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Sam Frost won't settle for anything less
than lasting love on *The Bachelorette*

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Looking for love

Sam Frost gets a second chance to find love – this time on her own terms, writes **Tiffany Dunk**

Without Sam Frost, there would be no Australian version of *The Bachelorette*.

Until Blake Garvey proposed — and then reneged on that promise — to the blonde beauty, producers say they had zero plans to expand their successful dating franchise.

But watching the popular winner of season two have her heart so publicly trampled on saw a change of heart.

“We all felt a little responsible and we wanted to fix it,” executive producer Stephen Tate says of their decision to go forward with the inaugural season of *The Bachelorette*.

“I had to break the cycle and find someone who isn’t my traditional type”

SAM FROST CHANGES HER THINKING

“We felt like she’d been cheated out of the love we had promised.”

However, that’s where they hit a snag. Frost was adamant that she had no intention of being on the show and turned them down flat.

By then, the idea was in full flow so producers started attempting to cast their leading lady, looking both at previous *Bachelor* contestants as well as celebrity singletons.

Yet Tate says they just couldn’t find their perfect match. Having checked back sporadically to see if Frost had



Sam Frost was persuaded by her brothers to give the show a go; (below) with Blake Garvey who dumped her.

second thoughts, he decided to give it one last try as deadline loomed.

Having done her fair share of soul searching in the ensuing months, Frost decided to take the leap into another televised love adventure and the rest, as they say, is history.

Believe it or not, Frost’s protective brothers were the ones who encouraged her to go on the show.

She recalls that fateful conversation: “They were like, ‘Sam, what have you got to lose? You’re not doing terrific in the dating scene so why not date a whole lot of them?’”

Being known as the woman *The Bachelor* dumped had taken its toll

on her self-esteem. Add in a prior history of bad relationships and you can see why Frost was gun shy.

“I had an idea of the kind of guy I wanted to be with but I didn’t believe that I deserved to have someone really amazing,” she says. “I thought, ‘If guys that I’ve dated in the past aren’t these incredible people and they don’t want to be with me and leave me, then what other hope do I have?’”

“I was dating idiots. Reflecting back, you go, ‘I can’t believe I put up with someone treating me so badly’. And it’s not until you meet people who will treat you well that you think otherwise.”

Enter the 14 men ready to woo Frost with all they’ve got. Tate says production went the extra mile to make sure they had a stand out line-up for Frost

to date. As well as accepting applications from the public — the way they would cast *The Bachelor* — the production team sent spotters to each capital city.

“They literally went to venues to look for people as well as going by word of mouth talking to people to find the most eligible Australian men,” he says of the process.

Several of the men who made the cut were found in that way, including financial consultant Alex, 35, from NSW who was approached along with a friend by a spotter.

“He had a fiancée and I was single, so it made sense to put my name down,” he recalls of the fateful moment. “I’m up for trying new challenges, and having seen the show, I know it can actually lead to love.”

Love is definitely the end goal for Frost, who says that

despite having made a wish list for producers, she very quickly threw that out the window once filming began.

“I put together an email before they did the scout around and had to really think about my ‘type,’” she says.

“But (during the show) I realised that my type sucks and so I had to break the cycle and find someone who isn’t my traditional type. The list that I put together isn’t what the guys I ended up connecting with followed exactly.”

“I was terrified that it wouldn’t work out for me,” she continues. “But I had the time of my life and I’m very happy. I might be happily single or happily in love — who knows? I can say that I have zero regrets.”

THE BACHELORETTE, CHANNEL 10, FROM NEXT WEDNESDAY, 7.30PM



QUIZ

THE HIT SHOW THAT NEARLY GOT AXED

COLIN VICKERY
TV WRITER

Have You Been Paying Attention? has gone from zero to hero. Two years ago, the Working Dog-produced comedy panel show looked destined for the scrap heap. Now it is one of Channel 10’s most consistent performers.

That success has come after multiple timeslot changes and a major structural revamp.

Channel 10 put *HYBPA?* into the 7pm Sunday family slot in November 2013, and it stiffed.

The first episode of the Tom Gleisner-hosted show averaged 301,000 viewers nationally. By episode eight, it had been moved to 6pm and scored a dismal 235,000. Comedians Ed Kavalee and Sam Pang were regular panellists with guests including Jane Kennedy, Mick Molloy and Glenn Robbins.

The program came back in February 2014 and did even worse (168,000).

Critics said it was time for Ten to swing the axe. Instead, it was time for a rethink.

“We could see early on that the show had potential, that the people who watched it like it, but there just wasn’t enough of them,” Ten program chief Beverley McGarvey says.

When *HYBPA?* returned in May 2014 it had doubled in length and been programmed in the Monday 9.30pm timeslot.

“We had miscalculated,” Gleisner says. “Very quickly we came to realise that the show was being strangled by having to be reduced to half an hour.”

“Some truly funny material was being chopped out for the sake of the (early evening family) timeslot. The show needed to be longer to be allowed to breathe and to be a little bit more adult.”

Slowly but surely the move to 9.30pm bore fruit. In July 2014, Ten switched it to 8.30pm and that proved to be the game changer. By September it was topping 500,000 viewers.

That ratings growth has continued in 2015. The program topped 700,000 following *MasterChef Australia*. Friday night repeats can bring that figure to near one million.

HYBPA?, CHANNEL 10, MONDAY, 8.30PM

