



8 X 30 MINUTE COMEDY-DRAMA

CHASING CHARLIE

A warm, character-led series about reluctant guardians, messy families, and growing up late.

Created by Oli & Jim Lance

OVERVIEW

Responsibility isn't always for adults, apparently.

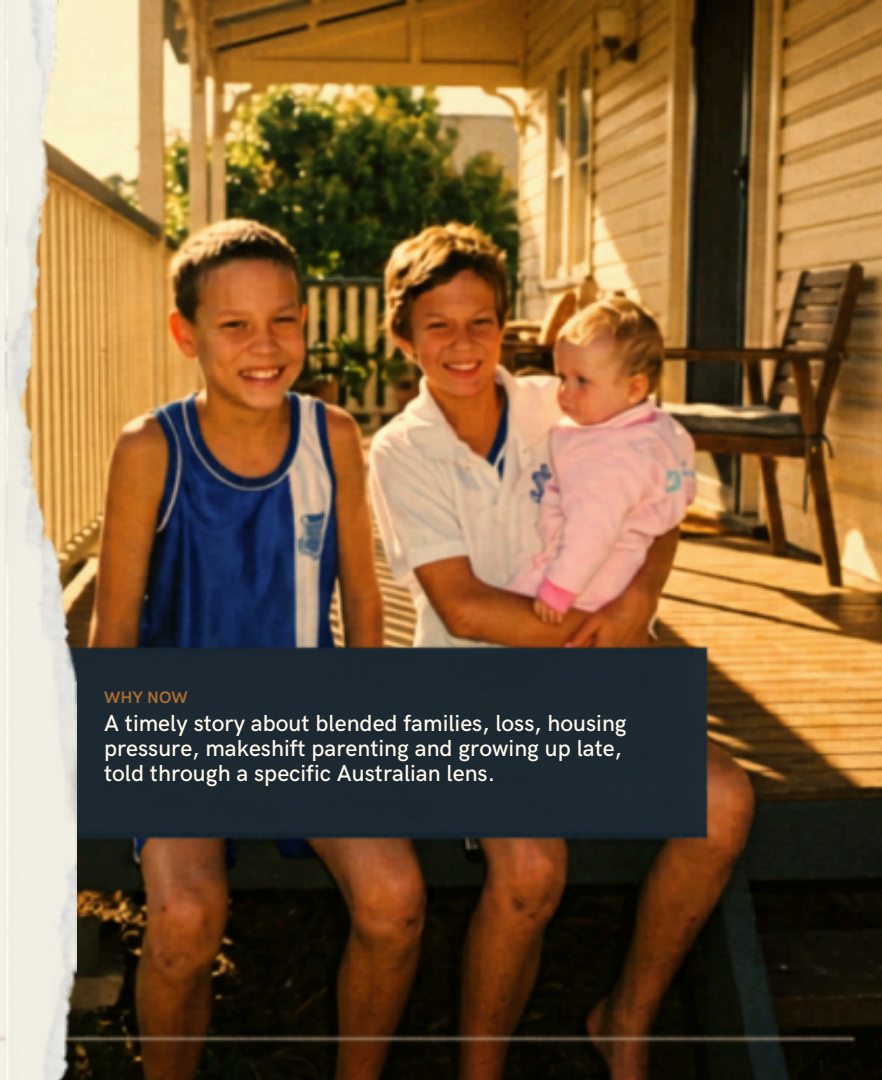
After directionless twin brothers find out they're now the legal guardians of a teenage sister they never knew existed, they must reluctantly grow up and prove they can be a family or risk being torn apart for good.

Loosely inspired by the creators' own experiences, Chasing Charlie is a warm, irreverent comedy-drama about growing up late, finding family in unexpected places and being forced into responsibility long before you're ready for it.

After Life meets Colin From Accounts, with the family chaos of Shameless and Bump.

WHY NOW

A timely story about blended families, loss, housing pressure, makeshift parenting and growing up late, told through a specific Australian lens.





STORY SUMMARY

Three months to become the family she needs.

When chaotic thirty-something twin brothers Henry and Jack suddenly become responsible for Charlie, their sharp, grieving sixteen-year-old half-sister, they have three months to prove they can provide a stable home or risk losing her to foster care.

Neither of the boys are remotely prepared for the responsibility. Henry tries to control the chaos by turning Charlie's life into another problem to solve, while Jack hides behind charm, jokes and bad decisions. Charlie, meanwhile, is grieving, angry and unsure where she belongs, torn between trusting the brothers who have stumbled into her life and chasing answers from Tony, their deadbeat father who abandoned them all.

As the court ruling gets closer, the fragile household is tested by school dramas, social worker visits, money problems, disasters at work and the emotional fallout of three people trying to become a family before they properly know how. What begins as a reluctant arrangement slowly becomes something more complicated, funny and meaningful, forcing Henry, Jack and Charlie to confront what they want, who they are afraid of becoming, and whether family is something you are born into or something you choose to fight for.

Chasing Charlie is a heartfelt comedy-drama about grief, responsibility and finding family in the middle of absolute chaos.

WHO WANTS WHAT?

**Henry wants control.
Jack wants freedom.
Charlie wants somewhere to belong.
The system wants proof.**

Chasing Charlie explores modern adulthood, fractured families and the pressure of figuring life out as you go. While distinctly Australian in voice and setting, its themes of grief, belonging and responsibility are universal.

A specific Australian story with universal emotional stakes

01 Lived experience

Inspired by the creators' own lives, giving the show an authentic voice and emotional truth.

02 Twin perspective

Created by identical twins, adding a unique lens to the brother dynamic and the blurred boundaries between them.

03 Comedy with stakes

Grounded themes of grief, care and responsibility are balanced with heightened, character-driven comedy.

04 Distinct Aussie tone

A warm, messy, contemporary world of share houses, local pubs, blended families and accidental mentors.

TONE & STYLE

Warm, messy and sharply funny.

A premium comedy-drama that finds big emotion in everyday chaos: family fights, bad decisions, mouldy rentals, pub regulars, school trouble and the terrifying reality of having to grow up.

Darkly comedic & irreverent

The series combines quick dialogue, unconventional scenarios and deeply flawed characters who are constantly getting in their own way. Like *Shameless*, the chaos is relentless, but beneath the dysfunction is a family trying their best to hold each other together.

Raw & heartfelt

At its core, the series explores grief, belonging and the messy process of growing up. Drawing from the emotional honesty of *After Life* and *Bump*, it finds humour in life's most difficult moments without losing sight of the real emotional stakes underneath.

Energetic & unpredictable

The show revels in absurd situations, from putting a bus fare on a payment plan to secretly vomiting into a pillowcase at a party. Its comedy is sharp, offbeat and distinctly Australian, capturing the everyday awkwardness and unexpected tenderness that make *Colin from Accounts* so relatable.



REFERENCE POINTS

After Life - Shameless - Bump - Colin from Accounts

Episodes 1-4

01 Bye-Bye

After a disastrous house party ends with police and Craig being tased, Henry and Jack are exposed as adults who still behave like teenagers. Before Craig can kick them out, Molly from Child Services arrives with Charlie, their grieving 16-year-old half-sister, whose late mother has named them as guardians. The boys must decide whether to step up or let Charlie disappear into the system. Craig refuses to support them, while Charlie secretly clings to the hope of finding Tony, the father who abandoned them all. By the end, Henry and Jack choose custody, only to find Charlie has climbed out the window and run.

03 Strike One

The boys throw a housewarming party that proves they have changed address, not behaviour. After police complaints, Henry and Jack begin their first shifts at Diane's pub brutally hungover and quickly learn that showing up is harder than pretending to care. Diane punishes them with real responsibility, while the pub regulars begin as critics and slowly become reluctant mentors. Meanwhile, Charlie skips school to chase another lead on Tony, only to come up empty. By the end, the boys are exhausted, Charlie is still emotionally out of reach, and their new life already feels impossible to maintain.

The opening half of the season throws Henry, Jack and Charlie together, then tests whether their makeshift family can survive the basics: housing, school, work and each other.

02 Home Time

Charlie's trauma is revealed in a flashback when driving with her mum Gemma, before cutting to the present as she tries to run away. Henry and Jack bring her home, but Molly makes it clear they need stable housing and school enrolment fast. They take the only house they can afford: a rundown terrace barely fit to live in. Moving day spirals through school paperwork, second-hand junk, a cursed mattress and Jack accidentally setting the kitchen on fire. A supply run to the corner shop introduces Pei, and they bond briefly over the book she is reading, one he has read himself despite not being the target audience. Diane, their landlord, forces them to work off the damage at her pub. By the end, Charlie is enrolled, the boys have jobs, and their first attempt at stability has almost burned down.

04 This Isn't Fun

Molly discovers Charlie has been missing school, giving Henry his first serious warning. Desperate to prove he can handle custody, Henry overcorrects with schedules, tracking software and strict rules, but his control only pushes Charlie further away. At school, Charlie is labelled "the orphan" and tries to find her place, while Jack accidentally becomes the softer presence at home. His unforced bond with Charlie over Love Island shows Henry that care can't be managed like a spreadsheet. The episode ends with the power cutting out, turning a rare domestic win into another adult problem they forgot to solve.

Episodes 5–8

The back half raises the stakes as the siblings' mistakes threaten Charlie's future, just as they finally start to feel like a real family.

05 Brother-Teacher Interview

With Henry stuck at the pub, Jack attends Charlie's parent-teacher night pretending to be him, turning a small lie into a major risk. Meanwhile, Charlie goes to a beach party with Dallas, hoping to feel normal, but the night becomes uncomfortable when he pressures her to drink and swim. She calls Henry, who rushes over and loses control, ending in a public fight that humiliates him in front of Charlie and her peers. By the end, Molly, the school and Diane all have reason to doubt the boys. Their chaos is no longer harmless. It could cost them Charlie.

07 Bingo Night

With the pub struggling, Henry launches a drag bingo night to prove he can lead and help keep their fragile life afloat. Charlie throws herself into the event, finally feeling useful instead of managed, while Molly sees a more capable side of Henry. The night becomes a surprise success, and Henry gives Charlie the praise she has quietly needed. But the success tips into recklessness when police catch them trading after hours, leaving Diane furious. Jack's expensive date with Pei also ends badly when his card declines. Then Charlie gets a Google alert: Tony is in town tomorrow.

06 Help

Molly discovers Jack impersonated Henry, adding another strike against the boys and making custody feel genuinely fragile. Henry blames Jack, Craig arrives ready to condemn them, and Jack's romantic life collapses when Pei catches him leaving Charlie's teacher's place. Diane and the regulars unexpectedly defend the boys, showing that others are starting to believe in them. Henry tries to repair things with Charlie and gives her a real role helping with the pub's social media and events. The episode ends with Jack's apology dinner giving everyone food poisoning, forcing the siblings into one disgusting, intimate, strangely bonding night.

08 The Hearing

On the morning of the custody hearing, Henry and Jack find Charlie's room empty and fear they have lost her for good. They track her to a train station, where she is not running away but deciding whether to stay. She chooses them, and on the drive to court they finally feel like a family. At the hearing, Molly, Diane, the regulars and even Craig speak in the boys' favour, and it seems like they might win. Then Tony arrives and demands custody. With the boys' mistakes on record and Tony back in the picture, the court places Charlie in foster care, leaving the season on the question of whether they became a family too late.

MAIN CHARACTER

Charlie

Sixteen. Guarded.
Sharp. Sees everything.



Charlie isn't searching for a father. She's searching for proof she mattered.

Charlie had to grow up fast. For years, she was more carer than teenager, looking after Gemma, through a short battle with cancer while quietly putting her own life on hold. When Gemma dies, Charlie loses not only her last parent, but her best friend and the one person who made her feel safe. Faced with foster care, she moves in with her half-brothers, Henry and Jack, two men she barely knows who are struggling to look after themselves, let alone a sixteen-year-old girl.

Quick, funny and observant, Charlie has a dry wit that often catches adults off guard. She can read a room instantly and uses humour to keep people at a distance. Beneath that confidence is someone carrying more grief than she knows what to do with. Rather than face the loss of her mum, Charlie becomes obsessed with finding her absent father, Tony. Externally, she wants answers. Internally, she wants proof that she was not abandoned because she was unwanted.

At school, Charlie is naturally bright and capable, but her fixation on Tony sees her skipping class, falling behind and clashing with Henry's attempts to control her. At home, she slowly forms genuine bonds with the boys through late-night chats, shared disasters and the small moments that begin to feel like family. Jack gives her ease and humour, while Henry, though stricter, keeps showing up. She also finds an unexpected place at the pub, becoming its unofficial social media manager and connecting with the regulars who help her feel part of something bigger.

Over the season, Charlie's search for Tony gives way to something more important. As she learns to lean on others and properly grieve for her Mum, she begins to realise that the family she has been searching for might have been there all along.

Henry

Thirty. Anxious. Trying his best.



Henry has a plan for everything. Family isn't one of them.

Henry has spent most of his life trying to be the responsible one. Ever since their father disappeared, he has been determined to prove he will never make the same mistakes, carrying that pressure long after anyone asked him to. When Charlie suddenly arrives on his doorstep, Henry eventually takes on the challenge of stepping up and taking charge. The problem is Charlie sees straight through him.

Organised, tightly wound and desperate to be taken seriously, Henry believes that if he can make enough plans, he can keep chaos at bay. But being prepared does not automatically make him grown-up. Unlike Jack, who Henry dismisses as reckless and immature, Charlie quickly recognises that Henry's control is often just fear dressed up as responsibility. Craig, the boys' stepfather and Henry's harshest critic, has spent years reinforcing those insecurities.

After a string of failed ventures, from selling his own blood online to dabbling in crypto schemes, Henry sees the struggling local pub as his chance to finally build something real. The pub becomes his safe problem to solve; it has stocktakes, invoices and clear solutions. Charlie does not. Externally, Henry needs to prove he can keep Charlie housed, in school and out of foster care. Internally, he needs to accept that love cannot be managed like a task list.

As Charlie becomes part of his life, Henry is forced to confront the limits of control. His need to protect her often clashes with her need to be heard, creating tension between them even as genuine care begins to grow. Through Charlie, Molly and the pub regulars, Henry slowly learns to let people in. Over the season, he evolves from a man desperately trying to hold everything together into someone willing to be vulnerable, make mistakes and show up anyway.

MAIN CHARACTER

Jack

Reckless. Charming. Somehow still alive.



The family screw-up who might be better at showing up than anyone expects.

Jack's constant smirk, dishevelled appearance and effortless charm make it easy to overlook the fact that he has absolutely no direction. Since their father disappeared, Jack has dealt with disappointment by refusing to take anything seriously, becoming the fun one before anyone could expect more from him. The wilder of the twins, he thrives on chaos, partying and dodging responsibility, frustrating Henry with his refusal to grow up. He moves through life as if consequences are something that only happen to other people.

Beneath the bravado, Jack is not as carefree as he seems. He wants connection more than he lets on, but has a habit of ruining things the second they start to matter. His external problem is learning how to become reliable enough for Charlie, Henry and Pei. His internal problem is believing he is capable of being more than the charming disappointment everyone expects him to be. Every time someone asks him to be honest, dependable or emotionally available, Jack's first instinct is to deflect, joke or disappear.

Pei becomes one of the few constants in Jack's new life. They first connect over a shared love of books. Reading is the one part of his life that never needed him to be the fun one. Sharp, creative and completely unwilling to indulge his bullshit, Pei sees a better version of him long before he knows how to become it. Their relationship is messy, funny and often frustrating. Jack genuinely wants to be a good partner, but has a habit of getting in his own way. Pei has no interest in fixing him, but being with her forces Jack to confront the gap between the person he pretends to be and the person he might actually become.

When Charlie arrives, Jack connects with her first through humour, mischief and a shared distrust of anything too sincere. But over time, their bond becomes one of the first things in his life he does not want to mess up. For once, someone needs him to show up and actually mean it. Through Charlie, and with Pei constantly pushing him towards honesty, Jack begins to find responsibility, purpose and a more grounded sense of who he could be.

Supporting cast.

**Craig**

The stern German step-dad and proud plastic surgeon, constantly baffled by Henry and Jack's refusal to grow up. Beneath the criticism is reluctant affection and, eventually, a measure of support, even if he still thinks they are losers.

**Molly**

A frazzled but big-hearted child services worker and former foster kid, is fuelled by caffeine and determination. Her bond with Henry hints at hope, healing and a life beyond professional damage control.

**Dillon**

The twins' fiercely loyal and outrageously fun gay best friend, always chasing the next wild story. He often leads Jack into trouble, but his love for Charlie keeps him grounded and invested in the family.

**Jude**

Henry and Jack's posh, Prosecco-sipping mother, always one bad day from slipping back into her wild past. Charlie's arrival gives her sons a chance to grow up, and Jude pushes them toward the men she knows they can become.

**Pei**

Whip-smart and stuck working in her family's corner shop while secretly studying art. Her chemistry with Jack brings conflict at home as her traditional upbringing clashes with her dreams of something more.

**Tony**

A charming, self-centred conman, thief, drunk and liar. As the siblings' estranged father, he is a walking warning sign of what Jack could become, and his return sends shockwaves through the family.

WORLD

The pub is where the family learns how to work.

The pub regulars are a mismatched crew of old-school drinkers, gamblers and overshayers who become unlikely mentors to Henry, Jack and Charlie. With blunt advice and big personalities, they offer the kind of wisdom and stability the siblings did not know they needed.

Set in Sydney's Inner West, the pub reflects the diversity and character of the area, with a cast representing a range of backgrounds, cultures and voices. It begins as a dive, then becomes the show's emotional town square.

A struggling local pub becomes their workplace, support system and unofficial family therapist.



A warm, chaotic world built around home, work and survival.

The series moves between a rundown rental, a dying local pub, Charlie's school, Pei's corner shop and the wider Inner West. These spaces are ordinary, lived-in and imperfect, but they become the places where this makeshift family learns who they are.



Riches to Rags

Two spoiled brothers are forced out of comfort and into a mouldy rental where every bill, broken appliance and burnt dinner becomes a lesson in adulthood.



Chaos to Class

The show finds comedy in people trying to act like adults and navigate school life, while constantly revealing they have absolutely no idea what they're doing.



Dive to Destination

The pub begins as a failing local and slowly becomes a community hub, reflecting Henry's ambition and the family's growth.

Future Series Arcs

The family is built, then tested.

Beyond Season One, the family is built, broken apart and forced to fight their way back to each other.

The return of Tony

As Henry and Jack fight for custody of Charlie, Tony appears on their door stop, claiming he's sick and keen to make amends. Reluctantly, they let him stay with them while the court decides Charlie's fate, only to discover that Tony has been secretly undermining their efforts all along, such as calling the cops when they were drinking after hours, notifying Molly of Jack's antics at parent teacher as well as sabotaging welfare check-ins. The brothers must confront their old grudges and the harsh reality of living with a manipulative liar.

Jack's arc

Still the irreverent heart of the operation, Jack channels his freewheeling energy into a job at the local real estate agency to help cover the mounting legal fees in the fight to get Charlie back. While navigating his eccentric colleagues and trying to make things official with Pei, he remains determined to help regain custody, even as his carefree nature keeps complicating the mission. His shared taste for trouble also makes him and Tony a volatile pairing, further straining his relationships.

Post-court fallout

At the end of Season One, the judge places Charlie into foster care, ruling that Henry and Jack are unfit to care for her while also considering whether Tony is the right person to take on the responsibility. Charlie's foster family breaks the abusive stereotype, offering kindness, support, and genuine concern for Charlie's well-being. The ruling devastates the brothers but it also ignites their determination to prove themselves further and fight to bring Charlie home, despite Tony screwing everything up. Again.

Henry's arc

Still reeling from the court's decision and with his relationship with Molly crumbling as a result, Henry throws himself into elevating the pub, starting with brewing their own beer. His arc centres on balancing his growing professional ambitions with his determination to overturn the foster care ruling so Charlie can come home. Along the way, we see the pub weather the ups and downs of small business life, gradually becoming a fixture in the community, all while Henry navigates Tony moving in and the ongoing fight for Charlie.

Charlie's arc

Now facing the pressures of Year 12, Charlie wrestles with the reality of living with a kind foster family while pining for the chaotic bond she shared with Henry and Jack. Her journey grapples with the pull between embracing a stable, supportive home and her relentless longing to reunite with her real family, all while tackling the pressures of taking school seriously and an identity crisis triggered by her father's sudden return.



MEET THE TEAM

A collaborative team with lived experience, development rigour and a clear comic voice.

Oli and Jim have worked closely together to shape Chasing Charlie into the strongest version of itself, drawing on lived experience, character insight, story clarity and structural rigour, while incorporating guidance and feedback from some of the industry's leading creative voices.

Oli Lance

CREATOR / ACTOR

Oli trained at Screenwise before getting sidetracked by a few years in the corporate world. Now back focused on making this his career, he has been developing this show alongside other projects, with a focus on grounded stories that capture the humour, heart and chaos of real life.

Jim Lance

CREATOR / ACTOR

Jim has always been drawn to storytelling and performance. After a few detours and corporate life, he is committed to building a career in screenwriting and acting, bringing honesty, humour and heart to every project.



CREATORS' STATEMENT

This show comes from a deeply personal place.

Having experienced the chaos of being kicked out, we know the hilarious struggle of stumbling into adulthood firsthand. We've lived in mold-infested share houses, navigated a broken family dynamic, worked in pubs surrounded by colourful regulars, and faced our own share of grief. With a life full of real-life anecdotes from our twenties, our goal is to draw from those experiences to make this show as raw, impactful and funny as possible.

We also have a 16-year-old half-sister, and watching her navigate the rollercoaster of teenage life, the highs, lows, has been an eye-opening experience. She's our guiding light, and we're dedicated to portraying the teenage journey authentically, avoiding the usual clichés, something she'll definitely keep us in check on.

We truly believe that our past has helped us shape a story worth telling. A show that captures the chaos of moving out for the first time, the wild lifestyle of young adulthood, and the challenges of being a teenager today. We want to explore what it really means to come of age in a world where nothing is handed to you, where family isn't always traditional, and where survival often means figuring it out as you go.

It's a story that's raw, relatable, and, above all, funny, because it's an acknowledgment that this is everyone's first attempt at life. We stumble, learn, and shrug it off because at the end of the day, no one has a f***ing clue what they're doing. We'll finish with a saying that our family lives by: "We may not have it all together, but together, we have it all." And that's the heart of this show.

'We want to explore a world where nothing is handed to you, where family isn't always traditional, and where survival often means figuring it out as you go.'

THE REAL STORY

Loosely inspired by actual events...

Created by Oli & Jim Lance

