

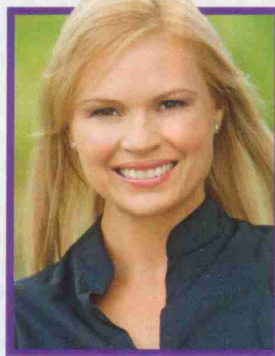


The applicants line-up for their chance to undergo an extreme makeover.



# FANTASTIC PLASTIC

Sonia Kruger introduces us to *The Ultimate Transformation*



If ever there was anyone in less need of a nip and tuck, it's Sonia Kruger, co-host of the Seven Network's makeover show *The Ultimate Transformation*.

'I find plastic surgery fascinating. I've done so many stories on it for *Today Tonight*,' she explains.

Earlier this year, a call went out across Australia for those desperate for an extreme makeover, and Seven was flooded with applicants.

Of those, 40 people were chosen to meet with the show's team of expert plastic surgeons, cosmetic dentists and psychologists to whittle the number down to 12. From that 12, only three lucky individuals – one man and two women – were chosen for the once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The two-hour special details their journey with its various procedures, and ends with a live unveiling of their new selves to family and friends.

'We were looking for people with good

self-esteem because we knew what they would go through would be tough.

'When the final three were chosen, everyone was crying! But it's the guy we chose who's been really shocked with the results. I think the women were more prepared,' Sonia observes.

With all that dramatic improvement going on, did Sonia feel tempted to get a bit of tweaking done?

'It's tempting when you see how subtle changes really work,' she admits. 'The subtle procedures can really make you look "fresher".'

As well as the plastic surgery and cosmetic dentistry, the chosen trio benefit from a talented team of hair and make-up artists, a personal trainer and fashion designer Alex Perry.

'People love to see makeovers,' says Sonia. 'They can benefit from the hair, make-up, exercise and style advice.'

● *The Ultimate Transformation*, Sunday May 2 at 8.30pm on the Seven Network.



## SHOWBIZ NEWS

WITH ASSOCIATE EDITOR PATRICE FIDGEON

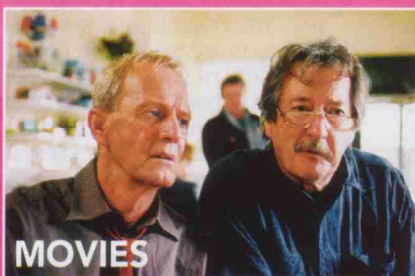
➤ If you're wondering how you're going to get by after *Nine* screens the final episodes of *Friends* later this year, just look to the US. NBC is poised to follow the farewell episode with spin-off show *Joey* – in the same timeslot – in which **Matt LeBlanc's** Joey Tribbiani moves to Hollywood to further his acting career. Rumour has it there's a recurring role for Aussie supermodel **Elle Macpherson**.

➤ While vintage fashions seemed the order of the day at this year's Logies, stunning socialite **Ann Peacock** was one step ahead of the field. The lucky mum of two gave us a sneak peek at the latest Versace collection after it had barely touched down on our shores. The bright green, purple, pink and blue skirt had almost come straight out of Donatella's hands and will be a taste of things to come – on the Logies' red carpet next year!

➤ Proving it pays to be blunt, the makers of *Pop Idol* in the UK have secured **Simon Cowell** in a 'golden handcuffs' deal for their network.

The \$3 million deal ensures the acid-tongued judge will work solely for ITV over the next two years across several music-based shows, although it doesn't prevent him from appearing on other channels in other countries such as Fox in the US, which screens *American Idol* and where Simon is as big a star as he is in the UK.

Not that Simon needs the money. In addition to his S Records label, which has notched up more than 100 million in record sales, a British rich list has estimated his wealth at \$100 million.



### MOVIES

#### ➤ STRANGE BEDFELLOWS (M15+)

Stars: Paul Hogan, Michael Caton, Pete Postlethwaite, Roy Billing  
Hoges' return to Aussie films has been a long time coming, but you wouldn't know it with this romp. Putting in a fine performance with Michael Caton, the pair of rogues pretend to be gay to dodge the taxman, heading to Sydney for tips on the real thing. ★★★★★

## REVIEWS

WITH ED GIBBS AND SARRAH LE MARQUAND

### DVDs

#### ➤ LOVE ACTUALLY (M15+)

It's no coincidence this was a box office favourite over the silly season. From Hugh Grant as the bumbling PM to Emma Thompson as a dignified wronged wife, this romantic comedy assembles all the usual suspects of British cinema to take a whimsical look at love in its different forms. ★★★



### CDs

#### ➤ AEROSMITH – HONKIN' ON BOBO (Columbia)

The bad boys of rock serve up an album of bluesy covers. A curious mix of standards and surprises, it works a treat and singer Steve Tyler is in fine form. ★★★★★ Walk their way.



### TOP 5 MOVIES

SOURCE MOTION PICTURE DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

1 Starsky & Hutch

2 Scooby-Doo 2:

Monsters Unleashed

3 The Cat in the Hat

4 50 First Dates

5 Taking Lives