

A **Stan.** ORIGINAL SERIES

**RuPaul's**  
**DRAG RACE**  
**DOWN UNDER**

**MAY 1**



A **Stan.** ORIGINAL SERIES

# **RuPaul's DRAG RACE DOWN UNDER**

will premiere 1 May 2021 in Australia, only on Stan.  
It will also stream exclusively on WOW Presents Plus in the US,  
TVNZ in New Zealand, and BBC Three exclusively in the UK.



# SERIES SYNOPSIS

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Hosted by RuPaul, drag queen contestants compete in an elimination-style contest and strut their stuff in a variety of challenges - all to prove that they've got what it takes to be the first Down Under Drag Queen Superstar.

## FULL SYNOPSIS:

RuPaul, the world's most famous drag queen, is bringing her hit competition franchise to Australia and New Zealand with RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under. The best and brightest Aussie and Kiwi queens will compete for the title of the Down Under's First Drag Superstar with RuPaul presiding as mentor and host. Each week the queens are given outrageous challenges that test their fashion, makeover, dancing, singing, and comedy skills. At the end of each episode, one queen wins the challenge and the bottom two queens battle to see who stays, and who "sashays away" in the wildly dramatic Lip Sync For Your Life!

In 2009 RuPaul's Drag Race, a show that celebrated the art of drag, debuted on a small LGBTQ+ network, and has since shattered all expectations by becoming a major influence in mainstream pop culture - having launched the careers of over 150+ drag queens around the world, inspired top fashion designers, consistently trended #1 on Twitter, and attracted mega-talented guest stars like Lady Gaga, Lizzo, Miley Cyrus, Nicki Minaj and many more.

The series is as dazzling and hilarious as it is inspirational to viewers of all ages and backgrounds. When asked what makes Drag Race such a hit, RuPaul says: *"At its core, our show is about the tenacity of the human spirit. It's the common thread that we all want to be recognized for who we are, we all want to be loved, and we all want to be accepted. Even the toughest, most courageous queen who's fought the biggest battles, in their own family, in the neighborhood, with mother and father, to get on that show and say to the world, 'Here I am. And I'm gonna be proud of who I am, I'm not gonna apologize for who I am.' That's why our show is so much more than men in pussycat wigs and cha-cha heels. That's what people connect with."*



# EPISODE DESCRIPTIONS

## ★ EPISODE 1:

We meet the Australian and New Zealand Drag Queens who will be competing to become Down Under's first Drag Race Superstar. (Additional details) It's a hometown homage this week, as the Queens showcase their personalities in the 'get to know you' Ball.

## ★ EPISODE 2:

Episode 2 of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under follows the Australian and New Zealand Drag Queens who will be competing to become Down Under's first Drag Race Superstar. (Additional details) It's the time we've all been waiting for, as the Queen's don their best celebrity get-up to compete in the infamous celebrity impression Olympics. It's Snatch Game, baby!

## ★ EPISODE 3:

Episode 3 of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under follows the Australian and New Zealand Drag Queens who will be competing to become Down Under's first Drag Race Superstar. (Additional details) The Queens are split in two, as they compete in the ultimate Girl Group sing-off.

## ★ EPISODE 4:

Episode 4 of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under follows the Australian and New Zealand Drag Queens who will be competing to become Down Under's first Drag Race Superstar. (Additional details) The Queens are put through their paces with a sewing challenge that has them showcasing their best thrift flip.

## ★ EPISODE 5:

Episode 5 of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under follows the Australian and New Zealand Drag Queens who will be competing to become Down Under's first Drag Race Superstar. (Additional details) The Queens put their marketing hats on, as they are given the challenge to create and market a product, green screen infomercial and all.

## ★ EPISODE 6:

Episode 6 of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under follows the Australian and New Zealand Drag Queens who will be competing to become Down Under's first Drag Race Superstar. (Additional details) Can you see the family resemblance? The Queens are challenged to makeover and raise their very own Drag family members, out of drag first timers.

## ★ EPISODE 7:

Episode 7 of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under follows the Australian and New Zealand Drag Queens who will be competing to become Down Under's first Drag Race Superstar. (Additional details) The Queens compete in a talent show and attempt to cement their place in the finale of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under.

## ★ EPISODE 8:

The grand finale crowns the first ever winner of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under. (Additional details) The final Queens write their own verses to RuPaul's "I'm a Winner, Baby" and compete to be crowned winner of the first season of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under.



# BIOGRAPHIES - JUDGES

RuPaul Andre Charles (born November 17, 1960) is an American actor, model, singer, songwriter, television personality and author. Since 2009, he has executive produced and hosted the reality competition series RuPaul's Drag Race, for which he received five Primetime Emmy Awards in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. RuPaul is the most commercially successful drag queen of all time, and in 2017, he was included in the annual Time 100 list of the most influential people in the world.

RuPaul was born and raised in San Diego, CA and later moved to Atlanta, GA to study performing arts. He settled in New York City where he became a popular fixture on the nightclub scene. RuPaul achieved international fame with the release of the single, "Supermodel (You Better Work)", which was included on his debut album Supermodel of the World (1993). In 1995, he became the first spokesperson for MAC Cosmetics, raising millions of dollars for the MAC AIDS Fund, becoming the first man to land a major cosmetics campaign.

In 1996, RuPaul launched a TV talk show on VH1, The RuPaul Show, taping over 100 episodes with co-host, Michelle Visage, while simultaneously co-hosting a morning drive radio show on WKTU, also with Visage. Currently, RuPaul hosts a weekly podcast, called "RuPaul: What's The Tee?" with Michelle Visage. As a recording artist, RuPaul has co-written and co-produced fifteen studio albums to date, including Foxy Lady (1996), Champion (2009), Glamazon (2011), Born Naked (2014), American (2017) and You're a Winner Baby (2020) RuPaul's Drag Race has produced thirteen seasons to date and has inspired several spin-off series, including RuPaul's Drag Race: UK, RuPaul's Drag Race: Down Under and RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars. In 2020 RuPaul made Television Academy history by winning his 5th consecutive Emmy for 'Outstanding Host for a Reality or Competition Program' for his work on Drag Race. RuPaul was also featured as a host on the series Skin Wars: Fresh Paint, Good Work, Gay for Play Game Show Starring RuPaul, and as a judge for CBS global competition series, The World's Best.

As an actor, RuPaul has appeared in over 50 films and television shows both in and out of drag including Crooklyn (1994), The Brady Bunch Movie (1995), To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar (1995), But I'm a Cheerleader (1999), Comedy Central series Broad City (2017), Netflix originals Girlboss (2017) and Gracie & Frankie (2019), and the voice of Queen Chante in The Simpsons (2018). Most recently, RuPaul has teamed up with Michael Patrick King (Sex in the City, 2 Broke Girls) to produce Netflix original comedy series, AJ & The Queen, in which RuPaul also stars.

As an author, RuPaul has published three books: GuRu (Harper Collins, 2018), Workin' It! RuPaul's Guide to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Style (Harper Collins, 2010), and Lettin' It All Hang Out (Hyperion Books, 1995).

RuPaul splits his time between New York, California and Wyoming. He is married to Australian rancher, Georges LeBar, who he met on the dance floor in 1994 at Limelight Disco in New York City.



Emmy and Producers Guild Award winning, internationally renowned television personality, radio show host, podcast host, platinum-selling recording artist and author, Michelle Visage has made a name for herself in the entertainment industry, across multiple mediums for the past three decades.

Bestseller, *The Diva Rules* [Chronicle Books] offers Michelle's advice for living life to the fullest, and finding success no matter what hand you're dealt.

On the television front, Visage can be seen as THE judge on the multiple Emmy Award winning VH1 show, "RuPaul's Drag Race," alongside RuPaul, Carson Kressley, and Ross Mathews. The reality competition show leaves fans wanting more each week with their rapid-fire quick wit, impeccable sense of style and signature sass, as they decide who will stay or "Sashay Away."

Visage can also be seen as a judge on RuPaul's Drag Race UK next to RuPaul, Graham Norton and Alan Carr and that airs on BBC3 and BBC1.

Michelle is so excited to be a judge on the all new RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under on Stan TV in Australia and TVNZ in New Zealand coming soon.

Also on BBC3 and BBC1, Michelle and her family kept everyone's spirits high during lockdown in her own reality show *How's Your Head, Hun?*

Michelle was also a judge for both years on the IFTA-nominated Ireland's *Got Talent*.

Visage has been a staple on morning radio for 17 years, hosting and co-hosting programs on various stations such as WKTU 103.5 [New York], HOT 92.3 [Los Angeles], SUNNY 104.3 [West Palm Beach, FL], WMIA [Miami] and Sirius XM, to name a few. In this time, Michelle has recorded thousands of commercials and delivered even more live reads. She is currently a co-host of the hugely successful RuPaul's *What's the Tee?* With Michelle Visage podcast, which won a 2018 Webby Award as well as the show having been downloaded over 40 million times.

On the music front, Visage rose to fame as a member of the girl group Seduction in the early 1990s, with their platinum-selling album "Nothing Matters Without Love," that spawned multiple hits that climbed the billboard charts. Visage was also featured on the best selling soundtrack of all time [35 million copies sold], *THE BODYGUARD* [Warner Brothers Pictures], with her remake of Bill Withers' "It's Gonna Be A Lovely Day," that she wrote and sang. Visage was immediately signed to Arista Records by Clive Davis himself.

As a newly crowned dancer, Michelle competed and dominated in the 2019 season of the UK's biggest show, *Strictly Come Dancing*, leaving after a controversial dance off. She was the fan favorite and fell in love with the world of dancing!

Visage currently splits her time between Los Angeles and the UK. She shares her life with her husband, two daughters and two rescue pups.



Rhys Nicholson is a Multi-award winning Australian stand-up, writer, podcaster and collager. After moving to Sydney in 2009 at the age of 18, Rhys was very enthusiastic but had limited success as a comedian until in 2012 when he won the Best Newcomer award at the Sydney Comedy Festival.

For a few years Rhys quietly plodded along performing all over the place, trying to get better and not doing anything particularly special until 2016 when he was selected to perform at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala, he sold out his run, received a nomination for the illustrious Melbourne Comedy Festival Award for Best Show award for best show and went on to sell out shows throughout Australia and the UK. Also that year, to highlight the importance of marriage equality in Australia, Rhys publicly married lesbian and fellow comedian Zoe Coombs Marr at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Zoe won the award for best show. Rhys is fine with that.

With an enormous passion for performing stand up, his live work continues to receive awards and accolades around the world. Within two years he was nominated for an Aria Award for best Comedy Album, twice nominated for a The Helpmann Award for best Comedy Show and in 2018 he won the New Zealand Comedy Festival Best Show award.

Alongside a booming stand-up career, Nicholson is fast becoming a favourite across our small screens too. With a whole bunch of TV credits in Australia including various acting roles, panels shows, a documentary and an hour stand up special commissioned by ABCTV. In 2018 Rhys was invited to film yet another of his shows for the the BBC making is UK TV debut at the prestigious BBC Broadcasting House in London. Later that year he would go on perform in the Comedy Central UK smash hit Roast Battle. Rhys lost and is fine with that.

Then early 2019 the inconceivable happened and Rhys was hand picked to be one of three opening acts for Conan O'Brien during his Australian tour. Then a couple months later he was invited to Los Angeles where he made his USA television debut with a stand up spot on the Conan Show. Conan hugged Rhys. He was fine with it.

Never happy to sit still for very long, Nicholson is currently splitting his time between Australia, America and the UK where he has a number of exciting bookings and projects in development.



# BIOGRAPHIES - QUEENS



## ANITA WIGL'IT

Anita is the owner and resident queen of Auckland's famous Caluzzi Cabaret and the host of the TVNZ show 'House of Drag' as well as the monthly comedy show Drag Wars. Over the last decade she has wiggled her way into the hearts of many, winning both Vancouver's next top Drag Superstar and Drag Entertainer of the year in 2013, before returning to Auckland. Her favourite performances to date include Mardi Gras (Sydney 2016 and 2019) as well as Adele's world tour after party in 2017.



## ART SIMONE

Art Simone is the current reigning "Queen of Australia" and has played roles in Australian feature films, theatrical shows, television programmes, and commercials; as well as being awarded Drag Performer of the Year for the last two years running. Last year, Art travelled to Los Angeles and New York, representing Australia in the world's largest drag convention, RuPaul's DragCon.



## COCO JUMBO

Coco has performed on the Mardi Gras party mainstage many times and is a multi DIVA (Drag Industry Variety Awards) award winner most prestigious Entertainer of the Year in 2017, Sydney's Favourite Showgirl in 2016-2019 and Rising Star in 2015. Coco has worked with Absolutely Fabulous' Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, 2014 Eurovision winner Conchita Wurst, with Australia's very own Sandra Sully.



## ELEKTRA SHOCK

Elektra Shock is the Dancing Queen of Tōmaki Makaurau! Runner up on Season 2 of TVNZ House of Drag and; Star of Pleasuredome The Musical, the NZ Herald describes her as "utterly charismatic". Starting Drag in 2012, she is now a resident performer at a number of venues on Karangahape Rd. Her amazing dance ability, shocking high kicks and live vocals, puts her in high demand for corporate events and theatre performances around Aotearoa.



## ETCETERA ETCETERA

Etcetera is a striking non-binary drag artist, who at only twenty-two years of age has already made a splash within the Australian drag community for her aesthetic and activism. Known as the 'glamour bug', she runs the shows at one of Sydney's iconic establishments: The Imperial Erskineville!





## ★ JOJO ZAHO ★

In 2015 Jojo started her drag career as a political response to a council member stating that homosexuality is not part of the indigenous culture. So for Dubbo's first annual Central West Pride March she walked the parade in a costumes she made with both the indigenous and gay pride flag and she hasn't looked back since. Since then, she has made her first television cameo on Get Krackin, competing in the inaugural Miss First Nation Indigenous drag queen pageant, the documentary Black Divaz, and hosting the VIP party for the Newcastle leg of Cher's Australian tour.



## ★ KAREN FROM FINANCE ★

One of the most renowned drag artists in Australia; Karen was one of the original members of the award winning, cult queer cabaret 'YUMMY' and has built an international fan-base, touring the world with her singular brand of office-themed character drag. At the beginning of this year, Karen was appointed as an Ambassador for DragExpo in Melbourne. She has appeared at RuPaul's DragCon in LA in 2017, 2018 and 2019 in headlining performances, as well as headlining shows all over the US, including the Austin International Festival in Texas.



## ★ KITA MEAN ★

Kita started drag when she dressed up for a New Year's Eve party and wowed all her friends. Before long she found herself in the thick of the nightlife, firmly making her mark on the Auckland scene. A few years down the line she joined Anita Wigl'it as a drag duo where the two started a monthly event which gave local kiwi drag artists a platform to perform on called Drag Wars. Kita now co-owns the iconic Caluzzi Cabaret and Phoenix Venue in Auckland and has since hosted two series of TVNZ's House of Drag as well as maintaining her position as resident Drag Queen at Family Bar and Club.



## ★ MAXI SHIELD ★

Maxi has been a drag artist for twenty- three years, and is noted for her work within the community, including "Drag Storytime" where drag artists read stories to children, engaging them in fun and creative ways and conveying the overall message of inclusion. Maxi won "Entertainer of the year" at the Drag Industry Variety Awards in 2015, has been names Madonna's national Hostess for her Australian Rebel Heart Tour and has closed both a straight Olympics (Sydney 2000) and opened a gay one (Gay Games 2022).



## ★ SCARLET ADAMS ★

Scarlet is a burlesque performer, pole dancer, costume designer and self-proclaimed "party girl." Since she turned eighteen, Scarlet has worked tirelessly to build her reputation and brand as a drag artist. After only a year of doing drag, Scarlet won the prestigious title of Queen of the Court and ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR 2016 at the annual PROUD Awards.

# ABOUT WORLD OF WONDER

The world's foremost LGBTQ+ and drag entertainment brand, World of Wonder is the multi-award-winning LA based media company that has been bringing the best queer talent, stories and counterculture to mainstream audiences for almost two decades.

Founded in the UK in 1991 by executive producers Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, World of Wonder produced pioneering and headline-grabbing programmes such as *The Adam and Joe Show* (CH4), *Power Lesbians* (Sky One) and *Housebusters* (CH5). Expanding state-side in 1994, the team went on to produce award-winning factual entertainment, reality television and documentary content to critical and commercial success; as well as launching a specialist SVoD service and producing popular live conventions, podcasts and merchandising. Television highlights include: Emmy® Award winning *RuPaul's Drag Race* (VH1/Logo), *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars* (VH1), *RuPaul's Drag Race UK* (BBC3), *Million Dollar Listing LA & NY* (Bravo), *Dancing Queen* (Netflix), *Werq the World* (WOW Presents Plus) and *Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric* (National Geographic). World of Wonder also manages the global rights for all international versions of *RuPaul's Drag Race* and consults on *Drag Race Canada* (BBC Three).

Nine of World of Wonder's documentary films have premiered at the Sundance Film festival including *Becoming Chaz*, *Party Monster* and *Whirlybird* - which took home 2020's Sundance Institute | Amazon Studios Producers Award for Documentary Features. Other award-winning films and documentaries include, *Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures*, *Monica in Black and White*, and Emmy Award-winning documentaries, *The Last Beekeeper* and *Out of Iraq* (all currently available to watch on WOW Presents Plus).

Expanding its digital footprint, World of Wonder launched its specialist subscription on demand (SVoD) service, *WOW Presents Plus*. Landing in the UK in 2017, the SVoD is also available in America and 160 other countries and features World of Wonder content; including various titles across the *Drag Race* brand, digital series such as *UNHhhh* and *Morning T&T* and many of its documentary and film content.

World of Wonder also produces *RuPaul's DragCon*, the world's largest bi-annual drag culture convention. Welcoming more than 100,000 attendees across LA and NYC in 2019 (with Vegas scheduled for January 2021), the company expanded internationally in 2020 with *RuPaul's DragCon UK* taking place in London to a sold-out crowd. World of Wonder also co-produces the official *RuPaul's Drag Race: Werq the World Tour*, and the official *RuPaul's Drag Race UK Tour*.

Co-founders Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey authored *The World According to Wonder*, celebrating decades of production and have been honoured with the IDA Pioneer Award, named on *Variety's Reality Leaders List*, and chosen for the *OUT100* list for their trailblazing work in the LGBTQ+ community. World of Wonder was also selected for *Realscreen's Global 100* list, which recognises the top international non-fiction and unscripted production companies working in the industry today. World of Wonder creates out of a historic building/gallery space in the heart of Hollywood.

World of Wonder is a proud industry outsider and dedicated to celebrating and highlighting the talent and magic of marginalised voices.



# Stan.

## ORIGINALS

Stan is Australia's leading local subscription video-on-demand streaming service provider and the unrivalled home of Australian original productions.

Stan Originals include the AACTA Award-winning and Logie Award-nominated series NO ACTIVITY and WOLF CREEK; the critically acclaimed and Logie-Award winning drama series ROMPER STOMPER and BLOOM (featuring a Logie Award-winning performance by Jacki Weaver); and Stan Original Film THE SECOND (featuring Susie Porter in a Logie Award-nominated performance). Stan's more recent lineup includes THE GLOAMING, starring Emma Booth, Ewen Leslie and Aaron Pedersen; THE OTHER GUY: SEASON 2, with Matt Okine, Harriet Dyer, and Claudia Karvan with Gracie Otto on directing duties; THE COMMONS, starring Joanne Froggatt, David Lyons, and Rupert Penry-Jones; Stan Original Film TRUE HISTORY OF THE KELLY GANG, starring Essie Davis, Russell Crowe and George MacKay and directed by Justin Kurzel; BLOOM: SEASON 2, featuring Jacki Weaver, Bryan Brown, Phoebe Tonkin and Jacqueline McKenzie; and THE AUSTRALIAN LOCKDOWN COMEDY SPECIAL, featuring over 20 comedians including Wil Anderson, Dave Hughes, Cal Wilson and Nazeem Hussain.

Stan has since added even more originals to its slate, with more productions and premieres going ahead or currently underway. These include the Stan Original Film RELIC, a haunting thriller from emerging Japanese-Australian director Natalie Erika James and led by an all-female cast including Emily Mortimer, Robyn Nevin and Bella Heathcote; I AM WOMAN, an inspiring film based on Aussie songstress and feminist icon Helen Reddy; DOM AND ADRIAN: 2020, a half hour comedy special featuring your favourite Bondi Hipsters; EDEN, an eight-part drama series that explores what lurks beneath the dark heart of paradise; BUMP, a 10-part modern parenthood tale starring Claudia Karvan; the four-part true crime series AFTER THE NIGHT, which investigates one of Australia's deadliest serial killers; and the heartfelt family comedy Christmas film, A SUNBURNT CHRISTMAS, directed by Christiaan Van Vuuren and starring Daniel Henshall and Sullivan Stapleton.

For more information, [VISIT STAN.COM.AU](https://www.stan.com.au).

Stan Original Series RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under is an 8x60' World of Wonder production in collaboration with Warner Bros. International Production New Zealand for Stan in Australia, TVNZ in New Zealand and WOW Presents Plus. Randy Barbato, Fenton Bailey, Tom Campbell, and RuPaul Charles serve as Executive Producers. Vicki Keogh (TVNZ), Nick Forward (Stan), and Greg Heathcote (WB) also serve as Executive Producers. Passion Distribution distributes the series globally in line with Passion Distribution and WOW's distribution strategy.

# **Stan.**

**ORIGINALS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
**STAN PUBLICITY**  
[stan.publicity@stan.com.au](mailto:stan.publicity@stan.com.au)