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THE AMPERSAND &

The Borgias takes home top honours at Gemini awards

Melissa Leong Sep 7, 2011 - 8:00 PM ET | Last Updated: Sep 7, 2011 8:41 PM ET

For playing an alcoholic mother living in the fictional Blackstone First Nation, Michelle Thrush was awarded best performance by an actress in a leading dramatic role in APTN's Blackstone.

"I'm not an alcoholic but I've watched it from a distance and it was an incredibly dark journey that I went on last year to get that story told," she told reporters after her win.

She dedicated her award to the late Canadian actor Gordon Tootoosis who died in July. Tootoosis's daughter made her crimson dress for the evening.

"About 23 years ago when I began acting, there weren't a lot of brown faces on television and Gordon was one of a handful. He urged me as a teenager to get into acting," she said. "We were 10 days away from going to camera [on Blackstone] and he passed away suddenly."