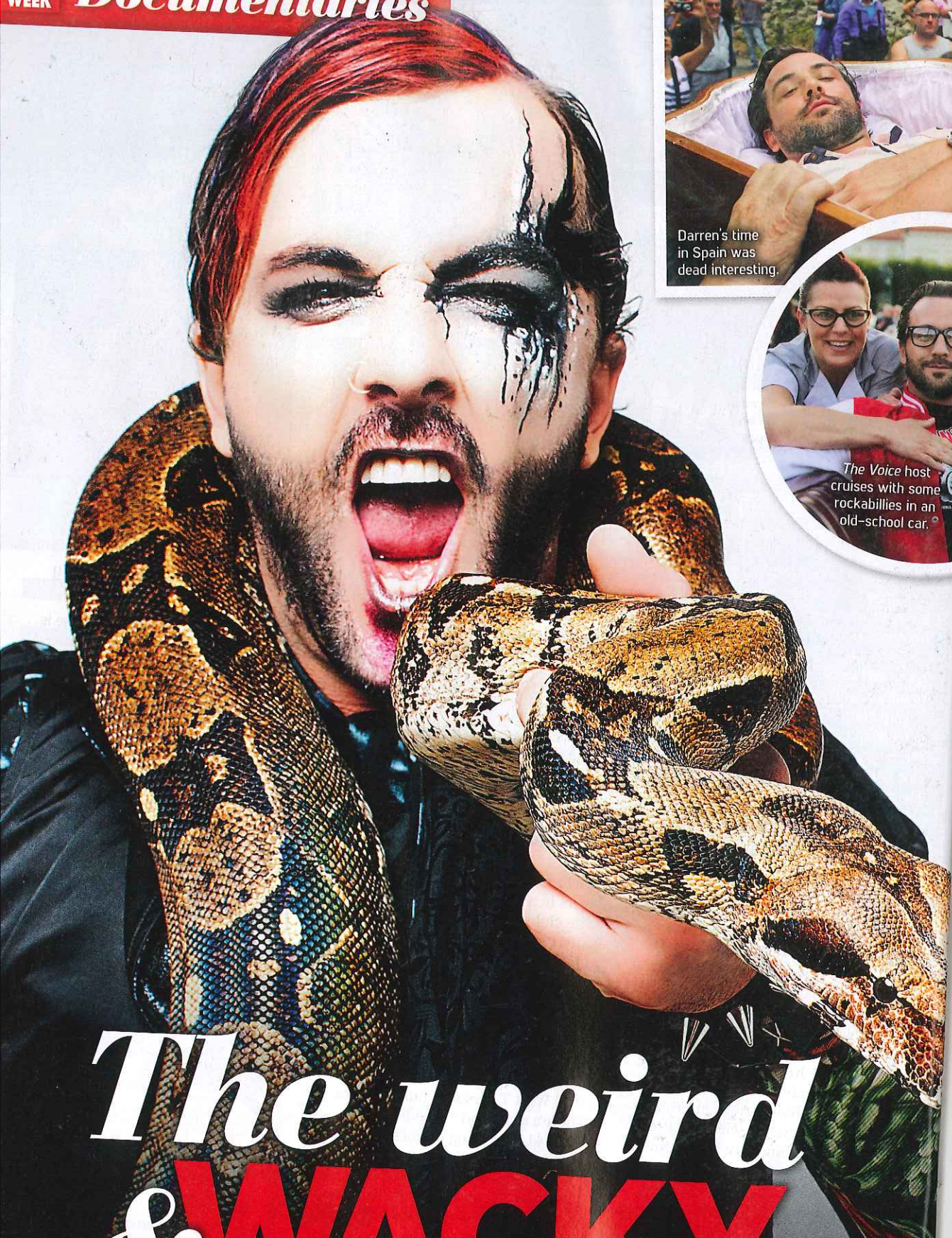


TV
WEEK

Documentaries



Darren's time in Spain was dead interesting.

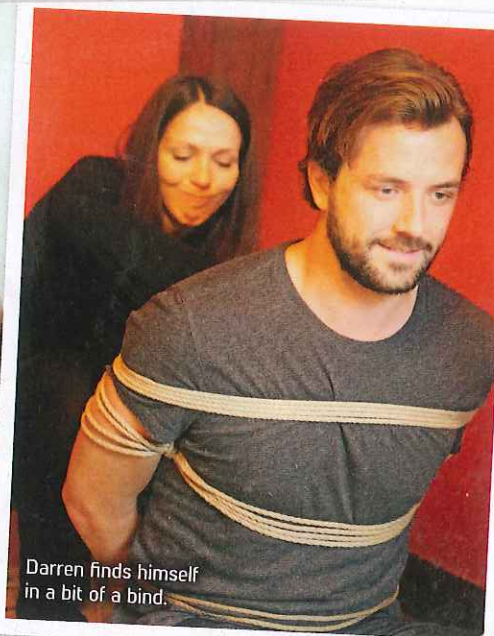


The Voice host cruises with some rockabillys in an old-school car.

The weird & WACKY

The presenter gets to grips with wrestling in Turkey.

“Oh, no, I can feel him. And he’s hairy!”



Darren finds himself in a bit of a bind.

Experiencing your own funeral isn't something most people would sign up

for. Yet, that's exactly what Darren McMullen agreed to in his latest project, *Darren McMullen's Outsiders*.

The six-part series sees the 32-year-old travel the globe to find people and places that don't fit societal norms. Along the way, he mingles with ninjas, is restrained by bondage specialists and gets oiled up in Turkey to wrestle grown men.

Darren also enters a modelling contest – and we're not talking *Top Model!*

The funnyman transforms himself with tattoos and lip rings (oh, and a snake, left) to host the Alternative Model Of The Year competition in Newcastle, England.

But, it's almost breaking his back and cracking ribs (ouch!) that nearly leaves him six feet under in this TV offering.

IT STARTED WITH A DRINK

The Scotsman has had a busy schedule this past year due to his commitments on *The Voice Australia*. But, a two-day trip to Edinburgh for a conference was the catalyst for his latest project.

“It was one of those serendipitous moments,” Darren admits.

“While I was over there, I met a guy from a production company. After a few whisky sours, we both started talking about our aspirations for TV. And, this idea was born!”

“Then, a few months later, he called me up to say he'd put my name forward to do the show.”

BRIGHT LIGHTS TO BACKPACKING

Not long after Darren had packed away his TV suits, he was on a plane to Spain.

“*The Voice* was a big, flashy show,” he notes, adding: “Then I touched down in Spain with a whole new crew.

“On the first day, they woke me up and shoved a camera in my face. I thought: ‘Oh, God, I haven't done this kind of TV before.’

“I love doing the big, shiny floor shows. But, it's fantastic to be able to do them to make money and then do the passion projects like this. I've never had so much fun in my life!”

Gone were the catering vans and personal assistants. Darren now had to throw himself into whatever lay ahead.

That could mean teaming up with some Vikings or a Japanese bondage expert. Or even joining a group of males who watch children's cartoon *My Little Pony* together. (Yes, they exist and they're called “Bronies”!)

BRUSH WITH DEATH

One of the creepiest experiences Darren agreed to take part in occurred while he was in Spain.

There, jumping inside a coffin and being carried down the street is a tradition for anyone who's had a near-death experience.

When producers asked if any such moment had ever happened to Darren, sure enough, he *had* come close to death once.

Although, he was a bit embarrassed to admit it.

“I was over in London not long ago,” he says.

“I was texting while walking across the road and I looked the complete wrong way.

FAST FACT

“I almost had my nose taken off by a knight in Poland while having a duel,” Darren reveals.



This truck came past and brushed past my nose!”

The joker admits he was left shaken by what could easily have been fatal had he not looked up in time.

“I was actually sending a selfie to a friend,” Darren admits sheepishly.

“That's even worse to admit!”

BODY ON THE LINE

Some of Darren's experiences were fun and relaxed. But, most of the “outsiders” Darren met made him get down and dirty.

“During the series, I got two cracked ribs,” Darren reveals, adding: “I almost got my fingers cut off by Vikings in Sweden, too. And, I nearly broke my back by being body-slammed by a ninja in England!”

The larrikin was thankful he only walked away with busted ribs.

“At least broken ribs won't affect my career,” Darren laughs. “But, getting my eye cut up probably would!”

OMG MOMENTS!

- ◆ Darren preparing for wrestling in Turkey is hilarious. To hold on, he has to put his hands down his competitor's pants. “Oh, no, I can feel him. And he's hairy!” he reveals.
- ◆ Watching Darren hold back laughter while talking to a group of men who dress up like *My Little Pony* characters is worthy of an Oscar nomination!
- ◆ The Scotsman's body is on the line when he gets tied up – for fun – in an odd mix of erotica and acrobatics.

DARREN McMULLEN'S OUTSIDERS
Tuesday, 8.30pm (AEDT),
Nat Geo People