




# Thursday December 3

## tv previews Louise Schwartzkoff

### Accidentally On Purpose

Ten, 7.30pm

 There are a few laughs in this sitcom about a 37-year-old film critic who finds herself pregnant to a much younger man but not nearly as many as the laugh track would have us believe.


Jenna Elfman, as mother-to-be Billie, gets all the best lines but she squeezes them too hard, practically winking at the camera with every punchline. In the mass-produced sitcom cast of kooky best friends, sleazy bosses and blokey slackers, there is no one to balance her brash delivery.

After an action-packed pilot in which Billie breaks up with her boss, falls pregnant to three-night-stand Zack and moves in with him, this second episode feels rather short on plot. As Billie wonders whether Zack will stick with her or run for the hills, the jokes come mostly from his immature mates, who have become a permanent fixture in her apartment.

Watchable but only in the silly season.

### Secrets and Lives: Last Chance Saloon

SBS One, 8.30pm

 Someone should offer Brian Cox a permanent television gig. With his bald head, tattoos, gruff


common sense and robust sense of humour, the recovering alcoholic is utterly compelling in this documentary about his Melbourne rehabilitation centre. The hand-held camera footage and Roy Billing's no-nonsense narration give an honest, gritty feel to the stories.

This is not a fairytale of redemption and recovery. There are frequent relapses among Coxy's guests and with them come violent outbursts, distress and suicide attempts.

Without Coxy's optimism it would be a depressing affair but if he can recover from his days of drinking aftershave and methylated spirits, perhaps the others can, too.

### The Power of the Powerless

ABC1, 8.35pm

 It is hard to believe that just 20 years ago, the Czech city of Prague was at the centre of a student-led revolution against a communist regime. Harder still to understand is how so many young Czechs today know almost nothing about it.

Written and directed by the Emmy-award winner Cory Taylor, this documentary claims to examine the modern-day impact of the country's communist past. However, the emphasis is on the past rather

than the present. The interviews with contemporary college students feel like an afterthought and give little insight into the national psyche. There is far more interesting material in the interviews with former dissidents, such as playwright Vaclav Havel, who became president after the revolution. For Havel and his contemporaries, the memories are fresh enough to inspire tears and laughter.

### Rudely Interrupted

ABC1, 9.35pm

 Touring is a challenge for any band. When volatile, creative types are on the road together, tempers flare and disasters ensue. Things are even more complicated for indie-rock outfit Rudely Interrupted. Five of the band's six members have physical and intellectual disabilities, from Asperger's syndrome to chromosomal abnormalities.

The strength of this documentary, which follows the band on its first international tour, is that it allows the musicians to speak for themselves. The musicians offer insightful commentary about their music and various conditions.

Oh, and they really can sing. The footage from various gigs had me bouncing on my sofa.



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Few laughs ... Jon Foster and Jenna Elfman as parents-to-be in *Accidentally On Purpose*.