Episode A, Episode B)

Program Summary

Season: 2

Average Episode Duration: 42 minutes

Series Synopsis:

The haunting, deeply emotional and playful second season of Bloom continues the story of the mysterious and inexplicable “fountain-of-youth” that transformed the lives of a country community in the wake of a devastating flood. Now, time has passed and news of this “miracle” has spread, while some locals are hoping that they’ve seen the last of this phenomenal yet ultimately destructive plant. When newcomers arrive, however, a battle between science and faith erupts, and we discover the properties of this new, “second-generation” plant are vastly more formidable than the first.

Target Demo:

This series is for family viewing with a broad primary audience between 18 to over 50 years of age, primarily female skewing. A secondary audience is gender neutral teen to early 20s gender neutral viewing on SVOD platforms.

Popularity and Engagement:

Bloom S2 garnered impressive publicity despite the setbacks it faced launching during a global pandemic with Australia in lockdown.

Reviews hailed the series “A blooming good follow-up” and “top-shelf television” by The Weekend Australian and “a superb showcase of Australian talent, from Ed Oxenbould all the way up to Jacki

Weaver” by the Sun-Herald. On social media Stan's piece-to-camera videos featuring the cast discussing the series and revealing more about themselves proved to be the most top-performing part of the whole campaign driving the hype and engagement among viewers around the show's return.

Originality and Innovation:

What if you could have your youth back?

What if you could return to your physical prime and never age again? Should you do it? Would you do it? And if so, what would you do differently? What are your deepest regrets?

This is a story about an unexplained natural miracle; a karmic gift (so it seems) for an emotionally raw and wounded community that's been devastated by a brutal tragedy of biblical proportions.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 1

Episode A Title: Blip

Episode A Synopsis: Three months have passed since we left Ray nursing Gwen on the brink of death - having reverted back to her old age - with one, final life-saving berry growing in their yard. A family arrives with a hidden agenda that could alter the course of human existence. Mullan’s new priest tries to rebuild faith in the town while struggling with his own demons, as a widowed Loris faces temptation. Gwen Reed lives, but is her relationship with Ray in jeopardy?

Episode B Number: 5

Episode B Title: The Evermore

Episode B Synopsis: Ray takes extreme measures to retrieve the love of his life. Luke’s selfless act reveals a surprising side-effect of the berries while Anne must decide whether to take one herself or continue with her plan to duplicate it. John retaliates against the Archbishop’s rejection while Loris attempts to reconnect with her daughter.

Notes:

Doctor Doctor

Production Company: Easy Tiger

Broadcaster: Nine

Candidate Summary

Best Drama Series Candidates

Ian Collie

Ally Henville

Keith Thompson

Rodger Corser

Lead Actor

Rodger Corser - *Hugh Knight* (Episode A, Episode B)

Lead Actress

Hayley McElhinney - *Penny Cartwright* (Episode A, Episode B)

Nicole da Silva - *Charlie* (Episode A, Episode B)

Tina Bursill - *Meryl Knight* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actor

Ryan Johnson - *Matt Knight* (Episode A, Episode B)

Dustin Clare - *Jarrold* (Episode A, Episode B)

Matt Castley - *Ajax Knight* (Episode A, Episode B)

Charles Wu - *Ken* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actress

Kate Jenkinson - *Tara* (Episode A, Episode B)

Chloe Bayliss - *Hayley* (Episode A, Episode B)

Miranda Tapsell - *April* (Episode A, Episode B)

Belinda Bromilow - *Betty* (Episode A, Episode B)

Program Summary

Season: 4

Average Episode Duration: 45 minutes

Series Synopsis:

Dr Hugh is back and badder than ever!

After serving out his probation and saving the family farm, Hugh's determination to be a good parent is severely challenged by the temptations of the new medic in town.

A reflection of his former self, she is serving time in the country for bad behaviour.

Target Demo:

Doctor Doctor target demographic is a gender neutral audience, 25year and older.

Popularity and Engagement:

Doctor Doctor has been warmly received by Australian audiences (and internationally, by German audiences as 'The Heart Guy'), who are drawn in by the show's heart and humour and a love for our strong ensemble cast. We have enjoyed strong weekly ratings (averaging 535,000 per week) from this broad audience consistently over the past 5 seasons, making Doctor Doctor one of Australia's top rated dramas.

Originality and Innovation:

Doctor Doctor showcases Australian rural landscapes, harnessing their beauty but also highlighting the challenges of isolation and difficulties with rural health care. Our beloved characters are quintessentially Australian - straight talking, humorous, resilient and warm. We celebrate family, the land, idiosyncratic medical stories and we have a strong stable of female characters who are intelligent, passionate, wily matriarchs and fabulously hypocritical male characters. Doctor Doctor delivers uplifting, nuanced stories to a broad, Australian audience and secure healthy international sales.

Episode Summary**Episode A Number: 1****Episode A Title:** Hugh Am I?

Episode A Synopsis: A year has passed, and as Hugh knows better than anyone, a year can be a long time in Whyhope. Hugh has a beautiful one-year-old daughter, Eliza, and Penny has moved on to a new relationship with mine manager, Jarrod. There are also big changes at the hospital with the Knight-Cartwright Cardiac Unit about to be sold to private investors and expanded. There's even a new face in town— Dr Tara Khourdair, the latest doctor to be sentenced to Whyhope on probation for recreational drug use. Tara makes a heartfelt plea to Penny, convincing her that she's there to rehabilitate. Penny sees a synergy with Hugh's new "adult ways" and suggests he supervises Tara's probation. Hugh determines to show Tara a good time at Eliza's first birthday party but is railroaded when Jarrod takes the opportunity to propose to Penny, and she says yes. All too soon, Hugh finds himself giving into temptation, and indulging in a massive night of drugs and alcohol with Tara. Maybe things haven't changed after all...

Episode B Number: 2**Episode B Title:** Don't Stop Me Now

Episode B Synopsis: Hugh Knight's bad behaviour leaves him without a Cardiac Unit and without a job –Now freed from Whyhope –will he be able to return to his Sydney life?A funeral is underway at the cemetery – Green Annie the councillor that Meryl paid off, has been trampled by a rogue alpaca. To add fuel to fire –her death preceded the vote on the farmer's market site. The deal's off, Meryl's down \$8000 she paid Green Annieto switch her vote and she'll need to find a new way to have the cemetery road sealed. Meryl goes on the hunt for her missing money and oddly enough, finds Betty showing off a very expensive commitment ring. Meryl's suspicions turn to Betty's partner Darren, the local cop, who's no stranger to dodgy dealings. On the farm, the wheels are in motion for Charlie's book reading at the brewery. Hayley meanwhile, is feeling conflicted as she attempts to stay neutral while the tensions play out between Charlie, Matt and April, all of whom Hayley likes equally. The heat rises when the citizens of Whyhope discover that Charlie's novel is in fact a sexy sci-fi erotica. A the homestead Hugh tries his hand at farming but winds up destroying thousands of dollars' worth of seedlings instead, putting a wedge between himself and Matt and Ajax).

Notes:

Halifax: Retribution

Production Company: Beyond Lone Hand Pty Ltd

Broadcaster: Nine

Candidate Summary

Best Drama Series Candidates

Roger Simpson

Louisa Kors

Lead Actor

Anthony LaPaglia - *Tom Saracen* (Episode A, Episode B)

Lead Actress

Rebecca Gibney - *Jane Halifax* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actor

Ben O'Toole - *Daniel* (Episode B)

Supporting Actress

Claudia Karvan - *Mandy Petras* (Episode B)

Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 44 minutes

Series Synopsis:

A sniper who leaves no trace is terrorising the city, and Jane Halifax is approached by Commander Tom Saracen to help find the killer.

Currently Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at Melbourne University, it's almost twenty years since Jane worked in the field. Her life now is what many would describe as complete. A celebrated academic career and a long-term relationship with Ben Sailor, a gifted musician and maker of acoustic guitars, she lives with Ben and his daughter Zoe, who Jane has raised as her own. Does she really want to change all that now?

Ben is opposed to the move – more so when Jane receives a threatening letter. But Jane dismisses the letter as the work of a crank and is tempted to return to the profiling life at which she excelled. But when Ben is shockingly murdered while seated beside her in the driveway of their home, Jane has to confront a terrible possibility: that it is just about now – twenty years later – that the worst of the criminals she helped put away – are finally being released.

As Jane is forced to go back into the files and nightmares of her past, another possibility emerges: Ben's murder may be linked to the sniper. Or worse: to secrets from Ben's past.

A suspenseful mystery in a telemovie followed by six episodes, HALIFAX: Retribution brings Jane Halifax back to the world she has never been able to leave: sleuthing her way to the truth behind the most diabolical criminal minds.

Target Demo:

Retribution is 25-54 year olds, with a female skew

Popularity and Engagement:

Popularity and engagement is achieved by through writing, direction and design to deliver a quality high-end production. This is reinforced through casting marquee names - Rebecca Gibney, Anthony

LaPaglia, Claudia Karvan, Jacqueline McKenzie, alongside Ben O’Toole, Mavournee Hazel, Ming-Zhu Hii and Mark Coles Smith.

Originality and Innovation:

The program is innovative in that we have taken an established and proven murder-mystery formula (the original Halifax f.p. series of telemovies) and updated it as a contemporary series with a very current political message: namely the loss of personal freedom in this increasingly digitalised world.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 3

Episode A Title: Episode 3

Episode A Synopsis: The Shooter’s attacks are escalating with the Task Force no closer to his apprehension. In a bold move, Jane (Rebecca Gibney) reaches out, putting herself at risk.

In his most horrific attack yet, the Shooter unleashes a spray of bullets on a packed party-boat celebrating a twenty-first birthday. Jane (Rebecca Gibney) fears the Shooter is transitioning from serial killer to mass shooter.

Uncovering who wrote the retribution letter hasn’t stopped Zoe (Mavournee Hazel) blaming Jane for Ben’s (Craig Hall) death. As Zoe and Mandy (Claudia Karvan) grow closer, Jane warns Mandy to look after Zoe, or face the consequences.

With the help of an undercover agent, Smithy (Anna Samson) the Task Force investigate alt-right leader Jack McCarthy (Nathan Phillips) who is stockpiling weapons. Jane reaches out to the Shooter, who at last makes contact, beginning a dangerous game of cat and mouse.

Episode B Number: 7

Episode B Title: Episode 7

Episode B Synopsis: As Jane (Rebecca Gibney) and Zoe (Mavournee Hazel) try and deal with the shocking truth behind Ben’s (Craig Hall) murder, Jane confronts the Shooter as he prepares for a final act – endangering thousands of lives.

Jane (Rebecca Gibney) and Zoe (Mavournee Hazel) deal with the revelation that it was Mandy (Claudia Karvan) who arranged the hit that killed Ben (Craig Hall). Exasperated by her manipulative ways, Ben had attempted to end the relationship – though Jane was the intended target.

Jane discovers a link in the manifesto between Jarod’s (Ben O’Toole) father and Agent Orange and fears Jarod is planning a catastrophic chemical attack. Jarod is tracked to the wharves where the police surround him and snipers hold him in their sights. But he has built a chemical bomb with a high-tech ‘dead man’s’ switch. If shot, the bomb will detonate and a toxic cloud of methyl isocyanate will drift across the city, killing thousands. Jane accepts Jarod’s invitation to meet him on the wharf in a final attempt at a resolution

Notes:

The Heights

Production Company: Matchbox Pictures in association with For Pete's Sake Productions

Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Drama Series Candidates

Warren Clarke

Peta Astbury-Bulsara

Debbie Lee

Que Minh Luu

Lead Actor

Rupert Reid - *Pav* (Episode A, Episode B)

Phoenix Raei - *Ash* (Episode A, Episode B)

Yazeed Daher - *KAM* (Episode A, Episode B)

Kelton Pell - *Uncle Max* (Episode A, Episode B)

Lead Actress

Fiona Press - *Hazel* (Episode A, Episode B)

Cara McCarthy - *Ana* (Episode A, Episode B)

Roz Hammond - *Hazel* (Episode A, Episode B)

Shari Sebbens - *Leonie* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actor

Callen Tassone - *Mich* (Episode A, Episode B)

Koa Nuen - *Sully* (Episode A, Episode B)

Alex Williams - *Evan* (Episode A, Episode B)

Mitchell Bourke - *Ryan* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actress

Bridie McKim - *Sabine* (Episode A, Episode B)

Carina Hoang - *Iris* (Episode A, Episode B)

Briallen Clarke - *Shannon* (Episode A, Episode B)

Saskia Hampele - *Renee* (Episode A, Episode B)

Program Summary

Season: 2

Average Episode Duration: 30 minutes

Series Synopsis:

The Heights is a groundbreaking 30 x 30" serialised drama about a community trying to protect its way of life, while faced with an encroaching tide of gentrification and the social stratification of its neighbourhood.

The "slice of life" drama explores the relationships, work lives and everyday challenges faced by six families living in the Arcadia social housing tower and the gentrifying inner-city district that surrounds it – Arcadia Heights.

The series presents a medley of characters, cultures, classes and backgrounds from the 'tower' community, exploring the relationships, work lives and everyday challenges faced by its characters in an entertaining relationship drama series.

Target Demo:

With its broad range of diverse and bold characters and storylines, The Heights appeals to a wide audience. While maintaining a family-friendly tone, The Heights never shies away from tackling difficult and contemporary subject matter, which has given the series great success across multiple generations of viewers.

Popularity and Engagement:

The Heights has gathered a very strong audience over season one and season two. The show has been really well received in the media being called "The Aussie Soap Opera You Should Absolutely Be Watching" by Junkee, it is appealing to audiences young and old.

Originality and Innovation:

THE HEIGHTS is a television series that bridges the gap between the Australia we all see in our everyday lives and the Australia we see on our screens. It is reflective of the social challenges and changes in our national identity as it explores the conversations and social issues that inspire and outrage us on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. The Heights has broken new ground in terms of cultural, disability, social-economic and gender representation both in front of and behind the camera, developing and implementing a number of innovative practices that are sure to become industry standards.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 29

Episode A Title: Episode 29

Episode A Synopsis: Ana's imagined conversations with Ryan are interrupted by paramedics - she is in shock that Ryan has died in his sleep. Later, Evan finds Ana sitting outside her condemned apartment, and Ana tells Evan that she slept with Ryan. Despite his pain over Ana's infidelity, Evan rises above and throws himself into repairing her apartment. Watto finds Ana at the pub and brings her back to her apartment, where the residents and Evan have cleaned and repaired everything. That night, Ana again imagines Ryan alive but the sight of her empty bed when the fantasy ends drives her back to Ryan's room at the pub. It's here that Shannon finds her two best friends and curl up in bed together to grieve.

At the hospital Hazel, Shannon and Uncle Max struggle to comprehend Ryan's death. Hazel's unable to face Ryan so Shannon goes in to the morgue to view Ryan's body. Terrified that the family can't hold together without him, Shannon breaks down. With Hazel unable to have the conversation with the bereavement counsellor, Shannon gives the family's final consent for Ryan to be an organ donor. When Hazel changes her mind and wants to see Ryan's body, she explodes with grief when she realises that it's too late.

Later, Kam tells Shannon that Ryan had been talking about her the day before, and how she had always protected Ryan. Shannon is empowered to be strong and encourages Hazel to take a break so she can prepare for Ryan's funeral.

Episode B Number: 30

Episode B Title: Episode 30

Episode B Synopsis: Uncle Max and Hazel travel back from the country for Ryan's funeral, Hazel tells Uncle Max that she doesn't want to live in the towers any more. At the cemetery, Ana becomes upset at the news that Uncle Max will be performing a smoking ceremony to let Ryan's spirit out of the pub, and she avoids going back to the wake fearing the final goodbye. Evan finds her by the river and tells her that she won't find a better way of saying it than at the pub with all the people who loved Ryan. Ana returns for the wake and the community share what they loved about Ryan the most. As people leave the smoking ceremony is performed.

Mark returns home from the mines to attend Ryan's funeral. When Mark discovers that Renee has sold her first house that day two take a big step forward in repairing their friendship by having dinner together with the kids.

Sabine presses Mich to realise that Claudia and Pav deserve to be happy too. Mich realises he was wrong and gives them his blessing.

Hamid finds Ash to invite him to breakfast but only if Ash will leave behind the idea of being gay. The next morning, Hamid waits anxiously for Ash and Kam to arrive for breakfast but is surprised to find Sully at the door instead. Sully hands Hamid a letter, and it's revealed that Ash and Kam have left Arcadia together.

Notes:

Home and Away

Production Company: Seven Network Operations Limited

Broadcaster: Seven

Candidate Summary

Best Drama Series Candidates

Lucy Addario

Julie McGauran

Lead Actor

Jake Ryan – *Ryan 'Robbo' Shaw* (Episode A)

Tim Franklin – *Colby Thorne* (Episode A, Episode B)

Ray Meagher – *Alf Stewart* (Episode A)

Patrick O'Connor – *Dean Thompson* (Episode A)

Lead Actress

Sam Frost – *Jasmine Delaney* (Episode A)

Emily Symons – *Marilyn Chambers* (Episode A)

Courtney Miller – *Bella Nixon* (Episode A)

Emily Weir – *Mackenzie Booth* (Episode A)

Supporting Actor

Rob Kipa-Williams – *Ari Parata* (Episode A, Episode B)

Ethan Browne – *Tane Parata* (Episode B)

Kawakawa Fox-Reo – *Nikau Parata* (Episode B)

Supporting Actress

Bree Peters – *Gemma Parata* (Episode B)

Program Summary

Season: 32

Average Episode Duration: 22 minutes

Series Synopsis:

Originating as the story of a family of foster children moving to a quaint coastal town, more than 7000 episodes later the show has evolved into a multi-generational drama that caters to young and old alike. Set against the backdrop of one of the country's most idyllic and picturesque beaches, intrigue, drama, humour and pathos abound as Australia's favourite characters tackle life's most compelling battles.

It's sexy and honest in equal measure, creating the perfect mix of must-see stories. And that honesty means the text can travel, identifiable to anyone, anywhere. After all, life's truths are one undeniable human commonality.

Target Demo:

Home and Away is a show that appeals to all demographics but which particularly resonates with the female audience aged between 18 - 44.

Popularity and Engagement:

Home and Away has attained the status of iconic Australian television. Home and Away has been on prime time for over 32 years and sold to over 115 territories worldwide. As the dynamic of the show continues to evolve, production value has also lifted, resulting in consistent ratings performance

throughout the year, regularly in the top ten programs in every key demographic. In 2020 Home and Away has over 1,500,000 Facebook followers, close to half a million Instagram followers and is the #1 streamed program on 7Plus.

Originality and Innovation:

Home and Away prides itself on the consistency of its 21 core cast members, who work alongside a fine array of crew and creatives. 230 episodes of Home and Away were produced in 2019/20. Up to 16 minutes of screen time can be shot in a day with two crews shooting simultaneously on location and in studio. Each block of five episodes has one day rehearsal, three day location component, five days on studio set and is then edited to a Producer’s cut within five days.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 7271 - 7273

Episode A Title: Episode 7271 - 7273

Episode A Synopsis: Outside the hospital, the Summer Bay community desperately awaits news after hearing a gunshot inside the siege. The hostage situation has escalated as the remaining captives are emboldened by Mason’s death; they’re determined not to allow the intruders to risk Bella’s life by denying her medical attention. The thugs are clearly losing their grip on control and will be overturned imminently. Dean and Colby are determined to break in and set free their loved ones. Elsewhere, Scott has taken Robbo to an isolated cliffside in a speeding vehicle. Swerving dangerously the car loses traction, flips and crashes at high speed... Could anyone survive this?

Episode B Number: 7365

Episode B Title: Episode 7365

Episode B Synopsis: Gemma, Ari, Tane and Nikau prepare for their trip home to New Zealand. Colby intercepts Alf at the diner who inadvertently reveals the Parata’s plans to travel today, his interest piqued. The Parata’s make it to the airport but as Gemma passes through departing customs Ari, Tane and Nikau are denied access. Tane urges Gemma to continue on her journey, understanding the significance of the trip. Ari, Tane and Nikau return home to find Colby had placed a travel ban on their passports. Colby is on a war path – can he be stopped?

Notes:

Mystery Road

Production Company: Bunya Productions

Broadcaster: ABC

Candidate Summary

Best Drama Series Candidates

David Jowsey

Greer Simpkin

Lead Actor

Aaron Pedersen - *Jay Swan* (Episode A, Episode B)

Lead Actress

Jada Alberts - *Fran* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actor

Callan Mulvey - *Simon* (Episode A, Episode B)

Rhimi Johnson - *Phillip* (Episode A, Episode B)

Rob Collins - *Amos* (Episode A, Episode B)

Stan Yarramunua - *Jimmy 2* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actress

Tasma Walton - *Mary* (Episode A, Episode B)

Sofia Helin - *Sandra* (Episode A, Episode B)

Ngairé Pigram - *Leonie* (Episode A, Episode B)

Ursula Yovich - *Pansy* (Episode A, Episode B)

Program Summary

Season: 2

Average Episode Duration: 52 minutes

Series Synopsis:

Detective Jay Swan (Aaron Pedersen) takes on a grisly new case in the small coastal community of Gideon, where the red sand meets the turquoise blue sea and people go for a fresh start or to bury their past. When the case unexpectedly becomes linked to an outback drug syndicate boss Jay has been chasing for years, he enters a world where deception is king. He also crosses paths with his former wife Mary (Tasma Walton), who moved to Gideon to rebuild her life and is seeing a retired cop, Simon (Callan Mulvey).

When Jay begins investigating the murder, the body count rises as he uncovers more dark secrets the town is hiding. His local indigenous police partner, Fran (Jada Alberts), still wants to know what happened to her cousin Zoe when she and another teenage boy Buddy disappeared years ago and a Swedish archaeologist, Sandra (Sofia Helin), faces a moral dilemma when her unexpected discovery on a dig jeopardises her quest to rewrite history but could also solve a murder.

Target Demo:

The ABC target audience was a broad audience, ages 25 - 54, male and female. Target was to drive audience to both the linear broadcast and iView opportunities beyond the launch.

Popularity and Engagement:

At the time of submission, Mystery Road series 2 was the highest rating program on the ABC (excluding kids) & the highest rating free to air Drama in Australia. It had a complete audience of

1,734,000 and was the #3 highest viewed audience of the year. The ABC reports very high qualitative ratings for quality, distinction and diversity. The reviews for series 2 have been universally positive including a 5 star review in SMH, a 4 star review in The Guardian & headlines such as 'Australia's Greatest Screen Franchise' in flicks.com. The series premiered at the prestigious 2020 Berlin Film Festival.

Originality and Innovation:

Mystery Road uses genre (the Western & Mystery) to explore Australia's identity and the effect of colonisation on its Indigenous people. The series' authentic, complex approach is credit to the Indigenous creatives on board the series. The Guardian wrote 'the series reflects on aspects of the national ethos in ways no other detective series can, reinvigorating genre templates with fresh Indigenous Australian perspectives'. University of Oregon media history professor Carol A. Stabilet recently said that Mystery Road could be a different model for police shows in a Black Lives Matter age.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 4

Episode A Title: Broken

Episode A Synopsis: With the case apparently solved Jay is being encouraged to leave town, but something isn't adding up. Jay begins to question the motives of all those around him. Fran is dealt another blow in the search for justice for Zoe.

Episode B Number: 6

Episode B Title: What Do You Do Now

Episode B Synopsis: Jay is lured into a trap to rescue Mary and an epic gun battle erupts. Will Jay be able to survive this and serve justice? Fran gets answers about Zoe and some closure, but it won't be in the form she expects.

Notes:

Wentworth

Production Company: Fremantle

Broadcaster: Foxtel - Showcase

Candidate Summary

Best Drama Series Candidates

Jo Porter

Pino Amenta

Lead Actor

Robbie J Magasiva - *Will Jackson* (Episode A, Episode B)

Bernard Curry - *Jake Stewart* (Episode A, Episode B)

Lead Actress

Leah Purcell - *Rita Connors* (Episode C/Episode 6)*

Pamela Rabe - *Joan Ferguson* (Episode A, Episode B)

Susie Porter - *Marie Winter* (Episode A, Episode B)

Kate Box - *Lou Kelly* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actor

David de Lautour - *Dr Greg Miller* (Episode A, Episode B)

Supporting Actress

Kate Atkinson - *Vera Bennett* (Episode A, Episode B)

Rarriwuy Hick - *Ruby Mitchell* (Episode A, Episode B)

Kate Jenkinson - *Allie Novak* (Episode A, Episode B)

Katrina Milosevic - *Sue 'Boomer' Jenkins* (Episode A, Episode B)

**Leah Purcell does not appear in Episode A(4) or B (10) so an additional episode has been supplied for her consideration only.*

Program Summary

Season: 8

Average Episode Duration: 50 minutes

Series Synopsis:

Resurrection, Rehabilitation, Redemption - these are the overarching themes of the final 20 episodes of *Wentworth*, which returns for Series 8, the first 10 airing from July 28 exclusively on Foxtel.

Three months have passed since the catastrophic siege at the end of Series 7, during which the management of *Wentworth* has come under intense scrutiny. A new dog top, Allie Novak is at the helm and four new heritage characters have entered the compound - Ann Reynolds, the prison's newly appointed General Manager; inmates Lou Kelly and her partner Reb Keane and hacktivist Judy Bryant.

Established characters Rita Connors, Vera Bennett, Will Jackson, Boomer, Jake Stewart, Marie Winter and Ruby Mitchell attempt to reclaim some sort of normalcy within the walls of *Wentworth*, while on the outside of the prison walls, Joan 'The Freak' Ferguson, assumes another identity while she considers her next step to take down those who left her to die at the nail-biting conclusion of Series 5.

Target Demo:

The series is made for an audience of adult drama enthusiasts and has been embraced by this audience at home and abroad.

Popularity and Engagement:

Wentworth is Foxtel's longest running and highest rating local drama. Even today, encore screenings of all seven previous seasons are still capturing new viewers. An Australian television success story with sales to

more than 168 international territories including United Kingdom, France, Canada, Finland, Israel and Macedonia and adaptations produced in four countries. The series has accumulated numerous awards and nominations, with individual accolades for the series' creatives from the Australian Director's Guide and Screen Producers Association.

Originality and Innovation:

Wentworth is a dynamic, often confronting, drama series that begins with the early days in prison of an original character Bea Smith. Set in the present day, it is a modern adaptation of the iconic Prisoner production that contemporises legendary characters and their stories for today's audience. Over eight series, nearly 100 episodes, it takes the viewer inside to an uncompromising environment that explores the politics of women in a world without men, and how such a threatening experience both challenges and often changes those confined and working behind the razor wire.

Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 4

Episode A Title: Revenant

Episode A Synopsis: When Ann announces the closure of the Protection Unit, it forces Will and Vera into preservation mode – how do they protect vulnerable prisoners, especially Marie? When Allie refuses to guarantee Marie's safety, the prison is on a knife's edge. But greater turmoil looms when the news of Ferguson's survival is released. She's in hospital, in a coma, which seems to buy Will, Vera and Jake some respite. With Reb still recovering from his anaphylactic shock, Lou hits on a plan to solve all their problems and make it up to Reb – she'll go through with Marie's offer of money for killing Ruby. But, as Lou is about to go through with it, Marie gets wind of the plan and just manages to stop it in time. But Boomer assumes Marie was part of the attack on Ruby, and when Allie discovers this, she viciously attacks Marie. Ann exploits the rivalry between Lou and Allie to recruit Lou and Reb as her secret Stasi, in exchange for Reb's HRT. As part of the deal, they must protect Marie and spy on Judy.

When Jake decides the only way to protect them all is to hotshot Ferguson in hospital, he's a heartbeat away from success, when Ferguson suddenly opens her eyes. But just when they think all is doomed, Ferguson professes to have no memory of her former self. As far as she's concerned, her name is Kath Maxwell.

Episode B Number: 10

Episode B Title: The Enemy Within

Episode B Synopsis: Believing Allie stole their phone and their money, Lou threatens her to return the money or face the consequences. Meanwhile, Sheila offers to pay for Reb's surgery in an attempt to get an exonerating statement from him regarding the cult poisonings. Boomer finally meets Gavin, but is disappointed when she discovers he's a prison fantasist. And with Ferguson's committal looming, Vera makes a last ditch attempt to convince Miller to say she's faking.

Notes: