



## ITVfest / PopConLA – FILMMAKER INTERVIEWS

A Q&A with Kyle Portbury

from the International Projects  
(Foreign)

### “Beyond The Search”

**So, Kyle, your background, where are you from and what motivated you to do a International Projects (Foreign)?:**

I am Australian by birth but also have British citizenship so travel, adventure and an appetite to question the world around me has always been part of my life.

**And your role with in “Beyond The Search”?**

My role in Beyond the Search is the Director and one half of the story/concept writing team along with the show’s producer, Jared Madden.

**How would you best describe your International Project (Foreign)?**

Beyond is a 14 part series that looks at one central question, is the picture we have of God accurate?

**What was the best moment, for you in creating “Beyond The Search”?**

There were many but if I had to highlight one it would've been when one of our three presenter, Johnny Murison got thrown from the bull he was riding in Episode 14, bounced straight up, walked to camera and nailed his line. I wasn't asking much of him, 'hey hang onto the back of a 500kg bull, then when you get thrown off, deliver this great line about commitment and how a relationship with God is like riding a bull, sometimes you get thrown but you have to dust yourself off and get back on the ride.' Bull riding is one of, if not the most dangerous sport in the world and we had tempted fate by doing a second take, he wasn't hurt

and for that I was not only relieved but elated that we pulled off what sounded easy on paper but was in reality quite complicated and dangerous. Good day at the office.

### **And the worst moment?**

Leaving Israel, after a month long shoot, I spent a few hours trying to convince the customs officials that the Sony XDCAM disc reader was basically a big SD Card reader. It didn't work and because they couldn't work out what it was they decided they needed to pull it apart. I was naturally very worried about this and said well if you don't know what it is and you pull it apart, how will you put it back together so it still works? We were flying to a shoot location in Cambodia filming with the Halo Trust, who work with the Cambodian government de-mining the country and I needed the reader to back up rushes. In the end despite my protests they confiscated it and I flew out without it. It showed up at Sydney airport 8 weeks later in pieces with my name and the El Al flight number on it and that was it, a lovely baggage claim agent tracked me down. Miraculously SONY Australia was able to put it back together and it still works to this day. I had a very nervous 2 weeks filming in Cambodia without being able to back up rushes.

### **If you had one message to get across to the WORLD with "Beyond The Search"**

#### **– What would that message be?**

That the God you think you know, or don't care to want to know or even don't think exists, is worth a second look.

### **Everyone that enters a Festival wants to win an Award,**

#### **What about your project makes it stand out?**

The projects storytelling, from the talent to the visual and the music, 'Beyond' is a story that will make you want to keep watching till the last episode.

### **and What is next for you?**

I am directing a series which looks at Whole Health and our role in our own health and I'm in pre-production on a period Drama, shooting early next year and developing two features.

### **What are the credits for Beyond The Search?**

#### **Cast:**

Geoff Youlden, Dannielle Synot, Johnny Murison

#### **Produced by:**

Jared Madden, Neal Allen, Neile Schofield and John Gate

**Creators/Directors:**

Director, Kyle Portbury

**Cameras:**

5 time EMMY winner Gordon Brown

**Music:**

BAFTA & EMMY Nominated composer, Michael Price

**\*\*\*– Where and When is “Beyond The Search”?**

Web Site: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1928413/>

(Trailer is available on IMDb)