



Carlotta

She had to be extraordinary just to be ordinary

DRAMA 1 x 91' HD



ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Commercial

DRAMA

HD 1 x 91'

Carlotta

How many working class Aussie boys grow up to be showgirls?



Not just any showgirl but a household name, a daytime TV star, and a symbol of generational change. While many know her face, few have heard the real story of Australia's most famous transsexual. Until now.

Long before Australians knew what a transsexual was, Carlotta was pushing the boundaries of gender and sexuality. She was an ambassador for rebellion, freedom, and self-expression: a living, breathing symbol of emerging 60s liberalism.

Fleeing an abusive stepfather, 16-year-old Richard, a sexually confused innocent, arrived in the swinging, "live and let live" area of Sydney, Kings Cross. It was 1959 and the nation was waking from a long, conservative slumber. Adopted by a group of like-minded friends, Richard began to test the boundaries of gender and sexuality: to remake himself.

Through cross-dressing and performing, Richard experimented with becoming a woman, and despite persecution and exploitation, found the courage to live as Carol Lee. Later, when illegal hormone treatment had spectacular results, the striking, irrepressible "Carlotta" was born. Fêted, desired and imitated, Carlotta's reign at Les Girls was to endure for three decades.

Carlotta's grit, bawdy glamour, and determination to be the best woman she could be, endeared her to a nation while echoing the desire of a generation of women who also wanted more.



WRITER David Hannam DIRECTOR Samantha Lang PRODUCERS Riccardo Pellizzeri, Lara Radulovich
PRODUCTION COMPANY A Story Ark production for ABC TV

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