

The Wedge

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The Edge of the Wedge (hereafter called The Wedge) is a brave attempt by the ABC to produce a T.V. show for kids that isn't mindless schlock or patronising propaganda. While not dissimilar to the successful Beatbox, The Wedge aims to present a greater variety of stories in a shorter space of time. The formula of 50% "heavy man" segments versus 50% silly stuff ensures that the average 12 to 20 year old won't be snuffing glue by the end of the show. The tone of the programme, according to Craig Collier, will be 'a bit aggro', adding that he'd be quite happy if adults hate it. Being an ABC type, he can say that sort of thing. (If he worked for Packer, Mr Collier would now be jobless and headless.)

The Wedge features a number of new faces as talking heads and reporters. All are young and obviously smarter than your average kid's show presenter. The prevailing attitude is 'you can say what you think, whether it's right or not'... or, 'if you're going to put a foot in your mouth, wouldn't you rather it was your own?' Wedge presenters have almost total control of their own stories and (judging from the pilot episode) originality is prized

more than slickness

O.K., before the show begins, let's meet some of the people who put it together. Unjoo Moon: "If I could interview anyone in the world, it would be Mel Blanc."

An Australian born of Korean parents, Unjoo is halfway through a Law/Arts degree and therefore a natural for translating legal issues into language that even I can understand. She has just completed a story about runaways and their legal rights. Her slant is, 'if you have to leave, this is the best way to survive', a change from the usual attitude of 'Don't!'. Zoe Carides: "If I could interview anyone in the world, it would be Robert de Niro."

Zoe, at 23, has already done more than most old age pensioners. Her videopopgroup 'Cut the Cheese' has made 5 spontaneous videosongs which have appeared on 'Rock Around the world' and other enlightened music shows. As an actor, she has starred in 'The Bang' with the

Sidetrack Theatre company, and in an ABC TV play 'Strawberry Girl' (based on Siouxsie's song) with her sister Gia. Now, The Wedge. She favours hard, political issues like nuclear disarmament, but, like all Wedge presenters, is prepared to do the light stuff as well.

David Wales: "If I could interview anyone in the world, it would be Margaret Thatcher."

"... he's already got fan mail from a thirteen year old girl. She writes, 'Dear David, I think you look reaiiy cute with a knife through your head.'"

If anyone doesn't know David, they probably know his alter ego, the divine Guru Adrian, who will almost certainly pop up regularly on The Wedge. David is a graphic artist among other things (the anti-Heroin page in the last issue of Stiletto was all David's work) and his natural 'hyper' and extrovert personality makes him a T.V. natural. My tip is he'll have a national Tonight show within five years!

One of David's Wedge features will be a personal style segment, including guided tours of people's bedrooms, cars and surfboards. He's afraid that people might think he's a real wanker, but apparently not so... he's already got fan mail from a thirteen year old girl. She writes, 'Dear David, I think you look really cute with a knife through your head.'

Other important Wedge contributors will be Mandy Salomon (currently appearing in Characters 3: The Final Chapter, and featured on the Woman Comics L.P.), who will write much of the show's comedy sketches.

Mark Dodshon, a 2JJJ voice, will become a face as well, when he presents the Australian Only music segments, which Craig Collier calls the thinking person's Humdrum.

Greg Parke, Tracey Callander, Tracee Hutchinson and Henry Pepper will also be in there pitching.

The show sounds brilliant in concept. But only you (out there) can give it the big thumbs up or down.

The Edge of the Wedge starts March 31 on ABC TV, Monday to Thursday at 6pm.

(Music shows, Monday and Wednesday; Magazine shows, Tuesday and Thursday).

