



Sun December 20
to Sat December 26
2015

Week 52 Highlights



Doctor Who Christmas Special

Premiere Event Saturday 26th December at 7.30PM



The Boy In The Dress

Premiere Special Thursday 24 th December at 6.30PM



Banged Up Abroad

Tuesday 22nd December at 9.20PM



Royal Variety Performance 2015

Premiere Special Friday 25th December at 7.30PM



Doctor Who Christmas Special

Premiere Event

Alex Kingston returns to Cardiff to reclaim her role as Professor River Song for the highly anticipated 2015 Doctor Who Christmas special.

It's Christmas Day in the future and the TARDIS is parked on a snowy village street, covered in icicles, awaiting its next adventure. Time traveller River Song meets her husband's new incarnation, in the form of Peter Capaldi, for the first time this Christmas.



River Song made her first Doctor Who appearance in 2008 in 'Silence in the Library' and 'Forest of the Dead' and has appeared in 15 episodes to date.

Award-winning Alex Kingston comments on her reappearance: "To be honest, I did not know whether River would ever return to the show, but here she is, back with the Doctor for the Christmas special. Steven Moffat is on glittering form, giving us an episode filled with humour and surprise guest castings..."

Steven Moffat, Lead Writer and Executive Producer adds: "Another Christmas, another special for Doctor Who - and what could be more special than the return of Alex Kingston as Professor River Song? The last time the Doctor saw her, she was a ghost. The first time he met her, she died. So how can he be seeing her again? As ever, with the most complicated relationship in the universe, it's a matter of time..."

Short synopsis

It's Christmas Day in the future and the Tardis is parked on a snowy village street. Time traveller River Song meets her husband's new incarnation, in the form of Peter Capaldi, for the first time this Christmas.

Production details

Written and Executive Produced by Steven Moffat, executive produced by Brian Minchin, produced by Nikki Wilson and directed by Douglas Mackinnon (Doctor Who, Sherlock).

Produced by BBC Cymru Wales

Contact

Kristine Way on 02 8333 3844 or 0419 969 282 or way.kris@abc.net.au

Will also be available on 

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

**The Boy In The Dress*****Premiere Special at 6.30pm***

The Boy in the Dress is a book adaptation of the David Walliams children's book. Dennis is a 12-year-old boy who lives with his older brother John and their dad, Peter. He plays football for his school team with his friend Darvesh. Darvesh's mum Jaspreet is romantically interested in Peter. Since his mum left Dennis finds his world boring. In the local shop run by Raj he finds Vogue magazine, and following a fantasy sequence where he meets Kate Moss, he buys it.



At school Dennis ends up in detention where he meets Lisa (the coolest girl in school). Lisa takes him under her wing to learn about fashion. She makes him a dress. He wears it with a wig and pretends to be French exchange student "Denise" at Raj's shop. Raj doesn't recognise him.

Following an argument at home, to cheer himself up, Dennis again wears the dress but this time to school. It goes very well until French class, after which he gets into a fight, losing his wig. His identity is revealed and the headmaster expels him.

The football team in the final of the cup, without Dennis, are easily beaten in the first half. Lisa gets all of the team to wear dresses, as Dennis joins them to help win the match. Still expelled he discovers the headmaster wears women's clothes on the weekend. By blackmailing him, he returns to school. Peter has invited Jaspreet and Darvesh for Christmas. He is now romantically involved with Jaspreet. Dennis is happy with who he is. CAST: David Walliams, Billy Kennedy and Jennifer Saunders.

Short synopsis

Based on David Walliams' best-selling children's book, with an all-star cast including Jennifer Saunders, James Buckley, David Walliams and Kate Moss, The Boy in the Dress is a celebration of creativity, difference, football and fashion. A Christmas treat for the whole family.

Production details

A BBC Comedy production in association with King Bert Productions Ltd

Contact

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Will also be available on The ABC iview logo, with 'ABC' in a small box above 'iview'.

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



Banged Up Abroad

From an exotic holiday to a living hell, **Banged Up Abroad** is back to reveal more terrifying tales of every traveller's worst fear - imprisonment abroad. This season looks at the extraordinary story of an orthodox Hasidic Jew who becomes a cocaine kingpin in Brazil; a father and son smuggling team busted in China; two backpackers abducted in Panama on an orchid hunting expedition; and an American drugs courier caught in Nicaragua and accused of being a Drug Enforcement Administration agent. From gruesome jails to chilling kidnappings, live through the panic, tears and desperation as each frightful story unfolds.



In this episode, Scott Campbell can't wait to go travelling in China with his estranged father Lockie, and then he finds out his dad is secretly planning to smuggle 20 kilos of cannabis. When they're arrested, dad Lockie is jailed but Scott is released with a bag containing some of the undiscovered cannabis. Incredibly, Scott risks all by continuing the smuggling mission to Tokyo in order to raise money to pay for his father's lawyer.

#BangedUpAbroad

Short synopsis

Scott can't wait to go travelling in China with his estranged father Lockie, and then he finds out his dad is secretly planning to smuggle 20 kilos of cannabis.

Production details

Production: Raw Television for National Geographic Channel

Contact

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Will also be available on The ABC iview logo, with 'ABC' in a small box above 'iview'.

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Royal Variety Performance 2015

Premiere Special

Award-winning actor and comic Jack Whitehall hosts this year's Royal Variety Performance at London's magnificent Royal Albert Hall in the presence of Prince Harry.



Jack, the youngest ever host of The Royal Variety Performance, is joined by an all-star line up of performers from around the world, including legend Elton John, pop sensation Kylie Minogue, plus multi-award winners One Direction, and a magical show stopping moment from the cast of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's multi-award winning musical Mary Poppins.

The Royal Variety Performance also includes girl band Little Mix, a spectacular water-based acrobatic performance from the internationally-renowned Cirque Du Soleil, Britain's Got Talent winners Jules, Matisse and Friends, a rare appearance from Jeff Lynne's ELO, more music from Ricky Martin, The Corrs, The Killers front man Brandon Flowers, Josh Groban, and American country singer Kacey Musgraves.

There's comedy from Chris Ramsey, Romesh Ranganathan and Matt Forde who provides a political round-up of the year.

And there's more...the cast of Olivier Award 2015 winners The Play That Goes Wrong are joined by some surprise star cameos, and the Queen of British soul Beverly Knight performs a number from the record-breaking musical Cats.

#RoyalVarietyPerformance

Short synopsis

Hosted by Jack Whitehall from London's Royal Albert Hall in the presence of Prince Harry. Performers include Elton John, Kylie Minogue, One Direction, Ricky Martin, The Corrs, Brandon Flowers, Josh Groban and more.

Production details

The 2015 Royal Variety Performance is commissioned by Director of Entertainment and Comedy Elaine Bedell, ITV, and Peter Davey, Commissioning Editor, Entertainment, ITV, and executive produced by ITV Studios' Lee Connolly and Fiona Clark.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 9524 2580 or 0409 600456 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

Will also be available on The ABC iview logo, featuring the letters 'ABC' above the word 'iview' in a blue box.

Not available for preview.
For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Back Roads: Karumba

Back Roads transports audiences to some of the nation's most remote and inspiring communities that highlight rural Australia's trademark grit, generosity, humour and innovation.

Each week award winning journalist, Heather Ewart uncovers corners of Australia where misfortune has brought some to their knees, but imagination, faith and fun has lifted them back up.

Back Roads sees Heather swap reporting from political corridors of power to a new beat around the bush, as our witty and warm companion skilled at allowing the rural stars – the people she meets and places she visits – to shine.

Defined by their strength and humility, the characters of **Back Roads** are as awe-inspiring as the wild landscape that surrounds them.

Back Roads highlights the significance of place and how it inspires lives and passions writ large.

This week, Heather visits the remote fishing town of Karumba in Far North Queensland where she meets Scott Jones, a former US Marine who moved to this remote fishing town two years ago. As Karumba's paramedic, he collects the sick and injured in his 'troopy'. In his spare time he also saves the lives of wildlife and runs numerous sports programs for kids.

Lyne Russell has been working on and around prawn trawlers for decades. Her father moved the family up here back in 1972 in search of isolation, and Lyne has learned to love it, too.

Bryan Wilson has been around fishing all his life. He's born and bred in Karumba and insists you haven't been to Karumba unless you've been to the Animal Bar, once the toughest pub in Australia.

#BackRoads

Short synopsis

This week, Heather Ewart travels to the remote fishing town of Karumba in Far North Queensland and discovers why the locals love the isolation so much. CAST: Heather Ewart.

Production details

Back Roads is the flagship series of ABC Regional Division. Executive Producer, Brigid Donovan. Supervising Producer, Kerri Ritchie. Field Producers, Karen Micheltmore and Louise Turley.

Contact

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Will also be available on The ABC iview logo, featuring the ABC logo and the word 'iview' in a blue box.

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



Would I Lie To You At Christmas

Special

Rob Brydon is back in the host's chair for a festive edition of the award-winning comedy panel show. As always, Rob is joined by the lightening-quick, team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack.

Over the course of the show, a stellar cast of celebrity guests reveal amazing stories about themselves, some of which are true and some of which are not. The aim of the game is to fool the opposition into mistaking fact for fiction and fiction for fact.

#WILTY

Short synopsis

Special Christmas episode of the award-winning comedy panel show, where celebrities reveal amazing stories about themselves, some of which are true and some are not.

Production details

Zeppotr n for BBC, series producer Richard Cohen.

Contact

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Will also be available on The ABC iview logo, featuring the text 'ABC' above 'iview' in a green box.

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



Burger Bar To Gourmet Star

Britain boasts some of the best chefs and restaurants in the world. But it's also home to some of the worst food on the planet. In Burger Bar to Gourmet Star six fast food cooks with no formal training are given the opportunity of a lifetime: to be taught by some of the country's most refined Michelin-starred chefs and fast tracked through years of tough training in just a few weeks.

If that's not enough, following the gruelling training period the 'worst chefs', from greasy spoons, burger vans and local cafes will then face the ultimate test of passing themselves off as seasoned professionals to some of the crème de la crème of British cuisine.

In this episode, we meet Lee, 22, who works at his mum's café in the small town of Guisborough in North Yorkshire where he runs the kitchen and rustles up all day breakfasts and home cooked meals for locals and tourists. He's hoping his love of cooking can set him on the path to success as he has ambitions to run his own restaurant. However when his mentor Chef Tom Sellers, ventures to Guisborough to meet him and sample his cooking he describes it as "a heart attack on a plate" and worries that Lee has no understanding of food.

Tom thinks that Lee has too much bravado and struggles with authority but the tip of the iceberg comes when he is insulted by his comments and dramatically promotes him to pot washing duty.

After being told that he knows where the door is if he wants to use it, Lee doesn't give up and wins the respect of his colleagues with his refusal to quit. However Lee still faces the ultimate test – Tom is sending him to work at the 11th best restaurant in the world, Mirazur on the Cote d'Azur. Lee is nervous, will he be able to pass himself off as one of Tom's best chefs?

#GourmetStar

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Some of Britain's best chefs train up some of the country's worst. Lee works in his mum's cafe, can he be trained up by the youngest UK Michelin star winning chef?

Production details

Exec Producer Ian Carre, Producer Zoe Page, Series Director Tom Peppiatt,
Production Betty Productions for Discovery Networks

Contact

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Will also be available on The ABC iView logo, consisting of the letters 'ABC' in white on a red background, followed by the word 'iView' in white on a red background.

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