

AVANCE AUSTRAYA

Because There's No 'I' In Aussie Pride Patriot ... Team

A black comedy about white supremacists
by Dave Bloustien | 7 x 30 min

When three losers are forced out of an ultranationalist hate group, they plot their revenge while wrestling with the idea that they might be on the wrong side of history.

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Racism in Australia is everywhere. It's in our policies, in our public holidays, in our families and social media networks, and if you've ever been gyped or played Chinese Whispers, you'd know that our language is full of it.

Avance Austraya is a half hour comedy that tackles modern Australian racism through the stories of Scotty, Rachel and Tigger. They're passionate but ineffective white supremacists who would blithely take a tiki torch to a flammable flag rally, or follow an African-Australian man on to a bus only to be gazumped by a pensioner and verbally abused for sitting in the disabled seats.

Because like all good comedy, racism is angry, absurd and funnier when spoken by idiots

*"The sign says 'muslin', you donk.
Are we protesting Sharia Law or f**king cheesecloth?"*

This first series follows their journey from being kicked out of their racial hate group, to forming their own splinter group, to planning an elaborate revenge on that original group, to being mistaken for Islamic extremists and ultimately arrested.

Along the way, they'll also deal with complications in their personal lives, such as Tigger's battle for custody of his two children and his uneasy friendship with their new Pakistani stepdad, Rachel's court-ordered sensitivity training, and the early release for good behaviour of Scotty's older brother, having converted to Islam while in prison.

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CHARACTERS

Scotty Anderson (21)

*"I know he's a Nazi.
Why does he have to be such a dick?"*

Scotty has a hard face full of hate and a Eureka Stockade patch on his hoodie. He wants to leave a mark. He wants to matter. For him, the group gives him a purpose and a sense of importance, as a way to blame others for the problems he brings on himself.

Rachel Bergen (22)

“Jeez, Scotty. If you’re embarrassed by rainbow,
I can get you chocolate, so you can put brown all over your face.”

Acerbic and dry, Rach is the ‘brains’ of the group, and (almost) too smart to be there at all. Rach grew up with Scotty and dated his older brother Nate. The group gives her a family and a sense of belonging.

Lachie “Tigger” Dutchman (26)

“Here’s the signs for the protest. Shardonay and Léxia helped me with the glitter”.

A cuddly bear of a man, and twice as thick, Tigger is a single dad, fighting to get custody of his daughters. Tigger wears his heart on his sleeve, which - as armbands go - could have been much, much worse.

Danish (25)

An immigrant from Pakistan, Danish met Lachie’s ex-wife at the local RSL and fell in love. His name is ‘dah-NISH’, but everyone insists on pronouncing it ‘DAY-nish’, like the pastry.

Nathan “Nate” Anderson (25)

Scotty’s older brother and idol. Rach’s ex-boyfriend. Tigger’s best friend. The founder of their white supremacist group and recent convert to Islam.

Joshuah Deng

A gay, Sudanese-Australian academic. Despite his worst intentions, every time Scotty tries to harass him, Josh misinterprets it. In fact, he thinks they’re friends. Maybe they are.

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As a Jewish kid growing up in Adelaide — the neo-Nazi capital of Australia at the time — I went to school with people like Scotty. I’d see ‘protests’ against Jews and Asians at Town Hall. I heard drunken racist answering machine messages.

The 2010s feel a lot like the 1990s. A new group, ‘Antipodean Resistance’ describes itself as “the Hitler you’ve been waiting for”. The Victorian government is politicising “African gang crime”, the existence of which is disputed by the actual police. And in Sydney, public resistance to changing the date of Australia day is saturated with archaic racist rhetoric.

It’s awful. But also, it’s not surprising.

Hate empowers the powerless, by giving them someone even less powerful to pick on. This show aims to hold a light to the very human need for purpose and belonging that fuels that ugliness and stupidity, to punch holes in the ideologies without punching too many holes in the people who hold them.

Yes, this is a show about racist idiots. But it’s also a show about sweetness, family and redemption - about what drives people to scapegoat those more vulnerable than themselves, and whether they can be driven back from the brink.