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ISSUE VII

GOLDEN ERA

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COUNTER PLAY

CREATED BY: Chrys Phillips



Million dollar coastline, luxury cars and high-end couture sets the scene for hit drama/thriller web series Counter Play. Created and directed by award nominated author **CHRYS PHILLIPS**, Counter Play and its fictional scenic and affluent beach community of South Point incorporates life and revenge with twists and turns so captivating, it's already hit over 1 million views online.

Author, playwright, screenwriter, director. What else can't Chrys Phillips do? With her award winning accolades under her belt, Chrys has travelled around the world, smashing out creative projects like no tomorrow. Her latest endeavours takes us to Counter Play, an Australian produced and filmed drama/thriller full of dark, vindictive characters scattered with dirty little secrets.

Hi Chrys! How did you get into writing?

As a child I lived with many different people I didn't have a normal mum and dad environment and I would re-read what books I was allowed to have and I would re-write these stories how I wanted them to go. The passion comes from within as a writer it cannot be taught, you just have a drive to tell stories of characters you imagine and love.

Growing up, what movies or stories inspired your creative passion?

Definitely as a child it was Enid Blyton, then Jane Austen and the old Hollywood films inspired my imagination and I immensely loved the idea of escaping into another place or world.

Do you remember the first story you ever wrote?

Interesting question, as this wasn't was my first story I wrote, however I recall writing a five page story about a

haunted house and my primary school teacher asking me to read it to the class, I was very thrilled about this, I felt the acknowledged for something I had created and my classmates love it!

When did you know that you wanted to be a writer?

I wanted to be a writer from my primary school days but it didn't happen that easily. The arts was like a career you just didn't pick; it was considered just a hobby to write creatively. I had great grades and was in Monash University studying Arts/Law but ended up going back to my passion of writing. I then wrote thousands of ideas and scripts to find my debut book, I also write for screen and theatre too.

“I wanted to be a writer from my primary school days but it didn't happen that easily. The arts was like a career you just didn't pick; it was considered just a hobby to write creatively.”



Episode 4: Someone's Gotta Pay!

Your latest project Counter Play has released all of Season 1 episodes online. Tell us about what Counter Play is all about.

Counter Play is a devious series set in the luxury coastal town of South Point. In this town we begin to meet characters who we instantly like or have to know more about to draw our own conclusions. Someone drowned and secrets wash up on the coastline and just when you think you know who murdered or blackmailed, and sleep with someone, your quite possibly thrown a curve ball ... one bit of advice in this town is PLAY OR BE PLAYED IN SOUTH POINT

Where did you get the inspiration from for Counter Play?

Writers draw inspiration from everywhere... however it's imaginary really as I don't know anyone sinister as these characters haha...

When you sat down to write the script for Counter Play, what was the single most important thing that you needed to get right? How many drafts did you have to write?

The most paramount aspect was to create lead characters

with dubious, layered pasts, with interesting present day lifestyles. I wanted the viewer to try and get into the town and solve the crazy happenings in South Point to get to season two where literally bomb shells hit the show... wanted to keep people guessing ...

Drafts altered due to scene locations and some actors not fully filling their characters written requirements, therefore these obstacles had me re writing as we filmed to sometimes fit around unprofessional actors who just don't turn up again and leave cast and crew hanging ... it was a very quick, pressured and creative way to re-write ... phew!

However, it filmed beautifully and now we have our loyal dedicated, set cast and crew.

How did you go about bringing in the talent and collaborators for the project?

I wore many hats from the creator, writer, director, location scout and many more, my negotiation skills went into overdrive haha! People were wonderful to me, they extended free helicopters, free locations to assist and more ... it truly was a fabulous feeling to get that support and I guess they saw our show would be great from my pitch.



Episode 3: Dial 'M' for Masquerade

Did you have any of the cast in mind when you were conceiving the show?

Not really as I wrote it prior to casting

How do you think these actors once casted, helped shaped what the show ended up being?

I strongly believe the dedicated cast going into season two are the ones who shaped the main characters in the series.

Counter Play has reached over a million views as well! Congratulations! How do you feel?

Wow! It's just surreal and it's totally fantastic! To have fans coming back to watch and word of mouth getting more viewers addicted to our series is just something I'm very humbled and truly pleased with. It's fantastic!

What was your favourite scene to shoot in Season 1?

There's many scenes I loved from the blue foundation scene in episode one to the masquerade ball, not easy to pick one favourite as each scene had hilarious memories and great locations

You also had a little cameo playing the mother of Faith and as some might know, the actress who plays Faith is your real life daughter. What's it like working alongside your daughter?

This was not planned! Our actress decided to not do it and we were in full film mode and with long hours therefore, we had no time to cast and I jumped in haha! Actually it was filmed very quickly and smoothly, I think acting with my daughter was easy as we have a great connection, therefore it flowed easily. Being on set with Mikaela is cool; we do many other projects together too. Many times we get called the GILMORE GIRLSahaha!

Is there a character of the show that you identify with the most?

Hmmm... It's hard to say I do as I'm not a revengeful sinister crazy person hahaha! However I bit of any writer spills into characters, I think Jake not trusting of many people is similar to me from my childhood experiences, as in not easy to trust straight away and Faiths loyalty is like me to, when I care for someone I truly stay loyal.

Right now you're getting ready to film Season 2 of Counter Play? What's next in stores for Counter Play?

The shows on full pitch to Australian networks and overseas. Either way filming shall resume and there is as mentioned earlier, thrilling bomb shells revealed and some answers to season one questions

www.counterplayseries.com



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- MEET THE CAST -

5 minutes with the cast of Counter Play

The characters of South Point are not who they seem. Vindictive, manipulative, and mysterious; yet their actors are far from it. Meet the brilliant actors behind the hit show Counter Play.

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Tell us a bit about your character

My character Logan is who everyone wants to be. She's tough, sexy and kick-ass. She sees through all the deceit and lies but also plays her own games to succeed.

What do you like most about her?

What I love most about Logan is that she has everyone wondering what's next. She has men at her finger tips and is quick to eliminate anyone in her way. She strives to find the truth even if it puts her in dangers way.

Can you relate to her in any way?

I can definitely relate to Logan. She

gets the job done no matter what is in her way be it love or hate and that is something I can relate to.

What's your favourite part of shooting Counter Play?

My favourite part about being on set is the dynamic of all the characters. We have become a family and watching everyone perform and get into character is so rewarding.

Other than acting, what are your other passions?

My passion is sword fighting. I love doing different things and being able to embrace a skill as well as having fun, it's very rewarding.



NANCY RIZK
Logan

.....



TYSON MARTICK
Jake Spector

Tell us a bit about your character

I play Aaron Robertson, a man who was betrayed by his friends and left for dead out at sea. When he returns to land, he's badly injured and rescued by his long time family friend and guardian.

What do you like most about him?

His drive to succeed. I find that admirable, and inspiring.

Can you relate to Jake in any way?

I walk around the house shirtless a lot too haha. I suppose I've moved around a lot especially as a kid and always needed to adapt to new social circles and situations.

What's your favourite part of shooting Counter Play?

Getting to meet like minded individuals that share my passion and love for acting, as well as being able to create something and see the end product of all those days on set. That's pretty awesome.

Other than acting, what are your other passions?

I actually do train religiously just like Jake haha. I'm a Personal Trainer so that consumes a lot of my time. Catch up friends.



MIKAELA PHILLIPS
Faith Morgan

Tell us a bit about your character

Faith Morgan is truly a fun and layered character to get to portray! She comes from a very affluent and well known family, called the 'Morgans' whose family history has royalty: her father being a Lord and her mother a Lady. She's frequented South Point for many years while growing up, however it's her new boyfriend, the mysterious Jake Spector who convinces her to move to South Point with him. As secrets and lies begin to unravel in the town, Faith starts making her own alliances and questioning Jake's motives...

What do you like most about her?

I think I really like and admire how Faith is a strong female character. While you may only see glimpses of it in the first few episodes, as the season goes on, it becomes a lot more evident how independent, in control and straight shooting she is!

Can you relate to her in any way?

I definitely feel I can relate to certain parts of Faith's personality. One of them would be her loyalty to those she cares about and that she always gives them the benefit of the doubt. The other would be her party personality in the sense that she loves organizing these lavish events in South Point, shopping for all the best trims, decor and furnishings and that she throws one killer bash!

What's your favourite part of shooting Counter Play?

My favourite part of shooting Counter Play... hmm... such a tricky one to answer as there's so many amazing parts of filming with our cast/crew! I think my favourite part of shooting is how amazing we all get along! We have so many funny and crazy candid moments off screen and in-between takes that it makes it so much more enjoyable! We truly come together as a team and we give it our all from filming in the rain, to fifteen hour shoot days, to carpooling, to learning some new script re-writes a night before, we make it work because of our passion, respect and most of all friendship as a cast/crew!

Other than acting, what are your other passions?

One of my other passions is hosting/reporting. I have been doing for some time now and have had the amazing opportunity to interview some of the biggest names around! It's always a new and exciting experience for each interview and is a job I truly enjoy! I also really enjoy working behind the camera, from odd production assistant jobs, to writing and even directing.

What's next in stores for you?

Filming Counter Play of course haha! As well as continuing to interview celebrities at upcoming events and on my new talk show, *The Mikaela Show!*



Tell us a bit about your character

My character definitely starts a lot of the drama that goes on inside Counter Play. He is a well-to-do son of a wealthy family with his reputation being the only thing he tends to try to manage on a regular basis.

What do you like most about him?

I like that he does what he wants and isn't afraid of the consequences of what he does. He simply lives a lifestyle of freedom.

Can you relate to Jess in any way?

I think that I relate to him a little too much. We have way too much in common than I'd care to admit. I see him as the person I'd always want to be if I wasn't worried about public perception.

What's your favourite part of shooting Counter Play?

I loved going to different locations everyday in serene places. That's definitely one of the best parts. Also the encouragement of the cast and crew always tends to help me on tough days.

Other than acting, what are your passions?

My passion is learning. To get some new skills. So at the moment I'm learning piano which I love. I am also learning the German language and love to read.

What's next in stores for you?

Like Jess, I'm not too worried about the future. He helps me stay in the moment. That's all I care about really.



HAYDEN WERCHON
Jess Haynesworth

Tell us a bit about your character

Heather Cornwall is the mother of Riley and Chad, and a member of one of the oldest families in South Point. She loves her children and will do anything to protect them, even if that means manipulating them to stay in town. She is stepping out of the shadows of her domineering ex husband and forging her own identity. A lot of people underestimate her and that will be their downfall. Heather will no longer be played.

What do you like most about your character?

For a long time Heather has had no control over her destiny. I like that she has decided that she will no longer be a victim.

Can you relate to her in any way?

We all want to control our destiny and protect our kids.

What's your favourite part of shooting Counter Play?

I love working with a young cast and crew; they keep it fresh and me on my toes. I also love reading each new script to see what twists Chrys has come up with.

Other than acting, what are your other passions?

I love travelling with my family, and I also dabble in Millinery at Spring Racing time.

What's next in stores for you?

People will start to see, there is a lot more to Heather than just the champagne class!



MICHELLE ROWLEY

Mrs. Cornwall



ISABEL DILENA

Riley Cornwall

Tell us a bit about your character

Riley Cornwall is definitely the "sweet girl" of South Point. She cares very deeply about her friends and family, and will do almost anything to protect them. Riley definitely prides herself on making others happy.

What do you like most about her?

I love that Riley is not afraid to express her emotions, and is generally open about her feelings. In this day and age, it is very easy to keep secrets, especially behind a computer screen, so I admire that Riley is brave enough to voice how she is feeling. I also love that even though she has lost the love of her life, Riley still tries her best to radiate positivity and not let others down. She is truly the definition of a trooper.

Can you relate to her in any way?

I like to think that Riley and I both look for the best in people, and try to be positive even in the worst

situations. We both care about other people's happiness, and will always do our best to please everyone.

What's your favourite part of shooting Counter Play?

Definitely just being around the amazing cast and crew. There is not a day on set where I am not laughing and having the most incredible time. I've earned the nickname of being "the giggler", as I can't help but crack up at the most inconvenient times. An example would be when Michelle Rowley (who plays my mum Heather Cornwall in the show) was lying sprawled on the floor during her fake suicide scene, and the poor thing had to lie there for about half an hour because I couldn't deliver the line "Mum!" without losing it. We eventually locked our director Chrys Phillips outside for the scene because we both couldn't stop laughing every time "Action!" was called.



Watch all of Season 1 episodes of *Counter Play* online at:

www.counterplayseries.com