

TV this week

Sunday, August 5, 2018

Armchair tales

Hamish Blake and Andy Lee had so much fun with ratings-winner *True Story* that they're returning for a second season. They tell DANIELLE MCGRANE why the format works so well and how season two's tales will go even further.

The premise for *True Story with Hamish & Andy* was simple: ask real people to tell their most outrageous stories and get actors to re-enact them for the audience at home.

It was a brilliantly simple format that worked, drawing in nearly two million viewers every night, so the team have returned and managed to find even more outrageous tales.

"We had over 8000 story submissions so clearly people have a lot to get off their chest," Lee said.

"People had seen season one and said, 'I've got a story better than that'. That's what we loved about the Australian spirit and also about season one and season two – the fact that people were reaching out and enjoying what these stories became."

The pair of TV and radio presenters originally dreamt up the idea for the show while they were at the pub

observing what happened when people were chatting.

"When we were in the pub we would see our friends jump in when someone was trying to tell a story and ask a question that might send them in a different direction and we love seeing people laugh along, so that's where the idea for *True Story* came from," Lee said.

"We think this show is just as much about story-listening as it is about telling."

Before launching into season two, they took time to reflect on the show's first outing and what they loved about it.

"Sometimes you can't even remember the story in its essence versus what was created because an actor comes along and does a tremendous job. Like John Leary last year and Sammie's story, the one about the pregnancy and the needles – the performance was so strong you start to remember that as be-

ing a very positive and fun story, even though it's been through a lot of different processes to get there," Lee said.

"And then Stubby's story about him as an impressionable young man at a surf lifesaving contest – that was definitely our favourite in the room, which became evident because a lot of the episode was Hamish laughing and not being able to speak."

The pair have a theory that they believe somehow helps the storytellers rehash these events for TV.

"What we have discovered is that with almost half of the stories, people have given them a good 15-20 year window. One fellow in particular actually submitted his story under a different name because he promised his mum that he would never ever mention this story again," Blake said.

It also explains why a lot of the stories are set in the '80s



Truth dares: Hamish Blake and Andy Lee.

or '90s, which often works in their favour.

"I think it adds to the comedy because when you think about the most embarrassing or funniest stories that stay with you, very rarely did they happen this year," Blake said.

"It's because you only begin to realise a story is good if it stood the test of time and you realise 20 years later you're still telling it, then it's funny."

"We often tell kids in year 10 and 11, 'Just know that all the stuff that's happening now that you're embarrassed about, they'll actu-

ally become the best stories of your life because we're still telling stories about what happened to us in high school'.

"You don't realise it, but you're actually building up your archive of all your great anecdotes and I think you do need a bit of time for water to go under the bridge and to realise, 'There's a reason I'm still telling that story, because it's quite funny'."

There's enough variety to make season two of the show completely different to season one.

"Some stories are horrify-

ing, but they have enough laughs for us to allow them on the show," Lee said.

"It's also down to the people in the chair – the fact that they can make light of these terrible situations is what we found great and remarkable in season two. There are more twists this season and complete stories with a start, a middle and an end, rather than just a series of unfortunate events. Most of them tie up quite nicely like mini films."

■ **True Story With Hamish & Andy**
Tuesday, 8.40pm on Nine

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

<p>NINE</p> <p>6.00 World's Best Beaches (R, CC) 6.30 Weekend Today (CC) 9.30 Sports Sunday (PG, CC) 10.30 NRL Sunday Footy Show (PG, CC) 12.30 Netball. (CC) Super Netball. Round 14. Melbourne Vixens v Sunshine Coast Lightning. 2.30 Sunday Football Preview (CC) 3.40 Rugby League. (CC) NRL. Round 21. Penrith Panthers v Canberra Raiders. 5.30 Delish (PG, CC) 6.00 Nine News. (CC) 7.00 The Block. (PG, CC) (Series return) 8.30 60 Minutes. (CC) 9.30 The Turpin 13. (MA15+ a, CC) 10.30 Mafia Women With Trevor McDonald. (Malv, R, CC) 11.30 Major Crimes. (Mv, R, CC) 12.30 Cold Case. (M, R, CC) 1.30 Getaway. (PG, R, CC) 2.00 TV Shop: Home Shopping (R) 2.30 Global Shop 3.10 The Brokenwood Mysteries (Mlv, R, CC) 5.00 News Early Edition (CC) 5.30 Today (CC)</p>	<p>SEVEN</p> <p>6.00 NBC Today (CC) 7.00 Weekend Sunrise (CC) 10.00 AFL Game Day (CC) 11.30 Bewitched (R, CC) 12.00 House Of Wellness (PG, CC) 1.00 Better Homes (R, CC) 2.00 Sunday Soapbox (CC) 2.30 Football. (CC) AFL. Round 20. Melbourne v Gold Coast Suns. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie (R, CC) 6.00 Seven News. (CC) 7.00 Little Big Shots. (PG, CC) (Series return) 8.00 Sunday Night. (CC) 9.00 Crime Investigation Australia: Most Infamous: Tears For Daniel And Murder Of Innocence - Sian Kingi. (MA15+ a, CC) 10.45 Crimes That Shook The World: The Phoenix Strangler. (Mav, R, CC) 11.45 Criminal Confessions. (Malv, R, CC) 12.45 Grandfathered. (PGs, R) 1.15 Travel Oz. (PG, R, CC) 2.00 Home Shopping (R) 3.30 Harry's Practice (R, CC) 4.00 NBC Meet The Press (CC) 5.00 Seven Early News (CC) 5.30 Sunrise (CC)</p>	<p>ABC</p> <p>6.00 Rage (PG, CC) 7.00 Weekend Breakfast (CC) 9.00 Insiders (CC) 10.00 Offsiders (CC) 10.30 World This Week (R, CC) 11.00 Compass (R, CC) 11.30 Praise (CC) 12.00 ABC News At Noon (CC) 12.30 Landline (CC) 1.30 Gardening Aust (R, CC) 2.30 Dream Gardens (R, CC) 3.00 Antiques Roadshow (R, CC) 4.00 The Mix (R, CC) 4.45 Shakespeare And Hathaway (PG, R, CC) 5.30 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG, R, CC) 6.00 War On Waste: The Battle Continues. (PG, R, CC) 7.00 ABC News Sunday. (CC) 7.40 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. (CC) 8.30 Jack Irish. (Malv, CC) 9.25 Wrong Kind Of Black. (Malv, CC) 10.30 Vera. (Mv, R, CC) 12.00 Rage. (MA15+ a, h, inslv) 2.25 Weather. (R, CC) 2.55 I Want To Dance Better At Parties (PG, R, CC) 3.25 Vera (Mv, R, CC) 5.00 Insiders (R, CC)</p>	<p>SBS</p> <p>6.00 WorldWatch 7.00 Small Business Secrets (CC) (Series return) 7.30 WorldWatch 10.30 German News 11.00 Spanish News 12.00 Arabic News F24 12.30 Speedweek (CC) 3.00 The Bowls Show (CC) 4.00 FIFA World Cup 2018: The Story Of The World Cup (CC) 5.00 Small Business Secrets (R, CC) 5.35 Nazi Megastructures (CC) (Series return) 6.30 SBS World News. (CC) 7.30 Julius Caesar Revealed. (M, CC) 8.35 The Sugar Conspiracy. (PG, R, CC) 10.20 The Plastic Surgery Capital Of The World. (Mal, CC) 11.20 Hell On Earth: Syria And The Rise Of ISIS (MA15+ a, CC) 1.15 The Yes Men Are Revolting (Ml, R, CC) 3.00 First Contact (Mal, R, CC) 4.00 One Born Every Minute (Ma, R, CC) 4.55 Food Safari Fire: Bitesize (R, CC) 5.00 CGTN English News (CC) 5.15 NHK World English News (CC) 5.30 Deutsche Welle (CC)</p>	<p>TEN DIGITAL</p> <p>6.00 Mass (CC) 6.30 Hillsong (CC) 7.00 Joseph Prince (CC) 7.30 Joel Osteen (CC) 8.00 Passionate Players (Pga, R, CC) 9.00 The Placemakers (CC) 9.30 St10 (PG, CC) 12.00 Luxury Escapes (PG, R, CC) 12.30 Tales By Light (Pga, CC) 1.30 Comfort Food (R, CC) 2.30 Everyday Gourmet (R, CC) 3.00 Motor Racing. (CC) Supercars Championship. Round 10. Sydney SuperNight 300. Highlights. 5.00 News (CC) 6.00 Bondi Rescue. (PGalv, R, CC) 6.30 The Sunday Project. (CC) 7.30 Russell Coight's All Aussie Adventures. (Pga, CC) (Series return) 8.00 Street Smart. (PG, CC) (New Series) 8.30 Bull. (Mv, CC) (Series return) 9.30 Sports Tonight. (CC) 10.15 Elementary. (Mv, CC) 11.15 The Sunday Project. (R, CC) 12.30 Home Shopping (R) 4.30 CBS This Morning (CC)</p>
<p>GO!</p> <p>6.00 Children's Programs 11.30 Ninjago 12.00 Turning Mecard 12.30 My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic 1.00 Beyblade Burst Evolution 1.30 Uncle Grandpa 2.00 Yo-Kai 2.30 Tom And Jerry 3.00 Gumball 3.30 Teen Titans Go! 4.00 Britain's Got Talent 6.00 Big Bang 8.30 MOVIE: Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (2011) 11.10 Big Bang 12.10 Adult Swim 12.40 Frisky Dingo 12.55 Mary Shelley's Frankenhole 1.10 Tattoo Fixers 2.05 Total Divas 3.00 Thunderbirds 4.00 Yu-Gi-Oh! 4.30 Children's Programs</p>	<p>7TWO</p> <p>6.00 Morning Programs 9.00 Shopping 9.30 Harry's Practice 10.00 House Of Wellness 11.00 NBC Today 12.00 Free Range Cook 1.00 Air Crash Investigation 2.00 Escape To The Country 5.00 Paddington Station 24/7 6.00 Mighty Ships 7.00 Dog Patrol 7.30 Motorway Patrol 8.00 Highway Cops 8.30 Border Security 10.00 The Force: BTL 10.30 Border Security USA 11.00 Border Security 12.30 Psychic TV 3.30 Vasilii's Garden 4.00 Qld Weekender 4.30 The Great Day Out 5.00 Creek To Coast 5.30 SA Weekender</p>	<p>ABC COMEDY</p> <p>6.00 Children's Programs 12.10 In The Night Garden 12.55 Children's Programs 5.50 Little Roy 6.15 Peter Rabbit 6.50 Andy's Prehistoric Adventures 7.05 Ben And Holly 7.30 Spicks And Specks 8.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us 8.45 Russell Howard: Right Here Right Now 9.45 Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled 10.30 Would I Lie To You? 11.00 Russell Howard's Stand-Up Central 11.25 Absolutely Fabulous 12.25 The Black Adder 1.00 The Inbetweeners 1.25 Dirty Laundry 2.25 Close 5.10 Arthur 5.40 Children's Programs</p>	<p>NITV</p> <p>6.00 Morning Programs 10.30 Football. NEAFL. NT Thunder v Aspley Hornets. 12.30 Football. Heartland Footy. 2.30 Rugby Union. South Australia League. 4.00 Rugby League. Koori Knockout. Round 3. Newcastle Yowies v Cabbage Tree Island. 5.00 Maori TV's Native Affairs 5.30 Te Kaea 6.00 Defining Moments 6.30 Get Your Fish On 7.00 Behind The Brush 7.30 The Point In Review 7.35 1491: The Untold Story Of The Americas 8.30 Raising Bertie 10.15 Man Real 10.30 The Drew 12.00 Volumz</p>	<p>ONE</p> <p>6.00 Morning Programs 1.00 Epic Meal Empire 1.30 Monster Jam 2.30 Fishing Aust 3.00 Freddie Flintoff: Lord Of The Fries 4.00 Freddie Flintoff: The Gloves Are Off 5.00 Operation Repo 5.30 I Fish 6.00 Hogan's Heroes 6.30 Scorpion 7.30 Ambulance 8.50 Motorcycle Racing. MotoGP. Race 10. Czech Republic Grand Prix. 10.30 Bondi Rescue 11.00 Motor Racing. Supercars Championship. Round 10. Sydney SuperNight 300. Highlights. 1.00 Sports Tonight 1.45 Monster Jam 2.45 Late Programs</p>
<p>GEM</p> <p>6.00 TV Shop 6.30 Skippy 7.00 Leading The Way 7.30 Beyond Today 8.00 Key Of David 8.30 The Incredible Journey Presents 9.00 TV Shop 10.00 MOVIE: Carry On Regardless (1961) 11.55 MOVIE: The Captive Heart (1946) 2.00 Getaway 2.30 MOVIE: Topaz (1969) 7.00 Midsomer Murders 9.10 DCI Banks 10.10 Law & Order: SVU 11.10 The Closer 12.05 Trauma Investigators 1.00 TV Shop 1.30 Danoz 3.00 Law & Order: S.V.U. 4.00 Getaway 4.30 Joyce Meyer 5.00 Seaway</p>	<p>7MATE</p> <p>6.00 Shopping 6.30 Harley-Davidson TV 7.00 Life Off Road 7.30 Shopping 9.30 Storage Wars 10.00 Ultimate Factories 11.00 Dream Car Garage 12.00 The Fishing Show 1.00 Cajun Pawn Stars 1.30 Megastructures 3.30 Storage Wars 6.00 Beverly Hills Pawn 6.30 MOVIE: Men In Black (1997) 8.30 MOVIE: The Martian (2015) 11.30 Hardcore Pawn 12.00 Cajun Pawn Stars 12.30 Megastructures: Dubai Racecourse 2.30 Storage Wars 5.00 Motor Racing. Outlaw Nitro Funny Cars. Replay. From Sydney Dragway.</p>	<p>ABC ME</p> <p>6.00 Children's Programs 11.55 Project MC2 12.20 Backstage 12.40 Grace Beside Me 1.05 Japanizi: Going, Going, Gong! 1.30 The Penguins Of Madagascar 1.50 Children's Programs 5.25 Total Wipeout 6.25 Teenage Boss 6.55 Horrible Histories 7.35 Ladybug And Cat Noir 7.55 Danger Mouse 8.10 Slugterra 8.30 Dragons: Race To The Edge 9.05 Numb Chucks 9.40 The Next Step 10.05 Rage 2.05 Close 5.00 The Day My Butt Went Psycho! 5.25 Detentionaire 5.45 Children's Programs</p>	<p>ABC NEWS</p> <p>6.00 Morning Programs 1.00 The Mix 1.30 ABC News 1.55 7.30 2.30 ABC News 3.00 Landline 3.30 ABC News 4.00 One Plus One 4.30 ABC News 5.00 Back Roads (Final) 5.30 ABC News Weekend 5.45 Planet America 6.30 ABC News Hour 7.30 Insiders 8.30 National Wrap 9.15 ABC News Weekend 9.30 ABC News 10.00 One Plus One 10.30 ABC Late News 11.00 Close Of Business 11.30 ABC Late News 11.45 National Wrap 12.30 DW News 12.45 ABC Late News 1.00 Late Programs</p>	<p>ELEVEN</p> <p>6.00 Toasted TV 6.05 Drakers 6.30 Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures 7.05 Kuu Kuu Harajuku 7.35 The Barefoot Bandits 8.05 Sanjay And Craig 9.00 TMNT 10.00 Scope 10.30 The Bureau Of Magical Things 11.00 Family Ties 12.00 Pointless 2.30 Frasier 3.30 Becker 4.30 King Of Queens 5.30 Frasier 7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond 8.30 MOVIE: Beaches (1988) 11.05 Will & Grace 12.05 Raymond 12.30 Shopping 1.30 Raymond 2.00 Frasier 3.00 King Of Queens 4.00 Family Ties 5.00 TMNT</p>

Classifications (P) Preschoolers (C) Children (G) General (PG) Parental Guidance (M) Mature Audiences (MA+15) Mature Audiences Only (AV15+) Extreme Adult Violence (CC) Closed Captions (R) Repeat Consumer Advice (a) Adult Themes (d) Drug References (h) Horror (s) Sex References (l) Language (m) Medical Procedures (n) Nudity (v) Violence. Programming is subject to change.