





ABC News Special: US Presidential Inauguration
Saturday 21 January from 3.00am





Grand Designs: Living In Specials
Sunday 15 January 7.40pm







ABC How To Build A Human
Premiere Special Wednesday 18 Jan 9.20pm



Stephen Fry In Central America
Tuesday 17 January 8.30pm



ABC News Special: US Presidential Inauguration

On Saturday morning president elect Donald Trump will assume the role of chief executive of the United States and News 24 will have comprehensive coverage of his inauguration.

From 3am (AEDT) we'll be live in Washington where people of all stripes will attend the ceremony - some to celebrate and others to commiserate.



Planet America hosts John Barron and Chas Licciardello will lead our coverage with context and analysis of the big day.

When Donald Trump replaces Barack Obama in the White House all the eyes of the world will be on Mr Trump as he takes the oath of office and offers his inaugural address.

See it all on ABC news 24 from 3am (AEDT) Saturday January 21.

Short synopsis

When Donald Trump replaces Barack Obama in the White House all the eyes of the world will be on Mr Trump as he takes the oath of office and offers his inaugural address.

Production details

ABC TV

Contact

Safia van der Zwan on 02 8333 3846 or VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au



How To Build A Human

Gemma Chan, the star of critically acclaimed drama series 'Humans', explores the frontiers of cutting edge research into Artificial Intelligence and builds an AI version of herself. Gemma asks the question; Is a future of lifelike robots many years away, just around the corner, or is it already here?

Almost every facet of modern human life is already filled with intelligent programs, called Als, that excel at individual tasks but none of them yet has the incredible range of abilities of a



human – this is a challenge that is being tackled by some of the greatest minds of our generation.

Gemma Chan meets robotics and AI experts from around the world. They include Demis Hassabis, founder of DeepMind, who is leading Google's project to build software more powerful than the human brain, and founding Director of the Future of Humanity Institute, Nick Bostrom, who examines possible existential threats to humanity posed by super-intelligent computers.

The film culminates in a ground-breaking experiment where a robotic version of Gemma Chan is built to take part in a real-life Turing test; Can Robot Gemma convince anyone that she is a real human being: the real Gemma Chan?

Short synopsis

Gemma Chan, the star of critically acclaimed drama series 'Humans', explores the frontiers of innovative research into Artificial Intelligence and builds an A.I. version of herself.

Production details

Little Gem Productions UK. Presenter Gemma Chan, Director Stephen Mizelas, Executive Producer Ben Gale, Executive Producer Natasha Bondy, Producer Stephen Mizelas.

Contact

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

Program not yuet available for preview. For more information and images visit the media portal.



Grand Designs: Living In The Wild

Kevin McCloud looks at the challenges of self-building in the UK's most remote places, where beautiful landscape often meets savage weather.

Using footage from the best *Grand Designs* builds, as well as new visits to extraordinary and incredible homes, and new interviews with experts in the latest architectural thinking, Kevin reveals which designs work best and why. He meets the pioneers at the forefront of architecture in the wilderness



and sees the astonishing lengths people go to live on the edges of society.

Short synopsis

Kevin McCloud looks at the challenges of self-building in the UK's most remote places, where beautiful landscape often meets savage weather.

Production details

Written and Presented by Kevin McCloud. Director: Ned Williams. Series Producer: John Lonsdale. Executive Producer: Fiona Caldwell. Production Co: Boundless.

Contact

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

Program not yet available for preview.

For more information and images visit the media portal.



Stephen Fry in Central America

Belize is an anomaly in Central America in that it is an English speaking country whose head of state is the Queen. Its culture owes more to the Caribbean than the rest of the isthmus.

At Wildtracks Animal Rescue Centre Stephen learns how to bottle-feed an injured baby manatee before meeting up with the last vestiges of the British Army in Belize City.



He heads onto Turneffe one of the remotest cayes to meet a latter day Robinson Crusoe who's found a lifestyle rehab from his drug addiction. Others who have sought sanctuary in these remote islands are the famed red footed boobie birds who Stephen finds nesting on Half Moon Caye.

Onto Hopkins, another haven but here for the Garifuna people. Previously known as Black Caribs, the Garifuna are mix of Arawak Indians and shipwrecked West Africans who were never enslaved. They have their own language totally separate from Belizean Creole and a powerful musical tradition whose infectious rhythms entice Stephen to a beach side gig of the Garifuna Collective band.

With the sound of the *garifuna* drums still echoing, Stephen heads into Guatemala. Unlike the rest of Central America it has a much more homogenous culture – around 50% are of Mayan descent and their origins date back thousands of years. The architecture of the Classic period is one of the glories of our species and a testament to their knowledge and appreciation of the arts and sciences.

Stephen takes part in a sacred Mayan ritual with shaman Tata Gilberto and his acolyte Ricky Lopez in the temples of Tikal. At its zenith in the 7th century Tikal housed some 100,000 inhabitants, but then mysteriously was abandoned. Most of the Mayans fled into the highlands where they were also protected from the Spanish when they colonized the isthmus.

From Tikal the bus rumbles into the mountains of the Ixil.

The Mayans of the Ixil are the most remote of any of the twenty-one different Maya groups that live in Guatemala. Until the civil war of the 1980's they had remained pretty untouched by the events since the conquistadores arrived. But for two decades during the civil war, the Ixil were subjected to a state sponsored policy of genocide.

In Chajul he finds women predominate, with so many of the men having been killed during the conflict but they happily try and teach him the essentials of weaving, so important to all the Mayans. At one of the exhumation sites where they are still uncovering victims from the war Stephen talks to forensic anthropologist Freddy Peccerelli

Before heading to the serene beauty of Lake Atitlan he is introduced to the Mayan ball game by a group of young Mayans who are reinventing the sport to reinvigorate their sense of pride in their Mayan- ness.

Short synopsis

Stephen Fry visits Belize, meeting injured manatees, a reformed drug addict living on an island and the Garifuna people. He heads to Guatemala, learns to weave and talks to an ex Miss Guatemala. In Antigua he picks coffee.

Production details

A Sprout Pictures production for ITV.

Contact

Safia van der Zwan on 02 8333 3846 or VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the media portal.

Monday 16 January 8.00pm



Back Roads: White Cliffs

Heather Ewart arrives in White Cliffs, a tiny outback NSW town, in a 1930 Chevrolet owned by local miner and mechanic, Bert Gale. It's Heather's first indication that things might be a bit different in this place. White Cliffs is an opal mining town and the landscape is littered with tens of thousands of old opal mines — it looks like a moonscape in parts.

They've been chasing opal here for more than 100 years, and a large proportion of people in the town enthusiastically take part.

But Heather soon learns that as well as mining underground, many people also live below the surface in dugouts. It gets so hot here in summer that it's a pleasant option with consistent temperatures around 22 degrees – which can be half the outside reading.

And the dugouts can be quite fancy. Heather soon meets Cree Marshall, an artist who has turned her cave into a luxurious masterpiece. Cree moved from the city to White Cliffs 25 years ago in search of artistic inspiration and certainly found that. She has helped to start an arts festival in White Cliffs, which involves almost the entire town. Heather soon learns that as well as being opal miners, many people here are also artists.

Dick Wagner insists he's not one of them. But the miner and retailer is staring in the play that Cree wrote and will direct as part of the festival. Dick has an opal shop which he says helps pay for his mining hobby. Like many in White Cliffs, Dick describes himself as a "married bachelor"- typically the men stay and mine while the women live elsewhere during parts of the year, often to be closer to family. It's one of the quirks that make this place unique and one of the many surprises hidden not far from view

Short synopsis

This week Heather Ewart visits White Cliffs, a tiny underground outback town in NSW, which is full of colourful surprises.

Production details

Executive Producer: Brigid Donovan. Supervising Producer: Kerri Ritchie. Field Producers: Karen Michelmore and Lisa Whitehead.

Contact

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

Program not yet available for preview. For more information and images visit the <u>media portal</u>.



Red Dwarf

The Emmy award-winning comedy returns to ABC2 for an 11th outing, staring the original cast and recorded in front of a live studio audience at Pinewood Studios, UK.

Red Dwarf XI sees two of the Dwarfers' dreams come true: Rimmer (Chris Barrie) accidentally saves a Space Corp Captain and is promoted to Officer, while Cat (Danny John-Jules) takes time off from loving himself to fall in love with a female cat with a very big secret.

Meanwhile, Lister (Craig Charles) wakes up to discover a deranged droid has stolen his body parts and Kryten (Robert Llewellyn) has a mid-life crisis and considers leaving the Dwarfers for a new younger crew.

Episode one – Twentica: Thursday January 19 at 9.40pm on ABC2

The Dwarfers find themselves in an alternative version of America where modern technology is prohibited, making Rimmer and Kryten illegal. The Dwarfers infiltrate the tech savvy underground and try to bring down the authoritarian regime.

Short synopsis

The Dwarfers find themselves in an alternative version of America where modern technology is prohibited, making Rimmer and Kryten illegal, so they try to bring down the authoritarian regime. CAST: Craig Charles

Production details

Writer and Director: Doug Naylor. Producers: Richard Naylor and Kerry Waddell. Executive Producers: Doug Naylor and Henry Normal. Baby Cow Productions for Dave in association with Grant Naylor Productions. Distributed by BBC Worldwide.

Contact

Amy Reiha, ABC TV Marketing, on (02) 8333 3852 or Reiha.amy@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the media portal.

Saturday 21 January 10.00pm



Comedy Next Gen: Alice Fraser

Raised Buddhist by a lapsed Catholic and a recovered Jew in a crumbling house owned by her Holocaust survivor grandmother, Alice Fraser in The Resistance chronicles the world of her childhood through the lives and eccentricities of the people living in the falling down house she called home. There's the manic-depressive Chilean gardener, the Christian Hungarian woman who should have been her grandmother's mortal enemy but somehow wasn't, and the veiled Indian woman downstairs.

Now, Alice Fraser brings you her equally acclaimed new show full of silly funny songs, silly funny jokes... lightly peppered with a devastating human truth or two.

Short synopsis

Raised Buddhist by a lapsed Catholic and a recovered Jew, Alice Fraser chronicles the world of her childhood through the lives of the people living in the crumbling down house she called home.

Production details

Production credits: ABC TV Executive Producer, Nick Hayden. Series Producer: Andrew Garrick. Associate Producer: Michele Esteves.

Writers: Aunty Donna, Dave Eastgate, The Bear Pack, Luke Heggie, Zoe Coombs Marr, Rhys Nicholson, Dilruk Jayasinha, Simon Taylor, Michael Hing, Alice Fraser, Nath Valvo, Damien Power, Laura Davis, Corey White, Ivan Aristeguieta.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 9524 2580/0409 600 456 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the media portal.

Marketing Contacts

Sydney

Chris Chamberlin (02) 8333 2154 / 0404 075 749 News Publicist - 7pm News, ABC News 24,

<u>Chamberlin.Chris@abc.net.au</u>
7.30, Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Media Watch, Q&A, Insiders, Lateline, ABC

News Breakfast, The Drum, Offsiders, Behind the News, Australia Wide, National Press Club,

The Mix, The World, One Plus One,

Grandstand, The Business

Bridget Stenhouse (02) 8333 3847 / 0419 846 333

Stenhouse.Bridget@abc.net.au

ABC2, Humans, Compass

Kristine Way (02) 8333 3844 / 0419 969 282

Way.Kris@abc.net.au

The Code, Rake, Janet King, Gruen, Silvia's

Italian Table

Safia van der Zwan (02) 8333 3846

VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au

Play School 50th Birthday, Soul Mates, Nowhere Boys, You're Skitting Me, ABC ME

Amy Reiha Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au Simply Nigella, Rick Stein: From Venice to

Istanbul

Melbourne

Kim Bassett (03) 9524 2580 / 0409 600 456

Bassett.Kim@abc.net.au

Catalyst, Gardening Australia, Grand Designs, The Book Club, Please Like Me, Comedy Next

Gen, Back Roads

Yasmin Kentera (03) 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071

Kentera. Yasmin@abc.net.au

Rosehaven, Dr Blake Mysteries, Australian Story, Newton's Law, No Strings Attached, Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am, Fancy Boy

Tracey Taylor (03) 9524 2313 / 0419 528 213

Taylor.Tracey@abc.net.au

The Weekly With Charlie Pickering, Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL, Seven Types of Ambiguity, Upper Middle Bogan, Hard Quiz

Communications

Manager:

Imogen Corlette (02) 8333 3845 / 0410 520 776

Corlette.lmogen@abc.net.au

Programming Enquiries:

Tania Caggegi (ABC & ABC News 24) Anna Bruter (ABC2 & ABC ME) (02) 8333 3843

(02) 8333 4633

Media Portal:

Mary Fraser (02) 8333 3848

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