

## Documentaries & Factual - Human/Social Interest



### Altered Lives

**Episodes:** 4 x 60 mins

**Language:** English

**Year:** 2021

**Producer:** Verite Productions

**Distributor:** Mediacorp

Altered Lives is about loneliness, disconnect and how circumstances change lives.

The documentary follows 18-year-old Sam in the Philippines as he embarks on a long journey to meet his family for the first time in many years. In India, 28-year-old actress Rytasha deals with public and personal pressures as she seeks companionship and emotional support.

44-year-old Chinese divorcee Pei Li has Parkinson's disease and is father to an eight-year-old but he wants to do more as he feels time is running out.

In Singapore, 37-year-old Nadia resigned from a promising job to look after her mother, who suffered a stroke and is feeling the brunt of being a full-time caregiver.

Information correct at time of printing

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### Episode 1 - Independence comes with loneliness

Independence comes with loneliness. In the first episode of *Altered Lives*, we follow the journeys of Sam in the Philippines, Nadia in Singapore, Rytasha in India and Pei Li in China as they confront the consequences of the choices they make.

Sam, a former Abu Sayyaf child soldier bids his friends at the children's home goodbye to reunite with his family after almost a decade. Will his parents accept him after all he's done?

Rytasha, a rising Bollywood star ends a long-term relationship that sends her off in an emotional tailspin. She is surrounded by family and friends but finds it immensely difficult to cope. Pei Li from China talks candidly about his Parkinson's disease and jokes about the latest health episode. Despite warnings from friends, he takes a motorbike ride into the mountains to build a passion project that will bring joy to young people.

In Singapore, Nadia is a full-time caregiver to her mother. She prepares to take her to a doctor's appointment and fears for the worst.

### Episode 2 - Everything...is a question mark

After leaving the children's home, Sam takes a long journey back to his hometown in the Philippines. He barely recognises his very large family and questions his future.

In Singapore, Nadia surprises her fiancé to make up for the delay in their wedding plans. She reveals the harsh challenges of quitting her career to become a full-time caregiver to her ailing mother. Chinese national Pei Li is divorced and searching for companionship. Diagnosed with a degenerative disease, the 44-year-old is looking for a life partner who can care for him. After ending a long-term relationship, Rytasha embarks on a new chapter in her career. The Indian entertainer is making headway professionally, but she remains haunted by troubles in her personal life.

### Episode 3 - Here at the far edge

In Singapore, Nadia's future with her fiancé hangs in the balance when plans to buy a flat and relocate her family falls through. She further struggles with depression as the full-time caregiver to her mother sees no end to the challenges facing her family.

In India, Rytasha reconnects with her ex-boyfriend after their recent breakup to meet up with his son. Torn by her obligations to remain in the child's life, she tries to find a way to manage her conflicting emotions.

In China, Pei Li revisits issues fracturing his relationship with his mother and brother. Old wounds are opened during his visit to Beijing. In the Philippines, Sam seeks out former ties to Abu Sayyaf. His past with the terrorist cells continues to linger in his new life.

### Episode 4 - No more resistance now

It has been a year since we started documenting the lives of our four profiles. The most challenging chapters of their lives come to a close as they transition into a new normal. In Singapore, Nadia is greeted by a pleasant surprise celebrating an anniversary with her fiancé. She finds closure with the state of her family affairs. In India, Rytasha embarks on a solo trip for the first time in her life. Encounters with kindred spirits on her journey strikes a chord in the millennial who has been in search of answers. In China, Pei Li makes a hospital visit to follow up on his degenerative disease. A reunion with his daughter stirs up more questions about his precarious future. In the Philippines, Sam goes missing after enrolling in a new school to continue his studies. The teenager resurfaces a month later with news of a life-changing decision.

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