

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 5 June, 2015

Aden Rolfe and ABC RN's Creative Audio Unit present

A THOROUGHLY WET MESS

A quick-witted radio serial set on the high seas

Set to debut on **ABC RN** on **Friday 26 June**, *A Thoroughly Wet Mess* is an eight-part serial radio drama, written and directed by Aden Rolfe. This sophisticated mystery is Radio National's inaugural podcast-first drama, featuring the talents of **Toby Truslove** (*Utopia*, *The Strange Calls*), **Tina Bursill** (*Neighbours*, *The Moodys*) and **Mark Lee** (*Gallipoli*, *Packed to the Rafters*).

THE MYSTERY: In 1872, the crew of the Mary Celeste goes missing at sea, never to be heard from again. The ship doesn't sink, the cargo is found intact and there's no sign of foul play. So what happened?

This is just what the characters intend to find out. Enter Sophie and Marc Marshall, descendants of the captain of the Celeste. They've been invited aboard the Mary Celeste II, a replica of her namesake, to recreate their ancestors' fateful voyage. Once they set sail, however, it's clear that something's afoot. Or afloat – it's unclear which. Will they discover what happened to the Mary Celeste before they succumb to the same fate? What's the captain hiding in the hold? And who will the stowaway turn out to be?

"The Mary Celeste is the archetypal ghost ship, and despite all the theories – pirates, aliens, seaquakes – we still don't know what happened. That seemed a great starting point for a serial, for a story that could lurch from theory to theory in short, 12-minute episodes," said writer-director **Aden Rolfe**.

Available as a weekly podcast, *A Thoroughly Wet Mess* plays out over eight episodes via RN's *Radiotonic* podcast, in an exciting new broadcast model for the network's Creative Audio Unit. Episode 1 will also be broadcast on air, giving listeners the opportunity to catch it live before the series continues online.

"It's the perfect digital-first project, because the series should be listened to from the beginning. The on-demand model enables audiences to listen back in their own time, unpack the different theories, and anyone who joins the mystery mid-season can go back and listen from the start," said producer and co-director **Jesse Cox**.

A Thoroughly Wet Mess will premiere on ***Radiotonic*** at 11am, Friday 26 June and be available for podcast immediately afterwards.

PLEASE NOTE: A copy of episodes 1–3 of *A Thoroughly Wet Mess* can be accessed online prior to the broadcast for reviewing purposes only. For access, please email michael@watercoolerpr.com.au

PROGRAM INFORMATION

A THOROUGHLY WET MESS

Written and directed by Aden Rolfe

Produced and co-directed by Jesse Cox

Sound by Russell Stapleton, Louis Mitchell and Mark Don

Music by Joff Bush

Script editing by Sheridan Jobbins

ABC RN BROADCAST

11am, Friday 26 June (episode 1 premiere broadcast)

3pm, Sunday 28 June (episode 1 encore broadcast)

Information on ABC RN Frequencies is **available here**.

PODCAST

Episode 1 will be available immediately after the broadcast on Friday June 26

Episodes 2-7 will be podcast each week from Wednesday 1 July

Follow the story and subscribe to the podcasts through the **series website**.

CAST

Toby Truslove (*Utopia, The Strange Calls*) ...Marc / Andrew

Tina Bursill (*Neighbours, The Moodys*) ... Claire

Mark Lee (*Gallipoli, Packed to the Rafters*) ...Jethro / Captain Briggs

Hamish Michael (*The Great Gatsby, Crownies*) ...Flynn / Volkert

Aileen Huynh (*Neighbours, Better Man*) ...Sophie

Renee Lim (*Please Like Me*) ...Harriet / Sarah

Tom Conroy ...Oliver / Brian / Police Officer / Auctioneer

Genevieve Giuffre ... John / Georgie

Wendy Zukerman ...Samantha

Fran Kelly ...Herself

A Thoroughly Wet Mess follows Aden Rolfe's recent work for the Creative Audio Unit, including the mockumentary *Like a Writing Desk*, which was selected for the prestigious **Prix Italia** and **Prix Marulić** radio festivals in Europe, and was featured at the **Emerging Writers' Festival** in Melbourne. His previous radio work has been broadcast on ABC RN and performed at Sydney Opera House. He's been published in *The Age* and *Best Australian Poems* and is a past recipient of Sydney Theatre Company's Young Playwrights' Award.



Australian Government



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