

WHEN WE GO TO
WAR



AN EPIC STORY. *Of courage. Of love. Of family.*



When *We Go To War* focuses on the impact the war has on a New Zealand family and a Maori brother and sister. This spectacular six-hour television drama cuts between life at home, Gallipoli and Egypt. The series begins in a time of optimism and hope, on the eve of war. New Zealand has one of the highest living standards in the world, is part of the mighty British Empire and few can foresee the horrors soon to come.

As the series – and the war – progress, the changing lives of those back home are contrasted with the experiences of soldiers in the trenches and the lives of nurses in makeshift hospitals in Egypt. The war puts an enormous strain on existing relationships – while new ones develop.

The story centres around a powerful and conflicted love story between Bea Smith, a woman ahead of her time who is nursing in Egypt alongside her lover William, a dedicated doctor.

The series also explores the effect the battlefield has on Charles Smith, a lawyer turned officer, his brother Harry, the family's black sheep, and family friend, a preacher turned lethally effective soldier. The effects of war at home cover the grief of the

bereaved, anti-German hatred, anti-conscription activism and the survival of the family's economic base, Smith's Emporium.

Each episode is built around a letter from one of the characters. Those from the arena of war do not always tell the truth, deliberately setting out to protect the recipients at home from the true horror.

The juxtaposition of those letters with the real events the characters go through reveals the horrifying emotional and physical impact of war upon them.

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Jump Productions

DIRECTOR: Peter Burger

PRODUCER: Robin Scholes

WRITER/PRODUCER: Gavin Strawhan

STARRING: Ido Drent, Milo Cawthorne, Andrew Grainger



For more information:

• email natalie@escapademediamedia.com.au • web escapademediamedia.com.au

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