



# Government Media Statement

24 August 2009

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**Michael Aird, MLC**  
Minister for Economic Development

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## **Stargate – SG1 star set to lead in feature film in Tasmania**

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Michael Shanks, lead actor in the hit US Sci-fi series Stargate – SG1 will star in a new sci-fi thriller to commence shooting in Hobart today.

*Arctic Blast* is an Australian/Canadian co-production with investment from Screen Tasmania and will be released in cinemas nationally and distributed internationally by US company Imagination Worldwide.

Set in Hobart, *Arctic Blast*, tells the story of a mega ice fog caused by a rift in the Ozone layer, that creates deadly flash freezing. Shanks plays *Jack*, a maverick US meteorologist, who along with his small team of researchers are the only people that can save the world from destruction.

Minister for Economic Development, Michael Aird said “*Arctic Blast* represents considerable economic benefit for Tasmania. The Screen Tasmania investment of \$150 000 will generate more than \$600 000 of local spend on services and facilities during production.”

“In addition, the film will employ approximately 60 Tasmanian cast and crew, and placements for eight trainees, providing skills development, valuable on-set production experience, and a feature film credit.

“Screen Tasmania has been actively promoting Tasmania as an attractive and viable filming destination. *Arctic Blast* will provide an opportunity to showcase Tasmania’s range of diverse and stunning locations, and our production studios at the Goodwood Technopark to an international audience.

“A production of this size represents an opportunity to build on the local film industry’s skills, talent and expertise so that further incoming production activity can be supported,” Mr Aird said.

Written by Canadian Jason Bourque and directed by Australian Brian Trenchard-Smith, (*BMX Bandits* and *In Her Line of Fire*), the Australian Executive Producer is Antony I. Ginnane, President of FG Film Productions and current President of the Screen Producers Association of Australia. Tom Berry and Pierre David are the Canadian Executive Producers”.

For further information, or to arrange on set visits and interviews with key cast and crew please contact Laura Banks, Screen Tasmania on 6233 6995.

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Contact:

<http://www.tas.gov.au>