



Rolling ... cameraman Jono Tyler. Photo: Anthony Johnson

Role behind the scenes

JONO TYLER prefers spending his time behind the camera rather than in front of it. Fresh from graduating from the Sydney Film School, Tyler, 26, has already landed a job as an assistant cameraman on the set of Channel Seven's *Packed to the Rafters*.

"I'm really enjoying it," he says. "It's a chilled-out crew, shooting in a studio and suburban locations, and everyone gets along. It makes me realise how different shooting drama and action outdoors can be to studio work."

Tyler was assistant cameraman on another Seven drama, *Wild Boys*, a period piece about four bushrangers set in the 1860s.

"It was six months and a hard and long job; a seriously large production with 13 episodes," he says. "The art department created this pioneer village by putting facades on buildings. There were gunfights and horses. It was really fun."

As assistant cameraman, Tyler's responsibilities included driving the

camera van and running the camera along cliff tops and into the centre of the action. He also had to assemble and disassemble cameras and lenses.

Another of his roles was that of a "snapper", named after the sound made when the black-and-white striped board is clapped shut at the beginning of each take. And he also worked with the senior camera operator as a "focus puller" responsible for focusing the camera.

During weekends, his hobby is filming projects for himself and friends. "We are very minimalist," Tyler says. "We do a lot with very little."

He plans to enter some of the results in film festivals, but it's not the reason he makes them.

"I make films because I can," he says. "Even if people don't applaud me, congratulate me or pay me, I will continue to make films."

His immediate goal is to work on a feature film.

Melinda Ham