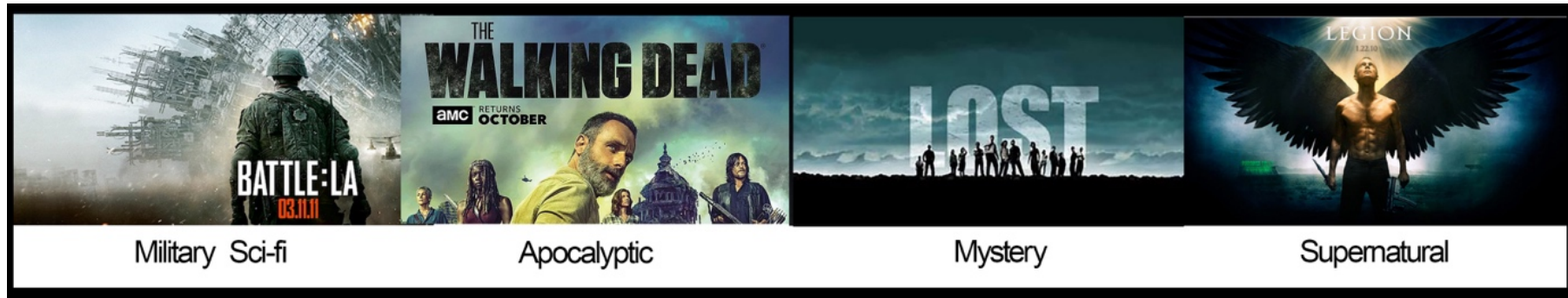


SENTIENT



GENRE



SENTIENT – SERIES LOGLINE

When an alien lifeform unleashes a holocaust on humanity, a Navy diver leads the survivors in a fightback against an ever-evolving, ever more frightening version of us, 'The Sentient.'

INSPIRATION

Inspired by the red dust storm that engulfed Sydney, Sept 26th, 2009.

SENTIENT – PILOT SYNOPSIS

LT. COMMANDER MICHAEL DOWD is a Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diver and Commander of **CD TEAM ONE**, based on Sydney Harbour. He is an Indigenous Australian, a Wiradjuri, from the Great Western Plains of NSW.

SENTIENT's Sci-fi journey begins when Dowd emerges from a hyperbaric recompression chamber to discover Sydney is enveloped in a mysterious red storm.

Shortly after, DOWD finds dying colleague, Navy Nurse **LT SYMES**, and discovers from her, this is an enemy attack. Who the enemy is, is not yet revealed until Dowd encounters a stack of bodies in a darkened hallway and their assailant, **THE PIED PIPER**, a translucent-black, alien lifeform, full of stars and seething with menace.

Dowd, unarmed, saturated in sweat and shaking from the bends, flees to an adjacent office. Waiting for him inside, hiding in fear of his life is fellow survivor, scientist, **DR AMON TEICHER**. TEICHER is hiding something. DOWD knows it and is suspicious. Regardless, the two team up and make their way to **THE BUNKER**, a high security, underground facility but first, they must battle their way through the storm.

Before making their exit into the storm, they discover the bodies, previously stacked to the ceiling have disappeared. True to its name, THE PIED PIPER has reanimated the bodies and taken them with him.

On their way to the BUNKER, they rescue Medic, **ABLE SEAMAN CHE AMIRI**, (the apprentice), who they find trapped between an overturned truck and a wall. The three arrive at THE BUNKER to find **ADMIRAL J. DEAKIN FRANK** and a **CROWD OF SURVIVORS** desperately trying to gain entry to THE BUNKER, but before they can, a supercell of the storm descends on Sydney, vaporising the human population... but not everyone. Some are spared, and the question becomes, why?

DOWD rallies the survivors but before he can act, **COMMODORE KATHERYN FREISLER**, a nemesis of DOWD's and his ex-wife, arrives with two **Navy POLICE COXSWAINS**.

FREISLER seems manic and whether driven mad by the storm or her loathing for her ex, seeks to extinguish DOWD's leadership and seize control. She is unable or unwilling to see the frightening new truth before them.

DOWD knows, we are now AT WAR with a deadly nemesis and that INVASION is imminent. He tries to reason with her. FRIESLER responds by ordering his arrest. The clock is ticking. DOWD acts, overpowering the COXSWAINS and forcing AMIRI and TEICHER to choose between DOWD or FRIESLER. They choose DOWD.

DOWD leads AMIRI and TEICHER through a haunting warehouse filled with bodies, suspended from the ceiling. The bodies are revealed to be drying wetsuits hanging from metal hooks.

They make their way to the CLEARANCE DIVER OPERATIONAL AREA. There, they discover DOWD's friend and fellow diver, **PETTY OFFICER LACHLAN HUNT** has survived the storm and rally him to the cause of rescuing THE PIPER's PRISONERS.

TEICHER reasons that, just like its namesake, the PIPER will take its PRISONERS to water. The team gun-up and make their way to the WHARF only to discover the PIPER's PRISONERS face down in a DIVE POOL and transforming into something other than human. Worse, the PIPER is waiting there for them. DOWD's investment in the apprentice, AMIRI pays off when she disarms the PIPER with a flashbang, enabling the team to kill it, but there's no saving the PRISONERS. DOWD makes the terrible decision to kill his own people before they become something, other than human.

With his original plan dashed, DOWD leads his new team to an abandoned Catamaran on THE BEACH with the intention of sailing across the harbour to another base, but before they can board the cat, they encounter a beach full of thousands of PIED PIPERS, humanoid creatures, translucent black in colour and filled with stars, coming ashore. The Pilot ends with DOWD, his TEAM and **THREE NEW SURVIVORS** facing certain death.

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