

ABC HIGHLIGHTS



RIOT

World Premiere Sunday 25 February 8.30pm - As ABC Celebrates Mardi Gras



GRAND DESIGNS

New Series Sunday 25 February 7.40pm



HANNAH GADSBY'S NAKEDY NUDES

Series Premieres Tuesday 27 Feb 9.30pm

WEEK 9

SUN 25 FEBRUARY TO SAT 3 MARCH 2018



★ Top Pick

Sunday 25 February 8.30pm

ABC iview



Riot

Based on real people and events, RIOT shines a spotlight on Australia's 1970s Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement and the passionate individuals who, facing ever-present adversity, conceived a celebration of diversity, in what is now a key moment in LGBTQ history.

In the early 1970s, the Australian Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement is in its infancy, as women and men face police brutality, legislative persecution and social shunning.

Lance Gowland (Damon Herriman), a devoted and seasoned activist for various civil rights causes joins CAMP – the Campaign Against Moral Persecution — which focuses on law reform, educating the general public, and providing much needed community support.

Here he meets fellow activists Marg McMann (Kate Box) and Robyn Plaister (Jess De Gouw), Ron Austin (Josh Quong Tart), Peter De Waal (Eden Falk) and partner Bon (Luke Mullins), Sue Willis (Fern Sutherland) and Gabrielle Antolovich (Hanna Mangan Lawrence). CAMP's plans for social change involves engaging with the media and a telephone counselling service. But passionate firebrand Lance wants rallies and protests, he sees the loud and belligerent tactics of his union past as the only way to bring change.

Marg and Lance clash as well as complement each other; they're both natural born leaders, and begin to focus the group's energies on more effective law reform.

During this time, Lance meets Jim Walker (Xavier Samuel), a young, conservative doctor with whom he has little in common, nevertheless they fall in love. While Marg finds herself fighting for custody of her children. University students Peter Murphy (Christian Byers) and Jeremy Fisher (Will McDonald) bring new voices into the activist fray but they all face the continuing threat of job dismissal, violence, and inaction from politicians. Their resolve grows, and by 1978, when the push to decriminalize homosexuality has stalled, they decide to make one final attempt to celebrate who they are.

Securing a permit for a legal protest, on the evening of June 24, in recognition of Gay Solidarity Day, a small but passionate group collect behind a truck driven by Lance, to stage a street party and joyfully declare their pride. The night will be marked by great violence, but the ramifications will path the way for equality, and the establishment of a world-renowned parade that continues to celebrate the spirit of these brave, pioneering men and women.

Short synopsis

RIOT shines a spotlight on Australia's 1970s Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement and the passionate individuals who, facing ever-present adversity, conceived a celebration of diversity, in what is now a key moment in LGBTQ history. CAST: Damon Herriman, Kate Box

Production details

A Werner Film Productions made for the ABC, with major production investment from ABC Television and Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW. Produced by Joanna Werner and Louise Smith. Executive Producer Joanna Werner. Directed by Jeffrey Walker. Story by Carrie Anderson. Written by Greg Waters. ABC Executive Producers Brett Sleigh and Alastair McKinnon. ABC Head of Scripted Production Sally Riley.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera on 03 8646 2629 / 0418 813 071 or kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au

For preview, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



★ Top Pick

Sunday 25 February 7.40pm

ABC iview



Grand Designs

The brand-new series of *Grand Designs* is as engaging and entertaining as ever, and Kevin McCloud is there to share the emotional highs and lows of those willing to put everything on the line to create homes they hope will transform their lives forever.

This series starts with an ambitious upside-down, New Zealand-inspired hill house clinging to a steep slope in Worcestershire – built by a couple who bought the plot on the internet without seeing it first.

After a four-year stint living in New Zealand, ex-RAF pilot Jon and GP Gill Flowers decide to build a Kiwi-style hill house on the slopes of the Malvern Hills. They plan to build an ambitious three-storey home clad in wood and stone, but the pair encounter problems right from the start as the site is so steep builders do not want to take on the job. So, Jon takes another massive gamble and, despite his complete lack of experience, he quits his job and decides to run this tricky project himself. It proves to be an emotional rollercoaster ride, with unexpected challenges, leaving Jon struggling to cope.

Short synopsis

This series starts with an ambitious upside-down, New Zealand-inspired hill house clinging to a steep slope in the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, built by a couple who bought the plot on the internet without seeing it first.

Production details

Presenter: Kevin McCloud. Executive Producer: Fiona Caldwell. Series Producer: John Lonsdale. A Boundless West Production.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 8646 2580 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



★Top Pick

Tuesday 27 February 9.30pm

ABC **iview**



Hannah Gadsby's Nakedy Nudes

“The Nude” is one of the most enduring subjects in western art history. It has survived the crumbling of ancient civilizations and the shaming of well-placed medieval fig foliage. Art galleries today are full of nude bodies. Meanwhile, advertisers plunder the nude tradition to activate hidden triggers that convince us that in these undies we will look as fabulous as any Greek God.

How did that happen?

But how nude can a nude really be? Every nude wears multiple veils woven from the threads of context and history. Nudes are dressed in the assumptions of the artists that create them and the cultural periods that shaped them.

In this two-part arts documentary, Hannah Gadsby unravels the apparently simple practice of recreating our own nude human form. Hannah wields her wit and insight like a detective in a TV crime drama with a UV torchlight. Doing so, she disturbs unspoken layers of gender power play and unconscious messaging.

The series walks boldly between artful humour and accessible art analysis. It's an entertaining show, and full of surprises. In true Gadsby style, it gets you thinking even if you only tune in for a laugh. And for those art fans who tune in for their artsy hit, they'll get that through a heavy measure of chuckle.

Short synopsis

Comedian Hannah Gadsby takes a close look at one of the most enduring subjects in western art history – the Nude.

Production details

Barefoot Communications. Producer, Writer and Director Brendan Fletcher. ABC Executive Producer Mandy Chang, Linda Brusasco and Sally Chesher.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera on 03 8646 2629 / 0418 813 071 kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au

For preview, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Fleabag

Meet FLEABAG. She's not talking to all of us; she's talking to YOU.

A hilarious and poignant window into the mind of a dry-witted, sexual, angry, porn-watching, grief-riddled woman, trying to make sense of the world.

As she hurls herself headlong at modern living, Fleabag is thrown roughly up against the walls of contemporary London, with all its frenetic energy, late nights, and bright lights, in this very modern mix of fatalism and hedonism, sustaining a merry-go-round of broken dreamers.

Unfettered and unfiltered, Fleabag tears through the series sleeping with anyone who dares to stand too close, squeezing money from any orifice, rejecting anyone who tries to help her, and keeping up the bravado all along. Because that's just the kind of fucked up, normal person she is.

By turns hilarious and heart-breaking, this is the thoroughly disarming confessional of a woman so totally detached, she's utterly lost, and ultimately wondering what the hell she ought to be doing in life. Much like the rest of us.

Starring: Fleabag: Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Claire: Sian Clifford, Godmother: Olivia Colman, Dad: Bill Paterson, Martin: Brett Gelman, Harry: Hugh Skinner, Bank Manager: Hugh Dennis.

In this second episode, haunted by memories of her dead best friend, dumped by her emotionally fragile boyfriend, and now desperately trying to sell her stolen goods, Fleabag attempts to rekindle romantic fires to distract her from the mayhem of her life.

Short synopsis

Haunted by memories of her dead best friend, dumped by her boyfriend, and now desperately trying to sell her stolen goods, Fleabag attempts to rekindle romantic fires to distract her from the mayhem of her life.

Production details

Written by and starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Directors: Harry Bradbeer & Tim Kirkby, Executive Producers: Harry Williams, Jack Williams and Phoebe Waller-Bridge. Fleabag is a Two Brothers Pictures for BBC

Contact

Bridget Stenhouse, (02) 8333 3847 or stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Plebs

It's series three of Plebs and ... one year on in the eternal city...Tempus fugit.

Emperor Augustus Caesar is still the most powerful man in the known world. And languishing somewhere near the other end of the food chain are three lowly plebs: Marcus, Stylax and their feckless slave, Grumio (Tom Rosenthal, Joel Fry and Ryan Sampson).

As the ancestors of 'generation rent', they live in a squalid block in the worst part of town – presided over by the ruthless Landlady (Maureen Lipman). They work dead-end jobs for Rome's third largest grain supply company. And though the Games are in town, they can't get tickets for any event – not even the pig chase.

But an encounter with a fiery Gallic activist, Delphine (Bella Dayne) might at least improve Marcus' romantic stakes. Could she possibly become his Gaul-friend? Or is she just a bit too real for him?

As well as their regular nemeses, this year our Plebs encounter a legion of new Roman recruits: visiting parents (Samantha Spiro, Danny Webb, Steve Edge), a brazen Vestal Virgin (Michelle Keegan), a doping discus thrower (Ingrid Oliver), a theatrical grande dame (Miriam Margolyes) and an ancient weatherman (David Bamber).

Let the Games begin...

One year on in the eternal city...Tempus fugit and the Emperor is still the most powerful man in the known world. And languishing somewhere near the other end of the food chain are three lowly plebs and their feckless slave

Short Synopsis

The boys are desperate for tickets to one of the 'beast shows' at the Games, while Marcus meets Delphine, a fiery activist from Gaul, and Grumio clashes with Landlady, their missing landlord's formidable mother.

Production details

Starring: Marcus: Tom Rosenthal, Stylax: Joel Fry, Grumio: Ryan Sampson, Flavia: Doon Mackichan. Writer/Director: Sam Leifer, Producer: Teddy Leifer, Plebs is a Pegasus Films/Rise Films production for ITV UK.

Contact

Bridget Stenhouse, (02) 8333 3847 or stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Idiotsitter

Idiotsitter follows Harvard graduate Billie (Charlotte Newhouse), a cash-strapped, straight & narrow, Ivy League grad, who reluctantly interviews for a babysitting job to make ends meet. Only to find out too late that she's been employed to look after Gene (Jillian Bell), an heiress under house arrest in her daddy's mansion.

Also starring Chris Klein, Channing Tatum, Russell Stephen Root, Elizabeth De Razzo and Steve Berg.

Short synopsis

Harvard graduate Billie gets a job working as a nanny for a rich family in LA, but discovers she will be supervisor and teacher to a full-grown woman named Gene, who is under house arrest.

Production details

Directors: Nick Jasenovec, Jeff Tomsic and Kyle Newcheck, Executive Producers: Jillian Bell, Pamela Kohl, Amy Slomovits and Brady McKay.

Contact

Bridget Stenhouse on (02) 8333 3847 or stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Hard Quiz

Who's hard enough to beat TV's toughest comedy quiz? This week Tom Gleeson pits Dave's grasp of Benedict Cumberbatch against Paul's knowledge of Led Zeppelin, Kelly's understanding of US Geography, and Velvet's obsession with One Direction. Only one can be Australia's Hardest Quizzer and take home the Big Brass Mug – but after copping Tom's criticism along the way, will they emerge with their ego intact?

#HardQuiz

Short synopsis

Tom Gleeson takes four contestants through their paces to find the Hard Quiz Champ. Tonight, Benedict Cumberbatch expert Dave, Led Zeppelin expert Paul, US Geography expert Kelly and One Direction expert Velvet all play HARD!

Production details

A Thinkative TV production. Executive Producer: Chris Walker. Producers: Kevin Whyte, Charlie Pickering, Tom Gleeson. Series Producer: John Tabbagh.

Contact

Tracey Taylor on 03 8646 2313 or Taylor.Tracey@abc.net.au

For preview, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Squinters

Paul enlightens a hungover Romi on details of the previous evening, providing a witches hat as evidence he drove her home. And that they kissed. Romi counters with news she'll have to stop getting a lift when her shifts change and Paul suspects the kiss. His mood is lifted when she invites him in for coffee.

Barney is awakened by his experience with Daisey and he's chewing everything in the house, forcing Lukas to consider giving him the snip. Miles refuses to represent Lukas in the civil suit and Audrey threatens to cut him out of the will. Audrey finds a cheaper way to dispose of her body when she dies, asking instead to be thrown into a glacier by Tibetan monks.

Macca finally lands an open relationship score. But the tryst only makes him realise how much he misses his wife and so he asks her to recommit. Ned enquires about the best man gig but he's way down on Macca's list, until everyone else says no and he gets it. Macca rescinds the offer after Ned insults his intelligence.

Mia and Bridget compile a list of Gary's pros and cons to help decide if he should stay... and it heavily favours cons. Mia nails a rehearsal of her school talent quest performance much to Bridget's surprise, then finds out she read her diary.

Talia struggles with her administrative workload and the girls promise their yoga bar will be a better place to work. Someone at work steals the virgin hair stock worth \$24,000 and workmate Miranda shares a ride home. Simoni road rages and Talia bonds with her new driving comrades.

Short synopsis

Paul wishes he didn't bring up the kiss and Eric leaves Lukas, again. Macca gets laid, Mia compiles a list of Garry's pros and cons and Simoni is surprised by the cost of virgin hair.

Production details

A Jungle Entertainment Production for the ABC. Principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW. Created by Trent O'Donnell and Adam Zwar. Producer Chloe Rickard. Executive Producers Jason Burrows, Trent O'Donnell, Adam Zwar and Chloe Rickard. ABC Executive Producers Rick Kalowski and Andrew Gregory.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera on 03 86462629 or Kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au

For preview, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Thursday 1 March at 8.00pm



Call The Midwife

The wind of change is blowing through Poplar, with a new government paper calling for the eradication of small hospitals in favour of large General Hospitals.

Dr Turner and Shelagh are informed that an inspection of the maternity home will decide its fate - striking fear in their hearts. Yet when they rally the Nonnatus Team to discuss their strategy, they are appalled by Sister Ursula's point-blank refusal to help.

Sister Ursula has her own anxieties about the efficiency of Nonnatus House, and needs all her midwives close by, as she introduces a new 20-minute rule for all antenatal and postnatal house visits. Barbara struggles the most with the new rule, as she is drawn into helping first-time mother Lucy Chen, who is struggling with the Chinese community and to bond with her mother-in-law. But it becomes apparent that Barbara's shortened visit may have led to a serious oversight, when Baby Chen becomes gravely unwell.

Trixie returns to a warm welcome - but is horrified by the state of play at Nonnatus House and serious questions are raised over Sister Ursula's suitability for her role.

Meanwhile, Sister Monica Joan is also tense and agitated and has started disappearing for long periods of time - and there are growing concerns for Sister Mary Cynthia's whereabouts.

Short synopsis

The wind of change is blowing through Poplar, with a new government calling for the eradication of small hospitals in favour of large General Hospitals. An inspection of the maternity home will decide its fate.

Production details

Neal Street for BBC and PBS.

Contact

Safia van der Zwan on 02 83333846 or vanderzwan.safia@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Compass (Series Return)

What is confession and is the need to confess an imperative all humans share? In this Compass special, Kumi Taguchi reveals what confession looks like today.

The Royal Commission has called into question the Catholic version of confession and research shows it's a practice with a pre-Christian history. Today, divulging your innermost secrets to a therapist is a form of confession and confession is the cornerstone of a criminal admission of guilt.

Compass hit the streets with the Urban Confessional. Secular hipsters who stand on street corners offering passers-by a friendly ear and the chance to be heard. Andrew Spiteri explains *"there's so many distractions in this world that we don't often take the time to really listen to others or listen to ourselves and I think urban confessional teaches people to do that."*

Writer Ailsa Piper shares her story on carrying the sins of others, as she trekked across Spain. Walking with the sins of others she understood the need for absolution and forgiveness. *"I believe deeply in confession. I think it is us at our most vulnerable if we do it with an open heart and a deep need. I think it's also when I perceive people to be their most beautiful."*

Catholic priest Michael Whelan feels a deep responsibility in hearing confession and sharing the pain of his parishioners. *"I think human beings respond to an empathic listener, someone who's not trying to take advantage of them, someone who takes them seriously in their situation."*

Short Synopsis

What is confession and is the need to confess an imperative all humans share? In this Compass special, Kumi Taguchi reveals what confession looks like today.

Production details

I Confess is an ABC Production. Producer: Kim Akhurst, Researchers: Francoise Fombertaux and Mark Webb, *Compass* Series Producer: Jessica Douglas Henry, ABC Commissioning Editor: Julie Hanna, ABC Head of Factual: Steve Bibb.

Contact

Bridget Stenhouse on (02) 8333 3847 or stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au

**Program not yet available for preview.
For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**



Death In Paradise

Part one of double episode. A man is found murdered on his boat five miles out at sea, with no possible way a killer could have escaped. At first Humphrey turns his attention to the small group he was with the night before he died - but as the investigation deepens, the investigation takes an unexpected turn that requires the team to leave the comfort of their Caribbean island - and go searching for their suspects in London.

Stars Kris Marshall, Danny John-Jules, Josephine Jobert, Tobi Bakare.

Short synopsis

The first episode of a two-part special sees a murder investigation into the death of an enigmatic boat captain propel Humphrey, Dwayne and Florence to London in pursuit of their suspects.

Production details

Created by Robert Thorogood. Executive Producers: Tony Jordan and Tim Key. A Red Planet Pictures production for the BBC.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 8646 2580 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Comedy Next Gen

Comedy Next Gen showcases the next generation of stand-up comedians as they perform their latest live shows. The series features 13 comedians in their own special episode with an exclusive interview at the start of each episode.

Filmed over 13 separate nights, the best up-and-coming stand-up comedians perform their acts live at venues around Australia.

3RRR Breakfasters Geraldine Hickey is well-known in comedy circles to be a master story teller. Dry and deadpan, she always finds the funny in everyday life.

Geraldine's show is about a lot of different things including childhood tales, stories about sharks and whales, tattoos, and why she doesn't wear dresses. She explores the themes of empathy, disappointments and why sometimes it's not always a good idea to say, "Yes Please!", but when Geraldine does, at least we get a good story.

Short synopsis

Geraldine Hickey's show explores the themes of empathy, disappointments and why sometimes it's not always a good idea to say "Yes Please!", but when Geraldine does, at least we get a good story.

Production details

ABC TV Executive Producer, Nick Hayden. Series Producer: Lin Jie Kong. Associate Producer: Michele Esteves.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 8646 2580 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).

Marketing Contacts

Sydney

Bridget Stenhouse	(02) 8333 3847 / 0466 541 642 Stenhouse.Bridget@abc.net.au	ABC COMEDY, Compass, Catalyst, Fleabag, You Can't Ask That, Corey White's Roadmap to Paradise, Ill Behaviour, Employable Me, Back in Time for Dinner, Ask the Doctor
Kristine Way (LSL)	(02) 8333 3844 / 0419 969 282 Way.Kris@abc.net.au	
Safia van der Zwan	(02) 8333 3846 VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au	Hawke: The Larrikin and The Leader, Anh's Brush with Fame, Rake, Mystery Road, Invictus Games, Call The Midwife
Peri Wilson (Acting Publicity Lead & Communications Specialist - News and Current Affairs)	(02) 8333 2263 / 0409 888 866 Wilson.Peri@abc.net.au	ABC NEWS, 7.30, Australian Story, Four Corners, Media Watch, Q&A, Matter Of Fact, National Wrap, Insiders, Offsiders, News Breakfast, The Drum, Behind the News, National Press Club, The Mix, The World, One Plus One, The Business, Foreign Correspondent, Best of Fresh Blood
Amy Reiha	Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au	Tonightly with Tom Ballard, Back Roads, The Checkout, The New Legends of Monkey, My Year 7 Life, Play School

Melbourne

Kim Bassett	(03) 9524 2580 / 0409 600 456 Bassett.Kim@abc.net.au	Gardening Australia, Artsville, Jack Irish, Comedy Next Gen S2, Death In Paradise, Grand Designs.
Yasmin Kentera	(03) 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 Kentera.Yasmin@abc.net.au	Squinters, Think Tank, RIOT, Glitch, Rosehaven, War On Waste, Pine Gap, Don't Stop the Music, Monash
Tracey Taylor	(03) 9524 2313 / 0419 528 213 Taylor.Tracey@abc.net.au	Shaun Micallef's Mad As Hell, Harrow, The Weekly, Hard Quiz, Back in Very Small Business
Programming Enquiries:	Tania Caggegi (ABC & ABC COMEDY) (02) 8333 4633	Matthew Vieira (ABC NEWS & ABC ME) (02) 8333 1167
Media Portal: Mary Fraser	(02) 8333 3848	

Find publicity images and press kits for highlighted and ongoing programs at abc.net.au/tvpublicity

