



Week 52 Highlights



Sunday 24 to
Saturday 30 December 2017



Doctor Who: Twice Upon A Time Christmas Special
Fast-Trackered From The UK



Whovians Christmas Special
Following Doctor Who



**Gardening Australia
New Year's Family Special**
Friday 29 December 7.30pm

★Top Pick

Fast-Tracked From The UK



Doctor Who: Twice Upon A Time Christmas Special



The magical final chapter of Peter Capaldi's journey as the Twelfth Doctor sees the Time Lord team up with his former self, the first ever Doctor (David Bradley - Harry Potter, Game of Thrones) and a returning Bill Potts (Pearl Mackie), for one last adventure.

Two Doctors stranded in an Arctic snowscape, refusing to face regeneration. Enchanted glass people, stealing their victims from frozen time. And a World War One captain destined to die on the battlefield, but taken from the trenches to play his part in the Doctor's story.

An uplifting new tale about the power of hope in humanity's darkest hours, Twice Upon A Time marks the end of an era. But as the Doctor must face his past to decide his future, his journey is only just beginning...

Twice Upon A Time is written by Steven Moffat, directed by Rachel Talalay, and executive produced by Brian Minchin. The 60 minute special guest stars Mark Gatiss as The Captain and Nikki Amuka-Bird as the voice of the glass woman, and will see Peter Capaldi's Doctor regenerate into the Thirteenth Doctor (Jodie Whittaker).

Following the ABC broadcast, fans can join Rove and his guests for a special regeneration episode of **WHOVIANs** over on ABC COMEDY.

Production details

A BBC Production

Contact

Amy Reiha on (02) 8333 3852 or Reiha.amy@abc.net.au

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

★Top Pick

Following The Doctor Who Christmas Special



Whovians Christmas Special

Whovians is back to say goodbye to Peter Capaldi and Steven Moffat and hello to the very first female Doctor Jodie Whittaker in the 2017 Doctor Who Christmas Special! Host Rove McManus will be joined by die hard Whovians including Adam Richard, Cal Wilson and Steven “Bajo” O’Donnell.

As well as unpacking the most recent episode, Rove and the team will open the doors of the TARDIS and go back through the annals of time to lovingly analyse, critique, and unravel the mysteries of this much loved globally renowned series.

Whovians will be filmed in front of a live studio audience and broadcast on ABC COMEDY straight after the Doctor Who Christmas Special Twice Upon A Time.

To be part of the studio audience please email drwho.audience@abc.net.au

Short synopsis

Whovians is back to say goodbye to Peter Capaldi and Steven Moffat and hello to the very first female Doctor Jodie Whittaker for the 2017 Doctor Who Christmas Special! Host Rove McManus will be joined by die hard Whovians.

Production details

An ABC Television production

Contact

Amy Reiha on (02) 8333 3852 or Reiha.amy@abc.net.au

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

★**Top Pick**

Friday 29 December at 7.30pm



Gardening Australia: New Year's Family Special

The team at **Gardening Australia** are preparing for the New Year, the summer and time in the garden.

Costa visits a garden in miniature, and Josh talks to an innovative community who share their gardens.

Millie plants up a basket of herbs to take on holidays, and Jerry shows off the beautiful fruit that the north of Australia has to offer.

Sophie prepares her garden for the hot summer ahead, and we find out what to plant in January.

We revisit the Karen refugee vegetable garden, and we learn about the fascinating world of flies.

Short synopsis

The Gardening Australia team prepare for the New Year & summer in the garden. Costa visits a miniature garden, plus herbs to take on holiday, what to plant in January & we revisit the Karen refugee vegetable garden.

Production details

Executive Producer: Tarni James. Series Producer: Gill Lomas

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](#).**

★Top Pick

Christmas Eve at 6.00pm



Tinsel, Tears and Turkeys: An Aussie Christmas Unwrapped

It's Christmas time. Again. Do you say, "Bring it on, or bah humbug?"

In this one-hour special, high profile Australians talk about Christmas. What they enjoy, and what irks them about the silly season. What are their wishes for this one and those to come?

Do you do turkey and steamed pud, or seafood and too much pav? However you celebrate - or not - it's a season filled with expectation and hope. It's a time that brings out the best, and the worst in us, and we all have a Christmas we'll never forget.

Don your paper crown (or don't), and join us as we trip through Christmases past and present with a distinctly Australian flavour.

Featuring: Anthony Albanese, Dr Anne Aly, Jimmy Barnes, Julie Bishop, Kate Ceberano, Joel Creasey, Bill Crews, Bob Downe, Marcia Hines, Col Joye, Gretel Killeen, Kylie Kwong, Benjamin Law, Lawrence Leung, Nakkiah Lui, Kelly O'Dwyer, Christopher Pyne, John Safran, Akmal Saleh, Red Symons

Short synopsis

It's Christmas time. Again. Do you say, "Bring it on, or bah humbug?" In this special, join us and some high-profile Australians as we trip through Christmases past and present with a distinctly Australian flavour.

Production details

A Compass production. Series Producer: Jessica Douglas Henry.

Contact

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

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

The Royal Variety Performance 2017

Queen of Comedy, Miranda Hart, is to host The Royal Variety Performance. The award-winning comedy writer and actress will host this year, in the presence of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Kate. The event will come from the iconic London Palladium Theatre, which is hosting the event for the 41st time.

The show promises to be an unforgettable evening of the best UK and international musical performers, extraordinary theatre and brilliant comedy as well as a number of surprises along the way.

Stars lined up to appear include the legendary Kelsey Grammer who will be performing, with his cast, an exclusive extract from the new musical Big Fish; plus The Killers, Seal, Louis Tomlinson, The Leading Ladies - Beverly Knight, Cassidy Janson and Amber Riley, The Script, and Paloma Faith.

Also taking to the stage are, Britain's Got Talent winner, pianist Tokio Myers; the West End casts of 'Annie' and '42nd Street'; the incredible Circus Abyssinia; Michael Ball and Alfie Boe; the mesmerising Cirque du Soleil plus comedy from Jason Manford and Tom Allen.

Miranda said: "If you don't mind me I am just going to smash a glass ceiling and be the first woman to host the Royal Variety. That felt GOOD! It's thrilling for me because of that, and because I am hugely proud to be part of such an important event in our comedy and variety heritage as the Royal Variety Performance. The young-wannabe-comedian me who watched the show every year, would be just as excited to hear that grown-up me is going to be hosting - only I'll be doing it without the 1970s pudding bowl haircut that made me look like a young male monk!"

The event is staged in aid of the Royal Variety Charity, whose patron is Her Majesty the Queen. The money raised from the show helps those people from the world of entertainment in need of care and assistance.

Short synopsis

Miranda Hart hosts a spectacular night of entertainment from the London Palladium Theatre. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Kate, are in attendance with performances by Seal, The Script, The Killers, Kelsey Grammar, Paloma Faith, James Blunt, Jason Manford, Louis Tomlinson & Michael Ball.

Production details

Contact

TV Publicity on 8333 3848 or tvpublicity@abc.net.au

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

GameFace

Hot on the heels of the UK's E4 broadcast and after a smashing pilot, comedian Roisin Conaty stars as Marcella, an aspiring actress who spiritedly crashes her way through life, assisted by her dubious life-coach, best friends and ever-patient driving instructor. Bouncing back from a seismic break-up, clinging on to her dreams of becoming an actress, and - when she remembers her lessons - finally learning to drive, Marcella is on a mission to change her future for the better.

Packed with wry and idiosyncratic observations, GameFace is a witty, tender and resonant comedy about navigating your thirties when you're under-prepared - but somehow always staying afloat. #GameFace

Marcella needs to tell her family about Billy's drug problems - but she can't bear to dent her mother's faith in her golden boy. After contacting her hot-headed father, and finding him to be as unhinged as usual, she reluctantly turns to Simon for help. And, after some soul searching - and typically unhelpful advice from her life-coach - Marcella feels ready to admit her feelings to Jon.

Short synopsis

Marcella needs to tell her family about Billy's drug problems - but she can't bear to dent her mother's faith in her golden boy. And, after some soul searching, Marcella feels ready to admit her feelings to Jon.

Production details

GameFace is an Objective Fiction for E4, UK, Writer: Roisin Conaty, Executive Producers: Ben Farrell (Toast of London) and Roisin Conaty, Producer: Charlotte Lewis (Witless) and Director: Andrew Chaplin (Witless).

Contact

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

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

Harry Potter: A History of Magic

It's 20 years since J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone first cast its spell on readers across the globe, thanks to the charm, warmth and imagination of its wizarding world. But Rowling's fantastical creation wasn't entirely make-believe...

To mark the 20th anniversary of her book, the award-winning BBC Documentary Unit presents an enchanting new documentary, tracing the real life traditions of magic at the heart of Harry Potter.

Narrated by Imelda Staunton, this is a playful and thrilling adventure through the real life legends, beliefs and folklore that fired JK Rowling's imagination. In the run up to the major exhibition, Harry Potter: A History of Magic, Rowling ventures behind the scenes of the British Library, revealing the real life counterparts to her fantastical world. From shrieking mandrakes and Elizabethan invisibility spells; to the mystery of the ancient oracle bones of the lost Shang dynasty and the real life search for the Philosopher's Stone, it's the start of a journey that takes us to some of the most magical places in the land. There, we'll encounter wonderful characters whose belief in magic has never waned – from the folk at the beguiling Museum of Witchcraft in Boscastle, Cornwall, to a pair of real life wizarding wandmakers who've honed their craft in England's ancient woodland.

Beneath the surface of this rip-roaring adventure is a surprisingly touching story of human frailty, desire and discovery. To JK Rowling magic has always been more than just waving a wand: it's a window into the hopes and fears of humankind - revealing our deep-seated need to control the uncertainty of life. It's a theme embedded at the heart of the Harry Potter books, and Rowling shares never-before seen items from her personal archive - the drawings, doodles and early drafts that led to her own unmistakable vision.

JK Rowling's writing is brought to life with readings from actors from the Harry Potter films: David Thewlis, Evanna Lynch, Warwick Davies, Miriam Margoyles and Mark Williams; while illustrator Jim Kay illuminates Rowling's imaginary world.

Short synopsis

To mark the 20th anniversary of her book, the award-winning BBC Documentary Unit presents an enchanting new documentary, tracing the real life traditions of magic at the heart of Harry Potter.

Production details

Narrator Imelda Staunton; Director Jude Ho; Executive Producer Janet Lee; A BBC Studios Production

Contact

Amy Reiha on 02 83333852 or 0404026039 or Reiha.amy@abc.net.au

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

Outnumbered Christmas Special

Sue and Peter Brockman and their children return to the small screen after almost three years away for this festive catch-up.

It's Boxing Day and the family has to carry out a special mission for Grandad. However, as usual, things don't go their way as they are beset by car problems, child problems, parent problems, emotional problems and the Second World War.

It's up to Pete (Hugh Dennis) and Sue (Claire Skinner) to put things right - but if they cannot do it, then it seems the kids will just have to sort things out instead.

Also stars Tyger Drew-Honey, Daniel Roche, Ramona Marquez, Mark Benton, Daisy Edgar-Jones, Katherine Jakeways, Martin Trenaman, Miles Jupp, Ruth Madeley.

Short synopsis

It's Boxing Day and the family has to carry out a special mission for Grandad. However, as usual, things don't go their way as they are beset by car problems, child problems, parent problems, emotional problems and the Second World War.

Production details

Hat Trick Productions; Producers: Andy Hamilton Guy Jenkin; Executive Producer Jimmy Mulville; Directors: Andy Hamilton, Guy Jenkin; Writer Andy Hamilton, Guy Jenkin

Contact

TV Publicity on 8333 3848 or tvpublicity@abc.net.au

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

Asian Provocateur

In this laugh-packed docu-comedy, stand-up Romesh Ranganathan goes to Sri Lanka to connect with his roots. He doesn't know anything about the country's culture, can't speak a word of Tamil, and is a home-comfort loving loafer. What could possibly go wrong?

Ep 1 - Romesh Ranganathan considers himself British through and through. He grew up in Horsham, doesn't speak a word of Tamil, doesn't know any of his relatives, has no idea about his cultural heritage and has almost zero desire to go to Sri Lanka. Like thousands of other British children of immigrants, he knows very little about the land where his parents came from. As his mother Shanthi says – he's a coconut. Sri Lankan on the outside but British on the inside.

Short synopsis

In this laugh-packed docu-comedy, stand-up Romesh Ranganathan goes to Sri Lanka to connect with his roots. He doesn't know anything about the country's culture and can't speak a word of Tamil. What could possibly go wrong?

Production details

A Rumpus Media production for the BBC.

Contact

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

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

Saturday 30 December 9.15pm



Comedy Next Gen

Comedy Next Gen showcases the next generation of stand-up comedians as they perform their latest live shows. The series features 13 comedians in their own special episode with an exclusive interview at the start of each episode.

Filmed over 13 separate nights, the best up-and-coming stand-up comedians perform their acts live at venues around Australia.

Tonight, it is Nick Cody's turn. Nick Cody's hilarious stand-up show *What of It?* is the culmination of a couple of years touring the world, performing to packed houses in Edinburgh, London, New York, Los Angeles, Johannesburg, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia, racking up rave 4 and 5-star reviews like it was nobody's business. He's the bloke that makes you feel like you've known him a lifetime.

Short synopsis

Nick Cody's hilarious stand-up show *What of It?* is the culmination of a couple of years touring the world, performing to packed houses, racking up rave 4 and 5-star reviews like it was nobody's business.

Production details

ABC TV Executive Producer, Nick Hayden. Series Producer: Lin Jie Kong. Associate Producer: Michele Esteves.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 8646 2580 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

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

Marketing Contacts

Sydney

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Kristine Way	(02) 8333 3844 / 0419 969 282 Way.Kris@abc.net.au	My Online Nightmare, Joyride, Inspector George Gently, The Book Club Christmas Special, Royal Variety Performance 2017
Safia van der Zwan	(02) 8333 3846 VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au	Mystery Road, Rake, Australian Music Month, Friday on My Mind, Making Muriel, NYE
Peri Wilson (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, Lateline, News Breakfast, The Drum, Offsiders, Behind the News, Australia Wide, National Press Club, The Mix, The World, One Plus One, Grandstand, The Business, Australian Story
Amy Reiha	Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au	ABC ME, ABC KIDS, Junior Eurovision, Play School, Story Time S2, Tonightly with Tom Ballard, Back Roads

Melbourne

Kim Bassett	(03) 9524 2580 / 0409 600 456 Bassett.Kim@abc.net.au	Gardening Australia, Artsville, The Dream Factory, Comedy Next Gen S2
Yasmin Kentera	(03) 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 Kentera.Yasmin@abc.net.au	Glitch, The Doctor Blake Mysteries, Rosehaven, War On Waste: What's Changing, Kiki and Kitty
Tracey Taylor	(03) 9524 2313 / 0419 528 213 Taylor.Tracey@abc.net.au	Hard Quiz, The Ex-PM S2, The Letdown, Mustangs FC
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Mary Fraser (02) 8333 3848

Find publicity images and press kits for highlighted and ongoing programs at abc.net.au/tvpublicity