

Sunday 31 December to  
Saturday 6 January 2018

# NYE 2017

# COUNTDOWN

# DOWN

# LIVE

## Week 1 Highlights

**ABC ME** **ABC iview** **New Year's Eve Family Spectacular & Countdown Live**  
Sunday 31 December From 8.35pm



**ABC** **The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo**  
Monday 1 January 8.30pm **ABC iview**

**ABC** **Back Roads**  
Monday 1 January 8.00pm **ABC iview**





## New Year's Eve 2017: Family Fireworks Spectacular

Join us for The Early Night Show, starring Hoot the Owl, the *Play School* band, and Australia's favourite comedienne, Kitty Flanagan! With jugglers, acrobats, and a marching band, it promises to be fun for all the family!

They're joined by ABC ME's Grace Koh and *Giggle and Hoot's* Jimmy Giggle LIVE from Sydney Harbour. There will be a very special performance from Casey Donovan, we'll go behind the scenes in some rather unusual *Play School* auditions, and some of our younger viewers give us their views on hot topics.

At 9pm, the winner of ABC ME's Design your own Firework competition, 10-year-old Lucia from Adelaide, will set the Sydney sky alight with the Family Fireworks display featuring her own unique firework design. And we'll hear from kids all over the country – what was the best ever thing that happened to them in 2017!

### Short synopsis

Join us for The Early Night Show, starring Hoot the Owl, the *Play School* band, and Australia's favourite comedienne, Kitty Flanagan! With jugglers, acrobats, and a marching band, it promises to be fun for all the family!

### Production details

An ABC Children's Production

### Contact

Amy Reiha on (02) 8333 3852 or [Reiha.amy@abc.net.au](mailto:Reiha.amy@abc.net.au)



## New Year's Eve 2017: Countdown Live

Join us as we count down the biggest night of the year with **Countdown Live NYE 2017** on ABC and ABC iview.

Presented from Sydney Opera House, the line-up will feature an evening jam packed full of unmissable entertainment from an all-star line-up including **Jimmy Barnes, Phil Jamieson, Marcia Hines** and **Kate Ceberano**, with plenty of fun for the all-ages, including the Family Fireworks at 9pm, culminating in the world-famous Sydney Midnight Fireworks.

The evening events will commence with a Welcome to Country with **Rhonda Roberts**, followed by **The Early Night Show**, co-hosted by **Hoot the Owl** & Australia's favourite comedienne, **Kitty Flanagan**. Featuring the **Play School** band, jugglers, acrobats, and a marching band, it promises to be fun for all the family!

We'll cross to ABC ME's **Grace Koh** and Giggle and Hoot's **Jimmy Giggle** who will be live from Sydney's Botanical Gardens. There will be a very special performance from **Casey Donovan** and some of our younger viewers give us their views on hot topics and what was the "best-thing-ever" that happened to them in 2017!

At 9pm, the winner of ABC ME's **Design your own Firework** competition, 10-year-old Lucia from Adelaide, will set the Sydney sky alight with the Family Fireworks display featuring her own unique firework design.

Later it's time to get your groove on when the legendary **Molly Meldrum** welcomes Australia to **Countdown Live**, a live concert celebrating the songs of the legendary show **Countdown** performed by many of our most loved artists.

At midnight stand by as Sydney becomes the focus of the world as the thousands of fireworks light up Sydney Harbour and we welcome 2018.

### Short synopsis

Join us as we count down the biggest night of the year with **Countdown Live NYE 2017** on ABC and ABC iview. It will be an evening jam packed full of unmissable entertainment, with the Family Fireworks & world-famous Sydney Midnight Fireworks.

### Production details

An ABC production

### Contact

Safia van der Zwan on (02) 8333 3846 or [vanderzwan.safia@abc.net.au](mailto:vanderzwan.safia@abc.net.au)



★ Top Pick

Monday 1 January 8.00pm

ABC iview



## Back Roads

Heather Ewart arrives in the South Australian seaside town of Robe on a South Rock lobster fishing boat. Jack Perkins is at the wheel – he’s lived and fished in Robe for more than 20 years. He says Robe is preparing to hold the annual ‘Blessing of the Fleet’ event, to wish local fisherman a safe season.

Heather meets Jacqui Bateman, a local farmer and photographer. Jacqui believes Robe is the best place on the planet. She says the town has a generosity of spirit. Jacqui met a veteran a few years ago, and decided Robe could help young service-people recently returned from Afghanistan and Iraq. Jacqui set up ‘Robe to Recovery’, where local families offer up their holiday houses to veterans who are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The veterans are given seafood platters, free cheese and milk from the local dairy, and they get a voucher to spend at the local hotel.

Maris Biezaitis was on a working holiday when he fell in love with Robe. He’s set up The Robe Town Brewery, and he has some interesting techniques. He forages for ingredients and his Moby Dick Ambergris Ale is made using whale vomit! Heather also meets Steve and Sam Woolston who run one of the oldest family run surf shops in Australia. The shop was started 51 years ago when Steve was a young shearer turned surfer.

A highlight of the trip is when Heather meets another shearer, Daniel ‘Telf’ Telfer, who is known around these parts as ‘the naked shearer’. Jacqui Bateman photographed Telf after he took off his clothes while shearing. The picture went viral and just won an international award. Heather questions Telf about what he was thinking to do that. “I wasn’t thinking much really.” Robe is a town that gets in and does things.

Heather also meets Elise Lehmann, a young blind woman who is a stand-up comedian. Elise lost her sight at the age of two from a brain tumour. She says Robe is a supportive community, without wrapping her in cotton wool.

### Short synopsis

Robe, SA, is a seaside safe-haven known for helping others and having a generosity of spirit. Local farming families offer their holiday houses to war veterans and give them a free weekend in their stunning town.

### 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](mailto:Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au)  
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**Program not yet available for preview.  
For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**



★**Top Pick**  
Monday 1 January 8.30pm



## The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The 2017 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo features talent from around the world, all performing on the magnificent location of the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

In this programme of highlights from the event, narrated by Bill Paterson, musical talent with a 'Splash of Tartan' - the theme to this year's show - will be to the fore. Making a big splash will be the internationally acclaimed Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, who take centre stage as this year's 'home service' at the Tattoo.

The Queen's Colour Squadron and the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment will celebrate 75 years of the Regiment and working with the Royal Navy. Reflecting the now international flavour of the show, and audience, are military musical groups visiting from many countries. Tattoo first-timers the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force Band bring a spectacular display to Edinburgh.

The Indian Naval Band bring bangra to the battlements marking the 70th Anniversary of the Independence of India, and, celebrating the 'Auld Alliance', the Fanfare Band of the 9th French Marine Infantry Brigade visit from Poitiers.

The United States Naval Forces Europe Band, based in Naples, join the show, as do the much-loved Shetland Fiddlers who this year celebrate their distinctive Viking heritage. The Tattoo Highland Dancers provide their usual high standard of massed dancing and also show their versatility by seamlessly changing from Highland to Hornpipe and from Ballet to Bollywood as they support the international contingents.

Wonderful music, heritage and spectacle are all packed into this highlights programme, with of course the Massed Pipes and Drums and lone piper on the battlements of Edinburgh Castle rounding off a unique event.

### Short synopsis

The 2017 Tattoo features talent from around the world, in the magnificent location of the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. Taking centre stage will be the internationally acclaimed Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines.

### Production details

Produced and Directed by John Smith; Presented by The Royal Military Tattoo Ltd; BBC Scotland.

### Contact

Safia van der Zwan on 02 8333 3846 or 0432 732 887 or [vanderzwan.safia@abc.net.au](mailto:vanderzwan.safia@abc.net.au)

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



Daily at 7.25am from Monday 1 January



## All Hail King Julien

Madagascar's favourite Royal Lemur comes to the small screen

King Julien is here to party, and no one can stop him from ruling with an iron fist ... in the air, wavin' like he just doesn't care! All Hail King Julien brings the wild world of Madagascar to a totally original, totally hilarious and totally insane television series in which the king takes on the craziest adventures the jungle has to offer.

He moves, he rocks, he parties, he gets down with it – how does he ever find time to actually be the king? It's easy for King Julien because governing over his colony of lemurs in Madagascar is far less important than finding time to boogie.

A new cast of fantastic, colourful characters joins King Julien himself, along with his second-in-command Maurice, and the eternally devoted Mort. It's a riot of colour -- not to mention a laugh riot -- when viewers All Hail King Julien!

In episode one (of 26), King Julien wants a do-over to become King Julien 2.0, and actually listen to his people. But when everyone feels their voice is the most important, the kingdom becomes a chaotic mess.

Cast: Danny Jacobs, Andy Richter, Kevin Michael Richardson

### Short synopsis

King Julien is here to party in a totally original, totally hilarious television series. Joining him is his second-in-command Maurice, and the eternally devoted Mort in the craziest adventures the jungle has to offer.

### Production details

Written By: Elliott Owen; Directed By: James "Wootie" Wootton.

### Contact

Amy Reiha on 02 83333852 or 0404 026 039 or [reiha.amy@abc.net.au](mailto:reiha.amy@abc.net.au)

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



Monday 1 January 9.30pm



## GameFace (Final)

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.

A hung-over and guilt-ridden Marcella has to face a date with Jon - whilst haunted by sex-flashbacks from the night before. Jon tries hard to impress but Marcella is called away abruptly when Billy stages his own intervention. Marcella's family and friends gather together but what starts out as an attempt to reach out to Billy quickly turns in to an afternoon of explosions, revelations and a whole lot of singing.

### #GameFace

#### Short synopsis

Marcella's family and friends gather for an intervention, but what starts out as an attempt to reach out to Billy quickly turns into an afternoon of explosions, revelations and a whole lot of singing.

#### 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](mailto:stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au)

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



Wednesday 3 January 9.30pm



## 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?

Now Shanthy is sending Romesh on an odyssey around the motherland. He is sent to receive a traditional blessing in Kegalle, goes to meet his "Uncle" Thiru and attempts still fishing. Romesh then sets up an activity of his own.... going rogue in the capital Colombo to perform with local rap act MBZ.

Ep 2 - Romesh is sent to Batticloa to meet his Uncle Ragu who has been given a mandate from Romesh's mum. They visit the village where she grew up. They then join a 200km barefoot pilgrimage to Kataragama, for the holy festival. Is Romesh going to become the good Tamil boy his mother hopes? Will he uncover a deep-rooted spiritual connection with the land of his forefathers? Or will he remain the perpetual teenager and lead his Uncle Ragu astray?

### Short synopsis

Romesh is sent to Batticloa to meet his Uncle Ragu who has been given a mandate from Romesh's mum. They visit the village where she grew up. They then join a 200km barefoot pilgrimage to Kataragama, for the holy festival.

### 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](mailto:taylor.tracey@abc.net.au)

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

## Wildwoods

WildWoods is a live action, comedy series for 5 to 8-year-olds, and tells the story of Cooper, the laid-back giant sasquatch who's coming-of-age sees him leave his sheltered indoor urban existence and move into the forest to re-engage with his woodland roots.

There, Cooper meets Poppy, the pint-sized sugar glider with the big attitude. The odd couple strike up an unlikely friendship and, together, have comedy adventures that see them learn about life a long way from the city.

WildWoods encourages kids to take a digital break and rediscover the wonder of the great outdoors.

In episode one (Arrival), Cooper arrives in the WildWoods for the first time. When he encounters a little, headstrong sugar glider called Poppy and her snail pal, Frederick, Cooper and his new acquaintances get off on the wrong foot.

An unfortunate incident in the spooky Swampy Swamp eventually causes them each to conclude that the other isn't so bad after all. And, when they each set up a new home, and discover that they are to be neighbours, a new unlikely friendship is born!

### Short synopsis

Cooper, a giant sasquatch leaves the big city and moves into the forest. There he strikes up an unlikely friendship with Poppy, a feisty pint-size sugar glider, and they have comedy adventures that see them learn about life.

### Production details

Produced by Sixteen South; Created by Colin Williams; Creative Director, Sixteen South, with funding from Northern Ireland Screen and the Broadcast Authority of Ireland.

### Contact

Amy Reiha on 02 8333 3852 04 0404 026 039 or [reiha.amy@abc.net.au](mailto:reiha.amy@abc.net.au)

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



Saturday 6 January 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.

From a sold-out night at Sydney's famous Comedy Store, Cameron James gets real about grown up parties, paintball injuries, and the tiny lies we tell ourselves to get through each day.

Cameron is a comedian who believes in the raw essentials of stand up: a mouth, a mic, and a stage. And that's how this episode of *Comedy Next Gen* starts, with a close-up shot of a microphone on a stool, waiting to be talked into, and the cheering of an excited crowd, waiting to be talked at. And the talking starts right away, with little pomp or ceremony we are right into the conversation.

### Short synopsis

From a sold-out night at Sydney's famous Comedy Store, comedian Cameron James gets real about grown up parties, paintball injuries, and the tiny lies we tell ourselves to get through each day.

### Production details

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

### Contact

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

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Kristine Way (on LSL)	(02) 8333 3844 / 0419 969 282 <a href="mailto:Way.Kris@abc.net.au">Way.Kris@abc.net.au</a>	My Online Nightmare, Joyride, Inspector George Gently, The Book Club Christmas Special, Royal Variety Performance 2017
Safia van der Zwan	(02) 8333 3846 <a href="mailto:VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au">VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au</a>	Mystery Road, Rake, Australian Music Month, Friday on My Mind, Making Muriel, NYE, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
Peri Wilson <b>(Acting Publicity Lead &amp; Communication Specialist News and Current Affairs)</b>	(02) 8333 2263 / 0409 888 866 <a href="mailto:Wilson.Peri@abc.net.au">Wilson.Peri@abc.net.au</a>	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
Amy Reiha	<a href="mailto:Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au">Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au</a>	ABC ME, ABC KIDS, Junior Eurovision, Play School, Story Time S2, Tonightly with Tom Ballard, Back Roads, Wildwoods

## Melbourne

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Yasmin Kentera	(03) 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 <a href="mailto:Kentera.Yasmin@abc.net.au">Kentera.Yasmin@abc.net.au</a>	Glitch, The Doctor Blake Mysteries, Rosehaven, War On Waste:Turning the Tide, Kiki and Kitty
Tracey Taylor	(03) 9524 2313 / 0419 528 213 <a href="mailto:Taylor.Tracey@abc.net.au">Taylor.Tracey@abc.net.au</a>	Hard Quiz, The Ex-PM S2, The Letdown, Mustangs FC, The Yearly. Asian Provocateur
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