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## **Blackstone**

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BLACKSTONE LOOKING A LITTLE TWIN PEAKS

For two seasons now, APTN's Blackstone has been carving its ostensibly Canadian mark on the current zeitgeist of one-hour television dramas. Filmed around Edmonton, it charts the political rumblings and power plays on the titular reservation, as warring factions of old and new leadership battle each other over corruption and control. And through that, Blackstone takes a close look at contemporary aboriginal issues, the ones that showrunner Ron E Scott sees emerging in the country in the here and now.

"Mainly Blackstone is grounded in, and ripped from, the headlines," he explains during a phone call. "So what I do in the early stages of any season we're trying to prepare for, is do a lot of reading on what's going on in Canada, and what has gone on in Canada in different pockets."

Last season, Scott notes, they looked at missing women—"one of our characters disappeared forever"—while season three looks to take a similar hardline exploration of family, domestic violence and aboriginal treatment through the judicial system.

"Justice, and what that looks like to some people," Scott summarizes.

It's been a bit of a delay between Blackstone's last season and the third, which premiered last week on APTN (and is available for streaming on the network's website—it is 2013, folks. You can watch TV anywhere.) Scott chalks it up to funding and, well, the weather.

"We got caught in this hinterland of what was happening with the way series' are funded," he explains of the gap. "We made the choice to delay because shooting in the winter is difficult."

The further Scott delves into Blackstone's world, the more surprised he is by what he sees. No matter what issues or directions he knows he's looking to take on, the characters' growing history means it inevitably veers off into unpredicted territory.

"It never ceases to amaze me or surprise me how I'll be in the middle of a script, and it'll be a different flow or direction than I ever thought," he says. "Because you're in the moment, and this character has done this before but there's just something new that comes out. And that is the process, that is the magic of writing that I'm so thankful to be a part of."

Wednesdays (9 pm)
APTN, aptn.ca