


## tv previews CLARE MORGAN



Saving Andrew Mallard

### **Saving Andrew Mallard** ABC, 8.30pm

 In 1994 Andrew Mallard was questioned over the murder of Perth jeweller Pamela Lawrence. After 12 hours of questioning, and a bizarre 20-minute taped interview in which police say he confessed, the mentally ill homeless drifter was charged. Tried and found guilty, he was sentenced to life in jail.


This fine film tells the story of the people who saw a miscarriage of justice and worked for almost 12 years to have him freed.

It's an emotional journey, with his mother, Grace, and sister, Jacqui, enduring a roller-coaster of despair and hope, unflinchingly captured on camera. What's remarkable is how so many strangers, starting with investigative journalist Colleen Egan, took up the case, firm in the belief that Mallard had been wrongly convicted.

Michael Muntz's film is stylishly shot. The reunion between mother and son is uplifting but there's no triumphalism, just a sense of justice finally being done. The question of who did kill Lawrence remains unanswered.

### **Medium**

#### **Ten, 8.30pm**


 It's election time for the district attorney and Allison Dubois (Patricia Arquette) is

suffering from what her husband amusingly refers to as eclectic dysfunction.

Her boss, Manuel Devalos (Miguel Sandoval), is being challenged by the suave but clearly icky Nathan Bradley (Brian Kerwin). Allison has a premonition about a terrible crime that Bradley will use in an advertising campaign that will get him elected.

There is some snappy dialogue to enjoy but it's best not to analyse this caper too much: the occasional gravitas can't hide the fact that it really is daft. And doesn't anyone wonder why Allison so often stands there with that confused look on her face for what can seem like eons?

### **The Amazing Race** Seven, 9.30pm

 Six teams remain, travelling through a whirlwind of Roman and Greek landmarks in their search for clues. On the surface this seems like a frenetic episode, what with all the jumping from taxi to train to plane to bus, but it doesn't add up to much.


The real entertainment is in how appalling people can be when the pressure mounts. Top (or bottom) of the heap are bickering Southerners Lake and Michelle.

Lake is one ugly man, snapping and snarling when things get

tense - which is often - and constantly telling his wife to shut up. Nice. Unfortunately, Michelle takes the bungee jump challenge, robbing us of an opportunity to see Lake hurtle to an untimely but gratifying end.

Funniest contestants are friends B.J. and Tyler, who are in this thing to have fun, dude. Sight of the night is one of them in a frog hat hurling a javelin. This is what the ancient Olympics were all about, man.

### **Catalyst** ABC, 8pm

 Don't be surprised if you have a strong urge to hold your breath while watching this. Mark Horstman's investigation into the effects of fine-particle pollution makes sobering and scary viewing.

The World Health Organisation estimates that fine particles kill 800,000 people every year, so this is no small problem.

The results of air-quality monitoring in an inner-Sydney school and research in smoggy Los Angeles are alarming, and raise questions about the wisdom of having schools close to busy roads.

Horstman presents this complex science in an easy-to-understand and interesting way. In fact, I found myself wanting to know more. Any chance of a follow-up?