

Media Release

19 October 2019

SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION FOR DOCKLANDS STUDIOS POSITIONS MELBOURNE AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST COMPETITIVE SCREEN CITIES

Docklands Studios Melbourne and Film Victoria welcome today's announcement by the Victorian State Government that it will construct a new super sound stage (Stage 6) at Docklands Studios.

Stage 6 will increase the studio's stage capacity by an enormous 60% allowing it to accommodate bigger international film and television productions, and greater flexibility to host multiple projects concurrently.

Construction of the new stage, measuring 40,000 ft² (3,700 m²) approx., is expected to start in mid-2020 and be completed by late 2021. As with the existing five purpose-built stages which range in size from 8,000 ft² (743 m²) to 25,000 ft² (2,323 m²), the new super stage will be a state-of-the-art facility built to the highest standard.

During construction, it will be business as usual in the five existing stages, with two major television series filming into 2020: the ten-part series for Apple TV+, *Shantaram* (Paramount Television/Anonymous Content) and the eight-part Netflix Original series *Clickbait* (Matchbox Pictures/Tony Ayres Productions/Heyday Television).

In recent years, Docklands Studios' sound stages have hosted a mix of Australian and international productions, including cult hit *Preacher* (Season 4); *Winchester* starring Helen Mirren; TV series *The Leftovers* (Season 3); BBC hit drama *The Cry*; and *The Dressmaker* starring Kate Winslet.

In addition it was announced that Dick Cook Studios will set up its Asia Pacific headquarters in Melbourne with two major films already slated for production in Melbourne.

Jointly announced by the Federal Government and Victoria's Premier, the first two projects are *Ranger's Apprentice*, based on the best-selling book series by Australian author John Flanagan and *The Alchemyst*, the first book in the six novel series *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* by famed Irish author Michael Scott.

Melbourne is renowned for its world class crews, creatives, diverse filming locations, and competitive incentives. This series of announcements cements Victoria's reputation as a premium screen production destination.

Quotes attributable to Docklands Studios Melbourne CEO Rod Allan

"Our stages are in high demand, and the new super stage will give us the capacity to cater for more high-end productions than ever before."

Quotes attributable to Film Victoria CEO, Caroline Pitcher



"The development at Docklands Studios Melbourne is a game changer for Victoria. Melbourne is already internationally recognised for its highly-skilled crews, great locations and world-class studios. And with this new sound stage, even more large-scale productions will have the opportunity to experience how great it is to film in Melbourne."

"The attraction of the Asia Pacific Headquarters of Dick Cook Studios to Melbourne and the announcement that the first two feature films will shoot at Docklands Studios Melbourne is further proof of what an extraordinary screen city Melbourne is."

Quote attributable to Sam Catlin, Co-Creator and Showrunner, *Preacher*, Season 4

"Working at Docklands Studios was amazing. A very state of the art facility. The stages could handle everything that we seemed to be able to write – it was fantastic."

Quote attributable to Bill Kong, Producer *The Whistleblower*

"Shooting here at Docklands Studios is so convenient... it's the most ideal studio in the world."

Quote attributable to Tony To, Producer *The Pacific*

"Filming in Melbourne was like working on vacation."

Video footage and artist impressions can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l73yvvf7yohe4ci/AADiwnjT0PPAL9OfYZxqNOoNa?dl=0>

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