You've put yourselves on a plate': the labours of selfhood on MasterChef Australia


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Summary: This is the first book about reality television to make class its central focus. Despite popular and media debate about the 'classed' behaviour of reality stars such as Jade Goody and Shilpa Shetty, and the class confrontations depicted in shows such as Wife Swap, class politics have been overlooked in much political and academic discussion of reality television. In their introduction, the editors spell out how reality television - by making visible new forms of performance labour - invites a serious discussion of class. Internationally-renowned media scholars and sociologists explore the ways in which 'ordinary people' enter the television frame, and how discourses of class are routed through national concerns and fears. Through an analysis of programmes such as Celebrity Big Brother, The Hills, MasterChef and Ladette to Lady, the contributors tackle common assumptions in television analysis to show how the mere fact of 'being on TV' is not a straightforward route to recognition, democracy, mobility or value; how new moral economies are emerging in which judgement and aspiration are normalised; and that class relationships are key dramatic devices in the spectacle of television entertainment.

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Is the food on MasterChef Australia still warm by the time it’s judged? KARLIE got extra time to cook her MasterChef dish. Does that mean everyone else’s food was cold when judged? It’s the perennial MasterChef conundrum. “Once you finish cooking, they take your plate away and shoot it with an overhead camera so it looks fresh. “When your name was called, you’d walk up and put your dish on the bench,” Ms Zaslavsky said. “The judges put a fork in, eat a mouthful of the cold gloop for the cameras and pretend it’s the first time they’ve tasted it.” By the time MasterChef Australia contestant Sarah Tiong has her food judged, all that hot steam will be a distant memory. Source: Supplied. 


What Is It? The city is all set to host India’s first ever International Food Festival, World On A Plate (WOAP). And, adding to the excitement of sampling global cuisine, there’s Masterchef Australia judges, George Calombaris, Gary Mehigan and Matt Preston coming to town (oh yes)! Masterchef fans, foodies and just about anyone. After all, why would you pass up the opportunity to taste some of the best offerings by not just the expert chefs but also by top restaurants in town (watch this space for more). And, the best part? There’s so much more in store! Why Should I Go For It?