

Follow



Like

230k

Subscribe

Industry Tools

Newsletters

Daily PDF

Register

Log in



THE Hollywood REPORTER

Generation Cryo: TV Review

12:22 PM PST 11/22/2013 by Allison Keene

0 0 0 0 0 Email (#) Print (print/658324) Comments

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/generation-cryo-tv-review-658324#comments>

MTV

The Bottom Line

The docu-series, featuring the children of one anonymous sperm donor connecting as a family, is the most promising program MTV has produced in years.

Airdate

10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25 (MTV)

Producers

Off the Fence

MTV's docu-series hones in on a very 21st century idea: what are the lives of children conceived by anonymous sperm donation like?

After a bevy of reality misfires, from the latest *Real World* to the obscene *Buck Wild* and the forgettable *Washington Heights*, MTV has come up with *Generation Cryo*, a documentary series that may actually carry some resonance. The teens and young adults featured in this six-part series are from all over the country, and have one thing in common -- they were all conceived via sperm donation from the same donor.

OUR EDITOR RECOMMENDS



<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/mtv-releases-generation-cryo-premiere-656847>

MTV Releases 'Generation Cryo' Premiere Episode Ahead

Generation Cryo focuses on one girl's journey -- Breeanna, 17 -- as she seeks out her half-siblings through the Donor Sibling Registry. Along the way, she also hopes to gain enough clues and support to meet the man who is half-responsible for 15 young lives. It's a subject that is also currently being portrayed in the **Vince Vaughn** movie *Delivery Man* (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movie/delivery-man/review/654875>), a remake of a popular 2011 French-language Canadian film *Starbuck* (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/starbuck-movie-review-ken-scott-vince-vaughn-335530>), which takes a look at things from the perspective of the donor finding out about all those he helped create.

VIDEO: MTV's 'Generation Cryo' Docu-Series Gets Premiere Date and Trailer (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/mtvs-generation-cryo-docu-series-648287>)

There are a lot of things about *Generation Cryo* that make it a worthy watch, but the number one reason is Breeanna. She's a dynamic, likable and self-assured focal point for the series. The half-siblings she sets out to contact and meet (some of whom have met each other in the past via that same website) are also -- at least as of the first two episodes -- incredibly normal. They actually look and act like teenagers, not the spoiled fashionistas or the conniving villains who usually populate reality shows. It's refreshing.

On Breeanna's journey (which, for all its charm, can sometimes feel a little too producer-prompted in its magical nature), she meets half-siblings whose families represent the gamut of

(
h
t
t
p
:
/
w
w
w
.
h
o
l
l
y
w
o
o
d
r
e
p
o
r
t
e
r
.
c
o
m
/
n
e
w
s
/
m
t
v
-
r
e
l
e
a
s
e
s
-
g
e
n
e
r
a
t
i
o
n
-
c
r
y
o
-
p
r
e
m
i
e
r
e
-
6
5
6
8
4
7

of TV Debut »)



(<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/mtvs-generation-cryo-docu-series-648287>)

MTV's 'Generation Cryo' Docu-Series Gets Premiere

reasons for choosing sperm donation, and also a spectrum of feelings about it. Breeanna has two mothers, but others were raised by single mothers, or in nuclear families where natural conception turned out to not be possible. In the premiere's most moving scene, a father tears up when discussing his insecurities with his non-biological children, "I failed in doing the *one thing* a man is supposed to be able to do."

These settings seem to inform how the children later react to the notion of being the product of sperm donation (a fact almost all have seemed to have been told at a young age). The children (many are twins) of single mothers say they yearn for a father figure and want to find the donor, whereas others worry about offending the father they know and love, who raised them (ideas about nature versus nurture come up a lot). Issues about how the donor, if found, would fit into their lives, and what this means to all those affected are addressed frankly and, often, very emotionally. These are the same kinds of things also brought up in adoption documentaries, but *Generation Cryo* distinguishes itself both in the number of connected siblings at play, as well as the casual, but also sci-fi comments specific to sperm donation, like, "can I borrow your DNA?"

Though the mystery of the donor's identity and Breeanna's quest to find him drives part of the story (though it's something one of her half-siblings disapproves of vehemently as an invasion of privacy), her new connections with her half-siblings are the series' core. The variety of the families met, in terms of where they live and their personal stories, is fascinating in its normalcy.

Though the character-driven docu-series format the show takes on may look run of the mill, beyond its surface appearance *Generation Cryo* is genuinely engaging. It's also reminiscent of MTV's older documentary series, before the reality boom that it helped create. MTV is even keeping some relevance to it appearing on their channel by informing viewers of the music playing underneath the scenes during the episode, music which is occasionally actually under the radar. MTV being cool and culturally relevant again? Perhaps the most surprising thing unearthed by *Generation Cryo* is not the new ideas of what family means in the 21st century, but the fact that it is MTV who is driving the conversation in a meaningful way.

(
h
t
t
p
:
/
w
w
.
h
o
l
l
y
w
o
o
d
r
e
p
o
r
t
e
r.
c
o
m
/
l
i
v
e
-
f
e
e
d
/
m
t
v
s
-
g
e
n
e
r
a
t
i
o
n
-
c
r
y
o
-
d
o
c
u
-
s
e
r
i
e
s
-
6
4
8
2
8
7

Date and Trailer (Video) »)



(<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/awkward-gets-early-season-4-657530>)

'Awkward' Gets Early Season 4

(
h
t
t
p
:
/
w
w
w
.
h
o
l
l
y
w
o
o
d
r
e
p
o
r
t
e
r
.
c
o
m
/
l
i
v
e
-
f
e
e
d
/
a
w
k
w
a
r
d
-
g
e
t
s
-
e
a
r
l
y
-
s
e
a
s
o
n
-
4
-
6
5
7
5
3
0

Back Order at MTV »)



(<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/mtv-retooling-real-world-planting-655650>)

MTV Retooling 'Real World,' Planting Roommates' Exes in

(
h
t
t
p
:
/
/
w
w
w
.
h
o
l
l
y
w
o
o
d
r
e
p
o
r
t
e
r
.
c
o
m
/
l
i
v
e
-
f
e
e
d
/
m
t
v
-
r
e
t
o
o
l
i
n
g
-
r
e
a
l
-
w
o
r
l
d
-
p
l
a
n
n
i
n
g
-
6
5
5
6
5
0
0
House »)

Exclusive Portraits of Justin Bieber With Longtime Manager Scooter Braun

[VIEW GALLERY](#)

ATEGORY/TOPICS-ENTITIES/COMPANY/VIACOM/MTV-NETWORKS/MTV/

0


0

Email (#)


Print (/print/658324)

Comments


(http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/generation-cryo-tv-658324)




Jonas Cuarón's Short Film 'Aningaaq'



Jennifer Lawrence on Her Second Oscar





'At Any Price' Trailer



★ 0

1...

Share  

No one has commented yet.

our site

WHAT'S HOT ON THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



Hollywood's Notable Deaths of 2013

[VIEW GALLERY](#)



The King of Comedy: 15 of Rodney Dangerfield's Never-Before-Seen Photos

[VIEW GALLERY](#)



'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire' Cast Shines at Glittery L.A. Premiere

[VIEW GALLERY](#)

