

A BOLD, NEW DOCUMENTARY SERIES THAT EXPLORES DEFINING MOMENTS OF RECENT HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES, EARS AND VOICES OF THOSE WHO WITNESSED THEM FIRSTHAND

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be at the centre of an iconic moment of history as it unfolded before your eyes? What if history could be retold, not by journalists or historians, but by the diverse and colourful individuals who lived it in the moment? And what if this retelling – sometimes unvarnished, sometimes raw and sometimes irreverent, and occasionally contradictory – would it take us to the visceral heart of what it means to be a fully alive human being?

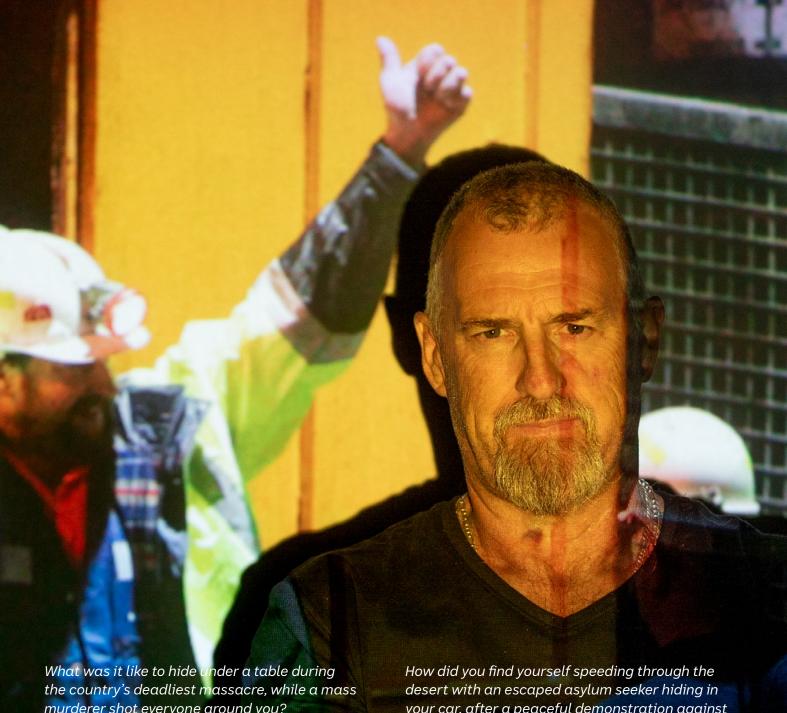
You Can't Ask That creator/director Kirk Docker returns with this compelling new series. Employing the unfiltered and up-close interviewing style that made You Can't Ask That an international sensation, along with dramatic, never-before-seen archival footage, I Was Actually There uncovers hidden perspectives to create a multi-dimensional, experience-driven picture of the events that shaped the nation.

Rather than fitting eyewitness reports into existing narratives, the series lets audiences make up their own minds by understanding events from a variety of new angles – and in doing so connects Australians to their own history through powerful, contemporary storytelling. By intimately reliving the past in the present, the series reflects who we are now, examines why these moments deeply resonate with us, and considers how they shape and define us collectively.

We may have witnessed iconic moments from a distance – through the narrow lens of television news footage and photographs – but what was it really like to be there in person? Each episode examines what the participants saw, how they reacted and how the experience changed them.



SEASON 1: 6 X 30' DOCKER MEDIA FORMAT AVAILABLE



murderer shot everyone around you?

What were you thinking as you lost your grip on your teenage son in the raging waters of the Boxing Day tsunami?

How did it feel to be literally ecstatic with joy when The Beatles made their way through the streets of 1960s Adelaide, surrounded by a record-breaking 350,000 screaming fans – more than half the population of the city.

How did you survive, trapped a kilometre underground after a mining disaster while a global media storm raged above, writing messages on your clothes in case you never saw your family again?

What emotions battled in you, as a First Australian sporting legend took a courageous stand against racism, in a day etched into Australian sporting folklore for all the wrong reasons?

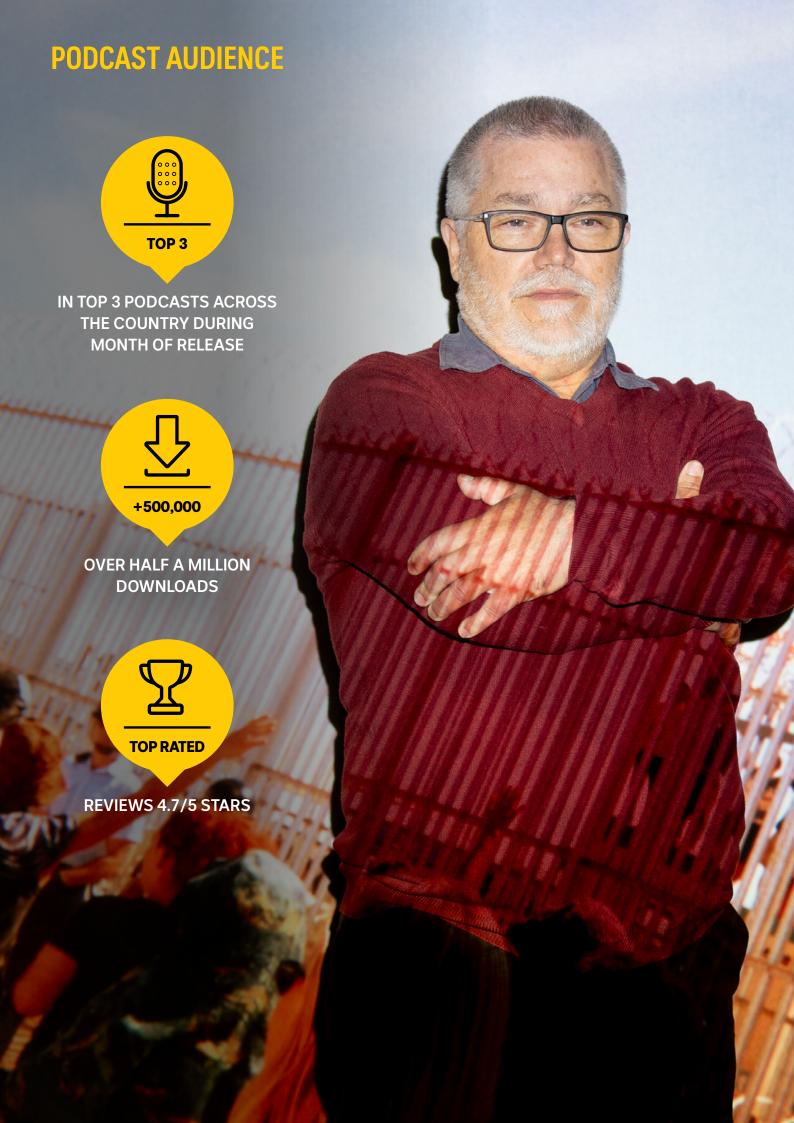
your car, after a peaceful demonstration against the incarceration of refugees spun out of control?

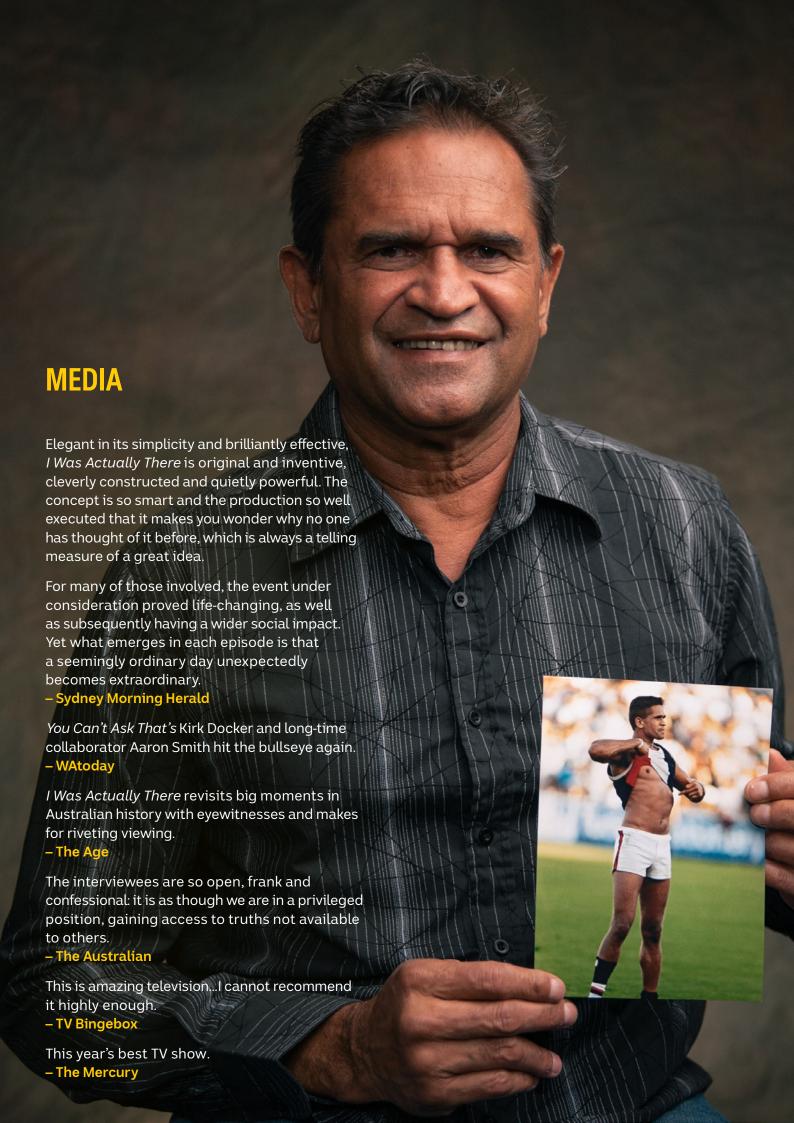
Spotlighting a range of moments in history from the legendary to the less well known, I Was Actually There encompasses nation-defining tragedies, impassioned protest movements, sporting and cultural celebrations. A range of characters, decades, beliefs and personalities feature on screen amongst them victims, first responders, bystanders, journalists and many others.

A companion podcast series is also available.











EPISODES

Episode 1

Port Arthur Massacre

The Port Arthur massacre through the eyes of those who lived it. Devastating and inspiring accounts from survivors, first responders, police and journalists are woven together to build a deeply personal picture of a day that changed Australia forever.

Episode 2 Boxing Day Tsunami

Heart-wrenching accounts of losing loved ones, miraculous tales of survival, and ordinary people's reactions to extraordinary circumstances build this account of the Boxing Day Tsunami's impact on Australians in Thailand.

Episode 3

Nicky Winmar's Stand Against Racism (and the image that almost never was)

Nicky Winmar's famous stand against racism has become an iconic part of AFL history. But back in 1993, it was almost missed entirely. This episode hears from the players, fans and photographers who wouldn't let it go.

Episode 4

The Beatles' World Record-Breaking Adelaide Visit

When the Beatles descended on Adelaide on 12 June 1964, they were met by record-breaking crowds. But the visit almost didn't happen. This episode spotlights those who brought the biggest band in the world to the sleepy city.

Episode 5

Woomera Detention Centre Breakout

A 2002 protest at Woomera Detention Centre takes an unexpected turn. As fences fall and asylum seekers flee into the desert, the nation learns new perspectives about the breakout from those on both sides of the fence.

Episode 6

Beaconsfield Mine Rescue

In 2006, the whole world watched the Tasmanian town of Beaconsfield, as two miners spent 321 hours trapped underground. In this episode, learn what those hours were like for those men, their loved ones, and their rescuers.



KEY CREATIVES

Docker Media

Docker Media (DM) is an award-winning independent production company specialising in documentary and entertainment content and format creation, bringing bold, imaginative ideas to screen.

They pride themselves on their integrity and respect for the people and subjects we make stories on. They are interested in the dimensionality of life. Taking ideas or experiences that seem black and white and show they are wonderfully complicated, thorny, weird — and human. They excel in finding voices that aren't typically heard to tell stories that are important to all of us.

Kirk Docker

Kirk Docker is one of Australia's finest interviewers and storytellers. He is the co-creator and director of the ABC Original program *You Can't Ask That*, now in its seventh season. The show has been awarded Rose d'Or, AACTA and Walkley Awards and is the most successful format in ABC history, selling to 32 territories, and broadcast in 9 different languages worldwide.

When it comes to the content Kirk creates, no subject is off topic. Kirk's interviewees range from ex-politicians to ice users to sexual assault survivors. He has a deep curiosity, compassion and playfulness that elicits honesty from his participants, many of whom have never sat in front of a camera before.

Through thousands of hours of open dialogue, what's become absolutely clear to Kirk is that every human, no matter what they believe or how high their stature, share a core value: the desire to be understood



CREATOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to challenge the audience to consider that opposing truths can exist simultaneously. That you can connect with someone who seems so different from yourself when you hear their perspective. But also I want to show that as humans, the way in which we deal with defining events is not clearcut. There can be humour in the most tragic of circumstances. There can be gravity in times of irreverence. How someone has lived through an experience is almost always more complex, nuanced and weird than we realise, until we actually hear their take.

In 2024, how we understand truth has been in upheaval, so it feels timely to be able to chart not only multiple versions of events, but also look at how Australia has changed. We're not interested in judging or justifying but simply observing the progress or otherwise of this nation and where we sit in the world.

Can a single moment shape the rest of your life? How do our memories of the past play out in our present? Is it true that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger? By asking these questions, *I Was Actually There* allows us to reflect on why these moments matter, and how they make us who we are.

It's almost impossible to put yourself into these moments by reading a Wikipedia entry. When you hear the intimate details from regular people of what it was like to be inside these events, you realise history is so personal. And so individual. You and I could be standing next to each other in the midst of the same moment and yet the impact on each of us could be worlds apart.

The series features 68 exceptional people. There was no rule to the number of voices per episode, we were looking for the right mix of experiences, involvement and impact.

Each episode unfolds as an oral history, allowing the people with firsthand experience to share their own stories, on their own terms. From key players to accidental bystanders, all perspectives are important.'

- Creator/Director Kirk Docker



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