

Sunday 28 January to Saturday 3 February 2018



Week 5 Highlights



The New Legends Of Monkey
Premieres Sunday 28 Jan 6.00pm

Boxset on iview



The Checkout
Tuesday 30 Jan 8.00pm



Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL
New Series Wednesday 31 Jan 8.30pm

Catalyst
Tuesday 30 Jan 8.30pm



The New Legends Of Monkey

The world of The Legend of Monkey is marked by the clash of three beings: gods, demons and humans. Traditionally, gods have used their power to counter the forces of demons, maintaining the cosmic balance that allowed the world to function as it should.

Five hundred years before our story begins, the world was in balance. Gods ruled peacefully, harmoniously. Demons were in hiding, their powers held in check by the gods. Humans were free to live a life unencumbered by the scattergun forces of darkness. There was happiness across the land.

Monkey, a young god born from a stone on a mountaintop, lived in plain sight, enjoying Monkey-ish pursuits with his monkey brethren. Monkey's very existence was special and he was earmarked for great things by the gods.

That's how it used to be... But then everything changed.

A battle between the gods and demons, one that was unwittingly set into motion by the young Monkey god. What did he do? Only Monkey can remember. As punishment the gods locked him in a statue, frozen in time. But it was too late. The forces of evil were now out in the world, which was plunged into an almighty chaos that has been raging for five hundred years.

Today the ranks of demons have swelled to the point where they are the majority. They inhabit the world inciting disorder and anarchy, as their power grows unopposed.

The gods, their numbers dwindling as they are hunted like animals, have gone into hiding. Their powers have been greatly reduced, almost entirely lost. And the people, abandoned and confused, have lost their way. A great darkness approaches and there is no end in sight.

A motley trio of fallen gods with magical superpowers and incredible martial arts skills are working together to put the world back into balance, trying to regain the godly powers they once had. They escort a young girl disguised as a monk on a perilous quest to bring an end to demonic rule and restore balance to the world.

Short synopsis

Inspired by the 16th Century Chinese fable Journey to the West, follow a teenage girl & a trio of fallen gods on a perilous journey as they attempt to bring an end to a demonic reign of chaos & restore balance to their world.

Production details

The Legend of Monkey is produced for ABC, Netflix and TVNZ by the Oscar and Emmy-winning production company See-Saw Films together with Jump Film & TV. The series is an official New Zealand/Australian co-production with principal investment from Screen Australia in association with Screen NSW, Fulcrum Media Finance and the New Zealand Screen Production Grant.

Contact

Amy Reiha (02) 8333 3852 / 0404 026 039 or Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au

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



★Top Pick

Tuesday 30 January at 8.00pm

ABC iview



The Checkout

Australia's leading - and only - satirical consumer affairs show, **The Checkout**, returns to ABC with 12 new 30 minute episodes on Tuesday 30 January 2018 with:

***NEW LOOK!** *The Checkout* has had an extreme makeover with new logo, show branding and theme music.

***NEW TIMESLOT!** after 5 years airing on Thursdays, *The Checkout* moves to Tuesday nights 8pm

***NEW SEGS!** like *Shocking Savings*, Craig Reucassel, fresh from the success of his *War on Waste*, hunts for practical ways to save you money on your power bills. Of course you'll need to have your TV on to find out how, but you're welcome to unplug it after!

And in *What To Reject When You're Expecting*, presenter and expectant mother Zoe Norton Lodge explores the questionable products flogged to expecting couples and recommends cheap, effective alternatives that aren't marketed to a Guilty Mum.

Series 6 also sees the return of old favourites such as *Product vs Packshot*, *The Catch*, *Asterisk Man*, *Signs of the Times* ... and the outlet for viewer complaints *FUtube*.

And as always, the core of *The Checkout* will continue to be stories addressing all manner of consumer issues that directly affect your life... and will help save you money. Topics on the menu including buying a TV, bed sheets, and bread; aged care; life insurance in superannuation; and dealing with the challenge/horror of building your own home.

Each episode will tackle issues that face all of us when we open our wallets - identifying ways consumers are being taken advantage of, manipulated and ripped off... even if there's nothing illegal about it.

#TheCheckout

Short synopsis

Australia's leading & only satirical consumer affairs show returns with a new look, new timeslot & new segments as well as stories addressing all manner of consumer issues that affect your life & help save you money.

Production details

The Checkout is a co-production between Giant Dwarf, CJZ and ABC TV.

Contact

Amy Reiha on (02) 8333 3852 / 0404 026 039 or Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au

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



★ Top Pick

Tuesday 30 January at 8.30pm



Catalyst

From the science of making choices to the solving power of algorithms, Mathematician Lily Serna looks at how logic of mathematics can help you make better, smarter decisions.

Mathematician Lily Serna believes maths can provide the answers to life's tough decisions and she's going to show us how in the first of the new series of Catalyst.

While searching for the perfect beach she reveals the formula for making blind choices. She also shows how logic can make you better at games and even tell which queue to join at the supermarket. Lily introduces some 'mathsphobics' to the 'Monty Hall Dilemma'. A gameshow conundrum that will make you radically rethink your decisions in a game of chance.

Lifting the lid on algorithms, Lily uses them to solve an orienteering challenge and we enter the world of the optimised warehouse where all the decisions are made by these logic rules. She also sees how human intuition and maths make a powerful team, meeting designer Jason Grech who uses artificial intelligence in the design of his couture gowns.

Finally, she explores the maths of chaos and how it's used to decide what the weather will do.

Short synopsis

From the science of making choices to the solving power of algorithms, Mathematician Lily Serna looks at how logic of mathematics can help you make better, smarter decisions.

Production details

ABC Head of Factual: Steve Bibb, Executive Producer: Aidan Lavery

Contact

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

**Preview file available shortly.
For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**



★Top Pick

Wednesday 31 January at 8.30pm



Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL

In a move guaranteed to prompt a flurry of poorly worded questions at the next Senate Estimates Committee, Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL returns in 2018 for its own record-breaking eighth season. Like a frenzied ape running amok in a museum of priceless Tiffany lamps, the Mad As team cleverly deconstructs Australian politics in the hope that it can be rebuilt into something more useful, like a giant Lithium battery, a climate policy that makes sense or perhaps an ashtray. Stars Shaun Micallef, Roz Hammond, Emily Taheny, Stephen Hall and Tosh Greenslade - with special guest star Francis Greenslade as 'Dr Smith'.

#MadAsHell

Short synopsis

NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL JANUARY

Production details

Produced by ITV Studios Australia and Giant Baby in association with ABC TV. Executive Producers: Peter Beck and Shaun Micallef. ABC Executive Producer: Tarni James.

Contact

Tracey Taylor on 03 8646 2313 / 0419 528 213 or taylor.tracey@abc.net.au

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

Back Roads (Final)



Back Roads presenter Heather Ewart drives herself into Violet Town with the family dog Wags, who years back was bought at Violet Town's famous monthly market. Just over 1000 people live in Violet Town, but their welcoming ways and broadmindedness attract plenty more visitors, often for the many fundraising events that are held throughout the year.

Many travellers detour off the Hume highway to visit Violet Town's Op Shop. Staffed by volunteers, the Op Shop raises thousands of dollars each year, which is then handed over in cheques to local organisations in need of a boost. The Op Shop is also the ideal place to find a costume for one of the town's biggest community fundraisers – the annual street party, named Nightmare on Cowslip Street.

Heather gets some assistance picking out her costume from inspirational local Di Reeves. Di has a huge wardrobe of heels, dresses, and wigs at home, but for most of her life she's had to keep it a secret. Di is transgender and only revealed her true identity recently, at the age of 65. Before coming to Violet Town, she lived her life as Dave, a dairy farmer and truck driver.

Di gained more confidence when Violet Town's only policeman, Pat Storer, put up the rainbow flag outside the police station in the main street, as a gesture of solidarity and acceptance.

Pat didn't anticipate the huge impact flying the flag would have on many townspeople. Pat has struck up a friendship with the Victorian Gender and Sexuality Commissioner Ro Allen, who also lives in Violet Town. Ro Allen says it's this sense of inclusiveness that encouraged Ro and her partner Kaye to choose Violet Town as the place to raise their family.

Violet Town has also produced one of the biggest acts in Australian music, Killing Heidi. Their mother Helen Keighery and stepfather Howard are heavily involved in the community, and work hard to ensure the town keeps thriving.

Violet Town seems to constantly have new projects on the go, aimed at making people feel inspired and included, and to draw more newcomers to their patch. This is a place that welcomes diversity, and accepts people for who they are – the essence of a happy and cohesive community

#BackRoads

Short synopsis

Violet Town, Victoria, is a small place with a very big heart. It might be well-known by some for its popular monthly market, but it's the way Violet Town locals embrace creativity & diversity that really makes a difference.

Production details

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

Contact

Amy Reiha on (02) 8333 3852 or Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au
or Xenica Ayling on (02) 8333 2733 or Ayling.Xenica@abc.net.au

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



The Best Of Fresh Blood

Comedian Wil Anderson presents a 3 part special *The Best of Fresh Blood*, which shines a spotlight on some of the funniest and brightest sketches to come out of the latest round of Fresh Blood. Fresh Blood is the ABC and Screen Australia initiative to kickstart the careers of our nation's finest emerging comedy writers, directors and performers.

Twenty chosen comedy teams have created 3 x 5 minute sketches. Original and laugh out loud, from animated ibis to kung fu crime fighters, the variety and talent showcased in these short comedy sketches will impress.

All sketches are available to binge on ABC Comedy on iView.

#FreshBlood

Short synopsis

Comedian Wil Anderson presents part 2 of a 3-part special, *The Best of Fresh Blood*, which shines a spotlight on some of the funniest and brightest sketches to come out of the latest round of Fresh Blood.

Production details

Fresh Blood is an ABC Production in association with Screen Australia.

Contact

Peri Wilson on 02 8333 3845 or wilson.peri@abc.net.au

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



Upstart Crow

From the quill of Ben Elton (*Black Adder*) this rip-roaring comedy is a fictional account of the Bard's early career.

It's 1592 and Will Shakespeare is just at the beginning of his career. His early work is looked down on by the literary establishment, and he's not taken seriously at home. Will feels like he's a great playwright in the making, if only he could catch a break. And his troubles don't stop there. Will is under pressure to churn out more work, undermined by his snooty rival Robert Greene, and his badly-behaved parents are living in his house. As he struggles to make his name, Will mislays a nearly treasonous masterpiece, gets tricked into wearing a very embarrassing pair of tights, has a spot of bother with the wife over some sonnets, and meets three witches who predict great things for him. Packed with sparkling wordplay, **Upstart Crow** pays fitting comic tribute to the greatest writer in the history of the English language – and reveals some rather surprising stories about where his best ideas came from.

In the first episode, Will struggles to find inspiration for Romeo while at the same time having to deal with an angry actor, a very annoying house-guest, and his family's not-terribly-helpful script suggestions.

Starring: David Mitchell as Will Shakespeare, Harry Enfield as John Shakespeare, Liza Tarbuck as Anne Hathaway, Gemma Whelan as Kate, Mark Heap as Sir Robert Greene.

Short synopsis

Will Shakespeare struggles to find inspiration for Romeo while at the same time having to deal with an angry actor, a very annoying house-guest, and his family's not-terribly-helpful script suggestions.

Production details

Writer: Ben Elton Blackadder, (*The Young Ones*), Director: Matt Lipsey, (*Little Britain*), Producer: Gareth Edwards, (*That Mitchell and Webb Look*), Executive Producer: Myfanwy Moore (*Little Britain*, *The Wrong Mans*)

Upstart Crow is a BBC production

Contact

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

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



Saturday 3 February 7.30pm



Death In Paradise

The sun-soaked, popular whodunit series **DEATH IN PARADISE** returns, as DI Humphrey Goodman (Kris Marshall) hopes to find love on the idyllic island of Saint Marie.

This series finds DI Humphrey Goodman eagerly awaiting the return of Martha (Sally Bretton), an old acquaintance from London. But as soon as she arrives on the island, their burgeoning romance is put to the test by an untimely murder...

A scientist studying a live volcano is found dead halfway up the mountain, and the evidence points to a heart attack. Humphrey is convinced one of the dead man's colleagues murdered him – an unlikely possibility, since they all have alibis. Away from the investigation, Humphrey eagerly awaits Martha's return to the island, while JP settles into married life and Dwayne makes an error of judgment while talking to a journalist.

Guest stars: Douglas Hodge, Natasha Little and Sally Bretton.

Short synopsis

The death of a scientist on the side of a live volcano proves a difficult case to crack for Humphrey and his team when everything appears to point to a death from natural causes.

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

**Program not yet available for preview.
For 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, Keeping Australia Safe, Murder in Successville, You Can't Ask That, Corey White, Catastrophe, GameFace, Inside Amy Schumer, Ill Behaviour, Fake or Fortune?
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	Countdown Live NYE 2017, Hawke, Anh's Brush with Fame, Rake, Mystery Road, Invictus Games
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, Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Media Watch, Q&A, Insiders, News Breakfast, The Drum, Offsiders, Behind the News, National Press Club, The Mix, The World, One Plus One, The Business, Australian Story, Best of Fresh Blood
Amy Reiha	Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au	Tonightly with Tom Ballard, Back Roads, The Checkout, The New Legend 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
Yasmin Kentera	(03) 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 Kentera.Yasmin@abc.net.au	Squinters, Think Tank, RIOT, Glitch, Rosehaven, War On Waste, Kiki and Kitty, 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 3843
Media Portal: Mary Fraser	(02) 8333 3848	

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