

DRAMA



# Family betrayal

Our favourite corrupt treasurer with the big heart, **Nucky Thompson**, finds his power under threat in the much-anticipated second season of *Boardwalk Empire*

STRIKE UP THE gramophone, *Boardwalk Empire* is back. Season two brings new twists and turns for the now established characters of Prohibition-era Atlantic City in the roaring '20s, and the world of gangsters, glamour, gambling and graft inspired by real-life corrupt politician Enoch "Nucky" Johnson.

The series' first season won Golden Globes for Best Television Series – Drama and Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama (Steve Buscemi), plus the Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series Emmy for Martin Scorsese's pilot. With lavish attention to detail and production, series creator

STEVE BUSCEMI as Enoch "Nucky" Thompson

"This season Nucky's more domesticated. To a certain extent, he enjoys that..."



Season two of *Boardwalk Empire* finds the newly-domesticated Nucky (centre) struggling to keep his hold on Atlantic City



See the incredible costumes and set designs of *Boardwalk Empire* in glorious high definition on *showcase HD* [220]. If you don't have the HD package, it's easy to upgrade your subscription online. Simply visit [foxtel.com.au/myaccount](http://foxtel.com.au/myaccount) and log in.



MICHAEL PITT as **Jimmy Darmody**

"Whenever I found myself in a situation where I wasn't sure what he was doing, the war he had just been through was the key. I think he was traumatised, I think that's why he kills.

"In the pilot, Jimmy says to Nucky that he's going to hell. And if that's what he truly believes, what isn't he going to do?"



Margaret Schroeder (Kelly Macdonald), and her children from her previous relationship. He raised Jimmy Darmody (Michael Pitt) to be his protégé, but Jimmy now knows Nucky's mentor, Commodore Louis Kaestner (Dabney Coleman), is his biological father. Is the right man running Atlantic City?

Nucky's hold is already under threat as he faces arrest for election fraud and betrayal by his inner circle, however, not by fallen puritan Agent Nelson Van Alden (Michael Shannon), who faces impending fatherhood – and not with his wife.

With a bigger role for bootlegger Chalky White (Michael Kenneth Williams), season two looks set to examine mounting racial tensions between Atlantic City's black community and the Ku Klux Klan.

In the lead-up to the new season's premiere, *FOXTEL Magazine* sat down with *Boardwalk Empire*'s creator, writer and executive producer, Terence Winter.

***Boardwalk Empire* depicts the birth of corruption in America. In season two's first episode, even something as simple as a road can't be built without bribes.**

"They're certainly inventing organised crime. And Nucky was only interested in the road because then he could traffic alcohol out of there.

"He didn't care about people; his trucks were getting stuck in the mud and he was losing truckloads of alcohol, so he needed paved roads!"

**What do you think makes corrupt characters so entertaining?**

"I think we're always interested in people who live outside the rules of society. There is some glamour to it, but if you

depict it honestly, there is nothing glamorous about having everybody close to you wanting to kill you."

**This season, what liberties are you taking with the existing historical information about some characters?**

"Later in season two we depict the incidents around the Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier [boxing match] in July 1921, the first sporting event that was ever broadcast on the radio.

"I knew that somewhere around episode seven it would have been June 1921, and Jack Dempsey was actually training for that fight in Atlantic City. It's such a luxury to have Nucky as the guy who's in charge of Atlantic City, because whenever a famous person [in real-life] would come and visit, they sought out Nucky."

KELLY MACDONALD as **Margaret Schroeder**



"There's a loss of innocence, but Margaret was never completely innocent. This

season we find out more about Margaret as she and Nucky find out about each other. Her past comes into play."

**What feedback from season one have you taken into season two?**

"The audience really responded to Chalky White and [disfigured war veteran] Richard Harrow (Jack Huston). Both were characters we really loved and wanted to spend more time with, too."

**Would you kill off any main characters?**

"Everything is on the table. It is a gangster show and everybody's up for grabs.

"Steve Buscemi was very relieved when he researched Nucky Johnson and said, 'Well, Nucky lived to be an old man, they'll never kill me'. Then I changed the name to Nucky Thompson... Anything could happen!"

CLARE FLETCHER

**BOARDWALK EMPIRE – SEASON TWO**  
**SERIES RETURN** Sundays from November 27  
 @ 7.30pm, *showcase* [403] and *showcase HD*  
 [220]

DRAMA, COMEDY, REALITY

Terence Winter says his crew is the "best in the business". An observation borne out with further Emmys for casting, make-up, art direction, picture editing, special visual effects, sound editing and cinematography.

Family promises to be a focus for season two as Nucky Thompson (Buscemi) faces a new domestic reality with his mistress