

ABC YOU!

- » Home
- » Feature
- » After Hours
- » Around The Traps
- » Gongs
- » In Memory
- » The Last Word

At one point (Edna) held up my DVD and said, 'It must be awful to know that there's a comedian with the same name as you.'

-- Adam Hills

Something about Barnesy singing 'Tears of a Clown' from a self-help book was special.

-- Adam Hills

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A very Specky Christmas

13/12/2007

The *Spicks and Specks* team turns fun and mayhem - on and off air - into huge ratings. As they embark on the rest of their live tour, Lyndon Barnett asks about their favourite guests and what to expect from the last show for 2007.

The cast and crew of *Spicks and Specks* have way too much fun making the program.

"My favourite moment that didn't make it to air was after the most recent Christmas Special in which Brian Mannix ended up on Frank Woodley's shoulders," host Adam Hills said.

"In the dressing room afterwards Brian was telling everyone that, 'Frank Woodley injured my dick-bone.'"

Last year's Christmas Special guest of honour was Dame Edna Everage, who didn't so much surprise Adam, as constantly impress him.

"Even when the cameras weren't rolling she was cracking jokes to the audience, Myf and I. At one point she held up my DVD and said, 'It must be awful to know that there's a comedian with the same name as you.'"

But Adam lists Jimmy Barnes as his absolute favourite guest of the show.

"He is such an icon of Aussie rock and he really got into the games. His knowledge of music is top notch, and he seemed to really enjoy the experience.

"Since then we have also had such guests as Status Quo, Katie Melua and Weird Al Yankovic: but something about Barnesy singing 'Tears of a Clown' from a self-help book was special."

Spicks and Specks is a great ABC TV success story. The series has completed its third year with record ratings: a five-city metro average of almost 1.3 million viewers a week and a household share of 25.5 per cent.

These statistics are all the more incredible considering the volume of the programs the team produce: 42 episodes a year.

"I think the success of *Spicks* lies in the attitude of everyone associated with the show," Adam said.

"We all love music, and we love making the show, and I think that comes across on the screen. You don't always get to work with a group of people that you genuinely love and respect."

Anthony Watt is the Series Producer of *Spicks*. "I think the program's success lies with the fact that the presenters are such likeable television personalities, who work so well together. Every episode is different and appeals to a wide audience," he said.

The television success has spawned a stage-show *Spicks and Speck-tacular*, that is currently touring nationwide. The original dates sold out and extra performances have been added to cater for the demand.



Adam, Alan and Myf on the set of the Spicks Christmas Special.



Brian gets a lift from Frank in the Christmas Special.



Adam on set.

"The live tour takes care of the three questions we are asked the most: why isn't the show longer? Why don't you take it around Australia? Can I be on your show?" Adam said. "It's a 90-minute extravaganza that features the audience as contestants, a live band, and singing and dancing from Alan, Myf and I."

According to Anthony, audiences at the stage production will see a bit more of Adam's stand-up, as well as the rest of the team's broad talents - including Myf on piano.

This year an interactive [Spicks game](#) was released by Hopscotch - but Adam admitted he hadn't tested his knowledge yet.

"I reckon I might find it a bit weird to be answering my own questions, especially if I got the answers wrong!"

Spicks and Specks will be back next year and Anthony said he was looking forward to making more specials in 2008.

"In 2007 we made a Kids' Music Special, a Halloween Special and a Mother's Day Special. In 2008 we have slated an Anzac Day special," he said. "However, instead of being allied to New Zealand they will be our opponents. Alan is a native Kiwi so it works quite well."

- Don't miss the ***Spicks and Specks Christmas Special*** on ABC TV this Sunday December 16 at 7.30pm. Spicks returns to ABC TV at 8.30pm on Wednesday February 6 2008.

- Find out more about the ***Spicks and Speck-tacular*** tour [here](#)

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- Home
- Feature
- After Hours
- Around The Traps
- Gongs
- In Memory
- The Last Word

Jude completely ignored the girl and just kept talking. What can you do in that situation but just keep going?

-- David Stratton

Everyone knows David at Cannes from Roman Polanski to the humblest personal assistant.

-- Brendan Walls

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Cannes honours David Stratton

28/06/2007

He is an institution among Australian moviegoers and now David Stratton has been recognised internationally with the prestigious and rarely bestowed Cannes Festival Medal. Lyndon Barnett reports.

A two-week trip to the French Riviera is most people's idea of a relaxing holiday on the sun-drenched beaches mingling with Europe's rich and mega-rich.

However, for David Stratton and his [At The Movies](#) team, the annual pilgrimage to the [Cannes Film Festival](#) is nothing but gruelling work.

"Cannes is very stressful but each year I do look back with more affection than anger," David said.

David awarded Cannes Festival Medal

This year the festival recognised David's contribution by awarding him with the Cannes Festival Medal.

"I was only told the day before that I was receiving the medal," he said. "The Head of the Press Department had left a note in my press box requesting a meeting. At the meeting I was given an invitation to the annual press reception. Every year Gilles Jacob, the Festival Director, holds an invitation-only reception for the press."

For the 50th anniversary of the Festival in 1997 a press award was established for services to Cannes. Organisers decided to acknowledge the 60th anniversary of the festival by presenting the medal again in 2007. The publicist told David that he would be a recipient.

"My first reaction was - we'd better get our cameras there so that we can use it on the show," David said.

Luckily the cameras were there and Australian audiences enjoyed seeing David receive the medal on *At The Movies* on May 30.

The medal is one of highest international awards for contribution to film journalism. "I was quite surprised to receive the medal. I was pleased, it's always nice when your services are recognised."

Of the 13 medals presented David was the only Australian journalist. America's TIME Magazine journalist, Richard Corliss was among the other recipients.

The Cannes Film Festival: "pleasurable hell"

David travelled to Cannes this year with ATM Series Producer Brendan Walls and Coordinator Clare Cooper. *At the Movies* generally secures between 65 to 70 interviews during the two weeks of the festival.

This year David, Brendan and Clare notched up a whopping 92 interviews!

"Without David's international reputation we wouldn't have got that many interviews," Brendan said. "Everyone knows David at Cannes from Roman Polanski to the humblest personal assistant, everyone knows him without exception. David has long-standing relationships with many filmmakers.

"*At the Movies* is the only Australian program that has the same access to this volume of filmmakers."



Gilles Jacob presents the medal to David.



David onset with Margaret Pomeranz

The breadth of the team's coverage is extraordinary from international film superstars Andy Garcia, Angelina Jolie, George Clooney, Matt Damon and Brad Pitt to the more obscure filmmakers including Ulrich Seidl and Abel Ferrara.

"David has quite universal tastes when it comes to films and filmmakers. I like talking to the oddballs," Brendan said. The partnership works a treat: while David was interviewing Jude Law, Brendan was chatting with Asia Argento.

"I conducted Jude's interview on the beach," David said. "It was the first interview of the day and there were many security people around to keep the general public at bay. We were about half way through the interview when this gorgeous bikini-clad girl literally walked in between Jude and the camera. Jude completely ignored the girl and just kept talking. What can you do in that situation but just keep going? I was very amused by the incident."

Brendan said that Asia Argento surprised him the most. "Asia is known for her man-eater/sex kitten roles. But I was very surprised at how quiet and deeply thoughtful she was. I knew she was very intelligent but my expectations were challenged. She explained that she has created a cage for herself to protect her fragility. I was pleased to receive such candid responses from her. When you only get eight minutes to interview a filmmaker it can be difficult to delve beneath the surface."

Brendan describes Cannes as "13 days of pleasurable hell."

"You work from 6am until you collapse at 9pm. It's physically and mentally exhausting but there are so many wonderful moments that makes the experience worthwhile."

Brendan was most looking forward to meeting American independent filmmaker Harmony Korine whose past films include, Gummo and Julien Donkey-Boy. Harmony's latest film, Mister Lonley screening at the festival to a 15 minute standing ovation. "Harmony is developing a new language for the cinema by creating fantastical situations and striving to find real truths in those circumstances," he said.

The interview: getting the most from eight minutes

David and Brendan have contrasting interview styles. "David has a very methodical approach to his interviews, he writes all his questions out in advance. Whereas I use a more unconventional approach, I prefer to use the interview as a conversation and I'm very happy to throw my questions away," Brendan said. "There's no right or wrong way to interview. They are just different."

David doesn't always have the luxury of preparation. "I was in a room with 30 or so Directors and I could see five or six film crews hovering around a rather irritated-looking Roman Polanski, who turned to one journalist and said, 'If you ask me a sensible question, then I will answer it.' Apparently he had just stormed out of a press conference, but I didn't know this at the time. As I've known Roman for many years, I simply walked up to him with my film crew and said, 'Roman I'll ask you a sensible question. I did and got the interview,' he said. "But I really don't enjoy those types of interviews."

"When I like a film, I tell the filmmaker and that seems to relax them. When I don't like the film, I let the filmmaker explain their reasons for making the film. I don't believe in confrontational interviews," David said.

Michael Moore was an interview that David did enjoy. "Michael had erected a platform on the top of a hotel, so that he was sitting above everyone else as they waited to interview him. All you have to with people like Michael is simply say hello and he is happy to talk for hours."

- » Tell us all about your latest gongs. Go to the [Awards page](#) of the intranet and fill in the form.

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ABC You!

- ▶ Home
- ▶ Feature
- ▶ After Hours
- ▶ Around The Traps
- ▶ Gongs
- ▶ In Memory
- ▶ The Last Word

I wanted the audience to feel like they had just crawled out of a rabbit hole into a different world.

-- Kade Richardson

My advice ... is to surprise us. I would encourage filmmakers to take risks and to find their own ways of telling their story.

-- Steve Cannane

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Lights, camera, action

29/11/2007

Breaking into the film and television industry can be tough for young film-makers. But the ABC is helping shine the spotlight on our next Phil Noyce or Bruce Beresford. Lyndon Barnett reports.

During the filming of his documentary series, "The Pinnaroo Surfer", Kade Richardson had to share the camera with some unexpected co-stars.

"I would start shooting following my script except kangaroos kept hopping into shot. There were also heaps of emus wandering around also. It wasn't planned but it looked good so I kept them in," Kade said.

As a typical 18-year-old Kade enjoys surfing, camping and jet skiing. But living in Pinnaroo - a landlocked, drought-stricken rural service town in South Australia with a population of 620 - the next wave can be a long way off.

The Pinnaroo Surfer follows Kade as he uses his resourcefulness to partake in the same activities as kids who live in larger cities on the coast.

"I wanted to demonstrate the difference between my town and the rest of Australia," he said. "I wanted the audience to feel like they had just crawled out of a rabbit hole into a different world."

Kade obtained funding for his film through the inaugural *Document Your World Pitching Competition*, an initiative between ABC TV and the Adelaide-based production company, Tallstoreez which aims to help teenagers tell their stories.

Carl Kundell runs Tallstoreez. "Kade has a fascinating humour and a very understated way of making his point on camera," he said.

Kade, together with five other applicants pitched their ideas at the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) in Adelaide in February 2007. *jtv Hack* presenter, Steve Cannane mentored the young applicants.

"Watching Kade's pilot episode, I was struck by how funny it was," he said. "It had a nice deceit. People have the attitude that nothing interesting happens in small towns but Kade demonstrated his ingenuity in his town and then found an interesting way to tell that story visually for the camera."

jtv docs

On the other hand the documentary "Searching 4 Sandeep" features three large cities: Sydney, London and Bangkok.

According to Producer Cecilia Ritchie, 'Searching 4 Sandeep' is a coming-of-age struggle, focusing on Sandeep whose 'coming out' is stymied by her conservative cultural background.

Poppy Stockell, a Sydney-based surfer chick met the love of her life, Sandeep Viridi, an Anglo-Indian living in the British midlands, online.

"The initial idea for the film was Poppy's," Cecilia said. "Within the first couple of online conversations, Poppy sweet-talked Sandeep into making the film. They had never even met. Poppy sent Sandeep a camera and the two



Kade Richardson filming.



Poppy Stockell, surfer and filmmaker.



Poppy and Sandeep in Croatia.

of them filmed the blossoming romance."

Cecilia and Poppy received funding for their film in 2006 at the inaugural documentary initiative, *jtv docs*, made available jointly through ABC TV and the Australian Film Commission (AFC).

"We were unbelievably stoked that we were successful: to say that our project was a good story by the AFC and ABC was amazing," Cecilia said. "The grant gave us resources that we wouldn't have had otherwise and to produce a more polished film.

Poppy and Cecilia didn't always agree when making the film.

"When we came down to the edit I wanted to cut the story in its most dramatic telling. However because Poppy is both the Director and the main subject she wanted to tell the story in a more truthful way, shadowing how it actually played out in real life.

"To Poppy's credit that was the right approach, allowing the situations to speak for themselves without forcing the drama."

The film had its world premiere at the Sydney Film Festival where it beat 58 other documentaries to win the World Movies Audience Award. Cecilia is hoping the international premiere will be at the Sundance Film Festival.

Advice for budding filmmakers

Steve will again mentor the teenagers at AIDC in Perth next February.

"My advice to anyone entering either *jtv docs3* or the *Document Your World* initiative is to surprise us. I think originality and creativity are really important. I would encourage filmmakers to take risks and to find their own ways of telling their story."

Carl's advice to applicants is to make their story unpredictable and use humour. "If it makes you laugh and if your style invites other to laugh with you, then it's much easier to relate to the story."

Steve applauded the ABC for the two initiatives. "The ABC has a role to give young people a start whether it be in journalism or as a filmmaker. This should be the place where many people start their careers."

- **[Document Your World 2008](#)** is open to applicants aged 12-18. The deadline for applications is December 17 2007.

- **[jtv docs3](#)** is open to applicants aged under 35 years. The deadline for applications is March 10 2008.



ABC You!

- ▶ Home
- ▶ Feature
- ▶ After Hours
- ▶ Around The Traps
- ▶ Gongs
- ▶ In Memory
- ▶ The Last Word

With the jtv coverage, my aim is to document this moment in music history.

-- Brendan Doyle

The clip was so sensitively crafted, very beautiful. I was struck by how clever it was and astounded that someone so young was behind it.

-- Kath Earle

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ABCYou 2008 ▶

It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n roll

15/11/2007

He sent dozens of letters begging for work experience and spent three years dragging cables around ABC studios - but Brendan Doyle's career as a rising jtv director proves persistence pays off. Lyndon Barnett reports.

jtv Director, Brendan Doyle fell into filming music by default.

"Ever since high school I've been drawn to capturing images using a camera," he said.

"I find filming live music events and making music video clips extremely rewarding. I love putting vision to music. I enjoy the experimentation. There are no rules."

This year Brendan has been covering live music concerts for jtv. His appointment to the jtv team was a sweet reward for the years Brendan spent in a unique apprenticeship.

"When I was 19 I sent six letters to the ABC requesting work experience. Between 19 and 21 I must have sent 60 letters to all the broadcasters hoping to get a foot in the door," he said.

"The ABC gave me a job dragging cables behind cameras and I used this opportunity to bug everyone in the studio to coach me on film production."

At the same time Brendan was also studying a media course at the University of Western Sydney and began shooting music videos. His big breakthrough came with his 19th music video, *I Was Only 19* for the hip hop group The Herd.

jtv Series Producer Kath Earle said she was amazed to learn how young the director was.

"The clip was so sensitively crafted, very beautiful," she said. "I was struck by how clever it was and astounded that someone so young was behind it. Brendan really loves music and I think that really comes through in all the television work he does."

Brendan goes AWOL

You can watch Brendan's skill behind the camera all through November as jtv celebrates triple j's [Ausmusic Month](#).

Each Thursday, jtv will screen an [AWOL](#) performance, directed by Brendan. [Tonight](#) Powerfinger's concert from Karratha in WA hits the screen and next Thursday, Grinspoon's performance at Innisfail in Queensland will be broadcast.

"Innisfail which was held at the showgrounds was almost cancelled due to horse flu by the Department of Agriculture!" Kath said. "Quarantine officials gave us the all-clear only hours before the concert was due to start."

Cat Empire performed in Burnie in Tasmania and according to Brendan, lead singer Felix Riebl agonised over the playlist for his concert.

"He literally sat on the day of the concert changing his mind a dozen times. As a Director you want the bands to be



Brendan Doyle behind the camera.
Pictures: Matt Booy



Impromptu performance by Jay, Myf and the Doctor in Humpty Doo, captured by Brendan.



Brendan checks things out onstage.

happy, so you start off early in the day making subtle suggestions. But as the day draws on, you start making stronger suggestions which will most benefit the television broadcast."

Brendan said that each concert was very different, depending on the location.

"In Karratha the audience looked over an expansive desert, whilst Innisfail is surrounded by sugar cane fields. Burnie was bitterly cold with howling winds coming off Bass Strait whilst the audiences in the Northern Territory turned up in thongs and singlets.

"The one constant was how welcoming each town was and how appreciative the audiences were."

Brendan is hoping that his work will also provide a snapshot in time of the Australian music scene for future music lovers.

"With the jtv coverage, my aim is to document this moment in music history. Hopefully in, say, 20 years time they will be played on rage for example and the performances will be as relevant to future audiences as they are to current audiences."

jtv events during Ausmusic Month

- jtv Saturday on November 24 will be a countdown of the top Australian artists on 2007. Be watching to see Rosie dressed as a Pavlova.
- Guests on jtv Saturday throughout November include Bliss & Esso, Regurgitator, Clare Bowditch, Faker, Patrick Wolf, Klaxons, Panics, Gyroscope, Butterfingers and Muse.
- The comedy collective, The Ministry of Truth have produced a satirical look at the music industry which will be broadcast in various jtv Friday and jtv Saturday episodes.
- jtv lives:
 - ❖ The John Butler Trio, November 1, 11.25pm
 - ❖ Missy Higgins, November 8, 11.25pm
 - ❖ Powderfinger, November 15, 11.25pm
 - ❖ Grinspoon, November 22, 11.25pm
 - ❖ The Cat Empire, November 29, 11.25pm
 - ❖ Something for Kate, December 6, 11.30pm



ABC You!

- Home
- Feature
- After Hours
- Around The Traps
- Gongs
- In Memory
- The Last Word

We'll be shut in a room overnight to play Halo 3 exclusively. I'll probably only leave the room to go to the toilet.

-- Presenter Jeremy Ray

The mentors are so clever and can make you think about your ideas in a completely different way.

-- Series Producer Janet Carr

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ABCYou 2008 ▶

Good fun on *Good Game*

06/09/2007

No longer the preserve of pimply teenagers, computer game devotees are just as likely to be your girlfriend, your parents - even your grandparents. Lyndon Barnett reports on **Good Game**, the ABC's users' guide to this multi-million dollar industry.

Hosted by Jeremy Ray aka Junglist and Steven O'Donnell aka Bajo, **Good Game** provides an intelligent and entertaining analysis of the game scene in Australia and around the world.

"Gaming's anything but a niche market," Jeremy said. "The image of the pimply teenage boy sitting in a darkened bedroom could not be further from the truth."

According to a recent report compiled by Bond University, the average Australian gamer is 28 years old. Forty-one per cent of gamers are female, eight per cent are seniors and 35 per cent are parents.

Seventy-nine per cent of Australian households have a device for playing computer and video games. In 2006 Australians purchased about 12.5 million games with total sales of \$925m. Australia has 40 game development companies that have produced more than 200 games earning \$100m in export sales each year.

"The massive popularity of gaming across a wide and diverse cross section of the community demonstrates that *Good Game* is serving a broad audience," Executive Producer Jennifer Collins said.

The most anticipated game for release this year is the Xbox science-fiction game Halo 3, which is due on shelves the day the new series of *Good Game* begins. On August 9 Microsoft announced on that pre-orders for Halo 3 had exceeded one million in North America.

"There is such a level of secrecy surrounding Halo 3 that in order to review the game, we must go to Microsoft HQ," said Jeremy. "We'll be shut in a room overnight to play Halo 3 exclusively. I'll probably only leave the room to go to the toilet."

In between series, most production teams enjoy a holiday away from the rigours of the weekly production cycle. But not the hard working *Good Game* production team who attended two industry conferences after completing their second series in June.

E3 Media and Business Summit

The E3 Media and Business Summit held in Santa Monica, California is an invitation-only gaming conference for gaming industry professionals and journalists. The event is the Cannes Film Festival of the gaming world.

Good Game presenter Jeremy Ray, Series Producer Janet Carr and camera operator Sue Lumsdon attended E3 in July to compile interviews for series three.

"The last interview we had scheduled for one particular day was Slash from Guns 'n Roses," said Jeremy. "Slash is the boss fight (the final fight before ultimately winning a game) on Guitar Hero 3. So I asked him, 'What is it like to be the Boss Fight?'"

"Slash responded eloquently in between cigarette puffs, 'It's pretty f***** cool.'"



Good Game Presenters, Steven O'Donnell aka Bajo and Jeremy Ray aka Junglist.



Shigeru Miyamoto and Janet Carr at the 2007 E3 Media and Business Summit in California.



Jennifer Collins, film-maker, Shekhar Kapur and Janet Carr at the XMediaLab.

In just three days of E3 the *Good Game* team did 40 interviews with the who's who of the international gaming world including Chris Taylor, creator of the games *Dungeon Siege* and *Total Annihilation*; Stan Lee co-creator of Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the X-Men and Hulk; and skate-boarder Tony Hawk.

"Stan Lee was particularly interesting because of his views on the debate whether gaming is an art-form or a sport. He believes gaming is without a doubt an art-form," Jeremy said.

XMediaLab

In August the *Good Game* team travelled to Melbourne for XMediaLab, an intensive creative workshop and forum that fosters cross-platform and web initiatives.

The mentors for the weekend included film-maker, Shekhar Kapur; Dr David Liu, CEO of Beijing's Cyber Recreation Development Corporation; Dale Herigstad, 4-time Emmy Award winner; and Francisco Cordero, the General Manager of Bebo, the UK's largest and fastest growing social networking site.

"We want to create an online game as a collaborative project, where we invite the *Good Game* audience to participate in designing and developing a game through the course of the television series," Arul Baskaran, ABC TV's online Executive Producer, said. "We took this idea to the XMediaLab and received some fantastic feedback."

"It was a brilliant weekend, to discuss ideas and be inspired," Janet said. "The mentors are so clever and can make you think about your ideas in a completely different way."

The team came back from XMediaLab with a much better sense of defining the parameters when building an online game.

"The development of a game would be great educational opportunity for the *Good Game* viewers and the end result will hopefully be something fun for everyone to play," Arul said.

- **Good Game** Series 3 screens on Tuesdays at 8.30pm from September 25 on ABC 2 and repeated on Fridays on ABC TV late night after jtv. It is also available as [video on demand](#)

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ABCYou!

- » Home
- » Feature
- » After Hours
- » Around The Traps
- » Gongs
- » In Memory
- » The Last Word

Contact
ABCYou

ABCYou 2008 ▶

A year of jtv

12/07/2007

This month jtv, ABC's first major cross-divisional initiative between television, triple j radio and online celebrates its first birthday. Lyndon Barnett looks back over one year of jtv.

"Wherever its audience is: whether it wants to listen, watch or participate, the opportunity will be there with jtv," ABC Managing Director Mark Scott said when he launched jtv in July 2006.

And what a year it's been ... in twelve months the team have produced 159 hours of original programming. That's an average of just under four hours per week during the television survey year. Last month alone 27 different shows were produced.

The brand encapsulates the irreverence and attitude of triple j across ABC TV, ABC2 and online.

"It's a great partnership between triple j and television. We literally take cameras into their world to visualise a radio station: to offer viewers triple j on television," Series Producer Kath Earle said.

Most recently jtv covered triple j's annual regional music concert, One Night Stand. The New South Wales town of Cowra won the competition to host the event, which featured Silverchair, Midnight Juggernauts and Behind Crimson Eyes.

Last week ABC TV broadcast a documentary, made by the jtv team that followed the Cowra organising committee as they prepared for the event.

"The One Night Stand doc is a really good reflection of what jtv does everyday. It's a nice visual record of what happens when viewers, listeners, program-makers and musicians come together as a big triple j community," triple j and jtv presenter Robbie Buck said.

Tonight (July 13) ABC TV will broadcast jtv's ['One Night Stand: The Best Bits.'](#) an access-all-areas look at the best performances on the night.

And on July 20, ABC TV will show ['jtv live: Silverchair's One Night Stand'](#) a one-hour special of Silverchair's live performance at the concert.

jtv.com.au

One of the big successes of the jtv brand is its online component. "The number of viewers downloading the vodcast has recently quadrupled, it's as high as 132,000 per week. It's a sign that our audience want to watch our show at the time suitable to them," Kath said.

The website won the Best Cross-Platform Content or Content Integration at the prestigious Australian Interactive Media Industry Association awards, beating whereis.com.au, Big Brother and the Commonwealth Games websites.

[jtv docs](#)

jtv docs allows young independent filmmakers to produce long-form documentaries for the ABC audience. In 2006, seven jtv docs were commissioned, five of them co-funded in partnership with the Australian Film Commission (AFC).



Rosie Beaton and Silverchair



Double the Fist



Searching 4 Sandeep

"It has been a pleasure to work with the ABC on the jtv docs initiative," AFC Project Manager, Karin Altmann said. "The partnership between the AFC and the ABC continues to be energetic, inventive and generous and one that benefits the film makers and the audience alike."

The first completed jtv doc, 'Words From the City,' about Australian hip hop artists, had its world premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival, screened at the Sydney Film Festival, received an AFI nomination for Best Documentary and will be screened at the Melbourne Film Festival.

Searching 4 Sandeep, a cyber love story between an Australian surfer chick and an Anglo-Indian girl, had its world premiere at the Sydney Film Festival where it beat 58 other documentaries to win the World Movies Audience Award.

jtv friday

A Friday night ABC TV show kicks off jtv each week. This program features music, youth current affairs, interviews and all the behind-the-scenes action at triple j.

Walkley Award winning Hack journalist Steve Cannane and Alice Brennan produce a weekly current affairs story. "I think it's important that we present current affairs that are relevant to young people," said Steve. "I like doing stories that expose the truth or stories that are inspirational."

Alice Brennan scooped the rest of the media to break a story on soldier suicide, which was then picked up as front-page news by the Sun Herald, Sydney Morning Herald, news.com.au, SBS World News and Channel 7 News.

"That story was only possible because of the two years work triple j had invested to establish the trust of Vietnam veterans and their children," said Alice. "My recent interest was sparked by an article I read in the NT News that two soldiers had committed suicide. I did some personal investigation and with the respect already established within the veteran community, the story came together."

jtv saturday

Rosie Beaton hosts jtv saturday, which features interviews, live music, competitions and the top 20 music acts as requested by triple j listeners and users of the jtv website.

In one year, the guest-list of over 80 individual artists and bands reads like a who's who of the contemporary music scene, including Sarah Blasko, Powderfinger, Dresden Dolls, Missy Higgins, Gotye and Holly Throsby.

"The Scissor Sisters knew exactly how to work the camera. They know how important it is to do a good interview for their fans," Rosie said.

jtv comedy

Over the past 12 months, under the banner of jtv comedy, ABC TV has developed and commissioned two series, *Spy Shop* and a second series of the AFI award winning comedy, *Double the Fist*, which is now in production on location around Sydney and inside the ABC's Ultimo Centre.

Double the Fist actor Craig Anderson said, "jtv has given us a platform to be heard and to spread the fist message. Our show will sit perfectly with the jtv audience."

jtv live

Working with triple j's Live at the Wireless, jtv live covers music performances from around Australia. In the past year jtv covered 18 concerts including, Jet, Eskimo Joe, the Hilltop Hoods, the Yeah, Yeah, Yeahs, the Go Betweens Tribute Show and the John Butler Trio.

Coming up on jtv ...

"We have a very hectic few months planned for jtv. Next week jtv will be heading with triple j to Humpty Doo in the Northern Territory for the first of four AWOL concerts," Kath said. "It's great that we can take jtv outside the metropolitan cities into rural and regional Australia."

Missy Higgins is headlining the concert. The other concerts covered later this year will be from Karratha in Western Australia, Innisfail in Queensland, and Burnie in Tasmania.

Rosie is looking forward to travelling to Humpty Doo. "We are the people's broadcaster and I believe we have a responsibility to get out there and make ourselves accessible to our listeners and viewers," she said.

The successful applicants of jtv docs 2, the 2007 round of jtv docs will be announced imminently. There will soon be some very happy young independent filmmakers. So stayed tuned ...

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