



# CONVICT SURVIVORS

ONCE IT WAS STAIN, NOW IT'S A MARK OF PRIDE.

Factual television series.

Based on real life history and convict genealogy.

Contact: [steve@roarfilm.com.au](mailto:steve@roarfilm.com.au)



SCREEN  
AUSTRALIA

Roar Film acknowledges the support of Screen Australia's Enterprise Program

# CONVICT SURVIVORS

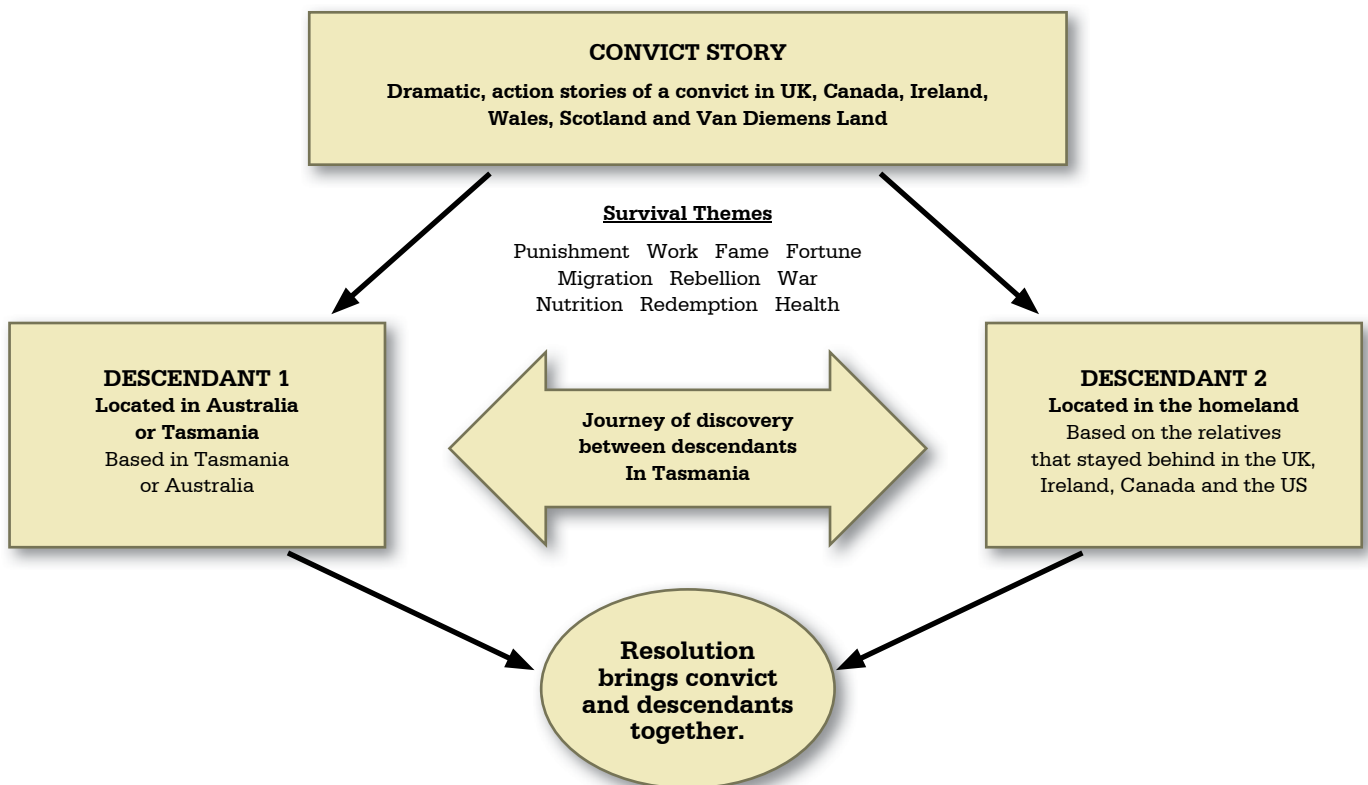
Factual television series. Based on real life history and convict genealogy.

## Unique Selling Points:

- Tasmania's convict story is Australia's and the World's story.
- These globally unique, world heritage-listed records are the most detailed, intimate descriptions of human beings and their experiences found anywhere in the world.
- They provide us with a new way of telling 'living history'.
- Crosses national and international boundaries.
- The major web component of the project has already received \$200K funding from Screen Australia. We have also received \$10K for development of a television series.
- The convict stories and the research already exist. Tracking descendants forward is feasible.
- Strong Tasmanian Stories/Context/Convict Tourism potential= Tas Government Investment.
- International Broadcast investment opportunities strong.
- No shortage of dramatic convict stories.
- Key convict historians and population health experts are on board.
- Backend website and database enables viewer follow-up for research on their own family. This is free unlike Ancestry.com

## Episode Structure:

- We reveal the identity of a hardcore convict man or woman. We create an identikit image of him/her based on the records.
- We build the convict story – a life profile of the convict, visual and aural, based on the records. Input from selected panel of televisual history/science experts as required.
- Flash forward to the two descendants at their homes. Could be in Australia, New Zealand or overseas. Build a profile/life story of their lives.
- Descendants ( who don't know each other) embark on a journey of discovery about their convict ancestor eg: In the UK – parish, trial, voyage records, in Australia – conduct, punishment, Port Arthur
- We bring the descendants together face to face in Tasmania at a significant convict location related directly to their ancestor's life experience – Port Arthur, Jericho, Maria Island. Potential for drama/breakdown/joy as they discover what their ancestor experienced
- Together the two descendants discover the post-convict story and examine the genetic, lifestyle similarities and differences in their own lives and the lives of their branches of the family. Input from experts.
- Goodbyes and emotional wrap up.



**Producers:** Steve Thomas, Anna Grieve, Kath Symmons

**Directors:** Varcha Sidwell, Raef Sawford, Heidi Douglas

**Key historians:** Professor Janet McCalman, Dr Hamish Maxwell Stewart

**Partners:** Screen Australia, Screen Tasmania, University of Tasmania, Melbourne University, Tasmanian Archives, NFB Canada, British National Archives (under discussion)  
Strong interest from ABC Television

**Budget:** \$175K AUD per episode  
**Secured to date:** \$10K AUD Development,  
**Online production:** \$200K AUD