



Fact Sheet

HOW IS REALITY TV SHAPING OUR CULTURE?



GUESTS:

Emma Ashton - For four years Emma has been blogging and reading about reality TV and is one of Australia's leading experts in the field. *Reality Ravings* is Australia's leading independent reality TV blog. Emma also currently runs Australia's annual reality TV insights survey to keep tabs on wider industry trends on the genre. She has also spent over ten years in politics and policy development which gives her diverse writing experience and skills, plus insights into what captures the attention of the media and powerful people in business and government. Reality Ravings Consulting also offers other advisory services for Reality TV wannabees. She offers a consultation service including draft applications and ongoing advice during the interview rounds.

Robert Simms - Robert Simms is a social commentator and worked as an advisor to Australian Greens Senators Scott Ludlam and Sarah Hanson-Young from 2008 to 2012. He is currently a PhD candidate at the School of Social and Policy Studies at Flinders University. Prior to his employment as an advisor, Robert worked in the community sector as a policy advocate and has served on the boards of a number of community organisations. Robert holds a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (Honours), a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in politics and sociology) and a Graduate Certificate in Journalism. In 2007, he was admitted to the Supreme Court of South Australia.



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QUOTES:

"In the future, everybody will be famous for 15 minutes," - Andy Warhol, pop artist and avant-garde filmmaker (statement made in 1968).

"The overriding rule is that reality TV bears about as close a relationship to reality as one of those banana lollies does to an actual banana," - Kerrie Murphy, television reviewer.

STATISTICS:

The list below is the top ten most watched broadcasts in Australia since 2001 as measured by OzTAM. These figures represent the Five Metro Capital audience (Syd-Mel-Bris-Per-Ade) and do not include regional figures.

1. 2005 Australian Open – Men's Singles Final (Marat Safin def. Lleyton Hewitt). Audience: 4,045,000. Year: 2005
2. 2003 Rugby World Cup Final. Audience: 4,016,000. Year: 2003
3. **MasterChef Australia (season 2) – Finale Night/Winner Announced. Audience: 3,962,000. Year: 2010**
4. **MasterChef Australia (season 1) – Finale Night/Winner Announced. Audience: 3,560,000. Year: 2009**
5. 2006 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony. Audience: 3,560,000. Year: 2006
6. 2005 AFL Grand Final (Sydney Swans def. West Coast Eagles). Audience: 3,386,000. Year: 2005
7. **Australian Idol (season 2) – final verdict. Audience: 3,344,000. Year: 2004**
8. **The Voice (season 1) – The Live Finale, Part 2. Audience: 3,325,000. Year: 2012**

TYPES OF REALITY TELEVISION:

- **Observational docusoap:** "Fly on the wall" docusoap reality television combines observational documentary with the dramatic conventions of soap opera. The camera observes people in their everyday lives. Docusoaps are often based on work situations such as border security, law enforcement or medical emergency.



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- **Formulated docusoap:** These reality shows take people out of their own worlds and place them in a formulated or specially constructed environment to see how they behave. The Big Brother format is an example of a formulated docusoap. So too are shows that place modern people in specially constructed historical settings.
- **Reality game shows:** As in formulated docusoaps, contestants are placed in a demanding, artificial situation. However, an extra element of competition is introduced together with the threat of elimination. The Survivor format is an example of a reality game show.
- **Lifestyle reality:** Ordinary people and their lifestyles are transformed by experts, who make them extraordinary in lifestyle reality shows. It's not the winning of a prize but the 'reveal' of the transformation that is the climax of the show.
- **Talent show reality:** Reality shows based around talent quests differ from conventional talent quests in that they focus on the participants' lives during the quest. An example is Australian Idol and The Voice.
- **Clip show reality:** Clip shows are made up of amateur video clips sent in by audience members - often for prize money. An example in Australia's Funniest Home Videos. Clips of surveillance video or CCTV footage from crime scenes are another variation.

WEB LINKS:

www.realityravings.com

www.robsimms50shadesofgreen.wordpress.com

REFERENCES:

<http://darrenarcher.name/ftv/PDF's/Reality%20Television.pdf>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_most_watched_television_broadcasts#Australia