

## LIFE AFTER BREAKFAST

Dan and Maz talk about the departure from 2DayFM breakfast and their approach to the weekend show

BY KRUTI JOSHI

**D**an Debuf and Maz Compton returned to the Hit Network breakfast on weekdays for two weeks in the winter break.

The show was produced out of 2DayFM's studio in Sydney, where they once sat as the hosts of the local breakfast show.

Rove and Sam replaced Dan and Maz at the end of last year. The ratings for the Dan and Maz show peaked at 3.9% in 2015.

"I am not going to say that I don't want to do a successful radio show," Debuf said. "We got one year in drive and one year in breakfast. We were #1 in drive and in Sydney breakfast we were going up.

**"If the 2DayFM breakfast show had been given time, I am very confident that the Dan and Maz show would have absolutely kicked a lot of arse."**

Compton echoed Debuf's view, but said the fact the duo is still getting air time is a sign of a successful show in itself.

Following the end of their run as the hosts of Sydney breakfast, the Dan and Maz show became a national weekend breakfast show on the Hit Network.

The approach to the weekend show, Compton said, is like catching up with friends for brunch.

"A weekday breakfast show is different from doing a relaxed show on the weekend," Compton explained. "For a weekday breakfast show, you need to communicate with your listeners about the biggest news stories of the day and what is happening in the city. On a weekend show, people really just want to have a laugh. It's the same vibe with the drive home. When we were doing the drive show, the vibe was very much about escapism – people have had a tough day so they just want to have a laugh on the way home.

"The approaches to the different timeslots have to be vastly different."

Debuf added: "It's quite cool to not have to chase the news cycle, but instead to be able to reflect it."

A segment that has worked well for the Dan and

Dan and Maz



Maz show in all the timeslots that they've hosted is Mythbuster Rhyme, where they take a song lyric and ask their callers if they've experienced what that lyric is saying.

"It's astonishing how many people call when we ask really ridiculous questions," Debuf laughed. "It's affirming when you can get on air and ask something stupid like, 'Who do you think is the best fictional pirate?' You can get a full break of callers all weighing in passionately."

Since they hung up their headphones as 2DayFM breakfast presenters last year, Debuf and Compton have both revisited their old passions.

Debuf, who labelled 2015 as a "crazy year", has been involved with the Melbourne Comedy Festival and was a regular contributor on TEN's *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!* Now hosted by **Joel Creasey** and **Heather Maltman**. Meanwhile, Compton has been focusing on running the F45 gym she owns in Avalon, Sydney.

### ► FROM TRAINEE TO EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



**Bridget Northeast** became the executive producer of the Hit Network's nightly show Hit 30 with **Emma Freedman** and **Angus O'Loughlin** in February 2016. Northeast joined Southern Cross Austereo as part of the Trainee Producer Program in July 2015. Hamish and Andy

EP **Sam Cavanagh** introduced the program.

"I was the person that any EP could go to for help," Northeast told *Mediaweek* of her time as a trainee.

While the daily producers and presenters of Hit Network shows went on short holidays for the winter break, Northeast stayed behind to be EP for the Dan and Maz show for two weeks.

"Night-time audience is younger than the breakfast audience," Northeast said. "We have more teenagers listening to Hit 30.

"Night is about humour and is cheekier than the rest of the day. It's like what you would imagine a teenager listening to after their parents have gone to bed and they are up late listening," Northeast laughed.

"In breakfast you can take on more serious issues ... You can't do those sorts of things in night radio without alienating your audience."

This wasn't the first time Northeast has worked as the EP of a holiday breakfast show. She was the driving force behind the summer breakfast show on SCA with **Osher Günsberg** and **Heather Maltman** in December 2015.

Asked about which slot she aspires to work in, Northeast answered: "I've never done drive full-time. I love national shows with big audiences so drive would be very exciting."