



Today's Youth ... *Straight Up*

It seems that the latest trend in TV Land is to attempt to show what it's like to be a modern teenager. For the most part, though, these shows have managed to accomplish little more than insulting teens and freaking out their parents.

This month CBC television launches *Straight Up*, a six-part series that promises more than the usual cheesy teen scenario. Created and produced by Janis Lundman and Adrienne Mitchell (*Talk 16*, *Talk 19*), the show's press kit calls it "raw, honest...and controversial." *Straight Up* was filmed documentary-style which adds a hint of reality, and unlike so many other "teen shows", the actors don't go overboard, playing it up for the camera.

Each episode addresses many different topics, although they're not really trying to convey a particular message. In one show, for example, there are scenes in which teens have sex, but the show's not about using condoms. *Straight Up* deals with things in a very straightforward, day-to-day manner, so the viewer's left with a pretty realistic impression.



Justin Peroff and Sarah Polley

While this production does offer a new point of view, there's no getting around the fact that, like other shows "about teens", it's trying to group together a bunch of very different people who just happen to be the same age (that's us). It creates the impression that adults see teens as some Rubik's cube who would make sense if only they could "figure us out".

That said, this one's better than most. But don't take my word for it; find out for yourself if this series is a breath of fresh air or a whiff of pure cheese. *Straight Up* debuts on Feb. 19 at 9:30 pm CBC TV...be sure to tune in.

Sandy Watters