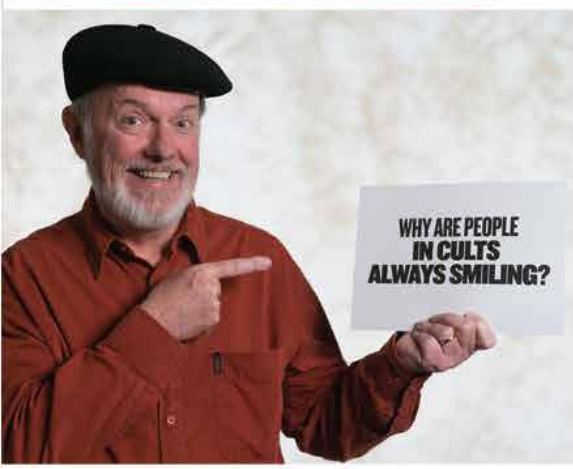


DO YOU WANT TO **KILL ME?**
AREN'T YOU JUST A **FAME WHORE?**
WHERE DO YOU **HIDE YOUR DICK?**
WHAT'S IT LIKE WATCHING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE GET **POUNDED?**
HOW **MUCH** DID YOU **LIE?**
WHAT **BATSHIT CRAZY** THINGS DID THEY MAKE YOU DO?
HAS IT **COMPLETELY RUINED** YOUR LIFE?

**YOU CAN'T
ASK THAT**





YOU CAN'T ASK THAT

SERIES THREE

**STARTS WEDNESDAY 11 JULY AT 9PM ON ABC
OR WATCH ALL EPISODES ON ABC IVIEW**

You Can't Ask That, a proudly homegrown ABC original format, puts misunderstood and marginalised Australians front and centre. The series confronts prejudice and discrimination by offering searing insights into the lives of diverse Australians who live in judgement. By asking only the hard questions and allowing interviewees to answer in their own words with conviction, candidness, fervour and humour, the series adds new voices and fresh perspectives to subjects often dismissed.

Rarely in Australian public life are the voices of the people at the centre of our public debates actually heard. The majority of media still tends to rely on celebrities and social commentators, experts and professionals, academics and industry mouthpieces. *You Can't Ask That* does the opposite, going straight to the source and giving only those with the lived experiences the opportunity to talk. The series shifts the typical interviewer/interviewee power dynamic by putting the authority back into the hands of the interviewees. The questions are blunt, the answers surprising.

You Can't Ask That will be one of the most diverse programs on Australian television in 2018, featuring the first-person voices of **former cult members, priests, swingers, people with schizophrenia, drag performers, survivors of sexual assault, people with eating disorders and ex-reality TV stars.** The series shines a light into all corners of Australian culture and identity, uncovering unique perspectives rarely heard with such honesty or clarity.

Guests in the series include: drag queen superstar, Courtney Act; Bunbury's bum-dancing former Big Brother contestant, Sara-Marie Fedele; Anglican Church whistleblower, Reverend Roger Dyer; child sexual abuse survivor and advocate, Dr Stuart Kidd; former Geelong AFL player who now lives with schizophrenia, James McLure; and Liz Chapman who has lived with anorexia nervosa for over 40 years.

In 2017 *You Can't Ask That* was recognised globally winning the European Broadcast Union's prestigious Rose d'Or award for Best Reality and Factual Entertainment Program. The appeal of this ABC original format has resulted in six international versions of the show already broadcast or in production globally. Options have been signed for a further 10 territories worldwide, a testament to the power and flexibility of the format, making it on-track to becoming the ABC's most successful format ever.

Closer to home the series won three United Nations Association of Australia Media Awards for Promotion of Social Cohesion, Promotion of Disability Rights and Issues and for the Promotion of Empowerment of Older People. The series is nominated for the 2018 Logie Award for the Most Outstanding Factual or Documentary Program.

You Can't Ask That was the most played (non-kids) program on ABC iView in 2017. Short video content complementing the series reached over 200 million people on Facebook, with one online video achieving an unprecedented 45 million views making it the most viewed social media video published by an ABC TV account ever.

In every episode of *You Can't Ask That* the audience witnesses subjects, stories, people and perspectives that traditional television avoids or shies away from. The show's guests candidly share their insights and experiences to illuminate the complexities of Australian life in 2018. In a world dominated by judgement, debate, ignorance and innuendo their voices cut through unlike any others.

Production Credits:

An ABC Production.
Series Produced and Directed by
Kirk Docker and **Aaron Smith**
ABC Executive Producer Lou Porter.

For further information contact:

Bridget Stenhouse, ABC Publicity
(02) 8333 3847
e: stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au

AWARDS, TESTIMONIALS AND REVIEWS FROM SERIES 1 & 2

AWARDS

WINNER

Rose d'Or Award, 2017
Best Factual Entertainment & Reality Program

WINNER

United Nations Association of Australia Media Award, 2017
Promotion of Social Cohesion

WINNER

United Nations Association of Australia Media Award, 2017
Promotion of Disability Rights and Issues

WINNER

United Nations Association of Australia Media Award, 2017
Promotion of Empowerment of Older People

NOMINEE

United Nations Association of Australia Media Award, 2016
Promotion of Social Cohesion Award

NOMINEE

United Nations Association of Australia Media Award, 2016
Promotion of Disability Rights and Issues

NOMINEE

Logie Award, 2018
Most Outstanding Factual or Documentary Program

TESTIMONIALS

"We congratulate the ABC and the You Can't Ask That teams for the deeply authentic and respectful way they have shared the stories of people who have attempted suicide. We need TV of this quality to reduce the stigma around suicide and inspire more people to seek help when they feel life is no longer worth living. At SANE Australia, we have witnessed firsthand how much interest and hope this project has generated. We salute everyone involved in the production, most especially the inspiring people who have shared their stories. Thank you all."

Jack Heath - Chief Executive Officer, SANE Australia

"It is incredibly moving and it contains material that most people would never have heard — every health professional will be helped by hearing this honest and inspiring testimony. Thanks to the ABC for groundbreaking program #YouCantAskThat on suicide. Illustrates the pathway and the road back to life."

Professor Patrick McGorry AO - mental health expert

"Watching this episode of You Can't Ask That has made me feel less alone, less embarrassed, less like a failure. Please watch it. It's important. It moved me, and I hope it moves you. This episode of brilliantly made television has helped me more than you could imagine."

Rosie Waterland - author

REVIEWS

"While some programs treat diversity as a box-ticking exercise, here's one that reflects why it is so important in the first place: to reflect the breadth of human experience. If someone had told me the best Australian TV series of the last few years simply involved people reading out questions then answering them, I'd have said they were crazy. But here we are."

Luke Buckmaster - The Guardian

"Hooray for this sublime factual series. You Can't Ask That brings the pleasure of having a civilised, intelligent conversation with someone you wouldn't ordinarily meet and provides the kind of exchange of ideas the world could use a lot more of."

Melinda Houston - The Sydney Morning Herald

"At the most basic level, the show won me over because it's been done extremely well. It ends up being extremely genuine and heartfelt: real people, sitting with friends, families or lovers, having real conversations about the realities of their lives. From these conversations, we can actually learn a lot."

Simon Copland - The Guardian

"While its aim as a documentary series is worthy and sober, it is also witty and amusing and, on occasions, laugh-out-loud funny. Surely few other doco series engage with the complexity, density and contradictions of those living with disadvantage."

Graham Blundell - The Weekend Australian



SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



**WHAT WERE YOU WEARING?
WERE YOU DRUNK?
DID YOU LEAD THEM ON?**

**YOU CAN'T PROVE IT.
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?**

DO YOU HATE SEX NOW?

**DO YOU DREAM OF
YOUR ATTACKER DYING
A HORRIBLE DEATH?**

**HAS IT COMPLETELY RUINED
YOUR LIFE?**

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

**EPI: WEDNESDAY 11 JULY, 9PM
ON ABC & IVIEW**

In the opening episode of *You Can't Ask That*, eight women and men tell their deeply personal stories of sexual assault — sharing what happened, how people reacted, whether or not they got justice and what they did to recover. Empowering and affirming, the unique format of *You Can't Ask That* adds surprising, new and accessible perspectives into the conversations already occurring worldwide. These are voices you need to hear — voices and insights you won't hear anywhere else.

Answering the first question of the episode, 'How did you get yourself into that situation?', Nicole refutes the assumption that it was somehow her fault — **"I was married and I was in my own home, in my own bed. That's how I got myself into that situation. People think that when you're raped it's a stranger. It's more common that it's someone that you know"**. She discusses the complexity of her situation, living with a physical disability while married to her abusive husband for over 10 years. **"It's hard to believe that somebody that you cared about, somebody that you loved and trusted would do that to you. My husband was my carer as well, so simply just getting up and leaving wasn't really a feasible option."**

Asked if she actually said "no" at the time of the assault, Jana says, **"I think it's an important question because I didn't say 'no'. But I didn't say 'yes'. I was asleep. I woke up and it was all happening. I was in shock"**. Jana reflects on the scenario, common to many but rarely discussed openly, **"In the years following, I did a lot of reading and research into other people's assaults and their stories and it became abundantly clear that it wasn't my fault. It was never my fault."**

"When the police came around to tell me that they'd caught him I was just so relieved. I actually thought he was going to find me and kill me" explains Faith of Northern NSW, a victim of a late-night violent attack from a stranger. Unlike the vast majority of sexual assaults occurring in Australia, her's resulted in a conviction and lengthy prison sentence for the perpetrator. **"He went to jail for a long time. And he's still in custody. He is paying the price. He continues to pay the price and I believe that he will continue to pay the price forever"**. Years on from the attack, Faith reflects, **"In my higher moments I feel sorry for him. I forgive him because my life is so much more than what he did to me."**

"It's completely ruined my life," explains Dr Stuart Kidd, a victim of sustained childhood sexual abuse. **"It's a very, very slow journey — I have gone from psychiatrist to psychiatrist, from psychologist to psychologist, from support group to support group, desperately trying to find what the path to healing is. I was strong, and I am strong. I just hope that I can stay alive long enough to come through the other side somehow, eventually."**

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Statistics about sexual assault

source: CASA http://www.casa.org.au/casa_pdf.php?document=statistics

-17% of women and 4% of men experienced sexual assault since the age of 15 (Australian Bureau of Statistics - Personal Safety Survey, 2012)

-93% of offenders are male (Australian Bureau of Statistics - Recorded Crime - Offenders, 2013-14)

-1 in 6 reports to Police of rape and less than 1 in 7 reports of incest or sexual penetration of a child result in prosecution (Sexual Offences: Law & Procedure Final Report, Victorian Law Reform Commission, 2004)

-Only 17% of reported sexual offences result in a conviction, a figure consistent with data from other States and overseas. (Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission, 2003)

Sexual assault and disability

Source: <http://youth.wwda.org.au/10-facts-violence-against-women-girls-disabilities/>

-More than 70% of women with disabilities have been victims of violent sexual encounters at some time in their lives.

http://wwda.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/WWDA_Sub_NDS_Review2014.pdf

-90% of Australian women with an intellectual disability have been subjected to sexual abuse. More than two-thirds (68%) having been sexually abused before they turn 18 years of age.

<http://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/family-violence-national-legal-response-alrc-report-114>

Assistance, additional information and resources can be found here:

<http://www.rape-dvservices.org.au/>

www.1800respect.org.au

<https://www.blueknot.org.au/>

<https://www.samsn.org.au/>

<http://www.casa.org.au>

**EX-REALITY
TV STARS**

**ARE YOU A
FAME WHORE?**



WHY THE F*CK WOULD YOU GO ON REALITY TV?

HOW DID THE PRODUCERS MANIPULATE YOU?

DID YOU CASH IN AFTERWARDS?

WHEN DID YOU CRASH BACK DOWN TO EARTH?

HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO WASH OFF THE STINK OF REALITY TV?

Featuring:

Sara-Marie Fedele (*Big Brother*, 2001)

Rob Mills (*Australian Idol*, 2003)

Mick Donaher (*Sylvania Waters*, 1992)

Benjamin Norris (*Big Brother*, 2012)

Lauren Finelli (*My Kitchen Rules*, 2016)

Ryan Jones (*The Bachelorette*, 2017)

Sheridan Wright (*The Biggest Loser*, 2008)

Kate Gladman (*Big Brother*, 2007)

EX-REALITY TV STARS

EP2: WEDNESDAY 18 JULY, 9PM ON ABC & IVIEW

Is the idea of fame and fortune all it's cracked up to be? Eight ex-reality TV Stars tell all about what's it's like jump head first into the world of reality TV and come out the other side. We think we know these people, but never before have they spoken about their experience with such honesty, reflection and awareness. This is the real reality of reality TV.

"I just wanted to have some notoriety and I wanted people to love me," explains Benjamin Norris, winner of *Big Brother* series 9, when asked why anyone would go on reality TV. **"I have a theory — everyone that does reality TV shows in Australia were the kids that weren't really liked at school. I think reality television, in a way, gives you this opportunity to say to those people 'here I am and I've done so well for myself' ".** Ben walked away with \$250,000 prize money, a \$50,000 car and new-found fame but the glory was short-lived, **"I was cut down in one instant. I'd won the show and a producer turned around and said 'for as many people in Australia that like you, they also hate you'."**

Sheridan Wright talks about why she thought competing on *The Biggest Loser* would be her magic bullet, **"I had a very romanticised view of reality TV when I applied. I saw it as something that would solve a lot of problems that, in fact, I had no right to ask them to solve".** Losing weight on a television show wasn't the fix she'd hoped for, **"I thought that I would finish the show and I would be this slim, reasonable attractive girl and that I would find this amazing new path and everything would be sunny. I didn't realise that when you finish you still have the same brain and the same issues and that's actually your responsibility to fix."**

Like many reality TV contestants Lauren Finelli thought her reality TV experience might result in fame and fortune, **"I was hoping that being on 'Australia's highest rating show' would have brought along some opportunities to move**

into a media career. I thought so many opportunities would come out of it. I thought we would get the backing of brands, I thought we could do food tours, a line of pasta". Portrayed as a villain on *My Kitchen Rules*, she explains crashing back down to earth once the cameras stopped rolling, **"It wasn't until afterwards you realise how bad you look — that's the moment where you just go 'wow, it's not what I thought it would be' ".** Labelled in headlines as the most hated person in Australia she says the fall-out was hard to take, **"It was devastating."**

Asked how he was manipulated on Sophie Monk's season of *The Bachelorette*, Ryan Jones says, **"The producers made me feel comfortable and trusting — how naive of me to think that somebody had my best interests at heart. They get so much footage that they can do whatever they what with you".** Once the show was edited and millions of people were watching, Ryan says the audience's reaction to him **"was hate, hate, hate, hate — 'Australia's most hated man' — 'The most punchable face' — 'This guy is a creep' — 'This guy is a serial killer' ".** Almost a year on from the experience, Ryan reflects, **"I don't want to be known as the villain from The Bachelorette. I want to do bigger and better things with my life."**

For Rob Mills, coming third in the first series of *Australian Idol* helped launch a career as a musician and performer. But at the time overnight fame wasn't easy as a 21-year-old, **"I don't think I had an idea of who I was. And everyone else now had an idea of who I was. That was terrifying".** He recalls what what happened once the cameras stopped rolling, **"The first weekend I was off the show I was mobbed on the street. They just wanted a piece. I remember just being pulled left, right and centre. There's nothing nice about that. I had a massive panic attack, a huge anxiety attack."**

Asked if she's been able to wash off the stink of reality TV, *Big Brother's* Sara-Marie Fedele laughs, **"Obviously not, because I'm sitting here, 17 years later".** Known for the bum-dance and bunny ears she still gets stopped in the street by people slapping their bums — **"I appreciate that but I turn 40 next year. I'm not a performing seal".** Despite the sometimes unwanted attention, she hasn't shied away from TV altogether, **"I've done Dancing With The Stars, Celebrity Big Brother, Big Brother. I'd do I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here — the only reason is I love eating competitions, so I'd want to be the hero that eats everything for the whole team."**



**FORMER CULT
MEMBERS**

**WHY ARE PEOPLE
IN CULTS
ALWAYS SMILING?**



HOW COULD YOU BE STUPID ENOUGH TO END UP IN A CULT?

WAS YOUR CULT LEADER A WACK JOB?

WERE YOU FORCED TO DO SEX STUFF WITH SOME UGLY WEIRDO?

WHAT BATSHIT CRAZY THINGS WERE YOU MADE TO DO?

HOW DID YOU ESCAPE?

FORMER CULT MEMBERS

EP3: WEDNESDAY 25 JULY, 9PM ON ABC & IVIEW

Hidden from society, with secret rituals, rules and beliefs, the reality of life inside a cult is something most people have never witnessed first-hand. This episode of *You Can't Ask That* gives an unprecedented glimpse into the complex lives of eight Australian former cult members — how they joined, what they were subjected to on the inside, and how they ultimately escaped.

Asked how he could you be stupid to end up in a cult, David Ayliffe from Melbourne reflects, **"I've asked myself that question many times. The important thing to realise is that no-one joins a cult"**. David initially joined a Christian ministry in the 1970's after witnessing its practices, **"I came across this group that was practising deliverance and healing exorcisms. I saw this woman who seemed to have incredible gifts that I couldn't understand. She initially thought she had the stigmata... then she claimed to be God"**. As the group evolved around him, from ministry to cult, David chose to turn his back on society, living largely in isolation for 16 years.

Describing the decades-long culture of sexual abuse in the cult he was a member of, Gunther of Perth says, **"I was sexually abused by the cult leader for over 20 years. It started at the age of 12. I was not wanting to displease God because he was, for me, the channel of God. He also broke a lot of other people in the same organisation. If you were male and good looking, you were prey."**

After growing up closed off from civilisation from the age of 18 months, the prism through which Ben Shenton understood the world changed forever when his cult came to an abrupt end, **"Suddenly the police turned up. In my mind these people were removing me — I fought to stay. At age 15, suddenly Mum is not Mum, Dad is not Dad — that's a lie. The Police aren't evil — they're actually there to help me. It's not reincarnation — there isn't a Master. Suddenly everything I've taken as truth is a lie."** As police raided the cult, rescuing a number of children, Ben said at the time, **"This is the end of a chapter. A new page has turned. I'm free."**

For Alecia Buchanan, things ended very differently. **"I have to say, it's highly possible I'd still be there today if the place hadn't collapsed around me. I guess brainwashing is like that - you don't just snap out of it"** she reflects. **"The leader became worse and worse and started rambling like a mad-man. Eventually, one by one, people started to leave. It was incredibly de-stabilising. It was like having the rug pulled out. There was no spiritual leader anymore, there was no home anymore, there was no community. So I just picked up my bags and went to university."**

Information and support for people affected by cults and cultic relationships can be found at:

Cult Information and Family Support Inc.
<http://www.cifs.org.au>

EATING DISORDERS

WHY COULDN'T YOU
JUST **EAT** A
FUCKING SANDWICH
OR TWO?



**YOU LOOK FINE — WHAT'S
WRONG WITH YOU?**

**WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST EAT A
F*CKING SANDWICH OR TWO?**

**ISN'T IT A SPOILED RICH
GIRL'S PROBLEM?**

HOW DID IT SCREW YOUR BODY?

**WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU
LOOK IN THE MIRROR?**

With almost a million Australians currently living with an Eating Disorder, this is a subject that affects many but is still largely misunderstood. This episode of *You Can't Ask That* puts a human face to eating disorders — including Binge Eating Disorder, Bulimia Nervosa, Anorexia Nervosa and Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder — busting myths and stereotypes about mental illness, body image, diet and recovery.

EATING DISORDERS

EP4: WED 1 AUGUST, 9PM ON ABC & IVIEW

When asked “You look fine — what’s wrong with you?” Kate sighs, **“I’ve had doctors say that to me! It’s really hard not to punch them!”**. She explains that living with an eating disorder, **“You can look perfectly fine, but behind that there is so much going on in your head. It’s a mental illness”**. Diagnosed with Anorexia as a teenager, the eating disorder had serious consequences, **“I was calorie counting, cutting back as much as possible, hiding food, pretending that I’d eaten. Anorexia for me was starvation — to the point of nearly dying”**.

Tegan Simmonds from Perth explains that the most common of all eating disorders is still largely misunderstood in Australia, **“I always recognised that there was an issue, but I didn’t even know that Binge Eating Disorder was a thing — I knew about Anorexia and Bulimia, but I’d never heard about Binge Eating Disorder”**. She describes how the disorder impacted her life, **“It’s complete loss of control, in the sense that you’ve already eaten three meals that day but still needing to eat food and doing so in an uncontrollable manner. I’ve literally thrown food away into the bin, then picked it out of the bin to eat it.”**

“So much of my life was lying” says Samara, **“I did so many insane things to try to be normal”**. Diagnosed with Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder, for 20 years she only ate boiled carrots, boiled beans, white pasta, rice, apples and only drank apple juice, never water. **“Lots of people have fussiness and phobias. For me my phobia was food. I had all these excuses where I’d joke about being on a diet, I would say I’m a vegetarian, I would say I’m lactose intolerant just to prevent people from trying to give food to me”**.

Asked “What do you see when you look in the mirror?”, Liam Manning from Dubbo NSW explains that his internal thoughts and perceptions often don’t match the external reality, **“You’re definitely not seeing what’s being reflected. You can be a bone bag, and you will see a balloon. You’re seeing completely different things. That’s why it’s called Body Dysmorphia — it’s making it all jumbled up in your brain”**.

“I was dreading this one” says Liz Chapman when asked “How did it screw your body?”. Living with Anorexia Nervosa for over 40 years, she has endured adverse health conditions as a result of her disorder, **“I have severe osteoporosis. My calcium is so low the body leaches calcium from wherever it can. I’ll be 57 next month — I just hope I don’t end up in a wheelchair because of the osteoporosis”**. At her lowest, Liz’s health deteriorated to the point of hospitalisation, **“I started having seizures and I ended up in Intensive Care. The specialist said to my husband ‘We can’t resuscitate her because if we try we’ll break all of her ribs and we could pierce her heart.’ ”**

EATING DISORDERS

Eating Disorder facts and statistics

Sources:

<https://www.eatingdisorders.org.au/key-research-a-statistics>

<https://thebutterflyfoundation.org.au/understand-eating-disorders/>

-Eating disorders are not a lifestyle choice or a cry for attention. Eating disorders are serious mental illness that have the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness. Many people experiencing an eating disorder suffer from depression and/or anxiety. Suicide rates for Anorexia are 32 times higher than the general population.

-Currently around 4% of the Australian population is experiencing an eating disorder. This is close to one million people. Eating disorders do not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. Eating disorders not only impact on the person experiencing the disorder, but also on their family, friends and community.

-Of these people, 47% have Binge Eating Disorder, 12% Bulimia Nervosa, 3% Anorexia Nervosa and 38% other eating disorders (Butterfly Foundation, 2012).

-Females comprise around 64% of people with an eating disorder (Butterfly Foundation, 2012).

-Approximately 15% of women will experience an eating disorder at some point during their life (Wade, 2006).

-An estimated 20% of females have an undiagnosed eating disorder (NEDC, 2012b).

-Eating disorders are the 3rd most common chronic illness in young women (Yeo & Hughes, 2011).

We recommend journalists, presenters, reviewers and media professionals familiarise themselves with Mindframe's guidelines on the reporting and portrayal of Eating Disorders before writing reviews or publishing information about this episode.

<http://www.mindframe-media.info/for-media/reporting-suicide/Downloads/?a=5140>

Additional information and resources can be found here:

<https://thebutterflyfoundation.org.au/about-us/information-and-resources/>

<https://www.eatingdisorders.org.au/eating-disorders>

<https://au.reachout.com/mental-health-issues/eating-disorders>

If you, or anyone you know is experiencing an eating disorder or body image concerns, we encourage you to reach out for support. You can call the Butterfly Foundation National Helpline on 1800 33 4673 or visit their website www.thebutterflyfoundation.org.au for more information.

SWINGERS

**WHAT'S THE
BEST SEX
YOU'VE EVER HAD?**



**WHAT WAS IT LIKE LOSING
YOUR SWINGING VIRGINITY?**

**WHAT'S IT LIKE WATCHING
THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE
GET POUNDED, AND LOVING IT?**

DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW?

**WHAT HAS BANGING
A BUNCH OF STRANGERS
TAUGHT YOU ABOUT LIFE?**

SWINGERS

**EP5: WED 8 AUGUST, 9PM
ON ABC & IVIEW**

When most people think of swinging what comes to mind is keys in a bowl, sleazy men, messy orgies and bitter jealousy. Yet for the nine swingers featured in this episode of *You Can't Ask That* those stereotypes couldn't be further from the truth. Speaking with jaw-dropping honesty and eyebrow-raising descriptions, no question is left unanswered and no detail off limits. It's a swinging romp... without the clean-up.

Asked how she initially talked her partner into swinging, Megan explains, **"If you need talking into it, you probably shouldn't be doing it"**. She describes dealing with jealousy while watching her partner have sex with someone else, **"If it's been very intimate and sensual I have felt jealous. Jealousy is a natural emotion and I think people look at it like it's a negative thing, but it's not. It shows that you really care about the person and the key to overcoming it is just good communication"**. She continues, **"Sex, for me, is so separate to love."**

The first time swinging was a big step for everyone interviewed. Mr D, from Western Australia, describes the awkwardness of his first time, **"I really had no idea whether I should watch and wait until invited, or should I just jump in balls-deep and go for it?"**. He explains that everyone new to the scene deals with performance anxiety, **"For me [it was] cock size — is he going to be bigger than me? Is she going to like that more than what I'm giving her?"**

Asked whether swingers are just seedy sex pests, Sally debunks the stereotype, **"I think the consent culture in the swinging community is stronger than anywhere else in my day to day life. It's actually very beautiful and empowering as a woman to go into this environment where consent is so crucial and so valued"**. Sally explains that she and her husband, Andrew, had a surprising twist to their wedding night, **"We got married in July and we consummated our own marriage at a swingers party."** **"Yeah, we kept the monogamy line out of our vows,"** adds her husband, Andrew.

Asked if he's ever looked at another swinger and thought "no way!", Andrew recalls having sex with someone over 40 years older than him, **"I thought 'no' she's out of my limits. Later in the night I thought, OK, I'll give it a crack. I learned so much that night — it blew my mind. Don't judge a book by its cover. It doesn't matter who it is, they've got something."**



SCHIZOPHRENIA

**DON'T YOU
BELONG IN A
PADDED CELL?**



**DID YOU SMOKE
TOO MUCH WEED?**

**WHO ARE YOUR VOICES?
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING NOW?**

**IS THE GOVERNMENT
OUT TO GET YOU?**

**WHY CAN'T YOU
JUST IGNORE IT?**

**DON'T YOU BELONG
IN A PADDED CELL?**

SCHIZOPHRENIA

**EP6: WED 15 AUGUST, 9PM
ON ABC & IVIEW**

This episode of *You Can't Ask That* takes viewers inside the minds of people living with schizophrenia. With 1 in 100 people worldwide living with a form of schizophrenia, interviewees open up about their symptoms and diagnosis, the voices in their heads, delusions, hospitalisations and treatment. Largely misunderstood, with a lot of negative stereotypes and stigmas, schizophrenia is a complex but treatable mental illness - this episode provides a platform for eight unique Australians to set the record straight about what living with schizophrenia means to them.

"I'm very deeply affected by the question of why it happened to me" explains Richard when asked if his diagnosis was a result of smoking too much weed. He explains that a diagnosis can be attributed to a variety of things, **"As with all illnesses there are genetic factors and there are environmental factors. The environmental factors that they look at are things like trauma at birth, drug taking and periods of high stress"**. He explains that one of the most negative stereotypes about schizophrenia is the idea that everyone living with it is violent, **"It's really important to understand only a very small percentage of people with schizophrenia are violent. People who suffer the illness are far more likely to be the victims of violence. Do I want to kill anyone? No. All I want for the world is peace and love"**.

Everyone interviewed talks about hearing voices in their heads, one of the symptoms of psychosis, at

some point in their lives. Sandy Jeffs describes her voices, **"A male and a female. They used to sound really crass in the way they spoke, but now in the last 10 years they've done elocution. So now my voices abuse me with a posh accent. They will tell me how evil I am, how disgusting I am, how disgusting I look, how my face is revolting, how if people touch me they will die because I will contaminate them with my oozing evil."**

"That's really funny" laughs Luana after reading the question 'Is the government out to get you?'. She explains, **"I don't think the government is out to get me, but if I was unwell and wasn't taking medication I probably could believe that"**. She recalls a time when the delusions felt real, **"I thought that normal everyday people could be working for the CIA, or spies, and they were trying to chase me down. I thought we were being experimented on in a government lab and we were going to be gassed in the hospital because I thought I could see smoke coming out of one of the air vents"**. Despite living with strong symptoms at times, Luana explains her form of schizophrenia is well managed most of the time, **"In reality, I've only had the symptoms for about six weeks in total over 37 years. I don't feel like it controls me"**.

Asked 'Don't you belong in a padded cell?', Steve Woolley looks down, **"I've been in a padded cell and it's not good"**. He recalls the archaic treatment he received decades ago in one of Melbourne's now-closed psychiatric hospitals, **"When I first became unwell they took me to Royal Park and these guys grabbed me and put me in a straightjacket and I was put in a padded cell. All I had was a pillow, a mattress and one lousy blanket and I was in my underwear. That was it. In those days they treated us like animals. It's one experience that I'm glad they've outlawed, but they still restrain people."**

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Facts and statistics about schizophrenia

Source: SANE Australia <https://www.sane.org/mental-health-and-illness/facts-and-guides/schizophrenia>

-The causes are complex: genetics, your early development, substance abuse, stressful social circumstances and trauma (particularly in childhood) can increase your chances of experiencing schizophrenia.

-It's common: worldwide, up to one in 100 people will experience schizophrenia.

-It starts young: schizophrenia most often develops between the late teens and early 30s, though it can start later, especially in women.

-Schizophrenia has nothing to do with 'multiple personalities.'

-People being treated for schizophrenia are no more likely to be violent than anyone else, but they are more likely to be the victims of violence.

-Schizophrenia can't be treated by diet, exercise, prayer or willpower alone. It requires evidence-based treatment by qualified mental health professionals.

Additional information and resources about Schizophrenia can be found here:

<https://www.sane.org/schizophrenia>

<https://headtohealth.gov.au/mental-health-difficulties/mental-health-conditions/schizophrenia-and-psychotic-disorders>

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/schizophrenia>

General support information

- Talk to a GP or health professional
- SANE Australia Helpline 1800 18 SANE (7263) www.sane.org
- beyondblue support service line 1300 22 46 36
- Black Dog Institute www.blackdoginstitute.com.au
- mindhealthconnect www.mindhealthconnect.org.au

National 24/7 Crisis Services

- Lifeline 13 11 14 www.lifeline.org.au
- Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467 www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au
- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 www.kidshelp.com.au
- MensLine Australia 1300 78 99 78 www.mensline.org.au

We recommend journalists, presenters, reviewers and media professionals familiarise themselves with Mindframe's guidelines on the reporting and portrayal of mental illness before writing reviews or publishing information about this episode.

<http://www.mindframe-media.info/home/resource-downloads/?a=10217>

DRAG

DOUG LUCAS



**AREN'T YOU JUST
MOCKING WOMEN?**

**WHERE DO YOU
HIDE YOUR DICK?**

**HOW IS WHAT YOU DO
DIFFERENT TO DICKHEADS
FROCKING UP ON
THE FOOTY SHOW?**

WHO HITS ON YOU?

**WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE
NORMALLY?**



COURTNEY ACT

DRAG

EP7: WED 22 AUGUST, 9PM ON ABC & IVIEW

This episode of *You Can't Ask That* over-delivers on sequins, wigs, glitter and flare. But more importantly, it gets to the heart of gender expression, celebrating the surprising complexities of what it means to live life in Drag.

"Our society agreed on certain ways that men and women should act" explains Courtney Act when asked whether dressing up in drag is mocking women. **"I don't ever want to mock women or mock womanhood. I just think the whole concept of gender is a construct that needs to be torn apart"**.

Revealing the eye-watering secrets behind every drag queen's downstairs disappearing act, Maxi Shield lays it out, **"Traditionally drag queens tuck their penis. You literally gaffer tape your junk between your legs, up your arse"**. A veteran of Oxford St, most known for her prominent chest piece, she says **"After 20 years of tucking, now I just try to wear a dress which I don't have to tuck — it's easier to go to the toilet and it's so much more comfortable!"**

"Fabulous question" remarks Drag Queen Doug Lucas when asked 'Who hits on you?', **"What day of the week is it?"** he laughs. Like all the Drag Queens interviewed, Doug says it's straight men who hit on him the majority of the time. He rolls his eyes, explaining that taking home straight men is

often a one-sided exchange, **"Half the time you get home, they want to throw your wig on, put your tits on and then minx around."**

"Some of them get off on that. I don't see a future in straight trade — I think what's the point? They're getting their jollies and they want you to do everything. They're not prepared to hug you or kiss you. That's why I like gay guys, because I have more of a future with a gay guy than I do with a straight man."

When asked how things work in the bedroom, Penny Traction explains, **"It depends who you've picked up. You're not going to pick up a gay guy [when] in drag, so they're not going to want you in drag. If you've picked up a straight guy [when] in drag, then they expect you to stay in drag"**. Though when things get down and dirty, sometimes fashion takes a backseat to function, **"Some friends have what they called 'Rooting Wigs' — they go home and remove their glamorous hair and pop on a 'Rooting Wig' — more of a mop."**



MAXI SHIELD

PRIESTS

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST
SIN
YOU'VE COMMITTED?



DO YOU HAVE A SEX LIFE?

DO YOU BELIEVE GAY PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HELL?

WHY ARE SO MANY PRIESTS PAEDOPHILES?

BURNING BUSHES, WATER INTO WINE, RESURRECTION, HOW MUCH OF THIS DO YOU ACTUALLY BUY?

HOW CAN YOU PREACH WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG WHEN THE ORGANISATION YOU REPRESENT HAS HURT SO MANY PEOPLE?



PRIESTS

**EP8: WED 29 AUGUST, 9PM
ON ABC & IVIEW**

“Nobody should become a priest because they think it’s going to be enjoyable, or fun, or the pay is good, or it’s going to be fulfilling”, answers Perth Anglican Vicar, Chris Bedding, when asked why he became a priest — **“You should only do it because there is an unshakable sense that you’re called to it”.** Yet despite the calling, years of ministry and devotion to his vocation, Chris explains he is not entirely unquestioning in his beliefs, **“I doubt every single detail of the Christian faith. I sometimes wonder if I still believe. I think doubt is really helpful. If your life is marked by certainty, there’s no way that you are going to be able to be open to people or listen to people.”**

Asked if he has a sex life Assistant Catholic Priest, Father Marcus Goulding, laughs, **“I am a celibate, so the ideal is no”.** The 25-year-old, who entered the Catholic seminary directly after finishing high school, lives a life very different to most his age. Ordained a year ago, he explains the vow of celibacy is about **“Giving our hearts to God himself and to God alone, and that includes the body. There is this belief that to be happy you have to have sex — that can bring a lot of happiness but you can live an integral human life in other ways. There are always temptations there but, for me, the thing that sustains my celibacy is prayer — if I spend an hour a day praying I find that I live celibacy easily.”**

“Oh my God” sighs Catholic priest, Father Tony Doherty, rolling his eyes when asked if gay people are going to hell. He explains, **“Jesus kept inviting all sorts of people to his table — he almost encouraged those who were seen as outsiders to share his meal. I cannot see a church who understands the gospel taking a different point of view than that”.** Uniting Church Reverend, Denise Champion, the first Aboriginal woman in South

Australia ever to be ordained in any denomination, shares the view that gay people are not going to hell, **“Gay people are like me and millions of other people who are fighting to be recognised. As an Aboriginal person I know what that feels like.”**

Asked how she can preach what’s right and wrong when the organisation she represents has hurt so many people, Anglican Vicar, Reverend Emily Payne, reflects inwards, **“Those of us who are in ministry for any length of time discover that the church is not perfect. We recognise, even in the way the church treats us that it is flawed and hypocritical”.** She explains that within the Anglican Church in Australia there are still opposing beliefs around the acceptance of female clergy, with this exclusion reflected in other Christian denominations, **“I hear the Catholic and the Orthodox who would argue very much along the same lines — I think I understand where they are coming from and I think they are wrong. I think God calls women to these roles and actually I think our job when God calls us is to say ‘yes’.”**

This episode doesn’t back down from the biggest question facing churches in Australia today. **“Priests aren’t paedophiles”** explains Anglican Reverend Roger Dyer when asked why so many priests are paedophiles, **“Paedophiles get access to the priesthood and inculcate that within the priestly community for their own selfish ends and purposes. I believe that it’s become so rampant because the church was all about protecting itself from the shame of paedophilia, rather than facing up to and dealing with it that these people gained power and high positions”.** Ostracised as a whistleblower after making a stand against abuse in the church, Roger reflects on the personal toll it took, **“The institution curled up into itself and tried to remove me. I stood alone — I can’t describe the disappointment, the sadness and the alienation. To then be invited to the Royal Commission and to be able to get it out there that a priest did make a stand was really wonderful. The number of the abused who came up to me afterwards was quite moving. They were appreciative that someone had stood up.”**

SERIES PRODUCERS/DIRECTORS



**KIRK
DOCKER**



**AARON
SMITH**

YOU CAN'T ASK US THAT!

You Can't Ask That Series Producers/Directors, Kirk Docker and Aaron Smith, answer questions about making series three.

30 EPISODES DOWN, HAVEN'T YOU RUN OUT OF EPISODE SUBJECT IDEAS?

KD — The show evolves every year we make it and each series we try to pick a variety of subjects that are relevant for the time. In series one we felt strongly about making an episode on Muslims because it was a subject under the microscope in the news that year. Last year Children of Same-Sex Parents was big issue in the moment, and this year Survivors of Sexual Assault and Priests are topics relevant for 2018. Then we pick interesting subjects that are timeless and universally “marginalised or misunderstood” — things like Eating Disorders, Schizophrenia and Swingers. Part of the challenge in coming up with the groups for a whole series is getting the mix right — there needs to be really serious episodes, some that are a bit more fun, episodes that are visual and some that are a bit taboo. We've made 30 episodes so far and there are still a lot of subjects we'd like to do that we haven't done yet — the list keeps growing.

AS — People ask us this question all the time, and it's gone through my head a few times too. In series 1 and 2 the subjects were really obvious pillars of “marginalised or misunderstood”, but series 3 has allowed us to look in some other interesting areas. All the subjects still fit the brief of being “marginalised or misunderstood”, but sometimes not as obviously as other groups. A good example in this series is the episode on Priests or Ex-Reality TV Stars. On the surface, when most people think of Priests they see people who are in positions of power and very much forthright with their beliefs. While that may be true for some, it's certainly not the experience for every priest. The priests we interviewed talk about struggle with relevance of Christianity in 2018, they struggle with their beliefs and struggle for acceptance in the broader secular community. They fit the brief of “marginalised

or misunderstood” much more than I initially expected. I've never heard Priests talk so openly or candidly about their own experiences, so I think people will find this episode surprising. Likewise the experiences of Ex-Reality TV Stars are very different from what people think they might be. Fame is very much misunderstood and this episode does a great job at peeling back the complex layers associated with it.

HOW DO YOU FIND THE PEOPLE WHO COME ON THE SHOW?

KD — It's not the most exciting answer, but it all comes down to good old fashioned research. Honestly, it's just a lot of phone calls, a lot of discussions with people, a lot of digging, being curious, asking questions and seeing where it leads us. We have an incredibly talented (but small) team researching behind the scenes and everyone brings their own skills and ideas to the table. It's a very collaborative process and everyone who works on the show has equal input. Most of us have been working together for almost 10 years so we understand how we all work and what we're good at. Once we decide the topics for the series, it's a very organic process finding the people to come on the show and answer the questions. It takes a lot of time and it's not a straightforward process, but we have a solid track-record of finding interesting people - people who have opinions, experiences and insights you might not have heard before.

AS — The mix of people in every episode is really important. We start by thinking about the groups as stereotyped groups, trying to find people who can tackle those stereotypes head-on whether they fit the stereotype or not. It's really important we find people with different experiences, insights and opinions — we don't want eight people who are all going to say the same thing. A big part of the series is about showing that people are way more complicated than a stereotype or a label. We've never said the people on the show represent the definitive point of view of a particular group — it's more a case of saying here are eight people with different experiences and opinions, some you might expect and others are surprising. We are not limited by geography, filming all across Australia, so we really embrace the idea of finding

people you don't normally see on TV outside of Sydney and Melbourne. We tend to avoid people with profile, media trained spokespeople, or interest group lobbyists — they certainly have a valid place in other media, but our show is all about celebrating everyday people who speak from the heart not from a script. These people are generally off the grid and take a lot more work to find, but it's worth it. We strive to include diverse voices in every episode — for us that's not just diversity in ethnicity, but also socio-economics, geographic locations, age, sexuality, religious beliefs, ethics, opinions and experiences. And we're really proud that across all three series to date we've achieved an almost parity split of male and female participants.

AREN'T YOU JUST EXPLOITING THE PEOPLE WHO COME ON THE SHOW?

AS — No. Everyone comes on the show because they want to. We have lots of discussions with interviewees before we film, and three series in our interviewees know what the show is and they come prepared to answer the hard questions. A lot of people come on the show because they want to set the record straight about what it's like to be them. They live in judgement in their day-to-day lives and many see this as an opportunity to be heard by a big audience and hopefully genuinely understood. The strength of the show sits with the people who front the cameras and answer the questions, so we try to build an environment of trust where they feel comfortable speaking honestly about their experiences.

KD — We genuinely care about the people we interview. We want everyone to be happy with how they are represented in the show and we never want them to feel uncomfortable with what they've said. Obviously, hours of filmed interviews have to be edited into the 30 minute show, but we put a lot of work into ensuring people are represented accurately once things are cut down. We've interviewed over 230 people across our three series so far and to date the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from everyone involved. The more shows we make, the more people come forward asking us to make an episode about them and their lived experiences.

QUESTIONS ON CARDS, JUST PEOPLE TALKING TO CAMERA, FILMED IN ONE ROOM - MUST BE EASY TO MAKE, RIGHT?

AS — The finished show is deliberately stripped back, but a lot goes on behind the scenes to make it look effortless. The look and feel of the show has been designed to highlight the stories and experiences of the people who front the cameras. Making a show that's good but only consists of talking heads on a neutral backdrop takes a lot more thought and consideration than you might think. If anything, it puts more attention on the minimal elements of the show, so everything needs to be right — we can't hide behind graphic sequences, flashy overlay, or dramatic teases or recaps. We film the show all around the country (this series features people from every State/Territory in Australia) because we think it's crucial to include the perspectives and experiences of people all over the country. We film in any space we can — from studios, to offices, to hotel rooms and libraries — but you'd never know it. The set was designed to pack up into a bag, able to be set-up almost anywhere but look consistent. And we deliberately keep our crew footprint as small as we can to create a relaxed environment for our participants. Generally it's just me behind the cameras and Kirk facilitating the interviews.

KD — We spend a lot of time building the rapport and trust of everyone who appears on camera. Our producers and researchers have extensive conversations with everyone before they are booked to come on the show. It's not just people turning up unprepared and flipping cards. As the person facilitating the filmed interviews, I try to spend time with everyone before and after the filming to make sure they are comfortable and confident. We work really carefully in the edit to ensure people are represented truthfully in the finished episode, just as they were in the room on the day of the interview. And there is a lot of work by our graphics team (Graphic Designer: Shane Sakkeus, Graphic Animation: Hotel Lima) and music composer (Andrew Sampford) to ensure the final touches in the episode are right and add something new. The music

and graphics are tailor-made for each episode — it takes a lot of work but what they add is really valuable to the overall tone and feel of each show.

WHAT DOESN'T MAKE IT INTO THE SHOW?

KD — Lots, but ultimately what does make it in the show is the essence of what is said in the interviews. There is so much interesting stuff that never sees the light of day, but that's the challenge of making this sort of show. This year we've produced heaps of extra videos for online and social media, so for the first time we'll be publishing extra material that's not in the actual TV show. We've filmed and interviewed over 230 people across three series and we're very proud of the fact we've never cut a single person from the finished show.

AS — Often there are ABC Editorial Policy and Legal considerations that mean certain aspects of stories can't be included, particularly in sensitive or complicated episodes like Survivors of Sexual Assault and Former Cult Members. We work very closely with the ABC Editorial Policy and Legal teams throughout the whole production, even before we choose the episode subjects, to ensure the episodes meet those requirements while still remaining interesting, entertaining and informative.

WHY ISN'T THERE A HOST OR PRESENTER?

AS — This show doesn't need one. As soon as you add a host to the equation, whether intentional or not, the show quickly becomes all about them. We want to do the opposite and make our show all about the people you rarely get to hear from — everyday, but extraordinary, people without fame or recognition. There are very few shows on Australian TV that don't rely on a host, narrator or recurring faces each episode. The familiarity and simplicity of the format means we don't need a presenter to front it. But we do need continuity and care behind the scenes and that's where our crew shines. I've shot over a thousand interviews over the past 10 years and I'm convinced that Kirk is the most under-valued interviewer in Australia right now — few interviewers put so much care into their craft and invest in their interview subjects without ever making it about them. There's a lot of ego in television, but this is a show made by people who recognise the importance of taking the back seat in order to let the interviewees shine.

KD — Plus the style of the show is to lean on questions submitted anonymously by the public, read off cards by the interviewees. Some of the questions are full-on — I can't imagine anyone wanting to put up their hand to ask them in person and on-camera. I might be the one facilitating the interviews, but I'm more than happy to do it off-camera.

WHY OPEN THE SERIES WITH AN EPISODE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT?

AS — Coming into this series we knew we wanted to produce an episode that looked at the subject of sexual assault, harassment or domestic violence. These have always been subjects front of mind for everyone on the crew and three series in, particularly off the back of our Suicide Attempt Survivors episode last year, we felt equipped and ready to be able to tackle this sensitive and difficult area. When we started research and pre-production in September 2017 the surge of #MeToo had not yet hit — it was a different time. So this episode inadvertently ended up being produced in the shadow of high-profile cases of harassment and abuse being exposed across the world. The episode is therefore not a reaction to all of this, but rather it sits in parallel to the shift and movement. Despite the difficult subject matter, we feel it's right to start the series with something important, something that matters. The episode adds to the conversations taking place worldwide and presents voices, viewpoints and experiences that are different from many others out there. The people featured in our episode are not high-profile — they are regular people in our communities, just like us. We want to highlight that this subject affects everyone, not just people in the media. The prevalence of sexual assault in Australia is alarming and something we all need to be talking about. We could have put this episode in the middle or at the end of the series, but we feel this episode highlights the relevance of *You Can't Ask That* and the format's ability to evolve with the world around it. The episode features some of the most powerful and important viewpoints we've ever captured. It's not an easy watch, but it deserves attention and it needs to be seen.

KD — Sure it's not an easy watch, but we've worked hard to make it very accessible. We've tackled some really difficult and sensitive subjects on the show, like Suicide Attempt Survivors in series 2, but we always try to approach these subjects in a surprising way. There is often levity and humour where you least expect it and that's what make our show different from other

programs. We often find that the people we interview, whatever the group, have developed thick skins and incredible resilience. A lot of time that means they come with a unique sense of humour. We try to capture that in our interviews, not to reduce or brush-over the seriousness of their circumstances, but to show that people are three-dimensional and much more complex than we sometimes think. We're proud of this episode and what it will contribute to the broader discussions already happening around the culture of harassment, consent, abuse and power. The interviewees are strong, their words empowering, their messages affirming. This is not a harrowing episode about victims — it's about the strength of survivors.

HAVE YOU EVER FELT A QUESTION WAS TOO OFFENSIVE TO ASK?

KD — Sourcing questions submitted anonymously by the public means we get sent some pretty full-on stuff. Some are insults disguised as questions, others are just insults without questions. We realised very early on that the sorts of people who come on our show regularly get asked inappropriate or offensive questions all the time in their day-to-day life. But what they don't often get to do is answer those questions and actually be heard. We didn't really hold back with questions this series — we ask priests about paedophilia, we ask swingers about watching the love of their life get pounded by a stranger, and we asked ex-reality TV stars whether they're fame whores. But obviously a lot of care and consideration goes into the questions asked to some of our more sensitive and vulnerable groups. It still surprises me how often at the end of an interview people will say "I thought the questions were going to be worse than that!"

AS — The interesting thing about asking offensive questions upfront and in the body of the show is that it means the questions have been answered before people can ask them online afterwards. Our show sort of works in reverse to most — we ask for the most full-on stuff first, address it, then move on leaving very little for the online debates afterwards. It's really wonderful to witness people in front of the camera take control of outrageous questions, own the insults, turn the conversation around and smash the stereotypes. Obviously there is a lot of care and consideration involved in sensitive episodes like Survivors of Sexual Assault, Eating Disorders, Schizophrenia and Former Cult Members. We work with participants before, during and after the filming, sometimes with the assistance of an independent psychologist or other support, to assist them throughout the whole the process. Because we've built an environment of trust and respect, the process can be very empowering for the participants — at least that's what they tell us!



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WHAT'S THE
BEST SEX
YOU'VE EVER HAD?