



BLACKSTONE

New drama breaks the trend

Occasionally TV shows come along that make us ponder philosophies of entertainment, and the new Canadian series *Blackstone* falls into that category.

Blackstone — which debuts Tuesday, Jan. 25 on APTN and also Jan. 28 on

Showcase — focuses on the fictional Blackstone First Nation, which is in turmoil due to internal corruption and nepotism from its chief and council.

The dramatic tension emerges as a new generation of leaders tries to

rise up and create positive change, and in that respect, *Blackstone* comes across as very political and agenda-driven. Notably, though, it does break the long-standing TV and film trend of always having Aboriginal people in peril due to

outside forces.

A pet peeve of ours through the years has been that sometimes when Canadian TV shows go for “dark drama” they wind up with “dour drama.” Without question, *Blackstone* can be pretty depressing at times.

That largely is the point, we realize. But therein lies the issue of how much heavy reality you want for your entertainment buck.

If you’re willing to “go there,” as they say, *Blackstone* might be for you.

— **Bill Harris**