

6 x 30-minute episode series by Cordell Jigsaw for ABC TV

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A **STUDY GUIDE** BY ANNE CHESHER



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Part social experiment, part road trip and part character study, *Dumb, Drunk & Racist* puts Australia and its people under the microscope by testing foreign pre-conceptions of Australian stereotypes, culture and identity. The series exposes a number of confronting topics such as our racism, alcoholism, poverty and social injustice, and looks at multiculturalism, same-sex marriage and the role the media play in reporting this across the globe. *Dumb, Drunk & Racist* takes the audience on a journey from India to Australia with four Indians. Through their eyes, we're able to look at ourselves and discuss whether Australians really are racist, drunk and stupid. It is an insight into how other cultures perceive us and how we perceive ourselves.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In recent years, Australia's reputation has declined in the views of those overseas and at home. We've been labelled everything from racist and lazy, to drunk, stupid and cheats. Nowhere is this opinion more apparent than India, where it seems our reputation has hit an all time low.

We began the series by travelling to India with our host, Joe Hildebrand, to investigate the anti-Australian sentiment. There we met Indians who, through their loose ties to Australia, believe the negative stereotypes – a student and an educational advisor who have heard accounts of attacks on Indian students, a call-centre worker who is subjected to racist

Australian callers everyday, and a television news anchor who has reported on the fractured relationship between India and Australia. Together with Joe, these four Indians embarked on a three-week road trip through Australia to put their own theories, opinions and preconceptions to the test.

In experiencing the good, bad and ugly of life downunder, the Indians are immersed in issues including racism, multiculturalism, Indigenous Australia, drinking culture, class, sexuality and sport. Through the eyes of the Indians, the series provides us the opportunity for us to look at ourselves. Personally, as a born-and-bred Australian, the journey treads the line between aspects of Australian life that are equally as familiar as they are foreign – from

drinking beer and sledging at the cricket, to understanding life from an Indigenous Australian's perspective; and from driving a taxi in Melbourne late at night, to raising a family in a same-sex relationship. The series tries to make sense of our country and contemporary ways of life.

For me, the series reinforces a number of uncomfortable home truths, while at the same time reminding us of the triumphs that we all too often take for granted. Though we describe ourselves as 'the lucky country', often we're unsure what we actually mean by it. *Dumb, Drunk & Racist* aims to bring a whole new perspective to the place we call home.

– Series director Aaron Smith

Curriculum Relevance

Dumb Drunk & Racist is a series that will create informed debate and learning amongst senior school (Years 11–12) and tertiary students. It presents topics and issues that require a degree of maturity and developed reasoning skills.

Teacher discretion is encouraged for screening to students in Years 10 and below. While in due context, the series contains language and violent behaviour that without guidance, may be confronting or offensive to younger students.

As preparation, it is recommended that the teacher view the series prior to screening to a class or group of students.

CURRICULUM APPLICATION

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (2008) purports a set of values to be imparted to young Australians through school education K–12 and administered through national curriculum areas. These values reflect the ethics, principles and ideals of our national Australian society. They are steeped in heritage and provide guidance for shaping the attitudes and disposition of future generations.

The Declaration outlines aims for qualities of individuals in our society including:

Confident and creative individuals ... (who)

- Have a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing
- Develop personal values and attributes such as honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others
- Have the knowledge, skills, understanding and values to establish and maintain healthy, satisfying lives

Active and informed citizens ... (who)

- Act with moral and ethical integrity
- Appreciate Australia's social, cultural, linguistic and religious



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diversity, and have an understanding of Australia's system of government, history and culture

- Understand and acknowledge the value of Indigenous cultures and possess the knowledge, skills and understanding to contribute to, and benefit from, reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
- Are committed to national values of democracy, equity and justice, and participate in Australia's civic life
- Are able to relate to and communicate across cultures, especially the cultures and countries of Asia
- Work for the common good, in particular sustaining and improving natural and social environments
- Are responsible global and local citizens.

The Declaration outlines the outcome objectives of the national curriculum:

- The curriculum will enable students to build social and emotional intelligence, and nurture student wellbeing through health and physical education in particular.
- The Curriculum will support students to relate well to others and foster an understanding of Australian society, citizenship and national values, including through the study of civics and citizenship.

Dumb Drunk & Racist has cross-curricula application across all subject areas. However, this Study guide will focus two key learning areas: Civics and Citizenship in relation to society, and Health and Physical Education in relation to individual wellbeing.

Civics and Citizenship

Rationale

11. a) Civics and Citizenship education involves the development of the knowledge, skills, attitudes, beliefs and values that enable students to effectively participate in community activities and public affairs locally, nationally and globally.

11. b) Australia is a multicultural, secular, and multi-faith society, governed through a well-established representative parliamentary process and based on liberal democratic values, principles and practices.

Aims

13. a) Develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and dispositions students need to fully participate in civic life as active citizens in their communities, the nation, regionally and globally.

13. d) Build an understanding and appreciation of Australia as a multicultural and multi-faith society and a commitment to human rights and intercultural understandings, with particular consideration of Aboriginal Peoples' and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' historical and contemporary experience of, participation in and contribution to Australian civic identity and society.

Organisation

The knowledge, understandings and skills of Civics and Citizenship are underpinned by values, attitudes and dispositions. These include:

19. a) The values that are the foundation of liberal democracy and parliamentary representative democracy, such as freedom of expression, government by the people, equality, the rule of law, equality before the law, fair and effective representation, responsibility, accountability and common good.

19. b) The foundation of civil behaviour and civic duty in a modern democracy including appreciation and support, care and compassion, respect for cultural identity and diversity, religious tolerance, fairness, social justice, human dignity, freedom, civility, honesty, respecting others' rights and views, responsibility, inclusiveness, equality, sustainability, appreciation of difference, peace, giving and contributing and valuing involvement as active citizens.

– *Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship Draft Shape Paper*, ACARA 2012

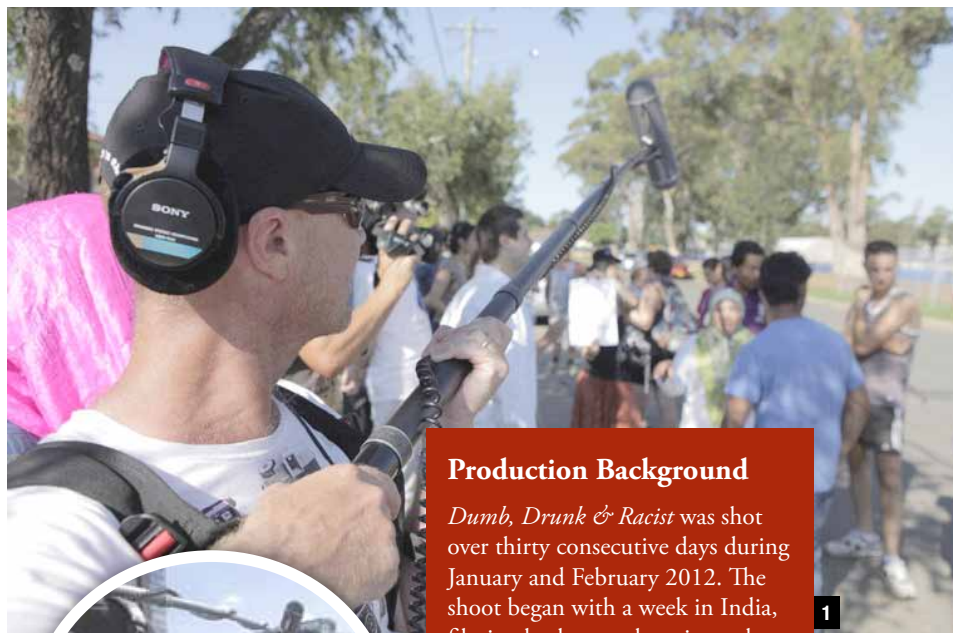
Health And Physical Education

Personal and Social Capability

118. In the Australian Curriculum, students develop personal and social capability as they learn to understand themselves and others, and manage their relationships, lives, work and learning more effectively. The capability involves students in a range of practices, including recognising and regulating emotions, developing empathy for and understanding of others, establishing positive relationships, making responsible decisions, working effectively in teams and handling challenging situations constructively.

119. Students use personal and social capability to work cooperatively with others in movement- and non-movement-based activities, appreciate their own strengths and abilities and those of their peers and develop a range of interpersonal skills such as communication, negotiation, teamwork and leadership.

120. The *Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education* enhances personal and social capability by providing opportunities for students



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to explore their own personal identity, and to develop an understanding of factors that influence and shape their sense of identity.

Ethical behaviour

121. Ethical behaviour involves students in building a strong personal and socially oriented ethical outlook that helps them to manage context, conflict and uncertainty, and develop an awareness of the influence that their values and behaviour have on others.

122. The *Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education* focuses on the importance of treating others with integrity, compassion and respect. Students will value diversity and reflect on ethical principles and codes of practice appropriate to different contexts at school, in relationships, in the community, the workplace and the sporting field, and develop the commitment and capacity to consistently apply these principles.

– *Australian Curriculum: Health And Physical Education Draft Shape Paper*, ACARA, 2012

Production Background

Dumb, Drunk & Racist was shot over thirty consecutive days during January and February 2012. The shoot began with a week in India, filming background stories and interviews with the series host, Joe Hildebrand, and the four Indian participants in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Pune.

The Indian participants were selected from a diverse range of applicants throughout India. They were cast with the assistance of local Indian production assistants and interviewed remotely from Australia via Skype. On the final day of filming in India, all of the Indian participants, and their Australian 'guide' Joe Hildebrand, meet each other for the first time on a rooftop in Old Delhi. From there, they travelled to Sydney to begin the Australian leg of the production – three of the four Indians had never been to Australia before, two of them (Gurmeet and Mahima) had never been overseas.

In Australia we travelled as a team of 10 – five people onscreen, and five members of the crew behind the scenes, supported by a production and post-production team based in Sydney. We travelled by road and air to regions including Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Uluru, Alice Springs, Brisbane, the Queensland Darling/Western Downs, Moree, the Gold Coast and Mt Isa (where temperatures reached 44 °C). In India and Australia combined, we took 15 flights and travelled over 35000km.

The series was shot predominantly on two Sony EX3 cameras, with smaller cameras, GoPros and handycams mounted for travelling scenes in and outside our production vehicles.

Series Synopsis

Whether we like it or not, Australia has an image problem overseas, and probably nowhere moreso than in India. But is this really true, and how much is media hype? In January 2012, *Daily Telegraph* journalist Joe Hildebrand sets out on a pilgrimage to Delhi to examine this anti-Australian sentiment. It's a timely visit. In 2011 an American journalist went undercover at a call centre and was told, amongst things, that Australians are 'dumb, drunk and racist'. This seemed to reflect what the Indian press had been saying. The coverage of the attacks in Melbourne on Indian students and cab drivers, culminating in the murder of Nitin Garg in 2010, dominated news about Australia and directly impacted on the number of Indian students coming here to study. But is this really what most Indians think? And how would you change their minds? Joe Hildebrand visits Delhi and there asks four Indians to join him on a three-week road trip around Australia.

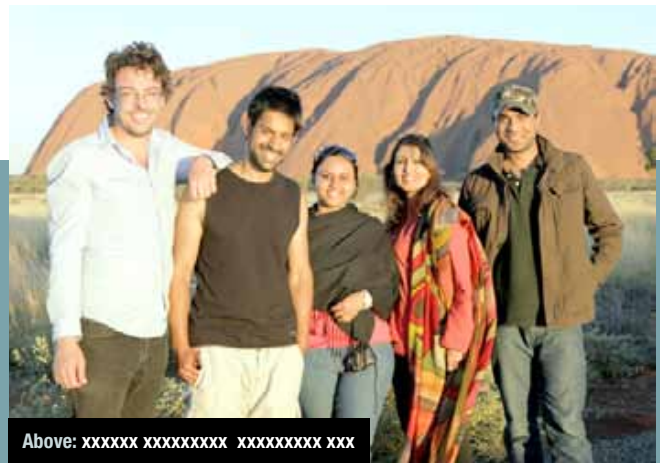
As a newsreader and journalist for a major Hindi network, Gurmeet Chaudhary was shocked by the negative stories appearing regularly in the Indian media. As a call centre worker, Mahima Bhardwaj tells Joe of her unpleasant encounters with Aussies over the phone. Amer Singh is a third year Law student in Chandigarh who decided it was safer to study in India than at an Aussie university and Radhika Budhwar whose job it is to advise Indian students where they should study overseas. She hasn't recommended Australia for the last five years. They all agree to risk life and limb to visit our reviled and dangerous country.

Over three weeks, Gurmeet, Mahima, Amer and Radhika meet Australians from all walks of life including surfies, bogans, activists, bushies,

scientists and sportspeople. The journey begins in Sydney where they are dazzled by Sydney Harbour and Bondi Beach, but soon find themselves in the middle of a heated street argument about a painted sign in Newtown that suggests banning the burqa. Australia is one of the most multicultural countries in the world, but is our melting pot working? In the 1950s it was the Greeks and Italians who copped a lot of flak – in the 1970s and 1980s it was the Vietnamese and the Chinese. Now it's Australian Muslims, but is this racism or Islamophobia? The Indians are surprised by the monoculture of Lakemba and then brought to tears by footage & memories of the 2005 Cronulla riots. A visit to The Lakembaroos, a multi-ethnic all women's soccer team formed after the Cronulla riots, cheers everyone up, but they are brought back down to earth by a visit to Villawood Detention Centre where they find themselves in the middle of a shouting match about refugees.

In Melbourne, Joe and the Indians investigate the attacks on Indian students. Were the attacks on students racist, or were they simply in the wrong place at the wrong time? With flak jackets on, Joe and the Indians walk the laneways and meet Indian students on trains. They join Victorian police on a night patrol where the level of drunkenness appalls Radhika, and Amer and Gurmeet get abused by a white supremacist.

It's not just the attacks on Indian students that sullies our reputation abroad – it's also our relationship with Indigenous Australia, and the often volatile interplay between black and white. Joe takes the Indians to the place where Indigenous people first came into contact with white people, Sydney's Botany Bay. It's a good stepping-off point, leaving the



Indians wondering what state the relationship is in after 220 years of white settlement. In Alice Springs they visit the Todd River where Joe explains the damage that alcohol abuse has caused the Indigenous population. Suddenly the group are set upon by two women upset by their presence ... the situation becomes tense and the women begin throwing stones. It's a scary and disturbing experience and one that has the team running for cover.

This series also examines how we view our own stereotypes; do we think of ourselves as salt of the earth country folk or suburban battlers? Why do we celebrate our larrikins and not our scientists and thinkers? Deep in Australia's rural heartland, the Indians enjoy a country show but are also confronted by the cattle sales. The cow is considered sacred by most Hindus and hence beef is considered taboo for many Indians. They also meet bushies, bogans, some not-so-average suburbanites and a world-renowned scientist who has chosen Australia for his Nobel Prize-winning work.

Mahima and Gurmeet get a taste of the freedoms of Australian life by spending an afternoon and evening with a lesbian family and then joining a raucous hen's night in Brisbane. This is confronting for Mahima and Gurmeet who both come from traditional families, and will have arranged marriages. Mahima is charmed by what she sees as openness and freedoms available to Australian women, but Gurmeet is clearly shocked by

the lesbians and appalled by the male strippers.

Australians drink more alcohol than many other countries, and as the series draws to its conclusion, we investigate our love of booze, how ingrained it is in our culture, and how we use it to grease our social wheels. In Brisbane, India is playing Australia in cricket and Joe encourages all of the Indians to get into the spirit of things and have a beer, Gurmeet gets so into the spirit that he ends up sledging Ricky Ponting.

In Surfers Paradise, Amer and Radhika go on a club tour of Surfers and see Aussie binge drinking culture up close, one young punter tells them 'you need at least twenty drinks to have a good night'. Joe decides on a more scientific approach and sets up a breathalyser booth. Everyone is over the limit but a young Swiss woman blows them all away with a blood alcohol level of .440.

To wrap up the drinking tour Joe takes everyone to the Meandarra B&S, a romantic rite of passage where alcohol plays a vital role. Despite the cultural differences, the B&S works its magic on our Indians. As Gurmeet says, 'when the music rocks you have to hit the dance floor'.

Finally Joe prepares a barbeque to farewell Mahima, Amer, Gurmeet and Radhika, but he is nervous. After three weeks of seeing the good, the bad and the ugly up close, will Mahima, Radhika, Gurmeet and Amer still think that Australians are dumb, drunk and racist?

SERIES PRESENTER

Joe Hildebrand

Joe Hildebrand was raised in Dandenong, one of the most ethnically diverse areas of Australia. He went to Dandenong High School before attending Melbourne University, where he did an Arts degree majoring in history and English.

Joe is a journalist and columnist for the *Daily Telegraph*. Much of his journalism has been devoted to exposing white supremacism in Australia and tackling racial issues. A Walkley finalist (having received two commendations), a News Award winner and frequent Walkley judge, Joe has been a professional journalist for twelve years, since coming to Sydney in 2000, prior to this he was a journalist in Melbourne, where he edited the Melbourne University magazine *Farrago* and wrote for several other publications. Joe was also recently named one of the ten most influential Australians on Twitter.

A regular commentator on the ABC (Q&A, *The Drum*), Seven Network (*Sunrise*, *The Morning Show*), *Sky News* (PM Live) and a host of radio stations including 2GB, 4BC and ABC, he was recently named one of the top ten most influential Australians on Twitter. Prior to joining the *Telegraph*, he was NSW political correspondent for Australian Associated Press and also worked for a time in London for the Press Association.

As noted, Joe is also dumb, drunk and racist, although half the time he is too stupid, sizzled or blinded by prejudice to even notice it. Despite or perhaps because of this, he is a multimedia sensation. He is not, contrary to his Wikipedia entry, a conservative journalist.

THE INDIAN PARTICIPANTS

Centred on the opinions of the four Indian participants, their individual backgrounds set the tone for the series.



Gurmeet Chaudhary

At twenty-six, Gurmeet is a journalist and newsreader for a major Hindi 24-hour news network. Gurmeet is not only an anchorman but also a reporter. Like most Indians, he is fluent in English but he anchors in Hindi. Gurmeet is single and his mother, father and sister live in Delhi. As a Hindu, he does not drink alcohol or eat meat. His parents are in the process of organising an arranged marriage. Gurmeet enjoys travelling and learning about new cultures, but this trip will be his first overseas adventure.

When he was younger he wanted to pursue a degree in Communications abroad but upon hearing negative stories from his cousins and friends that were studying in Australia at the time, he was dissuaded from coming here. Gurmeet used to believe that Australia was a good country, a sophisticated western culture and a wonderful place to visit. But in 2008 after the spate of violent attacks on Indians in Melbourne, his perception suddenly changed. He, along with many other Indians, began to feel Australian society was inherently racist. Gurmeet believes many Indians are fearful of this country.

If I will not be accompanied by security guards I will not feel safe, I will feel that there will be a sort of fear in my mind that I may be attacked in this place.

I want to figure it out whether all the Australian people are criminal in this sense. I would like to go there because ... I want to figure it out whether it is a thinking of a section of the society or it is a thinking of the whole Australian people ... That is why I am going there.

Mahima Bhardwaj

Mahima is from a conservative Hindu family. At twenty-four, she's not allowed to go to bars and nightclubs; she must remain a 'good girl' so her parents can find her a suitable husband. Her family run a statue shop in Jaipur, Northern India, where she grew up. The shop sells statues of Hindi Deities. She has never travelled overseas before.

Mahima is one of India's thousands of call centre workers who dial Australian households every night. Her job is to offer deals good enough to retain customers. Mahima's brother works in the same call centre.

Like most call centre workers she uses an alias at work, hers is 'Tia'. Mahima gets nervous when she calls downunder. She's had some bad experiences with Australians over the phone. She's been cursed at, called a curry-muncher and a variety of other colourful racist names, and she's been on the receiving end of several drunken tirades.

Our trainers say that the Australians are dumb, drunk and racist. South





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Australian people you find the people a bit rude and they won't listen to you. The NSW people you will find them very funny, easy going, the Queensland people, Victoria people they are very smart ... The worst is Western Australia. Western Australian people are racist ... they are very rude. They do not listen to us. Especially the females! Yes I am very scared and I think I will always be scared of calling Western Australian people.

Amer Singh

At twenty-one Amer Singh is a third-year law student in Chandigarh. Amer grew up in Chandigarh in the Punjab region of Northern India. His family are Seikh. After high school, Amer looked into the prospect of studying at Sydney University. But his family had seen and heard so many stories about Indians being assaulted and killed in Australia, they pressured him to study at home.

Amer grew up surrounded by his grandfather's book collection, and he loves reading and watching movies.



He's studying law, but his first love is filmmaking. He is gregarious and enjoys socialising. He describes himself as a deep thinker, fascinated and at times infuriated by different cultures and viewpoints. He finds the social stratification of the Hindi caste system as offensive as racism.

The idea of people being racist doesn't make me angry, no. It makes me sad a little bit, but more it makes me wonder

why. It makes me more inquisitive. What is making him act in this way? Racism is a very unintelligent, stupid concept. Somehow I find it very illogical, stupid, irrational. I've never been to Australia so who knows, maybe I have a few unpleasant incidents lined up for me.

Radhika Budhwar

Radhika works as a trainer for multinational organisations in the areas of cultural sensitivity and conflict management. In her spare time she also has a business as a counselor to Indian students seeking higher education abroad. She is incredibly articulate and intelligent, holding a Masters degree in English and post-graduate qualifications in guidance and counselling. She is also a practising Buddhist.

In 2005, Radhika visited Australia with her family. The trip was a vacation, but they were also contemplating the possibility of their seventeen-year-old daughter (now 24) studying an under-graduate course in Australia in the future. An incident in a restaurant cut their holiday short: while out having dinner one night they were abused by a group of drunk Australian men. Over several hours, the men not only racially abused the family but also made lewd suggestions towards their daughter. Badly shaken, they left Australia to spend the rest of their holiday in New Zealand. Her daughter never really recovered from the incident and eventually went to the USA for her studies.

Radhika feels a lack of closure from her personal experiences here. She agreed to take part in the series and is keen to change her opinion about Australia.

Naturally, as a counselor, I stopped suggesting Australia as an educational destination. In fact, even now it seems like a dangerous country to visit and to study, at least for Indians. Australia has fallen in international eyes – it is now perceived as discriminatory, violent and completely lacking in the global spirit of respect for human life.



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OVERALL SERIES CONCERNS

There are a number of overall concerns portrayed as thematic discussions that take place in this series. Clearly the object of the series is to get Australians to reflect on who they are in an ever-changing global climate. Thematically this series looks at the way we are evolving, changing, mutating as a society.

Generalisation and Identity

Can you throw a blanket over a race of people and say they all think alike? The series sees four Indians from different cultural backgrounds travel to Australia to learn about the Australian way of life, its people and its cultures, but it's also a story about how we see ourselves.

Globalisation and Introspection

The world has fast become a smaller place thanks to the digital revolution and the burgeoning middle class in countries like India and China. While this allows us the opportunity to be more informed, it can also foster

prejudice. With globalisation comes introspection.

Media and its Impact

This of course is due to the digital revolution, the opportunity for the masses to have access and control over media. One of the major topics of discussion in this series is the power of media and how a small minority can affect the majority.

Education and Economy

Education has become big business and Australia has been at the forefront of the education boom. Until recently, India was one of the greatest sources of foreign students travelling to Australia for tertiary education. In recent years, a series of tragic bashing and a death in Melbourne occurred. The media, particularly in India, suggested Australians were racist and that Australia was no longer a safe place to travel. This put a swift end to the foreign student education boom.

Sport and Reputation

Perhaps the one thing that brings us together as a nation more than anything else is sport. Aussies love a good game of footy and of course they love cricket. Indians also have a great love and history of the game. Indian cricketers like Sachin Tendulkar are regarded as heroes in India. On the cricket pitch, Australians are considered to be hard fighters who never

give up. Indian media has suggested that Australians not only play hard, but they play dirty as well. On a number of occasions, cricketers from both sides have been accused of being racist. So perhaps through sport we get a sense of culture, or lack of it. As the period of colonialism is now past, surely in this multicultural world, football is the global game.

Tolerance and Acceptance

While the series addresses a lot of issues around perception, it also reflects on the failure to address multiculturalism within. The failure of successive governments to address Indigenous social issues is one of the core subtextual discussions that takes place in the series. If Australians don't or can't accept our Indigenous peoples into the wider community, how can we call Australia a modern and thoughtful nation?

Freedom and Democracy

The other discussion point in the series is the question of just how free we are. In a democratic society, Australians are encouraged to embody a fair, equitable and liberal approach to society. In India you may be persecuted for homosexuality or ridiculed if you want to marry outside your caste system. There are positives and negatives no matter where you live. Learning to accept other people's cultures is surely the underlying discussion and analysis.

EPISODES

EPISODE 1



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EPISODE 1 – 1: ----- 2: ----- 3: -----
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years. They all agree to risk life and limb to visit our reviled and dangerous country.

Joe kicks off the Australian tour with the glitz and glamour of Sydney Harbour and Australia's most renowned beach, Bondi. The travellers quickly become seduced by the beauty downunder. But before his guests relax too much, Joe stops them in their tracks with a provocative mural plastered on an inner city wall. The mural, which reads 'Say NO to Burqas' sparks off our first heated debate ... and the Indians aren't the only ones upset by the message the mural carries.

Themes

Mahima, Radhika, Gurmeet and Amer travel from India to Australia to see first-hand how dangerous the country is. Having been racially abused as a call centre worker in India, Mahima has real fears about what she will



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discover in the land downunder. Radhika has stopped advising students to travel to Australia after being racially abused last time she was here.

The undercurrent of this episode is perception. What is Australia all about? Is there such a thing as a typical Aussie? Does everyone in Australia have a harbour view and go sailing on weekends? Clearly not. Juxtaposed with this iconic image is another that seems to be prevalent at this point in

EPISODE 1

Synopsis

While in India, Joe meets the four travellers who will join him on a road-trip across Australia. As a newsreader and journalist for a major Hindi network, Gurmeet Chaudary was shocked by the negative stories appearing regularly in the Indian media. As a call centre worker, Mahima Bhardwaj takes Joe through the unpleasant encounters she's had with Aussies over the phone. Amer Singh is a third-year law student in Chandigarh who decided it was safer to study in India than travel to Australia. Radhika Budhwar advises Indian students where they should study overseas. She hasn't recommended Australia for the last five



EPISODE 2 – 1: ----- 2: ----- 3: -----
 ----- 4: ----- 5: ----- 6: -----

Australian history, the integration of Muslims into Australian society and the impact that has on non-Muslim Australians.

Australia is a country built by immigrants. From the early Chinese gold diggers, the post-war Greeks, Italians, Turks and Slavs, the more recent Lebanese, Vietnamese and Cambodian migrants, to the most recent – Sudanese, Afghani and Iraqi to name a few – every ethnic group at some stage has been vilified and ostracised. Is this part of being an Australian?

EPISODE 2

Synopsis

Mahima, Radhika, Gurmeet and Amer are in the second week of their *Dumb, Drunk & Racist* road trip and tonight's episode begins in Sydney's Lakemba, a suburb with a predominantly Muslim population. Radhika is clearly surprised by the lack of Anglo people in

Lakemba, 'this is not really Australia ... these people have built their own country in another country.' Later, Radhika and Mahima meet Nasro, a Somali refugee who tells them that although she has experienced kindness she has little doubt that most Australians are racist. Travelling deeper into the heart of this issue, Joe takes the Indians to Cronulla Beach and there tells them the story of the infamous 2005 riots. The footage of that awful day shocks everyone and brings Amer to tears. From here the crew travel back into the heart of Sydney's Western suburbs where they play a game of soccer with the all-female, multi-ethnic Lakembaroos. Finally Joe takes them to Villawood detention centre, and waiting for them is the Australian Protectionist Party, a group of people who believe that multiculturalism is a failure and that Muslim immigration should be stopped altogether. As they are talking, a

group of pro-refugee advocates arrive and tempers flare as our Indians find themselves in the middle of a heated argument about refugees.

Themes

This episode continues with the theme of multiculturalism. However the underlying focus is on nationalism, patriotism and racism. Lakemba is renowned as a Muslim community and some say exclusive Muslim enclave. The transition from episode 1 to 2 follows the right of Muslim women to wear the Burqa.

Central to this discussion is the fear of terrorists and terrorist attacks and as such, the transition to the Cronulla riots explores nationalism and its ugly underbelly. How much



EPISODE 3

has international terrorism in the last decade shaped our attitudes toward people of Islamic faith? How much of this attitude is well-founded?

EPISODE 3

Synopsis

Although many Australians think of Melbourne as our most liveable city, for Indians it's infamous for attacks on Indian students. In fact, education advisor, Radhika advises students not to risk studying in Australia at all. In tonight's episode, Joe and the Indians investigate the nature of these attacks – were they really racist or just a case of Indian students being in the wrong place at the wrong time? Gautam Gupta, an Indian student leader at the time of the attacks and now a practicing surgeon, tells Gurmeet and Radhika that he has no doubt that the attacks were racist. Later, in one of Melbourne's famous laneways, Joe confirms that many Victorians are scared of Melbourne after dark

and shows the Indians CCTV footage of a brutal attack on Indian student, Sourabh Sharma. He then reveals to a visibly shocked Mahima and Gurmeet that they are going to meet Sourabh and hear first-hand about the attack. Meanwhile Radhika and Amer patrol the mean streets of Melbourne with the Victorian Police, Radhika is appalled by the level of drunkenness but Amer seems less concerned. A few weeks back in India, he told the crew that he wanted to walk the streets of Melbourne at 2 or 3 am, to see for himself if Australia is a racist country, Joe grants Amer's wish and Gurmeet accompanies him. The walk is uneventful until he and Gurmeet return to Swanston street where they are abused and threatened.

Themes

Recently it seemed like every Indian living in Melbourne was in danger of being attacked, or even worse – killed. This is how the media portrayed Melbourne for a short period of time in 2010/11. As a result, the number of Indians travelling to Australia dropped by two thirds. Is this what Melbourne and therefore Australia is really like? Is it too dangerous to go out after dark?

This is central to the discussion on racism and in this episode it becomes apparent the real concern is the easy availability of alcohol. What are state and federal governments doing to minimise the health risks associated with heavy drinking?

EPISODE 3 – 1: ----- 2: ----- 3: -----
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EPISODE 4 – 1: ----- 2: ----- 3: -----
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EPISODE 4

Synopsis

From there, the road-trip heads to Moree in Northern NSW, infamous as one of Australia's last bastions of leg-islated racism. The group visits Moree Baths, where Charles Perkins cam-paigned for indigenous people to be allowed to swim in 1965. At the time, the issue divided the town's black and white populations. Does that divide still exist? Joe takes the question to local Indigenous elders and to Moree's Mayor, Katrina Humphries ... both with different views.

From Moree to Australia's red centre, Alice Springs. They visit the Todd River where Joe explains the damage that alcohol abuse has caused the Indigenous population. Suddenly the group are set upon by two women upset by their presence ... the situ-ation becomes tense as the women begin throwing stones. It's a scary and

shocking experience and one that has the team running for cover.

Themes

The series seems to be following a trail. Initially the thematic discussion was on 'how racist Australians are'. The shift in the previous episode starts to look at whether alcohol plays a part in this. In this episode the overriding discussion is on Aboriginal people, their culture, the loss of identity, and the use of alcohol as a way of coping with that loss.

At the heart of the discussion is cul-ture. Can non-Indigenous and tradi-tional Indigenous Australians ever live together harmoniously? Has welfare had a negative impact on Aboriginal culture? What can be done to change the way Governments deal with this very complex issue? Teaching native languages alongside English seems to be a very positive step forward.

Again a serious subtextual issue is the

impact the media have on Indigenous relations. The fact that the film crew was attacked during filming suggests there is a great mistrust of film crews/ media in Indigenous communities.

EPISODE 5

Synopsis

In our survey of 1000 Indians, 50 per cent said that Australians are only of average or below average intelligence; journalist Gurmeet especially shares this view. Tonight Joe introduces the guys to bushies, bogans, suburban battlers and a Nobel Laureate scien-tist, but will the Indians change their minds? Are we dumb, or do we just like to hide our light under a bushel.

The episode starts off deep in the bush when Joe takes the Indians to the Allora & District Annual Show. This is country life at its best: cakes, pumpkins, dodgem cars and the rodeo. Despite their love for the show,



EPISODE 5 – 1: xxxxxxxx 2: xxxxxxxx 3: xxxxxxxx 4: xxxxxxxx 5: xxxxxxxx 6: xxxxxxxx

vegetarians Mahima and Gurmeet are disturbed by the cattle sale. The cow is considered sacred by most Hindus and hence beef is considered taboo for many Indians. Just down the road is Mt Isa, the epitome of a country mining town full of red dust and blue collars. The Indians drop in to meet a local hero, and Mt Isa's Woman of the Year, Theresa Braithwaite, cancer survivor and serial volunteer. Theresa's story really moves Radhika and Gurmeet. The Indians have heard about bogans but the streets and footy fields of Mt Isa bring them face to face with the real deal.

A long way down the road – in Canberra – Mahima and Amer meet Dr Brian Schmidt, Australia's latest Nobel Laureate and a passionate supporter of Australia's academic attribute. He doesn't think we're dumb. Maybe meeting down-to-earth country folk, good-natured bogans and a Nobel laureate is not enough, so Joe sends Gurmeet and Mahima to meet a not-so-average Aussie family. Chloe and Erin are a lesbian couple raising four kids in a suburb of Brisbane. Gurmeet and Mahima come from very

traditional Indian families, so meeting Chloe and Erin is a big surprise, especially for Gurmeet. Gurmeet and Mahima then go to a hen's night in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley. In India, arranged marriages are the norm and Gurmeet and Mahima will have their partners chosen by their family. Unexpectedly, Mahima gets into the spirit of the night but Gurmeet is shocked, especially by the strippers.

Themes

At 10pm on 24 June 1978, a night-time celebration followed a morning protest march and commemoration by more than 500 people gathered on Oxford Street Sydney. They called for an end to discrimination against homosexuals in employment and housing and an end to police harassment and the repeal of all anti-homosexual laws. Over the years, equality for gay and lesbian Australians has been an ongoing public debate. While much

change has resulted, there is still one major discriminatory law that prohibits same-sex marriage. Gurmeet is shocked to discover that in Australia gay couples live openly together, something that would be shunned in his native India. This raises concerns for Gurmeet as it challenges his own beliefs.

What is a typical Aussie? Central to this discussion is the idea that you can categorise a race by looking at what they eat or what they wear or whether they are gay or straight. The freedom enjoyed by countries like Australia with its dearth of rules and regulations makes it one of the freest countries in the world – 'The Lucky Country'.

Travelling to Mt Isa, the Indians meet Theresa Braithwaite, cancer survivor and local volunteer. Impressed with Theresa's selflessness, the Indians begin to question the idea that most Australians are stupid. In Mt Isa there



EPISODE 6 – 1: xxxxxxxx 2: xxxxxxxx 3: xxxxxxxx 4: xxxxxxxx 5: xxxxxxxx 6: xxxxxxxx

is a sense of community that is the envy of many Australians. The tight-knit community looks after one another. This character trait is well known in Australia but perhaps less well known overseas – the great Australian spirit, mateship, loyalty and working as one to build a new nation. The history of the digger, the great wars that showed that Australians were a force to be reckoned with – this ‘spirit’ is starting to rub off on the Indians.

EPISODE 6

Synopsis

Australians drink more per capita than many other nations on Earth. We also love our cricket, and tonight Joe wants the Indians to get a taste of a grand tradition – a beer at the cricket. Except for Amer, none of The Indians drink. So at first they are reluctant but after a couple of drinks, Gurmeet

gets right into the spirit and sledges Ricky Ponting! Our joy in consuming booze, often to grease our social wheels, is a source of national pride. Next stop is Surfers Paradise, these days more famous for its drinkers than its surfers. The guys go on a club tour and see Aussie binge drinking culture up close. One punter tells them ‘you need at least twenty drinks to have a good night’. Joe decides on a more scientific approach and sets up a Breathalyser booth, everyone is way over the limit but a young Swiss woman blows them all away. Binge drinking is one of the major health problems affecting young Australians and it’s the police and hospital emergency departments that are on the frontline. Joe takes Amer and Mahima to St Vincent’s where Dr Gordian Fulde tells them that young men are the worst and how a simple drunken punch can destroy a life. The guys head out bush to the Meandarra B&S, a romantic rite of passage where alcohol plays a vital role.

Themes

‘Schoolies’, a phenomenon that started on the Gold Coast, is a term given to a week-long bender that teenage school graduates have come to regard as a rite of passage. Schoolies has now extended to almost every capital city as well as a number of country areas across Australia each year. Is this a global epidemic or is it quintessentially Australian? Why?

The Indians are shocked. To them it looks like people are drinking as much as they can in as short a time as possible in an effort to get as drunk as possible and have sex or a fight, whatever happens first. The tragedy of this malaise is the toll it is having on young lives; binge drinking is a huge concern, both physically and mentally.

Binge drinking is one of the major health problems affecting young



1



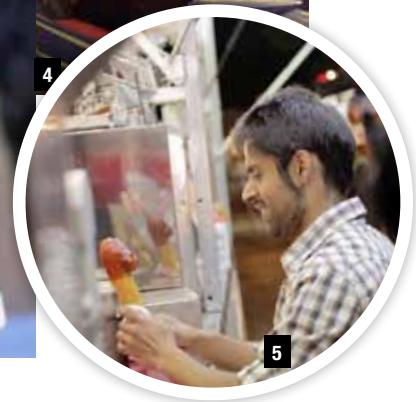
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Australians. For the police and hospital emergency departments it is a major concern. Clearly surging testosterone and other hormone levels mixed with excessive amounts of alcohol don't mix. Clearly the campaign to stop Australians smoking has been a massive success. Could it be time the Australian government committed itself to devising ways of drastically curbing the consumption of alcohol? As Radhika says, 'It is tragic to think someone is proud to get drunk.'

CONCLUSION

The White Australia policy effectively started as early as 1850. White miners resented industrious Chinese gold diggers taking their gold and, as a result, violence erupted on the Buckland River, Victoria in 1850. In response to this, the Victorian and New South Wales governments introduced laws forbidding Asians to work the goldfields thus creating 'The White Australia Policy'. This law became the most contentious in Australian history. Today, modern Australia is made up of people from almost every country

in the world, yet the legacy of this law produces an ongoing negative impact on the way other nations view Australians both here and abroad.

A recent example of why other nations may view Australians as dumb, drunk and racist may be due to politicians such as Pauline Hanson. Hanson identified a growing concern over the number of immigrants coming to Australia, and capitalised on it politically. Hanson put forward her argument with one simple sentence, 'if I can invite whom I want into my home, then I should have the right to have a say in who comes into my country'. Pauline Hanson (House of Representatives speech, September 1996)

There was a time when Australia was predominately a white Christian society but those days have passed into history. Australia is now regarded as one of the most multicultural countries in the world, with most cultural heritages and religions represented in our relatively small population of around 22 million people.

The participants in this series clearly discovered a country made up of many different people living diverse lives, whether it be in remote parts of the country or in large multicultural cities. Globally, Australia is recognised for having a very high standard of living, very high rates of tertiary education and one of the lowest unemployment rates anywhere in the world.

As the series concludes, the travellers views are changed somewhat. Australia is a lucky country. The Indians, like many from around the world who visit, discover this when they experience it first hand.

Are we dumb, drunk and racist? In the end the answer is simple. In essence this series asks us to think about our behavior and ourselves.



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QUESTION IDEAS

From the Series

1. Why is the title of this series so provocative?
2. Gurmeet Chaudhary has firm opinions about life and safety in Australia. How has he formed these opinions?
3. Mahima Bhardwaj is a call centre worker in India. She has had traumatic abusive experiences speaking to Australians on the telephone. Suggest how these experiences may affect her personally.
4. Amer Singh is a law student who enjoys a socialite lifestyle in India. Amer is clearly upset when he learns about the Cronulla Riots. Describe his reaction to the riots and explain why he feels that way.
5. Radhika Budhwar advises Indian students where they should study overseas. She has not recommended Australia for more than five years. Why doesn't she feel Australia is a suitable place for young Indian people to study?
6. Did the Indians notice a difference in our culture between urban and regional areas? Explain.
7. The series portrays some aspects of how multiculturalism works in Australia. Explain the population heritage and background of most people who live in the Sydney suburb of Lakemba.
8. The Indians confront racism several times during the series. List these occurrences and describe one in detail.
9. How is homosexuality addressed in the series? What does Gurmeet tell us about homosexual freedom

in India? How does Gurmeet react to his Australian experience of homosexuality?

10. Describe the experience the Indians have with Australian Indigenous people. What impression does this experience have on Radhika?
11. The Indians are shocked to witness excessive alcohol drinking during a typical Saturday night in Surfers Paradise. Why are they so concerned?
12. If a public debate were to emerge from the series, why would that be the case?

CONSIDERATIONS

Wider Social Issues

1. Terms like wog, spick and chink are examples of derogatory terms for people of various nationalities who have legally migrated to Australia. Suggest how these terms create division in our society.
2. In Australian society, we have terms or nicknames for people of certain types. Describe the stereotypical lifestyle and attitude of the following types:
 - i. Salt of the earth
 - ii. Surfies
 - iii. Bogan
 - iv. Activists
 - v. Bushies
 - vi. Rednecks
 - vii. Scientists
 - viii. Sportspeople
 - ix. Country folk
 - x. Suburban battlers
3. How does our international reputation as a nation impact on our economy?
4. What is the Villawood Detention Centre and why does the

government maintain this facility?

5. What is Islamophobia? Does this term foster racism? How?
6. What are the opposing views on the wearing of the Burqa?
7. How does mono-culturalism compare with multi-culturalism? Which is preferred in a true modern democracy?
8. How does global sport competition improve or challenge international relations?
9. Explain what 'introspection' is and how it can affect a society's democratic wellbeing.
10. What are the ongoing implications for a community when a great number of its young adults consume alcohol to dangerous levels on a Saturday night?
11. How can 'empathy' reduce racism?
12. Are Australians dumb, drunk and racist?

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