



# GRAVEYARD SHIFT

A series about a sexy country cop and his undead friends? Sounds like a hit to us! *Glitch* is back for season two with Patrick Brammall in *that* uniform. He spoke to Matt Myers. Photography by Sally Flegg.

**DNA: *Glitch* has been a runaway success. What's the appeal of a town where the dead come back to life?**

**Patrick Brammall:** What's crucial is that it's a high concept genre but its execution is grounded in truth. It needed to feel like a genuine dramatic struggle for real people rather than just the undead. Lou Fox's writing is incredible and at the end of each episode, you don't really have much choice but to watch the next one. It's so addictive. It did very well in Australia but when the Netflix deal was done it really hit its stride internationally.

**What's in store for Police Sgt James Hayes in the new season?**

For James, it's pretty much the same but it gets increasingly out of control. In the first season, the story took place over six days, so James is just coming to terms with what's happened. With his wife Kate coming back from the dead, his life was thrown into chaos. Now he tries to take control of a situation that is, really, uncontrollable! He's sworn to protect Kate and to make sure the others are not exposed but this is next to impossible to do.

**The scene where James sees Kate return from the dead is quite emotional.**

Yes, they were tricky scenes to navigate. That was one of the audition scenes and I remember thinking, "I can't do this, and I can't go to the audition." But a friend of mine said to forget about it as an acting job and to do it as a drama exercise. So I forgot about going for a job, did the scene that way, and it really clicked. It was great advice!

**What kind of character research did you do to play a country cop?**

I didn't go on the beat, but I did meet with a cop who had worked in a small town. John Leary, who plays the other cop, and I met with him and he told us about it. They very rarely take their gun out. It's more about getting to know the town folk and being helpful. In the first episode, you see me helping someone put down their dog, and that's very much what cops do in small towns. But I did get to shoot a gun, which was exciting, and they gave me that Land Cruiser, which I loved.

**And, of course, there's the uniform.**

Yes, initially we were going to have the light blue cop outfits but at that time the Victorian cops were changing over to the dark blue so I campaigned strongly for the

dark blue. I think it looks a shitload better!

**There's no denying that men in uniform look pretty hot.**

Oh, absolutely, I agree, uniforms look hot. I was very happy with that uniform. It changes my whole walk. I have a swagger when I put it on, not to mention the bat belt on my hip. It's all good stuff!

**You've been in a lot of TV: *Home And Away*, *The Moodys*, *Offspring* as well as *Glitch*, and the film *Ruben Guthrie*. What's been the most challenging role?**

*Ruben Guthrie*. Each role has its own challenge, but being the lead and carrying that film was full-on, and it's such a muscular kind of part, playing a guy who goes from being so successful to the absolute depths and being out of control. I was also on set every day and in every scene. That was a big challenge. Also, playing Rupert Murdoch in *Power Games*, because when you're playing someone real the bar is set higher.

**You also play Danny Bright in *Upper Middle Bogan*. How do you find transitioning from one character to the other?**

I go well with it. It's all about what comes out of the script. Danny Bright is such a comically active character and Robyn Butler and Wayne Hope, who wrote it, knew exactly what they wanted. I love that character and they kind of wrote it for me, which is incredibly flattering.

**You were in the American version of *Upper Middle Bogan*, called *Furst Born*. Was it odd playing the same role with an American cast?**

It was a bit odd but nothing I couldn't have handled if it had gone further than the pilot. Unfortunately, it didn't. But it was an interesting experience and I was there with Robyn Butler, one of the creators, sharing the set with all these Americans – she and I would share a wink across the room.

**And you were working with Katey Sagal. Did you think, "That's Peg Bundy?"**

Absolutely, and she was incredibly lovely and a total pro. It's a shame it didn't continue into a series as I would have happily hung out with those guys.

**This is DNA's Sexiest Man Alive edition. Who do you think fits that bill?**

Ewan McGregor goes a long way for me. I love that guy. It was after his *Long Way Round* motorbike documentaries that I got my motorbike and I've been riding ever since. I bumped into him in LA last year and I thought I couldn't walk away without telling him I'm such a fan. I told him about the motorbike and he was lovely but I could tell I was the ten thousandth guy who'd told him that!

**And now he'll probably see you starring in *Ruben Guthrie*.**

And become such a fan [laughing]!

**Do you ever hang out with your gay mates at gay bars?**

In LA, where I live, there are heaps of gay bars and my girlfriend, a couple of mates and I, went to a huge gay nightclub and it was awesome. There were oiled-up dancers on podiums and all that sort of thing. It was so much fun.

**Who is your music diva?**

I've been a Kylie guy for many years and my favourite song is *Slow*.



**YOU LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?**  
PATRICK FINDS HIS SWAGGER.

“Uniforms look hot, I absolutely agree. That uniform changes my whole walk. I have a swagger... It's all good stuff!”

**Have you ever played a gay role?**

Yes. Stuart Vauvert wrote a beautiful short film called *Prada Handbag*, which was a kind of fairytale about a girl who had alopecia and her best friend, a chubby gay boy, who I played. He did her make-up, as he was thoroughly camp, and it was kind of drag make-up. She never knew the difference and found her way into a drag club where everyone thought she was a guy but, of course, she turned out to be a girl. I had a lot of fun playing that character and in every scene I had a different outrageous look.

**What would you consider to be your sliding door moment for entering this industry?**

Probably when I got to audition for *A Moody Christmas*, which came out of nowhere. It was an audition for the lead, which I didn't get because they said I was too old. But they came back and asked me to play the older brother, Sean Moody, and that was my introduction to comedy, which I've always been more inclined toward. Even earlier than that, I auditioned for a Bruce Beresford play called *Moonlight And Magnolias*, about the making of *Gone With The Wind*. It was a three-hander and I went for the role of David O Selznick. I thought it was a complete waste of time... and Bruce thought it was good. About a month later I got a call saying I had part and I was blown away! I'm indebted to Bruce for that.

**Jocks, boxers or free balls?**

Boxer briefs; they are the most comfortable, supportive and they look the best. At the beach it's boardies.

**MORE:** *Glitch* screens on ABC1 and ABC iView.