



DOCKLANDS DELIVERS MIXED SLATE

Docklands Studios is slowly changing the perception it is for big budget Hollywood projects only. CEO Rod Allan speaks about the benefits of a Melbourne studio shoot.

It's only halfway through the calendar year but a variety of projects have already been through the sound stages at Docklands Studios Melbourne.

High profile credits since January include international sci-fi miniseries *Childhood's End*, domestic feature film *Lion* and two Australian miniseries currently in production, *Jack Irish* and *Tomorrow When the War Began*.

In addition to regular clients GTV9 and the Seven Network, Docklands also supports smaller local projects through its Emerging Filmmakers Program.

This made shooting at the Studios possible for feature film *The Legend of Ben Hall* and web series parody *Footballer Wants a Wife*.

Docklands Studios chief executive, Rod Allan, says it's another busy year at the Studios.

"Melbourne offers a killer combination for filmmakers," he says.

"It's a very film-friendly city with extensive film service businesses, good casts and experienced crew.

"It also happens to be one of the world's most



liveable cities. In fact, some clients have said that the experience was like 'working on a vacation'. I think this has a lot to do with the service we offer and the convenience of having a studio right on Melbourne's doorstep."

After wrapping at Docklands in December, *The Dressmaker* producer, Sue Maslin said, "Now I get why so many producers love studios! Docklands Studios was part of the team helping us to make the best possible picture."

Docklands Studios actively encourages filmmakers to consider the benefits and cost effectiveness associated with working in purpose-built sound stages.

There is much to be gained by shooting in sound

and weather proof buildings with on-demand technical services, office space, parking, art department and storage facilities all contained on the studio lot.

This year Docklands Studios established a series of studio tours for producers who are either unfamiliar with the premises or may not have worked here recently.

After a recent tour, Matchbox Pictures, producer, Julie Eckersley says, "Although I've worked on the lot quite a few times, it was valuable to take the time to look at what is on offer," she says.

"I really appreciate the open-door approach at Docklands Studios and I certainly have a different perspective after my recent visit.

Allan says they are slowly changing the perception that Docklands Studios is only reserved for big budget Hollywood projects.

If you're in screen production, contact Docklands Studios about your upcoming production requirements. Call 03 827 2000, email: rod.allan@dsmelbourne.com or visit www.dsmelbourne.com

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