



Media release

The Hon Louise Asher MP

Minister for Innovation

Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Minister for Employment and Trade

Tuesday 9 September 2014

Science fiction mini-series for Melbourne

- **Revolutionary science fiction mini-series to be shot in Melbourne**
- **Great employment opportunities for local actors, crew and small businesses**
- **Napthine Government supporting film and television projects in Victoria**

An epic US science fiction television mini-series based on a classic Arthur C. Clarke novel will begin filming in Melbourne this year with the support of the Victorian Coalition Government.

Minister for Innovation Louise Asher said the Universal Cable Productions series, a division of NBCUniversal, *Childhood's End* had been secured through Film Victoria with Victorian Government support. The six-hour miniseries will premiere on Syfy in the U.S. in 2015.

"The Victorian Coalition Government is pleased to support *Childhood's End*, which will shoot at Docklands Studios Melbourne and at various locations around Melbourne over 13 weeks in 2014 and 2015.

"Around 380 talented local practitioners, including up to 15 heads of department, will work on the *Childhood's End* production, generating an estimated \$20 million in production expenditure in Victoria.

"This production will provide excellent employment opportunities for actors, technicians and small businesses, generating welcome activity in the state," Ms Asher said.

"*Childhood's End* follows fantasy adventure feature film *The Moon and the Sun*, starring Pierce Brosnan, William Hurt and Fan Bing Bing, and Stuart Beattie's *I, Frankenstein* as the latest major production attracted to Victoria with the support of the Napthine Government."

Hailed as a revolutionary work of science fiction since its publication in 1953, *Childhood's End* follows the peaceful alien invasion of Earth by the mysterious 'Overlords', whose arrival begins decades of apparent utopia under indirect alien rule, at the cost of human identity and culture.

Childhood's End will be adapted by Matthew Graham (creator of BBC's *Life on Mars*, *Ashes to Ashes*), with Mike DeLuca (*Captain Philips*, *Moneyball*, *The Social Network*) and Akiva Goldsman (*Lone Survivor*, *Paranormal Activity*, *I Am Legend*) attached as executive producers, with Universal Cable Productions as the studio. It will be produced through HayPop Pty Ltd's Jeff Hayes and Brett Popplewell.

"We look forward to bringing *Childhood's End* to life with the support of the Victorian Coalition Government with whom we've enjoyed a collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship," said Mark Binke, Executive Vice President of Production for Universal Cable Productions.

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“Melbourne was the right place for us to bring one of our premiere productions this year – from its beautiful scenic landscape to its production facilities and its talented and skilled production crews,” Mr Binke said.

“This project brings the total number of film and television projects supported by the Victorian Coalition Government since December 2010 to more than 160. These projects are expected to generate more than \$655 million in production expenditure for our state,” Ms Asher said.

CEO Jenni Tosi said Film Victoria was delighted to have secured an international television production of this calibre for Melbourne.

“Universal Cable Productions is a major player and critically acclaimed studio in the business of television production. Their decision to select Melbourne as the location for *Childhood’s End* is testament to the amazing crews, great facilities, diverse locations and film-friendly policies we offer here in Victoria,” Ms Tosi said.

“This will be ‘event television’, and we’re thrilled that Victoria’s screen practitioners and businesses will have the opportunity to once again demonstrate their talent on a major international production, which will be seen by audiences across the globe,” Ms Tosi said.

The series is scheduled to commence pre-production in September 2014 with principal photography to commence in November.

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