

“To do nothing at all is the most difficult thing in the world, the most difficult and the most intellectual.” – Oscar Wilde

SPACED OUT

by Katy Baird

Spaced is a sitcom about Daisy and Tim - two people in their mid-twenties who share a flat and spend their time pubbing, clubbing, watching TV and having marathon playstation sessions. They occasionally have jobs but they don't last very long. Essentially they are 'doing nothing with their life'.

When it first aired in 1999 I was 21 and led a very similar life to Tim and Daisy. Doing nothing was so much easier back then - this was the time of 'Cool Britainia' when there were plentiful council flats, easy to access benefits and you could just wander around the pubs in town with a CV when you needed to get a job. Admittedly a lot has changed since then but I think that maybe we can still learn something from Daisy and Tim, especially if we think together about all the ways that we personally measure and demonstrate success in our lives.

I hope that this survey gives you space to think about the things you prioritise in life and why they are important to you.

I look forward to you spending some quality quiet time with you 'doing nothing' together in bed.

Episode 1: Beginnings

Tim and Daisy find themselves in urgent need of accommodation so they pretend to be in a long-term relationship (and to have jobs) to rent a flat. And so the story starts...

1) Where do you live right now and how did you end up there?

2) Do you live alone? (Circle answer)

Yes No

If you've selected No, please describe your cohabiter (s) (include their eye-colour, their favourite TV programme right now and their Facebook password)

3) Do you live in your dream property? (Circle answer)

Yes No

If you've selected No, which of the following would describe your dream property?

(Circle answer)

A big house

Somewhere quiet and relaxing

I don't care, as long as I own it

Somewhere where I could do something exciting

Episode 2: Gatherings

Having finally tackled the task of unpacking and faced with the prospect of having to do some work, Daisy persuades Tim to agree to a house warming party.

1) Describe the last party you attended and how it made you feel:

2) When you go to a party are you:

(Circle answer)

The first to arrive

The first to arrive *and* the last to leave

The last to leave

Just stay for an hour or so

3) If you were to have a party next weekend name eight people you know that you would definitely not invite:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Episode 3: Art

Tim and Daisy's neighbour Brian gets an invitation from his non-binary ex-partner, Vulva to view their new piece of performance art. What better way to relax than an evening, with friends, at the theatre?

1a) What was the last thing you watched on a stage?

1b) How did it make you feel?

2) Would you describe yourself as a creative person? Yes / No

If you answer yes - please describe your creative practice

If you answer no - is there anything creative you would like to do if you had more time/confidence/ money

Episode 4: Battle

Daisy gets dumped by her boyfriend and Tim meets up with his arch enemy, Duane Benzie, the man who stole his ex-girlfriend.

1) Are you in a relationship? (circle answer)

Yes

No

If you are **single** answer questions 2 and 3 only

If you are in a **monogamous relationship** answer questions 3 & 4 only

If you are in an **open or polyamorous relationship** answer questions, 5 & 6

2) What are your top four best things about being single?

1.

2.

3.

4.

3) Name three couples you know where you think - thank god I am *not* in that relationship:

1.

2.

3.

4) Would you call your relationship co-dependent? (circle answer)

Yes

No

Maybe

I don't know

5) Name at least three people you would like to go on a date with if you were single (must be someone that you have met or seen from afar - no famous people)

1.

2.

3.

4+.

6 and 7) If you are in an open or polyamorous relationship then you have obviously thought a lot about your relationships in great detail already so you can skip this section.

Episode 5: Chaos

Daisy gets a dog (Colin) to help her get over her break-up but a freelance vivisectionist snatches him. Tim and Daisy round up their friends and the little guy is freed from the lab under the cover of darkness.

1) If your dog got kidnapped by a freelance vivisectionist do you think your friends would help you to rescue it? (circle answer)

Yes No

2) Which friends do you think would say they would help but probably would not turn up on the night?

3) Who was the last friend you spoke to on the phone and what did you talk about?

Episode 6: Epiphanies

Tim's courier friend (Tyres) invites them out for a 'large one'. At the club, everyone gets mash-up and spend the night dancing, chatting intense nonsense and drinking lots of bottles of water!

Have you ever taken drugs for fun? (circle answer)

Yes No

If you answered yes:

What is your favourite drug and why

If you answered no:

Are there any drugs you have always wished you had tried or would like to try in the future?

Series 2

Episode 1: Back

Daisy returns from her holiday in Asia, but finds it hard to settle back into the mundanity of her normal life after her adventure

1) If someone gave you an all expenses three-month holiday anywhere in the world, would you take it? (circle answer)

Yes

No

If you answered yes:

Where would you go and why

If you are currently employed - what would you tell your work?

If you answered no:

Why would you not take the holiday?

Episode 2: Change

Daisy is trying to get dole money out of the Job Centre. Tim gets fired from his job in a comic shop.

1) Are you currently employed and/or in education?

(circle answer)

Yes

No

If you answered no:

What are the eight best things about being unemployed?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

If you answered yes:

Name eight things you could do regularly if you only worked one day a week but got paid the same:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Episode 3: Mettle

After being fired from several jobs, Daisy starts working in a kitchen. Tim and his friend Mike build a Robot and try to enter the television programme 'Robot Wars'.

1) In the future, will robots with artificial intelligence help make life easier for all of us? (circle answer)

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure
- I hope not

Episode 4: Help

Tim seeks his dream job and sends his artwork to Darkstar Comics but realises he left an unflattering caricature of the boss, so has to try and get it back before the boss sees it. Daisy gets sacked again and is back on the dole.

1) What is the most favourite job you have ever had and why? (this can include paid and unpaid work)

2) Have you claimed benefits or working tax credits at any point in your life?

Universal basic income (UBI) is a model for providing all citizens of a country with a given sum of money, regardless of their income, resources or employment status.

3) What are your thoughts on a Universal Basic Income for everyone in the UK?

Episode 5: Gone

Whilst having a big night drinking on the town Tim and Daisy get mugged by some young people who steal their weed.

Describe your current relationship with Alcohol:

Episode 6: Dissolution

It is Daisy's birthday and everyone ends up arguing and falling out with each other at the party and it ends in a big food fight.

1) Is friendship overrated?

2) How often do you see your friends? (circle answer)

A lot
I am too busy for friends
Only on Facebook really

Not as much as I would like
I enjoy my own company

3) Name one person (alive or dead) that you would like to invite to your birthday party:

Episode 7: Leaves

Tim and Daisy's landlady finds out that they lied about their jobs and relationship status to get the flat. She is upset and threatens to kick them out - can they persuade her to let them stay?

1) Do you think that it is ever ok to lie? (Circle answer)

Yes No

If you have selected Yes or No, when was the last time you lied and why?

2) Has a lie ever hurt you deeply? (Circle answer)

Yes No

Katy Baird is an artist, curator and producer of Live Art. As an artist Katy has performed at Live Art festivals and venues as well as squat parties, clubs and raves. Her recent solo studio-based performance *Workshy*, a show about work and the things we do for money, has toured internationally to over 30 cities. Her performance project *Unreal*, exploring identity and consumption is currently ongoing. Since 2016 she has been artist in residence at queer club night Knickerbocker. As a Curator she co-produces Steakhouse Live, a DIY platform for radical performance practices. In 2018 Katy became the Artistic Director of Home Live Art, producers of live events across Hastings, the South East and beyond. Katybaird.com