



## **Russell's Brawl Caught on Tape**

25 November 1999

HOLLYWOOD star Russell Crowe has been caught on security camera tape during a half-hour of mayhem outside a northern NSW nightclub.

The video, viewed yesterday by The Daily Telegraph, captures Crowe on the footpath after leaving the club before getting into a waiting limousine.

In that half hour, Crowe is seen to:

Start three fights;

Argue heatedly with a woman;

Throw a punch at his brother who tries to restrain him;

Kiss a man who attempted to calm him down.

Malcolm Mercer, part- owner of the Saloon Bar nightclub in Coffs Harbour where Crowe had been drinking, said the video clearly showed Crowe was the aggressor.

"The tape shows that Russell was completely in the wrong," Mr Mercer said.

Crowe was caught on four security cameras outside the Saloon Bar in the early hours last Thursday.

He is clearly seen leaving the club about 2am, accompanied by his brother, Terry, and another man, described by witnesses there as a minder.

A highly agitated Crowe paces the footpath, theatrically throwing his hands in the air.

The two men usher him towards a waiting limousine but he refuses to get in and begins talking to a young woman.

Although there is no sound on the tape it is obvious that an argument develops.

Crowe angrily points at the woman, who storms off.

Crowe then approaches a group of people who are standing nearby. He grabs one man and there is a wrestling match, quickly broken up by Crowe's brother and the minder.

They drag him to the limousine's door but he still refuses to go.



After a few minutes he walks back to the group, throwing a punch at his brother, who tries to stop him. Crowe starts another fight but a security guard from the club quickly moves to stop it.

Crowe and the guard fall to the ground and Crowe is pinned down.

As the guard releases him, Crowe can be clearly seen to kick out with both feet.

Crowe is again dragged back to the car by several men including Marty Phillips, publican of the nearby Coffs Harbour Hotel.

Crowe then tries to break free from the men.

Saloon Bar manager John Judd then arrives and tries to placate Crowe.

Crowe puts his arm around him and kisses a shocked Mr Judd on the cheek.

At the end of the tape, Crowe's minder walks towards a man who has been watching and punches are thrown. Crowe runs off towards the fight and out of the video frame.

Police then arrive and begin talking to some of the bystanders.

The limousine then drives off in the same direction Crowe was last seen heading by the camera.

Mr Mercer said the actor had appeared angry outside the club. He said Crowe had been "mouthing off" and swearing.

And he predicted the star would not visit again.

"He won't be welcome here anymore," Mr Mercer said.