

Sunday 20 to Saturday 26 August 2017



Week 34 Highlights



#ourABC

 **Utopia**
Wednesday 23 August 9.00pm



 **Catalyst**
Tuesday 22 August 8.30pm



 **Pulse**
Thursday 24 August 8.30pm

 **Story Time**
Daily from Sunday 20 August 5.45pm



Utopia



Jim (Anthony Lehmann) and Rhonda (Kitty Flanagan) ask Tony (Rob Sitch) for help building a new airport rail link - but Tony's proposal shocks them both.

Meanwhile, Nat (Celia Pacquola) has her entire week de-railed by a tweet. And the office welcomes their oldest employee who surprises everyone.

#UtopiaABC

Short synopsis

Jim and Rhonda ask Tony for help building a new airport rail link, but Tony's proposal shocks them both. Meanwhile, Nat has her entire week de-railed by a tweet. CAST: Celia Pacquola.

Production details

Utopia is written and produced by the award-winning team of Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner and Rob Sitch. Michael Hirsh is Executive Producer. Original Casting by Jane Kennedy. Series Casting by Kate Leonard. The series is directed by Rob Sitch. ABC TV Head of Comedy: Rick Kalowski. ABC TV Commissioning Editor: Brett Sleigh. A Working Dog Production, in association with ABC TV

Contact

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



Catalyst

We're living through a golden age of scientific discovery – and Catalyst returns to take you to the heart of the biggest science stories from Australia and around the world.

The series is made up of hour long programmes; each one looking at the latest science on single subjects from human health and medical breakthroughs to astronomy and technology.

We're aiming to capture the wonder and excitement at the heart of these stories and meet the scientists and researchers working at the cutting edge of these fields.

Many of the films are hosted by presenters chosen for their expertise and ability to communicate the discoveries in their fields. We dive into the hunt for alien life beyond our solar system; investigate whether seaweed can help save the world; witness some of the extraordinary techniques used in operations to heal the human heart and undertake a world-first experiment to understand how changing what's in your gut can radically alter your life.

We're also working with international co-producers to bring some of the best filmmaking from around the world.

It's a series that will surprise, delight, and inform in equal measure.

#Catalyst

Short synopsis

Catalyst returns with a brand new series of one hour specials exploring the latest science on diverse topics from human health and medical breakthroughs to astronomy and technology. #Catalyst

Production details

Catalyst is an ABC Production. Executive Producer: Aidan Laverty, ABC Head of Factual: Steve Bibb

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



Pulse

Tanya Kalchuri's (Pallavi Sharda) clandestine digging into Frankie's (Claire van der Boom) medical records threatens her own career: she could be prosecuted for breach of ethics. Her boss, Dr Chad Berger (Owen Teale), forces her to tell Frankie, who now must decide whether to report the misconduct or forgive Tanya her mistake.

Dr Eli Nadar (Liam McIntyre) and Frankie come together when Eli asks her to admit Naza (Aanisa Vylet), a Kurdish woman he found being abused on the street, who is suffering multiple health problems. But when police arrive and reveal that Naza has an expired visa and is an illegal immigrant, she flees the hospital.

Frankie and Eli are desperate to track her down in hopes of saving both her life and the life of her baby. But the incident brings Eli's past in war-torn Syria to the surface, putting his and Frankie's growing relationship in jeopardy.

Will they be able to trust each other with their respective secrets and wounds?

When Naza is readmitted, Berger, who is fighting his own health battles, treats and saves the patient, but earns the wrath of Immigration Officers.

#PulseTV

Short synopsis

Tanya Kalchuri is forced to tell Frankie she read her medical files - a breach of professional ethics; while Berger works with Eli Nadar to save a patient from deportation. CAST: Claire van der Boom, Owen Teale, Liam McIntyre.

Production details

A Clandestine Beyond Production with Screen Australia and in association with Screen NSW; Producers Kris Wylde, Antony I Ginnane; Created by Kris Wylde, Mel Hill and Michael Miller. Ep 6 Written by Mandy McCarthy and Directed by Ana Kokkinos.

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



Story Time

In celebration of Children's Book Week, 2017, don't miss **Story Time**, a delightful new *Play School* series featuring some of Australia's most loved celebrities as they snuggle up on the *Story Time* couch and read entertaining picture books written by Australian authors.

The 2017 Gold Logie winner Samuel Johnson, comedian Rove McManus, yellow Wiggle Emma Watkins, family favourite Grant Denyer, ABC's 7.30 host Leigh Sales and writer and actor Nakkiah Lui will all take to the *Story Time* couch to read one of seven books. They will be accompanied by *Play School* toys Big Ted, Little Ted, Jemima, Humpty and Joey.

During each episode, the Magic Story Drawer will pop open to reveal a special clue leading to the book of the day. Following this discovery, each presenter will then make themselves comfy on the couch next to their favourite *Play School* toy and begin to read.

The seven books, selected from The Children's Book Council of Australia's Notables Book List include *Zelda's Big Adventure* by Marie Alafaci and illustrated by Shane McG, *Pig the Winner* by Aaron Blabey, *Snail and Turtle Rainy Days* by Stephen Michael King, *Ducks Away!* by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek, *Goodnight, Mice!* by Frances Watts and Judy Watson, *Wombat Big Puggle Small* by Renee Treml and *Where is Bear?* by Jonathan Bentley.

Episode 1: Rove McManus – Sunday August 20 at 5.45pm

Join comedian Rove McManus and *Play School*'s Little Ted as they read a story about a cheeky pug dog in *Pig the Winner* by Aaron Blabey. What mischief will 'Pig the Pug' get up to next?

#StoryTimeABCKIDS

Short synopsis

Join comedian Rove McManus and *Play School*'s Little Ted as they read a story about a cheeky pug dog in *Pig the Winner* by Aaron Blabey. What mischief will 'Pig the Pug' get up to next?

Production details

An ABC Children's production

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



Midsomer Murders

Midsomer Murders is a successful British crime drama based upon the crime-novel series by author Caroline Graham which follows Detective Chief Inspector John Barnaby's quest to solve crimes that occur in the wealthy, isolated English county of Midsomer.

Death By Persuasion:

When a young girl slips away from a Jane Austen weekend dressed in period attire, and is found stabbed in the woods, DCI Barnaby and DS Winter need to look back in time to find the killer.

Stars Neil Dudgeon as DCI John Barnaby, Nick Hendrix as DS Jamie Winter and Fiona Dolman as Sarah Barnby.

Short synopsis

When a young girl slips away from a Jane Austen weekend dressed in period attire and is found stabbed in the woods, DCI Barnaby and DS Winter need to look back in time to find the killer. CAST: Neil Dudgeon.

Production details

Midsomer Murders is a Bentley Production. Executive Producer Jo Wright. Producer Ella Kelly.

Contact

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



Stacey Dooley Investigates: Young Sex For Sale in Japan

In a country obsessed by cute images of doe eyed characters, Stacey starts her investigation at one of the hundreds of legal 'JK Cafes', where girls as young as fifteen put on their school uniforms and are paid to entertain men, sometimes three times their age. Stacey listens to middle aged men unashamedly revealing why they like talking to young schoolgirls about life, relationships, and sex. She finds out that for some vulnerable schoolgirls, it can be a gateway into the more sexually exploitative sex industry.

Although child pornography is now illegal, the phenomenon of Chaku Ero is booming. It means 'erotically clothed' and children of any age, some as young as six, can be legally photographed in suggestive poses. And in Japanese Manga comics Stacey finds sexually explicit images of toddlers being sexually abused by adults. She meets the police who claim to be tackling some of these issues and the activists campaigning for a change in attitude throughout Japanese society.

Short synopsis

In this documentary Stacey Dooley heads to Tokyo, to investigate Japanese attitudes to children and sex.

Production details

Executive Producer: Sarah Waldron. Producer and Director: Joyce Trozzo A BBC Current Affairs production

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



The Deep

Based on the award-winning Australian graphic novels, *The Deep* follows the adventures of the Nekton family - a brilliant team of underwater explorers. With state-of-the-art technology and an unquenchable thirst for discovery, the Nektons explore the mysterious depths of the ocean, where most of our world lies unexplored and unexplained.

During this new series, the Nektons' search for the lost city of Lemuria takes on new meaning. More of the colossal creatures known as Monumentals are stirring in the ocean's depths, and only Lemuria's secrets can stop them from waking and unleashing their destructive power on the world. Nereus is certain that the Nektons, especially Ant, are key to unlocking those secrets. With the Ephemychron leading the way, the family follow its clues to ancient Lemurian outposts across the globe. But will they unlock the mystery in time?

The urgency grows as they discover that they aren't the only ones interested in Lemuria anymore—a mysterious young man with access to sophisticated technology is also looking for the lost city. The race is on—who will find Lemuria's secret resting place first and harness its legendary power?

Episode one: From the Stars – Tuesday August 22 at 6.10pm

The Nektons try to stop a fallen satellite's fuel from polluting a marine sanctuary. But someone else is interested in the satellite: Alpheus Benthos, who is intent on finding Lemuria before them!

Short synopsis

The Nektons try to stop a fallen satellite's fuel from polluting a marine sanctuary. But someone else is interested in the satellite: Alpheus Benthos, who is intent on finding Lemuria before them!

Production details

An Australian-Canada co-production between A Stark Production and DHX Media.

Contact

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



The House with Annabel Crabb

In Episode 3, take a behind-the-scenes look at just how much plotting, planning and rehearsal goes into the brutal piece of political performance theatre that is Question Time in the House of Representatives.

Australia is one of only a handful of democracies in the world that hauls its leader in every parliamentary day for interrogation. And it's certainly a spectacle. But does it actually have a point?

Annabel joins Government Leader of the House Christopher Pyne as he plans a raft of questions for the Coalition. These questions are called 'Dorothy Dixers', named for mid-century American advice columnist Dorothy Dix, who was renowned for making up her own questions.

We also plunge into the world of the parliamentary gardens, where the Horties (gardeners) keep up a good-natured rivalry with the Turfies (the grounds staff who tend obsessively to the grass covering Parliament House, and are responsible for its famously precise stripes).

When Parliament House was designed, the architects were determined that even the most miserable souls imprisoned inside would be able to glimpse some garden. As a result there are 23 hectares of gardens and courtyards, and more than 140,000 plants. We meet longstanding Hortie, Leanne Clarke, who discovers a horde of uninvited mealybugs on the plants and unleashes a vicious bug battle to eradicate them.

Short synopsis

A behind-the-scenes look at just how much plotting, planning and rehearsal goes into the brutal piece of political performance theatre that is Question Time in the House of Representatives.

Production details

Executive Producers: Nick Hayden & Sue Spencer; Series Producer: Madeleine Hawcroft; Director: Stamatia Maroupas.

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



Hard Quiz

The Weekly's Tom Gleeson is out to find Australia's hardest quiz champion, pitting four contestants and their nominated special subjects against each other in an entertaining, half-hour, battle of the brains.

Over the four rounds our contestants will not only be tested on their expert topics and face off against each other, but they will need to be hard enough to endure Tom's quick wit, caustic commentary, and intimidating stare downs, as he endeavours to separate the soft from the truly hard quiz contestants.

At the end of the episode, the two hardest Hard Quizzers go head-to-head for the honour of being crowned the Hard Quiz Champion and taking home the Hard Quiz brass mug.

Short synopsis

The Weekly's Tom Gleeson is out to find Australia's hardest quiz champion, pitting four contestants and their nominated special subjects against each other in an entertaining, half-hour, battle of the brains.

Production details

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

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



Growing Up Gracefully

In this six-part docu-comedy series, twenty-something sisters Hannah and Eliza Reilly set out to road-test advice for women from the past and the present.

After rediscovering the 1950s teen-advice book *Growing Up Gracefully*, the Reilly Girls take on the six key milestones of growing up: Looking Your Best, Courtship, Sex, Making Friends, Career, and Spirituality, navigating social rules of a bygone era with those of the present.

Hannah the reckless party girl, adopts the ladies' etiquette of the past, and in the process, is grilled by 'Deportment Queen' June Dally Watkins, reforms into a 1950s medicated housewife for a day and brings her mother along on a first date. While dorky home body Eliza, following the advice for women dished up by the internet, learns how to get the perfect 'booty shot' from an Instagram model, gets Botox to preserve her youth and aligns her chakras at a new age women's spirituality retreat.

It's the rules for women of the 1950's versus the rules of 2017, Donna Reed versus Lena Dunham. And as good musical theatre nerds, Hannah and Eliza wrap up each show with a big musical finale.

As the creators / writers / directors / sisters, the Reillys offer a uniquely millennial perspective. They have surrounded themselves with a team of amazing ladies, including Marieke Hardy as script supervisor and Series Producer Nikita Agzarian. There are actually so many women in the team, their periods have all synced, and together they are now unstoppable.

*"We're following more advice than you can daintily poke a stick at," Hannah and Eliza said, "all to learn how to grow up gracefully, whatever the f*ck that means."*

While co-hosting their community FBi radio show 'Girls Gone Mild' one Saturday morning, they got a phone call from Julian Morrow of 'The Chaser', and have been writing and developing with production company Giant Dwarf ever since. Hannah also currently hosts triple j's sex and relationships program 'The Hook Up'.

Short synopsis

Sisters Hannah & Eliza Reilly are two misguided twentysomethings, who after rediscovering the 1950's teen-advice book 'Growing Up Gracefully', ask themselves, as young women in 2017, how do we learn to grow up?

Production details

Growing Up Gracefully is a Giant Dwarf production, developed and produced in association with the ABC. Created, written, and presented by Hannah Reilly and Eliza Reilly. Executive Producer Julian Morrow, Series Producer Nikita Agzarian, ABC Executive Producers; Richard Huddleston and Michael Badcock

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Short Cuts to Glory: Matt Okine vs Food

Dinner parties can send you into a meltdown, days before your guests have even walked through the door. Matt finds out how to take the stress away with Miguel Maestre's paella. Miguel's paella is the simplest one-pan recipe that's so good, you may not want to share it with your mates. Also on the menu is Adriano Zumbo's epic chocolate brownies. These brownies are not just easy to make, they're practically good for you. And Bridgette Hafner's easy beef stew is the perfect dish for a winter's evening. Matt then catches up with Jemma Whiteman to learn all about essential frypans, while Alice Zaslavsky shares her slicing and dicing secrets.

Short synopsis

Dinner parties can send you into a meltdown even before your guests arrive. Matt learns how to prepare a stress-free meal with Miguel Maestre's paella, Adriano Zumbo's chocolate brownies, and Bridgette Hafner's beef stew.

Production details

Production credits: Executive Producer: Richard Huddleston. Series Producer and Director: James Peyton. Director: Dave Wallace. ABC Production Executive: Lou Porter.

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