

Eureka

On the brutal Ballaarat goldfields of 1854, an Irish father and his twelve-year-old son struggle to build a new life as miners, migrants, and colonial authorities collide in a growing fight for power, pushing them toward opposite sides of the rebellion that becomes the Eureka Stockade.

Format	Genre	Duration
TV	Historical Drama	60 minutes



Treatment

Set on the violent Ballaarat goldfields of 1854, EUREKA follows Irish farmer Pádraig Quinn and his twelve-year-old son Dónal as they leave poverty in Ireland in search of a better life. Arriving in a chaotic frontier built on gold, they discover a world shaped by corruption, exploitation, and violence.

Pádraig believes hard work will be enough to provide for the family he left behind. Dónal quickly sees something different. The goldfields are not simply dangerous – they are unjust.

As tensions rise between miners, colonial authorities, and rival communities, Pádraig is drawn into the growing influence of Peter Lalor, whose movement promises protection, power, and resistance against a system designed to control the diggers. Among the Chinese miners, Wong Tai emerges as a respected and unpredictable figure whose interests do not always align with either side.

Back in Ireland, Pádraig's wife Bríd struggles to keep their family together before making the journey to Ballaarat herself, only to find a far more dangerous world than the one she imagined.

As the goldfields move toward open rebellion, Pádraig becomes increasingly committed to Lalor's cause while Dónal begins questioning the cost of power and violence.

Set against the events leading to the Eureka Stockade, EUREKA is a character-driven historical drama about survival, family, identity, and the cost of rebellion – told through the story of a father and son who find themselves on opposing sides of the same cause.



CREATIVE VISION

EUREKA is driven by a creative vision to portray the Ballarat goldfields as a raw, volatile frontier where ordinary people were pushed toward rebellion. The idea comes from my personal connection to the history of Ballarat and my Irish-Australian family background, which made the events of the Eureka Stockade feel both historically significant and deeply human.

What keeps me invested in the project is the opportunity to tell this defining Australian story through the intimate perspective of a father and son navigating a brutal new world. The series is aimed primarily at adult audiences (roughly 18-55) who enjoy grounded historical drama in the vein of *Deadwood*, *Peaky Blinders*, and *Yellowstone*, with themes that resonate across cultures including immigration, survival, injustice, and the moment when ordinary people decide to stand up against authority.

Through the story I want audiences to experience the tension, danger, and moral complexity of life on the goldfields while exploring questions about power, fairness, and the cost of rebellion.



A man in a brown coat with a rifle slung over his shoulder stands in the foreground, looking out over a vast, dusty landscape filled with a large number of people and tents, suggesting a military or frontier camp. The scene is set in a hilly, arid environment under a hazy sky.

STRATEGY

The project is conceived as a premium historical drama series with an estimated budget of approximately **AUD \$4-6 million per episode**, which aligns with the scale required for large ensemble casts, period sets, costumes, and visual world-building typical of comparable prestige historical dramas.

The story has been developed specifically as a one-hour serialized television drama because the goldfields and the events leading to the Eureka Stockade involve a wide cast of characters, multiple communities, and escalating political tensions that benefit from a long-form format rather than a single feature film.

The project is currently well into development, with a completed pilot script and series pitch deck, and the broader narrative structure for the first season mapped out. All intellectual property is owned by the creator, as the story is an original fictional narrative set within a real historical context.

CHARACTERS / CASTING



Pádraig QUINN (40s) is our central protagonist, an Irish farmer driven to desperation by poverty in Ireland. Strong, stubborn and fiercely independent, Pádraig travels to the Ballaarat goldfields with his young son hoping to find gold and provide for the family he left behind. On the diggings he quickly learns that survival requires more than hard work as corruption, violence and exploitation dominate the frontier. Pádraig begins the series believing perseverance will be enough, but as injustice mounts, he slowly transforms into a man willing to challenge authority. His journey represents the growing anger of the miners that will ultimately fuel rebellion.

Casting (Wishlist): Aidan Turner - *Poldark, The Hobbit Trilogy, And Then There Were None.*



Dónal QUINN (12) is Pádraig's son and the moral heart of the series. Young, observant and thoughtful, Dónal is forced to grow up quickly on the brutal goldfields where he witnesses violence, injustice and hardship first-hand. Where Pádraig focuses on survival, Dónal begins to recognise the unfair system controlling the miners and questions whether obedience will ever bring justice. His perspective often challenges his father's worldview, making him both a witness to history and a catalyst for change. Dónal represents the next generation shaped by the events leading to the Eureka Stockade.

Casting (Wishlist): Roman Griffin Davis - *Jojo Rabbit, Silent Night, The One and Only Ivan.*

CHARACTERS / CASTING



BRÍD QUINN (30s) is Pádraig's wife and one of the toughest people in the Quinn family. Fiercely independent, sharp-tongued, and unwilling to accept her place in the world, Bríd has spent years fighting poverty, hardship, and the expectations placed upon her. While Pádraig chases opportunity on the Ballaarat goldfields, Bríd battles to keep their family alive in Ireland. When the chance finally comes to follow him to Australia, she refuses to remain behind. Arriving on the diggings, Bríd quickly discovers that survival on the frontier demands more than hope. As Pádraig becomes increasingly consumed by power and rebellion, Bríd is never afraid to challenge him, forcing him to confront the consequences of the choices he makes in the name of family.

Casting (Wishlist): Jessie Buckley – *Wild Rose, Women Talking, Chernobyl*.



PETER LALOR (30s) is a key historical figure and one of the central antagonistic forces to colonial authority. Educated, calm and quietly charismatic, Lalor stands apart from the chaos of the goldfields. While other miners fight for survival, Lalor begins to organise resistance against the colonial system that exploits them. He recognises the power of unity among the diggers and gradually emerges as the reluctant leader of the rebellion. Lalor's presence introduces the political dimension of the story and foreshadows the uprising that will culminate in the Eureka Stockade.

Casting (Wishlist): Jack O'Connell – *Unbroken, Godless, Ferrari*.

CHARACTERS / CASTING



WONG TAI (30s) is a respected figure within the Chinese mining community on the Ballaarat goldfields. Intelligent, observant, and difficult to read, Wong Tai understands that survival on the frontier depends as much on strategy as hard work. While he often finds common cause with the Irish miners against colonial authority, his loyalty remains firmly with his own people. As tensions rise across the diggings, Wong Tai becomes an increasingly influential presence whose decisions can shift the balance between cooperation and conflict. He serves as both an ally and a challenge to Pádraig, forcing him to confront his own prejudices while navigating a rapidly changing frontier.

Casting (Wishlist): Andrew Koji – Warrior, Black Doves, Snake Eyes.

CREATOR / CREATIVE TEAM

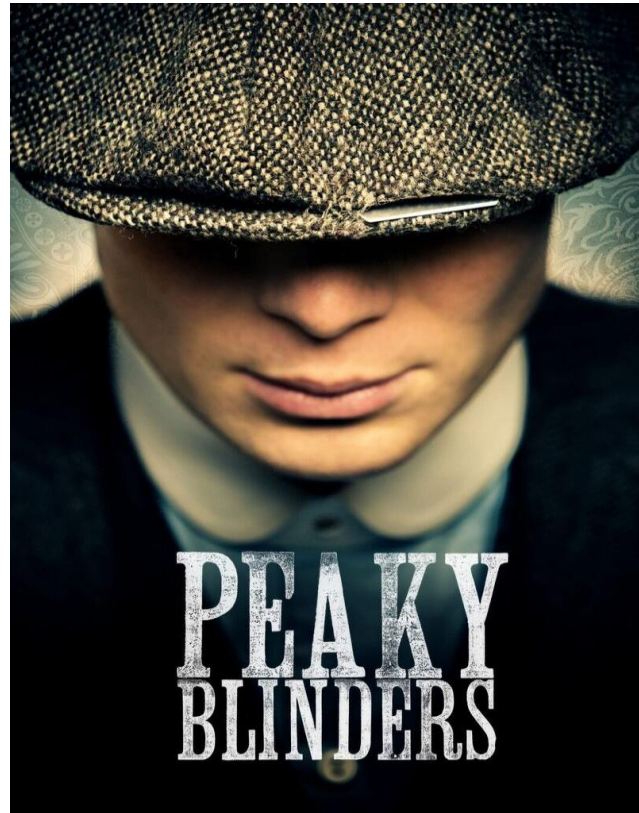
Scott Quinn is the creator and writer of *EUREKA*. Growing up in Ballarat, Victoria, Quinn developed a strong connection to the history of the Eureka Stockade and the gold rush era that shaped the region. His work focuses on grounded historical storytelling that explores the lives of ordinary people caught in extraordinary moments of change. *EUREKA* draws inspiration from Quinn's own Irish-Australian heritage, particularly his family history in County Westmeath, Ireland, which helped shape the central Quinn family in the series. Quinn is currently the sole creator and writer attached to the project, and the intellectual property for *EUREKA* is fully owned by him.

The series is an original fictional narrative set within a real historical context, and no additional rights or permissions are required for the use of historical events or public historical figures. At this stage there are no other creative team members formally attached, though collaboration with producers, directors and production partners is anticipated during development.



Scott Quinn - Writer

COMPARABLES

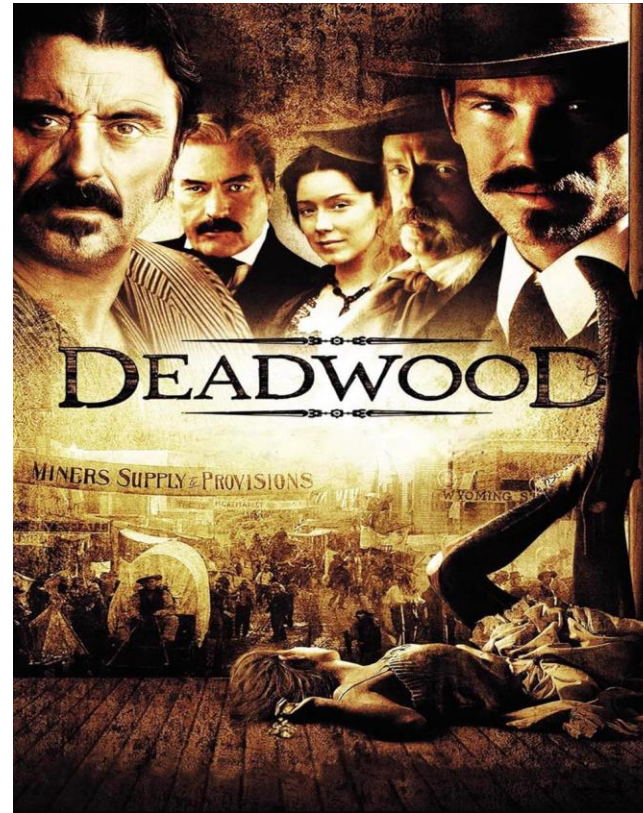


Peaky Blinders

Creator: Steven Knight

Year: 2013–2022

Peaky Blinders provides a comparison for the show's gritty tone and character-driven storytelling. Like *EUREKA*, it follows working-class characters navigating systems stacked against them while exploring themes of power, loyalty, and rebellion. The cinematic style, strong character arcs, and dark atmosphere are also stylistic influences on the project.



Deadwood

Director / Creator: David Milch

Year: 2004–2006

Deadwood is a key tonal comparison for *EUREKA*. Like the goldfields of Ballaarat, the town of Deadwood is a lawless frontier settlement where people from different backgrounds collide in a violent, rapidly developing society. Both stories explore how communities form in chaotic frontier environments and how power structures emerge through conflict, corruption, and survival.



The Newsreader

Creator: Michael Lucas

Year: 2021–present

The Newsreader is a successful Australian period drama and demonstrates the appetite for high-quality historical storytelling set in Australia. While it takes place in a different era, it shows how character-driven drama set against real historical events can resonate strongly with modern audiences. It also provides a useful benchmark for premium Australian television production.

EUREKA

A movie poster for the TV series 'Eureka'. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a hat, wearing a dark coat, stands with a pickaxe over his shoulder. Next to him is a young boy in a flat cap and a dark jacket. They are both looking out over a vast, desolate landscape at sunset or sunrise. In the background, a large, sprawling town is visible, with many tents and buildings. A tall, thin tower stands out in the distance. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange-hued clouds.

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