

10x30' in 4K

SNAKE SQUAD



OPTIMUM
TELEVISION



There's only a few places in the world which snakes don't call their home.

But, as humanity continues to destroy these homes, they're increasingly left with no choice but to find shelter wherever they can. Homes, cars, schools, hospitals: these displaced snakes are turning up all over urban areas at alarming rates. Nowhere is this problem more an issue than in India, a land with 300 species of snakes, including some of the world's deadliest.

Enter the *Snake Squad*. Young men and women who have shunned their past lives and often prosperous careers to dedicate themselves to rescuing snakes from urban areas and restore them to the wild.

We will follow the squad's de facto leader, Alex Carpenter, a Briton settled in the beach state of Goa, as he travels all over India to meet the members of the *Snake Squad* as we seek to understand why these wildlife enthusiasts have chosen to do what arguably is the most dangerous job in the world.

Episodic Synopsis

Episode 1

Brit Among Snakes

Alex Carpenter arrived in Goa three years ago from UK on a learning expedition. He happened to rescue a cobra from his eco project and before he knew, he had become the local snake rescuer.

Goa is now a home for him and he has rescued over 250 snakes.

Rescuing Cobras, pythons and boas from people's homes and backyards, is all a normal day's work for him.

In this episode, Alex rescues a deadly cobra, and a harmless Whitaker's boa, which he releases in the company of the local kids. He then sets off on a journey around India to meet some of the members of the Snake Squad to find out what motivates them.

Episode 2

Cobra on the Roof

Alex travels to North Goa to meet Aaron Fernandes. Body painter and tattoo artist, Aaron is passionate about conserving snakes and all other wild life.

Together Alex and Aaron rescue a Russell's Viper from a beach side restaurant. Nick the in-house Venom Expert of the ***Snake Squad***, uses his own blood to conduct an experiment which shows the deadly effects of snake venom on human body.

Aaron is called to an old traditional Goan house to rescue a snake. It is a cobra hiding under the tiles on a slippery roof.....

Episode 3

Monsoon Magic and Snake in the Well

It is monsoon time in Goa and it's looking magical.

Aaron is on 24X7 alert. From rescuing Russell's Viper and python from people's backyards to going down a 15 meter deep well to rescue a rat snake, all part of a day's job.

A harmless rat snake has fallen into a well and the house lady wants it out. She is scared to share the space with a snake, even though it's the non-venomous one. What looked like a very simple rescue in the beginning ends up taking more than five hours.

Episode 4

Gargi, the Baby-faced Snake Catcher

Alex travels to Mumbai, one of India's biggest and busiest cities to meet the female members of the ***Snake Squad***.

Bullied at school, Gargi Vijayraghvan found her niche when her father introduced her to the world of snakes.

Gargi, the youngest member of the squad, has been called to rescue a snake caught inside a scooter.

Episode 5

Mumbai's Mother of Snakes

Lynette D'Souza, mother of two daughters, took up the challenge when a male colleague mocked her that women cannot catch snakes...they are even afraid of cockroaches!!

Today she is the leading snake catcher of Mumbai and heads a team of 20 male snake rescuers.

Wishing to encourage more women to join the vocation, she is training her daughters all her skills.

Episode 6

India's Crocodile Whisperer

Alex's travels around India in search of members of Snake Squad, bring him to Ahmedabad to meet India's Crocodile Whisperer Soham Mukherjee.

Soham arrives at a construction site to rescue a cobra. With hundreds of workers milling around, even a moment's distraction can turn fatal.

Episode 7

Snake in a Village

Soham makes a trip to a nearby village and comes face to face with one of the most dangerous snakes in the world: A Russell's Viper hiding in a house.

Episode 8

In God's Own Country

Alex leaves Ahmedabad for Chennai but the viewers take a short detour to Kerala, God's own country with Jose Louise to meet a very special person. The sorcerer of the woods, the granny of potions: Lekshmi Amma.

Episode 9

Beard, Boa and Bollywood Buff

Alex meets the star snake catcher of Chennai: Shravan Krishnan.

Passionate about conserving wild life, Shravan's home often resembles a rescue centre...but the downside is he can't find anyone to clean it...God knows what might pop out of a bag!!

Episode 10

The Legend of Irulas

The Irulas of Tamil Nadu are a legendary tribe. Their knowledge of snakes has few parallels in the world. They are responsible for collecting almost 80% of the venom that India requires to produce anti-venom medication.

Shravan takes audiences on a walk into jungle with Kali, a member of the Irula tribe who is now famous worldwide because of his work in a few films.

Shravan and Kali are looking for common Krait, a nightly snake. So, they start their walk in the dead of night, and it continues through the morning.



Contact

Siddhvinayak Bhatnagar
siddh@optimumtelevision.com