

EAT THE INVADERS



A RADICAL RETHINK. TASTY RESULTS.

Countries around the world are experiencing unique biodiversity loss destroyed by invasive plants and animals brought by colonial ancestors. Pests like cats, cane toads, camels, carp, deer and rabbits have driven many native plants and animals to the brink of extinction. But what if a radical rethink, inspired by the Museum of Old & New Art (Mona) Artist and Curator Kirsha Kaechele's '*Eat The Problem*', could help turn this issue into an opportunity? With the help of scientists, land carers, Kirsha and Mona Head Chef Vince Trim, host Tony Armstrong attempts to turn unwanted ecological trash into desirable culinary gold, in a provocative attempt to 'eat the invaders'.

Each episode goes to the frontlines of the invasive species war to witness the impact these pests are having on our ecology, while uncovering their fascinating historical backstories, testing just how edible they are, and overcoming cultural taboos around what animals we value as food.

Eat The Invaders is a must-watch ecological and culinary wake up call. A radical and humorous fusion of art, science, politics and food-porn served, it connects each one of us – via our food choices – to the history and future of ecology.

This innovative, hugely entertaining new series considers a more sustainable approach to the management of land and food stocks – one that is possibly more akin to the 60,000-year-old techniques employed by the nation's first Australians.

While eating problem species is not a simple fix-all for our environment, *Eat The Invaders* is a brilliant conversation starter: a provocation to make us question how and what we eat.

Genres

Factual Entertainment,
Formats

Writer/s

Matthew Bate, Poppy
Fitzpatrick

Director

Matthew Bate

Producer/s

Rebecca Summerton,
Sarah Wormald

Executive Producer

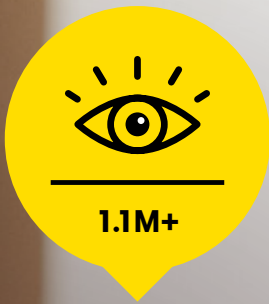
Rebecca Summerton

Cast

Tony Armstrong,
Kirsha Kaechele,
Vince Trim

HD 6 X 30'
CLOSER PRODUCTIONS





Premiere episode exceeding
1.1M total audience





MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

“Balances perspectives on food, conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and consumer experiences, creating a well-rounded narrative...worth the watch”

– **The Conversation**

“A wonderful way to begin a much-needed conversation”

– **The Age**

“While the premise might sound bold, it’s precisely this audacious approach that sets *Eat The Invaders* apart from conventional food programming. The production blends creativity and sustainability to provoke meaningful reflection and engagement”

– **50+SA**



SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

I watched that first episode last night, and will surely watch every one after this! Spell-binding, incredible, fun, glamorous, deep but presented in such a lighthearted way...it's the perfect program, it's bliss ★★★★★★

– Inge Courtney-Haentjes

The show is incredible! I Hope it comes back for another season

– Tori Leem

Love the show – highly informative and Tony Armstrong ❤️

– Linda Nicholas

My 7- year-old watched this with me last night and absolutely loved it, asked if we could hunt and eat rabbits ❤️

– Jess Roberts

Love it how MONA - Museum of Old and New Art – and the ABC continue to push the boundaries. This time taking cooking shows to a whole hilarious new level. 🤪

– Janie Meredith Carter

EPISODES

Episode One: Rabbits

This episode visits ground zero of the rabbit invasion, exploring why Australia abandoned a beloved cuisine and considers putting underground mutton back on the national menu.

Episode Two: Carp

Episode two explores the European Carp's culinary potential and ecological impact in Australia, challenging perceptions while transforming this invasive fish into a sustainable food source.

Episode Three: Cane Toads

The third episode tackles Australia's infamous cane toad invasion by exploring its culinary potential. Can we safely promote this risky protein alternative?

Episode Four: Camels

This episode traces the history of feral camels and confronts the true cost of beef, while discovering how culture informs the animals we value as food.

Episode Five: Cats

The finale sinks its teeth into the controversial conversation around cats – uncovering their dual role as Australia's most beloved pet and worst environmental pest.



KEY TALENT

Tony Armstrong PRESENTER

Tony Armstrong, a proud Gamilaroi man hailing from rural Australia, has left an indelible mark on Australian media. His journey through AFL with Adelaide, Collingwood, and Sydney, notably alongside his childhood inspiration, Adam Goodes, is just the beginning of his remarkable story.

Breaking new ground in 2019, Tony became the first Indigenous person to provide live commentary for Aussie Rules Football on commercial radio. His undeniable talent and charisma earned him coveted spots on the *Marngrook Footy Show* and as a regular panellist on *The Colour of Your Jumper*.

Expanding his media footprint in 2020, Tony co-hosted the Indigenous comedy football chat show, *Yokayi Footy*, which aired on NITV, SBS On Demand, and AFL channels. Simultaneously, he co-hosted ABC Melbourne's breakfast radio program alongside Sammy J. Later that year, Tony joined the ABC family, presenting sports news on the ABC News channel, providing commentary for Grandstand AFL on ABC Sport, and hosting the 2020 summer series of *Offsiders*. In 2021, the ABC proudly announced Tony as the full-time sports presenter on *News Breakfast*.

His television credits extend beyond sports, including hosting *Tony Armstrong's Extra-Ordinary Things*, *Monday's Experts*, *Great Australian Stuff* and *A Dog's World* with Tony Armstrong for the ABC. Tony has made regular appearances on *The Weekly* with Charlie Pickering, *The Yearly*, *The Project*, and *Fox Footy*. Additionally, he's been a guest on several *Play School* specials and lends his voice to Mr Flip on ABC Kids Reef School. Tony has also brought to life the character of Max in Oscar winner Adam Elliott's latest feature film *Memoir of a Snail*.

Tony earned the prestigious **Bert Newton Award for Most Popular Presenter** at the 2023 Logie Awards, recognizing his exceptional contributions to both ABC News Breakfast and *A Dog's World* with Tony Armstrong. This remarkable achievement swiftly followed his win of the **Graham Kennedy Award for Most Popular New Talent** at the 2022 Logie Awards, a testament to his meteoric rise in the television industry within just two years. In 2024, Tony continued to shine, being nominated for a Gold Logie at the 2024 Logie Awards for his outstanding work across the ABC, further solidifying his status as a beloved figure in Australian television.

KEY TALENT



Kirsha Kaechele ARTIST & CURATOR, MONA

Kirsha Kaechele is an artist, curator, and Mona's better half—or the First Lady of Mona (Museum of Old and New Art). She's founder of Material Institute—a non-profit social project with branches in New Orleans, USA, and Lutruwita / Tasmania. She is interested in the space where complex problems exist, and places transformation at the heart of her work—turning flaws into features, shit into gold. For Kaechele, problems become the medium through which art emerges.

Projects past and present include: *the Ladies Lounge*—a lavish, ladies-only haven in the museum (no men allowed, except the butlers);

Forest Congress—an act of radical diplomacy uniting economists, the forestry industry, scientists, conservationists, indigenous leaders and artists to tackle the question, 'what is the true value of a tree / forest?'; *Eat the Problem*—a food and art compendium (typically, gob-smackingly deluxe) featuring a series of 'recipes' using invasive species, both real and surreal, with an accompanying exhibition at Mona; and *CA\$H 4 GUN\$*—a conceptual artwork in the form of a gun buyback scheme in New Orleans.

KEY TALENT



Vince Trim EXECUTIVE CHEF, MONA

Vince Trim is Mona's Executive Chef. He joined the team in 2010 as Executive Sous Chef before taking on this lead role in January 2016. Vince's work is integral to Mona's ever-evolving food philosophy, from the way it is sourced and conceptualised to the way it is served, with an emphasis on food-as-art.

KEY TALENT



Prof. Andrew Lowe & Prof. Phill Cassey

INVASION BIOLOGISTS

These are two of the leading scientists in the invasive species space in Australia. Together, they bring a balanced combination of expertise, pragmatism and charisma – as well as a broad network.

Andrew Lowe is passionate about communicating science and knowledge to a general audience and is an experienced media article writer and public presenter. He has presented at TedX and PechaKucha events, hosted panel discussions (WOMAD Planet Talks), runs blog sites (biodiversityrevolution and andylowe), hosts podcasts (*Discovery Pod*, *EcoFuturists*, *FoodFuturists*) and has served as Scientist in Residence for the *Australian Financial Review* (2019-2020) and *The Advertiser* (2018).

Phill Cassey is an inaugural Australian Research Council Industry Laureate Fellow, and leads the Invasion Science & Wildlife Ecology Group at The University of Adelaide. He was previously Head of the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department and is an outspoken advocate for diversity and inclusion within and outside the workplace. As a global change biologist, he brings critical analytical techniques to the interdisciplinary study of environmental and wildlife crime; areas characterised by complexity and uncertainty.



KEY CREATIVES

CLOSER

PRODUCTIONS

Closer Productions is a multi-award winning South Australian-based screen production company with a reputation for producing distinctive high-quality work – work that resonates across international boundaries. Closer's first feature drama *52 Tuesdays* won the Directing Award for World Dramatic Competition at Sundance Film Festival 2014 and the Crystal Bear for Best Film at the Berlinale International Film Festival. *Animals*, based on the acclaimed novel by Emma Jane Unsworth, premiered at Sundance film festival in 2019 and stars Holliday Grainger and Alia Shawkat. Closer has made many short films including Berlin-winning *A Field Guide To Being A 12-Year-Old Girl* and documentaries for Australian broadcast including a 3-part TV Series for ABC arts starring stand-up comedian Hannah Gadsby.

Their feature documentary slate includes underground sensation *Shut Up Little Man!* (Sundance 2011), *Sam Klemke's Time Machine* (Sundance 2015), *Life In Movement* (Australian Documentary prize 2014) and *In My Blood It Runs* (nominated for AACTA award 2019).

Closer's move into scripted television began with the 6-part short-form series *F*!#ing Adelaide* which screened in competition at Series Mania and was the most viewed show made for ABC's iview in 2018. Their 4 x 60 TV series *The Hunting*, starring Asher Keddie and Richard Roxburgh, released in August 2019 to become SBS's most successful commissioned drama ever. Most recently Closer produced *Aftertaste*, a returnable 6 x 30 comedy drama for the ABC which premiered at Berlinale Series Selects 2021.

Closer is dedicated to telling compelling stories that entertain, challenge and provoke. Stories that make the heart soar and celebrate the terrible, wonderful complexity of being alive.

KEY CREATIVES



Rebecca Summerton EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & PRODUCER

Rebecca is a producer and co-owner of the award-winning screen production company

Closer Productions. Her feature film credits include *52 Tuesdays*, which won the directing award for World Cinema at Sundance and the Crystal Bear at Berlinale, and feature documentary *Sam Klemke's Time Machine* which premiered at Sundance and in Official Selection at HotDocs and Rotterdam and won. Her most recent feature, *Animals*, is an official Irish/Australian co-production based on the acclaimed novel, premiered at Sundance 2019. For television, Rebecca has made numerous documentaries including Dendy Award-winning *I Want To Dance Better At Parties* and 3-part arts series *Hannah Gadsby's Oz*. Her television drama

credits include the 6-part series *F*!#ing Adelaide*, which premiered at Series Mania and was the most watched ABC iview Original in 2018. She also produced *The Hunting*, a 4 x 1 hour drama series which premiered on SBS Television in August 2019 becoming SBS' most successful commissioned drama ever. Most recently, Rebecca produced *Aftertaste*, a returnable 6 x 30 comedy drama for the ABC. The first season premiered at Berlinale Series Selects and was nominated for a Most Popular Comedy Logie in 2022, season 2 screened on ABCTV in July 2022.

KEY CREATIVES



Matthew Bate WRITER & DIRECTOR

Matthew Bate is a multi-award-winning writer, director and producer. His 2011 feature *Shut Up Little Man!* premiered in competition at the Sundance Film festival before screening theatrically across the U.S and being bought by Netflix. His follow up feature *Sam Klemke's Time Machine* premiered at the 2015 Sundance New Frontiers Program, winning Doc Aviv's Artistic Spirit Award and an AWGIE for best screenplay. In 2013 Mathew wrote and directed the Dendy Award winning film *I Want To Dance Better At Parties*. Matthew's Virtual Reality work *Summation Of Force*, made with Magnum Photographer Trent Parke, was selected for Sundance's New Frontier Program and won the inaugural VR Award at the

'Imagine Film Festival' Amsterdam. Matthew is a co-creator, co-writer and producer of the comedy TV Series *Aftertaste*, starring Rachel Griffiths and Erik Thomson, which aired two successful seasons on ABC. Matthew directed the recent Amazon documentary *The Defenders*, which won the Audience Award for Best Feature Documentary at Sydney Film Festival 2023. Matthew is a co-founder of the South Australian film company Closer Productions.

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