

Neigh, neigh and thrice  
neigh: Darren hangs out  
with some bronies



## Different strokes

Darren McMullen sets off across Europe to meet people who like to do things their own way...

### NEW FACTUAL

#### OUTSIDERS WITH DARREN MCMULLEN **HD**

National Geographic • Friday

#### RAELIANS Believe that humans were created by aliens

'I was really excited about meeting the Raelians in Croatia, because I'd had run-ins with them in Las Vegas from a young age – they'd handed me pamphlets in the street. Getting there, I was a little sceptical, but then we realised what they are saying is no more nonsensical than any other widely-accepted religion. The only difference is time – the others are centuries old. The idea of aliens being out there is very plausible, though whether they visited this guy Rael [the movement's founder] is another question. But the message at the crux of it is acceptance, love and peace.'



#### MEETING THE FOKKEN TWINS 71-year-old prostitutes in Amsterdam's red light district

'I was molested! I said, "I'm a client, I come in, what happens?" They replied, "On the bed and you'll see!" Before I knew it, one jumped on me with her knee across my neck while the other was trying to get my trousers off! Eventually the producer had to step in – they ripped my shirt open. I said, "Anything but

this," so they told me, "OK, you go in the window." It was rather embarrassing, and it struck me how boring it was just sitting there.'

#### BRONIES The grown men who just adore My Little Pony

'I had a real soft spot for them, because I think of all the groups we met, they probably attract the most negative attention and hatred. A lot of them have struggled their whole lives to be accepted and they have found a group of people willing to take them in no matter what. Sure, they all dress up like ponies, but it doesn't matter, because everyone's doing it and they are really nice to each other. Their slogan is, "Friendship is magic". It may be a bit wacky, but a lot of humanity could learn a few valuable lessons from some of these subcultures.'



#### FILMING Bumps and bruises galore

'It was really gruelling – I came straight off *The Voice* in Australia, which is a big, shiny-floor show, then I was travelling for days, to get to a place to film while sleep-deprived. I was in hospital more than I've been in my life – my trainer broke two of my ribs in a chess boxing match, my nose was almost cut off by Polish knights while jousting, and I nearly had my neck broken by a ninja in Weymouth!'

Nick Fiaca