

Herald Sun

27 FEBRUARY 2019

HIT TV

CHARLIE COX
FROM DAREDEVIL TO DIAMOND GEEZERS

TYLER HENRY
MEDIUM TO THE STARS GOES LARGE

LEIGH PAATSCH
BEST OLD CROOKS MOVIES TO STREAM



Home TRUTHS

How **Shayna Blaze** and the Selling Houses Australia team found the bright side of the real estate slump

+
inside
YOUR WEEKLY
7-DAY
TV GUIDE

COVER STORY



SHAYNNA BLAZE AND HER SELLING HOUSES AUSTRALIA CO-HOSTS ANDREW WINTER AND CHARLIE ALBONE

Selling STYLE

TV design queen Shaynna Blaze is continuing to put her stamp on the homes of ordinary Aussies, writes Colin Vickery

There is nothing like a real estate downturn to test your abilities and that is what Shaynna Blaze is confronting on *Selling Houses Australia* this year. For 11 seasons, the *Selling Houses Australia* team — Blaze, Andrew Winter and Charlie Albone — have had the benefit of making over homes in a hot property market. Sure, the premise of the Foxtel show is that the houses the trio take on have been languishing unsold for months. But there has always been every faith that once the experts worked their magic it wouldn't be long before a sold sign was out front. But in 2019 — maybe not so much. "The whole premise of *Selling Houses Australia* is selling the unsellable," Blaze says. "The market is bad and banks squeezing lending has become a big issue. "I think we've been lucky that the houses we are usually

working with aren't investment houses. "But because people have to have bigger deposits these days, there is nothing left for renovations." That means, more than ever, sellers have to make their homes move-in-ready. The kerb appeal also has to be spot on. None of the homes on this year's season of *Selling Houses Australia* qualify. In the first episode, Blaze, Winter and Albone have to freshen a tired family home that has been torn to shreds by foster cats and stripped of most of its furniture. A home in Euroa, in rural Victoria, hasn't had the required maintenance and its bathroom is falling apart. A couple in the leafy Sydney

suburb of Pymble have an unrealistic \$2.4 million asking price for their five-bedroom house. The team's quirkiest makeover is a Gold Coast houseboat, where the experts need the help of shipwrights and a degree in maritime law to get a sale. "We've got quite a few people who have had stressful things happen in their lives that hasn't allowed them to (do the upkeep)," Blaze says. "It is also a normal mentality when you're living in your home to put the blinkers on. You have happy memories so you see it from a different perspective. "When someone



(like *Selling Houses Australia* experts) comes in and sees it through fresh eyes and says it is a bit rundown the homeowners almost get offended. "When we do the initial walk-through we have to be a little brutal. We spend three days side-by-side with them. We have to be open to their feelings and emotions. "You almost feel like a counsellor because you've got to guide them through it." Blaze's career has been on an upward trajectory ever since she became co-host of *Selling Houses Australia* in 2008. Back then Blaze was relatively unknown. Her profile went to a new level

with large scale rooms." *Selling Houses Australia* has been one of Foxtel's most popular shows across its entire run. Last year, Winter was nominated for a Gold Logie. "Andrew, Charlie and I never auditioned together — we met each other the first day on set," Blaze says. "We're really lucky that we've got this friendship on screen where we can pick on each other and no one gets offended. "When we did the first series we thought 'we'll give it a go'. We didn't know until we finished filming whether it would be recommmissioned." Blaze suffered a personal setback last August when she announced she was separating from personal trainer husband Steve Vaughan after 18 years. Similarly, *Buying Blind* —

"WE'RE REALLY LUCKY THAT WE'VE GOT THIS FRIENDSHIP ON SCREEN WHERE WE CAN PICK ON EACH OTHER AND NO ONE GETS OFFENDED"

when she joined the judging team on *The Block* in 2012 and she has been at the centre of a lot of controversy on the Channel 9 reality show. Alys and Lysandra Fraser unleashed an f-bomb spray on *The Block: Fans v Faves* season after copping a low score. Deanne Jolly labelled Blaze "a bogan from Wantirna" who had "no idea of styling" on *The Block Glasshouse*. Blaze has toured the Grey St site of this year's season — five triple-storey terrace homes — in St Kilda and reckons the contestants are set for a world of pain. "It is going to be quite confronting for them," Blaze says. "It is a much bigger scale than ever before. We know from past series that couples always struggle

where couples sign over their life savings to Blaze, Rich Harvey and Marshall Keen to find, buy and renovate a home of their dreams — is in limbo. Last year's first season of the Nine reality show rated respectably — about 650,000 viewers across the five capital cities — but is that good enough? "We've (Nine and Blaze) had talks and I would like to say yes (there will be a second season) but it is a very expensive show to make. "If we could learn to make it more economical it would be great. I would love to think it would come back — maybe in a different form — but it won't be straight away."

WATCH SELLING HOUSES AUSTRALIA, Lifestyle Channel, Wednesdays, from March 6, 8.30pm

HOT

HUGH JACKMAN: ARENA MAN
The boy from Oz brings *The Greatest Showman* to life



HARRY POTTER & THE CURSED CHILD
Some things are worth paying for. PS: Keep the secrets

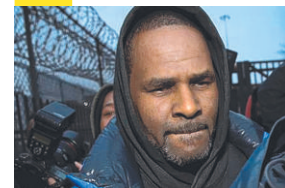


LEAVING NEVERLAND
Could change how you view Michael Jackson the man. On Channel 10 next week



NOT

R KELLY IS BROKE
Boo-hoo. He's found the money for bail but is back in court on March 22. Pray for justice



GLADYS BEREJKLIAN: FESTIVAL BUSTER
Sydney — the city where you can party like it's 1899



SUNDAY NIGHT TAKEAWAY
Love Chris and Julia, but less bogan sportsmen please

