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Australian television and radio personality and sports broadcaster, Tim Webster interviews Chrys Phillips on her TV show success.

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Transcript of Audio

Tim: Aussie mother Chrys Phillips had a television idea and put it into action and has benefited incredibly. Her show's called Counter Play which started off as I said to you earlier as an online web series but today it's now been picked up by Channel Nine, which is great and Amazon Prime and set to debut this year. To tell us more we're joined by the creator herself, hi Chrys Phillips.

Chrys: Hi Tim thanks for having me!

Tim: Congratulations! Well done.

Chrys: Thank you, thank you! It's been a very exciting journey

Tim: Yeah, well getting onto free to air television is a big kick let me tell you you've done very well, as you know. How did the idea of Counter Play come about?

Chrys: Oh it came about when I was actually in LA for a few years, I was there doing some work with my book series and when I came home I was like, we just don't have that feel of shows like that *Dynasty* type of *Gossip Girl* so I thought while I was looking to see where my career was going I'd start a web series and give actors an opportunity in that type of show and therefore I created Counter Play

Tim: Had you produced any TV before that?

Chrys: Actually no [Laughs]

Tim: No? [Laughs] Wow.

Chrys: I have done theatre, theatre productions and directing.

Tim: Okay. And by the way I think this is a statistic you should be proud of, the first Aussie woman to produce an independent TV Series in Australia!

Chrys: I know! I can't believe it myself until people tell me

Tim and Chrys: [Laughs]

Chrys: It's like what? Oh okay!

Tim: How cool is that! Now, was it always going to be initially just a web type project and TV more from there?

Chrys: Yeah I wanted to, because of all of the platforms that are more prominent overseas throughout the UK, Canada and America, they have a lot of online content that are high-end TV shows, so I thought this would be a great way for me to build and keep it as web series but the excitement and the build-up of how the cult following we have, it ended up turning into a full scale, upgraded TV show.

Tim: Well I tell you what, I don't have to tell you this, I mean there's so much stuff on the web, it's difficult to be noticed in the first place than to be noticed enough for everyone to think *oh this is terrific* so did you expect to be received so well online initially?

Chrys: Oh that's a great question! I totally agree with you, it's not an easy feat and it has been a lot of hard work to say the least. Very long, extensive hours and a lot of dedication however, when we were looking for locations to start and I would be kind of pitching the show to people saying *look we need a helicopter, we need a yacht, it's high-end show* people would be like *oh wow! Can't wait to watch that!* So I started thinking oh this might be something that has a bit of backbone. So I'm totally blown away with the response but I kind of had a feeling that it was going to be watched.

Tim: Yeah, so that's when you twigged that people were catching on, yeah?

Chrys: Yes totally [Laughs]

Tim: Ok, now we'll talk about the show. We haven't spoken about the show itself yet, we'll do that in a tick. Big cast you've assembled, they look very young, very enthusiastic, big break for them too!

Chrys: Yes, true. The reason why I got such a large, large cast which is probably not the most Orthodox thing to do was because of um, us not being fully funded and I didn't want people taking away from their paid jobs. So I thought if we had like a revolving door in the story of talent then we could all stick to our day jobs, at that time. But we have also exciting new actors that aren't yet on there who are all over thirty-five, so we have the older tycoons, female and male coming into the show which is quite exciting.

Tim: Yeah. Now, get to it, uh because you've got my wife already for a start when you mentioned the word thriller. Anything that has thriller attached to it, that's where she goes on Netflix first port of call is always *oh there's a new thriller on*. So give us the basic plot!

Chrys: Ok, well Counter Play is a very high-end, coastal town um filmed in Melbourne but it's very high-end and secrets are starting to wash up on the shore when someone returns back to the town and the questions is, can you see who's playing who? That's our caption. So it's got a lot of underlying blackmail and sinister and murders and crimes [Laughs] but it's basically who's paying who. That's the premise.

Tim: Ohh blackmail and greed and love triangles and murder, it's all there!

Tim and Chrys: [Laughs]

Chrys: It is totally! It's quite hilarious and fun to write and I live in that town daily, so it's kinda fun.

Tim: Now, be honest. Because I was in television and still do a bit from time to time for very long time. Pretty *blokey (*means male in Australian slang) place, was it tough to break through?

Chrys: Oh my gosh you're so spot on!

Chrys and Tim: [Laughs]

Chrys: I think if there's anything I could of heard, I have heard and um I kind of just stuck to my guns with it and just hoped that someone would notice. And um, it kind of happened! But yeah, it isn't easy. I have been told over the duration from the beginning *oh Chrys you know you should get a guy on to help you with this, a male producer or director.*

Tim: Nooo. Really?

Chrys: I was like oh okay, no I'm going to do this. [Laughs] But it's all good, it's all worked out great with Channel Nine, it's fantastic!

Tim: Yeah so, eventually I mean, back to that point, to get noticed, see this is the thing folks, to get noticed this thing's good. And to be picked up by Channel Nine no less, they have gone, gee this is worth a try! So when do you make it to air?

Chrys: Yeah, we've tentatively been told throughout May, June, July...

Tim: That soon! Good, good.

Chrys: Both seasons, so season one and two.

Tim: So you're shooting now?

Chrys: Yeah, we're just wrapping up some great scenes with a Ferrari, limos...

Tim: [Laughs] Oh it's get better! Greed, love triangles, murder, Ferrari's. Are there any big groovy looking boats as well?

Chrys: [Laughs] Yes there is! We have some nice yachts.

Tim: [Laughs] I love it!

Chrys; it's hilarious! We all live in this fake world and we enjoy it at the moment.

Tim: Well look forward to seeing it! There's one, we talk about television all the time on this program every day, the ratings and everything else, there's one to look out for! It's called Counter Play and the director, the producer Chrys Phillips. Well done you!

Chrys: Thank you so much Tim for today! Thank you

Tim: It's a pleasure! That's Chrys Phillips.