

# BLACKSTONE

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## APTN'S *BLACKSTONE* EARNS FOUR CSA NOMINATIONS INCLUDING THE COVETED 'BEST DRAMATIC SERIES'

(January 22, 2014) – The Academy of Canadian Cinema announced this morning that Prairie Dog Film + Television's hit dramatic series *Blackstone* - an un-muted exploration of First Nations' power and politics - has been nominated for four Canadian Screen Awards including 'Best Dramatic Series,' 'Best Performance by an Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role' for Michelle Thrush, 'Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Program or Series' for Cheri Maracle, and 'Best Writing in a Dramatic Series'. Season three of *Blackstone* currently can be viewed at [www.aptn.ca/blackstone](http://www.aptn.ca/blackstone)

"We are excited that the momentum and impact of *Blackstone* endures as we continue to gain recognition for the series," says Ron E. Scott, Executive Producer. "This is an original series that is broaching issues in Canada never before seen on TV."

*Blackstone* season three tackles universal themes of domestic violence, criminal justice, child and family welfare, the devastating consequences of addiction and the long worthwhile process of healing and reconciliation.

Details of each season three nomination are as follows:

- ❖ **Best Dramatic Series – *Blackstone* – Ron E. Scott, Jesse Szymanski and Damon Vignale**
- ❖ **Best Performance by an Actress in a continuing Leading Dramatic Role – Michelle Thrush**
- ❖ **Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Program or Series – Cheri Maracle**
- ❖ **Best Writing in a Dramatic Series – Damon Vignale and Ron E. Scott**

*Blackstone's* powerhouse line-up of talent includes Carmen Moore, Eric Schweig, Michelle Thrush, Nathaniel Arcand, Steven Cree Molison, Andrea Menard, Tantoo Cardinal, Justin Rain, Ashley Callingbull, Bernard Starlight, Ray Thunderchild, Trevor Duplessis, Cheri Maracle, Julian Black Antelope, Tinsel Korey, John Cassini, Lori Triolo, and Garry Chalk.

The **Canadian Screen Awards** celebrate Canadian productions and talent who excel in front of the camera and behind-the-scenes in Canadian film, television and digital media. Canada's king of comedy, Martin Short, will host the 2-Hour Live Broadcast Gala Sunday March 9, 2013 @ 8 pm on CBC, from the prestigious Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto. For more visit: <http://www.academy.ca/Canadian-Screen-Awards>

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**Blackstone** is produced in association with Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, the Canada Media Fund, with the assistance of the Government of Alberta, Alberta Media Fund, with the participation of Rogers Cable Network Fund, and with the assistance of the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit.

For more information please visit <http://www.prairedog.ca> and <http://www.blackstonetheseries.com>

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"Ron E. Scott **triumphs** with Blackstone." ~ DGC Montage Magazine

"... In the tradition of the Wire or The Sopranos (Blackstone) offers viewers an **unflinching and relentless** window on the unfairness of life on the rez." ~ Playback

"...like the best shows the heroes and villains aren't always easy to spot and when that happens, you know the (story) world **feels real**." ~ George Strombouloupoulos Tonight (CBC)

"Blackstone deliberately **draws a parallel between the mafia** in the wider Canadian society and the First Nation reserve's often corrupt Chief and councils." ~ The Hollywood Reporter

## ABOUT PRAIRIE DOG FILM + TELEVISION

**Blackstone** is produced by Prairie Dog Film + Television, with **Ron E. Scott** as Executive Producer, Writer and Director, **Jesse Szymanski** as Producer, **Damon Vignale** as Producer and Writer. **Blackstone** currently broadcasts in Canada on APTN, in New Zealand on Maori Television, in Australia on SBS/NITV, and is internationally distributed by PPI Releasing. Blackstone has been nominated for 49 awards, winning 20, including two Geminis, four Leo Awards and multiple Alberta Film and Television Awards.

## ABOUT APTN

APTN is the first national Aboriginal television network in the world with programming by, for and about Aboriginal Peoples to share with all Canadians and viewers around the world. APTN is available in approximately 10 million Canadian households and commercial establishments with cable, direct-to-home satellite (DTH), telco-delivered and fixed wireless television service providers. The network launched its high definition channel APTNHD in the spring of 2008. APTN does not receive government funding for operations but generates revenue through subscriber fees, advertising sales and strategic partnerships. APTN broadcasts programming with 56% offered in English, 16% in French and 28% in Aboriginal languages. [www.aptn.ca](http://www.aptn.ca)

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## CONTACT FOR MEDIA:

Monique Camenzuli  
UNIT:PR Inc.  
T: 416.809.9918  
[monique@unitpr.com](mailto:monique@unitpr.com)