

TV this week

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Organised chaos

Australian actress Yvonne Strahovski has a leading role in one of the most talked-about US TV shows of the year, *The Handmaid's Tale*. She opens up to DANIELLE McGRANE about being a part of the thought-provoking series.

Timing, they say, is everything. It's a phrase the creators of US TV show *The Handmaid's Tale* must be very familiar with following their show's release this year. The series, based on a three-decade old book written by Margaret Atwood, is a surprisingly pertinent feminist tale that's landed at a time when the social issues played out on screen have incredible resonance with reality.

"We could never have planned for this, ever. You go back to the book, which was written in '84 and published in '85, and now, here we are in 2017, making a show that we started shooting pre-American presidential election and then post, and all the different headlines that have come up since then," Australian actress Yvonne Strahovski, who stars in the show, says.

"It's just been incredible to see the parallels. It is very eerie."

Set in a totalitarian dysto-

pia in the near future, the show depicts a Christian fundamentalist government called Gilead which has taken over the former US and enslaved the few remaining fertile women, known as handmaids, to bear children in an attempt to continue the future of society.

It's a brutal world where the wives of the elite are complicit in the arrangement to subjugate these women. Strahovski plays Serena Joy, the wife of the commander played by Joseph Fiennes and the pair enslave a handmaid called Offred, played by Elisabeth Moss.

"I definitely had my difficulties with playing her (Serena) because it's obviously very hard to relate to someone who has so much brutality within her," Strahovski says.

One of the toughest struggles for the actress was trying to understand why her character would be complicit in the ceremony – a ritual where the commander has

sex with Offred in the hope of conceiving a child, during which Serena is present.

"There was a lot of stuff that really had me stop in my tracks and think. One of the biggest things is the ceremony and trying to figure out what woman in her right mind, faith or no faith, would actually be part of this and allow for this situation.

"It's a monthly rape of a handmaid and it's not very good for the wife either, who's having to watch her husband be intimate with somebody else. There's all kind of things that came up," she says.

This isn't a straightforward TV drama – all kinds of things are constantly coming up. That's the battle for every actor who has a part to play in this dark world. But when the cameras stopped rolling, Strahovski still found it hard to face her co-star Moss after the brutal treatment of her character.

"I spent a lot of time apologising for what was happen-

ing between action and cut," she says.

"It's so brutal. Those were the hardest scenes to film, when Serena has to switch off her empathy for another person because she is also striving to survive. She wants the baby out of the handmaid and she will do whatever it takes at the expense of the handmaid."

The show is visually stunning, with handmaids dressed uniformly in long red dresses and white "wing" bonnets and the wives dressed in long blue dresses. Everything in Gilead is also positioned in stark contrast with flashbacks of the past where women lived freely.

"There's so much detail in it and, because the world is so restricted, every little breath and twitch counts. All those nuances have to be there to really fulfil this whole concept of what we're trying to do," Strahovski says.



Silent society: Elisabeth Moss, left, and Australian actress Yvonne Strahovski star in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

■ **The Handmaid's Tale**
Thursday, SBS On Demand

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

<p>NINE</p> <p>6.00 PAW Patrol (R, CC) 6.30 Dora (R, CC) 7.00 Weekend Today (CC) 10.00 Sports Sunday (PG, CC) 11.00 NRL Sunday Footy Show (PG, CC) 1.00 Full Cycle (CC) 1.30 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner (CC) 2.00 Days Of The Knights (PG, CC) 3.00 Rugby League. (CC) NRL. Round 18. Canterbury Bulldogs v Newcastle Knights. 5.30 Delish (PG, R, CC) 6.00 Nine News (CC) 7.00 Australian Ninja Warrior. (PG, CC) (New Series) 8.45 60 Minutes. (CC) 9.45 Killer Women With Piers Morgan: Rebecca Fenton. (PGa, CC) 10.45 Australian Crime Stories: Chow Hayes - Australia's First Gangster (Mlv, R, CC) 11.45 House (Madms, R, CC) 12.45 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House Rescue (PGa, R, CC) 1.45 Getaway (PG, R, CC) 2.15 Nine Presents (R, CC) 2.30 Global Shop 3.00 The Baron (PG, R) 4.00 GMA (CC) 5.00 News (CC) 5.30 Today (CC)</p>	<p>SCTV DARWIN</p> <p>6.00 Animal Rescue (R, CC) 6.30 The Zoo (R, CC) 7.00 Weekend Sunrise (CC) 10.00 AFL Game Day (CC) 11.30 Bewitched (R, CC) 12.30 To Be Advised 1.00 Footy Flashbacks 2.00 AFL Pre-Game Show. (CC) 2.30 Football. (CC) AFL. Round 16. Carlton v Melbourne. 5.30 Surf Patrol. (R, CC) 6.00 Seven News. (CC) 7.00 House Rules. (PG, CC) (Final) 9.00 Yummy Mummies. (PG, CC) (New Series) 10.30 Behave Yourself. (PGs, R, CC) 11.30 Wanted. (Mv, R, CC) 12.30 Whodunnit? (PGv, R) 1.30 Harry's Practice. (R, CC) 2.00 Home Shopping. (R) 3.30 Harry's Practice. (R, CC) 4.00 NBC Meet The Press. (CC) 5.00 Seven Early News. (CC) 5.30 Sunrise. (CC)</p>	<p>ABC</p> <p>6.00 Rage (PG, CC) 7.00 Weekend Breakfast (CC) 9.00 Insiders (CC) 10.00 Offsiders (CC) 10.30 World This Week (R, CC) 11.00 Compass (PG, R, CC) 11.30 Praise (R, CC) 12.00 Landline (CC) 1.00 Gardening Aust (R, CC) 1.30 Wild Life At The Zoo (PG, R, CC) 2.00 Good Karma Hospital (PG, R, CC) 2.45 Hannah Gadsby's OZ (PG, R, CC) 3.15 The Mix (R, CC) 3.45 Aust Story (R, CC) 4.15 The Checkout: Best Before (PG, R, CC) 4.45 Father Brown (PG, R, CC) 5.30 Ask The Doctor (PG, R, CC) 6.00 Brush With Fame (PG, R, CC) 6.30 Little Lunch (R, CC) 7.00 News (CC) 7.40 Grand Designs New Zealand (PG, CC) (Series return) 8.30 Poldark. (Mav, CC) 9.30 Death In Paradise (PG, R, CC) 10.30 Cleverman (Mav, R, CC) 11.25 The Warriors (Madlms, R, CC) (Final) 11.55 MOVIE: The Outlaw Michael Howe (Mlvs, R, CC, 2013) 1.15 Rage (MA15+radhlnsv) 4.10 Murder, She Wrote (PG, R, CC) 5.00 Insiders (R, CC)</p>	<p>SBS</p> <p>6.00 WorldWatch 7.00 Tour De France: Daily Update (CC) 8.10 Filipino News 8.40 French News 9.30 Greek News 10.30 German News 11.00 Spanish News 12.00 Arabic News 12.30 Cycling. (CC) Tour de France. Stage 8. Replay. 2.30 Speedweek (CC) 4.30 Small Business Secrets (CC) (Final) 5.00 Cycling. (CC) Tour de France. Stage 8. Highlights. 6.00 Great British Railway Journeys. (CC) 6.30 SBS World News. (CC) 7.30 Bog Bodies. (CC) 8.30 Cycling. (CC) Tour de France. Stage 9. Nantua to Chambéry. 181.5 km mountain stage. From France. 1.30 Destination Flavour Down Under (R, CC) 2.00 MOVIE: Wild Grass (PGal, R, CC, 2009) André Dussollier, Sabine Azéma. 3.50 Knights (PGv, R, CC) 4.50 SBS Flashback (R, CC) 5.00 CGTN English News (CC) 5.15 NHK World English News (CC) 5.30 Deutsche Welle (CC)</p>	<p>TEN DIGITAL</p> <p>6.00 Mass For You At Home (CC) 6.30 Hillsong (CC) 7.00 Joseph Prince: New Creation Church (CC) 7.30 Joel Osteen (CC) 8.00 Good Chef Bad Chef (R, CC) 8.30 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield (R, CC) 9.00 My Market Kitchen (R, CC) 9.30 Studio 10: Sunday (PG, CC) 11.30 Motor Racing. (CC) Supercars Championship. Round 7. Townsville 400. Top 10 Shootout and Race 13. 5.30 Eyewitness News. (CC) 6.00 Family Feud: Sunday. (CC) 6.30 Modern Family. (PGs, R, CC) 7.30 MasterChef Australia. (CC) 9.00 Bull. (Mv, CC) 10.00 NCIS: New Orleans. (Mv, CC) 12.00 48 Hours: Live To Tell - Afraid Of The Dark. (Ma, R, CC) 2.00 Home Shopping. (R) 4.00 My Market Kitchen. (R, CC) 4.30 CBS This Morning. (CC)</p>
<p>GO!</p> <p>6.00 Children's Programs 11.30 Nexo Knights 12.00 Yo-Kai 12.30 Kate And Mim-Mim 1.00 Beyblade Burst 1.30 MOVIE: Gunfight At The OK Yu-Gi-Oh! 2.30 Yu-Gi-Oh! 3.00 The Powerpuff Girls 3.30 We Bare Bears 4.00 Gumball 4.30 Power Rangers Ninja Steel 5.00 Ben 10 5.30 Batman 6.00 MOVIE: Aliens In The Attic (2009) 7.45 Big Bang 8.45 MOVIE: Man Of Steel (2013) 11.30 Two And A Half Men 12.00 Adult Swim 12.30 Black Jesus 1.00 Container Wars 1.30 Surfing Australia TV 2.00 Batman 2.30 Children's Programs</p>	<p>7TWO</p> <p>6.00 Shopping 6.30 Amazing Facts 7.00 Tomorrow's World 7.30 Leading The Way 8.00 David Jeremiah 8.30 It Is Written 9.00 Shopping 9.30 The Outdoor Room 10.00 The Great Outdoors 11.00 Home And Away Catch-Up 2.30 Tennis. Wimbledon. Highlights. 3.40 Pubs That Built Britain 4.20 House Rules 5.30 One Foot In The Grave 6.15 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em 7.00 Border Security: Int. 8.00 The Force: BTL 8.30 A Touch Of Frost 10.30 Border Security: Int. 11.30 Escape To The Country 12.30 Late Programs</p>	<p>ABC2</p> <p>6.00 Children's Programs 12.00 Gumboot Kids 12.05 Angelina Ballerina: The Next Steps 12.15 Children's Programs 6.05 Fireman Sam 6.15 Octonauts 6.25 Peter Rabbit 6.35 Ben And Holly 6.50 Shaun The Sheep 7.00 Spicks And Specks 7.30 River Monsters 8.20 Back Seat Drivers 8.30 Thrilla In Manila 10.00 High Class Call Girls 10.50 Louis Theroux: A Different Brain 11.50 The Home Show 12.35 River Monsters 1.25 News Update 1.30 Close 5.00 Q Pootle 5 5.10 Ella The Elephant 5.25 Daniel Tiger's 5.35 Children's Programs</p>	<p>NITV</p> <p>6.00 Morning Programs 11.00 Buckskin 12.00 NITV On The Road: Laura Festival 1.00 NITV On The Road: Barunga Festival 2.00 Rugby Sevens. Ella 7's. 2.30 Soccer. Highlights from the 2016 Oceania Football Confederation. 3.30 Football. NEAFL. 5.00 Te Kaea 5.30 The Point Review 6.00 Hear My People 6.30 Dene A Journey 7.30 Madiba (New Series) 8.30 MOVIE: Putuparri And The Rainmakers (2015) 10.00 Trick Or Treaty? 11.30 Seaman Dan And Friends 12.00 Volunz</p>	<p>ONE</p> <p>6.00 Shopping 8.00 Rugby Union. Super Rugby. Round 16. Reds v Brumbies. Replay. 10.00 Reel Action 10.30 Escape Fishing 11.00 Animal Extra 12.00 World Sport 12.30 Operation Repo 1.00 4x4 Adventures 2.00 Monster Jam 4.00 Megastructures 5.00 Puppy Academy 5.30 iFish 6.00 M*A*S*H 7.00 Scorpion 8.00 Attenborough's Battle To Save The Tiger 9.00 MOVIE: The Game (1997) 11.35 Building Invincible 12.35 MOVIE: True Justice: Blood Alley (2012) 2.35 Late Programs</p>
<p>GEM</p> <p>6.00 TV Shop 6.30 Leading The Way 7.00 New Hope Ministries: New Hope On The Road 7.30 Beyond Today 8.00 Key Of David 8.30 TV Shop 10.00 Domestic Blitz 11.00 MOVIE: Swallows And Amazons (1974) 1.00 Getaway 1.30 MOVIE: Ski Party (1965) 1.30 MOVIE: Gunfight At The OK Corral (1957) 6.00 Secret Dealers 7.00 The Good Life 7.40 New Tricks 8.50 MOVIE: From Russia With Love (1963) 11.15 The Closer 12.15 The Good Life 1.00 TV Shop 1.30 Rockin Direct 2.00 Global Shop 2.30 New Tricks 3.30 Late Programs</p>	<p>7MATE</p> <p>6.00 Shopping 6.30 Doomsday Castle 7.30 Shopping 9.30 Surfing. Sailor Jerry Surftag Australian Series. Replay. 10.00 Dream Car Garage 10.30 Full Metal Jousting 11.30 The Fishing Show 12.30 Turtleman 1.30 Doomsday Castle 2.40 Seinfeld 6.10 MOVIE: Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life (2003) 8.35 MOVIE: Oblivion (2013) 11.05 Rude Tube 12.05 Lizard Lick Towing 12.35 What Went Down 1.35 Shannon's Legends Of Motorsport 2.30 Hook, Line And Sinker 3.30 Big Angry Fish 4.30 Late Programs</p>	<p>ABC ME</p> <p>6.00 Children's Programs 12.00 Gortimer Gibbon's Life On Normal Street 12.30 Children's Programs 4.35 Japanizi: Going, Going, Gong! 5.00 Children's Programs 5.45 The Bagel And Becky Show 5.55 The Bagel And Becky Show 6.10 TMNT 6.30 The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.55 Trip For Biscuits 7.05 Horrible Histories 7.35 Deadly 60 On A Mission: Pole To Pole 8.05 Horrible Histories 8.30 Yonderland 8.55 Adv Time 9.15 Total Drama All Stars 9.40 Rage 2.10 Close 5.00 Arthur 5.25 Sally Bollywood 5.35 Children's Programs</p>	<p>ABC NEWS</p> <p>6.00 The Drum Weekly 6.30 Weekend Breakfast 8.30 Insiders 9.30 Weekend Breakfast 10.30 News 11.00 Aust Story 11.30 News 12.00 The Mix 12.30 News 1.00 The Drum Weekly 1.30 News 2.00 Offsiders 2.30 News 3.00 Landline 3.30 News 4.00 One Plus One 4.30 News 5.00 NAIDOC Week 5.30 ABC News 6.00 Foreign Corre 6.30 ABC News 7.00 The Mix 7.30 Insiders 8.30 ABC News 9.00 NAIDOC Week 9.30 News 10.00 Planet America 10.30 News 11.00 The Drum Weekly 11.30 Landline 12.30 Late Programs</p>	<p>ELEVEN</p> <p>6.00 Toasted TV 6.05 Mia And Me (New Series) 7.05 Pokémon 7.35 Treasure Island 8.05 Jar Dwellers SOS 8.30 Sanjay And Craig 9.00 TMNT 10.00 Random & Whacky 10.30 TMNT 11.00 Brady Bunch 12.00 Family Ties 1.00 Neighbours 3.30 Raymond 4.30 King Of Queens 5.30 Frasier 6.30 MOVIE: Over The Hedge (2006) 8.10 Russell Coight's All Aussie Adventures 8.40 Joel Creasey's Comedy Offensive 9.40 To Be Advised 10.50 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Australia 11.20 Raymond 12.25 Frasier 1.00 Late Programs</p>

Classifications (P) Preschoolers (C) Children (G) General (PG) Parental Guidance (M) Mature Audiences (MA+15) Mature Audiences Only (AV15+) Extreme Adult Violence (CC) Closed Captions (R) Repeat Consumer Advice (a) Adult Themes (d) Drug References (h) Horror (s) Sex References (l) Language (m) Medical Procedures (n) Nudity (v) Violence. Programming is subject to change.