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DEEP WATER



Documentary Treatment

A feature length documentary for SBS

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***"People walk around Bondi for entertainment. For me it remains
a place of evil." – Detective Sergeant Stephen Page***

One Page Synopsis

Up to 80 murders, 30 unsolved cases, thousands of assaults.

In the 1980s and 1990s a murderous epidemic grips Sydney.

The police are oblivious, the wider community kept in the dark or disinterested.

Iron bars, claw hooks, steel toe cap boots. Vicious gangs stalk their vulnerable victims. These are savage beatings. Frenzied and brutal. Repeated stabbings, mutilations, dismemberment.

Crimes of hate.

Lured to their deaths in the picture perfect surrounds of Sydney's stunning coastline. The unsuspecting are cornered on the cliffs, their lives ended on the rocks below. Final cries drowned out by the churning ocean.

The attackers are united by contempt. Their targets united by their sexual identity.

All are gay.

This is the story of how a wave of vicious crime engulfed a community but was invisible to most. A tale of police ineptitude, of bungled investigations, of a society riddled by homophobia. It's a story that asks how much a life is worth, of heartbroken families, of searing grievance.

For the first time **Deep Water** presents the full account of the gay hate crime epidemic that bloodied Sydney's coastline. It stirs up old cases in the hope that new evidence will rise to the surface. It sheds light on the many deaths officially recorded as 'unsolved', 'suicide' or 'death by misadventure'. Could these men also be the victims of gay hate murders?



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Perhaps after all these years, it's not too late for those responsible to come forward or be found. Not too late for there to be peace for the dead, and justice for their loved ones.

Staff & Key Creative Profiles



JACOB HICKEY

Writer and Executive Producer

Jacob Hickey started his career at the BBC in news and current affairs and worked on many projects, from hard-hitting investigations to primetime observational documentaries and historical documentaries. After almost ten years at the BBC, Jacob moved to Melbourne, Australia.

In 2009 Jacob wrote and directed ***Inside the Firestorm***; a feature length documentary for the ABC telling the story of Australia's worst bushfire disaster, 'Black Saturday'. The documentary won Jacob an AFI Award for best direction. Jacob's next project was to series produce and direct, ***Immigration Nation***. The series transmitted in January 2011 and was nominated for Best Factual Series at the AACTA awards.

In 2011 Jacob took up the post of series producer and writer on ***Once Upon a Time in Cabramatta***. The three by one hour series for SBS told the dramatic and tumultuous story of the Vietnamese community the west Sydney suburb. The series attracted one of the biggest ever audiences for an



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SBS documentary, received great critical acclaim and was nominated for several national awards.

2012 saw Jacob series producing, directing and writing, ***Dirty Business – How Mining Made Australia***, a three by one hour documentary series for SBS that told the remarkable story of how an industry has shaped a nation for more than 150 years.

In 2013 Jacob joined **Blackfella Films** to take up the post of **Head of Factual**. He went on to write and series producer **First Contact**. The stripped 'television event' was broadcast over three consecutive nights in November 2014. It saw six non-Indigenous Australians immersed into Aboriginal Australia for the first time. The series attracted the largest audience for a documentary on SBS for two years, received great critical acclaim and caused a major social media storm, trending number two worldwide on Twitter. **First Contact** has also recently been nominated for 'Most Outstanding Factual Program' at the 2015 Logies.

Jacob is continuing to expand Blackfella Films' factual slate and is currently developing several major projects for broadcast on Australian networks.



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**DARREN DALE**

Producer

Darren Dale has been a director of Blackfella Films since 2000.

In 2008 Darren, with Rachel Perkins, produced the landmark multi-platform history series **First Australians** for SBS. In 2011, Darren produced the feature documentary **The Tall Man**, which screened at TIFF, and received the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary. In 2012 he and Miranda Dear produced the telemovie **Mabo** for ABC1 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the landmark High Court decision.

In collaboration with Emmy-Award winning UK writer Jimmy McGovern and Miranda Dear, Darren has produced two series of **Redfern Now** for ABC1, which won the TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series in 2013 and 2014, and the 2014 AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series. A **Redfern Now Telemovie** aired in April 2015 to great critical acclaim.

In 2014 Darren produced the acclaimed documentary series **First Contact** for SBS which has recently been nominated for 'Most Outstanding Factual Program' at the 2015 Logies. He is currently producing the documentary series **DNA Nation** for SBS, and is Executive Producer on the ABC3 series **Ready For This**.



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Darren currently serves on the board of Screen NSW and the Council of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, and in 2012 was the recipient of the prestigious AFTRS Honorary Degree.