



RELEASED: Thursday 17 March

ABC TV appoints Michael O'Neill as Commissioning Editor, Factual

ABC TV announces the appointment of award-winning documentary film-maker and factual development executive Michael O'Neill to the role of Commissioning Editor, Factual.

Michael brings to the ABC a wealth of experience in local and international specialist factual production.

Most recently, Michael was Vice President of Unscripted Development at Essential Media, based in Los Angeles, during which time over 60 hours of television was commissioned for the group in the US and Canada, across a variety of factual genres.

He was also Co-Executive Producer for National Geographic channel's *The Human Experiment*, Executive Producer of historic restoration series *Restored* and has worked on projects for Discovery Canada, Discovery Networks International, Animal Planet, National Geographic, Disney, HGTV, DIY, Arte & Smithsonian Channel.

In Australia, Michael was Head of Unscripted Development at Essential Media Australia where he worked on such titles as *Dingo: Wild Dog at War* (ABC1), *Getting Frank Gehry* (ABC1), *Maddie Parry: Inside the Clinic* (ABC2), *Australia: The Story of Us* (Channel 7) and *What's The Catch?* (SBS1).

Michael's awards include a Digital Emmy Award for *Scorched* (2009) and a Golden Panda Award for *The Grammar of Happiness* (2013).

Steve Bibb, ABC TV Head of Factual said: "I'm delighted to welcome Michael to the Factual team. His passion for storytelling and his ability to spot a really good idea will help cement ABC TV's position as Australia's leading factual and documentary destination. He joins a dynamic and ambitious team."

Michael commences with ABC TV on April 4.

For further information contact:

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