

Dropping arts production at the ABC would be a very significant event in the history of Australian culture. This would result in a void of access to art and culture to the wider Australian community. Television is a medium where information is easily relayed to a significant portion of the nations population. This means that many more citizens have access to resources otherwise unavailable. Especially in regional areas where people may not have the opportunity to attend exhibitions, performances etc. even if they were interested and aware of such an event. Arts oriented programming is unique to the ABC and therefore would be lost completely if dropped. The ABC has an obligation to the Australian community to provide services, to help enrich the cultural aspects of Australian society, that are otherwise unavailable through other avenues of media.

It is important for the ABC to maintain the control of all it's artistic property to ensure that the people of this nation always have access to these artistic archives. Outsourcing the production or purchasing the rights to screen material means that the artistic and cultural heritage of the nation will no longer belong to the nation, but to individuals and corporations. This leaves access to such material in uncertain terms according to the desires of those holding their intellectual property. The financial benefits are also questionable, as the ABC employs highly skilled production teams and possess the equipment and archiving system to effectively do the job. Infact, they have been doing this for a long time.

The ABC also has an advantage over the commercial broadcasters, in that the ABC has an outlet of ABC shops, which are resources for further distribution of content.

The ABC holds a rich history, consisting of generations of multimedia depicting artforms of various types from various periods of Australian history, thanks to the ABC's historical commitment to the arts and history.

If the ABC suddenly stopped production of this type of programming, what will we be handing down to our children and future generations of Australians. I dread to think that in 50 years from now, the only things that will be on record to depict Australian society and culture will be sensationalised American style drama/game shows and reality home renovation shows sponsored by hardware chains.

I don't believe the decision to drop arts programming, by the ABC, to be in the best interest of the nation. Not only in short changing immediate cultural programming, but also considering the impact this will have on depriving future generations of this heritage, which will be permanently lost.

If need, individual programs could be changed, rotated out or reformatted, but artistic production should not suffer. I don't think that ratings should be the deciding factor on something so important. I was under the impression that the ABC receives funding to fill a need that commercial broadcasters neglect. That need should be priority.

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