

### Media Release

22 January 2025



## The boys are back!

# Smash-hit series *Rogue Heroes* returns for an adrenaline-fuelled second season

Jack O'Connell, Connor Swindells, Sofia Boutella and Dominic West are joined by new cast members Gwilym Lee, Con O'Neill, Mark Rowley, Jack Barton and more

## Premieres Wednesday 26 February at 9:30pm on SBS and SBS On Demand

Written and created for television by Steven Knight (*Peaky Blinders, This Town, Taboo*), and inspired by Ben Macintyre's best-selling book of the same name, the smash-hit series *Rogue Heroes* returns to action for a second season with the troops in Spring 1943. The first season is available to stream free now on <u>SBS On Demand</u>, and tune in for the premiere of season two **Wednesdays from 26 February at 9:30pm on SBS and SBS On Demand**.

Paddy Mayne takes control of the SAS following David Stirling's capture, and now attention must turn from the conflict in North Africa to mainland Europe. But GHQ have cast doubt over the future of the regiment, while the creation of a second unit and an influx of new arrivals make things even more difficult for the men. Can they prove that the SAS remain essential to the war, wherever it may lead them?

The ensemble cast returning for season two are **Jack O'Connell** (Paddy Mayne), **Connor Swindells** (David Stirling), **Sofia Boutella** (Eve Mansour) and **Dominic West** (Dudley Clarke).

**Gwilym Lee** (*The Great, Bohemian Rhapsody*) joins the cast as Bill Stirling, David Stirling's brother and founder of the 2SAS regiment, while **Con O'Neill** (*Happy Valley, Our Flag Means Death*) appears as General Montgomery.

Theo Barklem-Biggs (Reg Seekings), Corin Silva (Jim Almonds), Jacob Ifan (Pat Riley), Jacob McCarthy (Johnny Cooper), Stuart Campbell (Bill Fraser), and Bobby Schofield (Dave Kershaw) also return for duty in the second season.

Among the brigade's new recruits are **Mark Rowley** (*The Last Kingdom, The North Water*) and **Jack Barton** (*Heartstopper, War of the Worlds*), who will play SAS members Jock McDiarmid and John Tonkin respectively. Further new cast members include **Stuart Thompson** (*The Witcher, Starstruck*), **Paolo De Vita** (*Anonymous, La Grande Guerra del Salento*), **Anna Manuelli** (*Blocco 181, Pezzi unici*), **Edward Bennett** (*Industry, Save Me Too*) and **Matteo Franco**.

#### Here's what viewers can look forward to:

**Jack O'Connell said:** "A portrayal of amazing feats of what these lads got up to being first on the ground in mainland Europe, putting the fascists on the backfoot and running them up through Italy. Also, some great characters, great portrayals and a brilliant script. The characters are really distinct, and just as fascinating as we had before. Series one has its own unique set of challenges and the second does again, but what's great is following these lads – all their dark humour, seeing them sustain themselves against all of the adversities they go through."

**Steven Knight said:** "With something like *Rogue Heroes* you're compelled to continue because the story did happen and did continue. The fact is that the true story of the SAS is a piece of drama better than anyone in fiction could invent. The characters are beyond belief but, in the majority of cases in the series, they're real. I said at the beginning when we were promoting the first series, some of the things that really happened I can't depict because no one would believe me."

Commissioned by the BBC, *Rogue Heroes* season two is created, written and executive produced by Steven Knight, (*Peaky Blinders, This Town, Taboo*). Jack O'Connell and Ben Macintyre are executive producers of the series. Season two is directed by Stephen Woolfenden (*Outlander, Willow*) with Stephen Smallwood (*The Serpent, Patrick Melrose*) returning as producer. The series is executive produced by Karen Wilson, Emma Kingsman-Lloyd and Martin Haines for Kudos, and Nick Lambon for the BBC. Filming took place in Croatia and the UK.

**Rogue Heroes** was produced by Kudos (a Banijay UK company) for BBC iPlayer and BBC One in the UK and will be available on MGM+ in the United States and is distributed internationally by Banijay Rights.

**Rogue Heroes** will be subtitled on SBS On Demand in Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Arabic.

The second season of *Rogue Heroes* is available to stream free weekly on <u>SBS On Demand</u> from 12.01am Wednesdays from 26 February, or you can tune in that evening at 9:30pm on SBS.

Screeners and images for media use are available on the **SBS Screening Room**.

For more information, interviews and images please contact:

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