



ABUSE WAS NOT A FAILURE OF THE SYSTEM.  
IT WAS THE SYSTEM.

# REVELATION

**This ground-breaking, three-part investigative documentary series examines the dark forces behind clerical sex-abuse of children. A powerfully affecting story of crime, of cover-up and a desperate hunt for justice.**

With astounding access and in a series of world television firsts, **Revelation** takes cameras into Australian courts for the trials of some of the country's most notorious and prolific child abusers.

For the first time, through detailed interviews with the ordained men on trial for sex crimes against children, audiences hear the perpetrators' own narrative on the shocking crimes they have committed.

Interviews with high-ranking members of the church, police and politicians reveal the far-reaching nature of the abuse, and the horrifying extent to which the Catholic Church allowed its members to commit crimes with impunity.

## COMPARATIVE PROGRAMMING

Leaving Neverland | Surviving R. Kelly | Spotlight | The Keepers

## INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM – TRUE CRIME

HD 3 x 90' | In Films

- **Unprecedented, world-first access to perpetrators and courtrooms**
- **Follows high-profile developing cases, currently sitting before the courts**
- **Across locations in the US, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand**, interviews conducted within the highest ranks of the church, and with leading politicians, police and the legal sector, alongside compelling testimony from families and survivors
- **Visually striking; scripted like a political thriller**, blending stylised recreations with video and photographic evidence, interviews and first-hand testimony
- **Revelation podcast series** commissioned, to be released alongside broadcast

# EPISODES



## EPISODE 1: THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN USED BY THE DEVIL

One of the Catholic Church's first paedophile priests to be convicted in Australia, 80-year-old Father Vincent Ryan, faces a new trial in Sydney's criminal courts. For the first time anywhere in the world, **Revelation** films the trial of a clerical child abuser as his victims search desperately for justice before it's too late.

In a shockingly candid interview, filmed on the eve of the trial, Sarah Ferguson questions Ryan about his **double life in the church and how his position and his superiors protected him**. Selected to study in Rome, at the same time as George Pell, and ordained by the pope in St Peter's basilica, **church ideology encouraged Ryan to believe he was untouchable**.

But the church knew for decades he was a child molester, why wasn't he stopped?

## EPISODE 2: A DANGEROUS PLACE TO BE A CHILD

Vincent Ryan's trial continues as we reveal the **mechanism of the cover up that enabled the priest to continue to abuse children after he was first discovered**.

Sarah travels to Ireland to understand **how Irish Catholicism contributed to the culture of secrecy and impunity in the Australian church**. Back in Newcastle, 93-year-old Audrey tells the extraordinary story of the night her 13-year-old son died, and **his abuser arrived at the house in a desperate bid to cover his tracks**.

As Ryan's trial reaches the verdict, a new trial begins in Sydney's criminal courts, of **one of the world's most prolific paedophiles**, a religious brother from the same Catholic diocese. Bernard McGrath will almost certainly die in prison, but **his victims continue to come forward, searching for justice before it's too late**. Sarah goes to the maximum-security prison where McGrath is incarcerated. In a tense exchange, **McGrath moves between denial and revelation about the complicity of the church in his crimes, finally naming some of the key individuals who protected him**.

## EPISODE 3: TO BE REVEALED

The unmissable final chapter is a **cinematic event**, transporting audiences to the heart of power in the global Catholic church. This is the **story of a man who has kept a shocking secret for decades. Until now**.

# KEY CREATIVES



## WRITER/PRESENTER/DIRECTOR: SARAH FERGUSON

- Sarah is one of Australia's most recognised, respected and powerful investigative journalists. Her exemplary and courageous work – including securing exclusive interviews with the victims' families of the Sydney terrorist siege – cements her reputation, along with her **increasing global profile, built on hard-hitting interviews with Hilary Clinton, Steve Bannon, Roger Stone, Julian Assange** and others. A multi-award winner for journalism (garnering four Walkley Awards), she has also received four Logie Awards & AACTA Awards across categories including Best Documentary programming.



## PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: NIAL FULTON

- Nial is a multi-award-winning writer and producer working on prominent, internationally recognised productions such as HBO's Emmy award winning series **Band of Brothers (HBO)**, **Miracles (NatGeo)** and **Borderland (Al Jazeera America)**.
- His work on high-profile investigative documentaries has been acknowledged as ground-breaking, putting cameras where previous access had never been granted – as seen in his recent series on domestic violence **Hitting Home** filmed in a women's refuge and courtroom saferooms.

## WRITER: TONY JONES

- With decades of experience as political journalist, writer, presenter and EP, Tony Jones is one of the country's most respected media personalities. A multi-award winner, Tony has been based in the UK and the US as well as Australia, covering the seminal news events of the last two decades – from the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, through the collapse of apartheid in South Africa, to the rise of the Taliban.

## CINEMATOGRAPHER: AARON SMITH

- Aaron Smith is a cinematographer, director and producer working across documentary, factual, scripted and commercial productions. With a Masters in Cinematography from the country's leading film school (AFTRS), he has collaborated with a diverse range of innovative producers throughout the world. Aaron's work has been recognised through multiple awards and nominations from the ACS, the United Nations Association of Australia, and more.

# MEDIA

## WOMEN'S WEEKLY

Throughout the rolling scandal of clerical child abuse...the voice we have not heard is the voice of the perpetrators.

*"I wanted to speak to these men to ask them face-to-face how they led their double lives, masquerading as our moral guardians while abusing children in their care, and to get from them what hidden details I could about the cover up by their superiors.*

*It is basic to the job of a journalist to hold power to account and the system which protected these men and enabled them to betray the entire community.*

*The account of that great wrong is far from complete.*

*I want you to see what I saw – understanding is our best defence against a repeat of these crimes in the future."*

## ABC NEWS: BACKSTORY

Sarah travelled to Ireland and the Vatican to interrogate church leaders and the final episode reveals the story of a man who has kept a shocking secret for decades.

*"It's dark but it's compelling and the experience of the few people who have seen the series is you can't take your eyes off it, but it also leaves a lot to think about afterwards.*

*The experience of making this series has scored deep lines of sadness and understanding in me, of the crime, of the complicity of a powerful, self-serving institution and above all the ruinous consequences of child abuse on an innocent being who is ripped from childhood in that moment," she says.*

*"But I believe that understanding is our best defence against a repeat of these crimes in the future."*



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