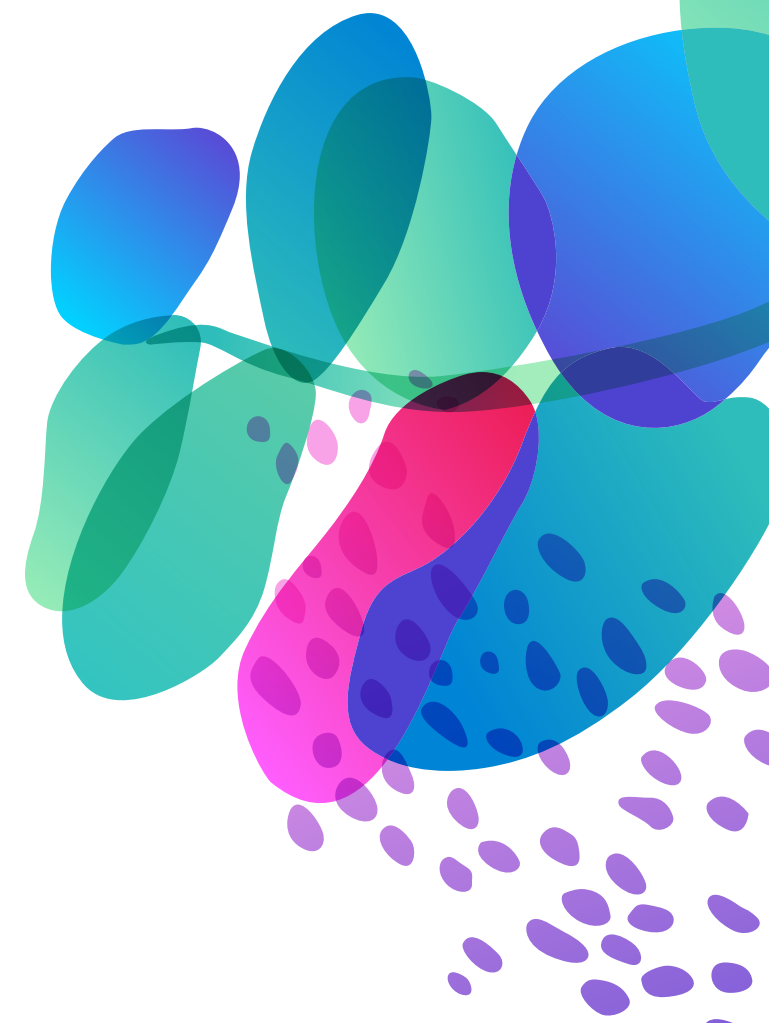




ABC '23 UPFRONTS



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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a colorful striped top, and a man in a dark suit and teal tie are sitting behind a wooden news desk. In the background, a large world map is mounted on the wall. The word "DRAMA" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

DRAMA

BAY OF FIRES

SYNOPSIS

Showcasing Tasmania's rugged west coast, Bay of Fires, tells the story of Stella (Marta Dusseldorp), who is unexpectedly dropped into a small community with her children. But it's not the kind of place they put on postcards – it is instead rife with simmering feuds, crime and sometimes, murder.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An Archipelago Productions and Fremantle Australia production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the ABC and Screen Tasmania, with support from VicScreen. Producers Marta Dusseldorp and Yvonne Collins. Executive Producers Greg Sitch, Andrew Knight and Brett Popplewell. ABC Executive Producers Sally Riley, Alex Baldwin and Louise Smith. Fremantle will distribute the series internationally.





HOUSE OF GODS

SYNOPSIS

Created by Osamah Sami and Shahin Shafaei, House of Gods is a tale of faith, family, secrets and lies that takes audiences behind the walls of an imam's family and the community he leads, exploring the personal cost of power and ambition.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Matchbox Pictures production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the ABC. Financed with support from Screen NSW with Universal International Studios managing international sales. Matchbox Pictures is part of Universal International Studios, a division of Universal Studio Group. Producers Sheila Jayadev, Bree-Anne Sykes. Executive Producers Blake Ayshford, Debbie Lee. ABC Executive Producer: Brett Sleight.



THE MESSENGER

SYNOPSIS

Based on Markus Zusak's best-selling novel of the same name, *The Messenger*, follows Ed Kennedy (William McKenna) – just another stupid human, until one day he isn't. That day, he stops an armed robbery and becomes an accidental hero. The next day, he starts getting messages...Four playing cards – the ace of diamonds, clubs, spades and hearts. Each with their own set of tasks. Who's sending them? And what the hell is a hopeless, cab-driving, guy like Ed meant to do with them? Ed has been chosen to care. He stumbles this mysterious path, helping and hurting, completing the cards, until he comes to see the real message has been for him. Being *The Messenger* has brought Ed back to life.

The series stars Helpmann Award winner William McKenna (*Nowhere Boys*), alongside Australian icon Maggie Dence (*Rake*, *Wonderland*), Alexandra Jensen (*Frayed*, *Amazing Grace*), Chris Alosio (*Troppo*) and actor, singer and songwriter Kartanya Maynard (*Deadloch*).

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Lingo Pictures production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the ABC. Financed with support from Screen NSW and All3Media International is managing international sales. Producers Jason Stephens and Elisa Argenzio. Executive Producers Helen Bowden, Markus Zusak, Mika Zusak, Sarah Lambert and Daniel Nettheim. ABC Executive Producers Rebecca Anderson and Sally Riley.



THE NEWSREADER S2

SYNOPSIS

The Newsreader season two travels from election night 1987, through the shocks of the Hoddle Street shootings and the Stock Market Crash, the complexity of the heroin crisis, towards the protest and pageantry of the 1988 Bicentenary. As a nation grapples with its identity, its past and future, Helen (Anna Torv) and Dale (Sam Reid) reach a crossroads, and must settle on who they want to be, to each other, and to the world.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Werner Films Production for the ABC. Major production investment from the ABC and financed with support from VicScreen. Worldwide distribution is managed by Entertainment One (eOne). Created by Michael Lucas. Directed by Emma Freeman. Produced by Lucas and Joanna Werner. Executive Producers Werner, Stuart Menzies and Emma Freeman. ABC Executive Producers Brett Sleigh and Sally Riley.





COMEDY & ENTERTAINMENT

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CHECKOUT OUR CAFE REVIEW PAGE 27

AUNTY DONNA'S COFFEE CAFE

SYNOPSIS

Starring Aunty Donna's Mark Samuel Bonanno, Broden Kelly, and Zachary Ruane, the high octane and unpredictable series follows the story of three best mates running a trendy cafe down one of Melbourne's less-than-iconic laneways.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Haven't You Done Well Productions production for ABC. Principal production investment from the ABC and Screen Australia in association with VicScreen. Director/Producer Max Miller and writer/Executive Producers Sam Lingham, Broden Kelly, Mark Samuel Bonanno, Thomas Armstrong and Zachary Ruane. Producer Nicole Minchin and Executive Producer Georgia Mappin. ABC Executive Producers Rachel Millar and Todd Abbott.





LIMBO

SYNOPSIS

The six-part comedy explores the compelling and charmingly funny story of best friends Charlie (Ryan Corr) and Nate (Bob Morley) as they're faced with how hard it is to let go of those we love - especially when they're taken too soon. And when they come back to haunt you. Literally.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Bunya Productions and Heiress Films production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with ABC. Financed with support from Screen Queensland, with Screen NSW. Directed by Trent O'Donnell and David Stubbs. Produced by Jennifer Cummins, David Jowsey, Angela Littlejohn and Greer Simpkin. ABC Executive Producer Rebecca Anderson.



MOTHER AND SON

SYNOPSIS

When his widowed mum, Maggie, sets fire to the kitchen, recently single Arthur Gbeme moves back into the family home. As he tells it, he has “put his life on hold” to care for his mum, but the truth is, there isn’t much to put on hold. A former nurse, Maggie used to be a firebrand – a renegade. But since the death of her husband, Maggie has been... a little off.

A bold re-imagining of the long running and hugely successful ABC comedy, *Mother and Son* is a show about ageing, migrant upbringing, changing family roles, and caring for someone you love even when they’re driving you up the wall.

Re-created by Matt Okine with collaborators, Sarah Walker, Tristram Baumber and the show’s original creator, Geoffrey Atherden, *Mother and Son* is an 8 x 30 min comedy series starring one of Australia’s most-loved comedians, Denise Scott as Maggie and Matt Okine as Arthur.

With rich, warm characters that could be drawn right from your own family. *Mother and Son* offers hilarious, poignant, and utterly relatable observations on modern family life.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Wooden Horse production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the ABC. Financed with support from Screen NSW. Produced by Jude Troy and Richard Finlayson. Associate Producer Alexandra Cameron. Executive Producer / Creator / Writer Matt Okine. ABC Executive Producers: Todd Abbott and Louise Smith. International Sales: ABC Commercial.





NO STUPID QUESTIONS (WORKING TITLE)

SYNOPSIS

How do I join the Illuminati? Do fish feel pain? When can I make a citizen's arrest? Are other animals ticklish? Is social media addictive? Should we be worried about ancient viruses being unlocked from melting permafrost? Is there a new show on the ABC in 2023 that lets the audience ask questions like this? Is there a new show that will go and find the answers to these questions in an entertaining and thought provoking fashion? There is! Does this show have a name? Not yet, let's move on. Who's on it? Chas Licciardello, Kirsten Drysdale, Lawrence Leung, Alex Lee, Cameron James and Louise Wall.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Mercury Scout production for the ABC. Executive Producers Chas Licciardello and Martin Robertson. Directors Stef Smith and Steve Kirkby. ABC Executive Producer Frances O'Riordan.

UTOPIA

SYNOPSIS

Set inside the offices of the “Nation Building Authority”, a federal government organisation responsible for overseeing major infrastructure projects, Utopia explores that moment when bureaucracy and grand dreams collide. It’s a tribute to those political leaders who have somehow managed to take a long-term vision and use it for short-term gain.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Working Dog Production, in association with ABC TV. Written and produced by Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner and Rob Sitch. Executive Producer Michael Hirsh. Original Casting Jane Kennedy. Directed by Rob Sitch. ABC Commissioning Editor Brett Sleight.





FACTUAL & CULTURE



AUSTRALIA'S WILD ODYSSEY

SYNOPSIS

Australia's Wild Odyssey follows the flow of water across the Australian continent to uncover the incredible connections that link all creatures on earth: from ants, to eagles to us.

Over three dynamic episodes, this wildlife series sets out on a journey across the driest continent on earth - following the rain, rivers and underground aquifers as they transform and connect distant ecosystems. Each stop on the journey reveals a new piece of the ecological puzzle that connects organisms and ecosystems, creating a planet just right for us.

Alongside passionate biologists and Traditional Owners, we reveal in awesome detail the surprising connections that allow life on earth to thrive. How can floods in the outback affect mountain possums 1000kms away? How do dingoes change the shape of desert sand dunes? How can a tiny crab help keep the earth's atmosphere stable? Each story brings a new understanding of the natural functions that power our global life support systems, and the importance of preserving each piece of this complex web of life.

This series is an epic adventure across Australia's unique landscapes, and a love letter to the only planet we know that sustains life.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Wild Pacific Media Production. Developed with the assistance of Screen Australia. Financed in association with Screen NSW. Producers in association with Arte France. Developed and Produced in association with the ABC. Executive Producers Electra Manikakis and Nick Robinson. Producers Peta Ayers, Nick Robinson, Electra Manikakis. ABC Manager, Documentaries Stephen Oliver.

BACK IN TIME FOR THE CORNER SHOP

SYNOPSIS

Back in Time for the Corner Shop looks at how Australian society has changed through the lens of the corner shop.

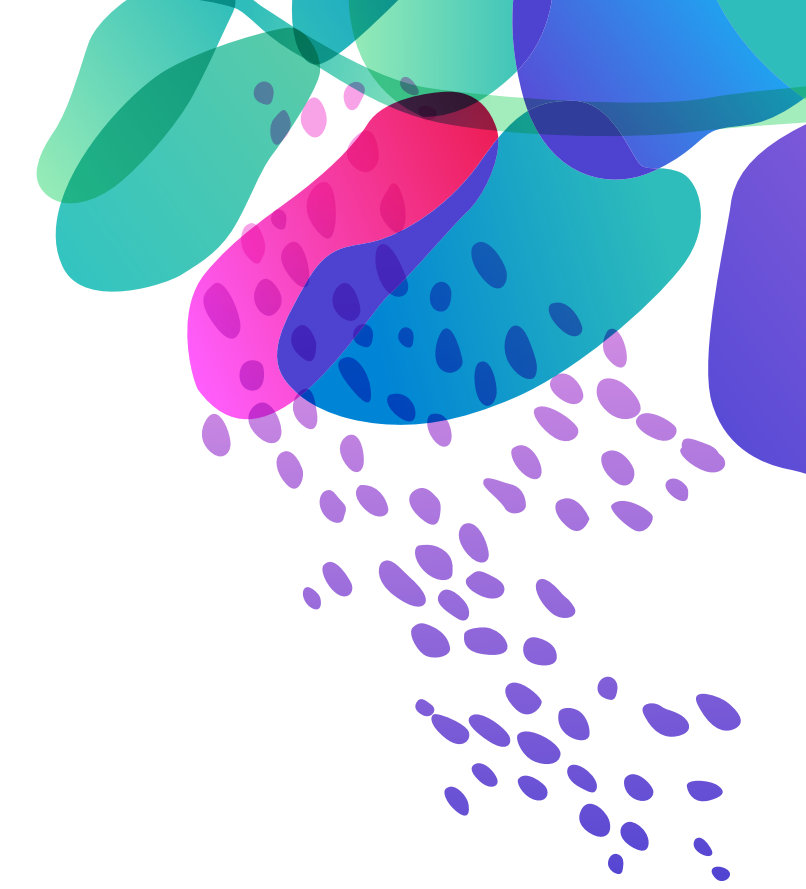
Annabel Crabb will once again be on hand to help Carol and Peter Ferrone, and their children Julian, Sienna and Olivia, learn the highs and lows of being shopkeepers through 150 years of Australian history.

The Australian corner shop was an institution for millions of Australians. More than a simple shop, it was the centre point of a neighbourhood, supplying essential daily needs and tasty treats. Over the decades the role of the corner shop has evolved from a community hub and the main provider of groceries to the grab and go chain stores we know today. And the Ferrone's will experience it all, starting in an 1850s shop, all the way to the 1990s.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Produced by Warner Bros. International Television Production for the ABC. Warner Bros. Head of Entertainment Caroline Swift. Warner Bros. Supervising Executive Producer Nicole Rogers. Executive Producer Clare Bath. ABC Factual Manager Julie Hanna, ABC Executive Producer Madeleine Hawcroft.





BETTER DATE THAN NEVER

SYNOPSIS

Better Date than Never is a character-led, multi-part docuseries following a diverse group of single love seekers as they take a huge step in anyone's life – into the dating world.

Each participant has a unique story, and a different reason for a later start to their dating journey. But they all share a common goal – to step out on their first date.

With a little help from the producers, they launch into a world they've always wanted to explore, on a journey that takes them on the sometimes rocky road to finding love.

Refreshingly real, honest and diverse, Better Date than Never is a warm-hearted series exploring the world of dating and relationships, from the creators of *Love on the Spectrum*.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Northern Pictures production for the ABC. Principal production funding from Screen Australia in association with the ABC. Associate Producers, Antonia Osili, Rachel O'Rourke, Melanie Sauer. Executive Producers Karina Holden and Cian O'Clery. ABC Manager, Documentaries Stephen Oliver.



THE BLACK HAND

SYNOPSIS

Anthony LaPaglia, delves back in time to explore an Australian Italian community's struggle against hard times, extreme politics, looming war and the mafia in their midst. A personal journey from Queensland cane country to Calabria, Italy seeking answers to a question faced by all those who remake their lives in a new place what comes with us from the old country, what do we leave behind?

PRODUCTION CREDITS

WildBear Entertainment production for the ABC. Principal production funding from Screen Australia in association with the ABC. Financed with support from Screen NSW and Screen Queensland. Producers Kate Pappas & Adam Grossetti, Executive Producers Alan Erson, Michael Tear & Anthony LaPaglia. ABC Factual Manager Julie Hanna.



DESIGNING A LEGACY S2

SYNOPSIS

In *Designing A Legacy (S2)*, comedian and architecture critic Tim Ross travels around Australia to see buildings and meet people that help reveal a new story of what it means to be Australian, hidden in the architecture around us.

If buildings shape our lives, he asks, can the story of what it means to be Australian be told through our buildings? And if so, is this the story we expect? From stunning private homes to schools and surf clubs, motels and mosques, Tim shows us some structures that reveal a new story of Australia. He explores how well-designed buildings can leave a legacy of respect, for people that use them, for our environment, and for the ancient history of our land. They can create community, forge common identity and offer, in difficult times, much needed visions for our future.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A SAM Content and Modernister Films production in association with ABC. Principal production funding from Screen Australia and production funding from Screen NSW. Writer/host/Executive Producer Tim Ross. Producer Aline Jacques. Executive Producer Sally Aitken. Co-writer/Director Chris Eley. ABC Executive Producer Madeleine Hawcroft.

DOLPHINS: IS OUR LOVE TOO DEEP?

SYNOPSIS

Dolphins: Is Our Love Too Deep? is a ground-breaking, investigative, environmental film that explores the impact humans are having on wild dolphins through hand feeding tourism programs in Australia at Monkey Mia and Bunbury in Western Australia, and Moreton Bay and Tin Can Bay in Queensland.

Hand feeding in some of these locations has caused a litany of problems, high calf mortality, aggressive behaviour, and reduced survival rates in the wild. However, this is only the tip of the iceberg. There is a mystery where many of the female dolphins at Monkey Mia died in the last 5 years.

We examine research in Australia from the world's leading marine scientists and the debate from marine biologists, environmental groups, conservation advocates, and governments who all have differing opinions on the issue. But one thing remains constant, the feeding continues!

The film investigates and challenges our insatiable need to interact with wild dolphins, questioning how deep our love really is, for these amazing marine animals. Ultimately the film uncovers the tenuous balance between our all-consuming desire to get back to nature and the stark reality, that we could be loving some dolphins to death!

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Sea Dog TV International Pty Ltd production. Principal production funding from Screen Australia in association with ABC. Financed with support from Screenwest. Local distribution by ABC. International sales by ABC Commercial. Producers Jodie De Barros and Leighton De Barros. Executive Producer Leighton De Barros. ABC Manager, Documentaries Stephen Oliver.





FIRST WEAPONS

SYNOPSIS

Host Phil Breslin sets out an action-packed adventure across Australia, visiting Country he meets weapon makers from Wadi Wadi lands to the Central Desert. From Adelaide to Tasmania and Menang Noongar country. He learns through the inherent knowledge how each weapon is sourced and crafted before facing a crash course in combat. A celebration of craftsmanship, ingenuity, and bravery.

Then Phil puts himself and science to the test...

With the weapon makers, he meets our scientific experts who reveal how First Nations peoples have mastered the principles of aerodynamics, flight dynamics, chemistry, biomechanics, and kinetic energy for over millennia and still thrives today.

But Phil's journey is far from over...

In a suite of challenges, he unlocks the wonder of this extraordinary Aboriginal arsenal. How will Phil fare in facing one of Australia's fastest bowlers with only the Leangle and Parrying Shield for protection? Will the most iconic First Weapon be victorious as the returning boomerang goes head-to-head with a drone at one of Australia's finest sporting stadiums?

First Weapons is a television first. A unique, revelatory, and inspiring journey deep into Australia's history, culture and science. A celebration of the First Australians, their genius, their dynamism, and their daring.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Blackfella Films production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia's First Nations Department in association with the ABC. Financed with support from Screen Queensland. Producers Dena Curtis and Darren Dale. Executive Producer Jacob Hickey. ABC Executive Producer Kelrick Martin.

GREAT AUSTRALIAN STUFF

SYNOPSIS

Presenter Tony Armstrong unpacks the surprising, strange, and sometimes dark history behind our most iconic Aussie stuff. From the pioneering Boomerang, hills hoist and Victa lawnmower, to One Day Cricket, Sherrin footballs and the humble meat pie.

And of course, some of our most questionable fashion staples, including speedos and stubbies.

Featuring *Ben Law, Nazeem Hussain, Jenny Kee, Nornie Bero, Richard Glover* and *Jean Kittson* to name a few, Tony digs deep into the ABC archives to uncover what makes something “great” - what stuff we should celebrate and what he can reveal in new lights.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Wildbear Entertainment Production for ABC. Financed with support from the ABC, Screen Canberra, National Museum of Australia and in partnership with National Archives of Australia and ANU Australian Studies Institute. Series Producer Mike Bluett, Executive Producer Alan Erson. ABC Executive Producer Leo Faber.





KITCHEN CABINET S7

SYNOPSIS

Kitchen Cabinet is back! In 2023, Annabel Crabb will be cooking and eating with some of the new Parliament's most fascinating and powerful figures, hailing from across the political spectrum.

The premise of the show is simple. Annabel visits the home of a prominent politician; they cook their favourite meal and Annabel brings dessert. Along the way, they have the kinds of conversations that are never ordinarily possible in the frenetic pace of the daily news cycle.

What makes these humans choose politics? What would they give anything to defend? How are they dicing onions?

It's amazing what you can cover in a half hour of Kitchen Cabinet, which in its first six series elicited tears, laughter and confidences out of politicians from the Lodge to the backbench. With a whole new crop of politicians in the parliament since the last series in 2016, it's time to head back to the kitchen.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Kitchen Cabinet is an ABC Production. Writer/Presenter: Annabel Crabb, Executive Producer: Madeleine Hawcroft, Director: Stamatia Maroupas.

KNOWING THE SCORE

SYNOPSIS

Knowing the Score is the up close and personal story of one of classical music's most unlikely trail blazers.

Filmed over twenty years, Knowing The Score charts the struggle and rise of conductor Simone Young.

Born to a non musical family in a country far away from the major concert halls of the world, Simone defies the odds and breaks down the barriers in the male dominated world of classical music.

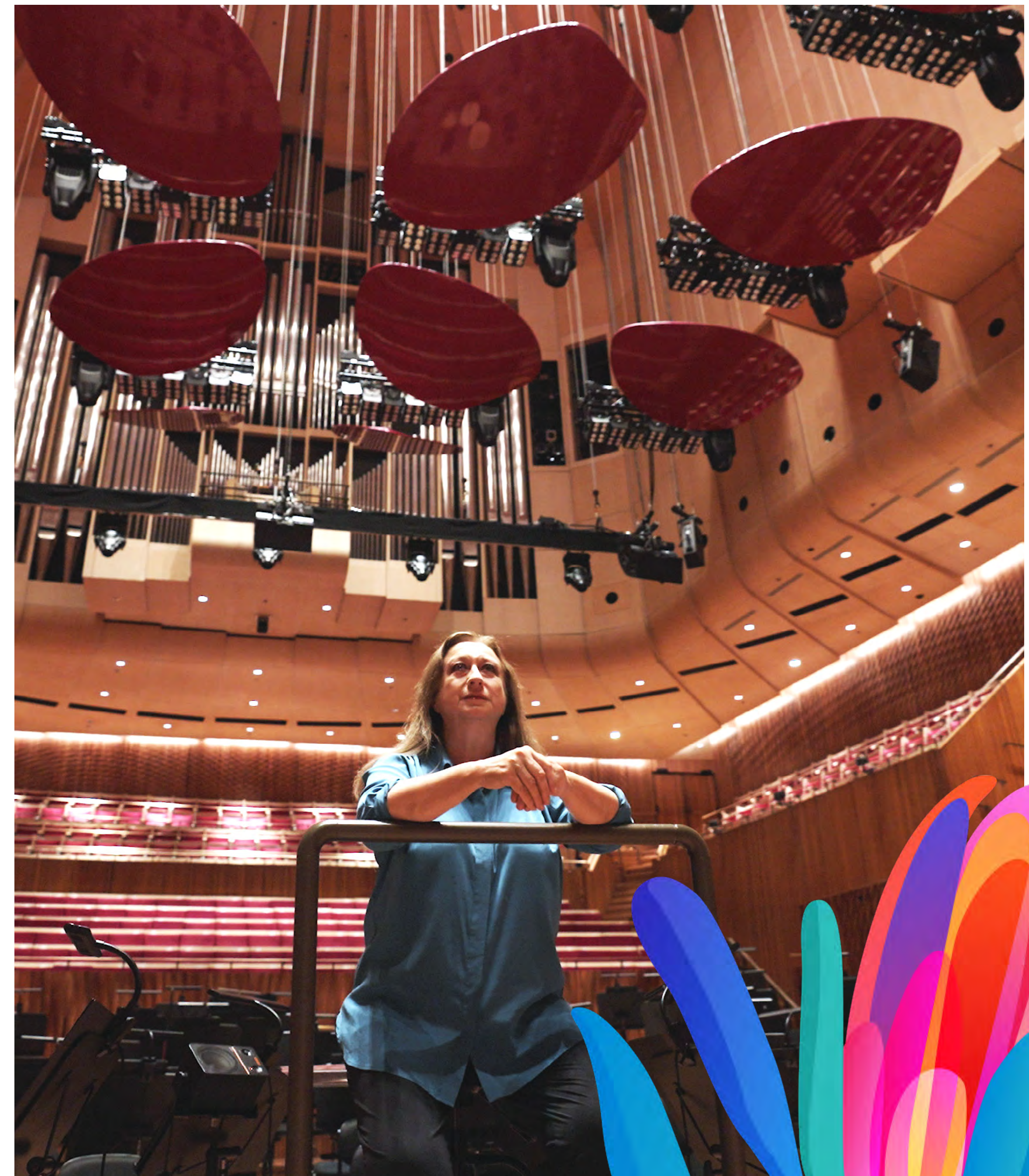
Simone was the first female conductor to appear on stage at the world's most renowned Opera houses; Sydney Opera House; Met New York Opera; and the Vienna Opera House. These iconic opera houses had never before seen women conductors before Simone Young graced the stage.

An outspoken perfectionist at the top of her game, the film follows Simone as she prepares for the most important concert of her life on home soil.

Knowing the Score is an engaging, luscious music documentary revealing two key themes; the long struggle for gender parity in the high art of classical music and the heart-breaking struggle for artists to be valued in times of crisis, or sometimes even at all.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Serendipity Productions production. Principal production funding from Screen Australia in association with ABC and Screen NSW. Financed with support from philanthropy via Documentary Australia Foundation. Producer Margie Bryant. Executive Producers Cate Blanchett, Georgie Black, Mitzi Goldman, Jonathan Page. ABC Manager Factual Julie Hanna.



NEW LEASH ON LIFE

SYNOPSIS

Mental health issues and loneliness in Australia are on the rise and so are dogs on death row. Joel Creasey has a solution: a mutual rescue.

New Leash On Life is a feel-good, family friendly documentary series with our love of dogs at its core. In each episode, Joel meets an Australian in need of unconditional love from a dog, then works with canine behaviourist Laura Vissaritis to rescue a suitable unwanted dog on death row, guiding them with behavioural modifications, before introducing them both and transforming two lives at once. The series will confront head on the culture of dog ownership – good and bad - that has developed in Australia and hold up a mirror to us all, forcing us to consider how our lives intersect with our dogs and how we shape each other's worlds.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An Artemis production. Financed with the assistance of ABC and Screenwest. Series Producer Hannah Pocock. Executive Producers Celia Tait and Nia Pericles. ABC Executive Producer Leo Faber.





NINGALOO NYINGGULU

SYNOPSIS

Celebrated author Tim Winton takes us on a lyrical and passionate exploration of Ningaloo, on Australia's North West Cape - a haven for unique and endangered species and one of the last pristine suite of ecosystems on the planet. A remote and 'living ark' of biodiversity where the forces of nature are still the most powerful shaping influence. Ningaloo has been a long-time inspiration for Tim's life and his work, and on this very personal journey he seeks to learn more about how this unique place came to be, how its local and global connections combine to create such a rare island of biodiversity as well as what such a place might tell us about our future. For Tim, it's a place that enriches humanity - and his exploration of it will astonish, inspire, and delight.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An Artemis Media Production in association with Matter of Factual with major production funding from Screenwest, Lotterywest and the Western Australia Screen Fund in association with Screen Australia. Financed with support from the ABC and Love Nature. Writer Tim Winton. Director/Co-producer/Co-writer Peter Rees. Line Producer Karen Williams. Executive Producer Celia Tait. ABC Manager, Documentaries Stephen Oliver.



QUEERSTRALIA

SYNOPSIS

From Cook to convicts to the ANZACS - most of us who've sat through primary school think we kinda know Australian history. But there's another, hidden history - one of gay diggers, lesbian convict gangs, trans entrepreneurs and cross-dressing bushrangers. Heck, Colonial Australia was essentially founded on homophobia.

In 1787, Captain Arthur Phillip wrote that in the new colony "there are two crimes that would merit the sentence of death; murder and sodomy." Criminalised and pathologised, living with the constant threat of persecution and worse, Queers have long known it makes sense to stay out of the spotlight. And consequently, LGBTQI+ histories have stayed hidden. This means that for Queer people, attempting to find our predecessors is a tricky process. Our stories exist in the margins, and we have to read between the lines of the official texts to find evidence of our existence.

Queerstralia, a landmark documentary series hosted by award-winning comedian Zoë Coombs Marr, sets out to redress this imbalance. It will wipe away the straightwashing and look into the untold and frankly FASCINATING Queer history of Australia. So trim your nails and roll up your sleeves, because we're going far deeper than sequins and Priscilla.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Guesswork Television production presented by Screen Australia and the ABC in association with VicScreen. Principal Production Funding from Screen Australia. Produced with the assistance of VicScreen. Created, written and hosted by Zoë Coombs-Marr. Series Producer Plum Stubbings, Executive Producer Jon Casimir. ABC Manager Factual Julie Hanna.



TAKE FIVE WITH ZAN ROWE S2

SYNOPSIS

You can learn a lot about someone from their mixtape. What if you asked extraordinary people to share 5 songs that made them who they are today?

Take 5 with Zan Rowe is back by popular demand for a second series! What began as a segment on Zan's much loved radio show 15 years ago, evolved into the award-winning podcast and a hit 5-part ABC TV series.

Through their song choices each guest takes us deep into the moments that shaped them.

The results are intimate, revelation fuelled conversations that cast the people you know in a whole new light..

In 2023 Let's Take Five!

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An ABC Production. Series Producer Josh Schmidt, Executive Producer Nikita Agzarian, Double J Content Director Ryan Egan, Executive Producer Arts Kalita Corrigan.



THE ABC OF S2

SYNOPSIS

Returning in 2023, *The ABC Of* is an interview series that brings prominent Australians face to face with their earlier selves. Each episode is built around a one-on-one conversation with host David Wenham, with questions inspired by the content of the video clips, all of which are drawn from the vast ABC archives.

Before they sit down, the guests are unaware of the clips that have been chosen. And these video memories often travel past the choices you'd expect, the obvious markers of the guest's CV, wending their way down delightful and surprising paths to footage that has not seen the light of day for decades.

Steering each interview is David Wenham, a globally successful film and TV actor whose own ABC career dates back to early 1990s programs such as *Simone De Beauvoir's Babies*, *Come In Spinner*, *Police Rescue* and *G.P.* as well as more recent series *The Code* and *Les Norton*. And no, we are not forgetting his turn as Diver Dan in *SeaChange*.

At its core, *The ABC Of* is about how we change and how the world changes around us. It's who we were and who we've become. It's time travel without the cost and without the jet lag.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Guesswork Television Production in association with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Executive Producers: Jon Casimir and Jo Long. ABC Commissioning Editor Julie Hanna.



THE PLATYPUS GUARDIAN

SYNOPSIS

Pete Walsh is a Hobart local who enjoys the outdoor life. That life, however, is turned upside down when his health takes a turn for the worse. As he contemplates his future Pete finds solace along the banks of the picturesque Hobart rivulet.

Here Pete 'meets' a platypus he names Zoom, after the way she seems to zoom over to him whenever he sits quietly by the water. Pete helps Zoom untangle from a plastic band. For Pete the convergence of his medical condition and his encounters with this cheeky female platypus, leads to an epiphany. Suddenly he is overwhelmed with a profound inspiration to give back, to save what urban habitat the platypuses have left and ultimately save them too.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A WildBear Entertainment Production. Executive Producer: Chadden Hunter, Director/Producer: Nick Hayward, Producer: Fraser Johnston. ABC Executive Producer: Leo Faber.





WAR ON WASTE S3

SYNOPSIS

In War on Waste (S3) we'll put the critical issue of waste back on the agenda and highlight the connection between waste and climate change. At the helm, passionate planet advocate and prankster Craig Reucassel will look at the mindset change we need to fix the problems. He'll champion our waste heroes and hold the villains to account, and set new challenges for corporations, councils and communities. Alongside new large scale public installations to show the shocking impact of our consumer habits, the series will conscript entire communities as part of a national plastic audit to vividly highlight the problems lurking in our own homes.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Lune Media production for ABC. Major production investment from the ABC and Screen Australia. Financed with support from Screen NSW. Series Producers Jodi Boylan, David Galloway and Leonie Lowe. ABC Manager, Documentaries Stephen Oliver.

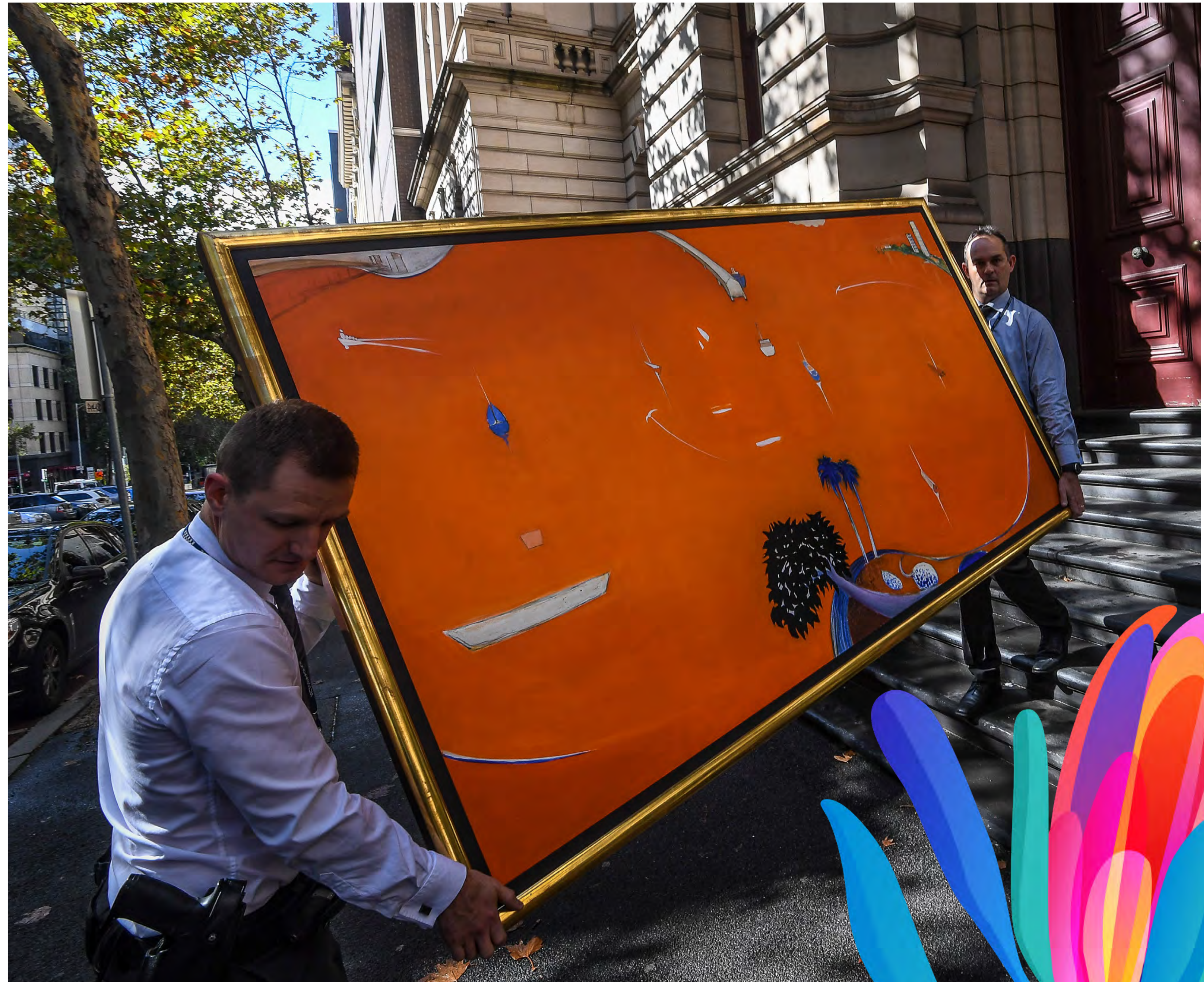
WHITELEY ON TRIAL

SYNOPSIS

Whiteley on Trial (In Films) interrogates the biggest case of alleged art fraud in Australian history. When Melbourne dealer Peter Gant and conservator Aman Siddique find themselves accused of forging and selling three paintings as authentic works of modern art royal Brett Whiteley, the pair are convicted by a jury in what at first appears to be an open and shut case. But with the judge himself rendering the verdict 'unsafe,' the conviction is quickly overturned on appeal, leaving art observers in disbelief. By interviewing key players in the trial and with access to original case materials, this two-part series follows the captivating twists and turns of a monumental saga, asking what price our cultural heritage paid in the process.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An In Films production for the ABC, developed with support from the Screen NSW Slate Development Fund with production investment from Screen NSW and financed with support from the ABC. Director Yaara Bou Melhem. Producer Ivan O'Mahoney. Associate Producer Georgia Quinn. Executive Producers: Ivan O'Mahoney & Nial Fulton. ABC Executive Kalita Corrigan.



A promotional image for the TV show 'The MP's Daughter Season 2'. It features three young people (two women and one man) smiling and standing on a balcony. The woman on the left is wearing a green jacket over a striped sweater. The woman in the middle is wearing a blue sweater and dark pants. The man on the right is wearing a grey and black varsity jacket and blue jeans. The background shows a building with an arched window and lush greenery. The title 'ABC KIDS & ABC ME' is overlaid in large white text. There are colorful graphic elements: a large multi-colored abstract shape in the bottom left, a cluster of colorful circles in the top right, and a trail of yellow dots leading from the bottom left towards the woman on the left.

ABC KIDS & ABC ME



CRAZY FUN PARK

SYNOPSIS

Chester dreams of being a world-famous graphic novelist, living the high life surrounded by the cool kids, far away from the boring limits of his small town, Asphodel Heights. But Chester is starting to believe his biggest obstacle to fitting in isn't his own shortcomings but his best (and only) friend – Mapplethorpe. Once upon a time, the two boys were inseparable until Mapplethorpe stumbled into the abandoned theme park on the edge of town, Crazy Fun Park, and died in a tragic accident.

Chester is grief-stricken without his soulmate until he ventures to Crazy Fun Park one night and discovers the soul of his mate may not be alive but is still very much kicking. He's become part of the undead and now "lives" in Crazy Fun Park - a Netherworld with all the other undead Fun Kids who died in gruesome theme park fatalities when the park was operational. It's run by the moody alpha, Remus, and is a place where they never have to grow up. So every night, Chester can visit Crazy Fun Park to hang with the dead kids in an all-night party land when the pain of living get too much. But there is a delicate order between the worlds to be maintained and there are horrific and hilarious consequences when the balance is upturned.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Werner Film production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia and the Australian Children's Television Foundation in association with Film Victoria and the ABC. Produced by Joanna Werner. Executive Producers Stuart Menzies, Joanna Werner, Bernadette O'Mahony. ABC Executive Producer Libbie Doherty. Distribution by the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

GARDENING AUSTRALIA JNR

SYNOPSIS

Gardening Australia Junior is a factual entertainment show inspiring young people & their families around Australia to roll up their sleeves and get growing, with gardening tips, tricks and creations that kids will totally dig!

Grab your spade and get ready to dig in as our hosts, The Buds and surprise guests take on wild and wonderful challenges at Gardening Australia Junior HQ.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An ABC Original Production. Series Producer, Bryson Hall. Supervising Producer, Natalie Robinson-Hurst. Managing Editor, Nicole Cheek.





THE DISPOSABLES

SYNOPSIS

The Disposables is a creature feature generating pivotal story points around the refugee crisis, our undervaluing of our immigrant populations, microplastics within our bodies, warehouses full of forgotten recycling and the betrayal of everyday people doing their best to sort their recycling, to do their bit.

A mysterious sickness is sweeping through Western Sydney and showing no signs of slowing down. A terrifying creature prowls the suburbs at night. The cries of the immigrants and blue-collar workers who call it home are being ignored and panic is building.

The whole place feels like a powder keg waiting to explode. But outspoken, sixteen-year-old, social justice warrior and aspiring rapper, Priya, has her own problems. Between the jingoistic rhetoric of Immigration Minister and local MP Bruce Carter, authorities who treat her as an undesirable, a seemingly indifferent Australian community, and the question mark hanging over her Temporary Protection Visa renewal, the strange goings-on in her neighbourhood are the least of her worries.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Photoplay Films Production in association with Dragonet Films. Major production investment from Screen Australia and ABC in association with Screen NSW. Produced by Karen Radzyner and Renny Wijeyamohan. ABC Executive Producer Margaret Ross.

THE PM'S DAUGHTER S2

SYNOPSIS

Cat's finally found her groove as the PM's daughter, but her school and home life are upended when she discovers an unexpected crush, begins a feverishly competitive internship, and outs a shocking parental secret – all leading to the unmasking of a brand new conspiracy.

Series 2 will see Cat and her friends grappling with the idea of the truth. From knowing your parents, to knowing your heart, everything is way more complicated than the adults like to admit... especially when you're growing up in the Lodge. Cat has always been determined to speak truth to power and her pursuit of a future in journalism will take this to the next level. Set against the backdrop of an election, whether it's personal or political, Cat's about to discover the truth can hurt just as much as it helps.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Fremantle Australia production for the ABC, with major production investment from Screen Australia in association with The Australian Children's Television Foundation and financed with support from Create NSW and Fremantle International. Producer: Tim Powell. Co-Producer: Yingna Lu. Executive Producers: Warren Clarke, Tristram Baumber. Co-Executive Producer: Kieran Hoyle ABC Executive Producer: Mary-Ellen Mullane. ACTF Executive Producer: Bernadette O'Mahony.





THE SPOOKY FILES

SYNOPSIS

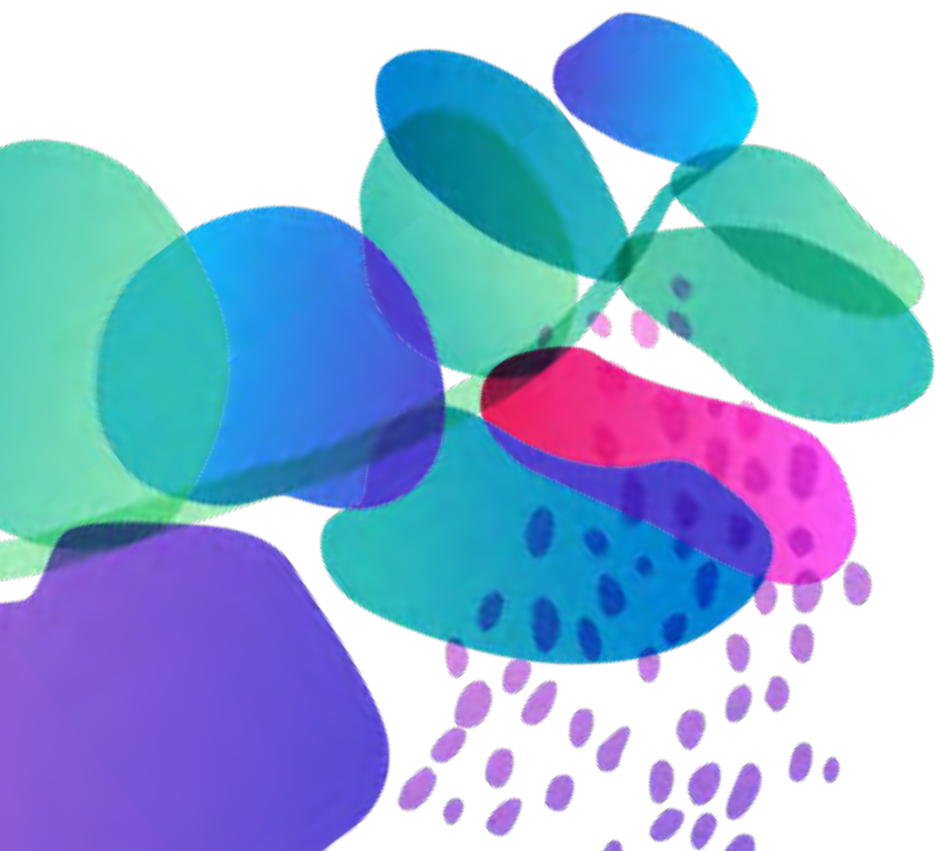
The Spooky Files is a fun, spooky, adventure-filled series that tackles kids' relationships with fear – with buckets of scares and truckloads of laughs along the way.

When spooky creatures – or 'Spookies' - start appearing in the regional town of Sunny Valley, an unlikely group of local kids work hard to capture them and keep the situation secret. Bert and Billie are a work in progress step brother and step sister whose parents have just moved in together. Xena is an autistic, kooky and honest to a fault gadget queen, and Derek is a cool jock who lives a double life as a secret member of the Spooky Crew.

Together, they run their super secret operation, SPOOKY HQ, out of the basement of BOWL-O-RAMA 5000, a retro bowling alley run by local entrepreneurs (and 90s fan man boys) John and Jon. It's here the Spooky Crew house the captured Spookies, trying to figure out where they're coming from and hoping to one day return them 'home' - wherever the heck that is! But as their collection grows, how long can they keep their Spooky business secret...?

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Tony Ayres Productions (TAP) and Megabook Pictures production for ABC ME and BBC. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the ABC. Financed with support from VicScreen and BBC. NBCUniversal Global Distribution will manage international sales. TAP is part of Universal International Studios, a division of Universal Studio Group.





TURN UP THE VOLUME

SYNOPSIS

Turn Up The Volume is a live action drama series about a group of young female and gender non-conforming kids attending a weekly music camp, who decide to form a band. Disconnected, disaffected and desperately looking for their tribe, these teenagers find that, via the transformative, uplifting power of music and friendship, they can unite together to define themselves on their own terms.

The series is inspired by the documentary, No Time for Quiet, produced by Philippa Campey with directors Hylton Shaw and Samantha Dinning, which followed the first Girls Rock! Camp in Melbourne that empowered a diverse group of girls, trans and gender non-conforming young people through music and community.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Matchbox Pictures and Film Camp production. Matchbox Pictures is part of Universal International Studios, a division of Universal Studio Group. Major production investment from Screen Australia and the ABC. Financed with support from VicScreen. Produced by Philippa Campey and Rachel Davis. Executive Producer Amanda Higgs. ABC Executive Producer Margaret Ross.

WILDLIFERS!

SYNOPSIS

Su and Pharrell, both 14, are a pair of emerging wannabe documentary filmmakers. At least Su is. She's a naturalist in waiting. If it swims, crawls, flies or bites— Su can tell you all about it. Pharrell, on the other hand, would probably rather be making real films, you know, with scripts and emotions and actors and stuff - but for the time being shooting tree ants, frill necked lizards, thimble sized possums and the occasional dive-bombing flying fox on his 8k Canon Vixia HF G40 from the safety of a camouflaged hide, is about as close as he is going to get. But what he lacks in interest he makes up for in talent.

Thrown together by Roaring Koala, the production company they're interning for, they make an unlikely team, as they spend their days, and sometimes nights, crammed together in tents, camouflaged in hides, behind bushes dressed in ghillie suits, or stuck up trees; sitting, waiting, watching, cajoling, bickering, and occasionally even filming the animals they've been enlisted to document.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

A WildBear Entertainment production for the ABC, with production funding from Screen Australia and financed in association with Film Victoria. Wildlifers is developed and produced in association with the ABC and distributed by ABC Commercial.





EVENTS

SYDNEY WORLDPRIDE

SYNOPSIS

WorldPride is a global Pride celebration and Sydney will host the celebrations in 2023, marking the first time a city in the southern hemisphere has been chosen.

The ABC is proud to be the broadcast partner for the exciting lineup of once-in-a-lifetime events. We're set to bring audiences all the loudest, proudest and most important discussions around LGBTQIA+ rights and issues both here in Australia, South East Asia and the rest of the world.

Expect a huge two weeks of celebration, important conversations, party and protest.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An ABC Production. Manager Events & Content Partnerships Janet Gaeta. Senior Producer, Events & Content Partnerships Rebecca Annetts.





SYDNEY GAY AND LESBIAN MARDI GRAS

SYNOPSIS

Watch the live broadcast of the 45th annual Mardi Gras parade, exclusive on the ABC. As a part of Sydney WorldPride, the parade is back on Oxford Street bigger and better than ever. With 240 floats and the biggest international presence the parade has ever seen, the ABC will deliver full coverage of many crowd favourites plus heaps of new and exciting float participants.

The parade will hit the streets and screens on Saturday, February 25.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An ABC Production. Manager Events & Content Partnerships Janet Gaeta. Executive Producer, Events Nikita Agzarian.



RETURNING IN 2023

AUSTRALIAN STORY

SYNOPSIS

Popular ABC host Leigh Sales returns to your screens in 2023 to join the Australian Story team as its new presenter. For only the second time in the program's 26-year history, Leigh will follow in the footsteps of the late Caroline Jones as anchor to tell compelling stories about real people that illuminate, entertain and inspire.

Australian Story returns in 2023 on February 27.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

An ABC NEWS production. Executive Producers: Caitlin Shea and Rebecca Latham.



RETURNING IN 2023

FAVOURITES

Art Works
Back Roads
Catalyst
Compass
Gardening Australia
Gruen S15
Hard Quiz S8
Landline
Melbourne International
Comedy Festival
Offsiders
Restoration Australia S5
The Weekly with Charlie
Pickering S9

ABC NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS

7.30
China Tonight
Foreign Correspondent
Four Corners
India Now!
Insiders
Media Watch
News Breakfast
Planet America
Q+A
The Drum

ABC KIDS & ABC ME

100% Wolf
Bluey S4
BTN
Good Game: Spawn Point
Kangaroo Beach
Play School
Beep and Mort S2
Ginger and the Vegesaur S2

EVENTS

Australian of the Year
Australia Day Live Concert
ANZAC Day
New Year's Eve Celebrations