

Thursday

8:00PM

Watch Out For: Catalyst

ABC1 8:00pm Thursday 25th July, 2013

**The Chemistry of Attraction -
See what happens when Catalyst throws a pheromone party**



Do we select our perfect partner by their odour? One way to find out is to invite men and women to a party where everyone gets to smell the t-shirts of the opposite sex. We've asked 100 young singles to bring their smelly T-shirts and find a mate this way. But will pheromones trump looks and personality?

Whether humans have Pheromones has been a hotly debated topic but the research agrees that humans do respond to chemical cues from other humans. In fact science points to the idea, that while people undeniably have personal preferences when it comes to attraction, the functional reasons behind these preferences have their basis in evolution and natural selection. Our immunity has been linked to the chemical cues we send out for potential mates. Scientists have discovered visual and chemical cues associated with female fertility which subtly attract would-be partners. And then there are looks and personality, but can these outweigh the primal effects of evolution.

In this episode, Jonica Newby follows four of our party-goers as they seek out their perfect match. As liaisons emerge and are tested, Jonica explores the mechanisms that shape sexual attraction, consulting global experts and engaging in a few experiments herself, as Catalyst pulls back the covers on the science of attraction.