

THE SLATE

On-set for 2007 horror
flick *Storm Warning*.

ANNIVERSARY

A DECADE OF "ACTION!"

MELBOURNE'S DOCKLANDS STUDIOS TURNS 10

WHAT DO THE REMAKE OF *PATRICK*, WWII miniseries *The Pacific*, AFL's *The Footy Show* and Justin Bieber all have in common? If you answered "Horror!" you'd be right, but also wrong. Instead, they have all called Melbourne's Docklands Studios home, even if, in Bieber's case, only for a night.

Next month, the Victorian studio destination turns 10. In the decade since the results of a film industry thinktank chaired by Sigrid Thornton recommended the Victorian State Government build such a venture to capitalise on the international production activity and the strong crew and personnel base in Melbourne, films as diverse as Spike Jonze's *Where The Wild Things Are* and Nic Cage flamer *Ghost Rider* have shot there, as has a stack of Australian film and television. In the case of *The Pacific*, they even managed to make Melbourne look like a South Seas paradise.

Docklands Studios CEO Rod Allen (a former TV and film producer with Southern Star, his final credit was the splendid true crime mini-series *Blue Murder*), says that the decision has paid

"Productions have put over \$500 million into the Victorian economy."

Outside Docklands, which consists of five TV and film studios.

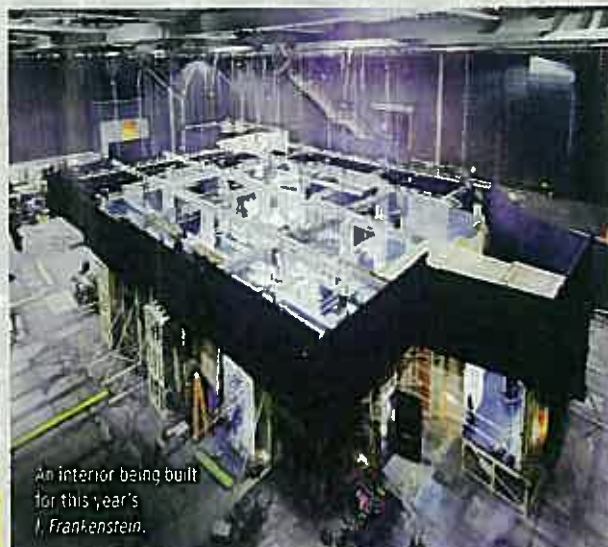


off in spades: "The direct production investment, over the productions that have shot here, has injected over half a billion dollars into the Victorian economy over the decade."

And the weirdest request put to the studio from a production? Perhaps unsurprisingly, *The Footy Show*. "The producers asked if they could have a footballer kick a ball over one of our buildings," says Allen. "Or Sam Newman crushing a car with a monster truck."

Oh, the glamour. Happy tenth anniversary, Docklands.

TRAVIS SHERIDAN



An interior being built for this year's *Frankenstein*.