

AIRING TONIGHT

John Doyle

Blackstone (APTN, 9 p.m.) is a new, hardnosed Canadian drama set on an Indian reserve that is deliberately presented as a hellhole of corruption, alcoholism and drug abuse. The gist of the drama (it also airs on Showcase, Fridays, 11 p.m.) is the need to clean up the reserve and for the residents to clean up their lives. In charge of this effort is Leona Stoney (Carmen Moore), a drug-abuse counsellor who becomes the reserve leader. The early evidence suggests that while the show is raw and tough-minded, it has a touch too much earnestness. By far the most compelling character is the utterly ruthless, manipulative chief Andy Fraser, played with great gusto by Eric Schweig. He's scarier than all the dysfunction among the people he leads and cheats.

Check local listings.

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