

Media Release

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The battle for heaven starts on Earth

New SBS documentary *The Kingdom*

**Premieres Thursday 8 June on SBS On Demand and airs 7.30pm
Sunday 11 June on SBS.**

Walkley award-winning journalist Marc Fennell returns to the world of Pentecostal religion after running away 17 years ago. In a deeply personal documentary, Marc investigates how Australia produced one of the world's most successful and scandal plagued megachurches Hillsong...and asks if this kingdom is crumbling then who will take its place?

- **INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE**
- **FIRST LOOK TRAILER: [HERE](#)**
- **IMAGES & SCREENER: [HERE](#)**

Premiering **Thursday 8 June** on **SBS on Demand** and **7.30pm Sunday 11 June** on **SBS**, feature-length documentary, *The Kingdom*, sees Walkley award-winning journalist **Marc Fennell** (*Framed*, *Stuff the British Stole*, *Mastermind*) step back into the Pentecostal world he ran away from 17 years ago, to uncover the seismic shift driving Hillsong's decline, and to confront his own raw and complex childhood within the church.

Marc meets current and fellow former believers who expose the human cost of the Pentecostal juggernaut and explores how allegations of bullying, sexual assault and financial mismanagement have eroded Hillsong's once mighty empire.

He confronts his own past spent in these churches, where he witnessed adults speaking in tongues, falling to the ground, and demons being thrown out of people. He explains why he escaped and why he's remained largely silent about it until now.

Presenter and Producer Marc Fennell said, "The moment the rest of the world knows that you have this in your past, they don't pay attention to whether you liked it, hated it or if you

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left. You get tarred with it. Many people have had their lives positively transformed by Pentecostalism. But there are also volunteers, staff, victims, and others who have been completely chewed up and spat out by modern megachurches."

Spanning a wild journey around Australia and into the USA, *The Kingdom* takes cameras inside the up and coming Pentecostal megachurches making the bold move into Hillsong's home turf and asks: is this the competition for souls it seems to be and can they succeed where Hillsong has failed its followers?

The Kingdom will be subtitled in two languages, streaming on SBS On Demand in Simplified Chinese and Arabic.

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Preview screeners and images available via the [SBS Screening Room](#). If needed, [here](#) is a link for you to create your free Screening Room account.

For interview requests and further information please contact:

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