



MEDIA RELEASE

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## ABC gets serious about comedy

#ABCCOMEDY

ABC is excited to announce the 4 December launch of **ABC COMEDY**: a new multiplatform brand that spans a TV channel (replacing ABC2), ABC iview, ABC listen and key social media platforms. Devoted to providing Australian audiences with an unrivalled comedy offering, ABC COMEDY is a mix of scripted and non-scripted, long and short form TV shows, and podcasts.

*Tonightly with Tom Ballard* will screen on the ABC COMEDY TV channel weeknights at 9pm and stream live through ABC COMEDY on iview, Facebook and YouTube. It's a show made for today's audiences—fast moving, irreverent, topical, talent driven, and just plain funny—with bite-sized packages released throughout the day on social media.

Lovers of snackable short form comedy will enjoy six all new Australian ABC COMEDY series available on iview from December 4. These include Nakkiah Lui's new series *Kiki and Kitty*; *#CelesteChallengeAccepted* from comedian and Instagram star Celeste Barber; *The Chinaboy Show* from YouTube sensation John Luc (aka MyChonny); Neel Kolhatkar's *Virgin Bush*; the charming *Other People's Problems*; new Indigenous comedy *Aussie Rangers*; plus the next series of *When TV Was Awesome* as well as 60 new bite-sized films from the new batch of *Fresh Blood* teams.

New ABC COMEDY YouTube and Facebook feeds will feature short form content, exclusive edits, live streams and more. And a new and fast-growing series of comedy podcasts on ABC listen will also give audiences opportunities to listen and laugh.

Over summer viewers can also binge on ABC COMEDY on iview with the full series of *Rosehaven*, *Get Krack!n'*, *The Ex-PM*, *The Edge of the Bush*, *The Katering Show*, *Upper Middle Bogan*, *Almost Midnight*, *DAFUQ*, *Goober*, *Fancy Boy*, *Growing Up Gracefully*, *Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am*, *The Letdown*, *Lost in Pronunciation*, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival showcases and *Comedy Up Late*.

Plus, there a plethora of premium international titles to launch the ABC COMEDY channel including: *Game Face*, *Catastrophe* S3, *Episodes* S4&5, *Murder in Successville*, *Inside Amy Schumer* S3&4 and every weeknight a chance to enjoy *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*, *The Office*, *30 Rock* and *Parks and Recreation*. 2018 titles include *Fleabag* S1, *Plebs* S3, *Asian Provocateur*, and *Idiot Sitter* S1, with more to come.

The laughs will continue on the ABC's main channel, with a raft of returning favourites in 2018 including *Gruen*, *Shaun Micallef's Mad As Hell*, *The Weekly with Charlie Pickering*, *Black Comedy* and the *Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2018* in addition to new series from some of Australia's best. *Squinters* stars Tim Minchin plus a stellar ensemble cast including Jacki Weaver. It follows five car-loads of Sydney commuters squinting into the sun and riffing on their days. *Sando* is a new family comedy that follows the trials of lovable larrikin Victoria 'Sando' Sandringham. Don Angel (Wayne Hope) returns in *Back in Very Small Business*. And *Corey White's Road Map to Paradise* tackles the big issues of the day and aims to solve them—with a laugh or two—in 15 minutes!

David Anderson, Director Television says, "The ABC is committed to investing in great content for all Australians. We have a long and impressive history of entertaining Australians through iconic comedy and entertainment programs. Our announcement today reaffirms this commitment and underscores the ABC as a powerhouse of great Australian comedy into the future."

### COMEDY ON THE ABC – New Australian Long Form Titles

#### ***Tonightly with Tom Ballard***

**Host:** Tom Ballard **Reporters:** Greta Lee Jackson, Bridie Connell, Greg Larsen



At last! A comedy show that smacks and unpacks the latest trends, news, inputs, life hacks and gossip and serves them up for you as a nightly dose of hot, must see entertainment. Armed with nothing but jokes and access to memes, *Tonightly with Tom Ballard* will investigate and explain the latest headlines, trends and the things you missed.

“*Tonightly* will have the journalistic credibility of *Sunrise* coupled with the comedic chops of *Landline*,” he said. “I just can’t wait to get started and win a Logie, even if it means going to the Gold Coast to collect it.”

Ballard will be joined by a team of three news, tech, culture and sports addicts who are fully across everything ever: Greta Lee-Jackson (*SkitBox*), Greg Larsen (*Fancy Boy*) and Bridie Connell (*Whose Line Is It Anyway? Australia*). These three are the show’s field reporters, putting their bodies on the line for the sake of truth, facts and punchlines. A wider family of contributing comedic voices from around the nation will join Tom on a regular basis.

Filmed at ABC Ultimo, the series launches with a thorough look back at the year: examining the big themes and events that made 2017 one of the most 2017 of years on record, then returns early in 2018 to quickly break its resolutions to eat less cheese.

*Tonightly with Tom Ballard* is an ABC Production. Premieres on ABC COMEDY

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#### ***Back in Very Small Business***

From the makers of *Upper Middle Bogan* comes the long-awaited reboot of their hit *Very Small Business*. Don Angel (Wayne Hope), a trumped-up small businessman, strives to be happy by avoiding both tax and intimacy, only to be plagued by the consequences of both his morally questionable business practices and his stunted emotional life.

With Don at the helm, the World-Wide Business Group is unsurprisingly a hotbed of dysfunction, staffed by an ethnically diverse, gender fluid, psychologically fragile menagerie all hired on government subsidies. Besieged by racial and cultural difference, Don’s intolerance is gradually outweighed by the unexpected affection he feels for his business park family as he confusedly discovers that other humans might be what he needs to be happy.

*Back in Very Small Business* is a Gristmill Pty Ltd production for the ABC. Principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Film Victoria. Premieres on ABC

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#### ***Corey White’s Road Map to Paradise***

The clock is ticking. Andy Warhol offered us all fifteen minutes of fame and comedian Corey White isn’t going to squander his allocation. He has fifteen minutes of your attention and he plans to use it solve one of the world’s burning issues. That’s two global quandaries solved per episode – fixing the world faster than Scott Cam can whack up a pergola! In season one he will give the 15-minute treatment to; Capitalism, Democracy, Nationalism, The War on Terror, Patriarchy, Closing the Gap, Foster Care, Big data, Racism, and Annihilation.

*Corey White’s Road Map to Paradise* is a Guesswork TV production for ABC Indigenous. Premieres on ABC

### ***Sando***

From the makers of *The Moodys* and *No Activity* comes the delightful *Sando*. Victoria 'Sando' Sandringham is Australia's queen of the discount furniture and electrical deal. Sando's built her business empire on being a down-to-earth larrikin and is something of a national treasure – to all but her family. She became estranged from them a decade ago when her one-night stand with her daughter's fiancé was shockingly revealed at her daughter's wedding. Now, a decade later and after a health scare and with her career at a precipice, Sando is determined to reconnect with her family. She needs them and they'll discover that in spite of their initial apprehension...and hatred...they might just need her too. Cast to be announced soon.

*Sando* is a Jungle FTV Pty Ltd production for the ABC. Principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW. Premieres on ABC

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### ***Squinters***

From the creators of *No Activity*, *Wilfred* and *Lowdown* comes a quintessentially Australian take on daily life, *Squinters*. For many people living in Western Sydney, the beginning and end of their days has them caught in peak hour, squinting into the morning sun as they head East, and into the late afternoon glare as they head home at the end of the day. *Squinters* is a narrative comedy series about five recurring car-loads of everyday people who make this journey and their stories that play out on their commutes. *Squinters* comes to screens early 2018.

*Squinters* is a Jungle FTV Pty Ltd production for the ABC. Principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW. Premieres on ABC

## **COMEDY ON THE ABC – New Australian Short Form Titles**

### ***Aussie Rangers***

Out in the middle of nowhere is Black Stump National Park. Wally, Regina and Francis are the Indigenous contemporary parks and wildlife Rangers that run the station. The Park is under threat of being shut down. Wally, obsessed with the elusive and endangered Quokkacoot (that no-one has seen), and his fellow rangers must find a way to reinvent themselves and combat the Parks and Wildlife Department before they too become extinct. Aussie Rangers are mismanaging wildlife, one natural disaster at a time.

*Aussie Rangers* a Factor 30 Film production for ABC Indigenous in association with Screen West.

Premieres on ABC COMEDY on iview

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### ***#CelesteChallengeAccepted***

*#CelesteChallengeAccepted* is a celebration of the unique comedic personality of Celeste Barber. It's what has made her popular with over 2.5million Instagram followers. Except now... it's moving! A piss-take of modern celebrity, a satire of modern values, and a parody of the over-stylized unrealistic imagery created by the Hollywood machine.

*#CelesteChallengeAccepted* is a Red Christmas production for the ABC.

Premieres on ABC COMEDY on iview

### ***Kiki and Kitty***

Kiki is a young black woman trying to make it as an overworked paralegal for a corporate law firm in the big smoke. Kiki has always been the "Good Aboriginal Girl", but after an embarrassing scene at an office party, Kiki wakes up to find a big, black, bold woman in a black sequin dress, red lippie and martini in her hand, straddling her in bed. Kitty is impulsive, outspoken, sexy as hell... she's Kiki's vagina come to life as a real person! Kiki is the only one who can see Kitty. But Kitty knows just what Kiki needs to get control of her life, and makes it her mission to fix it.

*Kiki and Kitty* is a Porchlight Films production for the ABC. Principal production investment from Screen Australia. Premieres on ABC COMEDY on iview

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### ***Other People's Problems***

From the producers of *The Dressmaker*, Florence (*Sisters* star Maria Angelico) is a reluctant copywriter and would-be eco-warrior, who embarks on a venture to ghost-write other people's letters in exchange for second-hand clothing. Her bestie and housemate Ann is a life-saving paramedic, and Florence is determined to prove she's equally adept at helping people. Even if it's with solving problems like... who gets to keep the friends when a couple breaks up? And how should you behave when you meet someone you've been creeping online? But is Florence really helping people or is her ever-consuming obsession with other people's problems really just Florence trying to avoid her own?

*Other People's Problems* is a Seymour Films production in association with ABC, Screen Australia and Film Victoria and Film Art Media. Part of ABC and Screen Australia's Long Story Short initiative. Premieres on ABC COMEDY on iview

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### ***The Chinaboy Show***

John Luc (AKA Mychonny) has had over 300 million views on his YouTube channel, easily making him one of Australia's most loved online stars. His notable successes include the web series *Mychonny Moves In* (over 2 million hits) and *Mychonny's Asian Gangsters* video (over 5 million hits). Now he brings a brand new series *The Chinaboy Show* to the ABC, and it's the first ABC sketch comedy written from the perspective of a Chinese Vietnamese Australian.

*The Chinaboy Show* is an RKPix Pty Ltd production for the ABC. Principal production investment from Screen Australia and Screen West. Premieres on ABC COMEDY on iview

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### ***Virgin Bush***

He's a stand-up comedian, an internet sensation and a self-proclaimed 'city slicker'. So, Neel Kolhatkar is heading to the bush to meet the locals and put his nose to the grindstone. Can he hack it though? Sheep shearing, pigeon racing, bow hunting, rally driving and bull riding aren't exactly for the faint hearted. Well, maybe pigeon racing... But Neel gets to experience an Australia that most Aussies never see and at the same time, he's feeding his stand-up schtick too. Saddle up for *Virgin Bush*.

*Virgin Bush* is an ABC Production. Premieres on ABC COMEDY on iview

## COMEDY ON THE ABC – New Series of Audience Favourites

### ***Black Comedy, series 3***

*Black Comedy*, a sketch comedy show by Blackfellas, is a fast paced, irreverent, thought provoking - at times silly but always funny look at Australia & Australian culture through the comedic prism of our first people. After a great first two seasons, the team is back with series 3.

*Black Comedy* is a Scarlett Pictures production for the ABC. Premieres on ABC

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### ***Gruen, series 10***

Yes! *Gruen* will be back in 2018 for its 10th series. *Gruen*, the show that unpicks the dark arts of advertising, branding, and spin. Join host Wil Anderson, stalwarts Todd Sampson and Russel Howcroft and other advertising industry experts to unpick the ways we're all bought and sold.

*Gruen* is a CJZ and ABC co-production. Premieres on ABC

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### ***Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2018***

The ABC teams up once again with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival to bring loads of laughs as we screen the festivals signature events - *The Gala*, *Opening Night Allstars Supershow* and *The Great Debate*, as well as a brand-new series of *Comedy Up Late*

#### **The Gala**

It's the biggest night in the comedy calendar, where the finest and funniest from Australia and overseas come together for this special event.

#### **Opening Night Allstars Supershow**

Comedy legends and luminaries from around the world take to the stage alongside the freshest and funniest homegrown talent, showcasing the brilliant performers from the Festival.

#### **The Great Debate**

Bear witness to the battle of the biggest comedy brains as two teams fight it out to reign supreme. The topic will be contentious, the competition heated and the comedy world-class.

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### ***Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell, series 8***

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'.

*Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell* is an ITV Studios Australia and Giant Baby production for the ABC. Premieres on ABC

***The Weekly with Charlie Pickering, series 4***

*The Weekly* is a comedy show, news show, tonight show and chat show all in one. Comedian Charlie Pickering is ably assisted by hilarious co-hosts Kitty Flanagan, Tom Gleeson and Adam Briggs as they dissect the week's news, solve the world's problems and waste the nation's time all in the name of award-winning entertainment.

*The Weekly with Charlie Pickering* is a Thinkative Television production for the ABC.

Premieres on ABC

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***Comedy Next Gen, series 2***

*Comedy Next Gen* showcases the next generation of stand-up comedians as they perform their latest live shows. Upcoming comedy acts will include: Aaron Chen, Becky Lucas, Cameron James, Daniel Townes, David Quirk, Demi Lardner, Geraldine Hickey, Nick Cody, Sam Taunton, Suren Jayemanne, Tessa Walters, Tom Walker and Yianni Agisilaou.

Premieres on ABC COMEDY

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***Fresh Blood S2***

Re-sharpen your knives for a new season of the hugely successful comedy series *Fresh Blood*. The comedy initiative was created in 2013 by ABC and Screen Australia to kick start the careers of young writers, directors, and performers. In 2018 there are twenty fresh teams with 60 great new episodes showcasing the breadth of amazing local talent.

*Fresh Blood* is a joint initiative between ABC and Screen Australia.

Premieres on ABC COMEDY on iview

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***When TV Was Awesome, series 2***

We've headed back to the goldmine that is the ABC archive to unearth some hidden comedy gems – they've been dusted off and creatively re-voiced, giving them the comedy makeover they deserve.

*When TV Was Awesome* is an ABC Production

Premieres on ABC COMEDY on iview

## COMEDY ON THE ABC – New Australian Podcasts

### ***Positions Vacant***

Comedians Ray Badran and Susie Youssef have started a company to develop creative apps (CRapps) and are looking for new employees. Join them in the empty offices as they interview high profile Australians (Ronny Chieng, Hamish Blake, Gen Fricker and others) to find the best candidate for the job. Awkward and misinformed, Ray and Susie ask brazen and naive questions that push the envelope with guests who have been briefed to turn everything into a positive, just like in a job interview. Think 'Between 2 Ferns' meets 'The Office'.

*Positions Vacant* is an ABC Audio Studios production.

Premieres on ABC listen

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### ***Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football Season 2***

From Working Dog (*Utopia, Have You Been Paying Attention?*) and featuring Santo Cilauro, Sam Pang and Ed Kavalee comes the season return of their #1 iTunes podcast hit. This season there are 28 new episodes dissecting the week's European football news and results... continuing all the way through to the 2018 World Cup.

*Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football* is a Working Dog production for ABC.

Premieres on ABC listen

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### ***The Urnbelievable Ashes Podcast***

A weekly Ashes-based comedy show, to run through the 2017-18 Australia v England series, co-hosted by comedians Andy Zaltzman, from England, and Australian Felicity Ward. Each episode will feature discussion of the action so far, Andy and Felicity's spoof commentary of the highlights and lowlights of the matches, random cricket-related tangents, genuine punditry, and occasional barrages of Andy's trademark statistics in the style of Andy's globally successful podcast, *The Bugle*.

*The Urnbelievable Ashes Podcast* is an ABC Audio Studios production.

Premieres on ABC listen

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### ***Troll Play***

The world is full of hate, with online comments sections, Reddit boards, Twitter and Facebook comments descending rapidly into an exponentially deepening cesspit of meanness. Alice Fraser, Cal Wilson, and Sami Shah will use their improv/comedy skills to take apart some of the worst examples of the week including personal attacks, online rants and conspiracy theories along the lines of logic, grammar, etiquette, and kindness. They'll provide useful troll strategies, as well as communication techniques for victims, as well as an online ethics approach to try to educate listeners to make a kinder world.

*Troll Play* is an ABC Audio Studios production.

Premieres on ABC listen

## COMEDY ON THE ABC – The Full List

### NEW AUSTRALIAN LONG FORM TITLES

Back in Very Small Business  
Corey White's Road Map to Paradise  
Sando  
Squinters  
Tonightly with Tom Ballard

### NEW INTERNATIONAL LONG FORM TITLES

Game Face  
Catastrophe S3  
Episodes S4&5  
Murder in Successville  
Inside Amy Schumer S3&4  
The Office  
30 Rock  
Parks and Recreation  
Fleabag 2018

### NEW AUSTRALIAN SHORT FORM TITLES

Aussie Rangers  
#CelesteChallengeAccepted  
Other People's Problems

Kiki and Kitty  
The Chinaboy Show  
Virgin Bush

### PODCASTS

Positions Vacant (Ray Badran and Susie Youssef)  
Santo, Sam & Ed's Total Football series 2  
The Urnbelievable Ashes Podcast (Andy Saltzman and Felicity Ward)  
Troll Play (Alice Fraser, Sami Shah & Cal Wilson)

### RETURNING AUSTRALIAN TITLES

Black Comedy, series 3  
Fresh Blood, series 2 (short form)  
Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2018  
The Weekly with Charlie Pickering, series 4

Comedy Next Gen, series 2  
Gruen, series 10  
Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell, series 8  
When TV Was Awesome, series 2 (short form)

### ABC COMEDY Summer Binge on iview

Almost Midnight  
Comedy Up Late S4, S5  
Fancy Boy  
Goober  
Melbourne International Comedy Festival showcases  
The Edge of the Bush  
The Katering Show S1 and S2  
Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am

A Moody Christmas  
DAFUQ  
Get Krack!n'  
Lost in Pronunciation  
Rosehaven S1 and S2  
The Ex-PM S1 and S2  
Upper Middle Bogan S1, S2 and S3  
Growing Up Gracefully

# #ABCCOMEDY

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