**CHANNEL 5, NETWORK 10 & FREMANTLE AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCE NEXT DRAMA COMMISSION**

***EASTENDER JO JOYNER WILL STAR IN NEW THRILLER ‘RIPTIDE’***

**London, Thursday 14th July 2022:** Channel 5, Network 10 and Fremantle Australia have once again joined forces to co-produce ***Riptide*** ***(4 x 60’)***, a premium, primetime thriller to be in filmed in Australia and starring acclaimed UK actor **Jo Joyner**.

The four-part series was created by Fremantle Australia’s Jason Herbison whose credits include Executive Producer of the much-loved soap *Neighbours* and acclaimed mini-series *Lie With Me*, one of Channel 5’s highest rating dramas last year and a global success now screening in 85 territories. ***Riptide*** was ordered by Greg Barnett, Commissioning Editor, Factual Entertainment, Unscripted, Channel 5 & P+.

Production will start on ***Riptide*** this month with renowned actor Jo Joyner, revered for her roles in many UK series including *EastEnders*, *Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators*, *Stay Close* and award-winning *Ackley Bridge* in the lead role as Alison. Joining Jo is English actor **Ciarán** **Griffiths** *(Shameless, The Flats)* and Australian actors**David Berry** *(Outlander, A Place Called Home),* **Peter O’Brien** *(The Unusual Suspects, Grey Nomads),* **Ally Fowler** *(Wentworth),* **Pia Miranda** *(Mustangs FC, Wentworth)*, rising stars **Benny Turland** *(Neighbours, Home and Away),* **Asher Yasbincek** *(The Heights, Heartbreak High)* and **Yazeed Daher** *(The Hunting, Safe Harbour),* and newcomers **Benjamin Samaddar** and **Sonya Suares**.

Filmed in Melbourne, Alison’s life is plunged into despair when her new Australian husband vanishes after a morning surf. Did he get caught in a dangerous riptide – or is there more to his disappearance than meets the eye? The psychological thriller will be directed by Australia Directors’ Guild Award recipient, Scott Major *(Lie With Me, Neighbours)* and Natalie Mandel *(Lie with Me, Wanted)* is on board as producer. Riptide is the first of two Fremantle Australia drama series commissioned by Channel 5 and Network 10 in 2022. Details of the second series will be released later this year.

**Jo Joyner said:** *“I am really excited to be working with the fantastic teams at Fremantle, Channel 5 and 10 in Australia, and playing Alison. She is such a warm and layered character whose world is turned upside down, just when it seemed like her life was finally coming together. I am also thrilled to be filming in the fabulous city of Melbourne and surrounding countryside, an area that I have always wanted to explore.”*

**Greg Barnett, Commissioning Editor, Factual Entertainment, Unscripted, Channel 5 & P+**: **commented:** *"Lie With Me proved incredibly popular with our viewers and I'm looking forward to expanding our drama slate even further, working hand in hand with our production partners Fremantle Australia and Network 10. Jo is an incredible talent, and I can't wait to see what she brings to this role."*

**Daniel Monaghan, SVP Content & Programming, Paramount Australia & New Zealand, said:** "*It is wonderful to be working closely with Channel 5 and Fremantle Australia on this fantastic new drama series. We have a strong and trusted relationship and have produced many stellar drama series together in the past.****Riptide****will continue that great partnership."*

**Jason Herbison, Executive Producer, Fremantle Australia added:** *“I’m thrilled to continue the partnership with Channel 5 and 10 and to bring Riptide to life. It’s the best of British meeting the best of Australian casts and crews – and I can’t wait for the audience to see what we have in store.”*

Riptide will be filmed exclusively in Victoria, Australia and has received financial investment from VicScreen. Fremantle will distribute the series internationally. Casting by Thea McLeod.

*Riptide* is expected to transmit on Channel 5 in 2022.

**-ENDS-**

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**About Channel 5**

Channel 5 is a public service broadcaster and the UK’s third largest commercial TV station. Launched in March 1997, Channel 5 has been part of Paramount Global (formerly ViacomCBS) since its acquisition in September 2014.

Channel 5 and its digital brands – 5STAR, 5USA, 5Select, 5ACTION and the on-demand service My5 – offer a diverse range of issue-led documentaries & popular factual celebrating the British countryside and drawing talent to the channel, accessible history, premium drama and critically-acclaimed children’s, news and current affairs programming. Through its agenda-driving commissions, Channel 5 leads on societal issues from inequality to homelessness and mental health, aiming to tell the story of modern Britain by reflecting the lives of people across the nation.

In 2018, Channel 5 won its first BAFTA for Cruising with Jane McDonald. The following year, Raped: My Story won best Single Documentary at RTS. In 2020, it won Channel of the Year at the Broadcast Awards and by the RTS. In addition that year, it secured its first ever Grierson award win in the ‘Best Single Documentary – Domestic’ category with Suicidal: In Our Own Words. In 2021, it won best factual entertainment at the Broadcast Awards for Springtime on the Farm. It also won best drama at Voice of the Listener & Viewer for All Creatures Great & Small the same year.

**About Network 10**

Network 10 delivers content that is premium and differentiated to the young and young at heart in the way they want it. It’s content that gets people positively engaged. Network 10 has a rich viewing ecosystem with three free-to-air television channels in 10, 10 Peach and 10 Bold, an online catch-up and streaming service 10 Play, a news and entertainment website 10 Daily, a subscription video on demand service 10 All Access and podcasting platform 10 Speaks. Network 10 is distinctly different.

**About Fremantle:**

In **Australia**, Fremantle’s critically acclaimed and award-winning scripted output includes seven seasons of series *Wentworth,*which has been remade in four languageswith the eighth Australian season currently in production, the limited series *Picnic at Hanging Rock*for Foxtel and Amazon Prime whichpremiered at Berlinale and Tribeca Film Festivals, and the iconic serial drama *Neighbours.* Fremantle unscripted content includes the hugely successful *Australia’s Got Talent, Celebrity Name Game, Great Australian Bake Off, Grand Designs Australia, Escape from the City, The Recording Studio, Farmer Wants A Wife* and *Restoration Australia.* Fremantle is also at the forefront in the creation and production of digital media content, brand integration and brand extensions including the popular Grand Designs Magazine and Australia's number one selling board game, Family Feud.

Fremantle is one of the largest and most successful creators, producers and distributors of scripted and unscripted content in the world. A global entertainment powerhouse, Fremantle has an outstanding international network of production teams, companies and labels in over 30 countries. We produce in excess of 12,000 hours of original programming, roll out more than 70 formats and air 400 programmes a year worldwide. The group distributes over 20,000 hours of content in more than 200 territories. We are also a world leader in digital and branded entertainment, with more than 370 million subscribers across 1,500 social channels and over 100 billion views across all platforms.

Fremantle is part of RTL Group, a global leader across broadcast, content and digital, itself a division of the international media giant Bertelsmann.