

READ THIS FIRST

What Is Unscripted TV

the question you have to answer before anything else



THE CONFUSION

It is not an accident, and it is not acting.

People hear reality TV and assume one of two things: a camera happened to catch real life by accident, or it is basically acting with better lighting. Neither is true. Unscripted TV is a specific third thing, and almost nobody explains what it actually is before asking someone to go make it.



ONE END OF THE SPECTRUM

Documentary: pure observation.

On one end sits documentary. The camera follows but never directs anything: not the timing, not the setup, not a single retake. It watches what happens and takes what it gets.

ZERO DIRECTION



THE REAL THIRD THING

Unscripted TV: real, but directed with craft.

In the middle sits unscripted TV. Real people, real events, real reactions, captured with real direction over the form of the shoot, never over the content of what happens or how someone feels. It does not write the story. It finds the story that is already true and directs the camera well enough to actually catch it.

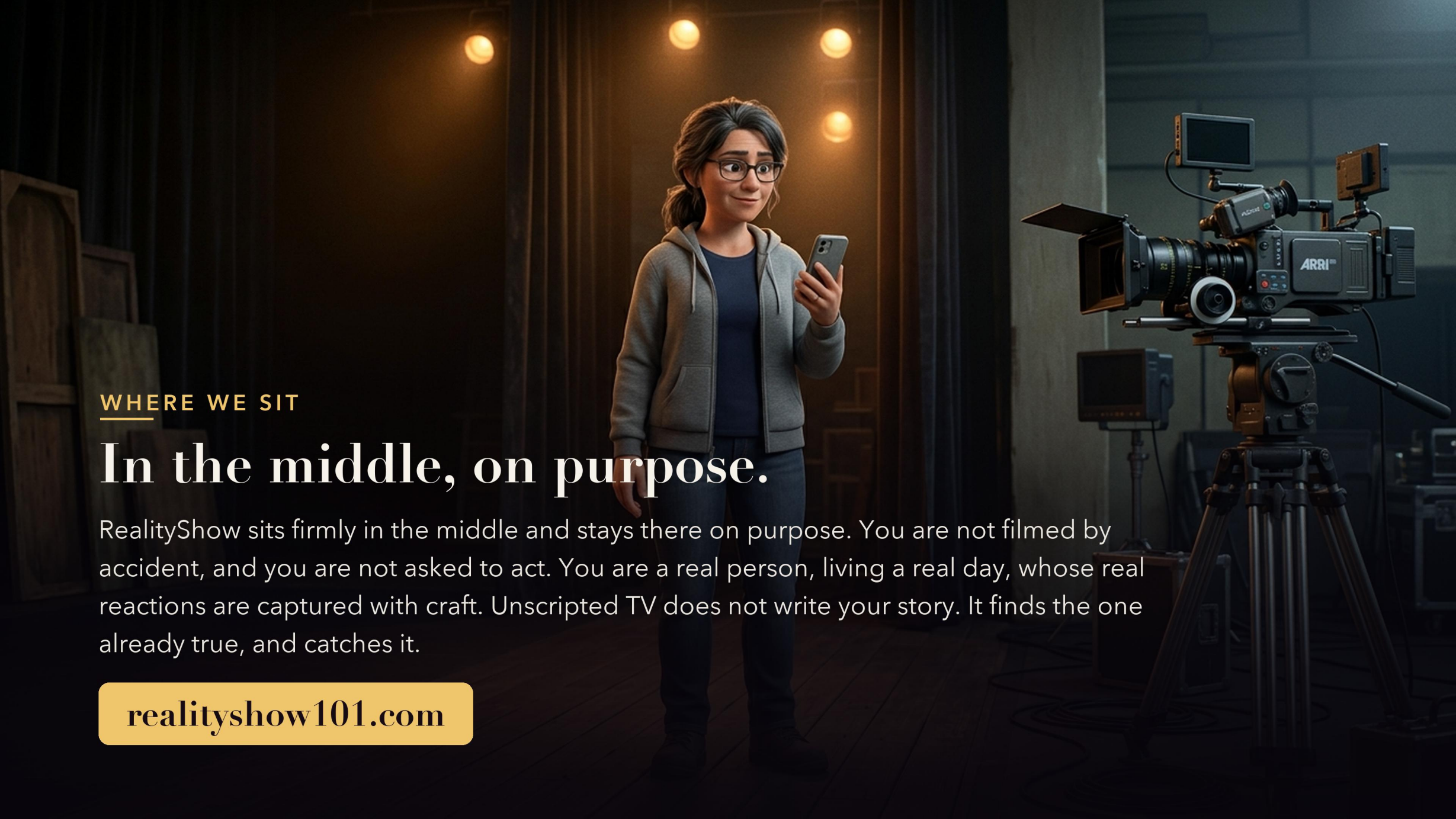


THE OTHER END

Scripted Drama: full invention.

On the far end sits scripted drama. Invented events, written dialogue, actors playing characters who are not them. Everything that happens was decided in advance.

FULL INVENTION



WHERE WE SIT

In the middle, on purpose.

RealityShow sits firmly in the middle and stays there on purpose. You are not filmed by accident, and you are not asked to act. You are a real person, living a real day, whose real reactions are captured with craft. Unscripted TV does not write your story. It finds the one already true, and catches it.

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