

ABC

At the same time the ABC has announced its retreat from supporting the arts on television and radio through dedicated local regular programming, analysis, criticism, and professional staff, the ABC has announced production will begun on a co-produced series starring Myf Warhurst.

How much will this co-production cost the ABC? Will any external funding be sought for this series? Is there any available for such a series? What editorial control will the ABC retain if any over this series?

This lightweight entertainment series is based on the previous failed ABC ventures of Amanda Keller's Mondo Thingo and Wendy Harmer's Stuff. If you don't remember these it is because they sank like a stone at the time of broadcast. The point of such series is not to delight. Or inform. Or inspire audiences. The point is to strengthen the brand of the celebrity presenters and from this commercial perspective these shows prove very successful.

Why would a series such as The New Inventors be abandoned by the ABC at the same time as such a commercial enterprise is announced?

Please question the ABC management and remind them of their obligation to Australians outside of Sydney and Melbourne. Remind them of their obligation to the cultural, thinking, and sporting life of Australia. And remind them of their legislative responsibilities. If what they are proposing can happen under the current Act and Charter then change the Act and Charter.

It is clear that the ABC has taken on too much with extra channels. Please question how much Australian content is given a first run broadcast on ABC2. With such a paltry contribution made by this channel if cuts are to be made in ABC TV why not dispose of ABC2?

Do not allow bad management to mean the cutting of ABC arts coverage and local production.

Yours,  
Ta Nguyen