

# RESIDENT ROOSTER

As Riley on McLeod's Daughters, Dustin Clare set viewers' hearts aflutter. He spoke to Matthew Myers about kissing Jessica Alba and cleaning Eva Longoria's pool!

**DNA:** Are there similarities between yourself and Riley Ward?

**Dustin Clare:** I think there's always a bit of yourself in the roles you play. There are parts that are similar and parts that are dissimilar.

**You've had a few bare-chested scenes, some of which are currently on YouTube.**

[Laughs] Well, I guess it's all part of the role. If they say, "Get your shirt off," you get it off.

**One YouTube posting in particular is an ad that says 'Old McLeod had a farm, and on that farm he had a rooster!'**

[Laughs] Yeah, that's subtle isn't it? Subtle like a sledgehammer!

**Do your mates give you flack over that?**

Of course, they wouldn't be my mates if they didn't.

**What do you do to keep fit?**

I train in a pool three times a week for cardio. I do weight-training a couple of days a week and I also surf. It's all part of the job!

**Do you have a gay mate?**

Yeah, my LA manager, Steve Dontanville. I'm in the entertainment industry, so I have many!

**You play a cowboy on McLeod's Daughters. Have you seen Brokeback Mountain?**

Yeah, it's a wonderful film. It made cowboys cool again! I memorised a whole monologue from that movie and I think it has some beautiful writing. My favourite scene is when Ennis shuts the door on Alma and sees Jack Twist and they absolutely neck each other.

**What was the monologue you learned?**

[In an American accent] You count the damn few times we've been together in nearly 20 years and you measure the short fucking leash you keep me on, and then you ask me about Mexico?

**Which of the following roles would you take? A doctor on ER, cop on The Bill or a new neighbour on Desperate Housewives?**

It would have to be *Desperate Housewives*. You've got Eva Longoria there!

**Who is sexier – Kylie, Madonna or Delta?**

Probably Kylie. I'm an arse man and you can't go past that!

**If you were gay, who would do if for you?**

Probably Aaron Jeffery!

**What is the campest CD you own?**

Scissor Sisters, *Ta-Dah*.

**You're an ambassador for Rock The Vote Australia. What's it all about?**

It's an initiative to raise awareness about the importance of voting for young Australians.

Currently one in four young people in Australia are not enrolled to vote. This is our opportunity to have a voice and be counted, whether you're male, female, black, white, straight or gay!

**Last year you won the Logie for Best New Talent. How did that feel?**

That was a bit of a surprise and a good feeling. Good for the show and it was nice to be acknowledged by the public in that way.

Kissing Jessica Alba was also pretty good!

**Who has been the biggest influence on your acting career?**

I couldn't single out one person, but from my three years at WAAPA (Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts) it would be all the lecturers and just working in that creative environment. It was the biggest eye-opening experience for me.

I went in as a sheltered country boy and came out the other side with the greatest perspective on the world and life.

**Who is the most famous person on your speed dial?**

I'd have to say Michael Slater. I got his signature when I was about 15 when I used to watch him play for New South Wales.

**Hmm... not Jessica Alba?**

No, I haven't run into her in LA yet, but when I do I'll remind her!

**What was the best thing about working on McLeod's Daughters?**

It was the reality of working on a real farm without sets. When you saw Brett Tucker with his arm up the bum of a cow it was for real. It was nice working in that environment rather than a studio where everything is half-fake. I made some good friends from that show, too.

**Are you a jocks man, boxers or freeballer?**

I'm defiantly a freeballer and jocks when I have to.

**Like when riding horses on set?**

Yeah, you want to put something on that's going to keep everything in place. You don't want too much Aussie tackle knocking about!

**What plans do you have in LA?**

I've recently signed with a manager here and I'm auditioning for a lot of film and TV. I've been meeting a lot of casting agents in Los Angeles, London and New York.

**So you may be Eva Longoria's pool boy yet?**

You never know your luck in a big city! 🐔

