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 ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA

GEORGE BUSCHMAN'S BACK IN THE GAME

NO. 723

June 13, 2005

PUBLISHED FRIDAYS

ISSN 1036-7292

**ITV IS PRODUCING** a six-part 60-minute Saturday night quiz show that teams six celebrities with six contestants as they play for a guaranteed cash prize of £20,000 or 100,000 tickets in that night's lottery draw. Celador International has the international rights to the format.

**NINE AND FOXTEL** have joined forces for the Australian television rights to the Live 8 concert on July 2. FOX8 will be screening the concert live, while Nine will show the event on delay on the Sunday evening at 8.30pm. In the UK the BBC has both the television and radio rights to the shows being held in London, Rome, Paris, Berlin and in Philadelphia in the US.

**ART PHILLIPS** is an Emmy-winning American composer who has lived and worked in Australia since 1988. Not only is he the current president of the Australian Guild of Screen Composers, but he also scored the music for the ABC's *Outback House* series, which starts this Sunday.

"It was a very exciting project and probably my most passionate project in the way that it panned out," Phillips told *Mediaweek*. "It's the story of the men and women who built Australia in an eight part series on Sunday nights through to the 31<sup>st</sup> July. It's really an incredible, breathtaking journey in the genre of living history. It's a reality show, but more like a feature film, where the people auditioned to go back in time to the 1860s and experience what it was like."

Phillips said to work on the series was "a composer's dream because the executive producer, Ivo Burum, was a real joy to work with. He knew exactly what he wanted musically in terms of emotions and there was never a doubt in my mind about what they wanted. We were on the same page from day one and it was a great collaboration."

Work on the score started in January for Phillips. "It's eight hours of material and in each episode there's an average of about 32 minutes of music. It was quick turnaround time - 9-10 days per episode. It took about 11 weeks of full-time concentrated focus, which was a real joy to be doing. My engineer was Adrian Boland on the project. I use him for all my final mixes because I am a firm believer composers shouldn't be playing with knobs except on their own demos [laughs]."

Phillips scored the prestigious gig after submitting a concept to the series' producers before filming began. "They usually ask a few composers to do that nowadays. When they chose me they ended up using my submission as their

temp tracks. I'm so passionate about the project because they really respected the fact that music was really meant to draw the audience right into the storyline. It was big scope, all about the new frontier. The music is driving the story most of the time - punching and punctuating the hard work that these people are doing.

"It's the biggest most exciting project, with a really focused vision, that I've worked on in a long time. The ABC really knew what they were doing, from Sandra Levy to the head of factual, Denise Eriksen to Ivo Burum. They have a tremendous amount of experience and passion. It's the ABC's biggest project in ten years. It's going to be something very big for them. It was great that they took note that music was a key element in this project. They thought a little bit earlier about the music. The last thing I did for the ABC was about eight years ago - *The Flying Vet* - a six part series.

"The other exciting thing about *Outback House* is ABC Enterprises are releasing a soundtrack CD. That will be through their new distributor Warner Music. The release day is the last week of July when it's the last episode. There'll also be a DVD of the entire series at the same time. Unfortunately in this country soundtrack CDs don't do much - they just recoup the investment, but I'm not looking to make any money on it, it's just great exposure and something that can timestamp the project. It's also not easy to get soundtrack releases in this country."

Phillips' next projects are a short film called *The Clouds of Winter* for Traction Control Films and a feature film that he's just waiting to sign the contracts on.

Putting on his Screen Composers Guild hat briefly, he told us how things were at present for screen composers.

"It's the same as it has been for a few years," he said. "Really good projects are few and far between and production has climbed down a lot in this country because of investors' funding. The trick is we just have to keep thinking positively about it. There is enough work out there for the key composers as long as we are very versatile and able to do any genre or any medium. That's how I survive and how most composers survive today. The organisation has our awards coming up in November. We're doing our awards this time in Melbourne at Federation Square. That will be a positive change for one year."

Phillips has also worked on *Neighbours* and his two Emmys came from music he wrote for the US soap opera, *Santa Barbara*.

## INTERNATIONAL FTA TV RATINGS

### NEW ZEALAND

1	Fair Go	TV1	Wed	804
2	One News	TV1	Var	786
3	Coronation Street	TV1	Var	766
4	Sunday	TV1	Sun	763
5	Off The Rails	TV1	Sun	762
6	Dancing With The Stars	TV1	Sun	721
7	Animal House	TV1	Wed	712
8	Border Patrol	TV1	Mon	683
9	Close Up	TV1	Var	637
10	Cold Case	TV1	Tue	636
11	Piha Rescue	TV1	Mon	569
12	Shortland Street	TV2	Var	517
13	Country Calendar	TV1	Sat	509
14	William and Mary	TV1	Wed	507
15	Lost	TV2	Wed	493
16	Police Ten 7	TV2	Tue	476
17	Antiques Roadshow	TV1	Sat	465
18	DNZ	TV1	Mon	458
19	60 Minutes	TV3	Mon	435
20	Superstars of Treasure Is	TV2	Sun	424

Week ending June 4, 2005

Source: AGB Nielsen Media Research

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1	American Idol	FOX	Wed	30.3m
2	American Idol	FOX	Tue	28.0m
3	CSI: Miami	CBS	Mon	21.2m
4	Lost	ABC	Wed	20.7m
5	House	FOX	Tue	19.5m
6	Law & Order: SVU	NBC	Tue	16.4m
7	CSI	CBS	Thu	16.1m
8	Law & Order: CI	NBC	Wed	14.9m
9	Two And A Half Men (S)	CBS	Mon	14.9m
10	NCIS	CBS	Tue	14.7m
11	Two And A Half Men	CBS	Mon	14.4m
12	Without A Trace	CBS	Thu	13.2m
13	24	FOX	Mon	12.2m
14	Medium	NBC	Mon	11.8m
15	Las Vegas	NBC	Mon	11.3m
16	Nascar Nextel Cup	FOX	Sun	10.2m
17	Alias	ABC	Wed	10.0m
18	Still Standing (S)	CBS	Mon	9.8m
19	Cold Case (S)	CBS	Thu	9.7m
20	Rob & Amber Get Married	CBS	Tue	9.6m

Week ending May 29, 2005

Source: Nielsen Media Research

### UNITED KINGDOM

1	Coronation Street	ITV	Var	12.2m
2	EastEnders	BBC1	Var	10.5m
3	Heartbeat	ITV	Sun	9.6m
4	Emmerdale	ITV	Var	8.8m
5	Casualty	BBC1	Var	8.5m
6	Doctor Who	BBC1	Sat	7.6m
7	William & Mary	ITV	Sun	7.6m
8	Ant & Dec's Sat Night	ITV	Sat	7.4m
9	Holby City	BBC1	Tue	7.2m
10	National Lottery: Jet Set	BBC1	Sat	6.7m
11	Footballers' Wives	ITV	Thu	6.6m
12	The Bill	ITV	Var	6.5m
13	The Two Ronnies	BBC1	Fri	6.5m
14	Malice Aforethought	ITV	Mon	6.5m
15	Have I Got News For You	BBC1	Fri	6.0m
16	Antiques Roadshow	BBC1	Sun	5.9m
17	Uefa Champions League	ITV	Tue	5.9m
18	Millionaire	ITV	Sat	5.9m
19	Match Of The Day Live	BBC1	Sun	5.8m
20	20th Century Roadshow	BBC1	Thu	5.3m

Week ending April 17, 2005

Source: BARB