

Editorial

Dumb BBC

We've had a couple of underwater series on BBC TV recently - "Oceans" and "Pacific Abyss" and (in my humble opinion!) they represent a new low point in underwater television production and I'll admit I offer you this viewpoint after having not being able to watch an entire programme from either series. My wife then forbade me from watching them anymore for fear that my blood pressure would blow my head clean off.

Like it or not (and I'll probably lose our Australian circulation for this) but I blame the Steve Irwin delivery for this sad demise. The premise that interaction is entertaining and educational just doesn't cut it with me. It's dumb and it's cheap sensationalism which produces trash television aimed at a very low level.

The whole presenter led delivery combined with an intent to dramatise the dangers of diving is becoming increasingly common and incredibly irritating. I just don't see why a presenter has to be filmed talking underwater when properly shot footage of interesting behaviour with illuminating yet unobtrusive narration

would be much more educational and easier on the eye.

Having just lost our Ozzie readership I'm now about to lose our American brethren by daring to suggest that it is co-productions with dollar driven channels such as Discovery which are also at fault as they bring with it an overbearing control to produce something popular rather than good and nearly always with an American angle or presenter.

Why, like the Hollywood animation movie industry, can't these young upstarts of producers have the basic intelligence to understand that the animals are the real stars. All you need is a competent cameraman with a knowledge and empathy for the marine world put in the right location to record their daily lives. They write the story for us.

I don't want to see millions being spent on what were basically bloated over produced 'what we did on our dive trip' videos. I want to see and be informed about this incredible environment and its inhabitants in a respectful, quality way.

The main trouble behind this is that all policeman, bank managers and other authority figures are now so much younger than me.

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45 degree finder



D70



D200



1Ds MarkII



Fiber optic sync



D2x



D80



5D