

A Screentime Production
for ABC TV in association with
Screen Australia and Screen NSW



A Three Part Documentary Series
Narrated by Eric Bana

MEDIA KIT

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SERIES OVERVIEW

Stop Laughing... This is Serious is a three-part documentary series charting a course through the story of Australian comedy, featuring over 60 interviews with the men and women who make us laugh. Through a blend of social history, extensive archive material and intimate interviews with the country's most loved comedians, we travel via stand up, radio, television, theatre and film from indigenous comedy to new viral media jokers of today, revealing how humour, laughter and comedy are integral to our national identity.

By unpicking our cultural cringe, poking fun at our national identity, confronting hard truths and exploring our taboos, we come to realise that Australians' greatest characteristic is our ability to laugh at ourselves.

Narrated by **Eric Bana**, the series explores the development of Australian comedy through social and political change, examining the way humour has reflected and responded to multicultural Australia, gender issues, and politics. Each episode moves seamlessly backwards and forwards through time, weaving contemporary comedy with early comedic performance, featuring insight and anecdotes from what **Barry Humphries** calls "the cheering up business".

The first episode, "**LOOK AT MOI, LOOK AT MOI**" (*Kath and Kim*) looks inwards at the importance of our ability to laugh at ourselves and how this has become a quintessential Australian trait. From **Edna Everage**, the mousy Melbourne housewife, and **Sandy Stone** – the man to whom nothing ever happens, to school kids like **Kylie Mole** and **Ja'mie** and Aussie battlers like **Dad and Dave**, **Paul Hogan** and **Kenny**, we realize that what's right under our very own nose is often the funniest thing of all.

The second episode "**FAARK, FAARK**" (*Graham Kennedy*) looks upwards at those in authority. We have long revered the little guy punching upwards, and we love to celebrate the rebels and rogues who can make us laugh at our situation no matter how grim. From **Graham Kennedy**, **Les Patterson** and **Magda Szubanski**, via the University comedy Revues to **Tim Minchin** and **The Chaser**, we love a larrikin with a sense of mischief and acknowledge their vital role in keeping the bastards honest, amongst the powers that be.

The final and third episode "**HELLO POSSUMS**" (*Dame Edna*) looks at Australian comedy on the world stage. We examine the transfer of comedic ideas between our nation and the rest of the world, and reveal how pioneers like **Barry Humphries**, **Wendy Harmer**, **Rod Quantock**, **Adam Hills**, **Paul Hogan** and **John Clarke** have crossed boundaries with their wit and tenacity. We explore 'online' as a new way of getting comedy to mass audiences and the future voices of Australian Comedy.

Throughout the series, we will explore how comedy ties us together as a nation, traversing generations and bridging cultural divides. We Aussies love to laugh at ourselves, our politics, our fellow Australians – are there are no sacred cows? Along the way the viewer will laugh but also come to appreciate the craft of our greatest comedians who ultimately reveal important truths about the world in which we live.

Executive produced by Screentime's Jennifer Collins, written, directed and produced by Stephen Oliver, with commissioning editor Jo Chichester from ABC TV, **Stop Laughing... This is Serious** was produced with the financial assistance of Screen Australia and Screen NSW.

EPG: A three-part series, featuring over 60 interviews with well-loved comedians, which examines the development of Australian comedy as it has reflected and responded to issues and events, and how it ties us together as a nation.

STOP LAUGHING..
this is serious

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The title of the series **Stop Laughing... This Is Serious** is a nod to the iconic Australian cartoon by Stan Cross (1888-1977) - 'For gorsake, stop laughing: this is serious!'

The cartoon published in the 1933 July issue of SMITH'S WEEKLY features two construction workers falling off a building – one hanging by his fingers on the edge of a high rise construction, and the other in full laughter, holding on for dear life and in doing so, has grabbed the trousers of the other, yanking them to his ankles. One mate says to the other, 'For gorsake, stop laughing: this is serious'.

The cartoon tapped into the humour of the Australian public. The cartoon was so popular it was reprinted and distributed throughout Australia and overseas.

All through the Depression years, prints were framed and hung on walls and workplaces throughout Australia. His humour was that of everyday life, of ordinary Australians. Cross developed into one of Australia's finest black and white artists. His art featured 'typical' Australians from farmers to jackeroos, to diggers and doctors.



For gorsake, stop laughing, this is serious!

Like so much of our comedy, the cartoon reflected the times superbly. On the one hand the cartoon demonstrates the Australian humour found in being caught with your pants down, whilst at the same time, is a statement on desperate times of the early 30s, depression years, where people were falling off and sometimes jumping off buildings. Being able to laugh at adversity is a trait explored over and over in Australian comedy. Taking inspiration, as well as the title from the cartoon, our series also aims to illustrate how our comedy so often reflects the ever-changing world in which we live.

Executive Producer, Jennifer Collins

**Image reproduced by permission of the Stan Cross Estate for the purposes of this documentary.*



PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

“A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the 63 comedians who were interviewed for this series, and for the boxes of photographs, newspapers clippings and archive footage that arrived at Screentime offices. Comedians are natural storytellers and we were fortunate enough to have interviewed comedians who have worked across stand up, theatre, radio, television and film. The deeper we got into the research, the richer the material became. Australian Comedy is interwoven with our national identity. Its current high international regard reflects a long and proud history that has led to an outstanding current crop of Australian talent.

Stop Laughing... This Is Serious is the story of Australian comedy told against the backdrop of our rapidly changing social history – we present not only our golden comic moments, but frame them within the context of what was happening in Australia at that particular time. We explore how comedians used humour to respond to social and political change. We deliberately avoided producing the 3 parts as a chronological history of Australian Comedy. First and foremost, we knew it would be impossible to cover the full history of Australian comedy in one short series, and secondly we felt that it was the juxtaposition of contemporary and older comedy performance that would best demonstrate the common traits that Australian comedians share.

Hence the series is divided roughly into three themes – **“LOOK AT MOI, LOOK AT MOI”** looks ‘inwards’ for our comedy, (at our ordinary, domestic lives), **“FAARK, FAARK”** looks ‘up’ (lampooning those in authority), and **“HELLO POSSUMS”** looking ‘outwards’ (to the world, our comedians on the world stage)”.

Executive Producer, Jennifer Collins



NARRATOR

Eric Bana

CONTRIBUTORS

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Adam Hills | Andrew Denton |
| Andrew Knight | Austen Tayshus |
| Barry Humphries | Chris Taylor |
| Christiaan Van Vuuren | Colin Lane |
| Craig Reucassel | Dave Hughes |
| Denise Scott | Frank Woodley |
| Garry McDonald | Gary Reilly |
| Glenn Robbins | Graeme Blundell |
| Grahame Bond | Greig Pickhaver |
| Ian McFadyen | Jane Turner |
| John Clarke | John Doyle |
| John Pinder | John Safran |
| Judith Lucy | Julia Morris |
| Julia Zemiro | Kevin Kropinyeri |
| Lawrence Mooney | Libbi Gorr |
| Magda Szubanski | Mary Coustas |
| Mary Kennelly | Mick Molloy |
| Mikey Robins | Nazeem Hussain |
| Neill Gladwin | Nicholas Boshier |
| Nick Giannopoulos | Noeline Brown |
| Paul Fenech | Paul Hogan |
| Paul McDermott | Richard Fidler |
| Rod Quantock | Rodney Rude |
| Rove McManus | Santo Cilauro |
| Sean Choolburra | Shane Bourne |
| Shane Jacobson | Shaun Micallef |
| Steve Kearney | Steve Vizard |
| Sue Ingleton | Susan Provan |
| Tim Ferguson | Tim Minchin |
| Tom Ballard | Toni Lamond |
| Tony Martin | Tony Sattler |
| Wendy Harmer | |



THE CREW

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Executive Producer | Jennifer Collins | |
| Series Producer/Director/Writer | Stephen Oliver | |
| Post Production Producer/Writer | Ruth Cullen | Episode 1 |
| Director of Photography | Aaron Smith | |
| Talent Producer | Marnie Foulis | |
| Production Manager | Sky Di Pietro | |
| Line Producer | Catherine Durr | |
| Researcher | Ged Wood | |
| Archive Researchers | Michael Osmond Lisa Rossiter | |
| Editors | Orly Danon Antoinette Ford Shannon Ruddock | Episode 1 Episode 2 Episode 3 |
| Indigenous Consultant | Dena Curtis | |



Episode 1: LOOK AT MOI, LOOK AT MOI

The first episode, “**LOOK AT MOI, LOOK AT MOI**” (*Kath and Kim*) looks inwards at the importance of our ability to laugh at ourselves and how this has become a quintessential Australian trait. From **Edna Everage**, the mousy Melbourne housewife, and **Sandy Stone** – the man to whom nothing ever happens, to Aussie battlers like **Dad and Dave**, **Paul Hogan** and **Kenny**, we realise that what’s right under our very own nose is often the funniest thing of all.

Australian audiences couldn’t get enough of the series **Kath and Kim** perhaps because they could see themselves in it. The humour came from the familiarity. Similarly, **Dame Edna** pointed out the minutiae of the every day, making the mundane funny for the first time as she revealed so much about our own lives. With another character **Sandy Stone**, **Barry Humphries** expanded on this theme and found a winning combination of pathos and humour in the spectacularly uneventful life of an ageing pensioner. We see how comedians like **Denise Scott** and **Dave Hughes** continued to celebrate suburban normality in their own stand up routines while hit movies **The Castle** and **Kenny** have made a box office success of championing ordinary people – like us.

We look at the rise of the Aussie battler in our comedy characters – from **The Sentimental Bloke** to **Kenny**, the battler is an ever-popular figure. Epitomised by **Paul Hogan** with his cast of characters in the 1970s, our love of the battler culminated in the heroic **Crocodile Dundee** – as **Mick Dundee**, an exaggerated outback larrikin took the world by storm in the 1980s. **Paul Hogan** also unashamedly presented his own ocker Australian accent on TV – showing us that our own voice can provide humour.

“**LOOK AT MOI, LOOK AT MOI**” continues to explore how our comedy now reflects an inclusiveness about who we are now – a multicultural society, with a diversity of voice from **Sean Choolburra** to **Kevin Kropinyeri**, from **Nick Giannopoulos** to **Hung Le**, **Mary Coustas** and **Nazeem Hussain**.

This first episode of the three part series **Stop Laughing... This Is Serious** ultimately highlights that while our comedic voice changes and evolves constantly, it always reminds us that one of our greatest assets is to be able to laugh at ourselves, whoever we are.

Episode 1 EPG: “**LOOK AT MOI, LOOK AT MOI**” explores the importance of our ability to laugh at ourselves and how this has become a typical Aussie trait. Featuring the likes of **Barry Humphries**, **Magda Szubanski**, **Jane Turner**, **Paul Hogan**, **Denise Scott** and more!



Episode 2: FAARK, FAARK

The second episode of **Stop Laughing... This is Serious** is called “**FAARK, FAARK**” and it looks upwards at the comedy of rebellion and anti-authority. It’s title comes from one of the greatest rebels in Australian comedy – **Graham Kennedy**, who as the irrepressible host of **In Melbourne Tonight** in the 1950s invented a “crow call” to allow him to say a word deemed far too rude for television.

Much of our comedy has celebrated the rebels and rogues and celebrated the larrikins. From **Graham Kennedy** breaking all the rules of television to **Norman Gunston** appearing on the steps of Parliament House during Gough Whitlam’s dismissal to the invention of **Les Patterson** and the remarkable story of **Rodney Rude** as a champion of freedom of speech we love the little guy punching upwards – taking on the authorities and making us laugh.

We look at the comedy of the underdog, including **Basically Black** the first indigenous TV comedy with the heroic character **Super Boong** tackling racism wherever he finds it. We look at the fertile comedy breeding grounds of the university revues and how they spawned many of our favourite comedy shows like **The Aunty Jack Show**, **The D Generation**, **Big Girl’s Blouse**, **The Late Show**, **Fast Forward** and **Full Frontal**. We see how anarchic live acts **Los Trios Ringbarkus** and the **Doug Anthony All Stars** raised the stakes by involving the audience in their electric live shows and creating an air of unpredictability.

We explore the rise of political satire with **Australia You’re Standing In It** and **The Gillies Report** and its continued popularity with **Shaun Micallef’s Mad as Hell**. **Tim Minchin** explains the need for satire to mock the powerful and question the status quo, before **Barry Humphries** reminds us that comedians can set out to change the world, but must never expect to actually do so!

Episode 2 EPG: “**FAARK, FAARK**” looks at the comedy of rebellion and anti-authority and how Australian comedy celebrates the rebels and rogues. Featuring **Tim Minchin**, **Andrew Denton**, **Wendy Harmer** and the **Doug Anthony All Stars**



Episode 3: HELLO POSSUMS

The third and final episode **“HELLO POSSUMS”** looks at how Australian comedy has established itself on the world stage. For a comedian, where you are from is no longer important, it’s whether you are funny, period. From **Barry Humphries** to **Tim Minchin** to **Adam Hills**, our Aussie tenacity has shown the world our comedians are funny wherever they perform.

When the world turns it’s attention down under, we know how to make them laugh as **Roy and HG** did during the Sydney Olympics with **The Dream**. In mockumentary series **The Games**, **John Clarke** shows that behind the scenes shenanigans organising the Olympics is also ripe for comedy.

Our Aussie accent and language has also developed into a tool in our comedic armoury as pioneered by **Paul Hogan** and followed by **Dave Hughes**, **Adam Hills** and YouTube sensations the **Bondi Hipsters**. We show how Australia got over the cultural cringe, which was lampooned in 1960s political satire **The Mavis Bramston Show** and how **Norman Gunston** gave overseas visitors a baffling and hilarious introduction to the land down under in the 1970s. **Magda Szubanski** explains how exporting the soap opera **Neighbours** laid the cultural groundwork for **Paul Hogan** to become the most Aussie overseas with his box office smash **Crocodile Dundee**.

Meanwhile, the live comedy scene has been evolving constantly, with Australian duos **Los Trios Ringbarkus** and **Lano and Woodley** both winning the coveted Perrier Award in Edinburgh and returning to great acclaim in Australia. Edinburgh has seen many Aussie comedians pass through its numerous venues, not least the indiscreet arrival of 50 antipodean artists led by **John Pinder** and **Rod Quantock** landing in 1988 – an invasion known as Oznost. The **Doug Anthony All Stars** were wreaking havoc round the UK at the same time with their own brand of edgy, dangerous live comedy while **Wendy Harmer** was also tackling UK audiences.

Finally, **“HELLO POSSUMS”** explores the new ways comedy can find an audience with so many talented performers publishing their own comedy online, often leading to more mainstream success, both in Australia and overseas. The future of Australian comedy is looking rosier than ever as we enter an exciting new dawn of globalized hilarity!

Episode 3 EPG: From Barry Humphries Paul Hogan to Adam Hills, Magda Szubanski to John Clarke, HELLO POSSUMS looks at how Australian comedy has established itself on the world stage using our accent and language as comedic armoury



JENNIFER COLLINS

Executive Producer & Head of Non-Fiction at Screentime

One of Australia's leading entertainment executives, Jennifer Collins is Screentime's Head of Non-Fiction. During a substantial career at ABC TV, Collins worked across multiple genres of production including documentary, arts, entertainment, comedy, sport and events, overseeing the development, commissioning and production of programming across ABC1, ABC2 and online.

As ABC TV's Head of Entertainment, Jennifer commissioned **Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery**, **The Agony of Life**, **Gruen Nation Live**, **#7 Days Later**, **Comedy Up Late**, **Adam Hills Tonight** and the **Fresh Blood Comedy Initiative**.

Prior to her appointment as Head of Entertainment, Jennifer spent three years as ABC TV's Head of Factual where she commissioned hundreds of hours of factual and documentary programming including **Poh's Kitchen**, **Who's Been Sleeping in My House**, **Dream Build** and one of the network's most successful shows of 2013 – **The Checkout**.

At Screentime, Jennifer was executive producer of **Flying Miners** and **Felicity's Mental Mission**, and she is currently Executive Producer on **Outback ER**.

STEPHEN OLIVER

Writer, Director & Producer

Stephen has written and directed documentaries for many of the world's most prestigious broadcasters, garnering widespread critical acclaim for his films on all manner of subjects from polygamous pop stars to Islamic extremists and even the odd heroic marsupial.

Stephen has often displayed an unusual lightness of touch in his factual work, such as the witty and irreverent **Chateau Chunder – A Wine Revolution** (ABC1/BBC4 2012), the revealing **Secret History of Eurovision** (SBS/RTE/More4/WDR 2011) and the delightful **Skippy: Australia's First Superstar** (ABC1/BBC4 2009), which won the Sydney Morning Herald *Best Documentary Award*.

Stephen has also made hard-hitting investigative series, such as **What's the Catch?** (2014), which exposes the complex truth about Australia's seafood and has launched a political campaign to change the law regarding seafood labeling. In the UK he won a *Foreign Press Association Award* for **Boiler Room** – his undercover investigation into illegal share trading for Channel 4.

He also occasionally directs commercials and his ad for MJ Bale, the official tailors of the Australian cricket team, went viral and won numerous awards including two Gold Lions at the Cannes Advertising Awards in 2012.

Stephen speaks four languages (English, Australian, Spanish and French) and also likes tennis, chorizo and dogs.



ABOUT SCREENTIME

Screentime, a Banijay Group company, is a specialist television production company with an outstanding list of productions. Recently, the company has produced a number of observational documentary series including **Outback Coroner** for Foxtel, **Taking On The Chocolate Frog** for STUDIO, **Flying Miners** for ABC TV, **Village Vets Australia** for Foxtel's LifeStyle Channel and **Outback ER** for ABC TV.

Screentime's other productions include **Popstars** and five seasons of **RBT**. Their award winning and celebrated dramas include six series of **Underbelly**, the **Underbelly Files**, **The Incredible Journey of Mary Bryant**, **Society Murders**, **Jessica**, **My Husband My Killer**, **A Model Daughter: The Killing of Caroline Byrne**, **Breakers**, **MDA**, **Crownies** for ABC TV, **Brothers In Arms** for Network TEN and the critically acclaimed Tim Winton's **cloudstreet**. In 2013 the company produced the miniseries **Janet King** for ABC TV, **Fat Tony & Co** for the Nine Network and **ANZAC Girls** for ABC TV.

A MEMBER OF THE BANIJAY GROUP, Screentime includes Screentime Pty Ltd and Screentime Communications in Australia, Screentime Limited in New Zealand and joint venture partners Flying Start Pictures in New Zealand and Screentime ShinAwiL Productions Limited in Ireland.



ERIC BANA

Narrator



Eric was first introduced on an international level as the title character in the beloved film **Chopper**, directed by Andrew Dominik. He has since starred in such critically acclaimed films as Ridley Scott's film **Black Hawk Down** and Steven Spielberg's film **Munich**, as well as blockbusters like Wolfgang Peterson's film **Troy** and JJ Abram's film **Star Trek**.

More recently, Eric was seen in Joe Wright's film **Hanna** opposite Cate Blanchett and Saoirse Ronan, and played a pivotal role in Pete Berg's box office wonder **Lone Survivor**.

Eric can also be seen in Scott Derrickson's film **Deliver Us From Evil**, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, which was released by Screen Gems last summer.

He most recently wrapped up shooting opposite Chris Pine and Casey Affleck in Disney's **The Finest Hours**, directed by Craig Gillespie. After that he will then play the male lead in Jim Sheridan's next film – **The Secret Scripture**, opposite Rooney Mara and Vanessa Redgrave. He is also set to star in the two-hander comedy – **Special Correspondence**, to be directed by and co-starring Ricky Gervais.

Beginning his career in Australian comedy, Eric made his film debut in **The Castle**. Eric also starred in the Australian sketch comedy series **Full Frontal** and gained critical acclaim for his leading role in the biographical crime film **Chopper**.



ADAM HILLS

Adam Hills is one of Australia's best known comedians, mainly as the five time Gold Logie nominated host of his two hit ABC TV series – the music quiz show **Spicks and Specks**, and his unique take on the late night talk show – **Adam Hills Tonight**.

Spicks and Specks was ABC TV's highest rating program for seven years and the anchor for its highly successful Wednesday night comedy line up. In 2011, **Spicks and Specks** finished up on a high note after 7 years and 277 episodes. In 2012, Adam, Alan and Myf embarked on a huge national farewell tour of *Spicks and Specktacluar*, performing to more than 80,000 fans around the country.



Adam Hills In Gordon Street Tonight premiered in 2011 and returned for a third season in 2013 as **Adam Hills Tonight**. The show mixed celebrity guests including Whoopi Goldberg, KD Lang, Barry Humphries and John Cleese, with audience engagement, elevating everyday people to celebrity status.

In 2012, Adam hosted a special panel show for the London Paralympics for Channel Four. The show was so well received that it was reprised for a Christmas special and was picked up for a full series, which premiered on Channel Four in February 2013. This saw Adam hold the rare honour of hosting his own show in two separate countries.

Adam was given the rare honour of delivering Channel Four's Alternative Christmas message in 2012 - adding his name to a list that includes Marge Simpson, Jamie Oliver, Brigitte Bardot and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. In 2013, he was also part of the Channel 4 Gala line up at The O2 Arena, flying in to London from Melbourne for a mere few hours to make the event.

When Adam isn't dominating the global TV landscape, he is usually somewhere in the world with a mic in hand doing his day job – globetrotting stand-up comedian.

Adam has conquered Edinburgh and featured in more Montreal festivals than any other Australian. In 2013, he toured Australia and the UK with his new show *Happyism*, including a show at the iconic Hammersmith Apollo in September.

In amongst this, he's won a prestigious Helpmann Award, A British Comedy Award, released three best selling stand up DVDs, had his own one hour stand up special on ABC TV and UK's Channel 4, and has performed to the Queen.

2015 sees Adam return to the Melbourne Comedy Festival with a brand new show – *Clown Heart*. *The Last Leg* will also return to the screens in the UK as well as here in Australia.



ANDREW DENTON



Andrew Denton has worked extensively in every medium except crayon.

He describes himself as "too pretty for television and too ugly for radio" and lists his occupation on visa forms as "personality".

He counts Rupert Murdoch, Paul Keating and Germaine Greer amongst his favourite detractors.

ANDREW KNIGHT

Andrew Knight is one of Australia's most prolific and successful writers/producers. His career spans more than thirty-five years and he has written across a wide range of styles and genres: from comedy to drama, mini-series and series television to features. He has given us some of our most memorable film and television. Career highlights include **Rake**, **Jack Irish**, **SeaChange**, **The Broken Shore**, **After the Deluge**, **My Brother Jack**, **Kangaroo Palace**, **Fast Forward**, **Full Frontal**, **D-Generation**, **Tripping Over**, **Siam Sunset**, **Spotswood** and many more.

His new film, **The Water Diviner**, which was released on Boxing Day and he has another film, **Ali's Wedding**, going into production shortly. There were also two other movies moving into production in late 2014.

He is currently co-writing series four of **Rake** plus writing several episodes and co-producing a six part series of **Jack Irish** for the ABC. He has no hobbies and several children as a result.

STOP LAUGHING..
this is serious

AUSTEN TAYSHUS

Austen Tayshus is rightly regarded as Australia's most dangerous and subversive performer.

He is the creation of Alexander Gutman – an actor and award-winning filmmaker, strict vegetarian and father of two daughters.

He retains a loyal following in the Arts community, but he is also the great outsider of Australian Show Business.



A raging intellectual punk who seeks out apathy, hypocrisy and mediocrity, and stomps on them until they are dead!

A complicated stand-up comedian driven to perform, living in the shadow of the holocaust...



BARRY HUMPHRIES

Barry Humphries was educated at the University of Melbourne, where he studied law, philosophy and fine arts. After writing and performing songs and sketches in university revues, he joined the newly formed Melbourne Theatre Company. In 1956, he created the character of *Mrs. Everage*, a Melbourne housewife, who has since become the internationally celebrated megastar *Dame Edna*.



During the 1960s after moving to London, Mr Humphries appeared in numerous West End productions, most notably the musicals *Oliver!*, *Maggie May* by Lionel Bart and stage/radio productions by his friend Spike Milligan. Mr Humphries gained particular notoriety when he first brought *Mrs Everage* to the British stage at the Fortune Theatre in 1969 for his one-man, *Just a Show*.

In the mid-70s, he starred at the Apollo Theatre in *Housewife, Superstar!* Since then Mr Humphries has been featured as *Dame Edna* in four more London stage offerings, including *A Night with Dame Edna* (1979) for which he won the Society of West End Theatres Award; *An Evening's Intercourse* (1982); two seasons of *Back with a Vengeance* (1987 and 1988); and *Look at Me When I'm Talking to You* (1996) culminating in *Edna, The Spectacle* (1998) at the Theatre Royal Haymarket. He has made theatrical tours in Germany, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, the US, and in the Far and Middle East.

He won a Special Tony Award for his 2000 Broadway offering *Dame Edna, The Royal Tour* and a Tony nomination in 2004 for *Back with a Vengeance*.

Dame Edna has also made numerous television appearances in Australia, the UK and the US, and these popular programmes have since been repeated all over North America and Europe, winning Mr Humphries the Golden Rose of Montreux in 1991.

Barry Humphries is the author of several books, novels, autobiographies and plays. His autobiography won the J.R. Ackerley prize for biography in 1992 and he is the subject of two critical and biographical studies: *The Real Barry Humphries* by Peter Coleman and *Dame Edna Everage the Rise of Western Civilisation* by John Lahr. Mr Humphries' most recent book is *Handling Edna* (2009, Hachette Australia/Orion UK 2010).

He is also one of Australia's most admired landscape painters. His pictures are in many private and public collections both in his homeland and abroad. He was given the *Order of Australia* in 1982, was endowed with an *Honorary Doctorate* of Griffith University (Australia) in 1994 and a *Doctorate of Law* at his Alma Mater, Melbourne University in 2003. In 2007, Humphries was awarded the CBE for his contribution to the arts and most recently presented with the *Australian of the Year award* at Australia House, London (2012).

He is married to Lizzie Spender, the daughter of British poet Sir Stephen Spender, and has two sons and two daughters.



CHRIS TAYLOR

Chris Taylor is a writer and performer who's best known as a member of The Chaser team responsible for television programs such as **The Chaser's War on Everything**, **CNNNN** and **The Hamster Wheel** on ABC TV.

He worked as a journalist for 5 years before joining *The Chaser* newspaper as its senior writer.

For two years, Chris co-hosted the popular drive time radio show *Today Today* on Triple J and in 2007 he wrote the hit musical comedy *Dead Caesar* for the Sydney Theatre Company.



In 2010 he returned to Triple J with Andrew Hansen to write and perform *The Blow Parade* comedy series, which won the 2010 ARIA Award for *Best Comedy Release*. He was also the script editor on the second seasons of **Review with Myles Barlow** and **Hungry Beast**, and has also been the director of the last two seasons of **The Hamster Wheel**.



CHRISTIAAN VAN VUUREN

Christiaan Van Vuuren is one of the creators, writers and directors of ABC2's multi-platform comedy series **Soul Mates** which premiered on ABC2 in 2014 and is moving to ABC1 in 2015.



Soul Mates is a spin off from the successful web series **Bondi Hipsters**, which Christiaan co-created with Nick Boshier - a story about two hedonistic "scenesters" who espouse pearls of wisdom to the none-the-wise. **Bondi Hipsters** won an ADG Award for *Best Direction in an Original Online Project* in 2013.

Christiaan originally decided to move into filmmaking after being told he had tuberculosis and would be confined in a hospital room for 6 months. This inspired his first video **The Fully Sick Rapper**, which garnered over 1 million YouTube views. Following the success of this video, Christiaan went on to produce a series for YouTube that gained him global notoriety on the site.

Teaming up with his brother Connor Van Vuuren, they went on to win the ONE80PROJECT, adapting their idea into a telemovie titled **SICK!** (aired on MTV in 2012).

Christiaan has also directed for the comedy series **The Elegant Gentleman's Guide to Knife Fighting** for the ABC and **Jungleboys**, the web-series' **Skit Box** and **Eastern Suburbs Mums**, and has written and directed branded content for a number of brands, including *Old Spice*, *McDonalds*, *Vittoria*, *AMEX*, *Cadbury*, *Coca Cola*, and *Sony*.



COLIN LANE



Colin Lane is best known as the 'Lano' from *Lano and Woodley*, Australia's best-loved comedy duo.

In almost 20 years together *Lano and Woodley* won the coveted Perrier Award for *Best Show* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, starred in their own television series and toured sold out shows across the country. Sadly they are no longer, after saying *Goodbye* in 2006 with a national tour that took in 34 markets and sold more than 125 000 tickets.

Since the farewell tour, Colin has appeared in *Don's Party* for the Melbourne Theatre Company, followed by a season with the Sydney Theatre Company. He presented **Wine Me, Dine Me** and **Kings of Comedy** for the Nine Network and has made numerous appearances on ABC TV's **Spicks and Specks** and Network Ten's **Good News Week**.

He also appeared at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival in *Two For The Road: The Music of Movie Maestro Henri Mancini* and performed in Essgee Productions' *The Mikado* as *Pooh Bar* at QPAC.

In 2009, Colin returned to the stage with a part cabaret/part stand-up show at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival – his first solo show since *Lano and Woodley* parted ways. His show *I'm Not Sure About The Music* unsurprisingly sold out fast. His sell-out season, coupled with the rave reviews he received, prompted a return season in 2010 at the same festival, delighting Melbourne audiences with his charming stage presence, rich singing voice and natural comedic timing.

In 2010, Colin became a regular guest co-host on Network Ten's **The Circle**, until its finale in 2012. 2011 he won the role of new host of Network Ten's **Ready Steady Cook**. More recently, Colin has appeared in a guest role in the very popular ABC series – **The Dr Blake Mysteries**. Colin has also appeared on the new Network Ten morning show **Wake Up** and has been a guest panelist on **The Project**.

In 2013, he was a guest panelist on the critically acclaimed UK show **Qi**, alongside Stephen Fry and Alan Davis, and was invited back in 2014 to record another two episodes.

Last year Colin returned to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival with his live show *Colin Lane Presents*. The show all but sold out it's festival season. Colin will be touring that same show to Tasmania's 10 Days On The Island in March 2015.

STOP LAUGHING..
this is serious

CRAIG REUCASSEL



Craig Reucassel was a founding member of *The Chaser* newspaper. The team went on to produce a series of TV shows from the **Election Chaser** in 2001, **CNNNN** (2002-2003), **The Chaser Decides** (2004), **The War on Everything** (2006, 2007, 2009), **Yes we Canberra** (2010), **The Hamster Wheel** (2011-12), **The Checkout** (2013-14) and **The Media Circus** (2014).

He also hosted *Today Today* on Triple J somewhere in there and the team also performed live shows *Cirque du Chaser* and *The Chaser's Age of Terror Variety Hour*.

DAVE HUGHES



There is no bigger name in Australian comedy than Hughesy. A natural and unmistakably Australian comic whose laconic style thinly disguises one of the fastest comic minds this country has ever seen.

It was at the Melbourne Comedy Festival in 1999 that Hughesy was forced to move from a tiny upstairs city bar into a 300-seat room at the Melbourne Town Hall. Word had started to spread about this impossibly laid back guy from Warrnambool.

Since 1999, Hughesy has become one of the biggest and most loved names in Australian stand up comedy. Honest and imperfect is how Australians like their comedy and Dave Hughes delivers exactly that in spades.

In 2013, Dave shocked Australia by announcing he would be giving up his radio and television jobs to go back to his roots and touring a brand new stand up show for an entire year.

He and Kate Langbroek ended their Nova 100 Breakfast Show after 12 years with a live show at the iconic Athenaeum Theatre and soon after he wrapped him his gig as co-host of Network Ten's **The Project** after almost 5 years on the desk.

2013 also saw the final series of **Before The Game** - the iconic and much loved AFL Footy Show that Dave had co-hosted since 2003.

Dave toured his show *Pointless* to almost every corner of Australia and over 60,000 people, as well as overseas to LA, Montreal, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Soho Theatre in London's West End.

2015 will see Dave return to the airwaves with long time friend Kate Langbroek in a national drive show across KIIS and Mix FM, as well as joining the team at Channel Nine's The Footy Show with regular appearances around the tour of his brand new show *Pumped*.



DENISE SCOTT

Denise first started working as a professional actor and comedian nearly thirty years ago, but it has been in the last decade or so that Scotty has gone supernova – winning awards, selling out theatres, appearing on hugely popular TV shows and writing two popular memoirs.

To wit: in 2009 Denise penned *All That Happened at Number 26*, a book which became a national best seller *and* a hit tour, with sell-out seasons at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and the Sydney Opera House. *Number 26* was also produced as a DVD for the Warehouse Comedy Festival series.



Scotty's subsequent solo show, *Regrets*, was awarded the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Directors' Choice Award, with Scotty winning a Helpmann Award for Best Comedy Performer. She then made her debut (finally!) at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and released her second book *The Tour*.

Fittingly, 2013 was all about touring for Denise, hitting the stage with her dear friend Judith Lucy in **The Spiral**. Their stand-up-slash-book-tour debuted at the Princess Theatre during MICF and went on to sell well over 30,000 tickets across Australia.

Scotty has been and remains a favourite guest on many of Australia's favourite TV shows, including **Spicks and Specks**, **The Project**, and **Talkin' 'bout Your Generation**, in addition to starring as Trish Gross on Channel 7's high-rating drama *Winners & Losers*.

2014 saw Denise return to the stage once more with a new, Barry Award-winning solo show, *Mother Bare*, at the Adelaide Fringe, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Sydney Opera House and the Brisbane Powerhouse.



FRANK WOODLEY



After 20 years in the much loved, Perrier Award-winning duo Lano and Woodley, Frank said *Good Bye* to being one half of a double act in 2006 with a national tour that took in 34 markets and sold more than 125,000 tickets.

Since hanging up his hat, Frank has been busier than a bee (bees are allegedly flat out). His smash hit solo show *Possessed* played across Australia and the Edinburgh Festival with packed houses and rave reviews. In addition,

his animated short, *Chicken of God*, received an AFI nomination and he won the coveted Herald Angel Award at the Edinburgh Fringe for his role of Candide in the Malthouse Theatre production of *Optimism*.

Frank was also a regular guest on ABC TV's music quiz show **Spicks and Specks** and Network TEN's **Good News Week** and an audience favourite on **Thank God You're Here**.

Australia's most visually compelling comedian was never far from the stage – doing live stand up in the unique song singing, limb flinging Woodley way. It was no surprise that Frank's 2010 solo tour, *Bewilderbeest*, quickly sold out around the country, firmly cementing him as one of one of Australia's most-loved comedians. In 2012, Frank was back on stage with his new show *Bemusement Park*.

2012 also saw the much-anticipated debut of *Woodley* on ABC TV. Created by, written, produced and starring Frank as the title character opposite Justine Clarke and newcomer Alexandra Cashmere, **Woodley** is a romantic comedy filled with virtuosic physical mayhem. It also resulted in Frank receiving an AACTA nomination for Best Performance in a Television Comedy.

Frank then premiered *Inside* - another new, daring stage show, this time alongside Simon Yates from acclaimed physical troupe, acrobat. This Kafkaesque piece put the two clowns in prison and premiered at the 2013 Sydney Festival before touring to Adelaide and Melbourne.

This last year has seen Frank returning to his Woodley way with a new show, *Fool's Gold*, performing at Adelaide Fringe, Darwin Festival, Brisbane and Sydney Comedy Festivals, and of course the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. He's also stretched his musical legs in his collaboration with *Harvest Rain* (playing Sir Robin in Monty Python's *Spamalot* at QPAC) and as the *Inspector* in *Lemony Snicket's The Composer Is Dead* at the Sydney Opera House and the Melbourne Recital Centre.

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GARRY McDONALD



Garry McDonald is one of Australia's best-known and well-loved figures in entertainment. His renowned television characters including 'the little Aussie bleeder' *Norman Gunston* and the long-suffering *Arthur Beare* from **Mother & Son** have help make Garry McDonald a household name.

He starred in six David Williamson comedies: **Don's Party**, **Emerald City**, **After The Ball**, **Up For Grabs**, **Amigos** and **Don Parties On**, as well as two comedies by Tony McNamara – **The Give And Take** and **The Grenade**. Other television credits include **Offspring**, **Rake**, **A Model Daughter: The Killing Of Caroline Byrne**, **Love Is A Four Letter Word**, **Fallen Angels**, **Medivac**, **The Aunty Jack Show**, **Two Twisted**, the telemovie **Mary Bryant**, **Blackjack – Dead Memory**, **Step Father Of The Bride** and **The King**.

Garry's film credits include **Venice**, **Burning Man**, **Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark**, **The Rage In Placid Lake** by Tony McNamara, **Rabbit-Proof Fence** and **Moulin Rouge!** Garry recently completed filming on **The Light Between Oceans** by Derek Cianfrance.

Garry's first theatre job was *Terror Australis*, a revue from the Oz writers, followed by *King O'Malley* (the National tour), in the years to follow *Laughter On The 23rd Floor* by Neil Simon (two productions) and *November* by David Mamet.

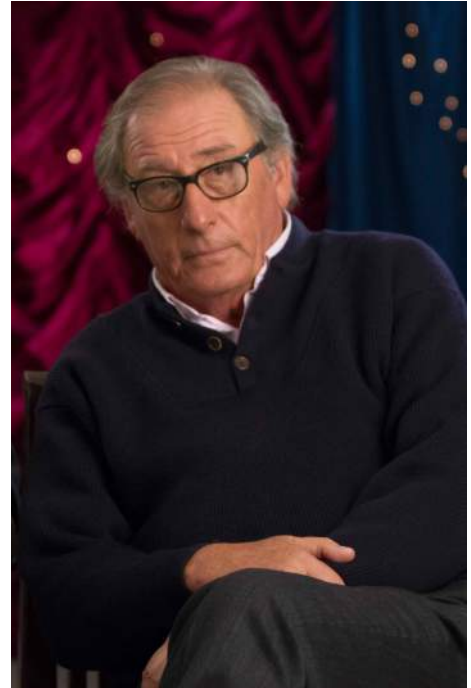


GARY REILLY

In a career spanning over forty years Gary has written/produced over a thousand hours of comedy for TV and radio.

With partner Tony Sattler he created ground breaking radio serials for the ABC's newly formed 2JJ, then *The Naked Vicar Show* for radio, stage and TV. This was followed by the iconic **Kingswood Country**, as well as **Daily at Dawn**, **Brass Monkeys** and the award-winning radio series *Graham Kennedy's RS Playhouse*.

They were asked by the ABC to commemorate 50 years of radio broadcasting with a special *Naked Vicar Show*, it was broadcasted live from the Sydney Opera House around Australia with the original team of Ross Higgins, Kevin Goldsby and Noeline Brown along with guest Graham Kennedy.



Gary and Tony came together again in 1998 with the return of *Ted Bullpitt* in **Bullpitt** for the Seven Network.

In his solo career, he produced a series of game shows for the Seven Network, before creating **Hey Dad!** with collaborator John Flanagan, which ran for nearly ten years and 290 episodes. This was followed by **Hampton Court** for Seven and **My Two Wives** for Channel Nine, **Family Business** for Network Ten, as well as **Over the Hill** and **Graham Kennedys World of Comedy** for the Seven Network.

Over the years his contribution has been acknowledged with many industry awards: 2 Logies, 3 Awgies and 2 Sammies. The Australian Writers' Guild granted Gary and Tony the prestigious Fred Parsons Award, for their contribution to Australian Comedy.



GLENN ROBBINS

In 1985 Glenn appeared on the sketch show **The Eleventh Hour**. He shot to fame in 1988 when he starred in the very successful sketch show, **The Comedy Company** (Network Ten). In 1991 he joined the team of **Fast Forward** (Seven Network). Other sketch in which he has appeared include **Full Frontal** (1993) and **Jimeoin** (1994–95)

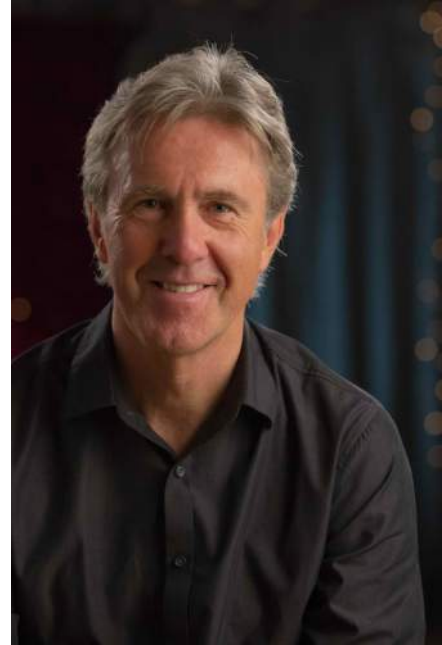
In 1998, Glenn became a regular panelist on the popular weekly television show **The Panel**.

Glenn played *Russell Coight* in **All Aussie Adventures** from 2001 until 2002.

Since 2002 onwards, he played the role of *Kel Knight* in the television comedy series **Kath & Kim**. He also appeared in the **Da Kath and Kim Code** telemovie in 2005.

In 2001 Glenn played the role of *Pete O'May* in the award-winning Australian film **Lantana**. In 2006 he co-starred with Mick Molloy in the comedy feature **Boytown** as an eighties' pop star called *Benny G.* making an ill-advised comeback. In 2012 Robbins reprised his role of *Kel Knight* in the movie entitled **Kath and Kimderella**.

Most recently Glenn has appeared in the comedy series, **Upper Middle Bogan** in the role of *Wayne Wheeler* for ABC TV.



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GRAEME BLUNDELL



Graeme Blundell is an actor, director, producer and writer and has starred in such iconic comedy films **Alvin Purple** and **Don's Party**.

Graeme has been associated with many pivotal moments in Australian theatre, film and television. He has directed over 100 plays, acted in about the same number, and appeared in more than 40 films and hundreds of hours of television. He is also an award-winning director and a prolific journalist.

In 2007 he won the Ireland Writer's Award for a story on Northern Ireland published in The Australian newspaper. He co-authored a biography of painter Brett Whiteley, *An Unauthorised Life*, and edited and compiled *Australian Theatre: Backstage with Graeme Blundell* for Oxford University Press. His biography *King*, the life and comedy of Graham Kennedy was a best-seller in 2004. He has also written for The Age, Sydney Morning Herald, the Sun Herald, the Australian Women's Weekly and Luxury Travel.

Now the national television critic and crime reviewer for The Australian, his autobiography, *The Naked Truth, A Life in Paris* was published in 2008 and his biography of Bert Newton, *Bert*, was published late last year.



GRAHAME BOND



Grahame began his career in entertainment at the University of Sydney in the 60's as a founding student member of the Architecture Revue, which included his university friends Geoffrey Atherden (writer *Mother and Son*, *Grass Roots*), Peter Weir (director *Gallipoli*, *The Truman Show*), Peter Best (composer *Crocodile Dundee*, *Wildside*) and Rory O'Donoghue. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree in 1967 and tutored in Design at the University of Sydney until 1970.

In 1970, Grahame and Rory wrote the music for and performed in *Hamlet on Ice* and in 1971 Grahame created the ground breaking ABC comedy series **Aunty Jack**, which was followed by **Flash Nick from Jindavick**, **Wollongong the Brave**, and the controversial **Off Show**. In 1977, **Aunty Jack** appeared on British television in **Not the Aunty Jack Show** for London Weekend Television.

In 1978, Grahame and Jim Burnett wrote the musical *Boy's Own McBeth*, which toured Australia successfully for two years and also played in Los Angeles.

In the 80's, he wrote and directed the musical *Captain Bloody* for the Elizabethan Theatre Trust. He worked extensively with his musical partner Rory O'Donoghue, winning in 1981 the AFI Music Award for *Best Soundtrack* for the feature film **Fatty Finn**.

Grahame has won numerous awards including a Logie for *Best Australian Comedy (Aunty Jack)* and an Awgie Award from the Australian Writer's Guild in recognition for his contribution to Australian Comedy.

In 1990, Grahame opened his own advertising agency *Bond Strohfeldt* winning many blue chip clients, including Daihatsu, Bridgestone, Virgin and Disney before selling up in 1996 for the chance to travel.

For the next four years Grahame travelled to some remarkable places as an adventurer. He has trekked in Nepal, canoed in Kakadu, cycled from Hanoi to Saigon, dug up archaeological ruins in Jordan, Cyprus and Syria, and has shot a documentary in Papua New Guinea – **The Big Chief**.



GREIG PICKHAVER & JOHN DOYLE



Roy and HG presented the long running *This Sporting Life* on Triple J and the hugely successful Olympic broadcasts **The Dream**, the **Ice Dream** and **The Dream in Athens** for Channel 7.

Other television credits include; **Club Buggery**, **The Channel Nine Show**, **Planet Norwich**, **The Monday Dump**, **The Nation Dumps**, **Roy & HG's Spring Carnival**, **The Cream** and **The Memphis Trousers**.

IAN McFADYEN



Ian McFadyen was born in Pascoe Vale in Melbourne in 1948. He went to primary school in the new cream-brick suburb of Moorabbin and later attended Melbourne High School where he spent most of his time avoiding football, cricket and cadets in favour of drawing cartoons, painting and making goonish 8mm movies.

At Melbourne University he completed a Bachelor of Arts, a Diploma of Education and a Diploma of Criminology, and became involved in student theatre, writing and directing several stage shows. Following graduation he worked as a social worker and a teacher but soon managed to transfer into a Theatre-in-Education team, writing and performing theatre for schools. This led to producing TV educational series for the ABC where he created several long-running series.

After leaving the ABC, Ian made a living writing business training films while working in the evenings at comedy venues with comedians such as Peter Moon, Maryanne Fahey, Wendy Harmer and Steve Vizard. This experience coupled with his work in television led him to produce the seminal sketch comedy series **The Eleventh Hour** on HSV7 Melbourne in 1985, which, though short lived, created the characters and formats, which later led to both **The Comedy Company** and **Fast Forward**.

The Comedy Company, of which Ian was producer, co-director and principal writer, became the highest rating television series of 1988 and won three Logie awards. He went on to create **The Great TV Game Show** and **Bingles**, and imported the cult stage show **Let The Blood Run Free** to television. His sitcom **Newlyweds** ran for 52 episodes on Channel Seven.

Since those heady days Ian has lectured in writing and production at Bond and Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology, and written a host of scripts for children's animation series. In recent years, he has returned to his original first love – art, and spends much of his time painting with his wife Joanne.

JANE TURNER



Jane Turner is one of Australia's most popular comic actors; her first seen creations were much loved sketch comedy characters like Russian TV presenter Sveta and dancing queen *Margaret Bland* on **Fast Forward** and **Full Frontal**.

Jane went on to write and star in her own TV sketch shows **Big Girls Blouse** and **Something Stupid** for Channel 7.

Alongside long time collaborator Gina Riley she developed the award winning and ratings smash hit TV show **Kath & Kim**, writing and starring in four series and a TV movie. **Kath & Kim** has won multiple Logie, AFI and international awards, and has been acclaimed worldwide. The US version of **Kath & Kim** was created for NBC TV.

In 2012, their feature film **Kath & Kimderella** took the second highest box office of any Australian movie of the year.

Stage appearances have included productions of *The New Rocky Horror Show*; the national tour of Ben Elton's *Popcorn*; and *Man the Balloon* and *Blabbermouth* both for the MTC. Jane's West End debut was in the 2010 London production of *Holding the Man*.

Her screen credits include the feature film **Thank God He Met Lizzie** and television drama **Prisoner**.

Jane is a special representative for Australia for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

JOHN CLARKE



John Clarke is a writer and performer, known for his collaboration with Bryan Dawe on ABC television, for **The Games**, for various movies including **Death in Brunswick**, for the Murray Whelan telemovies and for Fred Dagg.

For some reason he has also written some books.

He is twenty-seven.



JOHN PINDER

John Pinder has played an influential role in the development of new comedy in Australia over the last forty years, operating clubs, starting festivals and touring artists in Australia and internationally. Circus, Sketch Shows, Stand Up Comics and Cabaret have all been on his entertainment agenda since the early 1970s.



His first venture was the alternative music venue, The **T. F. Much Ballroom**, home to the new alternative bands which failed to fit the suburban pub scene of the day including *Daddy Cool*, *Spectrum*, *Captain Matchbox* and many more, plus sketch comedy by Max Gillies, Bruce Spence and other soon to be famous actors from the Pram Factory... plus a monkey riding a unicycle!

Two significant comedy clubs followed: Melbourne's first dedicated comedy and cabaret venue, the tiny **Flying Trapeze Café**, and in 1976 **The Last Laugh** where Australia's comedy royalty kick started their careers including *Circus Oz*, *The D Generation*, *Wendy Harmer*, *Fast Forward*, *Gina Riley*, *Jane Turner* and *Magda Szubanski*, *Let The Blood Run Free*, *Richard Stubbs*, *Mark Little* and many others.

Pinder assembled a cast of alternative circus performers for *Waiter There's A Circus In My Soup* which ran for nine months at the **Last Laugh** and morphed into the world acclaimed *Circus Oz*. He has long been regarded as a non-performing founder member of the group and put up most of the bank guarantee to finance the original Big Top.

After a decade of running the **Last Laugh** Pinder's restless spirit turned to new ideas, including the export of Australian shows, particularly to The Edinburgh Fringe and to the development of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. With colleagues he scored funding from Government and went on to direct the event for two years while arranging OZNOST the single biggest package of Australian talent ever to hit the Edinburgh Fringe. In 1989 he then took on an idea ahead of its time to redevelop a famous old Harlem nightclub **Smalls Paradise** in New York.

Returning to Sydney in the early 1990s he developed three landmark temporary venues for the Adelaide Fringe Festival, the Sydney Theatre Company and Sydney Festival and for Barry Kosky's Adelaide Festival. The Star Club introduced the newly created UK percussion phenomenon *STOMP* to Australia, *The Starfish Club* saw their return, and the premier of the world wide Australian hit *Tap Dogs*. **Red Square**, built from 150 sea containers took Adelaide by storm, with a queue reckoned at 20,000 awaiting the opening night.

In the mid 90's Pinder joined the initial creative team of *The Comedy Channel* after a twelve month stint as an advisor to Steve Vizard's **Tonight Live**.

From 2001 to 2008 he Directed *The Big Laugh* comedy festival at Riverside Theatres in Parramatta providing Western Sydney with remarkable talent lineups each year including the massive hit tour, reforming *The Goodies* in 2005.

Always one for an adventure, Pinder produced the unique *World's Funniest Island* comedy festival, 2009, on Cockatoo Island in the middle of Sydney Harbour.

He has spent the last 3 years living between Barcelona and Sydney.

STOP LAUGHING..
this is serious

JOHN SAFRAN



John Safran is an award-winning documentary-maker of provocative and hilarious takes on race, the media, religion and other issues. John first hit TV screens in 1997 on *Race Around the World*. Both John Safran's *Music Jamboree* and *John Safran vs. God* won Australian Film Industry awards for Best Comedy Series and Most Original Concept, and were also nominated for Logie Awards. Other shows include John Safran's *Race Relations* and *Speaking in Tongues*.

John currently co-hosts *Sunday Night Safran*, a radio talk show on Triple J with cranky but beloved Catholic priest, Father Bob Maguire. John's first book, *Murder In Mississippi* – the true story of how he met a white supremacist, befriended his black killer and wrote a book – is currently out through Penguin and was named iBooks 2013 Best Non-Fiction.



JUDITH LUCY



Judith Lucy is one of Australia's most popular comedians. A best-selling author, her work in television and film, and her sell-out national tours have made her a household name.

A stand-up comedian for over 20 years, she sprang to national prominence in 1993 when she joined the cast of ABC TV's **The Late Show**. Her television appearances since have been many and varied, but amazingly 2011's **Judith Lucy's Spiritual Journey** (ABC1) was her first solo TV project.

It is Judith's distinctive stage shows that set her apart - painfully honest, sharply observed and with a joke rate second to none. It is no surprise that Judith's live audiences have grown every year since her first solo show in 1995. She has sold out countless theatrical runs in Australia and has taken her shows to Montreal, Edinburgh and London's West End.

The release of her first book *The Lucy Family Alphabet* (Penguin, 2008) introduced a whole new set of fans to Judith's work. The memoir which recounted touching, yet hilarious, stories of life with her eccentric Irish parents and her discovery at age 25 that she was adopted. The book quickly became a best seller and cemented Judith as an author. She followed this up with the release of her second book – *Drink, Smoke, Pass Out* (Penguin, 2012). In 2014, Penguin are releasing a special edition of *The Lucy Family Alphabet* in conjunction with the McGrath Foundation. Instead of the classic orange penguin covers, this one will be in the iconic pink breast cancer colour.

Over the years Judith has also turned her hand to acting, having appeared in the feature films **Crackerjack** and **Bad Eggs**. Most recently she scored a role as a racist publican in the hit Aussie production **The Sapphires**, which made it to the 2012 Cannes Film Festival.

In 2013 and 2014 Judith took on the role of guest host for the ABC's very popular **At The Movies**. Alongside Jason Di Rosso, they filled in for the iconic duo of David and Margaret for 3 episodes and received a warm reception from fans of the show.

2013 also saw Judith return to the stage with a live show alongside one of her best friends Denise Scott, in their hilarious show *The Spiral*. An evening of short stories, tall tales and jokes at each other's expense, the ladies toured the country to sell-out crowds.

This year, Judith is returning to our television screens with another solo project – **Judith Lucy Is All Woman**. It will be a six part series for ABC TV where she will be looking at the role of women in modern Australia and whether they are better off than they were 50 years ago. It will air the first half of 2015.

Judith is also back on stage with her first new solo show since 2012. *Ask No Questions of the Moth*.

The good news is that her last year really sucked. A truly awful year for Judith always lead to a great show for her fans and 2014 was a magnificently terrible. Think death and early menopause and you'll be in the ballpark.



LADY JULIA MORRIS



A multi-talented stand-up, host and actress with nearly twenty years experience performing to crowds all over the world, Julia Morris is one of Australia's most successful and polished comedy exports.

Julia's career has taken her across the globe working with comedy royalty including Richard Pryor, Jason Alexander, Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams. Back on home

soil, Julia won the first **Celebrity Apprentice**, raising nearly \$200,000 for Breast Cancer Research in the process, before taking the reigns of **Australia's Got Talent** for the Nine Network.

Whilst comedy has made Julia a household name, she proves her versatility and talent transcends the genre with her current role as *Gemma* in the hit Nine Network drama **House Husbands**, winning the *Most Popular Drama* Logie for its first series, and for which Julia has received two consecutive nominations for *Most Popular Actress*. The Nine Network has recently announced the drama will return for a fourth series in 2015.

However, Julia Morris' position as one of Australia's most popular and prolific comedians working today is evident from her successful, award-winning national tours including the recent *No Judgement Tour*, a new national tour is planned for the second half of 2015.

Julia will also soon commence co-hosting **I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here** for Network Ten in early 2015.

P.S. Yes, the 'Lady' title is real - Julia's husband bought it on the Internet as a Christmas present.



JULIA ZEMIRO



Julia is an acting graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (1993) as well as a trained improviser (Theatre Sports Inc/Flying Pig Theatre Co 1988-99).

Arguably best known for her work as host of the SBS hit TV program **Rockwiz**, now in its 12th series, Julia's theatre, film and television work spans all genres from drama to comedy, improv to hosting.

Her most recent television work includes: **Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery** for the ABC which she also co-produced, **QI** (with Stephen Fry and Alan Davies) filmed in London and the ABC TV film **An Accidental Soldier** directed by Rachel Ward. For the past six years, Julia (with co-host with Sam Pang) has been presenting the **Eurovision Song Contest** for SBS from Russia, Norway, Germany, Azerbaijan, Sweden and Denmark.

Julia has also appeared on **Randlings**, **Agony Aunts**, **Thank God You're Here**, **Salam Café**, **It Takes Two**, co-hosted **What A Year** with Bert Newton, taken out the title of *Australia's Brainiest TV Star*, **Good News Week** and **Totally Full Frontal** (writer/performer).

Julia's theatre performances include *Cyrano de Bergerac* for the Sydney Theatre Company, touring with the Bell Shakespeare Company, *Eurobeat* for the International Comedy Festival, *Love Song* for the MTC, *Two for the Road; the Music of Movie Maestro Henry Mancini* for Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, *Goodbye Vaudeville Charlie Mudd* for Malthouse Theatre and seasons of improv gem *Spontaneous Broadway* in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and various regional centres in Victoria. Julia performed the world premiere of *Julia Zemiro's Comfort Zone* for the Adelaide Arts Festival (2010) and took **Rockwiz** on the road for a first national tour. *Rockwiz Live* enters its fifth touring season in 2014.

Julia also works as a corporate host and MC, an area in which she is in constant demand. She has hosted charity events, corporate conferences and awards evenings including *The Crown Prince Couple of Denmark Cultural Awards for DR* (2013) where she filmed the opening shots from the highest sail of the Sydney Opera House, the *Screen Producers Australia Awards*, the *APRA Awards*, *AFI Awards*, *IF Awards*, *The Helpmann Awards*, *Aria Hall of Fame*, *The Australian Directors' Guild Awards* and *The Green Room Awards*.

Julia's writing contributions include guest articles for numerous press and magazine publications.



KEVIN KROPINYERI



Kevin Kropinyeri is one of the fastest rising stars in Australian comedy.

He's a one-man whirlwind that will have you holding your sides laughing, as he shares tales of growing up, marriage and the particular, absurd challenges of life as an Aboriginal Australian family man.

A high-energy performer, Kevin is sharp, likeable, silly and measured; mixing keen observational stand-up with joyfully ridiculous physical comedy. "His strong, animated delivery ensured the audience was in the palm of his hand as he talked about his hairiness and his domestic life. A comic natural, the crowd adored him" – Chortle (chortle.co.uk).

Kevin has blasted his way onto the national stand-up scene in a ridiculously short time, initially making a splash in 2008 winning the Melbourne International Comedy Festival's national Deadly Funny comedy competition.

In six head-spinning years since then Kevin has established himself as a fully professional performer on the national circuit, touring for twelve months of the year and releasing his own live DVD.

Special highlights have included appearances at the Deadly Awards at the Sydney Opera House six years running, feature shows at the Adelaide Fringe Festival, compering the Long Walk events at Federation Square, and touring with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow.

Kev boasts a rich background as a state grade footballer and basketballer, a visual artist and years as a youth worker and an Aboriginal education worker ... and now, as the exciting new face of black Australian comedy.

Kevin's TV Credits include: Melbourne International Comedy Festival **Opening Night Comedy Allstars Supershow** (Channel 10) - April 2014, **Stand Up @ Bella Union** (SBS2) – April 2014, **No Laughing Matter** (Foxtel Comedy Channel) – November 2013, **Comedy Up Late** (ABC2) – April 2013, **Weekend Sunrise** (Channel 7) – May 2012 and **Living Strong** (NITV) – February 2010.

STOP LAUGHING..
this is serious

LAWRENCE MOONEY



Lawrence Mooney is best known as the host of his own hilarious show **Dirty Laundry Live** on ABC2. This edgy, irreverent, comedy panel show is fast becoming a cult favourite.

He is also familiar to ABC1 audiences through his brutal honesty and sage advice on the Agony series – **Agony Uncles**, **Agony of Life** and **Agony of Modern Manners**, as well as featuring on **It's a Date**. Lawrence also co-wrote episodes of **It's a Date** for the first and second series.

In the past year his dulcet tones have been heard as the voice on **Brynne: My Bedazzled Life** and **Young, Lazy and Driving Us Crazy** on the Seven Network.

Lawrence is, of course, first and foremost one of this country's most celebrated stand-up comedians with awards including; *Winner Best National Act* – Perth Comedy Festival 2013, *Winner Best Comedy* – Melbourne Fringe Festival 2011 and *Winner of Crikey.com's Best of The Fest* – Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2011.

Lawrence has hit the microphone with his unique view of the human condition for twenty years and he is now at the top of his game.

His 2014 tour of *Lawrence Mooney is a Stupid Liar* was a sell-out and received rave reviews.



LIBBI GORR



Writer, performer and ABC Broadcaster Lisbeth Gorr's expansive media portfolio has its genesis in the Melbourne comedy scene of the late 1980's and blossomed into a fully fledged roller coaster ride, with quite a few digressions. It ultimately saw her crowned Queen (or at least Tom Boy Princess) of ABC TV Comedy – creatively driving and hosting her own tonight shows during the 1990's. She also made ground

breaking television specials that kicked in the ratings, and were sold and awarded internationally. No woman on Australian TV has had that opportunity.

Radio was Libbi's launch pad, as a work experience 'kid' in ABC Radio sport whilst completing her law degree. Melbourne University Law Revues and a foray into the exciting live comedy scene of late 1980's Melbourne with the all girl cabaret group – *The Hot Bagels (The Big Gig)*, Libbi's love of sport, politics and taking the piss led to the creation of *Elle McFeast*. *Elle* started out as a comedy radio entity appearing on the Saturday morning footy show – *Kick to Kick* (3XY and FOX FM) and weekend breakfast on Melbourne's FOX FM with her real life brother 'Hungry' Dave Gorr, receiving the RAWARD for *Best On Air Team Metro 1990/1*.

An invitation to join ABC TV's innovative tonight show **Live and Sweaty** led to Libbi dumping law (after completing her articles!) for a TV career as *Elle* that spanned over a decade, with Libbi, as *Elle*, hosting **Live and Sweaty** for two years, 1993-94, **McFeast Live From the Bowels of Parliament House**, 1995-96, and **McFeast Live**, 1998. Libbi also co-produced, wrote and starred as *Elle* in a further eleven award-winning social satire television specials.

Libbi now works as a broadcaster for 774 ABC Melbourne and is an author, performer and creative producer. Her work is empathetic, humorous, and warm. She and her partner of twenty years have two gorgeous children, a rich chaotic lifestyle and a reasonably tidy home.

STOP LAUGHING..
this is serious

MAGDA SZUBANSKI



Magda Szubanski is one of Australia's most loved and respected actors.

She is best known for her roles as *Mrs Hoggett* in the Academy Award and Golden Globe winning film **Babe** and its sequel **Babe: Pig In The City**, and also her performance as *Sharon Strzelecki* in the hit television series and now feature film **Kath & Kimderella**.

Magda teamed up with the **Babe** creators again to voice the box office hit **Happy Feet** and its sequel **Happy Feet 2**. Her other film credits include the **Legend of The Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole**, **Santa's Apprentice**, **The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course** alongside the late Steve Irwin, **Son Of The Mask** with Jamie Kennedy and Alan Cumming, and the Australian films **Dr Plonk** directed by Rolf de Heer and

Bran Nu Dae by Rachel Perkins. Most recently she appears in the musical comedy **Goddess** alongside Ronan Keating and in the hit ABC series **Rake**.



MARY COUSTAS



Mary Coustas is a writer/performer well known for her performance in *Wogs out of Work* and for her character *Effie* developed for the high rating TV sitcom **Acropolis Now**.

She won a *Best Comedy Performer* Logie Award for performing the character *Effie*.

Back on stage, she then went on to appear in the record breaking theatrical shows *Wogarama* and her one-woman show *Waiting for Effie*, which toured nationally throughout Australia. Mary joined the cast of *Sylvia* for Sydney Theatre Company, gaining high praise for portraying a dog on stage.

Mary's other TV Credits include **Skirts**, **Wildside**, **Grass Roots**, **The Secret Life of Us** and recently **Rake 2**.

She also earned herself an AFI Nomination for *Best Supporting Actress* for her role in **Mull**, and appeared in **Nirvana Street Murder** and **Hercules Returns**.

Mary has written for and performed in her TV show **Greeks on The Roof**, based on her character *Effie's* family home TV Studio.

As *Effie* has so much to say, Mary allowed her to write a book, *Effie's Guide To Being Up Yourself*, which has been published and acclaimed for tackling youth self esteem.

Most recently Mary's book *All I Know* was published by Allen and Unwin, and touched the hearts of the nation after her appearance on **60 Minutes**.

Effie continues to wow audiences with her latest show *A Date With Effie*.



MARY KENNEALLY



Mary Kenneally is one of Australia's leading comedians and amongst the most influential and respected performing arts entertainers in this country. In a career spanning over thirty years, she has made a significant and profound impact on the development of Australian comedy in particular and on the performing arts in general. Mary has both a law degree and an honours degree in English Literature and Language from the University of Melbourne.

Mary began performing in the high profile Architects' Revue. When she left University to work as a lawyer, she continued to write and perform at night while working as a solicitor by day. Supreme Court in the daytime, and The Flying Trapeze Café at night!

She wrote, produced and performed in shows which have been recognised for developing a distinctive Australian comedy at venues such as *The Flying Trapeze Cafe*, Fitzroy; *The Last Laugh Theatre Restaurant*, Collingwood; **Foibles Theatre Restaurant**, Carlton and *The Comedy Café* and *The Banana Lounge*, also in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

She wrote her first professional scripts for the Architects' Revue in 1970. "We had a specific brief when we started out," says Ms Kenneally. "And that was to find a contemporary, Australian comedic voice. And once found, places to perform in."

In 1979, with 6 comedy loving friends, Mary opened the iconic *Comedy Café* and *Banana Lounge* in Brunswick Street Fitzroy, dedicated to the development of innovative Australian Comedy. Here, aspiring comedians honed their talents. Many were to go on to successful careers in comedy. Mary Anne Fahey, Wendy Harmer, Ian McFadyen, Sue Ingleton and Jane Turner – to name a few – all appeared on the Comedy Café or Banana Lounge stages.

In 1981, Mary starred as Debbie in the outrageous new comedy TV series **Ratbags** produced in Sydney for Channel 10. The instant success of Debbie on **Ratbags** led to the ABC's commissioning the comedy television series, **Australia You're Standing In It**, the first comedy show ever made by ABC Melbourne.

With AYSII, the characters of Tim and Debbie took the nation by storm. The success of this program opened the doors for shows such as the **Comedy Company**, **Fast Forward**, **Full Frontal**, **The Gillies Report**, **The Big Gig**, **The D Generation** and **The Late Show**. By the 1990s, the television industry began to see that Melbourne comedy was a valuable and reliable form of entertainment programming.

In 1985, Mary went on to host a movie show with Stephen Blackburn – **REAL TO REEL: Tim and Debbie's History of World Cinema**. Again, another cult sensation.

Mary is also highly regarded as a cabaret singer and has produced and performed one woman shows such as *Lazy Crazy Love Songs* and *Witty Songs of Witty Women* at the Fairfax Theatre and Hamer Hall.

For 7 years, Mary was a highly valued member of the Performing Arts Museum Advisory Committee. In the year 2000, she was awarded the Kenneth Myer Medallion for Services to the Performing Arts.

Mary is now working through the centre for Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne on an Australian Research Council Linkage Project on the development of new Australian Comedy through the '60s, '70s and 80s.



MICK MOLLOY



Mick Molloy is one of Australia's most recognised and successful comedians. He has made his mark across the media as a popular writer, performer and producer in film, radio and television.

A member of **The D-Generation** in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Molloy cemented his reputation as a writer and performer on the comedy/variety program – **The Late Show**.

Mick enjoyed huge success on the big screen with iconic film **Crackerjack** (2002) which stills sees him able to get free beer in any bowls club in Australia and also **BoyTown** (2006), both of which he co-wrote, co-produced and also starred in. He also produced and directed the feature-length documentary **Tackle Happy** (2000). He also starred in **Bad Eggs** (2003), written and directed by his former radio partner, Tony Martin.

In 2003, he was named *Australian Movie Star of The Year* at the nation's largest and most prestigious industry gathering – the Australian Movie Convention. He was also named as *Producer of the Year* by the Screen Producers Association of Australia. He was nominated with his brother, Richard Molloy, for *Best Original Screenplay* for **Crackerjack** at the Australian Film Institute Awards.

In 2009 and 2010, Molloy starred in **The Jesters** – a critically acclaimed comedy series on Foxtel. His other television credits include playing slippery politician *Angelo Agnelli* in the Murray Whelan telemovies, **Stiff** and **The Brush Off**, and a guest role as Kath Day-Knight's spivvy ex-husband *Gary Poole* in **Kath & Kim**.

He was a panellist on hugely popular football comedy show, **Before the Game** and was also a regular guest on the hit chat show **The Panel** on Network Ten.

In 1999, he wrote, produced and presented **The Mick Molloy Show** for the Nine Network. In 2006, co-hosted **Any Given Sunday** with Nicole Livingstone. The following year he executive produced and hosted **The Nation** - a topical news-based show with an edge.

On radio, he co-hosted with Tony Martin the *Martin/Molloy* radio phenomenon on FOX FM. For several years this top-rating show was carried on 54 stations throughout Australia, revolutionising the drive-time radio slot.

From 2004 to 2006, he hosted his own national daily radio program, *Tough Love*, on the Triple M network.

He is currently a part of the Channel 7 **AFL Saturday Night** telecast and also co-hosts the number one FM breakfast show *The Hot Breakfast* with Eddie McGuire and Luke Darcy on 3MMM.

MIKEY ROBINS



Starting out in cabaret as part of Newcastle's Castanet Club, Mikey Robins made the transition to radio and television to become one of Australia's best-loved, intelligent and in-demand entertainers on the strength of his clever observations, quick one-liners and brilliant, biting banter.

Mikey spent seven years behind the microphone as the host of Triple J's national breakfast show before becoming a team leader and audience favourite on high rating *Good News Week* and its various franchises.

On radio, Mikey's also worked for Triple M and Vega, while his other television appearances include **The Jesters, You Have Been Watching** and regular guest spots on **Sunrise, Spicks and Specks,** and **The Fat.**

ABC TV featured Mikey in an episode of **Australian Story**; it went on to become one of the highest rating episodes of this high quality program. The episode dealt with Mikey's health and weight loss issues in a frank and very personal account.

Mikey's also devised and hosted a series of documentaries about Australians and their favourite pubs for Channel 10 – leading to episodes being filmed overseas – and fronted shows for the Foxtel network, including **Campaign** and **Hollywood Head to Head.**

Mikey's co-authored the books *Three Bears and a Chinese Meal* with Helen Razor, *Big Man's World* with Tony Squires and *The Sandman*, and written columns for The Daily Telegraph, GQ and Men's Style.

Mikey has recently added stand-up comedy to his long list of achievements and has performed at the Melbourne and Sydney Comedy Festival. In 2011, Mikey went to Afghanistan to entertain the troops, he wrote a moving account of this experience for Men's Style Magazine.

Mikey Robins is an expert facilitator who has extensive experience in the corporate and the public sectors. He is well known for his ability to coordinate workshops, strategic planning sessions and team-building events. Mikey is a comedian and television host who also has an academic background. His is able to understand and present to diverse teams.

In 2013, Mikey was given the honour of being chosen to perform Master of Ceremonies duties for His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet's public talk at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. The daylong celebration was attended by luminaries such as Cate Blanchett and has been a highpoint in both Mikey's personal life and career.

Mikey comes to his own on the live stage, where he is able to bring an audience to its feet, its senses, and its knees – comedically speaking, of course – whether serving as an MC, public speaker, debater or comic.



NAZEEM HUSSAIN



Nazeem Hussain is the star of his own critically acclaimed TV show, **Legally Brown**, which first aired on SBS in 2013. The show broke ground with its boundary-pushing content and its success has led to the filming of series 2 that is currently being aired on SBS.

Prior to **Legally Brown**, Hussain was a regular on the Comedy Channel's hugely successful, ASTRA award-winning **Balls of Steel Australia**. His self-created character *Calvin Kahn – the Very Foreign Correspondent*, saw his episodes achieve the highest ratings of the season and he is returning in season 2.

Hussain also starred on the cult-hit **Salam Café** on SBS, which was nominated for a Logie Award in 2009, and has worked as a presenter on Triple J.

He can also currently be seen on **The Full Brazilian** as a Brazil-based correspondent covering the World Cup for SBS. Other TV appearances include Network Ten's **The Project**, and on leading news and politics panel show **Q&A** alongside Malcolm Turnbull and Lindsay Tanner.

Nazeem's also well known as a stand-up comedian and until recently was one half of cult political comedy duo *Fear of a Brown Planet* (FOABP) with Aamer Rahman. FOABP first appeared on the Australia comedy scene in 2008 with a sell-out run at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. They were awarded the prestigious *Best Newcomer Award* that year and won over critics and fans alike. Hussain went on to regularly perform with *Fear of a Brown Planet* across Australia, including two shows at the prestigious Sydney Opera House in 2013.

Nazeem has also performed stand-up on the Melbourne International Comedy Festival **All Stars Gala**, broadcasted on Network Ten, and the **Sydney Comedy Festival Gala**, broadcasted on the Comedy Channel. He has performed several times at the annual *Falls* and *Southbound* festivals across Australia to crowds of over 10,000 people. He has toured Australia as part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow.

In 2011, Nazeem performed with *Fear of a Brown Planet* at the largest arts festival in the world – the Edinburgh Fringe, and received the highest review from the esteemed Guardian newspaper given that year. That same year FOABP was the focus of an episode of **Australian Story**. The episode documented Aamer and Nazeem's lives in Australia, as well as their debut performances in Edinburgh and London. In September 2012, they returned to the UK for a tour and a date in Antwerp. Their **Australian Story** aired on the ABC to almost one million viewers nationally. *Fear of a Brown Planet* announced their split in February 2014.

Another career highlight saw Hussain performing a support slot for renowned US comic Dave Chappelle in February of this year.



NEILL GLADWIN



Neill Gladwin has worked in both the subsidised, commercial theatre and festival industries in Australia and internationally.

In his freelance capacity, his work ranges from large-scale events to innovative theatrical styles of physical theatre, opera and Shakespearean adaptations.

Neill trained at Victoria's Rusden State College and became half of the internationally acclaimed comedy duo *Los Trios Ringbarkus* - the first Australian comedy act to win the Edinburgh Fringe Festival Perrier award for *Best Comedy* (1983).

His performance work also includes feature films and television. He has directed productions for many of Australia's major theatre companies. In 1993, Neill co-wrote and directed *Lano and Woodley* – comedy hit of the Adelaide Fringe, Melbourne Comedy and Sydney Festivals, and won the 1994 Edinburgh Perrier Award.

As Artistic Director of the Magpie Theatre, one of Australia's premier Theatre for Young People Companies, Neill created and directed many new and original productions: the award-winning *Verona* toured both nationally and internationally.

Neill wrote, directed and performed *Lawnmower Man* at the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games and was also Artistic Director for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Closing Ceremony.

In 2003, Neill directed the multi-media, multi-staged *Götterdämmerung* by Richard Wagner for the Perth International Arts Festival and in 2006 *The Australian Outback Spectacular* for Warner Brothers Movieworld, Gold Coast.

Red Dog a non-verbal visual theatre piece, written and directed by Neill was commissioned by Black Swan Theatre Company and premiered in 2006.

Neill now divides his time between directing large-scale circus, theatre and event productions.



NICHOLAS BOSHIER

Nick Boshier is the co-creator and actor in the ABC2 multiplatform series **Soul Mates**, which is a spinoff of the web series **Bondi Hipsters** (whose channel has hosted in excess of 8 millions views to date). **Soul Mates** follows the journey of two friends who are continually drawn together across the course of human history. **Soul Mates** is currently in development on its second series.



Along with his **Bondi Hipsters** and **Soul Mates** co-creator Christiaan Van Vuuren, the duo won the GQ 2014 Award for *Comedians of the Year*.

Nick is a writer, director, producer, actor and creator of two additional YouTube sensations: **Trent from Punchy** (the original video has over 7 million views) and the animated **Beached Az** (more than 8 million views).

Off the back of this success, **Beached Az** was adapted into two series of ten interstitial episodes for the ABC and **Trent From Punchy** has gone into development as a feature film.

With his Production Company Ludo Studios, Nick co-created series **#7DaysLater** that aired on ABC2 and won the International Digital Emmy® Award for *Best Digital Fiction*. **#7DaysLater** is currently in development on its second series.

Fresh off their Emmy® win, Ludo Studios received development funding from Screen Australia for their animated comedy series **Doodles**, with Nick set to produce. **Doodles** is a multiplatform and interactive animated comedy series that takes real people's drawings via social media and turns them into hilarious animated micro-movies featuring a cast of coloured-in characters.



NICK GIANNOPOULOS



Nick Giannopoulos is one of Australia's most-loved and successful comedians. He is one of a few performers who have easily transitioned from stage to television to film – while being incredibly successful in all genres.

After graduating from Rusden College and Victorian College of the Arts, Nick co-wrote and co-devised the stage production *Wogs Out of Work*, which he

then toured to huge success around Australia for three years from 1987-1990.

Nick's first television project was **Acropolis Now**, which he co-devised and developed. He also wrote 20 full episodes of the smash hit series which ran for five seasons over two and a half years on the Seven Network.

In 1992, Nick co-wrote and co-directed a one-woman show with Mary Coustas – *Waiting For Effie*, a sell-out for eight months nationally.

Following the conclusion of **Acropolis Now**, Nick returned to his first love of the stage and opened the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 1993 with *Wogarama*, which went on to tour the country for two years. He followed this with the *Wog Boys*, which he wrote, directed and produced himself. *Wog Boys* also toured for two massive years.

In 2000, Nick's first feature film was released and immediately broke Australian box office records. **The Wog Boy** took the highest opening weekend box office of any Australian film in history at its time of release.

The film won *Nick Comedy Star of the Year* at the 55th Australian Movie Convention and he also secured his second Mo Award for *Best Comedy Performer*.

The Wannabes was Nick's second film, which premiered in 2003.

In 2009, **The Wog Boy 2: Kings Of Mykonos** was shot in Greece and has been a box office hit here in Australia and in Greece, where it went to number one in its opening week.

Nick has performed the role of MC/Host at numerous functions and for many corporations, where his energy and comedic ability ensure the event will be memorable.

In 2014, Nick reprised the stage production the *Wog Boys*, which sold out around the country.

NOELINE BROWN



Noeline Brown was born in Stanmore, in Sydney's inner-west and will soon be celebrating her 52nd year in show business. She started her professional career onstage in revue and music hall, and enjoyed early success on television with the iconic **Mavis Bramston Show**, followed by the hit comedy series **My Name's McGooley, What's Yours?** She also starred in **The Naked Vicar Show** on radio, stage and television, where she met her husband – the writer/ producer Tony Sattler.

A Logie winner, she has appeared in many TV programs including **Would You Believe?**, **Daily at Dawn**, **Blankety Blanks** with Graham Kennedy, **Beauty and the Beast** and most recently the popular **Dancing with the Stars**, where, to her amazement, she and her partner Carmelo Pizzino made it all the way to the semi-finals. Noeline was playing for one of her charities – *Starting Points*. She also walked away with \$1250 000 for the same charity when she was the winner of a celebrity special of **Who Wants to be a Millionaire?** She also made fifty thousand dollars for the Actors' Benevolent Fund of NSW by winning Channel 7's **Celebrity Spelling Bee**.

Noeline's great love has always been the theatre and she is well known for her work in comedy and musicals. For three years, between 2003 and 2006, she toured in Peta Murray's charming two-hander – *Wallflowering*. She and her co-star Doug Scroope performed the play in 85 towns and cities around Australia. In 2006, she also appeared in the film **Razzle Dazzle**.

In 2008, Noeline won the Norman Kessell award for her portrayal of *Florence Foster Jenkins* in the play *Glorious* at the Ensemble Theatre in Sydney. In 2009, she starred in two-hander called *Duets* at the Ensemble with her good friend Barry Creyton. She appears regularly on Richard Glover's *Thank God It's Friday* program on ABC radio and also on many comedy television programs including **Talkin' 'bout Your Generation**, **Spicks and Specks** and **Tractor Monkeys**.

In April 2008, Noeline was appointed Australia's first Ambassador for Ageing by the Federal Government and is currently enjoying that role. She has also been an Australia Day Ambassador for the past 13 years.

Noeline and her husband Tony Sattler have lived in the Southern Highlands for 35 years, and they run their production company, *Wintergreen* from home. Her autobiography, *Noeline – Longterm Memoir* was published in 2005 by Allen & Unwin and made the best-seller list.



PAUL FENECH



After a brief career as an amateur kick boxer and an even briefer stint as a soldier in the Australian Army, Paul Fenech was hired by ABC TV as a stagehand to sweep the studio floors. For the following seven years, Paul worked his way up the TV chain, from sound assistant to floor manager, before realising his ambition of becoming a director.

In 1996, Paul made a short film called **Space Pizza** that won the open section of Tropfest. In 1998, Paul won first place at Tropfest with a film called **Intolerance** starring Austen Tayshus. The panel of judges included Jane Campion, Keanu Reeves and Samuel L. Jackson. When the winners were announced a drama ensued as Paul had entered the competition under a female pseudonym, Laura Feinstein.

On the back of all these short films, Paul made his first low budget feature called **Somewhere in the Darkness**, which starred Ernie Dingo and Leah Purcell, and was the first Australian film to be selected for competition at the Slamdance Film Festival in the US.

Paul began working at SBS on various documentaries. It was during this period Paul decided to pitch his pizza delivery concept that had served his short films so well. **Pizza** the TV series was born. Since its inception, almost seventy episodes of **Pizza** have been made since 2000 when the series first went to air.

Fat Pizza, the feature film, is also one of the only Australian films to turn a profit recently, and is currently ranked in the top 100 Australian films that have performed well at the box office. Paul Fenech's next creation was **Swift and Shift Couriers** – a comedy series based on the employees and a typical working day within a courier company. **Swift and Shift Couriers** season 1 & 2 features TV legends Ian Turpie and Amanda Keller. The first series of Paul's **Housos** gained media attention and publicity when Channel 9's A Current Affair program mistook the comedy for a "government – funded reality show." Despite the controversy surrounding the series, **Housos** went to air in October 2011 on SBS. The series held the 10pm timeslot on Monday nights but continued to pull high ratings.

In November 2012, Paul released **Housos vs Authority** – a feature film based on the **Housos** television series, which was distributed by Transmission Films and Paramount Pictures. This was followed by a second television series of **Housos** in 2013, which won the 2014 Logie Award for *Most Outstanding Light Entertainment Program*.

Paul's most recent series **Bogan Hunters** involved a nation-wide search for 'Australia's Greatest Bogan' and aired on 7mate in May 2014 – the series received some of the highest ratings for 7mate since the channel's inception. Paul's latest feature film – **Fat Pizza vs Housos**, brings together characters from two of his most popular television series. It was released in cinemas nationally on 27 November 2014.

PAUL HOGAN



Paul Hogan was working on the Sydney Harbour Bridge before rising to fame in the early 1970s with his own comedy sketch programme – **The Paul Hogan Show**, which he produced, co-wrote and in which he played a panoply of characters. The series, which ran for 60 episodes between 1973 and 1984, was popular both in his native country and around the world. In 1985, Hogan was awarded *Australian of the Year* and was also inducted into the *Order of Australia*.

During the early 1980s, Hogan filmed a series of television ads promoting the Australian tourism industry, which aired in the United States. In particular the advertisement featuring the phrase "Shrimp on the Barbie", which aired from 1984, was particularly successful. Later in the decade, he appeared on British television in a long-running series of advertisements for *Fosters' Lager* in which he played an earthy Australian abroad in London. The character's most notable line (spoken incredulously at a ballet performance) "Strewth, mate, there's a bloke down there with no strides on!" followed Hogan for years, and the popularity of its "fish out of water" humour was repeated with his next endeavour.

Hogan's first film, **Crocodile Dundee** (1986), featured a similarly down-to-earth hunter travelling from the Australian Outback to New York City. The film became the most successful Australian film ever and launched Hogan's international film career. It won him a Golden Globe Award for *Best Actor in a Comedy*, as well as an Academy Award nomination for *Best Original Screenplay* and a BAFTA Award nomination.

Following the success of **Crocodile Dundee**, Hogan starred in the sequel in 1988 and these two films have taken over half a billion dollars at the worldwide box office. Most recently Hogan starred in the highest grossing Australian film of 2004, **Strange Bedfellows**, and the 2009 Australian film, with Shane Jacobson, **Charlie & Boots** directed by Dean Murphy.



PAUL McDERMOTT

Paul McDermott began performing as a busker with Australia's most famous and most loved musical comedy trio – the *Doug Anthony Allstars* (DAAS). DAAS enjoyed phenomenal success both here and abroad at festivals, in theatres and on television.



After the demise of DAAS, Paul went on to create, host and write for popular radio and television programs such as **Good News Week**, **Strictly Dancing** and the short-lived, but brilliant, **Sideshow**.

He has written and directed award winning short films, created award-winning art installations and sings with the voice of a meadowlark (although he is yet to be awarded for this).

Paul is currently working on a new interview series for SBS and performing with a reformed, reborn DAAS (featuring Tim Ferguson, and Paul Livingston as *The Guitarist*).

RICHARD FIDLER

Richard Fidler presents *Conversations with Richard Fidler* – an in-depth, up-close-and-personal interview program broadcast across Australia on ABC Local Radio and RadioNational.

He's interviewed prime ministers, astronauts, writers and scientists, but the program often features remarkable people who are unknown to the wider world.

Richard has also presented several television series over the years, including the acclaimed **Race Around the World**, and he was the creator of **Aftershock** – a documentary series on disruptive new technologies.

In another life Richard was a member of Australian comedy trio *The Doug Anthony Allstars* (DAAS), which played to audiences all over the world



ROD QUANTOCK



Rod Quantock is one of the reasons that Melbourne is the live comedy capital of Australia. As a pioneer of stand-up comedy, Rod has more than thirty years experience working in cabaret, theatre, television, radio, advertising and the corporate sector. For an old boy, Rod is still doing extremely well, thank you very much. His live shows are predictably box office hits at the Melbourne Comedy Festival and the Adelaide Fringe Festival, and he is an evergreen favourite at corporate events.

The truly remarkable thing about Rod is that for more than forty years he has remained a contemporary stand up comedian, evolving and staying at the forefront of the craft. His contribution to Australian cultural life was rewarded when he received the Individual Award at the 2004 Sydney Myer Performing Arts Awards, putting him in the company of such arts luminaries as Geoffrey Rush, Robyn Nevin, Nick Enright, Lucy Guerin and Paul Grabowsky. That he continues to build new, younger audiences all the time is testament to possibly the most impressive career in Australian comedy.

In 2013, Rod celebrated his 45th year in comedy with a live show at Melbourne's iconic Athenaeum Theatre.



RODNEY RUDE



When Rodney was a boy, a schoolteacher once told him he was a worthless troublemaker who would never amount to anything and that when he grew up people would only laugh at him.

Rodney went on to have one of Australia's longest and most successful comedy careers spanning over 50 years. The success of his first album made Rodney Rude a household name, and his catch phrase, 'You know what I hate?' has passed into Australian colloquial speech.

Rodney has crafted a long successful career in a notoriously fickle industry and has the most recognisable laugh in show biz.

Rodney started his career at age 10, singing on the *Pepsi Cola Show* on Radio 2BS Bathurst. As a teenage musician Rodney started changing the words to songs to create parodies, later becoming an Elvis impersonator. Rodney's later career was heavily influenced by his time working on showgrounds in a carnival act, then in the early 1960s Rodney worked as a busker in Sydney and went on to busk all over Europe. Rodney then spent fifteen years in Canada and the US working in clubs bars and strip clubs, releasing five independent stand-up comedy albums featuring a large repertoire of original comedy songs.

After his years working in Canada and the US, Rodney returned to Australia to set up the Sydney Comedy Store, which he did with huge success. One of his proudest accomplishments, it continues to leave a lasting legacy on the Australian stand-up comedy scene, aiding the careers of many great Australian comedians.

Rodney has also contributed greatly to the Australian theatrical community. His accomplishments include winning a Supreme Court case and setting a precedent that allowed future performers to enjoy freedom of speech in public performance, as well as being a pioneer in introducing non-smoking concerts leading to the creation of designated smoking areas.

Rodney Rude's impact on stand-up comedy through vinyl, tape, CD and DVD, has been enormous, with sales figures in the millions, from twelve highly successful live stand-up comedy CDs and five DVDs all achieving gold and multi-platinum status, along with his five overseas albums brings his career total to twenty two releases. In particular, his album *Rodney Rude Live - I Hate That* went to number one on the national album charts. Four times platinum was a phenomenal result considering that it was pure live stand-up comedy, with no radio airplay.

Rodney has received recognition for his accomplishment and contribution to stand-up comedy including: two MO Awards – one acknowledging his outstanding contribution to the Australian Comedy Industry, and six ARIA nominations for best comedy album. But more importantly Rodney Rude has enjoyed a fantastic relationship with his audiences, with 50 years of sold out live shows.

STOP LAUGHING..
this is serious

ROVE McMANUS



Rove McManus started out as a stand-up comedian and has gone on to become Australia's most successful talk show host and one of its biggest producers of entertainment television.

Rove got his first TV gig on community television hosting his own tonight show. Rove hit the prime time schedule in 2000 with **Rove Live** on Network Ten after a brief late night stint on the Nine Network in 1999. The show has played host to some of the planet's biggest names with the likes of Cameron Diaz, John Travolta, Drew Barrymore, Matt Damon, The Duchess of York and U2 taking time out to chat with Rove.

Rove's production company *Roving Enterprises* has produced two scripted comedy series, a weekly sports panel show and the nightly hybrid news program – **The Project**, as well as the **ARIA Awards** which Rove has hosted three times.

Rove has also been a three-time recipient of Australia's most prestigious television award: the oddly named Gold Logie for *Most Popular Personality*.

Rove is currently based in Los Angeles where he has appeared as a regular on **The Tonight Show**, hosted two series of his own talk show **Rove LA** for FOX 8 and TV Guide Network, and made his US primetime debut as host for Fox's **Riot**. Rove has continued working as a stand-up, appearing in clubs and theatres in LA and beyond, and appearing as a guest on Comedy Central's new late night hit **@midnight**.

SANTO CILAURO



Santo is a member of Working Dog one of Australia's most dynamic and successful creative partnerships.

Along with collaborators Rob Sitch, Tom Gleisner, Jane Kennedy and Producer Michael Hirsh he has continued to produce top rating television, film, radio and books for over 23 years.

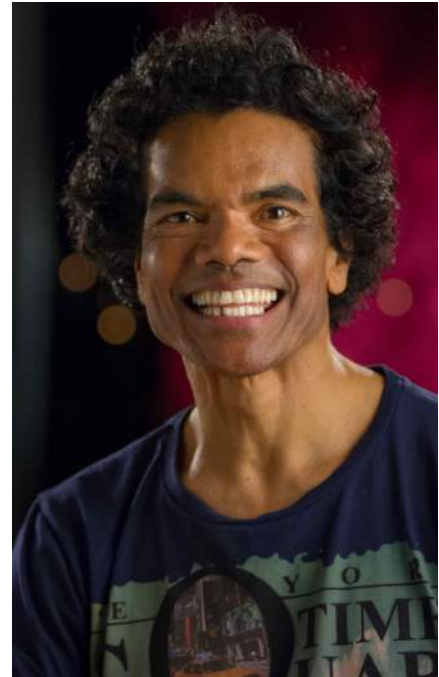


SEAN CHOOBURRA

Sean Choolburra is Australia's most recognisable Indigenous comedian. He began his career by quickly climbing the ranks in the notoriously tough Australian comedy industry, which began in 2002 when he represented NSW in the RAW Comedy National Grand Final.

He has since enjoyed immense success as a performer, where his cultural work and TV exposure has inspired a new wave of Indigenous comedians.

A testament to Sean's appeal and unique ability, he has enjoyed repeat appearances on the **Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala** for Oxfam on Channel Ten (an honour so few comedians experience), and has also featured on **Thank God You're Here**, **The Footy Show**, and many other productions on both TV and radio.

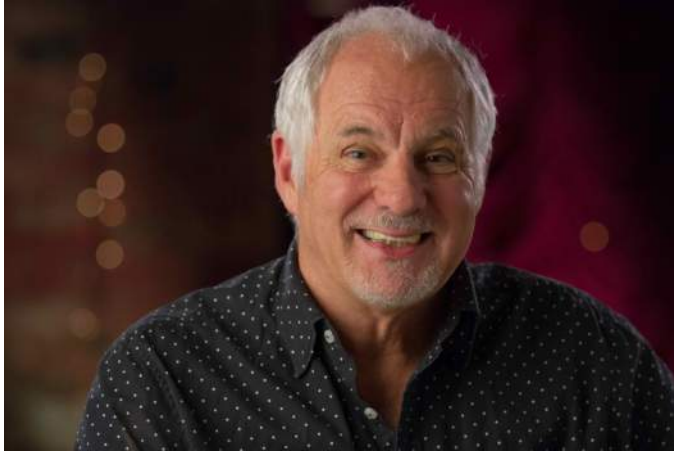


His work around Australia with Indigenous communities and in schools has only enhanced his reputation as a cultural ambassador in health, education and employment.

He uniquely blends popular culture, dance, comedy and hip hop in a high energy, feel good show, and is in constant demand as an MC and Comedian for official functions, corporate events, theatre shows, comedy clubs, workshops, openings and festivals.



SHANE BOURNE



Shane Bourne is one of Australia's leading actors and performers. His career spans award-winning performances across stage and screen.

He received critical acclaim for his role in the ABC TV Drama series **MDA** as medical lawyer *Bill 'Happy' Henderson*, a role for which he earned two AFI awards for **Best Lead Actor in a Drama Series** in 2003 and 2005.

He gained further acclaim for his role as *Stanley Wolfe* in Channel Seven's crime drama series **City Homicide** (2007 – 2010). He received rave reviews for his chilling portrayal of *Detective Don Hancock* in **The Great Mint Swindle** (2012)

One of Australia's favourite comedians, Shane is well remembered for his days on **Hey Hey It's Saturday**. He later went on to host the hit comedy series **Thank God You're Here** (2006 – 2009). In 2011, he won accolades for his hosting of the **TV Week Logie Awards** and starred as *Jim Christie* in the Nine Network series **Tricky Business**. More recently, Shane hosted the 2014 **AACTA Awards** in Sydney.

Shane's film credits include the highly acclaimed 2006 film **Kokoda**. The film was met with rave reviews and earned six award nominations in the AFI, IF and Film Critic Circle of Australia Awards collectively. He has just completed shooting **The Dressmaker** with Kate Winslet and Judy Davis, and looks forward to the film's release in October 2015

Shane's theatre credits are numerous. His performances include a successful national tour of *12 Angry Men*, Melbourne Theatre Company's productions of *Twelfth Night* and *Urine Town, The Musical*. Other theatre credits include: For the Sydney Theatre Company – *Sylvia*, for the Melbourne Theatre Company – *Hitchcock Blonde*, *What The Butler Saw*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Hurly Burly* and *Some Night In Julia Creek*. For the Playbox Theatre: *The Adman*, *Comedians* and *Medea*. For the Griffin Theatre - *The Moonwalkers*, and for Company B, Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. More recently, Shane starred in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* as *Baron Bomburst* for TML Enterprises, and alongside Geoffrey Rush and Magda Subzanski in the 2013 hit production of Stephen Sondheim's *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To Forum*. Shane is always in demand on the Speakers Circuit and can sometimes be seen 'dusting off' an old routine at the nearest comedy club.



SHANE JACOBSON

Shane Jacobson is one of Australia's most loved award-winning actors, presenters and entertainers, having worked in radio, television, film and theatre.

His silver screen credits include Hollywood blockbuster **The Bourne Legacy** opposite Jeremy Renner and Edward Norton, co-starring with Paul Hogan in **Charlie & Boots**, **Cactus** with Bryan Brown, **Surviving Georgia** with Holly Valance and Pia Miranda, the voice of *Santa* in the animated feature **Santa's Apprentice** with Delta Goodrum and Magda Szubanski and of course **Kenny**, playing the title character and winning an AFI Award for Best Lead Actor in 2006, just to name a few.



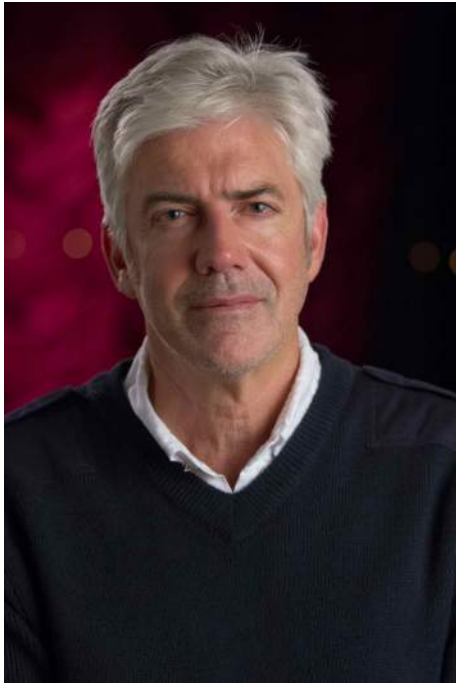
He also won a Helpmann Award for his supporting role in the revival of the stage musical *Guys and Dolls* in 2008 alongside Lisa McCune, Marina Prior, Garry McDonald and Magda Szubanski. In 2010, he performed with Geoffrey Rush and Rhonda Burchmore in *The Drowsy Chaperone* for the MTC and *Shane Warne – The Musical* (2013) with Eddie Perfect and Lisa McCune.

Shane's small screen appearances include roles in **Beaconsfield** as well as ABC TV dramas **Time of Our Lives**, **The Mystery of the Hansom Cab** alongside John Waters and in the **Jack Irish** telemovies with Guy Pearce. He also co-presented **The Great Australian Bake Off**.

Shane recently finished filming a feature film for Village Roadshow to be released in 2015 called **Oddball**. As well as performing, Shane has a passion for producing. He is currently the host and producer of **Hangin' with Hoges** for the ABC, co-host and executive producer of **Manspace** on Go!, Nine's digital channel, and in 2013 Shane became a best-selling Australian author after releasing his biography – *The Long Road to Overnight Success*.

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SHAUN MICALLEF



Shaun has starred on television, films, stage shows, radio and written television comedy and drama, as well as fiction. He also has won four Logies, an Aria and an AFI but, admirably, hasn't let any of this go to his head.

Shaun began his TV career as a writer for ABC's **The Big Gig** and then as a writer and actor for **Full Frontal**. From there, he went on to his own ABC sketch show **The Micallef Programme**, sit-com **Welcher & Welcher**, a talk show for Channel 9 – **Micallef Tonight** and news satire on SBS – **Newstopia**. Most recently Shaun appeared in and produced the series **Mr & Mrs Murder**, and hosted several seasons of the extremely popular **Talking 'Bout Your Generation** for Network 10.

His third season of **Mad as Hell** for the ABC aired earlier this year. He will soon be seen in the feature film **Sucker**.

Shaun's other television work includes guest appearances on **It's A Date**, **Danger 5**, **Offspring**, **L.A.I.D (1 and 2)**, **Thank God You're Here**, **Rove**, host of the 2001 **Logies**, **Shortcuts**, **The Panel** and **Seachange**.

Film appearances include **Arrowhead**, **The Cup**, **The King**, **Aquamarine**, **Through My Eyes**, **The Extra**, **Bad Eggs** and **The Honourable Wally Norman**.

Theatre work includes *QI Live* with Stephen Fry, presenting *The Best Of John Williams* for the Sydney Symphony, a national tour of *Good Evening*, the Australian premiere of *Boeing Boeing* and various comedy revues. Shaun was also the first host establishing Vega radio's breakfast program on weekdays.



STEVE KEARNEY

Steve was one half of acclaimed comedy duo *Los Trios Ringbarkus* that toured the world in the 1980's to global acclaim.

The group secured development deals with Paramount Pictures, Columbia and United Artists.

Later, Steve as a solo artist, landed sitcom development deals with Castle rock, Warner Bros TV, Fox and NBC.



Returning to Australia Steve formed Mini Studios, which has just completed filming **My Mistress** and is currently producing **Oddball** for Village Roadshow.



STEVE VIZARD



Steve Vizard is a Gold Logie Awarded writer, performer, lawyer, program creator and producer.

While studying law and philosophy at University of Melbourne, Steve and his mates established the University Law Revue. After practising law as a partner in a city law firm, Steve hosted his own top rating national 5 nights a week television show – **Tonight Live with Steve Vizard**, which saw him nominated four times for a Gold Logie and taking one home in 1991.

Steve has interviewed over 2,000 major names and his international interviewees are a ‘who’s who’ of the rich, famous, infamous, iconic and instant headline makers, from Bob Hope and Audrey Hepburn to Peter Ustinov and Woody Allen.

Also working as one of our most prolific executive producers and creators of iconic programmes, Steve originated **Fast Forward**, established one of Australia’s largest independent production houses – *Artist Services*, produced several series of **Seachange**, **Kangaroo Palace**, as well as founded *The Comedy Channel*, which launched the careers of a generation of talented Australian performers including Eric Bana, Shaun Micallef, Rebel Wilson, Adam Zwar, Gina Riley and numerous others. Steve’s radio show was twice nominated for *Best Presenter in Australia* and he has most recently been seen on **The Project** and **The Agony** series.

Steve has actively committed himself to public participation in shaping our community - for six years as President of Australia’s oldest and best-endowed public museum, the National Gallery of Victoria. He was the Chairman of Victorian Major Events for five years, securing numerous major events for Victoria; as an elected delegate of Victoria to the Constitutional Convention; as a Convenor of the 2002 Population Summit; as a keen advocate of Australian content and support of the arts, as President of the Screen Producers Association of Australia, Film Australia and the Children’s Television Foundation.

Steve has written and edited several books, including a biography of *Graham Kennedy*, *Best Australian Humorous Writing*, *Australia’s Population Challenge*, and *Two Weeks in Lilliput*, which became a nominated text on the HSC English syllabus. He has also written extensively for theatre and his latest play – *Last Man Standing*, will be the flagship of the Melbourne Theatre Company’s 2015 offerings, celebrating the centenary of Gallipoli.

In 1991, Steve and his family established the *Vizard Foundation* and *Vizard House* – a refuge for people in need, and he has directly supported many other charitable causes including establishing, with Walter Mikac, the *Alannah and Madeleine Foundation* in 1997.

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SUE INGLETON



Sue began her professional career in theatre around 1971 as a member of the Australian Performing Group-Collective in Melbourne at the Pram Factory Theatre. Prior to that in earlier days at Melbourne University (B.Arch), she was awarded the undergraduate Murray Sutherland Drama Award. Theatre is her life's passion, a passion that has extended itself not only into writing, directing and performing but also to teaching and thence to the discovery of shamanic theatre techniques enhanced by her own training and development, which has led to the training of young people, searching for their life path.

Sue has performed in the UK, North America, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, Greece, North Korea, the Netherlands, Malaysia and Australia with major theatre companies including Belvoir Street, STC, La Boite, MTC. La Mama, The APG, BREC (WA), Circa & Downstage, Wellington-NZ, ICA London, etc. Adelaide International Festival of Arts, Montreal Juste Pour Rire, MICF, Festival of Fools - Penzance, and New York International Theatre Fringe Festival.

She has written seven plays and two books, is a shamanic healer and sacred celebrant, and runs workshops in these areas. She has been awarded 7 Australia Council Grants, two Asialink Awards, R.E.Ross Playwrights Award, Edinburgh Fringe Perrier Nomination and the Sydney Myer Performing Arts Individual Award, along with The Gloria Dawn/Gloria Peyton Award.

“I have dedicated my creative life to fighting for equality for women. I am an Agent of Change. For me the personal is political and my work has been rewarded and awarded for its innovative, groundbreaking, rule breaking commitment to finding a truth in our world, a truth which will serve to both heal, to excite and make audiences laugh-at home and abroad.”



SUSAN PROVAN



Susan Provan is the Director of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, which, along with the comedy program of the Edinburgh Fringe and the Montreal Just For Laughs Festival, makes up a trio of the largest comedy events in the world.

In 2014, the festival sold just under 500 000 tickets, showcased 469 shows over 6477 performances, produced 8 hours of prime time television and post-festival toured a roadshow that visited almost 80 tiny towns and big cities from one end of Australia to the other as well as Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and four major cities in India.

Susan's previous roles include Associate Producer of State Theatre Company SA and General Manager of Circus Oz. She is a member of the Administrative Committee and chairs the Comedy Panel for the Helpmann Performing Arts awards, as well as regularly judging high-profile comedy awards in the UK and North America. She has served on the boards of Neonheart and Strange Fruit performing arts companies, and on the Playing Australia Committee for the Federal Department for the Arts and the Myer Performing Arts Awards Committee.

TIM FERGUSON

Tim Ferguson is Australia's foremost teacher of comedy screenwriting. He teaches at AFTRS, RMIT and Sydney Film School.

He wrote the bestselling comedy screenwriting manual *The Cheeky Monkey* and the memoir *Carry A Big Stick*.

Tim is a sitcom & feature script editor for production companies worldwide.

He's currently world touring with the Doug Anthony AllStars (DAAS).





TIM MINCHIN

Tim Minchin is an Australian musician, composer, songwriter, actor, comedian and writer.

Tim has performed on notable world stages including the Royal Albert Hall, Soho Theatre, Lyric Theatre, O2 Arena, Ars Nova in New York and ACME Comedy Theatre in LA. He has also appeared at the Montreal Just For Laughs Festival, HBO US Comedy Arts Festival (Aspen & LA), Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Cabaret Festival, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and the Big Laugh Festival in Sydney. Tim has performed sell-out shows at the Sydney Opera House, the Brisbane Powerhouse and His Majesty's Theatre in Perth, and his show *Ready For This?* toured the UK, Australia and NZ to sell-out audiences in 2009 and 2010.

Appearing frequently on television screens around the world, his Australian credits include **Spicks and Specks**, **The Sideshow**, **Good News Week**, **Adam Hills In Gordon St Tonight**, and he performed a new song *Lullaby* with part of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra on **Ben Elton's Live from Planet Earth**. Next year, Tim will appear in **Secret River** for the ABC.



As a stage actor, Tim has played title roles in *Hamlet and Amadeus* (Perth Theatre Co), the writer in *The Return* and performed in STC's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. He also toured with Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, cast in his dream role of *Judas Iscariot*.

Tim's feature film credits include **Two Fists, One Heart**, where he also contributed to the script and soundtrack of the film. He wrote a musical play – *Pop – a Tragically Musical Romantic Black Comedy*, and recorded an album, *Sit*, with his band, Timmy the Dog. He has composed and written songs, documentary and theatre – most recently writing the music and lyrics for *Matilda The Musical* for the Royal Shakespeare Company. His 9-minute beat poem, *Storm*, has been animated and premiered at TAM London, and he recently rejoined the 'Storm team' to narrate *The Story of You: ENCODE and the human genome*. Tim also narrated Shaun Tan's Oscar winning film **The Lost Thing**.

Recognised for his contribution to the arts, Tim was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of Western Australia. He is also an ambassador for The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts, Patron of the WA Youth Theatre and supporter of Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.

Winner of multiple awards: in 2005 Tim received the *Directors' Award* at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and *Perrier Award for Best Newcomer* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He was twice awarded Green Room Awards for *Best Artiste* and *Best Original Songs*, and once for *Best Show*. He won *Best Alternative Comedian* at the US Comedy Arts Festival (2007); Helpmann Awards for *Best Comedy Performer* and *Best New Australian Work* (2009 and 2011 respectively); Chortle Awards for *Best Full Show* (2009), *Best Music or Variety Act* (2010 and 2011) and *Best Tour* (2011); WhatsOnStage Awards for *Best New Musical*, *The London Newcomer of the Year for Matilda The Musical* (2012) and *Best Supporting Actor in a Musical* for *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2013).



TOM BALLARD



Tom Ballard is a comedian who gets to perform the ancient art of stand-up all around Australia.

He began performing in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Class Clowns competition when he was in high school but he never won it which has left him with an overwhelming sense of inadequacy and bitterness, and he'd rather we all just moved on.

He was a national finalist in RAW Comedy 2006 and based on that performance, which featured a joke about his small penis, he was approached by the hip and funky managers at national youth radio network Triple J. They offered him some airtime and he's since signed some contracts, and now they can't take that back.

In 2008, Tom was selected to perform in the MICF's *Comedy Zone* – a showcase of up-and-coming comedic talent. In 2009, along with his silly friend Alex Dyson, Tom took over the Triple J Weekend Breakfast shift, as well as performing his debut solo stand-up show – *Tom Ballard Is What He Is*. The show was nominated for a Golden Gibbo Award – an award that recognises shows which “buck trends and pursue the artist's ideas more strongly than [they] pursue any commercial lure”, and saw Tom become the youngest person ever to win the prestigious Melbourne Airport Best Newcomer Award.

Since then, Tom has performed at the invite-only Montreal Just For Laughs Comedy Festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and comedy festivals, fringe festivals, theatres and comedy clubs all over Australia. 2010 saw Tom and Alex take over the weekday Triple J Breakfast Show, following in the footsteps of the likes of Wil Anderson, Adam Spencer, Helen Razer, Mikey Robins, Marieke Hardy and Paul McDermott. After four years of *Breakfast with Tom and Alex* and winning an ARIA, Tom decided to hang up his headphones for a well-earned sleep in and to focus on his first love – stand-up.

You may have seen Tom wearing make-up and telling jokes on **Good News Week**, **Spicks'n'Specks**, **Adam Hills In Gordon Street Tonight**, **Can of Worms**, **This Week Live**, **The Circle**, **triple j tv**, ABC's **The Drum** or as co-host of ABC TV's broadcast of the 2011 **RAW Comedy** Final with the mega-awesome Hannah Gadsby. He also appeared throughout 2011 and 2012 as **The Project's** Resident Expert fortnightly where he pretended to get angry and know things about issues.

In 2014, Cordell Jigsaw Zapruder and the ABC discovered Tom's long lost audition tape for Australia's Next Top Model and decided to give him a job. Each Wednesday night through August and September, Tom had his very own show on ABC TV – **Reality Check**, in which he celebrated and laughed at the insane inner workings of the cultural phenomenon that is reality television.

In his spare time, Tom suffers from eczema and has fluctuating weight issues, and in the spring of 2010 he contracted scabies.



TONI LAMOND

In a constantly evolving career, Toni remains at the top of her profession. Born to an Australian show business dynasty, Toni's career began at age 10 singing on the radio and touring with her parents' variety shows, and has since encompassed musical comedy, straight plays, recordings, film and cabaret.

In Australia she went on to star in the original productions of *The Pajama Game*, *Oliver*, *Gypsy*, *Anything Goes*, *Tunnel Of Love* and *Wildcat*. Toni can be heard on the original cast recording of **Pirates Of Penzance** (also on video and DVD). On her own record label **LOLLY LEGS**, Toni can be heard on *Still A Gypsy* and *The Ultimate Singalong Vols 1, 2, 3 and 4*.

In the early 60s, a television pioneer, she was a regular on Graham Kennedy's **In Melbourne Tonight (IMT)**, ultimately hosting her own **IMT** – the first woman to do so. In the UK she appeared in nightclubs, revues, BBC TV and BBC Radio. She recorded two singles for Phillips, London.

Relocating to the US in the mid 70s through to the mid 90s, her theatre credits include: *Mame*, *Oliver*, *Cabaret*, *Annie*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Nunsense*, *The Mystery Of Edwin Drood*, *Sherlocks' Last Case* and *42nd Street*.

In TV she featured in: **Starsky And Hutch**, **The Bob Newhart Show**, **Eight Is Enough**, **You Can't Take It With You**, **Starman**, **The Tortelli's**, **Three's Company**, **Punky Brewster**, **Murder She Wrote**, **The Last Frontier**, **The Love Boat** and **Days Of Our Lives**.

Returning to live permanently in Australia, her Australian credits include: *42nd Street*, *The Follies Concert*, *Pirates Of Penzance*, *My Fair Lady*, *Walt Disney's Beauty And The Beast* and *Oh Coward!*.

Her Australian film credits are: **Spotswood**, **How Wonderful**, **Running From The Guns** and **Razzle Dazzle**.

Toni has won: 2 Logies, A Variety Club Award and a Mo Award. In 1993, she was presented with the *Key to the City of Melbourne*; in 2000 was included in the Victorian Honours List of *Women who Shaped The Nation*; in 2003 was awarded The Centenary of Federation Medal for *Services To The Community Through The Arts*; in 2008 she was awarded with the *Green Room Lifetime Achievement Award*; in 2009 she was awarded the *Sydney Theatre Awards Lifetime Achievement Award*; in 2010 she was awarded the "*Glugs*" *2010 Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Lifetime Achievement Award*; in 2011 she got the *J.C.W. Lifetime Achievement Award*. Toni has also been recognised by the City of Sydney for her *Lifetime Contribution to Show Business* and her *Ongoing Commitment to the Nurturing of New Talent*. Most recently Toni received the *Order Of Australia (OA)* in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Her autobiography is now available on Bolinda Audio Books. The second volume *Still a Gypsy* is available on Bolinda Audio Books.





TONY MARTIN



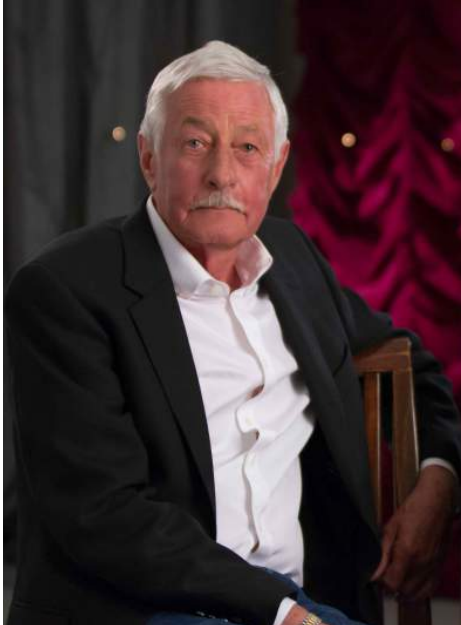
Tony Martin was born in Te Kuiti, New Zealand in 1964 and has spent over half his life in Melbourne, Australia, writing, directing, producing and performing all manner of nonsense.

His credits include **The D-Generation**, **The Late Show**, **Martin/Molloy**, **Get This**, and the books *Lolly Scramble*, *A Nest of Occasionals* and *Scarcely Relevant*.

More recently, he has produced and hosted two series of **A Quiet Word** for the ABC, written and directed episodes of **Upper Middle Bogan**, assisted Ross Noble with the birth of his TV series **Freewheeling** and performed a sell-out season of his one-man show *The Yeti*.

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this is serious

TONY SATTLER



Tony's long career started in advertising before moving into radio and television comedy, gala concert production, documentary production and even museum design.

With Gary Reilly he wrote, produced and directed **The Naked Vicar Show** (26 episodes), **Kingswood Country** (89 episodes), **Daily At Dawn** (26 episodes), **Brass Monkeys** (13 episodes) and **Bullpitt!** (26 episodes). They also wrote and produced numerous TV pilots and stage productions of their works.

On radio the pair wrote and produced *Chuck Chunder of the Space Patrol* (200 episodes), *Doctors & Nurses* (130 episodes), *The Naked Vicar Show* (26 episodes) and *Graham Kennedy's RS Playhouse* (13 episodes).

With David Mitchell he wrote, produced and directed **My Three Wives** (13 episodes), **The Bastards Next Door**, **Freckle Me Dead** and created the *NSW Royal Bicentennial Concert*.

He produced and directed the 2-hour documentary **Graham Kennedy: King of Television** and the 90-minute documentary **From Vaudeville To Video – A history of Australian comedy**.

Tony was responsible for creating and staging all the entertainment for the Gold Coast Indy Car Grand Prix and devising the multi million dollar opening of Melbourne Central retail complex.

With Craig Pattinson he designed and built the Mary MacKillop museum in North Sydney, and designed the Slim Dusty Museum to be built at Kempsey showgrounds. They also designed and built 'Walk A Country Mile' in Tamworth – a museum dedicated to the history of country music.

He has two Logie Awards – *Best comedy*, two Australian Writers' Guild Awards – *Best comedy*, two Sammy Awards – *Best Comedy* and the Australian Writers' Guild Freddie Parsons Award for lifetime contribution to comedy.



WENDY HARMER



Wendy Harmer is one of Australia's most versatile entertainers – broadcaster, author, journalist and stage performer, and is the Editor in Chief of *The Hoopla* – a daily online news and magazine website.

As a stand-up comedian she performed her one-woman shows at the Melbourne, Edinburgh, Montreal and Glasgow Mayfest Comedy Festivals, in London's West End and the Sydney Theatre Company.

Wendy enjoyed huge popularity leading Sydney radio station 2Day FM's top-rating breakfast show for 11 years and winning 84 of the 88 ratings surveys for that period. She has hosted, written and appeared in a variety of TV shows including ABC's **The Big Gig**.

A former political journalist, Wendy is the author of eight books for adults including her best-selling novel *Farewell My Ovaries, Love And Punishment* and *Nagging For Beginners* – a how-to guide for women. Her most recent novel *Friends Like These* was published in April 2011. Her first teen novel *I Lost My Mobile At The Mall* was published in November 2009 with a sequel, *I Made Lattes For A Love God*, published in October 2012.

Wendy's childrens book series about *Pearlie*, the park fairy, have sold more than 700,000 copies in Australia and internationally since the first title *Pearlie In The Park* was published in 2003. A stage show of the books adapted by Wendy played at the Seymour Centre in Sydney, and toured regional NSW in 2005 and then nationally in 2007. The animated television series based on Wendy's *Pearlie* books, co-produced by Sticky Pictures and Canadian broadcaster Nelvana, premiered on Network Ten in October 2009, aired on Nickelodean Australia and in 11 other countries around the world. Wendy developed the series as creative producer and has written many of its episodes. Wendy is writing another series of books for children called *Ava Anne Appleton*, the first of which, *Accidental Adventurer*, was published in September 2013.

Stuff, a four-part television documentary series, which Wendy produced, wrote and presented, premiered on ABC TV in March 2008. In late 2008, Wendy and Angela Catterns recorded a 16 part podcasting series for ABC Radio Local called *Is It Just Me?* which returned for a second season in 2009. Together they debated and discussed their observations and conclusions on everyday life. The podcasts are available for download from the ABC Radio Local website. Wendy teamed up again with Angela Catterns on ABC News Radio with a new show called **It's News To Me**, which recapped the week's events. Wendy still works as a radio broadcaster for the ABC. She has been a columnist for the *Good Weekend*, *The Sunday Telegraph* and many magazines.

Wendy and her husband Brendan have two children and live on Sydney's Northern Beaches.