

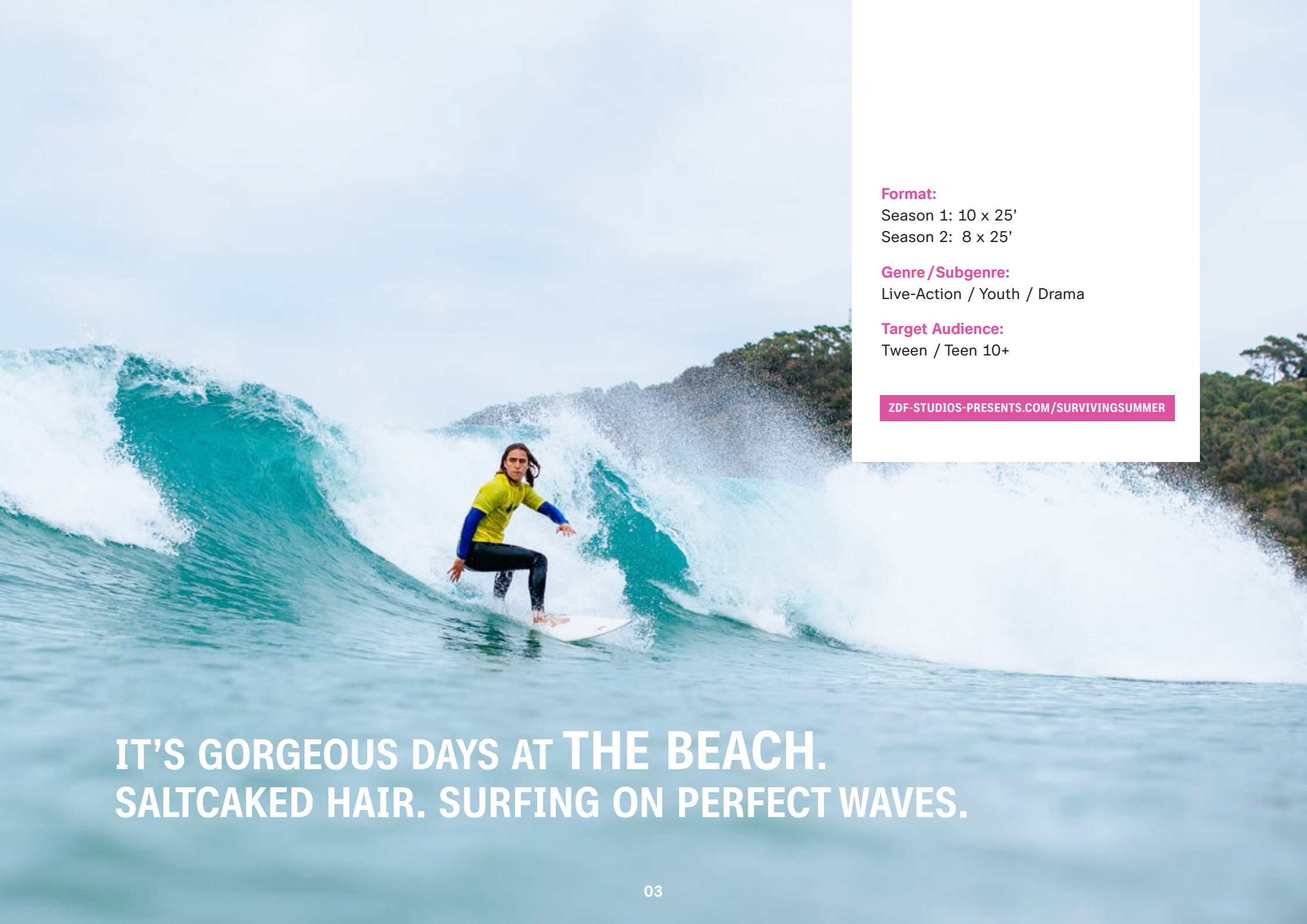
SURVIVING SUMMER





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Format:

Season 1: 10 x 25'

Season 2: 8 x 25'

Genre / Subgenre:

Live-Action / Youth / Drama

Target Audience:

Tween / Teen 10+

ZDF-STUDIOS-PRESENTS.COM/SURVIVINGSUMMER

IT'S GORGEOUS DAYS AT THE BEACH.
SALTCACKED HAIR. SURFING ON PERFECT WAVES.

SYNOPSIS

SEASON 1

It's beachside Australia, sun on the water, and your friends next to you!

After pushing her high-flying Australian mother to the brink, irrepressible Brooklyn teen Summer Torres is sent to live with family friends, the Gibsons, in the tiny town of Shorehaven on the Great Ocean Road. Supposedly she lived there until she was six but as far as she's concerned, this quirky Aussie family is a bunch of strangers. In a word: she's furious.

So is Ari Gibson, an introverted but ambitious young surfer coming back to competition after a life-threatening injury and months of rehab. He didn't ask for this impulsive and unpredictable American to steal his room and completely disrupt his plans. Those plans being: To make the Victorian Junior Surf Team and reconnect with his old buddies - Marlon, Bodhi and Poppy - who drifted away after the surfing accident that put Ari in hospital.

During Summer's eight-week exile, she'll be introduced to the fun and thrilling world of competitive surfing ... and discover a talent and a drive she never knew she had ... as well as an extended family to support her. At the same time, as Ari competes against his friends and awesomely talented kids up and down the coast in an effort to make the State Team, he'll also battle a secret anxiety that threatens to derail his dreams. Polar opposites in so many ways, Ari and Summer will drive each other crazy, share amazing experiences, and change each others' lives.

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a black wetsuit with white and blue geometric patterns on the sleeves, stands on a sandy beach. She is holding a long, narrow, orange surfboard vertically in front of her. The background shows a bright sunset or sunrise over the ocean, with waves breaking in the distance. The overall mood is serene and adventurous.

**DISCOVERING WHO YOU REALLY ARE
AND WHO YOU WANT TO BE.**



SYNOPSIS

SEASON 2

A year ago, Summer made the best friends she'd ever had and romance blossomed with Ari. Inspired by that time in Shorehaven, Summer's been surfing constantly in the breaks around Rockaway Beach, New York. A new dream has formed – return to Shorehaven and become a career surfer. Margot finally agrees to a trip down under, but this time she's coming to keep an eye on her unpredictable daughter.

Poppy, Bodhi and Marlon love having Summer back, although Ari's feelings are more complicated. But no one can believe it when Summer says she wants to make the State Team and compete at Nationals, just like them. Their jaws drop again when Summer crashes a final in the middle of the tryouts. She's actually a contender. When Summer makes the team, she also makes a mortal enemy of the team captain - Ari's new girlfriend, Wren.

This ragtag bunch will have to band together as they train for Nationals, an epic showdown where the best young surfers from Australia battle it out. If Summer's going to prove she deserves her place, she'll have to overcome Wren Radic and uncover the mystery behind the troubled Radic family.



CHARACTERS

SUMMER

Rebellious, fearless, wild, Summer is a force of nature. She does what she wants, when she wants and woe betide anyone who tries to stop her. Her attitude to life is to have as much fun as she can, push boundaries and live on the edge. She's easily distracted and easily bored, which means school has never been a good fit. Having said that, she's smart as hell and athletically gifted but just hasn't found anything to keep her attention for long. Skating has been the one thing she's kept up, and cruising around Brooklyn with her crew has been her preferred way of blowing off steam.

In her relationships with other people, Summer believes in total honesty, even if some mistake her 'truth' for outright rudeness. Any kind of game-playing or secrecy frustrates her bigtime. But she's not always the best at sticking to her own rules. She keeps the most vulnerable side to herself hidden. The side that suspects she's damaged somehow, that she's not worthy of love. Living in the shadow of a super-talented and successful mother - a top-level surfer turned award-winning photojournalist - hasn't always been easy. Deep down, Summer feels like she'll just never measure up... not that she would ever admit it.



ARI

Thoughtful and introspective, Ari has always been a good kid. A sweet kid. Someone who always thought a lot about right and wrong, about how to act. He has a tendency to overthink things, to worry about things. He's not a big fan of surprises and works hard to be as prepared as possible, whether for an exam or a surf competition.

With new people he's shy and doesn't want to say much but when he's comfortable, in his element, he opens up, showing people how smart and funny he can be. He wishes he was one of those people who can fearlessly speak their mind but it seems he just wasn't built that way. Surprisingly, under that shyness is a fierce competitiveness and he's had his eye on a professional surf career for a long time.

A year ago, Ari was seriously injured in a surfing accident at a local big wave, and his recovery has been tough, often lonely. It was a big blow to his confidence - the one time he tried to do something really brave and impulsive, it ended in disaster. Even as he's keen to return to the surf, thoughts of the accident seem to be making his anxiety worse - as if being a teenager wasn't enough of a reason to feel anxious!



POPPY

Chatty, funny, outgoing, with two surfing-obsessed older brothers, Poppy has always been a bit of a tomboy -strong, athletic, and pretends not to care how she looks. She knows how talented she is on a surfboard - even better than her brothers - and has always been fiercely competitive.

There's a more sensitive side underneath but she tends to keep it hidden, especially since tragedy rocked the family. Six months ago, Poppy's Mum Laynah - a legend in local surfing circles - passed away after a long fight with cancer. Poppy's world was blown apart and she and the family are still trying to pick up the pieces. She's been pretty good at maintaining that sunny disposition of hers... but some days it's just really, really hard. In some ways Poppy had to grow up really fast but she's still the baby of the family and sometimes wants to act like it. Which might explain why she and her eldest brother (and new coach) Manu are constantly tearing strips off each other.

Instead of using her grief as a reason to ease up, Poppy has thrown herself back into competitive surfing, more determined than ever to achieve her dream of one day becoming world champion. But in her pursuit of excellence, Poppy will have to rediscover what drew her to surfing in the first place, find the joy in it again... or risk burning out.



MARLON

On the surface, Marlon is easy-going, confident and fun-loving. He never takes anything too seriously and has a wisecrack for every situation, though sometimes this is his way of covering disappointment. He fell in love with surfing when he moved to Australia from Brazil at the age of ten and on competition day can often be seen kicking back, strumming his ukulele and cracking jokes. Out in the water he's a showman, talented and flashy. But under the surface there's a strong competitive streak and when things don't go his way he tends to blame anyone and anything but himself.

Marlon's mother Luciana calls him Meu Principe – “My Prince” and tends to spoil him - which might explain the overconfidence - but she's not afraid to steer him straight when necessary and ultimately Marlon loves and trusts her more than anyone else in the world. But he also feels the weight of her expectation and part of his drive comes from never wanting to let her down, making good on the sacrifices she made for him.



BODHI

Empathetic, generous, a little bit spiritual, Bodhi is the calming centre of her often loud and boisterous group of friends. She's thoughtful, an introvert, with a goofy sense of humour that sneaks up on you. And from day one, she's always been a water baby, drawn to the ocean. Whenever she's feeling low, she gets on her board or puts on goggles and flippers and explores the world under the surface.

Since getting sponsored by a major surf company at the age of 12, Bodhi has been cultivating her social media profile, 'building her brand' as many surfers do. To her followers - and her friends - she projects optimism, gratitude, and a social conscience. But that image is a cover for a lot of self-doubt. Despite her talent, she doesn't think of herself as a winner and worries she's too 'nice' to make it all the way. For the last couple of years, she's been taking care of her Dad who's been a shell since Bodhi's mum ran off with another surf Dad. At heart Bodhi's a people pleaser, determined to put everyone's else's needs before her own. But that attitude isn't the greatest asset in the heat of competition.



WREN

NEW IN SEASON 2

Wren's high-achieving and highly strung, and already a champion surfer. She made a name for herself as the captain of the Queensland team, and went on to win the Nationals for them three years in a row. But Wren's competitive attitude, and her pushy older sister coach, get them kicked out of the Queensland team. She's forced to start completely from scratch in Shorehaven.

In Shorehaven, Wren finds Ari – a beautiful, committed, talented surfer who she sees as the perfect match for her. Wren also finds Ari easy to mould, and she successfully crafts a power couple image for both of them that makes them inseparable and, at first, only attracts more success.

And then along comes Summer, Ari's ex and the one that got away. Wren can see Summer getting under Ari's skin as soon as she arrives – and when Summer lands a spot on the team, and shows real promise as a competitive surfer, it threatens everything Wren's worked hard to build.

Wren's good at hiding behind a sweet mask, but she's ruthless in her taking down of anyone she feels threatened by. It's not until she turns the entire surf team against her that Summer realises how dangerous she is – and by then, it might be too late.



BEXTER

NEW IN SEASON 2

Baxter's proud of his legendary rebel status and goes out of his way to maintain his image as a lone wolf. He's cocky, confident and comfortable with the ladies, and even being relegated to Shorehaven after he set fire to a rival team's banner in last year's Nationals won't dull his shine. He's immediately attracted to firecracker Summer and promptly sets about convincing her to feel the same way about him.

But behind his carefully curated image, Baxter is anything but a lone wolf. He knows how emotionally volatile his sisters are, and feels indebted to them for what they gave up to come to Victoria. Baxter is made to believe it was entirely his fault that the three of them had to leave Team Queensland and this guilt hangs heavy on him, right up to the moment when he learns it's not true.

But during his time in Team Vic, and with Summer, he starts to see Wren and Elo for who they really are, and gets more and more uncomfortable being part of their manipulative games. Baxter's about honesty, communication and keeping things simple. Only now, being open and honest about what he's done for his sisters might cost him Summer's trust. And the more time he spends with her, the less he can bear to part with that...



ELO

NEW IN SEASON 2

Elo, Wren and Baxter's older sister and Team Vic's new surf coach, believes she can forge winners. But it takes real fire. Elo coached the Queensland surf team to victory three years running before she was unceremoniously dumped and had to drag her siblings down to Victoria. Elo blamed the move on her younger brother's delinquent tendencies but the truth is, Elo was kicked from the team for using questionable coaching strategies and encouraging bullying.

Elo is knowledgeable, charming and confident, and when she shines her light on you, it makes you desperate to earn that approval again. But she's so concerned with winning, she prioritises it over team bonding – and believes that pitting surfers against each other is the best way to make them hungry to win.

As the Team Vic coach, Elo impresses quickly – but she also recognizes already-existing rivalries, pushes conflicts to breaking point and transforms our loyal friendship group into a lean, mean fighting machine, with none of the support and trust they had before. What Elo wants is to beat Team QLD, and prove they were wrong to dump her. And she will stop at nothing to





EPISODES

EPIISODES

SEASON 1

WATCH FULL LENGTH SEASON 1
EPIISODES ON OUR WEBSITE



EPISODE 1

Exile

by Josh Mapleston

Rebellious teen Summer Torres is exiled from New York to the sleepy coastal town of Shorehaven on the Great Ocean Road in Australia. There she reluctantly moves in with family-friends the Gibsons, and immediately rubs the locals the wrong way. This invasion is the last thing the surf-obsessed Ari needs, while already recovering from a horrific injury and trying to get back onto his board. Desperate to escape, Summer begins to learn that Shorehaven isn't just waves and sand...



EPISODE 2

Big Plans

by Josh Mapleston

Having hatched a scheme to escape back to New York, Summer has a run-in with Sheridan, the tough leader of a local surf crew. Meanwhile, tensions old and new between Ari and Marlon threaten to boil over during the Shorehaven Pro Junior comp. Summer manages to help Ari in an unexpected way, before finding herself grounded - in more ways than one.

EPISODE 3

Training Day

by Magda Wozniak & Josh Mapleston

Banned by his parents from attending the next round of competition, Ari's coach Manu finds a loophole to get him back in the waves. To make matters worse, Ari discovers he's a long way off the pack surf-wise; and tensions continue with Marlon. Poppy grows frustrated at having her teaching duties put ahead of her own surf practice, and has to contend with the un-ignorable presence of Summer. Yet the two bond after Summer catches her first wave.





EPISODE 4

Shame

by Josh Mapleston

The Shorehaven crew take a road trip to Jackson Bay for the next round of the State Titles. Summer surprises everyone when she enters the comp, but the single wave she rides does more damage than good. Marlon's mum Luciana encourages the boys to put aside their differences; but her words fall on deaf ears. Summer tries to help clear the air within the group with a game of 'Shame', but only increases the tension as secrets are revealed and relationships are pushed to the brink.

EPISODE 5

Keep the Sponsors Happy

by Gemma Crofts and Josh Mapleston

Bodhi makes a splash with a potential sponsor and photo-shoot, but problems with boyfriend Marlon and Dad at home threaten to drag her under the rising swell. A late-night 'training session' for Poppy and Ari sparks a new romance. Summer goes on the warpath when she discovers why Bodhi has missed her heat. Ari wins the Wildcard against the odds, and snags a chance to compete at the pro event, the Subtropix 360.



EPISODE 6

No Pressure

by Keir Wilkins

Rebellious teen Summer Torres is exiled from New York to the sleepy coastal town of Shorehaven on the Great Ocean Road in Australia. There she reluctantly moves in with family-friends the Gibsons, and immediately rubs the locals the wrong way. This invasion is the last thing the surf-obsessed Ari needs, while already recovering from a horrific injury and trying to get back onto his board. Desperate to escape, Summer begins to learn that Shorehaven isn't just waves and sand...

EPISODE 7

For Laynah

by Kirsty Fisher

The Shorehaven Crew prepare for the BoardRiders Battle - a head-to-head team event against clubs from around the State; including their rival Anchor Cove. Poppy leads the team as captain of the Shorehaven Crew, and is desperate to honour her mum's memory. Manu tries to help Ari with his anxiety issues, and an underwater training session causes Marlon to freak out. A big secret threatens to sink the Shorehaven team during the BoardRiders Battle, and it falls to Summer to save the day - this time on a board!



EPISODE 8

Stairway

by Josh Mapleston

After jumping ship and seeking to join the rival Anchor Cove Crew, Marlon wants to impress them by surfing the treacherous Stairway to Heaven break. Ari also feels a need to prove himself at Stairway - the same site he seriously injured himself at over a year ago, and the source of his increasing anxiety. When it's revealed that Summer will be staying in Shorehaven for another 3 months, she threatens to go off the deep end.

EPISODE 9

Go

by Keir Wilkins

Bodhi, Poppy and Manu travel to Jarrah Island for the State team deciding event. Summer and Ari - banned from attending - begin to realise how much they mean to each other while smuggling themselves onto the island. Griff's flirtation stuns Poppy, and causes Marlon to question his new teammates. Ari and Summer share a celebratory and romantic moment after he wins his semi-final - but are cut short by the arrival of their unimpressed mothers.



EPISODE 10

Stay

by Keir Wilkins & Josh Mapleston

Bodhi looks set to storm home in her semi-final, until a freak accident threatens to drown her. The Shorehaven gang share a bittersweet moment in hospital, and it falls to Poppy to see the comp through for the team. An overnight stay in a motel turns disastrous for Ari, Summer, Margot and Abbie. Bodhi hauls herself out of hospital and works with Poppy to surf the Final and have a shot at the State Team. Ari is unwittingly forced to choose between his surfing dreams and chasing Summer.



EPISODES

SEASON 2

WATCH FULL LENGTH SEASON 2
EPISODES ON OUR WEBSITE



EPISODE 1

Selection

by Josh Mapleston

One year ago, Summer moved back to New York. But the surfing bug bit hard, and she's convinced her mum to return to Shorehaven for a chance to make the Victorian State Team. Keen to surprise her Aussie mates, Summer's the one who gets a shock when she meets Ari's new girlfriend, hotshot surfer Wren. Crashing Wren and Poppy's final in the State tryouts, Summer absolutely rips, stunning everyone.



EPISODE 2

Team Bonding

by Keir Wilkins

Summer's stoked to be on the State Team, it's just a shame Wren's their captain. The State Team hit their first training session run by Elo, Wren's sister. Summer is outgunned by Wren, until she slays the aerial competition. She invites the gang to a 'team bonding' session, which turns into a full-blown pool party! Romance is in the air, but Summer can't seem to catch a break with Ari.



EPISODE 3

Wait for It

by Josh Mapleston

After getting kicked out of their holiday house, Summer and Margot struggle with the realities of staying at the Gibson's. Margot's keen to head back to New York, so Summer strikes a last minute deal: if she can win a heat at the upcoming Blu Gravity competition, they stay in Shorehaven.





EPISODE 4

A Seat at the Table

by Huna Amweero

Summer, Bodhi, Poppy and Wren land in Byron Bay for a Subtropix shoot. Bodhi faces racist comments from the photographer and Ari signs a contract with Blu Gravity, despite his Dad's misgivings. Back in Byron, Summer is keen for revenge on the photographer but Wren warns against it - Bodhi and Poppy agree. Summer calls Ari for support, but Wren overhears them flirting and plots serious payback!

EPISODE 5

Keep the Sponsors Happy

by Alix Beane

Ostracised by everyone after the Byron room trashing, Summer's surprised when Baxter believes her side. The team gathers for Elo's training camp for Nationals, but it's tense. Sensing personal issues are affecting their performance, Elo suggests a 'purge', where they write down negative thoughts before throwing them on the bonfire. When someone finds Poppy's unburnt paper, all hell breaks loose.



EPISODE 6

I Promise

by Josh Mapleston

Our team wake up still reeling from the night before. Baxter lets Summer and Ari know he saw them in the tent. Ari tells Summer he'll handle this mess. Summer hears: I'm breaking up with Wren. This assumption is flipped when Summer returns to the Gibson's where Ari and Abbie are hosting a Birthday party for Wren!



EPISODE 7

Suck it Up

by Libby Butler

The team head to Nationals minus Summer, who's copping her punishment, preparing to leave Shorehaven. When Margot discovers it was Poppy who vandalised the surf shop, she pushes Summer to stay. The tension at Nationals is through the roof, but everyone on the team seem to be dealing with a tonne of personal issues while trying to perform at their best, which is making life challenging on the waves.



EPISODE 8

Send It

by Josh Mapleston

It's the final day of Nationals and Ari bombs out of his heat, prompting a reckoning with Elo, Wren and Baxter that results in them leaving the team. Their chances of winning are vanishing, but Summer and the gang pull together, bringing Marlon (the sub) into the fold – and even extending an olive branch to Wren.



GALLERY











CREDITS

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Joanna Werner, Stuart Menzies

Directors:

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Writers Season 2:

Josh Mapleston, Keir Wilkins, Huna Amweero, Alix Beane, Libby Buttler

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