

8 July 2014



## **BBC FIRST ACQUIRES GRIPPING THRILLER THE MISSING STARRING JAMES NESBITT**

New premium drama channel BBC First has announced the acquisition of major thriller series *The Missing*, starring **James Nesbitt** (*The Hobbit* trilogy, *Jekyll*) **Frances O'Connor** (*Mr Selfridge*, *AI Artificial Intelligence*) and **Tcheky Karyo** (*Goldeneye*, *The Patriot*).

In 2006 Tony and Emily Hughes' life changes forever when their 5 year-old son Oliver goes missing on a family holiday to France. A huge manhunt led by Julien Baptiste, one of France's finest detectives, is launched but Oliver seems to have disappeared into thin air. Tony and Emily are in a foreign land, they do not speak the language and do not understand the rules. As their desperation and profile of the case grows, Tony and Emily find themselves thrown into a media maelstrom, learning the hard way that not everyone they meet is willing to operate in their best interests.

Eight years on from Oliver's disappearance and the fallout has resulted in the end of Tony and Emily's marriage. Tony refuses to believe that Oliver is dead and doggedly continues his search to find his son. After years of searching, Tony is given new hope when a shred of evidence emerges. This reignites the interest of Julien Baptiste, the lead French detective at the time of the disappearance, who returns to Chalons Du Bois to try and finally get to the bottom of what happened to Oliver Hughes.

This gripping 8 x 60' relationship thriller is told simultaneously over two time frames and is set in two countries. Exploring the emotional cost of obsession, hope and finding when to let go, this thrilling new drama shows the impact of a child's abduction.

Nesbitt, O'Connor and Karyo are joined by an international cast including **Jason Flemyng** (*Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels*, *The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button*), **Ken Stott** (*The Hobbit* trilogy, *Rebus*), **Arsher Ali** (*Four Lions*) and **Titus De Voogd** (*Steve + Sky*).

Natalie Edgar, Director of Television, BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand, said: "This series is an exciting new take on the detective drama. Full of twists and turns it will have viewers on the edge of their seats. I have no doubt it will be a huge hit and I'm delighted to be able to bring this to BBC First audiences."

Currently in production, *The Missing* is written by Harry and Jack Williams and directed by Tom Shankland (*Ripper Street*). It is a New Pictures and Company Pictures (an All3Media company) production in association with Two Brothers Pictures in association with Playground Entertainment

for BBC in association with Starz. Co-produced with BNP Paribas Fortis Film Fund and Czar TV Productions. Filmed with the support of the Belgium Federal Government's Tax Shelter scheme for VRT. It is distributed by All3Media International.

*The Missing* will screen on BBC First in 2015.

The BBC Worldwide channel, which will showcase the very best new British dramas and comedies in one place for the first time, launches on Foxtel on August 3.

BBC First joins existing BBC channels – UKTV, BBC Knowledge, CBeebies and BBC World News – on the Foxtel platform. It will also be available on Foxtel GO and in high definition. Drama and comedy fans will be able to check what's coming up on BBC First via the programme page [bbc.com/first](http://bbc.com/first).

For more information contact: Sue Affleck, Communications Manager, BBC Worldwide ANZ  
[Sue.affleck@bbc.com](mailto:Sue.affleck@bbc.com) T: +61 2 9744 4501 M: ++61 404 604731

### **About BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand**

Australia & New Zealand (ANZ) is a priority territory for BBC Worldwide, focusing on growth across all its core business areas. Based in Macquarie Park, Sydney, BBC Worldwide ANZ wholly owns five channels: UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies in Australia; UKTV and BBC Knowledge in New Zealand; and is responsible for the distribution and promotion of BBC World News which transmits in both countries. In August 2014 it will launch a new premium channel BBC First, showcasing premiere drama and comedy on the Foxtel platform in Australia. BBC Worldwide ANZ distributes great British content from the BBC and other producers to all free-to-air and most subscription channels in Australia and New Zealand. It works with partners to bring BBC Worldwide DVDs, magazines, digital apps, innovative products and live events to the local market, as well as offering advertising opportunities for the BBC's world renowned [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) news site and [lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com). Australia is the most successful territory for the global BBC iPlayer.

[bbcworldwide.com](http://bbcworldwide.com)  
[twitter.com/bbcwpress](https://twitter.com/bbcwpress)

### **About Foxtel**

Foxtel is one of Australia's most progressive and dynamic media companies, directly employing around 2,500 people, and delivering a diverse subscription television service to both regional and metropolitan areas over cable, satellite and broadband distribution. We offer a better entertainment experience every day to each one of our 2.3 million subscribing homes through delivery of exclusive and inspiring programming across all genres, the world's most popular channel brands, and investment in high quality local content. As constant champions of innovation we have brought customers the iQ personal digital recorder, Australia's largest HD offering, Foxtel 3D, and more recently, the Foxtel Go App for iPad. Foxtel is owned by Telstra Corporation Limited ACN 051 775 556 (50%) and The News Corporation Ltd (50%). [foxtel.com.au](http://foxtel.com.au)



