



ESCAPADEMEDIA

CURRENT SLATE

2022

CHAMPAGNE

Period Drama

THE ART OF KILLING

Crime Drama

BEST KIND OF BEAUTIFUL

Drama

GISELLE

Drama

VATICAN TRILOGY

Drama



ESCAPADE MEDIA

SCRIPTED PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

THE ART OF KILLING

Revenge is a dish best served cold.

6 x 60' episodes in 4K

Champagne

The Women of Champagne.

10 x 60' episodes in 4K

GISELLE

Same souls, different people. Can
love transcend lifetimes?

100 minute film in 4K

THE BEST KIND OF BEAUTIFUL

Somewhere between who they are, and who people think
they are, lies The Best Kind of Beautiful.

6 x 60 minute episodes in 4K

VATICAN

Based on the bestselling 'Vatican Trilogy' by
Morris West

6 x 60 minute episodes in 4K



Champagne

The Wine that Won the World. The People Who Gave it Life.

Period Drama - TV Series
10 x 60 minute episodes
in 4K

Exhibiting passion and power, this is a generational saga—a character-driven story of the major families of Champagne.

Through the eyes and voices of those who loved Champagne and brought it to life, we become a player in this journey spanning the first formative years of Champagne's birth and explosion into world markets. Vibrant and alive, it is a deeply personal portrait of the principal players who take us with them on their dreams, trials and triumphs. Napoleon, Louis XV, Catherine the Great, and Robespierre all contribute to the rise of "the nectar of the angels." And throughout this deeply personal drama, we witness the emergence of women in economics and politics despite the gender-oppressive cultures of their eras: Madame de Pompadour embraces Champagne and makes it The Wine of France. Empress

Josephine makes it the rage of Europe. "The Widow Clicquot" works wonders to turn it into a global sensation. And Louise Pommery alters Champagne's essential character for all time. Follow Champagne as it survives Papal bans, revolutions, the rape of its vineyards, wars and battles to commandeer its cellars and destroy the entire valley. Against all odds, Champagne grows to become the quintessential symbol of excellence through the courage, wit and imagination of the phenomenal families who fight to bring it to the world. As they do so, these men and women risk their fortunes, their reputations and their very lives to keep the dream alive. As such, their lives intertwine to create a multi-

season series—one that brings us a story that has never been told before. Ultimately, CHAMPAGNE is an artfully constructed homage to a legend. As such it appropriately honours the mystical mélange covering the first few decades of a legendary wine whose story is being told for the very first time. Most of all, however, it is a Character-driven drama—one that focuses on the remarkable people who devoted their lives to this rare cultural phenomenon. Above all else this is their story—of the individuals, the fabulous families and the extraordinary women of these Houses: one of persistence, passion courage and excellence told in such a way that every Episode will—in itself—be very much like uncorking your first bottle of Champagne.

Team: Created by Terrence Hyland & written by Robert Ahola

(Anticipated) Budget: Given intelligent production management and intelligent allocation of above-the-line costs, we are working in primarily two locations for each episode, thus taming below-the-line out of pocket costs to a reasonable level of amortisation. However, since this is a "period" piece and costume drama at all levels, we should anticipate a realistic per show cost of approximately € 2.4 M per Episode

Production + Schedule: TBC

Champagne

The Wine that Won the World. The People Who Gave it Life.

Characters and potential casting:

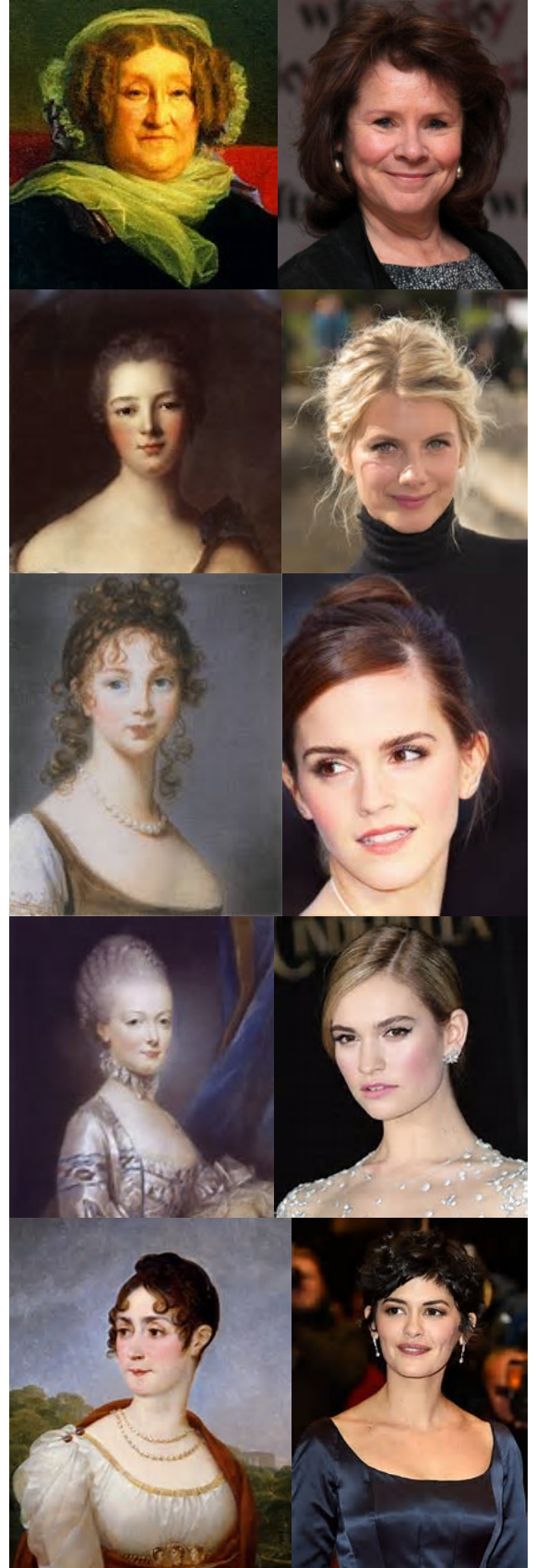
BARBE NICOLE PONSARDIN, THE "WIDOW CLICQUOT" (IMELDA STAUNTON). The most influential woman in the history of Champagne she changes the name of the Clicquot Champagne to Veuve Clicquot and turns it into the most popular brand of its time. It is the Widow Clicquot who embodies the spirit of Champagne and is its voice for the series. And it is through The Widow Clicquot's keen perceptions that we follow the arc of this very human drama.

LE MARQUISE DE POMPADOUR, 'MADAME DE POMPADOUR' (MELANIE LAURENT). Louis XV's mistress and one of the "three most influential women of the 18th Century," she becomes a silent partner to The House of Moët, and the driving force behind the rise of Champagne in Europe.

LOUISE CATHERINE BRULÉ MOËT (EMMA WATSON). Claude Moët's daughter-in-law, it is Louise Catherine who shares her adopted family's true passion for Champagne. Encouraged by Claude to follow his path as the broker for Moët & Co, Louise Catherine works with the women of the other Champagne houses of Ruinart and Forest-Fourneaux to form a secret "Drawing Room Coalition" to calm the waters in "The Valley of Champagne."

MARIE ANTOINETTE (LILY JAMES). Loved and hated, misunderstood and guilty of good intentions, it is this proud Austrian Princess and wife of Louis XVI whose passionate patronage of the mystical wine almost brings down all the Houses of Champagne.

EMPRESS JOSEPHINE OF FRANCE (AUDREY TATOU). As we first find Josephine de Beauharnais in the Reign of Terror, she is the wife of a counterrevolutionary and slated for execution on the Guillotine...and never forgets her roots. As Empress, Josephine forms a fast friendship with The Widow Clicquot and devotee of Champagne, making it the "official wine of France."



Champagne

The Wine that Won the World. The People Who Gave it Life.

Characters and potential casting:

PHILIPPE DUC D'ORLEANS, REGENT OF FRANCE (MATTHEW GOODE). Nephew to Louis XIV, Philippe had an uncommon passion for beautiful women, Champagne and France. Saving both Champagne and France from oblivion, he gives "the effervescent" a rebirth of respectability and France a whole new social class – "The Millionaire Entrepreneur."

CLAUDE MOËT (COLIN FIRTH). A "Millionaire" and brilliant entrepreneur, Claude Moët is the first "broker" for Ruinart and the other houses of Champagne and the first person to commit his vineyards exclusively to the making and marketing of "effervescent Champagne." This daring move earns him the (secret) partnership of Madame De Pompadour and eventually takes his house to legend.

JEAN REMY MOËT (MARTIN FREEMAN). Grandson of Claude, son of Louise Catherine, he inherits the legacy of Moët & Co... and will survive every downturn in France's history, including the "Reign of Terror," blockades, wars and invasions. All the while he manages to save his vineyards and make his Champagne house greater than ever.

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE (ROBERT DOWNEY JR.). Befriended as a young officer by Jean Remy Moët, as Napoleon rises to general and finally Emperor of France he carries the houses of Champagne with him, defending them from attack and annihilation and even saving them from economic disaster. (In his final days, they will return the favour.)

LOUIS BOHNE (BEN BARNES). Champagne's first super agent hired by The Widow Clicquot to be her alter-ego, Bohne has James Bond's instincts for both intrigue and survival –as he networks (Veuve Clicquot) Champagne's magical effervescence "by any means necessary" to the hidden duchies of Europe. It is a knack for derring-do that is often put to the test.





THE ART OF KILLING

A retired cop leaves his idyllic life in Australia to avenge his son's killing but discovers that the violence of his own past created the murderer, whose planned revenge will swallow up the cop's entire family.

Crime Drama - TV Series
6 x 60 minute episodes

Marcus Koopman, KOOP, is a Liverpoolian ex-cop who has escaped a violent past to enjoy a peaceful life with his artist wife Zoe in Australia's Byron Bay. When his estranged son Stevie is murdered on the other side of the world, in Liverpool, UK, and his burned and mutilated corpse left on display near a famous piece of public sculpture, Koop suspects that it's somehow a message

meant for him. Against Zoe's wishes, Koop returns home to investigate Stevie's murder, re-entering the deadly world of violence and corruption he'd fought so hard to escape. Back in Liverpool he confronts old enemies and the ghosts of his past existence as an undercover narcotics cop. He soon discovers that Stevie's murder was part of an elaborate work of art

conceived by a serial killer, and that he, Koop, is the killer's true audience. Koop and the killer share a history, a dark and bloody backstory that involves Koop's psychotic brother, Carl. Most terrifying of all, the 'artist' behind Stevie's torture and murder has set his sights on Koop's wife, Zoe, as the final element of his masterpiece.

THE ART OF KILLING

Based on A DARK PLACE TO DIE by Ed Chatterton; adapted by Rob Cawley and Paul Duane

Team:

Producer, Tally Garner is an award winning producer. Tally, in partnership with Nick Marston, created Cuba Pictures in 2008 with the position of Head of TV and Film at Cuba Pictures. During her time at Cuba Pictures, Tally produced Channel 4's five BAFTA award winning *Boy A*, and *Broken* which won a total of 8 awards, including best film at the BFI's. *Broken* starred Cillian Murphy, Tim Roth and was directed by Rufus Norris. Following this Tally was executive producer on *London Road*, starring Olivia Coleman and directed by Rufus Norris. In 2015 Tally worked across the adaptation of *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norell* as Executive Producer for BBC One. This series won 3 awards and was regarded by critics and reviewers as an excellent series. Mam Tor Productions was started in 2013 with Endemol taking a first look agreement out with Tally.

Executive Producer, Natalie Lawley started in distribution with Indigo Film & Television in London and then established the company in Australia managing Asia, Australia & New Zealand. In 2008 Natalie became Sales Manager for Australia, New Zealand and Asia with ABC Commercial. In 2010, Natalie took over as Manager, Content Sales following the merger with ABC Digital Sales. Natalie was EP on Commercial's first feature documentary about Lance Armstrong. Natalie started Escapade Media in November 2013 with the assistance of Ambience Entertainment. Her EP experience extends across all genres of programming, having seen a number of financing models used for titles in development.

UK Writers, Rob Cawley and Paul Duane are prolific writers from the UK who co-founded TV and film Production Company Screenworks based in Dublin, Ireland, in 2008. Paul is known for *Secret Diary of a Call Girl* featuring Billy Piper. In December 2013 Paul was listed by *Variety* (magazine) as part of their yearly 10 Directors to Watch feature. Rob's writing credits include Series 1 & 2 of the *The Mary G Show*, the first Aboriginal comedy series for National Australian TV, which won Outstanding Achievement in Series at the W.A. Screen Awards 2002 & 2003. In 2014, Rob and Paul co-created and wrote the Irish crime drama, *Amber*, and have a number of projects in development, including a 8-part drama series, *Winchman*, and returnable drama series *Ghost Division*.

Australian Writer, Sarah Smith is an AWGIE award winning writer and showrunner who has created successful TV dramas for major networks in Australia, including *Wild Boys* and *Rescue Special Ops*. *Rescue Special Ops* enjoyed three successful seasons for the Nine Network, winning a gold medal at the 2010 International New York Film Festival. Critically acclaimed *Wild Boys*, an action-packed 13-part mini-series set in the 1860's premiered with the highest ratings on the Seven Network in September 2011. In 2012 Sarah co-wrote and produced an award winning tele-movie, *Dripping In Chocolate*, a romantic detective thriller starring David Wenham and Louise Lombard for UKTV/ BBC Worldwide. She co-wrote the feature film, *Nerve*, with director Sebastian Guy, in 2013. Most recently Sarah created and produced a pilot of a one

hour drama series for the 7 network, *Hartman's Solution*, starring Erik Thomson, and has co-created and produced a tele-movie franchise about an elite homicide task force, *The Killing Field*, starring Rebecca Gibney and Peter O'Brien. Sarah has worked as a writer, developer, and producer on some of Australia's best loved dramas, including *Old School*, *Wonderland*, *McLeod's Daughters*, *The Alice*, *Sea Patrol*, *All Saints*, as well as popular children's series, *Blue Water High*, *Ship to Shore*, and *Minty*.

Casting: TBC

(Anticipated) Budget: US \$2 million per episode

Production + Schedule: TBC



Somewhere between who they are, and who people think they are, lies *The Best Kind of Beautiful*.

Drama - TV Series

6 x 60 minute episodes in 4K

Set in the colourful kitsch of the 80's & 90's, "The Best Kind of Beautiful" is a funny, moving 6-part musical drama about a family pop band, The Saint Claire Swingers, as they struggle with a tragic death in the family. Florence Saint Claire (25) and her mother Amanda (49). learn to share their secrets, heal the wounds of their past, and find the courage to be themselves - no matter how glamorous that may be.

Australia 1989.

Two major events cause the close-knit Saint Claire family to splinter at the height of their success. The first was when Florence Saint Claire, who was 15 at the time, froze on stage while performing with the Saint Claire Swingers, her family's famous pop band. Humiliated on national TV, she refused to perform again. The second, when revered musical legend father, Lucas Saint Claire accidentally steps in front of a milk truck and is struck dead. In Florence's mind, the two events, occurring a week apart, are inextricably linked.

Australia 1999.

A decade later the family are still putting their lives back together. Now a climate change activist and horticulturist, Florence rehabilitates native forestry in

the sheltered suburb of East Elm. Florence's ascerbic wit is as intimidating as her unconventional beauty, but underneath Florence is just a bag of shattered glass. Florence has grown distant from her jazz singer mother, Amanda Saint Claire, a British glamazon with her own droll sense of humour and a shameless love for the spotlight.

Deceits and resentments in the family explode in crisis when Amanda receives a lucrative invitation for The Saint Claire Swingers to headline the 1999 New Year's Eve show at the Sydney Opera House. Amanda feels it's the perfect way to pay off debt, honour the 10th anniversary of Lucas's death, and bring the family together again. Florence rejects the invitation, and a major row ensues where everyone is a

little too honest. Siblings, Izzy and Puck, wish Florence would just do the damn New Year's Eve show. Izzy and Puck have their own indie electronic band Mercy Jones, but they miss performing together as a family and are tired of the conflict.

As secrets are unearthed and trust is regained, the Saint Claire family begin to face life boldly again, putting their dreams and hearts on the line. And Florence... well, Florence changes her mind and decides that performing with her crazy family is its own imperfect kind of beautiful. The clock ticks down to the new millennium and, as the world worries about the Y2K bug, the Saint Claire Swingers saunter on stage to perform their annoying cheesy hit song, 'Santa Was A Jazz Cat' with gusto...

THE BEST KIND OF BEAUTIFUL

Characters and potential casting:

FLORENCE SAINT CLAIRE.

Growing up in a famous musical family, Florence learned early that privacy is a hard-won battle worth fighting for. After a public meltdown on live television at age 15, and the death of her beloved musical legend father Lucas shortly after, Florence has spent the past decade rebuilding a quiet, low-key, life in East Elm. One that doesn't involve performing... well, at least not with her family. A large part of the reason she stopped singing with her family was because on stage she had to show all herself, all her skin, before she'd had time to grow into it.

An unconventional beauty with acerbic wit, Florence engages in the world with a prickliness that gives the lantana she eradicates fierce competition. Despite her loneliness, Florence's introverted life is simple... well, it would be if she

wasn't in love with her socialite colleague, Albert Flowers, and if she wasn't secretly moonlighting as a cabaret singer...and if she wasn't responsible for her father's death. Florence's taciturn sharpness is fuelled by the intense guilt she carries. Feeling pressure from her fame-chasing family to reunite for a televised NYE concert, Florence feels herself pulled in the opposite direction - desiring instead to bury herself and her feelings down in the dirt with the trees she's planting.

Over the series Florence must learn to speak her truth, trust in others and feel comfortable in her own skin. She must take responsibility for her aloneness, break down the walls she's built around herself, and realise that people's imperfections, including her own, are the best kind of beautiful.



AMANDA SAINT CLAIRE.

Bombastic and beautiful, Amanda Saint Claire was born to two humble working-class English parents who cherished her dearly and knew how to carry a tune. They instilled in her a tireless work ethic and a deep love for music. However, where they were cautious, fearful and shy, Amanda was bold, fearless and extroverted. She loved her parents, but as soon as she turned eighteen she applied for a scholarship as far away as possible- and the Queensland Conservatorium in Australia was just far enough.

Swept off her feet by Lucas Saint Claire at 19, Amanda was thrust into the limelight...and loved it. Talented and funny, she could hold an audience spellbound and exit leaving them wanting more. Somehow, she did all this while keeping the spotlight focused firmly on her superstar husband. But a decade after his death, Amanda is still furious with Lucas. It's not so much the cheating. Or that she's still discovering women he slept with (including her oldest, most cherished friend). It's the damage he caused their children. Thank God, she's always had her manager Richard to help her through it.

As more secrets come to light, and Amanda learns the extent of damage Lucas caused, she is forced to confront the hard truth that he's not alone in this. To reconnect with her children, Amanda must first face the music about her own actions and the pain she's caused. Unlike Lucas, she'll make sure she's around to do so.



THE BEST KIND OF BEAUTIFUL

Characters and potential casting:

ISOLDE (IZZY) SAINT CLAIRE. Lanky and lovely, Izzy sees everything in sharp relief and nothing in muddier shades. Lacking both shame and a filter, her thoughts are expressed at the exact time she has them. There's an uncontrollable wildness to Izzy; her body always fidgeting, her laughter always free. She's the same person onstage as off, which may be why she handled the transition from child star to adult performer better than Florence. Like the other Saint Claire women, Izzy can't see that love is right in front of her, wearing a fluoro vest and flashing lights. Like the other Saint Claire women, Izzy needs to see herself clearly before she can see the type of love she deserves.

PUCK SAINT CLAIRE. Puck drums all the time... when he's happy, when he's sad, when anxious, bored or breathing. He'll tap tunes on anything, from the sides of buses to the plates at dinner. Puck juggles his role as drummer in Mercy Jones with a burgeoning DJ career. Although his mother doesn't understand electronic music, Puck believes it's the future. Non-binary before non-binary had a name, fashion-forward Puck knows who he is and what he wants. He misses his father terribly, and not just because he left him in a house of crazy women. A quiet loner, Puck has a history of wandering, often disappearing for days at a time. His family put his wanderings down to a quirk in Puck's personality, but as Florence digs into the past, she realises Puck's roving stems from a much darker place.

LUCAS SAINT CLAIRE. Lucas Saint Claire was a talented and famous musician. Before "Santa Was a Jazz Cat" became a mega-hit, Lucas had a break-out album, "Love Walked In." Hailing from wealthy and stylish but dysfunctional parents, Lucas inherited his love of alcohol from his mother and his love of women from his father. Handsome, playful, and talented, Lucas's biggest weapon was his charm; when Lucas showed up it was like the sun appearing from behind clouds. His magnetism allowed him to get away with anything; he was absent-minded, self-centred, often late and never faithful. Yet everyone forgave him... or so they thought. Lucas loved his

family, but he's left a lot of damage in his wake, and his legacy may not survive the fallout.

RICHARD MILLER. Richard Miller is the Saint Claire family's long-suffering manager. Hailing from Nashville, Richard's great in an interview, has high integrity and knows how to sell talent. Respected in the industry, Richard could have become an empire himself - if he wasn't so dedicated to the Saint Claire family. He's in so many family photos that if you didn't know better - you'd think Richard was their father, and Lucas their wild uncle. Richard is secretly in love with Amanda, and sooner rather than later Richard must find the courage to tell Amanda how he feels; he needs to know whether she loves him back or whether he's just a hopeless romantic fool.

ALBERT FLOWERS. A thatch of messy hair, unlaced boots, big build, thick jaw, nice to children and the elderly, Albert Flowers is a gentle giant who tries his hardest to do no harm. Often this means doing nothing, especially if he's not sure how the other person is feeling, and especially if that person is Florence, who Albert finds impossible to read. Albert works alongside Florence at The Green Team and has no idea she's madly in love with him. His ego is not big enough to come that to conclusion, believing her too talented, too cool and too far out of his league. The frustrated lovers are perfect for one other... but first they must find the courage to reveal their true selves. The one thing Albert finds almost impossible to do.



THE BEST KIND OF BEAUTIFUL

Team:



Creator / Writer - Michael Rymer

Michael Rymer's first film, *Angel Baby*, premiered in 1995 to much critical acclaim. It was invited to screen at International Festivals and won 7 AFI/AACTA awards. Michael's other feature credits include *Allie and Me*, *In Too Deep*, *Perfume* and *Queen of the Damned*. Michael has worked extensively in the US on television series, most notably as director/writer and producer of the sci-fi cult series *Battlestar Galactica*, for which he was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Direction in a Drama Series. He directed an episode on the second series of FX's *American Horror Story: Asylum*, for which he received a DGA Award Nomination, and an episode for the second series of A&E's *Western Longmire*.

Michael was executive producer for Bryan Fuller's drama series for NBC, *Hannibal*, starring Hugh Dancy and Mads Mikkelsen and then went on to direct episodes of seasons two and three. He has also directed one episode on each of *Jessica Jones* and *The Man in the High Castle*. In 2015, he directed *Deadline Gallipoli* for Matchbox Pictures, for which he received a 2016 ADG Award nomination for Best Direction in a TV Miniseries. Michael recently directed the final two episodes of Fremantle Media's reimagining of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*.



Creator / Writer - Courtney Wise

Courtney Wise is an award-winning freelance showrunner, writer, and producer based in Byron Bay, Australia. Wise created, produced and script-produced the critically acclaimed four-part SBS drama mini-series *On The Ropes* for Lingo Pictures. *On The Ropes* was broadcast on SBS in late 2018 and was nominated for many awards including three 2019 Logie Awards (including Most Outstanding Miniseries, Best Lead Actress - Nicole Chamoun, and Best Supporting Actress - Keisha Castle Hughes), a 2019 AACTA Award for Best Telefeature or Miniseries, and a 2019 SPA Award for Telemovie or Miniseries Production of the Year Award, among others.

While working in the Television Fiction Department at the ABC, Courtney was Development Manager on *The Secret River*, a two-part telemovie adaptation of Kate Grenville's award-winning novel and *The*

Beautiful Lie, a six-part contemporary Australian adaptation of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*.

Courtney also wrote episodes on the award-winning teen series *Dance Academy*, series 2 and 3, broadcast on ABC, and was the recipient of Screen Australia funding for her science fiction series *Dreamscapers*

Executive Producer - Rodrigo Vidal Dawson

Rodrigo Vidal Dawson is a Sydney based Executive Producer and Creative. Co Founder of Blackfish and current Head of Scripted, a graduate of The Australian Film Television & Radio School as well as studied Literature (story & poetry) at the Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile.

His experience encompasses a wide range of narrative long form, commercial, art and experiential projects. Having Produced Feature films, documentaries, animations, public art projects and countless hours of Content for brands such as Adidas, Sony, Tourism Australia to count as a few major clients. In his work Rodrigo seeks to discover the dramatic and personal 'spirit' of a story and tell this story through emotive imagery. Rodrigo produced independent feature films *Observance & Indigo Lake*. Currently Rodrigo is overseeing a large slate of long form projects.

Rodrigo currently heads a Blackfish team servicing a full creative, consultation, marketing, design and production services throughout Australia and the greater APAC region, with an understanding of cultural nuance and market-specific needs. With extensive experience spanning scripted long form, Commercials, VR/ AR, documentaries, animation, public art and apps - for community, corporate and commercial productions. Backed by a strong body of work, a shared passion for story, and big themes. Fostering and nurture relationships.

Consulting and connecting with community and clients. Working with Indigenous Custodians, Elders, Knowledge Holders, Local Land Councils and future young leaders for better outcomes for all. Rodrigo believes in narrative with depth,

vision with soul and truth in voice.





Same souls, different people. Can love transcend lifetimes?

Drama - Movie

100 minute film in 4K

Giselle is a thought provoking cinematic fantasy romance that revolves around the concept of reincarnation and the idea that our past life fears can carry over into our present day existence. It's the notion that everyone is connected on a universal level that transcends time, race, religion, gender and social status.

Current day Australia

Grieving teen, Giselle, 18, visits a medicine man at the behest of her friends, Skye and Lavender, both 18, searching for answers behind her father's recent death. This triggers her sixth sense, propelling her on an ethereal journey connecting her past and present lives. Around this time she has an unusual encounter with roguish stranger, Jasper Wallace, 17, and she is drawn to him with powerful mixed feelings. She begins to grapple with her reality as she dreams about her past lives and experiences visions outside of the everyday. She throws herself into her karate practice, training hard to prepare for the dojo's annual competition. Jasper joins the dojo and Giselle experiences the conflicting emotions of

attraction and repulsion which spills over into their sparring matches.

Spanning many eras in time throughout Australia, Greece, Japan and the Middle East, we journey through the ancient cycles of love and fear, seeing a repetitive pattern unfolding. 7000 years ago an Indigenous Australian girl is held captive by a uniquely foreign invader who murdered her father. In 500BC a Spartan warrior chooses to defy her cruel and heartless mother once she discovers she has a twin sister. In the late 1800's a Geisha deals with an obsessive client in her adoptive mothers house. In the Middle East a female assassin exists under the control of a misogynistic army chief, while living a double life with her informant

lover in the 90's war time crisis and in current day Australia a teen grieving the mysterious death of her father connects powerfully with a young man.

Each lifetime tells of the demise of our hero's soulmate at the hands of the nemesis.

With a medicine man's guidance, our current day hero digs deeper into her vulnerability and flaws and realises her nemesis is a reflection of her own fear, and she has the power to break the dysfunctional cycle. This epic story of redemption brings a film that not only breaks down the traditional frameworks of love but also reminds us that love is at the core of humanity, and the most important part of the experience we all share.

GISELLE

Characters and potential casting:

GISELLE BASALT

Teagan Croft

GISELLE (18) - a grieving young woman searching for answers behind her father's death. Her tough exterior houses a sensitive, soulful nature that struggles with a fear of love and loss. Giselle is Jasper's love interest.

JASPER WALLACE

Jordan Rodrigues

JASPER (17) - handsome troubled orphan with a dark secret.. Life has been unfair to him and this is reflected in his character's outlook on life. Jasper is Giselle's love interest.

MEDICINE MAN - Jack Charles

JANDAMARRA (early 70s) - an empathetic oracle with great wisdom, abundant life experience and a deep sense of love.

JESSE BASALT - Gyton Grantley

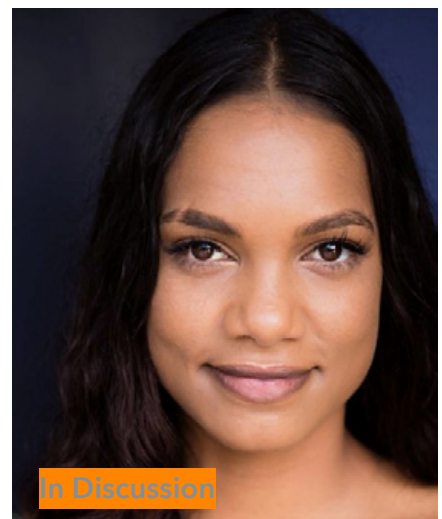
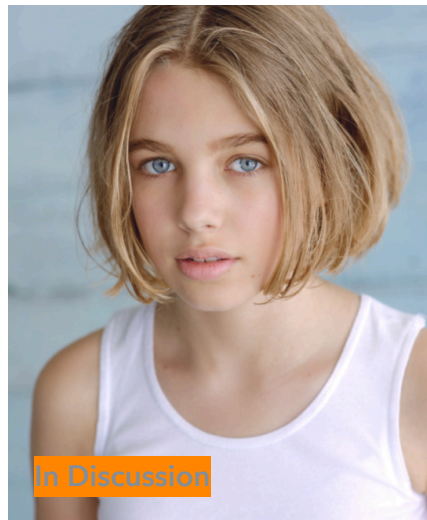
JESSE BASALT (40) - Giselle's recently deceased father. A laid back surfer with a ready smile who worked as a youth mentor.

WOORIN - Rob Collins

WOORIN (early 30s) - Killara's father and medicine man of her clan.

KILLARA - Dubs Yunupingu

KILLARA (18) - an intuitive Indigenous girl on the precipice of womanhood.



GISELLE

Team:

Hayley Macfarlane - DIRECTOR

Hayley MacFarlane is an award winning Australian director who grew up on the sunny East Coast. Her graduate short film Hummingbirds (2012) received praise both nationally and internationally. Her follow up short film, Growing Young (2015) starring Samara Weaving, screened with similar acclaim and success. Hayley made her mark in reality TV, directing some of the UK's and Australia's hottest reality shows such as 2019 BAFTA award winning I'm a Celebrity.. Get Me Out of Here UK, Big Brother UK, BAFTA award winning Love Island UK, and many more.

In 2019 Hayley completed her debut feature film, Swimming For Gold, starring Peyton List. The film was released into cinemas in 2020. Hayley just wrapped on the Netflix TV series Dive Club, and is doing another directing stint on the reality show, SAS. She has two other features in development. Evergreen, a heartwarming comedy and Midnight Screening, a romantic drama.

Hayley is a versatile director with a strong focus on performances and a remarkable ability for gritty story telling that is visually beautiful.

Leanne Tonkes - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Leanne Tonkes advocates for Gender Equality, championing the careers of female writers, directors and storytellers across all media. Leanne produced feature film My Mistress. AFI award-winning short Dog With Electric Collar, and This Is Desmond Ray! - an award winning 6-part web-series. She produced The Second, Mairi Cameron's debut feature - the first Stan Original feature. She is a recent participant of Inside Pictures, a high-profile international intensive film business and leadership skills development programme supported by Creative Europe and ScreenSkills.

Leanne is producer on the The Secret Lives Of Dresses with Mairi Cameron and Stephen Lance that has recently received support from Screen Australia.

Leanne is also developing The Circus, with Emma Freeman and Alice Bell, The Bloody Satisfaction Of Derek Gott under the Stan/SQ premium drama development program with Steve Baker and recently produced Fatima Mawas's diversity short 'AMAR' for SBS and Film Victoria.

Krista Fergusson - SCREENWRITER/ PRODUCER

Krista is an Australian screenwriter with a 20 year background in production, and her own production company, Fabric Films, specialising in TVC and branded content. A passionate writer with an interest in supernatural / fantasy dramas, she has been awarded at the Hollywood International Moving Pictures Film Festival, and been showcased at The Womens Film & Script Showcase, The Film & Script Showcase First 10 pages competition, The Tinseltown Productions Screenplay Contest and the All Genre Screenplay Contest in Los Angeles.

Krista is also executive producer on the recently completed action thriller film Safehouse directed by Paul Street. She has two other fantasy films titled Tasmania and Butterfly Gypsy in development. Sarah has worked as a writer, developer, and producer on some of Australia's best loved dramas, including Old School, Wonderland, McLeod's Daughters, The Alice, Sea Patrol, All Saints, as well as popular children's series, Blue Water High, Ship to Shore, and Minty.



GISELLE

Team:

Shirley Pierce - SCRIPT CONSULTANT

Shirley has worked on films that have had a cumulative box office of over a quarter of a billion dollars. In over ten years of writing for Walt Disney Studios, Shirley worked on over two dozen projects ranging from the features *Dinosaur*, *Home on the Range* and *Meet the Robinsons* to the live-action Holocaust drama *Misha*. The animated short *John Henry*, which she wrote for Disney, won international film festivals and was shortlisted in its category for the Academy Awards. Her screen adaptation of the opera *Aida* was source material for Elton John's successful Broadway production. In Australia, Shirley has written for the ABC, the Nine Network and producers Trish Lake, Matt Carroll and Chris Brown.

Shirley's TV movies include the *Lena Horne Story* for ABC, Black Entertainment Television's thriller *Incognito*, TNT's *Passing Glory* - a Magic Johnson/Quincy Jones production and USA's family drama *Colour of Rage* for Wilshire Court. Shirley has also written internationally for studios in the U.S., Australia, Japan and Spain. She has developed projects for MGM and Sony Pictures.

Sandy Greenwood - INDIGENOUS WRITER / PRODUCER / CONSULTANT

Sandy is a First Nations actor and playwright from the Dunghutti, Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung tribes of Australia. She has a Bachelor of Arts Drama (Theatre Studies), Honours, from the Queensland University of Technology (Honours) and has trained at Atlantic Acting School in New York City, and *The Groundlings* in Los Angeles.

Sandy has performed with a number of Australia's leading theatre companies, including the Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Griffin Theatre and Ilbjerri Indigenous Theatre Company. On screen she has appeared in the US blockbuster *Killer Elite* alongside Robert de Niro, for which she received a *Deadly Award* nomination for Indigenous actor of the year. Writing credits include screenplays; "*Giselle*" and "*The Aussie*" and has worked as cultural consultant and co writer on high end commercial content directed by one of Australia's leading film directors, Brendan Fletcher (*Mad Bastards*). In Australia Sandy is perhaps best known for her critically-acclaimed one-woman show, *Matriarch*, for which she was recognised with two Green Room Awards in 2019: Best Performer and Best Writing in Independent Theatre.

Simon Duggan - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Highly awarded Australian cinematographer Simon Duggan has a long list of credits to his name including "*Isn't It Romantic*," "*Hacksaw Ridge*," "*The Great Gatsby*" and "*I,Robot*." He has worked with New Line Cinema, Warner Bros, Cross Creek Pictures, Universal, Summit Entertainment, Paramount, 20th Century Fox, Lakeshore Entertainment, Filmgraphics Entertainment, Fox Searchlight and Village Road Show amongst others.

His accolades include a variety of Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS), Australian Film Critics Association, Camerimage, Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), Satellite, Film Critics Circle of Australia and Australian Film Institute (AFI) awards.





Drama - TV Series

3 series of 6 x 60 minute episodes in 4K

Based on the internationally renowned novels of Morris West, this is the heart-warming and profound story of Kiril Lakota, a cardinal who reluctantly steps out from behind the Iron Curtain to lead the Catholic Church as the first Slav Pope, and finds himself thrown into the machinations of Cold War politics.

Vatican is a returning television series based on THE VATICAN TRILOGY by Morris West, which includes: "The Shoes of the Fisherman", "The Clowns of God" and "Lazarus"; with a fourth book, "Eminence" that could become part of the series.

Starting with the first book, 'The Shoes of a Fishermen', this is the story of one man's personal struggle to overcome the torment and demons of his past and help forge a new future for the entire world.

Is the world already on the path of a potentially, civilisation ending, third World War or if war does not consume us, will climate change bring about our demise instead? The Vatican needs to act, and with the death of the reigning Pope,

Kiril comes to the fore. What can he do to diffuse the increasingly dangerous situation, to intercede and try and bring these nations together, especially when one of its architects is Kemenev, a man with home Kiril has a very dark history? With the world sitting on the edge of oblivion, can Faith and religion serve as the catalyst to rebalance the planets' geo-political structure, staring death in the face, will mankind turn to God? Can Kiril save the world from its own short-sightedness and re-establish the Vatican as the moral centre of a brave new world?

The story introduces Telemond, a man who has a foot in both the religious and scientific camps, he has his Faith, but he's also pragmatic, his argument is that if God

created all things, then surely, he has given us the ability to achieve these medical miracles, to create this incredible science It is Telemond's belief, that far from being Heresy, the work he's doing is God's Will and that will prove to be a massive moral challenge for Kirli.

The third arc will centre around Kiril and his desire to examine the relationship between politics and the press, how social media pervades the lives of everyone and how it impacts on people's world view. He will find a dark web of conspiracy that highlights the manipulation of media across the world by big business and governments alike.

Team: written by Chris Lunt and Michael A. Walker; Executive Produced by Escapade Media; Co-produced by Context Media.

(Anticipated) Budget: US\$2.5m to US\$3.5m per episode

Production + Schedule: TBC

VATICAN

Based on the bestselling 'Vatican Trilogy' by Morris West

Characters:

KIRIL LAKOTA

Kiril is a man who isn't defined simply by his religion, but by his complete Faith in God. He is committed to the idyllic version of Christianity, where all men are equal, and everyone's duty to help those that are in need.

Kiril is the best of us. But this commitment to his Faith also makes Kiril dangerous, he is a man who cannot be swayed by money, or power. He is incorruptible. As such, people fear him. And when people are afraid, they are dangerous too.

Kiril is thrust into the heart of the story through the machinations of the most unlikely person imaginable, Kemenev, a former Russian Colonel who was Kiril's jailer and tormentor in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, Kemenev had seen first-hand the power of Kiril's pure Faith, he knows, that as Pope, Kiril can use that Faith to influence those in power and ease the growing tensions before they spin out of control.

But in a world where politicians are convinced that everyone has an agenda, the leaders of the other world powers will not be so quick to trust Kiril. And inside the church, there will be Cardinals and other Vatican officials who see the growing crisis as an opportunity for the Church to reassert its power. Something Kiril would never do.

With enemies on all sides, Kiril must walk a political tightrope if he is to achieve his goals and end the growing crisis. Thrown onto the global stage he finds himself a figurehead for billions, but allies and those he can trust are thin on the ground. All he really has is his Faith. Is that enough?

Can a simple fisherman really hope to convince the most powerful men and woman in the world to change their course and save the world from its own short-sightedness and avarice?

JEAN TELEMOND

Telemond is a priest that is fully committed to his Faith in God, but he also believes in science, and has made it his life's work to reconcile the two.

If God created Man, Telemond argues, then he must have also given Man the ability to achieve medical miracles.

Telemond becomes one of Kiril's few close friends. The new 'outsider' Pope admires his passion, and the fact that Telemond has a far more open mind than the enclave of 'old school' Cardinals that surround him.

Most within the Vatican recoil at the idea of scientists manipulating the building blocks of human DNA. They see it as meddling with God's work, as Heresy.

Telemond will provide the series with a real way to examine morality and the relationship between religion and science, he will also act as another political lever within the Vatican.

For those that are opposed to Kiril will see his friendship with the controversial Telemond as a weakness, a means to undermine his position. Telemond will also be seen as a threat to the position of the Church in a time of crisis, a time when the last thing anyone needs is ambiguity.

As the series unfolds, it will be revealed that Telemond is driven by something far more human than science. His father is dying of a rare genetic disease, and although there is a cure, his father is refusing the controversial genetic treatment on religious grounds.

Telemond's drive to have the Church accept his work is a quest to save his own father. The situation will be further complicated when Telemond, who has resisted being tested for the rare genetic condition himself, starts to present symptoms...

VATICAN

Based on the bestselling 'Vatican Trilogy' by Morris West

Characters:

GEORGE FABER

George Faber is a US journalist and he has uncovered a scandal involving senior Vatican officials being blackmailed over sexual misconduct. He's about to go to press with the story, when the incumbent Pope dies and Kiril is named his successor.

Kiril is an outside horse and one with a tragic and dark past, as events heat up on the world stage, Faber sees his opportunity to use what he has uncovered as leverage to get an even better story and persuades the Vatican's Secretariat of State, to give him access to the Vatican and to Kiril.

Kiril, ignorant of how Faber won his exclusive access, is sold the idea that the publicity would be a good way to endear him to the 'people' but it does not take him long to suspect that other elements are at play.

Faber, however, is also having his strings pulled, in his case by the US government. Recognising that he is in a prime position to secure sensitive information, they are forcing him into the role of double agent.

With Faber leaking information, Kiril finds himself firefighting to keep talks on track. And when the truth of how Faber achieved his role within Kiril's inner circle is revealed, the new Pope finds himself morally compromised. As the tension mounts, Kiril will find himself caught between doing the morally right thing and saving the world.

KEMENEV

Kemenev will be just one of several political heads at the heart of the growing international crisis, but the only one that has a special connection to Kiril.

During the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, Kemenev was Kiril's jailer and tormentor.

As the world's Super Powers edge closer and closer towards all-out war, Kemenev seeks Kiril's help. Kemenev trusts no one, but through his time spent with Kiril, each has formed an undeniable bond to the other.

Kemenev has seen first-hand Kiril's resolve, his pure Faith, he knows that he is a man that cannot be broken, that he is incorruptible, and could become a figurehead.

Right now, the world and the Vatican needs a man like Kiril, a man that can heal the wounds of the world, and unite its people.

Kiril agrees to become involved, so that war and the inevitable suffering of innocent people it would bring, can be avoided. But Kiril knows that Kemenev is capable of true evil. Can he really forgive a man that he hates. A man that has taken loved ones from him? Given the right opportunity. Will Kiril exact his revenge?

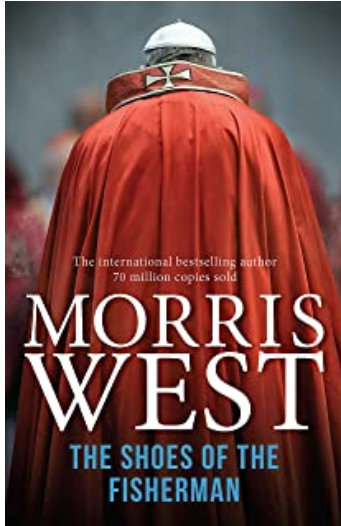
That would go against everything Kiril believes, but as tension in the Vatican builds, and the organs of power work tirelessly against him, does there come a time when it is acceptable to retaliate with violence against evil and violent men?

After all, Kiril is only human.

VATICAN

Based on the bestselling 'Vatican Trilogy' by Morris West

The Books



THE SHOES OF THE FISHERMAN

This international bestselling novel remains one of Morris West's best-known works and is considered one of the great novels of the 20th Century.

The heart-warming and profound story of Kiril Lakota, a cardinal who reluctantly steps out from behind the Iron Curtain to lead the Catholic Church as the first Slav Pope, and finds himself thrown into the machinations of Cold War politics.

The Pope is dead and the corridors of the Vatican hum with intrigue as cardinals gather to elect his successor. The result is a surprise: the new Pope is the youngest of them all - Kiril, a bearded Ukrainian. Kiril I, recently released from seventeen years in Siberian labour camps and haunted by his past. Not only is he the leader of a fractured Catholic Church, but he also finds he must confront his inquisitor and tormentor (who is now in charge of the USSR) in order to avert another world war.

'Tough, spare, brilliant, vital.' The Bookman
'High drama ... beautifully executed.' The Sunday Times
'A masterpiece.' Chicago Tribune

'Few writers of bestselling fiction have brought to the popular novel such acute intelligence and ethical perception.' Peter Pierce, *The Australian*

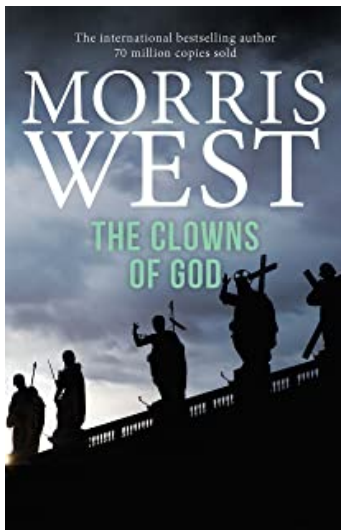
LAZARUS

An international best seller.

Centred on Pope Leo XIV (an Italian) who battles enemies from within the Vatican and Islamic terrorists determined to assassinate him. Iron-fisted Pope Leo XIV emerges from open heart surgery with the chilling realisation that his reforms have devastated the Church. It raises the central conceit of "what was Lazarus like when he rose from the dead"?

As he struggles to overcome the policies he himself put in place, he must battle opponents from within the Vatican, as well as enemies determined to assassinate him. Amid political intrigue and counterespionage, his brilliant surgeon Salviati (a Zionist Jew) becomes a target too, along with Salviati's beautiful mistress, Tove (a Scandi), and her fragile daughter (who is mentally handicapped).

'A tense and exciting thriller.' Library Journal



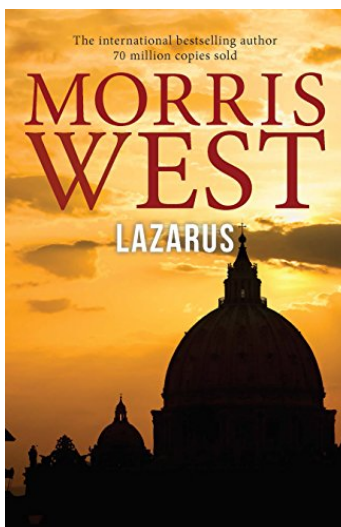
THE CLOWNS OF GOD

An international best seller that spent twenty-two weeks on the New York Times bestseller list.

The Pope (a German) declares he has received a private revelation that the world is about to end. His prophecy is so alarming that it threatens to tear the Vatican apart. Terrified, the Vatican cardinals imprison him in a monastery and the Pope abdicates.

An old friend of the Pope sets out on a risky quest to find out whether he's mad or whether there is any truth in his prophecy. On the way, he discovers the power of love and faith, while terrorists and politicians use every deadly and unholy means to stop him (featuring major French and English characters).

'West is a skilful storyteller who knows how to build suspense into every twist of the plot.' The Christian Science Monitor





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