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Seven unveils first phase of 06 programming.

Criminal Minds, Commander In Chief and Prison Break join Desperate Housewives, Lost and Grey's Anatomy.

The biggest new comedy on television – My Name Is Earl – is on Seven.

Seven commissions new programmes to further confirm leadership in Australian production.

Pirates of the Caribbean and The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King headline Seven's broadcast television premiere movies.

The Australian Open and XX Olympic Winter Games to launch Seven's assault on 06.

The Seven Network today released further details on its programming plans for the new television season – headlined by a number of new Australian programmes, the five biggest new US drama series, Criminal Minds, Commander In Chief, Bones, Prison Break and Ghost Whisperer, and the two highest-rating new comedy series in the new US television season: My Name Is Earl and How I Met Your Mother.

Criminal Minds is the breakout new hit. Commander In Chief is one of the three highest rating new drama series on television (along with Criminal Minds and Ghost Whisperer). Prison Break is the critically acclaimed “buzz” programme of the new season, with its audience growing by 50 per cent in its first season. My Name Is Earl is the number 1 new comedy on television and number 1 new series for 18-49s. How I Met Your Mother ranks only behind Earl as the most successful new comedy in the new US television season.



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Seven has also secured the landmark BBC series, *Discovering Ancient Egypt*, Robbie Coltrane's return in new episodes of *Cracker*, and the next instalment in the *Prime Suspect* series (*Prime Suspect 7*).

These new programmes for Seven's 06 primetime join the new series for *Desperate Housewives*, *Lost* and *Grey's Anatomy*, all delivering higher audiences now than in their first series in the US. There will also be *The Amazing Race 8* and *The Amazing Race 9*, and new seasons for *24*, *Alias*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Las Vegas*, *Boston Legal* and *Will & Grace*.

Australian Programming

Seven moves into 2006 as the leader in news and public affairs – with *Seven News*, *Today Tonight* and *Sunrise* all delivering significant audience growth over the past twelve months and now leading in breakfast television and the key 6:00-7:00pm timeslot.

Seven is planning further developments in news and public affairs and the network is also developing a number of new factual programmes, building on the success of *Border Security*, *True Stories*, *Medical Emergencies* and *Forensic Investigators*. These programmes return in 2006.

Seven will unveil its new Australian programmes in the coming weeks but today confirmed two new programmes - *The Real Seachange* and *Police Patrol* (from the producers of *Border Security*) and a series of *Where Are They Now?* specials.

Seven also confirmed that *Dancing with the Stars* will return for a new season, along with *Beyond Tomorrow*, *The Great Outdoors* and *Better Homes and Gardens*. Seven is also developing new seasons for *The Mole* and *My Restaurant Rules*. Seven's new drama series, *Headland*, joins *Home and Away*, *All Saints* and *Blue Heelers* in the new television year.

Specials

Seven has secured one of the biggest events produced for UK television: *Titanic – Birth of A Legend*. Other events coming to the network in 06 include *The Great Quake of San Francisco*, *Tsunami: Wave of Destruction*, *Miss Universe* and *ABBA Mania*.

Movies and Events

Seven will unveil its strongest portfolio of theatrical movies in a number of years, including the broadcast television premieres for Pirates of the Caribbean, Lord of the Rings: Return of the King, Kill Bill, The Day After Tomorrow, Scary Movie 3, Starsky and Hutch, Bruce Almighty, X Men 2, Seabiscuit, League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, The Lizzy McGuire Movie, Agent Cody Banks, Santa Clause 2, Freaky Friday, Stuck on You, Cold Mountain and Whalerider.

Seven's major blockbuster television movie and miniseries events include: The Final Days of Planet Earth, Merlin 2, Category 7: The End of the World, The Ten Commandments, 10.5 Apocalypse, Blackbeard, Earthsea, Human Trafficking and Icon.

Sports

Seven will launch 2006 with the network's all-encompassing coverage of the Australian Open and the XX Olympic Winter Games from Torino, Italy in primetime. The XX Olympic Winter Games and The Australian Open headline Seven's year in sports which also includes coverage of all major horse racing events including The Melbourne Cup, the major golf events including The Australian Open, The Australian PGA and The Australian Masters, and the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race. Seven will also follow the Wallabies' test campaign in rugby union, including The Bledisloe Cup and The Tri-Nations Series.