

coverstory



It's Feud for thought

FRONTING a new game show is one thing, but bringing back a family favourite is a very different task.

Grant Denyer has done both, fronting Ten's revival of Family Feud after parting ways with Channel Seven and its game show Million Dollar Minute.

Ten is hoping Family Feud, which debuted on Monday, brings some consistency to its 6pm timeslot, which has hosted a variety of programming over the past few years, most recently repeats of US sitcom Modern Family.

"We all remember a version of it. It does have a soft spot in everybody's hearts, whether it's the Rob Brough Channel Seven version or you can go back further to Tony Barber, Daryl Somers and Bert Newton. They're all big names and all different eras," Denyer told The Guide.

"Therein lays the fun and the challenge." But Denyer didn't jump on board the Family Feud bandwagon straight away.

Grant Denyer talks to **Seanna Cronin** about his hopes and fears as he revives an old favourite

"My first reaction was 'Oh, bringing back a much-loved favourite can be dangerous'," he said.

"There are high expectations to live up to. But I liked how playful it was, and right now I just want things in my life that are fun. I wanted to just stretch my legs and play a little."

During a recent visit to the Melbourne set, Denyer looked relaxed on stage as he posed questions to members of the media in a mock game.

Earlier this year the 36-year-old faced a storm of controversy over his departure from Sunrise after a women's magazine claimed he and wife Chezzi spent time in rehab for meth addiction.

Denyer has always strongly denied the

claims, saying he sought treatment overseas for exhaustion after his long-running stint as the breakfast show's weather presenter.

This week is the start of a new chapter for Denyer, who made his national TV debut as a 22-year-old reporter for Channel Ten's Eyewitness News 15 years ago, as well as the Family Feud brand.

This new version of the game show was inspired by the success of the show's American revamp, which returned to US lounge rooms in 2010 and is hosted by comedian Steve Harvey.

The US show's YouTube channel has had more than three million views from Australia, buoying the hopes that a new Australian series will be well received.

"It's one of the top 10 game shows in the

world for a good reason," Denyer said.

"It's incredibly simple and does not promise the world. It knows what it is.

"It's really simple questions that produce brilliant results when people have to blurt the first thing that comes out of their mouths."

Family members in teams of four compete on the quiz show, which asks them to guess the most popular answers to a question posed to 100 people.

While the basic format of the show has not changed, this 21st-century version does involve second-screen interactivity and prizes, including cars, for viewers who play along at home on social media.

"Game shows are the perfect arena for modern technology; it's a fun progression for TV," Denyer said.

"There's technology we've developed specifically for Family Feud."

Family Feud - Ten - Monday to Friday at 6pm

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