

It is a little bit *Moonlighting*, with a slice of James Bond and Indiana Jones in there as well. People might think it is going to be *Midsomer Murders* or *Murder, She Wrote*, but it's not. This is all about Miss Fisher's world."

That is how lead star Essie Davis describes her new series, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, which premieres in the coming weeks on the ABC.

The new series, adapted from the best-selling Kerry Greenwood novels, takes a step back in time to the back lanes and jazz clubs of Melbourne in the 1920s when super sleuth Miss Phryne Fisher (Davis) arrives back home from London with a job to do – solving the long-ago murder of her favourite sister.

While justice for the terrible crime is what powers Miss Fisher, it is also the chase of an adventure and a good time with her long list of lovers which also sits atop the glamorous crime diva's agenda.

"She is a very happy, spirited woman who seizes life – Phryne has a lust for life," Davis reveals during a chat on the Melbourne set of the new series.

"She is the kind of woman who looks after women but



Meet

SOCIETY DARLING
Phryne (Essie Davis, right) can effortlessly mix it with all walks of life.

PHRYNE FISHER IS SEXY, SMART AND EXTREMELY FEARLESS – AND SHE'LL BE LEAPING OUT OF OUR SCREENS IN MISS FISHER'S MURDER MYSTERIES

SIZZLING CHEMISTRY
Try as he might, Detective Jack Robinson (Nathan Page) can't resist Phryne's many charms.



SUPER SLEUTH
Miss Fisher has a canny knack of being in the right place at the right time.

Words by John Burditt

Jack Robinson to begin with, but they eventually become more attracted to each other as they are both so good at what they do.

"She had a very bad relationship in her past and now she will not commit to one person. Besides, she has other fellas on the side and is having way too good a time with them, and she is not the marrying type – but there is something about Jack that she likes. Very much, in fact!"

"I think people will want these two to fall in love. In this series we have planes, trains and automobiles, as well as murders and some passion. It is all here!" **TVS**

loves men. In fact, she is a feminist who adores men, and is also incredibly skilled at her job. She is prepared to take risks to get the job done.

"This is a romp in which someone gets killed every episode and Phryne manages to solve it, and wrap it all up with action and passion."

In the debut episodes, Miss Fisher steps foot back in Melbourne for the first time since she was a teenager. She fled the poverty of her youth with her father when he inherited a fortune and a title in England and they left Australia for a new life.

But when Phryne learns that Murdoch Foyle (Nathan Bell), the man who she believes murdered her sister many years ago, is about to be released from prison for another crime

he committed, she is back in Melbourne, determined to track down the clues of her sister's death and finally bring the murderer to justice.

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In her quest, she also uncovers a number of other new murders popping up across the city at the height of the jazz age. Within days, Phryne becomes embroiled in the case of a poisoned husband, and then finds herself on a country train where the trip is soon derailed

by a gruesome murder. This is when she meets police detective Jack Robinson (Nathan Page), who is struggling to uncover the crime spree gripping his beat. At first he thinks Miss Fisher is meddling in areas she is not meant to be, but it is when he decides to stop fighting her and instead join forces that the pair close in on a list of suspects – and get closer to solving the murder of her sister.

It is also the time when the sparks begin flying between Phryne and Jack. While she already has a long list of lovers, there is something about the handsome, strait-laced cop that sparks a

special interest in her. "This is the part that is a bit like *Moonlighting* – it is the relationship that everyone wants to happen," Davis explains. "Phryne is a natural flirt and she antagonises

PHRYNE FISHER (Essie Davis) The thoroughly modern lady detective always has her pearl-handled pistol with her, but it's usually her razor-sharp wit and seductive looks that prove to be her greatest weapons.



JACK ROBINSON (Nathan Page) City cop Jack has an ironclad moral compass, which sees him always operating within the law. The sexual tension with Miss Fisher might just, however, be enough to bring him undone.



AUNT PRUDENCE (Miriam Margolyes) Society matron Mrs Prudence Stanley is Phryne's aunt, but deems her niece 'utterly unladylike' for her devil-may-care attitude and her flirtatious, outspoken ways.



HUGH COLLINS (Hugo Johnstone-Burt) The young cop is kept in line by Jack, but will do anything and go to any length to help Phryne, who uses all her seductive charms to get what she needs from the naïve youngster.



MURDOCH FOYLE (Nicholas Bell) Phryne's nemesis, and the suspected murderer of her sister, Foyle has been in prison for 14 years and now faces release. Phryne will do everything – and anything – to keep him behind bars.

