



## **Press Release**

### **The Wire** **Mondays at 9pm**

One of the most critically acclaimed programmes on air, the Peabody Award-winning drama series 'The Wire', continues to challenge viewers with a "cop show" unlike anything on television.

It is the first time that this show is screened in South Africa on a free-to-air channel such as e.tv.

The Wire has received critical acclaim for its realistic portrayal of urban life and uncommonly deep exploration of sociological themes, and has been called the best show on television by TIME, Entertainment Weekly, The Guardian, the Chicago Tribune, Slate, the San Francisco Chronicle and the Philadelphia Daily News.

The first season of The Wire concentrates on the often-futile efforts of police to infiltrate a West Baltimore drug ring headed by Avon Barksdale (Wood Harris) and his lieutenant, Russell Stringer Bell (Idris Elba).

The show also features sultry Dominic West (as policeman James McNulty), who has starred in films such as 28 Days and Mona Lisa Smile.

Its plot centers on the ongoing struggles between police units and drug-dealing gangs in the city's west side, and is told from both points of view.

Subsequent seasons have focused on other facets of the city. The large cast consists mainly of character actors who are little known for their other roles.

Executive Producer David Simon says that despite its presentation as a crime drama, the show is "really about a city, and about how everybody lives together."

It is about how institutions have an effect on individuals, and how...whether you're a cop, a longshoreman, a drug dealer, a politician, a judge or a lawyer, you are ultimately compromised and must contend with whatever institution you've committed to.

- In this coming Monday's episode (22 January): Some early-morning field interviews result in a minor riot, a boy losing an eye and some bad publicity for the police department. One detective shows up in the Detail Room dressed as a junkie, preparing to go to the projects to buy drugs. He is advised to take off his wedding ring, yellow his teeth, get some track marks on his hands and lose 20 pounds. Nevertheless, he manages to make a buy from a gang.

Ends

For more information:  
Herman Lategan  
e.tv Cape Town  
Tel: (021) 481-4634