



Week 53 Highlights



Sun December 25
to Sat December 31
2016



New Year's Eve

Live Coverage From Sydney Harbour Saturday 31 December from 8.30pm



Doctor Who:
The Return Of Doctor Mysterio
Christmas Special Monday 26 Dec 7.30pm



The Royal Variety Performance
Special Sunday 25 Dec 7.30pm



Queen: Rags To Rhapsody
Special Sun 25 Dec 8.30pm



New Year's Eve 2016

Join the ABC as we count down the biggest night of the year and celebrate the world-famous Sydney Midnight Fireworks with **New Year's Eve 2016**. Presented from outside the Sydney Opera House and inside the Lord Mayor's Party at Bennelong Point in Sydney Harbour, the ABC's four-hour live show is set to wow viewers with an incredible line up packed full of comedy, music and entertainment, including the Family Fireworks at 9pm, the annual comedy panel show The 2016 Pub Quiz and music live from Falls Festival in Lorne.



#NYEABC #my2016moment

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Production details

ABC TV

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Doctor Who: The Return Of Doctor Mysterio

This Christmas, the Doctor teams up with a comic-book superhero in New York for a heroic special written by Steven Moffat.

The Return of Doctor Mysterio sees the Doctor, played by Peter Capaldi, team up with an investigative journalist, played by Charity Wakefield (*Wolf Hall*, *The Player*) and a superhero to save New York from a deadly alien threat.



The one-hour special also features Matt Lucas as Nardole, Justin Chatwin as Grant (the superhero), Adetomiwa Edun (*Lucifer*), Aleksandar Jovanovic and Logan Hoffman.

Short synopsis

In a brand new Christmas Special, the Doctor joins forces with an investigative journalist and a superhero to save New York from a deadly alien threat. CAST: Peter Capaldi, Charity Wakefield, Justin Chatwin.

Production details

Written by Steven Moffat. Executive Producer: Brian Minchin. Produced by Peter Bennett. Directed by Ed Bazalgette.

Contact

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



The Royal Variety Performance 2016

Comedian, actor and children's author David Walliams hosts The Royal Variety Performance 2016 in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, from one of the most iconic and well-loved live venues in the UK, the Eventim Apollo in Hammersmith.



David will introduce legendary performers Barry Gibb and Sting, superstars Gary Barlow and Robbie Williams, the award-winning Sheridan Smith and Emeli Sandé, plus this year's magical Britain's Got Talent winner Lance Corporal Richard Jones, and a number of sensational surprises.

The cast of The Beatles Cirque Du Soleil's *LOVE* show will be flying in from Las Vegas for a special anniversary performance; there will also be sneak previews from the casts of Gershwin's classic musical *An American In Paris* and Gary Barlow's *The Girls*, both of which open in the West End early next year.

The group Diversity returns to the stage where they first auditioned for Britain's Got Talent, and comedy acts includes Joe Lycett, Alan Davies and Rob Beckett.

More show-stopping numbers are provided by Amber Riley, star of the Tony award-winning musical *Dreamgirls*, One Republic, DNCE, ABC and McFly's Tom Fletcher, who will be premiering his new book *The Christmasaurus* with an enchanting one off performance.

David said: "I'm very honoured and excited to be hosting the Royal Variety Performance. I was lucky enough to host back in 2012, so will be looking forward to another fabulous evening with huge talent".

The event is staged in aid of the Royal Variety Charity (formerly the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund), whose patron is Her Majesty, The Queen. All proceeds from the show help those people from the world of entertainment in need of care and assistance.

Short synopsis

In the presence of The Prince of Wales & The Duchess of Cornwall, host David Walliams presents performances by Barry Gibb & Sting, Gary Barlow & Robbie Williams, Sheridan Smith & Emeli Sande, Alan Davies, One Republic & more.

Production details

The 2016 Royal Variety Performance is commissioned by Peter Davey, Head of Comedy Entertainment ITV and executive produced by ITV Studios' Lee Connolly and Fiona Clark.

Contact

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



Queen: Rags to Rhapsody

Queen: Rags to Rhapsody tells the story of Queen as it follows their journey from a struggling band playing in pubs and colleges to the moment they recorded what was to become one of – if not the – greatest song of all time, Bohemian Rhapsody.



Queen's formative years have never been explored in such detail. With a wealth of unseen interviews, recently unearthed rushes of Queen's first ever video and outtakes from the recording sessions of Bohemian Rhapsody itself, this is the unique story of early Queen, told by the band themselves.

Short synopsis

The story of Queen's early days playing in pubs and colleges up to the recording of one of the greatest songs of all time - Bohemian Rhapsody.

Production details

Produced and directed by Simon Lupton and Rhys Thomas.

Contact

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



Call The Midwife: Christmas Special

Festive cheer is in plentiful supply as Poplar readies itself for Christmas. An unexpected surprise for a grieving mother helps bring the Christmas magic home, while Nonnatus is rocked to the core when one of its own goes missing.

Production details

A Neal Street production

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



Stones in Exile

In 1969, The Rolling Stones found themselves forced out of the UK for tax reasons, and suddenly short of cash after falling out with their manager Alan Klein. The band rented a huge villa near Cap D'Antibes and they all decamped to the Cote D'Azur in south east France. Joining them were an extraordinary entourage of beautiful women, musicians, technicians, drug dealers and addicts and rogue French chefs.

The stay in the villa was chaotic, punctuated by Mick Jagger's marriage to Bianca and encounters with the local police. However, it was among the bizarre collection of people, deep in the basement of the building, that an album of songs started to come together. After several months of chaos the band moved to Los Angeles where they mixed and completed *Exile On Main Street*.

This amazing film looks back over that exuberant period of scandal and creativity. Interviews with the band and a selection of the cast of characters from the time help to shed light on what it was like to be in, or around the band during those hedonistic days. Archive footage, tour outtakes and candid photographs recreate the rock and roll era.

Short synopsis

Film about the recording of the Rolling Stones' classic 1972 album *Exile in Main Street*. Includes interviews with the band, archive footage, tour outtakes and candid photographs.

Production details

Directed by Stephen Kijak. Produced by John Battsek. Executive Producer: Mick Jagger. A Passion Pictures production for BBC Worldwide.

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



Ladies and Gentlemen: The Rolling Stones

Ladies and Gentlemen: The Rolling Stones 1972 Concert is an energetic look at the band at the height of their stardom performing tunes from their critically-acclaimed *Exile On Main Street*, *Sticky Fingers*, *Let It Bleed* and *Beggars Banquet*.

Filmed in Texas in the middle of their 1972 North American tour this is one of the all-time great concert films, capturing The Rolling Stones at the peak of their power as recording and performing giants.

Doing what they do best – guitar fuelled R&B with pop flair and youthful rebelliousness thrown in for good measure – The Stones are at their liveliest and dangerous best.

Filmed simply and mostly in close-up, with un-enhanced stage lighting, the band is the focus and The Stones themselves provide all the energy the film needs.

The sheer power and vitality of The Stones' performance in *Ladies and Gentlemen: The Rolling Stones 1972 Concert* is a devastating stretch of songs from the almost punk Chuck Berry cover, *Bye Bye Johnny*, to the laid back, country-fried *Dead Flowers*, straight bluesy *Love In Vain*, to the upbeat *Happy* and a searing, intense and surprisingly sped up rendition of one of their darkest numbers, *Midnight Rambler*.

While The Rolling Stones of the 70s weren't exactly renowned for their tightness, here they are surprisingly sharp without destroying that loose, unpredictable bar band energy that makes them great.

It's a fuller sound with most of the poppy gloss removed. This is rock and roll stripped down to its elemental blues and country roots from a band that plays it with a confidence and swagger that will blow you away.

Short synopsis

Filmed in Texas in the middle of their 1972 North American tour this is one of the all-time great concert films, capturing The Rolling Stones at the peak of their power as recording and performing giants.

Production details

Eagle Rock Entertainment

Contact

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



Doctor Who: Power of the Daleks

Doctor Who: The Power of the Daleks animated series is one of the most celebrated Doctor Who adventures, and yet no complete film recordings are known to have survived. The master negatives were destroyed in an archive purge in 1974. This brand new animation, being released 50 years after its only UK broadcast, is based on the program's original audio recordings, surviving photographs, and film clips.

The six-part adventure features the regeneration – or as it was then called “renewal” – of First Doctor, William Hartnell, into Second Doctor, Patrick Troughton, and follows the Time Lord and his companions Polly (Anneke Wills) and Ben (Michael Craze) as they do battle with the Daleks on the planet Vulcan.

Power of the Daleks was brought to life using modern animation techniques and was produced and directed by Charles Norton, with character designs from acclaimed comic book artists Martin Geraghty and Adrian Salmon.

Short synopsis

This six-part adventure features the regeneration of First Doctor into Second Doctor and follows the Time Lord and his companions as they do battle with the Daleks on the planet Vulcan.

Production details

Produced and directed by Charles Norton.

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Simply Nigella

As Nigella says 'Part of the balance of life lies in the understanding that different days require different types of eating'. So in tonight's episode, Nigella shares her favourite menu to help us get that balance in the kitchen.

For the days when something light and luscious is needed, Nigella's salad of salmon, avocado, watercress and pumpkin seeds fits perfectly. For the occasions that call for something a bit different, there's Nigella's chicken shawarma with an array of spices, sauces and flatbreads. Inspired by a spit-roasted Lebanese kebab, Nigella's oven roasted version is fun, tasty, and perfect for feeding a crowd.

There has to be chocolate in the balance and Nigella shares two of her latest treats; a glossy liquorice and blackcurrant chocolate cake and her chocolate chip cookie dough pots – freshly baked pots of gooey cookie dough served with a dollop of ice cream or crème fraîche.

Short synopsis

Nigella shares her favourite menu to help us get that balance in the kitchen. Dishes include a light and luscious salmon salad, oven-roasted chicken shawarma, and two of Nigella's latest chocolate treats.

Production details

A BBC Production/Pabulum Production.

Contact

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



Rick Stein: From Venice To Istanbul

Capturing the flavour of an ancient empire, chef Rick Stein embarks on a memorable odyssey through Italy, Croatia, Albania, Greece and Turkey during this new seven-part series.

Exploring the culinary legacy of the legendary Byzantine Empire, Rick uncovers its little-known history and cuisine, and relishes the food that many people associate with holidays in the eastern Mediterranean and the Adriatic – healthy, light, tasty dishes that go so well with sunshine, remote islands, chilled wine and clear, aquamarine seas.

Rick's culinary odyssey begins in Venice, a place that played a major role at both ends of Byzantine history and his travels twist and turn past the shorelines of the Adriatic, Ionian and Aegean seas. Continuing through the stunning mountains of Croatia, Albania and Greece, down to the Peloponnese, and through western Turkey, he concludes his journey in Istanbul, formerly known as the city of Byzantium and gateway to the flavours of the Middle East. Along the way he visits local markets, cafés, restaurant kitchens and people's homes to show how their evocative dishes have developed over thousands of years.

Episode Six: Tuesday, December 27 at 9pm on ABC

Rick Stein's epic journey from Venice to Istanbul is nearing its completion as he leaves southern Greece for the shores of Western Turkey. On the Cesme Peninsula he enjoys creamy Armola cheese matured in goat skins, Urla's famous red wine and the ultimate Turkish breakfast. He also cooks Turkey's iconic dish of Sultan's Delight – mouth-watering lamb stew on a bed of aubergine puree.

Short synopsis

In Western Turkey, Rick Stein enjoys creamy Armola cheese matured in goat skins, Urla's famous red wine and the ultimate Turkish breakfast. He also cooks Sultan's Delight – lamb stew on a bed of aubergine puree.

Production details

Producer/Director: David Pritchard, Executive Producer: Grace Kitto, Associate Producer: Arezoo Farahzad. A Denham production.

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



Stupid Man, Smart Phone

In this entertaining survival show, UK comedian Russell Kane and an assortment of online celebrities take on extreme challenges – with only a smartphone to help them.

From hailing a cab in the early hours of the morning, to diagnosing an illness in three symptoms, our smartphones can help us overcome any practical problem. In this entertaining series, pampered city-dweller Russell Kane takes this idea to its extreme. He's attempting some of the world's toughest outdoor adventures, with no training, no guide – and his only survival tool is a mobile phone.

Each episode sees the sardonic stand-up joined by a young internet star who can consult a huge online fanbase. Together, they'll travel via dog sled to a Norwegian Sami village, transport a cow across the Moroccan desert, and take on many more arduous expeditions. They'll have to hunt, find shelter and – perhaps most testing of all – put up with each other. Our wannabe survivalists won't be completely alone; they'll be joined by the international online community. As well as video-calling some of the web's top survival experts, they'll also crowdsource suggestions on social media. But how do they know which tips to trust? And can a smartphone really help you find enough to eat, drink and stay alive?

This week, Russell Kane is going to new heights to prove his phone can transform him into a survival expert. He's climbing the Italian Dolomite Mountains without any training or experience. He's joined by internet comedian, Humza Arshad, who's hardly ventured out the UK, let alone conquered a mountain range that claimed thousands of lives during WW1. They'll be clinging to their mobile phones for dear life as they dangle from sheer rock faces, try to digest goat entrails and nose dive a helicopter, all in an ill-fated bid to prove that internet is harder than mountain.

Short synopsis

In this entertaining survival show, comedian Russell Kane and an assortment of online celebrities take on extreme challenges – with only a smartphone to help them. This week they are off to the Dolomites in Italy.

Production details

Stupid Man, Smart Phone is a Kalel and Objective co-production for BBC Worldwide and BBC Three.

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



Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am

The Sheetles - a female version of the Beatles sing a song that warms their hysterical male fan's hearts. Maybe a little too much. In the Ladies Room, Sarah applies some new bronzer which Adele and Greta apply excitedly to their faces also. In a shoe shop, Prince Charming is caught out by Cinderella. Rose, our Smoke Bomb Girl, has a little too much to drink at her office Christmas party - and gets the hell out of there, drunkenly.

A new Mum and a soon to be Mum swap experiences on how amazing motherhood and pregnancy is - but perhaps they need to be a little more truthful. Our conjoined twins, Simon and Simone are identical in what they spend their money on - so why doesn't the bill reflect the same? Our Sheetles try to record another track - but boyfriends, fans and band tension get in the way.

Katrina Hogger is at her favourite eco-cafe with an apathetic ex jail bird Sheree. They bump into their arch frenemy Amanda Seydoux and things get competitive.

Officer Michaels, Australia's first male police officer is just about to crack a big case - until the other female officers interrupt him. His partner, Officer Brody is not happy. The Barbies and Kelly discuss make up routines in the sauna. Shani and Tani argue heatedly about relativity. We end on The Sheetles doing their last rooftop performance.

Short synopsis

The Sheetles are a female version of the Beatles in every way except with very different fans. The politics of bronzer use in the Ladies Room, Officer Michaels has a performance review, Cinderella and Prince Charming fight, Rose ruins her office Christmas party.

Production details

Skit Box Pty Ltd in association with Hardy White Pictures and Sticky Pictures. Written, Directed and Starring Sarah Bishop, Greta Jackson and Adele Vuko. Producer Michelle Hardy. Executive Producer Donna Andrews.

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



Fancy Boy

Lillian, James and Ian are having a beer at their local pub one night when a mysterious man at the bar offers to grant them one wish each, if they buy him a pot of beer. At the time it seems like a laugh, but it's not so funny when they wake up the next morning. Lillian has a Chinese accent, James has two custard cartons instead of hands, and Ian has gone two years back in time, where he meets his two-year younger self, and then convinces him to steal ten thousand dollars to put on a horse.

Now the three friends will learn the hard way to be bloody careful what you wish for, or at the least, don't make wishes with a mysterious man after your sixth pot.

Short synopsis

When a mysterious man at the pub grants three friends one wish each, they get a lot more than they wished for.

Production details

A December Media production in association with Checkpoint Media and Fancy Boy TV. Producer Nicole Minchin. Series Producer Declan Fay. Executive Producer Stuart Menzies. ABC Executive Producer Tarni James.

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

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