



# MEDIA RELEASE

## NINE NETWORK BOOSTS AUSTRALIAN DRAMA WITH FOUR MAJOR TELEMOVIES IN 2011

The Nine Network has announced a further major commitment to Australian drama with the production of four new telemovies for 2011.

ScreenTime, the producers of the Nine Network's hit drama franchise *Underbelly*, will produce three separate telemovies based on true crime. The movies will be self-contained and centre upon three separate and dramatic criminal events.

The fourth telemovie for 2011 is produced by Goal Post Pictures with the working title *Panic At Rock Island*. *Panic At Rock Island* is an action paced disaster thriller set on Sydney Harbour during a three day rock music festival. Great music, DJ's, sunshine and gorgeous young people from all over the world. What could possibly go wrong?

Nine CEO David Gyngell said the commitment by Screen Australia to four high quality telemovies next year was a great boost for Australian drama.

"Nine has earned a deserved reputation for its support of diverse local drama, most recently through the runaway success of the record-breaking *Underbelly* series, but also from the quality and consistency of contemporary programs like *Sea Patrol*, *Rescue Special Ops*, and before them *McLeod's Daughters*, *Water Rats* and many more in a distinguished portfolio.

"We have real momentum at Nine and we intend to build on it. So a fourth series of *Underbelly* in 2011 together with these four big telemovies is a good way to do just that. Australians love quality local drama, and we have plenty on the plate"

Mr Gyngell said the new telemovie line-up was designed to deliver something for everyone.

First in ScreenTime's line-up is the story of a not-so-glorious crooked Victorian cop, looking for redemption, who jumps at the chance to go deep undercover into the world of the Calabrian Mafia. For eighteen exhausting months he attempts to survive with only his local knowledge and lingo to keep him from a bullet in the head.

The second telemovie transports viewers to a Saturday night stake-out in the suburbs of Melbourne in the late 90's where uniformed cops, Gary Silk and Rod Miller, are cold-bloodedly shot dead. But the killers aren't part of the "normal" criminal world and so the Lorimer Task Force, with outstanding detective work and dogged determination, sets out to track the killers down.

The third tale in this compelling trilogy is about David McMillan, a young man born with a silver spoon in his mouth, who truly had the world at his feet. Barrister, politician, film director or actor. Instead he chose a life of crime, and by his early 20's winds up on Interpol's Top Ten Most Wanted list. His notorious career results in him facing a firing squad in a Thai prison. But his story doesn't end there....

Jo Horsburgh Head of Drama at the Nine Network is excited about Nine's 2011 drama line-up "...These are certainly exciting times for Drama at Nine with such rich material to mine and fabulous stories to bring to our audience.

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