SOFTWARE & TECH

Kath And Kim Series 2

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Introduction: The Return of Australia's Most Beloved Mother-Daughter Duo

When **Kath And Kim Series 2** premiered on Australian television in 2003, it didn't just continue the story of the impossibly glamorous mother-daughter pair from Fountain Lakes – it cemented their place in pop culture history. Following the phenomenal success of the first series, the second instalment arrived with heightened expectations. And it delivered. From the instantly quotable lines to the exaggerated yet painfully familiar suburban satire, **Kath And Kim Series 2**expanded the world of Kath Day-Knight and Kim Craig (née Day) while giving fans even more of the ridiculous, heartfelt, and utterly Australian humour they had come to love.

This article dives deep into everything you need to know about **Kath And Kim Series 2**: the episodes, the character arcs, the unforgettable catchphrases, and how this season elevated the show from a cult favourite to a national treasure. Whether you are a long-time fan revisiting the series or a newcomer curious about the hype, you will find plenty to enjoy in this comprehensive look at the second season of a true Australian comedy classic.

What Made Series 2 Different from Series 1?

The first series of *Kath & Kim* was a revelation. It introduced viewers to the self-absorbed, aspirational Kim (played by Gina Riley) and her easily-led, romantic mother Kath (Jane Turner). The show's unique mockumentary style (though it quickly moved away from talking heads) and its sharp observations of Australian working-class life struck a chord. However, **Kath And Kim Series 2**took everything that worked and turned it up a notch.

A More Confident Show

By the second series, the cast and writers (primarily Riley and Turner) had a firm grasp of their characters. The show felt less like a sketch comedy and more like a fully realised sitcom. The pacing improved, the relationships deepened, and the absurdity was balanced with genuine moments of warmth. In **Kath And Kim Series 2**, we see Kath and Kim as a unit that fights, reconciles, and ultimately loves each other – even when Kim is being an utter "hornbag" and Kath is dreaming of a man who can meet her "standard."

New Characters and Expanded Roles

Series 2 introduced or expanded several key supporting characters. The most notable is Sharon Strzelecki (Magda Szubanski), Kim's long-suffering best friend. While Sharon appeared in the first series, it is in the second season that she becomes a breakout star. Her deadpan delivery, tragic romantic life, and undying loyalty to Kim made her a fan favourite. Additionally, Brett Craig (Peter Rowsthorn), Kim's husband, gets more screen time, especially in episodes dealing with his business ventures (like the infamous "Kustom Kars" garage) and his strained marriage. The dynamic between Brett and Kim – the put-upon husband versus the narcissistic

Kath And Kim Series 2 comedic engine in

Episode Guide: Highlights of Series 2

To understand why **Kath And Kim Series 2**is so beloved, it helps to walk through the episodes. The series consists of eight episodes, each running about 25 minutes. Here are some of the standout installments:

Episode 1: “The Wedding”

The season opens with Kath and Kel’s wedding. This is a massive event, full of cringe-worthy moments (like a truly awful singer performing “The Wind Beneath My Wings”) and family drama. Kim is determined to upstage her mother, while Sharon serves as a bridesmaid in a truly hideous dress. The wedding episode perfectly encapsulates the show’s tone: a mix of farce and genuine sentiment.

Episode 2: “The Party”

Kim decides to throw a birthday party for her infant daughter, Courtney, but of course it becomes all about Kim. She wants to impress the neighbours and outdo everyone else. Meanwhile, Kath adjusts to married life with Kel Knight (Glenn Robbins), the butcher with a heart of gold and a terrible fashion sense. The episode is a masterclass in social satire, poking fun at modern parenting and competitive mothers.

Episode 3: “The Nightie”

One of the most iconic episodes of the entire series. Kath buys a “sexy” nightie to spice up her marriage, but Kim finds it and thinks it’s for her. The misunderstandings escalate, leading to a hilarious confrontation. The episode also features Brett’s disastrous attempt to cook dinner, resulting in the infamous line: “I’m not into cooking, Kim.” The writing is razor-sharp, and the physical comedy is superb.

Episode 4: “The Bachelors”

Kel’s nephew, a professional football player (the “bachelor” of the title), visits and Sharon immediately falls for him. Kim tries to meddle, with predictably disastrous results. This episode showcases Szubanski’s comedic genius as Sharon’s hopeless romanticism collides with reality. It also gives Kel a chance to bond with his nephew, adding a touch of heart to the chaos.

Episode 5: “The Holiday”

The family goes on holiday to a beach resort. Naturally, everything goes wrong. Kath tries to relax, but Kim complains constantly. Brett gets sunburnt. Sharon tags along and ends up in a disastrous speed-dating event. The episode is a wonderful escape and a reminder that, no matter where they go, the characters take their dysfunction with them.

Episode 6: “The Caravan”

In a classic sitcom trope, the family buys a caravan. Chaos ensues when they try to take it for a trip. This episode leans heavily into physical comedy and misunderstandings, with Kim insisting on being the “boss” of the caravan trip while knowing nothing about driving or towing. The episode is a fan favourite for its sheer ridiculousness.

Episode 7: “The Pain”

A more subdued episode focusing on Kath’s health. She develops a mysterious pain in her side, leading to fears of a serious illness. Kim, surprisingly, shows a softer side – though she still manages to make it about herself. The episode balances genuine emotion with the show’s signature humour, proving **Kath And Kim Series 2** could handle deeper themes without losing its comedic edge.

Episode 8: “The Finale”

The season ends on a high note. Kim discovers she is pregnant again (leading to the birth of “Epponnee-Rae” in Series 3), and Kath and Kel face a decision about their future. The finale wraps up character arcs while leaving enough threads for the next series. It is a satisfying conclusion that leaves viewers wanting more.

Iconic Catchphrases and Quotes from Series 2

Kath And Kim Series 2is a goldmine of quotable lines. These phrases have become part of Australian vernacular and are instantly recognisable to fans.

- “Look at moiiii, look at look at moiiii!” – Kim’s eternal demand for attention, often when she is supposed to be looking at someone else.
- “Noice, different, unusual.” – Kath’s polite, diplomatic way of saying something is terrible.
- “I’m not into cooking, Kim.” – Brett’s classic declaration of domestic incompetence.
- “Chookas, Sharon.” – A bizarre but affectionate send-off that Sharon uses before any risky venture.
- “You’re not the boss of me now, Kath!” – Kim’s rebellious cry whenever she feels her mother is overstepping.
- “It’s my party and I’ll lie if I want to.” – Kim’s twist on the classic song, used to justify her selfishness.

These phrases are not just funny – they reveal character. Kim’s narcissism, Kath’s passive-aggressiveness, Brett’s weary resignation, and Sharon’s enduring optimism all come through in their signature lines. The writers of **Kath And Kim Series 2** understood that comedy comes from character, not just one-liners.

Cultural Impact: Why Series 2 Resonates

When **Kath And Kim Series 2**aired, it drew record ratings for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). The show quickly became a cultural phenomenon. Why? Because it was unapologetically Australian. The show’s creators, Jane Turner and Gina Riley, intentionally avoided Americanising their humour. The references to “Fountain Lakes,” “Chadstone,” “the shops,” and “the caravan” were all deeply rooted in Australian suburban life.

A Mirror to Australian Society

The characters in **Kath And Kim Series 2**are exaggerated, but they are also recognisable. Many Australians knew a “Kim” – someone obsessed with keeping up appearances, longing for a life they saw on TV, and totally unaware of their own flaws. Kath represented the “good” mother who wants the best for her children but enables their worst behaviour. Brett was the long-suffering husband, a staple of Australian family comedies. Sharon was the loyal friend who never gets her own happy ending. The show held a mirror up to Australia, and the country loved what it saw – even if it laughed nervously at times.

International Appeal

While primarily a hit in Australia, **Kath And Kim Series 2**also found audiences overseas, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States. An American adaptation was attempted (the less said about that, the better), but the original remains the definitive version. The show’s humour is universal enough – family dynamics, social climbing, and the battle between mother and daughter – that it transcended borders.

Character Development in Series 2

One of the strongest aspects of **Kath And Kim Series 2**is how the characters grow (or, in some cases, stubbornly refuse to grow).

Kath Day-Knight

In Series 2, Kath is more confident. She is newly married to Kel and determined to be a “modern” wife and mother. She experiments with self-help, tries to become more assertive, and even dabbles in a brief flirtation

with a younger man (though she quickly realises her mistake). Kath's journey is about finding balance between being a mother and being a woman in her own right. Jane Turner plays her with such warmth that even when Kath is being naïve, we root for her.

Kim Craig

Kim remains as self-centred as ever, but Series 2 gives her more moments of vulnerability. Her fear of being left behind by Kath, her anxiety about being a good mother (though she fails spectacularly), and her desperate need for external validation are all on display. Gina Riley makes Kim both insufferable and oddly lovable. In **Kath And Kim Series 2**, we see why Kath puts up with her: because deep down, Kim is still a little girl desperate for her mother's approval.

Sharon Strzelecki

Sharon's role expands significantly. She becomes Kim's sounding board, her partner in crime, and the emotional heart of many episodes. Her unrequited love for Brett (which is hinted at but never fully explored) adds a tragicomic layer. Magda Szubanski's performance is brilliant; she can make a simple line like "I've got a cyst" hilarious and heartbreaking simultaneously.

Brett Craig

Brett is more than just the punchline. In Series 2, we see his frustrations with his marriage, his attempts to provide for his family, and his genuine fondness for Kath (his mother-in-law). Peter Rowsthorn brings a resigned dignity to the role. Brett may be mocked, but he is never mean-spirited. He is the everyman caught in the tornado of Kim's whims.

Production and Writing Excellence

The success of **Kath And Kim Series 2**owes much to the tight writing and production. Riley and Turner wrote every episode themselves, ensuring consistency of voice. They were heavily involved in the editing process, and the show's distinctive look – with its pastel colours, over-decorated sets, and costumes that are both glamorous and tacky – was carefully designed.

Guest Stars

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