

# COREY WHITE'S ROADMAP » TO » PARADISE



10-PART SERIES, WEDNESDAYS FROM 2 MAY, 9.40PM ON ABC & ABC iview

**ABC + iview**

*Guesswork Television*  
Excellence Through Guesswork



# COREY WHITE'S ROADMAP »-TO- PARADISE

A 10-part series screening Wednesdays from 2 May, 9.40pm on ABC & iview, or watch the complete series on iview after episode one airs

## SERIES SYNOPSIS

The world's got some crushing problems; some overwhelming, terrifying, civilisation crushing problems. The best and brightest have been trying to solve them for decades, even centuries. The entire hive mind of humanity has failed to solve its most vexing challenges so maybe it's time to turn to the next least best option and ask a three-time university dropout and ex-ice addict what he's got kicking around in his solution box. The ABC did just that, and the result is **Corey White's Roadmap to Paradise**.

**Corey White's Roadmap to Paradise** is a brand-new series like no other, which will see Corey try to solve the biggest problems facing everyday Australians.

**Corey White's Roadmap To Paradise** will set Corey on a collision course with

conventional wisdom as he takes on an urgent structural issue in each of the series' ten episodes. At the end of this series, Corey will have had a shot at fixing **Democracy, Australia Day, Environmentalism, Capitalism, Gambling, Domestic Violence, War on Drugs, Foster Care, Terrorism and Housing**.

This series unites an array of voices that you rarely hear on TV and lives in a unique genre of its own combining expert interviews, comedy sketches and Corey's raw monologues. Corey is spectacularly unqualified to propose how to fix the world's most urgent problems, but that's not going to stop him from having a go (plus he has his own **Australian Story** episode which he figures counts for something).



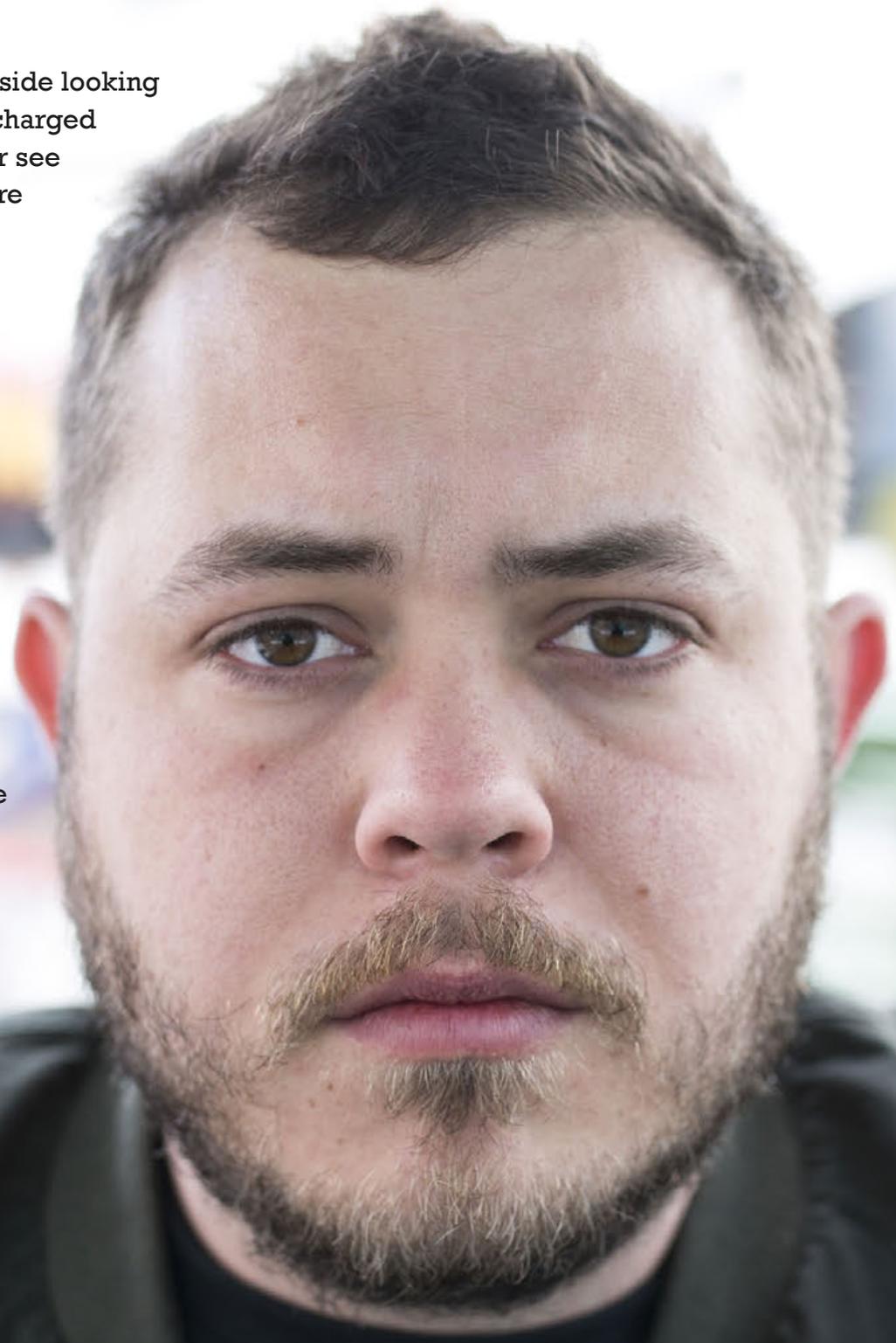
What Corey lacks in bachelor degrees he makes up for in life experience. Corey grew up in a house filled with violence and after his mother died from a heroin overdose when he was just ten, he entered the foster care system full-time. During his time in foster care he was subjected to years of ongoing physical, mental and sexual abuse. It was so bad that when he ended up in a psychiatric hospital it was like staying in a fancy Airbnb.

When drug addiction didn't work out for Corey, he turned to stand-up comedy, which it turns out he was pretty good at. So good in fact, his debut show **The Cane Toad Effect** saw him win Best Show at the 2014 Sydney Fringe and Best Newcomer Award at the 2015 Melbourne International Comedy Festival and Sydney Comedy Festival.

Now Corey's bringing his unique perspective to talk about the problems that keep him awake at night, and offer his overly confident solutions. Whether or not they are viable is someone else's problem. Up until now someone with Corey's story would be the subject of a doco, not the narrator. It's time we heard what the

world looks like from the outside looking in, perhaps helping people charged with making our world better see past the trough their noses are shoved in.

Produced by Guesswork Television and directed by award-winning director, writer and presenter Madeleine Parry, this is a program made by a young team, exploring what it means to be a millennial anxious about what tomorrow may bring. Not afraid to be wrong or change his mind, **Corey White's Roadmap to Paradise** gives a voice to the concerns and ideas from the next generation.









## EPISODE THREE HOUSING TX MAY 16

Gen Y are buying homes at the lowest rate since World War II. Corey's friends have plans to wait for their parents to die so that they can inherit the family home, that won't work for Corey. His mum died when he was 10 from a heroin overdose leaving him with just a dirty teaspoon and a Fleetwood Mac sarong (which you can't live in, FYI). So, in this episode, Corey looks at how owning a house has gone from an achievable life goal to a cash cow.

He talks to UN special rapporteur for affordable housing Leilani Farha, it's not just Australia that suffers from the financialisation of housing – which means investors (and many politicians) are getting rich from the domestic housing market. She argues that because housing provides vital security and dignity, that the housing affordability crisis therefore threatens basic human rights.

So, Corey's solution: people can only own one house. Essentially, if you own more than one residential property, you must sell the excess within two years or the government will buy it back from you at market rate. Corey realises it might be a bit like communism, but hey, the guy is really desperate to own his own home.

Keen to affirm his idea, Corey sits down with economist Gabby D'Souza who unfortunately is less than glowing about his housing affordability solution. She outlines how his policy could drive up house prices and affect liveability. But Corey is undeterred, and appeals to all those who own multiple homes – do you really want to be the guys with everything when everyone else has nothing?

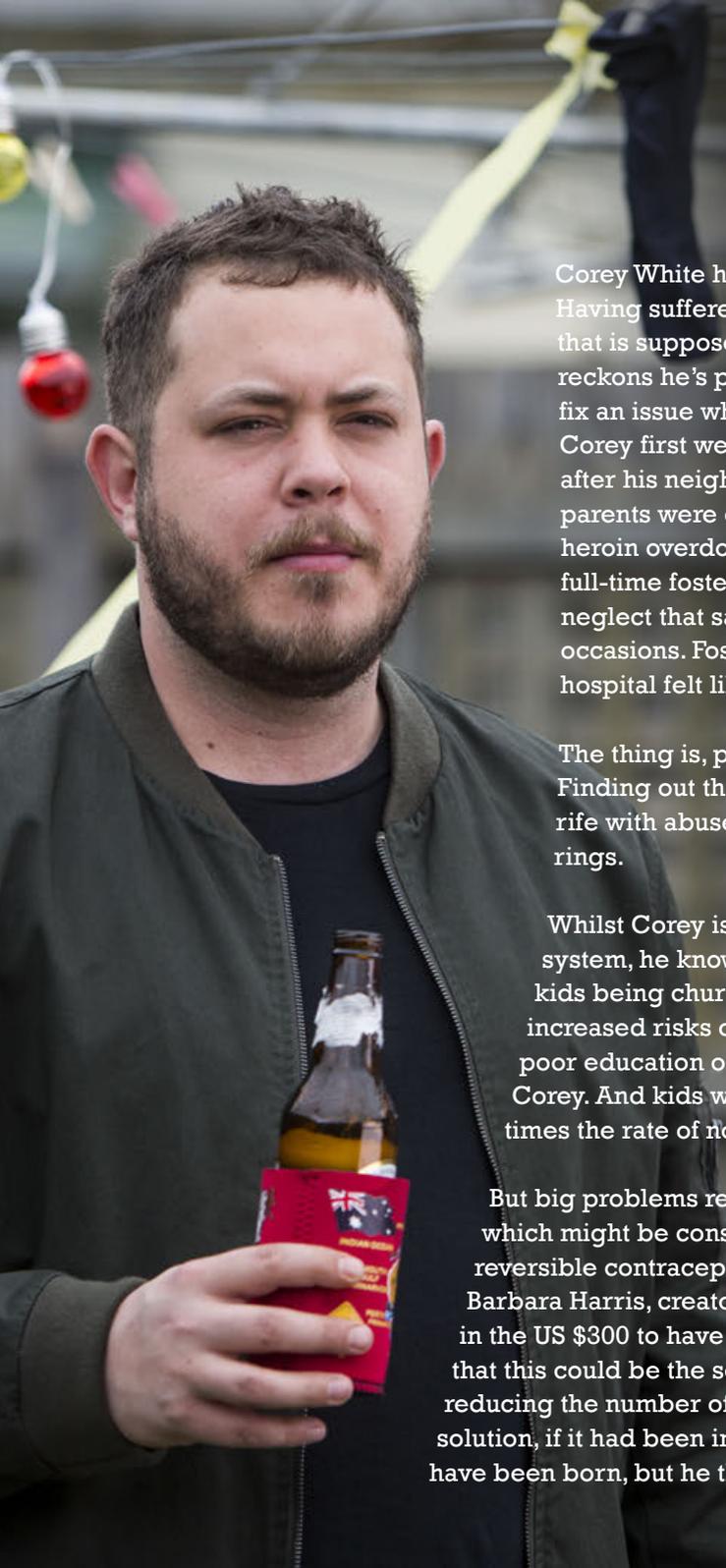
## EPISODE FOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TX MAY 23

As a child, Corey experienced domestic violence and watched his mother suffer at the hands of his father. He has seen and felt the physical and mental pain that domestic violence causes in both his family and foster homes. In this episode Corey looks at how current policy, with its focus on gender inequality and the lack of attention paid to other contributing factors, is failing in the fight against domestic violence.

Over the last few decades, the government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on domestic violence prevention efforts. But the problem hasn't gone away. Corey explains The Duluth Model which is the basis of these programs. This is, very simply, a theory that domestic violence is caused by patriarchal forces more than anything else. But Corey asks, what if it's not the whole picture?

Corey speaks to Walkley Award-winning journalist Gay Alcorn about The Duluth Model, who questions whether other individual causative factors are being downplayed. He also talks to author Dr Felicity Zulueta in the UK about the correlation between childhood trauma and adult violence; a situation which often sees victims become perpetrators. Finally, he talks to a former perpetrator of domestic violence about what would have helped him to be a better man.

Reflecting on his own experiences and the people he has spoken to, Corey proposes that to combat a vicious cycle of victims becoming perpetrators, free counselling that focuses on trauma, and other 'individual' issues like drugs and alcohol as contributing causes of domestic violence alongside gender inequality, should be given to people who have experienced domestic violence and those who have perpetrated it. It sounds like a simple solution, but Corey believes it could have helped his family. So why not give it a try?



## EPISODE FIVE FOSTER CARE TX MAY 30

Corey White has experienced the absolute worst of foster care. Having suffered physical, mental and sexual abuse in a system that is supposed to protect children who need it the most, Corey reckons he's pretty well placed to share some ideas on how to fix an issue which often feels forgotten.

Corey first went into foster care when he was just 8-months-old after his neighbours discovered he'd been left alone whilst his parents were out on a drug bender. After his mum died of a heroin overdose when he was 10, Corey was placed into full-time foster care where he suffered the kind of abuse and neglect that saw him end up in psychiatric hospitals on multiple occasions. Foster care was so bad, being in a psychiatric hospital felt like staying in a fancy Air bnb.

The thing is, people have no idea that foster care is this bad. Finding out the system that is supposed to protect children is rife with abuse is like discovering the RSPCA runs dogfighting rings.

Whilst Corey is now considered a success story of the foster care system, he knows he's a bit f\*\*\*\*\* up. There are currently 43,000 kids being churned around the foster care system, with vastly increased risks of homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse, poor education outcomes, imprisonment and suicide. It worries Corey. And kids with indigenous blood, like Corey, are in care 10 times the rate of non-indigenous kids.

But big problems require big solutions, and Corey has a solution which might be considered controversial; cash incentives for reversible contraceptive implants for drug addicts. After a yarn with Barbara Harris, creator of Project Prevention, which pays drug addicts in the US \$300 to have 5-10-year contraceptive implants, Corey reckons that this could be the solution. Addressing the issue at its source – and reducing the number of kids headed into the system. Corey knows his solution, if it had been implemented 30 years ago, would mean he never have been born, but he thinks it would still be worth it.

## EPISODE SIX AUSTRALIA DAY TX JUNE 6

For many Australians, Australia Day involves getting pissed with their mates at a backyard BBQ whilst eating sausage sandwiches and listening to songs from the previous year that they're ready to move on from. But for others, January 26 is a day of mourning.

The growing debate around the day we celebrate our national day has reached a climax. Triple j's Hottest 100 recently disassociated the iconic Australian countdown from Australia Day and in 2017, three local councils angered the Federal Government by voting to stop referring to January 26 as Australia Day.

As someone with indigenous blood, Corey is unsure of where he stands. This episode, he sets out to speak with people who have different takes on the 'change the date' campaign to understand why it's so dividing, and to try to make up his own mind.

Corey speaks to actress and activist Shareena Clanton, Luke Pearson from Indigenous X and Michael Higgins from NSW Aboriginal Legal Service about the complex ideas that surround changing the date of Australia Day. He also takes to the streets to ask members of the public on why they are for or against this cause.

During his quest to find a solution, Corey decides that the entire debate is a sideshow to a much bigger structural dysfunction that Indigenous Australians face every day. Unsure of what his solution to the problem is, Corey is certain on one thing he's learned during his eye and heart-opening journey. That is, that as a nation, Australia must listen to the trauma of our Indigenous community and outline concrete physical systems and processes to help reduce further suffering. And for those worried about the impending fate of Australia Day BBQs, who says that eating sausage sandwiches and listening to worn-out songs need to be restricted to just one day?

## EPISODE SEVEN TERRORISM TX JUNE 13

Every week Corey is losing sleep because he's anxious about a new problem. He considers himself one of anxiety's best customers. Given that he can't figure out how to stop his worrying, he spends a lot of time thinking up new ways to make himself more secure. So this episode, Corey goes searching for a way to make it impossible for terrorists to get to him.

Corey's younger and more naïve self once toyed with the idea of committing an assassination to protest the Australian Government's asylum seeker policy. But he's not a complete idiot so he never went through with it. But he understands that terrorists are often motivated by genuine beliefs and that communities will probably always have to deal with their dangerous acts.

Corey highlights the two major schools of thought. The first is to respond to attacks with love, which seems to involve holding signs of compassion and changing Facebook avatars. Whilst Corey is in favour of love, he doesn't believe hashtags really stop bombs. The second course of action is control. As the 'War on Terror' has continued, the anti-terror laws in Australia have been amplified in the name of security, and privacy seems to have been pulverised, which isn't great either.

One of Australia's best-known philosophers Tony Coady, enlightens Corey on the history of terrorism, carried out by people from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds. He says that these days people get quite confused about what it really is.

So, Corey proposes a solution to terrorism; don't try to stop it! (Wait, that's only the first half.) Rather, let's protect ourselves with high tech defensive clothing and body armour! Corey chats with defence and anti-terror expert Mike Brookes-Jones about what protective gear is on offer, only to find the options that are currently available would make him resemble some sort of demonic bee-keeping astronaut. Perhaps Corey might just have to accept his vulnerability and get on with his life?

## EPISODE EIGHT ENVIRONMENTALISM TX JUNE 20

Corey is no greenie but admits that people like him are under threat from people like him; those who look at record levels of ocean pollution, astronomical levels of waste, toxic air and predicted water shortages and shrug. Most people seem unmoved by the fact some little luxuries are about to become a lot harder to get thanks to society's disregard for the planet. But who are people supposed to rely on to save the environment?

Each year 400,000 people volunteer for environmental charities. But Corey isn't convinced that 'feel good environmentalism' and reusable coffee cups are enough to fix the problem. He talks to Kristin Alford from the CSIRO about just how bad it is. Corey highlights how in any given year, religious organisations, in return for the work they do, cost Australia more than 20 billion dollars in lost tax revenue. What if the same courtesy was extended to environmental technology, and saving the planet became a religion?

Convinced that this is the answer, Corey reckons that tax breaks for green-techs and environmental entrepreneurs could be just what our planet needs, to not only stop, but undo the damage!

He imagines the possibilities if people like Elon Musk had financial incentives to help save our planet and talks with Anna Skarbek from Climate Work about whether this plan could work here. And it can! Capitalism and technology, greed and laziness have ruined the environment and now Corey proposes we weaponise those same things to fix it!



## EPISODE NINE GAMBLING TX JUNE 27

Corey White is not averse to a punt here and there. In fact, he loves it. He bets on everything from AFL grand finals to elections to netball games in Papua New Guinea. Whilst he says he's not naïve to its dark side, Corey reckons that most gambling is just a "bit of harmless fun" and that he personally doesn't have a problem.

His dad was a gambling addict who would regularly lose the family's money to leave them eating 2-minute noodles for weeks at a time. From a young age, Corey decided he wasn't going to be like his dad, some dead-shit gambler. He was going to be a great gambler!

Determined to prove just how great he is, and that middle-class 'wowsers' should get off their anti-gambling high horse, in this experimental episode Corey bets Tim Costello, renowned anti-gambling advocate, that he can gamble \$800 of his own money - the amount, per capita, each Australian loses to gambling per year - and give the profits to an anti-gambling charity of Tim's choice— that is, if he makes a profit at all.

Will Corey prove that there is such thing as a 'good gambler' or will he walk away with empty pockets and his tail between his legs as he accepts the risky and harmful nature of gambling?

## EPISODE TEN THE WAR ON DRUGS TX JULY 4

As an ex-ice addict and someone whose mum died of a heroin overdose when he was 10-years-old, you could say Corey has had some experience with drugs. Just like every other 'War on' something, Corey reckons the 'War on Drugs' has been a total failure and that all it has achieved is higher drug prices, more crime, wildly unregulated substance production, and prisons jammed full of non-violent offenders. Most importantly, Corey reckons the 'War on Drugs' hasn't done anything to actually stop people from using drugs.

Since the 80s, hard-hitting anti-drug campaigns have been on TV screens. Take it from someone who knows, it wasn't the Stoner Sloth which eventually drove Corey away from drugs, it was his experience of choking on a potato gem and nearly dying while high that did the trick. But that's another story.

Reflecting on his own experiences, Corey explains why expecting people to "just say no" isn't much of a plan. He reckons there should be more of a "just say yes, but..." approach. In fact, he thinks that most of the reasons people say drugs should be illegal are just the unintended consequences of drugs being illegal.

So, what's Corey solution? He proposes that decriminalising drugs could help to fight the 'War on Drugs' and turns to a country which has given this policy a crack for some inspiration, Portugal. Corey chats with journalist Catarina Fernandes Martins about how her country has been affected by the relaxed drug laws. Catarina shares how despite predictions of a huge increase in drug use, it didn't happen, and voluntary enrolment in harm reduction therapy rose. Corey then talks to Professor David Nutt of the Imperial College London whose world leading research into safe alternatives has caused a lot of trouble. They discuss the prospect of the 'perfect drug'; one that promises euphoria which is created in a safe environment without the scary side effects.

Sure, there might be some downsides to decriminalisation, but Corey is ready to cast those doubts aside and suggests Australia gives this a go.







## **COREY WHITE BIO: HOST, SERIES CREATOR & WRITER**

There are few voices in comedy as unique and potent as Corey White.

In 2014, Corey performed his debut stand up show *The Cane Toad Effect* – a staggeringly personal story of his experience growing up in foster care, surviving domestic violence, recovering from drug addiction and dealing with mental illness. He handled this material with a deftness and humour that far exceeded his experience, garnering critical praise and winning Best Show at the 2014 Sydney Fringe and Best Newcomer Award at the 2015 Melbourne International Comedy Festival and Sydney Comedy Festival.

He was later profiled on ABC TV's *Australian Story*, shining a light on his and his sister's experience growing up in the foster care system and the path that took him all the way to the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe. In late 2016 he was selected to have his show recorded as part of the ABC Next Gen comedy series.

Now with his own series *Corey White's Roadmap to Paradise*, created by Corey for the ABC, he will finally solve all the world's problems while continuing to advocate for change for kids stuck in our dysfunctional foster care system.

He is also very funny.



## MADELEINE PARRY BIO: DIRECTOR

Madeleine crafts nuanced narratives that cut-through.

With experience working in difficult access, with unique talent and with taboo topics, Madeleine has worked across comedy, documentary and factual. Behind the camera she's written, directed and produced content for the ABC, SBS, Google and Netflix, she's hosted and directed confronting immersive and observational documentary series 'The Maddie Parry Series', and recently directed a 10-part sketch comedy/documentary series for the ABC, 'Corey White's Roadmap To Paradise' and the first Australian Netflix Original Comedy Special, 'Nanette'.

Her documentaries have been nominated for and won Best Direction awards from the Australian Director's Guild (ADG) and had award winning screenings at international festivals.



## **PAUL HORAN BIO: SERIES PRODUCER**

Paul has worked as a producer and writer in live theatre, comedy and television for over twenty-five years.

After being head writer on Rove in 2000, he has divided his time between narrative comedy and factual TV that uses comedy to sharpen its storytelling. On the narrative side he was series producer on Real Stories for Hamish and Andy, Problems with Sam Simmons and Ronny Chieng as well as a range of projects in New Zealand including both series of Super City. In factual, he helped originate and was the first series producer of Network 10's The Project, was senior producer on the first season of The Weekly with Charlie Pickering and he helmed the Story Hunters project for ABC News.

He is currently working on a Netflix series and consulting to Taika Waititi's Piki Productions.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (MADELEINE PARRY):

Corey White's Roadmap To Paradise is inappropriately named as we didn't have a roadmap for this show. It had a rich, potent seed as its heart, and a touch of beautiful chaos that can lead to brilliance. It's funny, unique and insightful.

My role as director was to assist Corey's voice to reach his audience. I was working with a man with no runs on the board in TV but it was so important that his voice reach the world in its raw, honest form. This series is an opportunity for a man who has come from severe disadvantage to tell his own story, in his own voice. I was there to direct the show, so the question was: 'how do I use my experience to add layers and texture to Corey's voice, and not get in the way?'

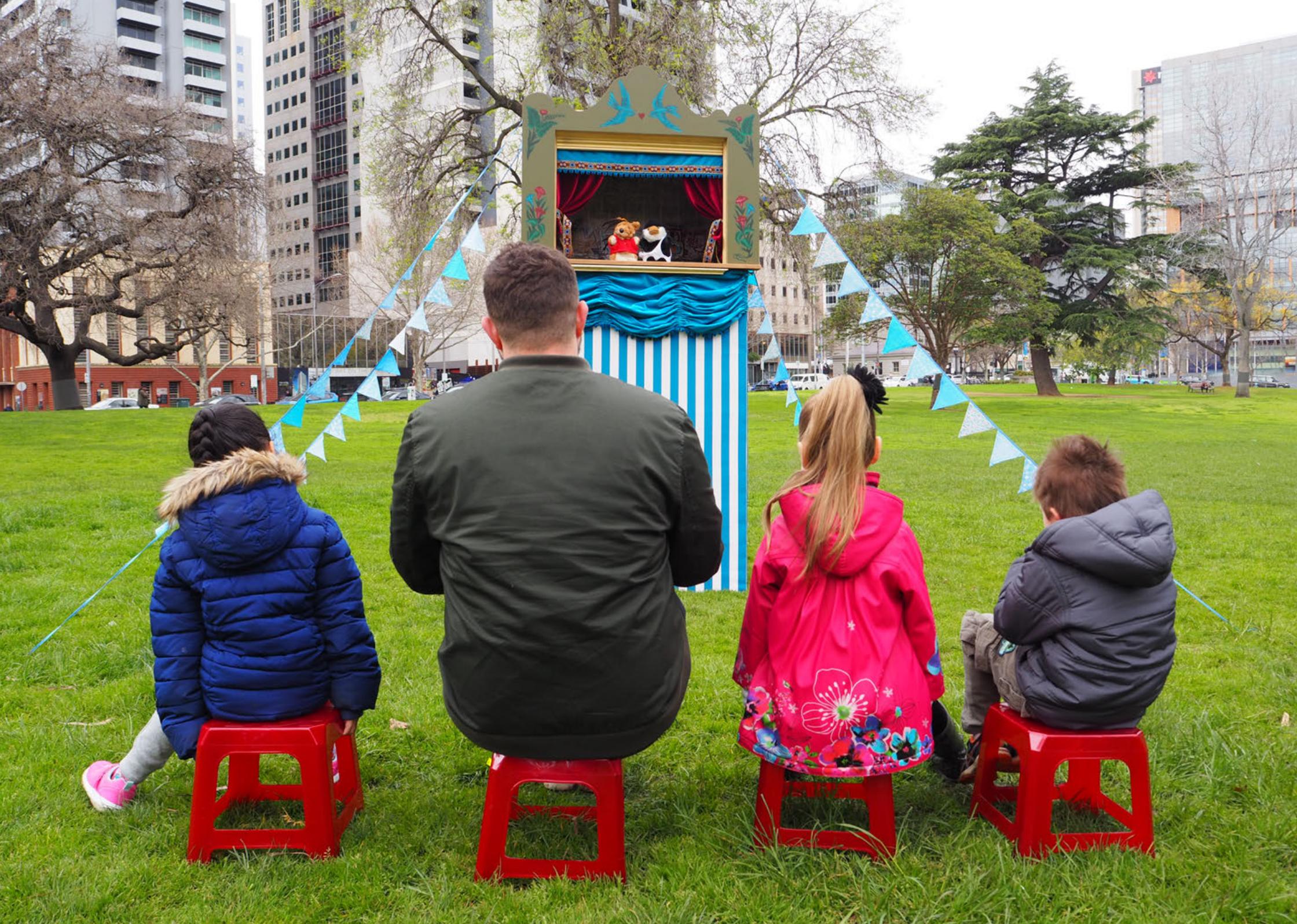
Luckily for Corey, I hosted my own personal documentary series in 2015 and have first hand experience of how it feels to have your opinions broadcast to a nation on TV, so I could empathise with Corey's fears and concerns throughout the process. This was crucial in such a personal comedy-documentary series, as at times Corey went to very vulnerable places.

The series is as complex as Corey, the ten scripts varied dramatically in topic and tone, and the episodes are the same.

The variety in the show can be seen in the soundtrack. We've got a Brazillian Bossa Nova track composed for the Foster Care episode (I heard Bossa Nova on the radio whilst driving one and thought 'Wow, this is the music that can express the sadness of foster care in a way that is beautiful but doesn't deny the raw pain of the situation') whilst Melbourne based punk rockers These New South Whales and Perth artist Peter Bibby provided a devil-may-care soundtrack for our impending doom in the Capitalism episode. And Corey's fury about housing inequality in Australia is expressed through the barely contained rage of a repressed housewife with cinematic classical piano composed by Melbourne musician Sam Boon.

Balancing comedy sketches, interviews with experts and Corey's raw monologues wasn't as hard as it might sound, it was natural to Corey; raw and nuanced. It was an honour and privilege to direct this series.





# COREY WHITE'S ROADMAP »—TO— PARADISE

Corey White's Roadmap to Paradise is a Guesswork Television Production,  
filmed in association with Fulcrum Media Finance.

Created and written by Corey White  
Director Madeleine Parry  
Series Producer Paul Horan  
Executive Producer Kevin Whyte  
ABC Executive Producer Kelrick Martin

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