

Hollyoaks

I think Hollyoaks is the best programme on TV right now for people of our age. With its interesting storylines and its attractive girls (and men in girls cases), Hollyoaks also deals with many issues that cause problems in our society nowadays. Also many people enjoy it because it is shown at a convenient time. Soaps like Eastenders do not appeal to the younger generation as much because it is shown right in the middle of the evening and many people tend to be doing something at that time.

Started in 1995, Hollyoaks is a fictional borough set in Merseyside. It has gradually got more popular over the years as the characters have grown up and gotten to know each other better. It now airs five times a week which shows that it will be popular for a very long time still.

Although there are many characters (33 in fact), they all seem to have their own very interesting backgrounds. For example, Bombhead (Played by Lee Otway) lost his mother which left him confused and emotionally unstable. This is why everyone treats him cautiously just in case they do not upset him. This is one of the main aspects that makes Hollyoaks so exciting to watch because whenever you are watching a dilemma during the show you kind of have to know a bit about the character's background in order to fully understand what all the argument is about. For example, Becca Hayton (Played by Ali Bastian) wanted to dump her boyfriend Jake Dean (Played by Kevin Sacre) because he had an affair with Lisa Hunter (Played by Gemma Atkinson) but she could not bring herself to do because she could not have the strength to do it. Even if you have only just started watching the show you start to feel the character's behaviour and certain qualities they each possess. There are no main characters in Hollyoaks but the way the story line works is that for about a week (or more if it is serious and interesting) a set of characters are the centre of attention and the other characters appear just as extras. Although this seems unfair on some characters sometimes, I think this is a good idea because you can gradually build up a good understanding of the character which you still see when they appear as extras in the following week.

Hollyoaks relates to everyday problems that young people face today. It can be small and petty things like a stupid argument to something much more serious such as pregnancy and abortions, STIs and divorce of parents. For example, Russell Owen (Played by Stuart Manning) somehow caught testicular cancer and did not want to tell his family or anyone. He only spoke about it when it was forced out of him. Perhaps Hollyoaks blows everything out of proportion a bit because what

you tend to see is the very worst of these subjects and not people who get off lightly and only experience the surface of these problems. However, it would be boring if you saw it like this everyday. Also I prefer it this way because it lets the nation see this and take for granted that they are so lucky not to have these problems and see for themselves what a mess people can get into.

Hollyoaks is set in Merseyside in a village called Chester as you know. Most of the characters are 'Scousers' and from the surrounding Liverpool area. The only main character that I can find and is not from Liverpool is Dannii Carbone (Played by Christina Baily) who is who is 'Italian' although she speaks with a northern accent (they do have a fairly low budget). However, they use Dannii to their advantage. Tony (Played by Nick Pickard) and Mandy (Played by Sarah Dunn) Hutchinson open an Italian restaurant called the Gnosh and they want to do an advert in Italian. So they get Dannii to do a translation but because Dannii does not like them she changes all the words to say something like 'Hi I'm Tony and Italian stereotype'. Most of the funnier side of things are done by the teenagers and younger people generally (which makes sense because who else would do funny things?) and take place mostly in the more crowded places like in a bar (which also makes sense because you tend to try to be funny when socialising). The more serious stuff takes place in quieter places like in people's flats (well where else would you argue and have sex?). I think that the main focus in Hollyoaks is the characters as shown in the title sequence. Also in the title sequence the music gives Hollyoaks a modern feeling with the guitars and drums playing a catchy theme tune. This plays over a load of moving shots that indicate all the different characters. You do not see much of the location which is clever because the village it is set in has no history and so it does not matter where it is set, you would not notice if it was set somewhere else.