

A heart-warming series following following a diverse group of singles as they step into the dating world

Better Date Than Never



ABC TV | iview

Premieres Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 8.00pm

Watch weekly on ABC TV or stream all episodes on ABC iview

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#BetterDateThanNeverTV

Better Date Than Never

BETTER DATE THAN NEVER is a character led six part docuseries following a diverse group of single love seekers as they take a huge step in anyone's life – into the dating world.

Each participant has a unique story, and a different reason for a later start to their dating journey. They all share a common goal – to step out on their first date.

With a little help from the producers, the participants launch themselves into a world they've always wanted to explore. They are matched with a potential suitor, and ready themselves to meet them on a blind date. We are with them as they experience the most important moment of their dating lives: the beginning.

Participants stories are interwoven across the series as they set out on the sometimes rocky road to finding love. As their stories develop - connections will be made, hearts will break, love will blossom.

Refreshingly real, honest and diverse, BETTER DATE THAN NEVER is a warm hearted series exploring the world of dating and relationships, from the creators of LOVE ON THE SPECTRUM.



Why make this series?

BETTER DATE THAN NEVER was born from a desire to tell inclusive stories of love and relationships.

We believe that the realm of the dating show shouldn't belong only to the young and the instagrammable, and that there's a hunger from audiences to see a more diverse range of people of all shapes and sizes, abilities and sexualities, as they navigate the universal experience of looking for love.

Who appears on screen in shows about love and dating can have a real world effect on how audiences feel about themselves. Who is deserving of love? What makes someone desirable?

If you were to turn on your television to look for an answer, it would surely be: the best looking, most confident, cis gender, able bodied people. This is not just a problem of representation, it affects our collective beliefs and understandings of who is valued and who isn't. Yet no matter how we identify sexually, what our bodies look like or how our brains work, we are all worthy of finding love.

BETTER DATE THAN NEVER aims to create positive outcomes for both the participants and audiences alike. It's a series celebrating difference, embracing uniqueness, and having a lot of fun along the way.

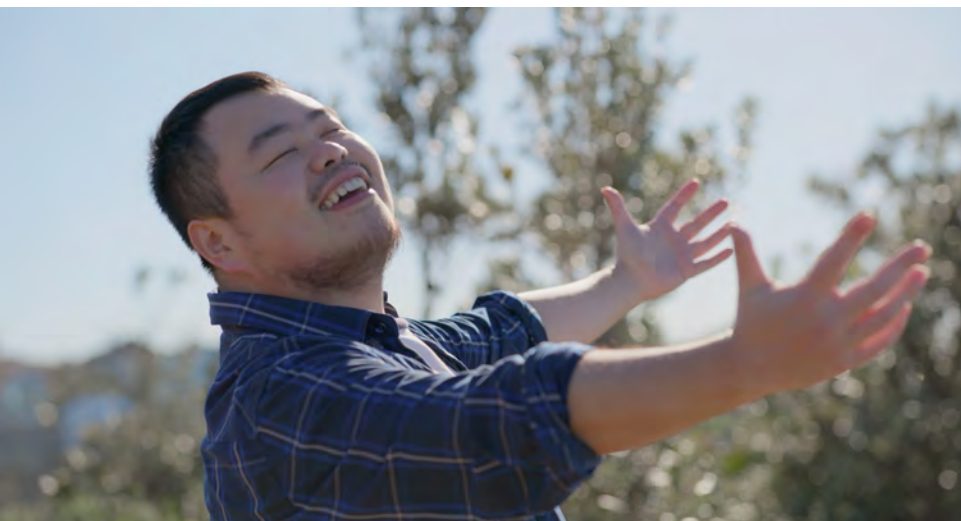


Airs Tuesday 24 January 2023

8.00pm on ABC TV + iview

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Episode 1.



Olivia is a gregarious, high achieving 22-year-old living with her mum in Queensland. She is a dancer, an actor, a public speaker, and has addressed the United Nations as an advocate for people with Down Syndrome. Despite having conquered every challenge she has set herself, she is yet to achieve her dream of finding love. Olivia's family offer support and encouragement as she readies herself and steps out on the first date of her life. It's an experience she takes on with enthusiasm, but is the young man she meets the right one for her?



Charles is a thoughtful 27-year-old international student from China. He is passionate about environmental issues and loves spending time out in nature. Since coming out as gay, Charles hasn't had any luck finding someone special to share life's moments with. Disheartened with the hookup culture of dating apps, Charles wants to find real love, but he has never even been on a date. On hearing a match has been found for him, his excitement is palpable.

Despite being a creative and sensitive young lady, **Nirvali** has never dated. She hasn't so much as held hands with another person romantically. Identifying as a hermit, social anxiety has held Nirvali back. Not wanting to live her life in fear, she dives head first into the dating world and steps out on a blind date.

Airs Tuesday 31 January 2023

8.00pm on ABC TV + iview

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Episode 2.

Olivia's first ever date ends with a question mark, and she fills her mum Kerry in with all the details. As she prepares for a second date at an Italian restaurant, will romance blossom?

Dianne is a 68-year-old farmer from regional NSW, living an hours drive from the closest town of any size. Dating can be hard for anyone in her part of the world, and having been through a major change in recent years she is finding it very difficult to meet people romantically. Dianne wants to find someone special for companionship as much as intimacy.

As **Charles** prepares to step out on his first ever date, he seeks advice from a relationship expert on how to navigate the Australian dating scene as a gay man. On the day of his date, Charles is a bundle of nerves, worrying about all the things that could go wrong. As his date begins, it looks like his fears may be coming true.

Nirvali kicks off her dating journey and shares a love of music with her match, but is he putting his best foot forward? As the end of the day approaches, she realises her first date wasn't the disaster she expected.





Airs Tuesday 7 February 2023

8.00pm on ABC TV + iview

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Episode 3.



Charles recovers after a wobbly start to his first date, and settles in to enjoy the picnic. As the date comes to an end, honest feelings can be difficult to deal with.

Nirvali talks dating with her mum and brother, and sets off to meet someone new. She finds a mutual passion for medieval re-enactments and archaeology, but when she asks her date a tricky question, will the answer rule out a romantic connection?

Olivia's dinner date brings up strong emotions, and the night ends with her feeling overwhelmed.



Dianne catches up with a friend and LGBTQ+ ally, discussing the difficulties they both face when it comes to finding love. On the eve of her first date, Di pops in to visit one of her biggest supporters, her mum.

Airs Tuesday 14 February 2023
8.00pm on ABC TV + iview
#BetterDateThanNeverTV

Episode 4.

After her romantic dinner date, **Olivia** is having feelings she hasn't experienced before. Her mum Kerry encourages her to protect her heart and keep expectations in check. A phone call asking her on another date gets her heart racing, and a day out at a wildlife park brings further connection.

Charles readies himself to step out on a date with someone new, hoping he can keep his nerves in check. When he feels an immediate attraction the stakes are so much higher, and the date ends with a surprise.

Nirvali's date continues, and her honesty about her social anxiety brings an ambiguous response.

Liv is a lonely 20-year-old with Cerebral palsy who feels her disability has held her back from finding love. She wants nothing more than to get married, have kids, "the full shebang" - but is yet to step out on a date.

For **Dianne**, the day has come to finally start her dating journey. With trepidation, she jumps in her landcruiser ute and heads off into the unknown.





Airs Tuesday 21 February 2023

8.00pm on ABC TV + iview

#BetterDateThanNeverTV

Episode 5.

Charles prepares for his very first second date, but he worries he isn't good enough for his suitor. A day out on Sydney Harbour ends with a confronting admission.

Dianne is anxious to meet her date, feeling like a "goat staked out for the lions". As things get under way, the conversation flows and she starts to relax, but is there a romantic connection?

Liv meets a young man at the beach for her first ever date, and despite finding things in common the feelings are one sided. She heads out to meet someone new, and her second date ends on a high.

Olivia meets her date for a round of mini-golf, and as their connection continues to grow he makes a bold proposition.





Airs Tuesday 28 February 2023

8.00pm on ABC TV + iview

#BetterDateThanNeverTV



Episode 6.

Olivia's relationship continues to develop and she takes the next step by inviting her date to meet the family. They put him to the test with a list of curly questions. Will he pass muster and be welcomed by her nearest and dearest?

Dianne's first date continues, with the two women continuing to bond. As the rendezvous comes to an end, the question of what kind of connection they may have hangs in the air.

Liv meets a young man for a second date, and as the sun sets over Sydney Harbour they share a passionate moment.

Charles continues his search for love, meeting a new man for a teahouse date. They bond over a shared love of musical theatre, and things are looking positive for Charles as he reflects on his recent dating experiences.





Olivia

"I've always wanted someone special in my life"

Olivia is a gregarious, high achieving 22-year-old woman living with her mum and her dog Dolly in Queensland.

She is a dancer, an actor, a public speaker, and has addressed the United Nations as an advocate for people with Down Syndrome.

Despite having conquered every challenge she has set herself or been faced with, she is yet to achieve her dream of finding love.



Charles

"I have no idea how to pursue a relationship"

Charles is a 27-year-old international student from China who came to Sydney looking for more than an education.

A proud gay man, Charles embraces his sexuality, but an aversion to the hookup culture of dating apps has scared him off.

He wants a loving relationship but has no idea how to get started trying to find it.



Nirvali

"I'd like to be in love, even if it hurts"

Nirvali is an intriguing, creative 20-year-old woman with many talents waiting to be discovered, but social anxiety has been holding her back.

She describes herself as a hermit with a tendency to never leave the house, and she has never even come close to going on a date.

Despite her anxiety she refuses to live her life in fear, and is determined to start her dating journey.

She never does anything in half measures, and sees diving head first into the experience as the best way to take on her search for love.



Dianne

"Everybody has a soulmate, I've just not found mine yet"

Dianne is a 68-year-old farmer seeking love in regional NSW.

As a transgender woman living in a rural area she has found the search for love extremely difficult, and since transitioning in recent years has yet to go on a date.

She has set up multiple organisations to help support the local LGBTQ+ community, but has yet to find her own special someone.



Liv

"Falling in love would be really magical. It would be out of this world"

Liv is a 20-year-old self-confessed romantic who is in love with love.

With a scrapbook full of wedding pictures, she has been preparing her happily ever after her whole life, she's just missing Mr Right.

Diagnosed with Cerebral palsy, Liv thinks her disability has held her back from dating, with social isolation from her peers meaning she has yet to start dating.

Liv wants to meet someone who shares her passion for family, she wants a husband, children, "the whole shebang".

Director's Statement.

This series come from a desire to tell stories in the dating and relationship space that feel more 'real', and that give audiences more of a representation of the human experience as a whole.

The broad concept of the series is very simple, following a group of single love seekers as they date for the first time. This felt like a great way to anchor the series and include participants who all share a common journey, despite the very different stories and life experiences they may have. We hope that this series balances the representation of a broad range of people from many walks of life, without anyone feeling like they don't belong.

As a production team we found matches for our participants to date, and our agenda was very clear, look for people we think they will get along with. If romance comes along, that's a bonus.

To me this series is the antithesis of the 'hot people on islands' dating shows, and I hope audiences will come along for the ride without the need for heavy conflict and villains.

I'm very grateful first and foremost to the participants for sharing their stories, and grateful to the ABC for believing in us and commissioning this new series. It's a rare thing as a filmmaker to work with a broadcaster that is so supportive when it comes to setting a tone and style for a new show, and once again we had a really positive experience.

I hope that audiences will enjoy spending time with our participants as much as I did!

– CIAN O'CLERY



Language Guidelines.

This series tells the individual stories of the participants, and some are part of a particular community where language guidelines can be important to get right. Below are some links to language guidelines:

- [Disability Language Guidelines](#)
- [Down Syndrome Language Guidelines](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Language Guidelines](#)
- [Transgender Language Guidelines](#)

Credits.

A Northern Pictures Production. Principal production and development funding from Screen Australia.
Developed and produced in association with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Created by CIAN O'CLERY with KARINA HOLDEN

Director and Executive Producer CIAN O'CLERY Executive Producer KARINA HOLDEN

Senior/Casting Producer PRUE HAMILL Post Producer CALLUM DENNESS

Associate Producers ANTONIA OSILI, RACHEL O'ROURKE, MELANIE SAUER

Cinematography DAVID MAY and CIAN O'CLERY

Editors LEANNE COLE, LIALINA QADER, TOBY STRATMANN

Production Manager REBECCA SINCLAIR Production Executive KATE BAILEY

ABC Manager of Documentary STEPHEN OLIVER

ABC Acting Head of Factual and Culture RICHARD HUDDLESTON