



Hipster, Soul Mate, Otter!

NICK BOSHIER IS ONE HALF OF INTERNET SENSATIONS *BONDI HIPSTERS*, AND THE ABC COMEDY *SOUL MATES*. HE TELLS MATT MYERS ABOUT HIS MANY BROMANCES, HIS "REVERSE ARSE ZIP JEANS" AND HIS RATHER ATTRACTIVE HINDQUARTERS!

Nick as a Kiwi Assassin.
Sexy as, eh, bro?

DNA: How does the leap from *Bondi Hipster*, internet sensation to *Soul Mates* television star feel?

Nick Boshier: It's brilliant! I started doing Trent from *Punchy* and the cartoon *Beached Az*, which were so internet they couldn't have existed on any other platform, and then when Christiaan [Van Vuuren] and I got together to do *Bondi Hipsters* I think we always had the ambition to move into television. The fact that 52 episodes led to TV was a real manifestation of, "Fuck! We did it! This is good!" But for me it was also terrifying because when writing online you can get away with blue murder. You can cuss at a webcam and not have to justify anything. For TV we thought, "Fuck!" But we're starting to get our heads around it!

What do you think sold the *Soul Mates* show to the ABC?

We have a relatively attractive audience with a certain age group between 23 and 45, and there's a fifty/fifty guy/girl ratio. So I could see how that audience appealed. Also, I think our *Bondi Hipsters* work was bigger than a lot of other stuff online, and they saw our capacity to make something for television.

And you are aware of your gay audience?

Oh yeah! The fact that we've got a gay audience is the best thing in the world! When Christiaan did the Fully Sick Rapper thing he was in hospital working his webcam, and he's really a medium-to-tall drink of water, and in that moment he became this otter figure, like a mini gay icon.

How do you know a term like otter? Straight men don't know about bears and cubs.

I know everything! Actually, my brother is gay and we had one of those relationships where I was 12-years-old and going to his parties. He was 21, and I saw and learned things at an extremely young age that had me clued up on the esoteric terms. I'm an otter!

Yes, you are! There's a few otters among the *Soul Mates* cavemen, too.

They're predominantly otters, there's one cub in there, and I reckon he's a teacup cub. He's quite a short dude and...

Wait a minute... now you're inventing terms for us?

Yes, teacup cub is the best! I just came up with it! So, he's a teacup cub and we've definitely got a bear in there, too. Then we have the Hipsters, Kiwi Assassins and we've introduced a new story called Tombs, which is us with an Indiana Jones spin but the thing is, we're

the people who built the tombs. So it's demigods, royals and slaves, sort of thing. I'm this tweaked out eunuch, a kind of weird experimented-on character, and Christiaan is a slave.

And Ian Roberts is in it, too.

Oh, yes. Ian was an absolute pleasure. He has to be one of the loveliest people I've ever worked with. He's unfailingly nice, hard-working and ripped to within an inch of his life. When we first saw his audition we were actually a bit bummed that he had to wear a bird head, somewhat covering his performance. But he smashed his audition and we were all like, "Wait, is that Ian Roberts?" He's an impressive human in both size and character.

Which *Soul Mates* characters would you like to see get their own spin-off show?

Personally, Cavemen have the potential to be a real-life *Family Guy*-ish kind of thing. We're not doing an "ooga booga" type of caveman, it's more of a tweaked "that's weird, let's explore this further" kind of thing. It's a pseudo-intellectual pursuit of these fucking silly ideas! But I could really see that scaling up, as well as the Hipsters, but we'd have to change their format to more of a mockumentary. I also think Kiwi Assassins has the potential.

Kiwi Assassins... you in those short shorts.... they're really happening!

The thing about those shorts is, well, I have one main asset and that is my hindquarter! So I nominated the little shorts. That character, Terry Thinge is quite inadvertently sexy so those shorts became a bit of a wardrobe thing for me.

It's a great look along with the '70s porn mustache. It definitely ticks all the boxes.

To tell you the truth, I kinda modelled Thinge on astronaut Chris Hadfield, the dude who sang *Space Oddity* from the International Space Station.

There's an image of you as Sticks the caveman swinging on a giant cock. Given that and the antics of Thinge and Hipster Adrian, will we eventually see you in a Mardi Gras parade?

Mate, I would do a *Soul Mates* float in a heartbeat! We could have the Cavemen tribe, and a little bar set up for Kiwi Assassins, and then a couch set up for the Bondi Hipsters. Oh, it's done!

Do you think that everyone has a soul mate?

I could go quite deep on this. I once read a book, *Only Love Is Real* by a psychiatrist who took people back with regression therapy. This psychiatrist's thesis was that the thing that binds us to another being in a lifetime is love and that we bump into the same people throughout our lifetimes because of the binding force of love. Do we have one soul mate? Don't know. Do we have soul mates that we find time and time again? I believe so.

How important is bromance for guys?

It's important for me. I cuddle guys, and I need affection from my guy friends. When I was growing up there was more the wrestling and face-off kind of thing, but today I always cuddle my dad. I cuddle my friends and always have. I have intimate emotional relationships with my guy friends as much as I do with my girlfriends. I've got such close, affectionate male friends and they are vital to me.

In terms of comedy, who inspires you?

Chris Lilley, hands down. I started performing late in life and pursued acting when I was thirty just as *Summer Heights High* was out. Chris' sensibility just resonates with me. He's a naughty, naughty boy! I would happily be referred to as a poor man's Chris Lilley any day.

Who is your diva?

As a kid, my mum played Deborah Harry (Blondie) and I'd dance around the house to her. And Madonna. My brother and I grew up doing to *Vogue*.



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Wearing your hipsters hat, what do you think the look will be in, say, 2025?

I think technology will seep into fashion. Actually, we had a bad joke that never made it where the Hipster's create underpants that are attached to a phone app that can change the colour. For instance, your body might show signs of interest in something before your mind actually clocks it. Certain chemicals would be going off and, ding! You wouldn't need Grindr.

Have you thought of putting one of your characters on a gay sex app?

We have thought of that! We don't know what to do with Adrian - he's more or less closeted, but he's also so tweaked he could go either way. We're not sure how to reveal his sexuality down the line.

Still on fashion, what happened to the W-neck t-shirt the Hipsters invented? I haven't seen any on Oxford Street.



We have a new fashion line coming out with the Hipsters. I can't say too

much about it yet, but it's a part of the fashion world that so far hasn't been exploited! Our W-neck will have to feature in the Mardi Gras float!

Does your new fashion line have something to do with the Hipsters invention of pants with a reverse fly on the arse? Because that would work really well in the gay market!

It really would, but I'm sure you have a version of that? **No, we don't. You should patent it!**

What? You have to go to all the effort of taking down your pants? That's such a hassle!

You've gone from Trent from Punchy on YouTube to Soul Mates on the ABC. What advice would you give people wanting to achieve something similar?

I didn't think about it too hard. I just started making up stuff, which I think is part of the beauty of coming into it quite late. I wanted a career change and didn't want to have to knock on doors or do auditions so I created my own gig. The entertainment world celebrates doers, so create as much as you can and find your own voice in the process. Just do it, and don't think it's too hard or trivial, as people often do.

If you were gay, who would you go for?

I'd go for somebody outdoorsy like Bear Grylls. Not necessarily with Bear's personality traits but someone who could muster cattle and sleep in the dirt and still look great in a suit. Like a resourceful horseman kinda guy! And I'd like someone who can protect me because I'm not a fighter. I'd want one of those silverbacks who'd be great in an apocalypse. Harrison Ford would be up there because he's a no-nonsense guy and something of a thoroughbred.

So are you a no-nonsense jocks, fitted boxer or freeballing kinda guy?

I was freeballing last week. I go through these stages where I forget to wear underpants and then I start wearing them again and think, "Oh yeah, this is great!" Adrian, on the other hand, has a rather tweaked relationship with his plums so he always wears underwear.

If he ends up with that reverse fly he's really going to need them.

Exactly! That's when shit gets real! ★

MORE: Soul Mates screens on ABC 1 and iView