

BLACK COMEDY



BLACK COMEDY

A sketch comedy show by blackfellas. For everyone.

The wait is over! The groundbreaking comedy series **Black Comedy** returns to ABC TV. Written by and starring some of the funniest and most talented Indigenous performers in the country, **Black Comedy** 'goes blackly where no other blackfella has gone before' using an array of talented Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers to explore what it means to be Indigenous in contemporary Australia.

Series 2 sees the return of many favorites, Townsville's favourite gays, the Tiddas, are back, as are the Housewives of Narromine and audience favourites Blakforce – still enforcing what is and isn't black in the community. Also returning is Brooke Satchwell, reprising her role as Tiffany, the culturally confused wannabe black, white girl.

Returning in key roles are **Black Comedy** stalwarts Aaron Fa'Aoso, Nakkiah Lui, Steven Oliver and Elizabeth Wymarra, and they're ably joined by new core cast members Adam Briggs and Ian Zaro. Adam and Ian bring their considerable writing and performing talents to bear, injecting the show with new energy and flare.

New characters include Uncle Doctor, a medico whose methods are more than just a little unconventional, the Thong Mum, a woman whose ability with a boomerang thong is deadly, and the Beachies, a father and son who spend their days sitting on a log on their Torres Strait Island home staring out to sea and pondering the imponderable.

We also meet Ray, a recent parolee and menacing new member of the Black Comedy team, recruited as part of the ABC's Bridging The Gap Program, we pay homage to The Godfather with The Elders, an epic four-part tale of a turf war between two Matriarchs feuding over the rights to Melbourne's lucrative 'Welcome to Country' income stream, and we go back in time to revisit a classic 'lost' Australian gothic horror movies of the early 70s, the unforgettable '*Wandaroorah*', a film about a little town that needs Aboriginals - and will go to terrifying lengths to get them. We also take *Blakforce* to new heights with *Blakforce SCU: Special Coconut Unit* – the elite group of detectives charged with investigating large-scale crimes against Blackness.

Black Comedy is a fast paced, irreverent, entertaining, thought provoking - at times silly - at other times confronting, but always funny look at Australia and Australian culture through the comedic prism of our first people.

Starring alongside our cast are special guests including; Deborah Mailman, Leah Purcell, Matt Day, Luke Carroll, Shari Sebbens, Bjorn Stewart, Jack Charles, Elaine Crombie, Bruce R Carter, Brendan Cowell, Lisa Hensley, Anita Hegh, Robbie Magasiva, Harriet Dyer, Andrew McFarlane, Bruce Spence, Chris Haywood, Graham Rouse, Maggie Dence, Costa Georgiadis and Brooke Satchwell.

Production Credits:

Producers Kath Shelper and Mark O'Toole.
ABC Head of Indigenous Sally Riley.

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“From whoa to go, Black Comedy has been rude, confronting, weird and hilarious – everything a comedy should be”.

The Brisbane Times

“... an outstanding success. It’s also managed to be extremely funny... this remains a highlight of what’s been one of the best years for local comedy in yonks”.

The SMH





EPISODE 1

WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY

AT 9PM

In this episode we are introduced to Ray, a recent parolee and the newest member of the Black Comedy writing and performing team, recruited as part of the ABC's Bridging The Gap Program. Unfortunately Ray's enthusiasm for his new job doesn't quite extend to his new colleagues – and things start to get a little awkward around the office, until an incident with a brick sees Ray back behind bars.

We meet the Thong Mum and her daughter Selina. No matter where she

may be the second Selina steps out of line she can expect to feel the wrath of her mother's boomerang-like thong. We're introduced to the Beachies, a father and son from the Torres Strait who spend their days sitting on a log, staring out to sea, pondering life's imponderables.

We revisit Townsville's most beloved gay men, the Tiddas, the boys from Blakforce tackle a white noise complaint, the Housewives of Narromine make a welcome return and we visit Blackfella Superstitious Solutions, a business

dedicated to helping the victims of traditional curses. We also meet an Aboriginal psychic and visit a Hardware shop that offers customers the ultimate in-store service, your own personal Aboriginal blacktracker to help you locate those especially hard to find items - but as one poor tradie finds out, it's always best to make sure you tip your tracker.

Featuring guest appearances by **Deborah Mailman, Jack Charles, Matt Day, Luke Carroll and Costa Georgiadis**





EPISODE 2

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY AT 9PM

This episode sees the return of Jessie, the long suffering receptionist from the Black On Track employment agency, takes us behind closed doors at a conference at which Aboriginal representatives from each state and territory are trying to decide on a common Indigenous language, and a photo shoot where a not-overly-sensitive photographer tries to get a group of Aboriginal community workers

to pose like 'proper' Aboriginals.

Meanwhile Blakforce are called to a barbecue to try and deal with a serial undercooker, there's also an ad for an enticing new adult phone service 'Boys Gone Wild', and a shark attack victim gets an interesting insight into how Aboriginal people feel.

We pay homage to The Godfather with the Elders, an epic four-part tale

of a turf war between two Matriarchs feuding over the rights to Melbourne's lucrative 'Welcome to Country' income stream and a Blakforce favourite announces that he has been selected for promotion to the Blakforce SCU, the prestigious Special Coconut Unit.

Featuring guest appearances by **Deborah Mailman, Leah Purcell, and Matt Day.**





EPISODE 3

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY AT 9PM

In this episode we encounter an advertising company encumbered with the task of rebranding Aboriginality, we're given an insight into the potential horrors that lurk behind every silent telephone number and the Beachies give us some insight as to why it is that UFOs only ever abduct white people.

Blackfella Superstitious Solutions returns to find out what sort of trouble you're asking for if you're stupid enough to cut your hair at night,

Ginny and Marcia, the Housewives of Narromine, share the dirt on a bingo night gone wrong, and things appear to be hotting up between the Tiddas.

Meanwhile we hit the streets with the men and women of *Blakforce SCU*, the crack Special Coconut Unit, as they try to police what is and isn't black at the top end of town. In tonight's episode they're on the trail of 'The Renovator' a serial offender who buys houses in black neighborhoods then does

them up to sell to rich white people. Detective Nathan is going to have to survive kale, scented candles, cheese knives and soy lattes if he's going to come anywhere near cracking the case – even though the culprit maybe closer than he could ever have imagined.

Featuring guest appearances by **Deborah Mailman, Leah Purcell, and Harriet Dyer.**





EPISODE 4

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY
AT 9PM

We meet a slightly unhinged Indigenous driving instructor and his terrified white student, a traveller who keeps more than just her boobs in her bra, and a group of corporate types who respond to being told they have to have a Welcome to Country ceremony by putting on one of their own.

There's also an appearance by Uncle Doctor, an Indigenous man who practices medicine even though his only qualification is an honorary

doctorate awarded for his work as a cultural advisor. Working with little more than Vicks, flat lemonade and vinegar Uncle Doctor insists that while his methods may be unconventional, they must be respected – this despite a litany of failed diagnoses and treatments.

Brooke Satchwell's racially confused white woman Tiffany is back. We find Tiffany in an institution where she is undergoing therapy to cure her of her

racial confusion – but has it worked? For her ex-boyfriend John's sake we can only hope so. And we meet May and Cale, a hip young mixed race couple struggling to find a sexual position that is both non-racist and sexually satisfying.

Featuring guest appearances by **Deborah Mailman, Andrew McFarlane, and Brooke Satchwell.**





EPISODE 5

WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH

AT 9PM

In this episode we are introduced to the 'Namer 3000' a supercomputer designed to overcome the shortage of Aboriginal names required to be given to parks, suburbs and riverside walkways – but is it everything it's cracked up to be? We also meet a first contact woman whose first contact with the white man has turned her in to a beer swilling, darts playing, Manchester United supporting Chav. Meanwhile we drop by a traditional

wedding, we have another unnerving lesson with the Driving Instructor, the Tiddas appear to be on the verge of something bigger than Troy's big bent budhoo, and the Beachies ponder the reasoning behind the 'Ab' in Aboriginal.

We also go back in time to revisit one of the classic 'lost' Australian gothic horror movies of the early 70s, the unforgettable 'Wandaroorah'. Made in the tradition of 'The Cars That Ate Paris' and 'Wake In Fright', only not as good, 'Wandaroorah' is about a small

country town that hasn't seen so much as a single Aboriginal in generations, but with NAIDOC week approaching the local citizenry decide it's time they did something about that. Something unsettling. Something downright evil.

Featuring guest appearances by **Deborah Mailman, Matt Day, Anita Hegh, Bruce Spence, Chris Haywood, Graham Rouse and Maggie Dence.**





EPISODE 6

WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH AT 9PM

In this, the final episode of the series we drop in on the Housewives of Narromine, visit with Uncle Doctor and sit on the log staring out into the ocean with the Beachies for the last time. Thong Mum and Selina get some big news, and we meet Maloo, a pre-contact conspiracy theorist who's predicted the arrival of the tall ships and the white man as well as global warming.

We also meet a serial killer who finds it offensive that his Indigenous would-

be victims think that's he's going to kill them first just because they're black, and we watch as a young Indigenous man launches a social media campaign to make white people sit next to their Aboriginal brothers and sisters on public transport – a campaign that works too well for anyone's comfort.

We also catch up on Laine, Stu, Bret and Cookie, the two white couples who sponsored an Aboriginal girl and her brother for a dollar a day in series one – something that they've now

come to realise was no more than a disempowering act of colonization driven by their White Saviour Complexes. And finally we catch up with the Tiddas, as they embark on the trip of a lifetime, to New Zealand, where they intend to become husband and husband... if they can pull it off.

Featuring guest appearances by **Robbie Magasiva, Luke Carroll, Michael Dorman, Lisa Hensley, Matt Day, Brendan Cowell, Anita Hegh and Bjorn Stewart.**



CAST



AARON FA'AOSO



Aaron Fa'Aoso first came to prominence in 2004 with his performance as 'Eddie' in the critically acclaimed SBS mini-series, *R.A.N.*, for which he received nominations for an AFI Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Television Drama and a LOGIE Award for Most Outstanding New Talent.

Following on from that success, Aaron joined the multi award winning SBS series *East West 101* which recently had its third season go to air. Aaron received a 2011 Monte Carlo TV Festival award nomination for Most Outstanding Actor for his work in the series. In 2012 he was nominated for an AACTA Award for Best Supporting Actor, and the show was

awarded Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast in a Television Drama Series at the Equity Awards.

His other television credits include *City Homicide* and *Sea Patrol*. He has most recently appeared in Screentime's *Bikie Wars: Brothers in Arms* on Network Ten. In 2009, he made his feature film debut in Sue Brooks' *Subdivision*. In 2012, Aaron Associate Produced and starred opposite UK actor Brian Cox in the ABC crime drama, *The Straits*. The series is based on his original idea and Produced by Matchbox Pictures. The Straits is currently being developed for US television by Hell on Wheels creators Tony Gayton and Joe Gayton with NBC Universal, Working Title and Universal TV.

Aaron has also been active behind the camera writing and directing the short film, *Sharp Eye*, as part of the SBS Television series *Bit of Black Business*.

Aaron was one of the devisors and performers in the Urban Theatre Project's highly successful play, *Back Home*, which sold out at the 2006 Sydney Festival and toured to Toronto, Canada the following year. He also featured in Queensland's Koeemba Jdarra Performing Arts Company productions of *Howie the Rookie* and *Njunjal the Sun*.

Aaron is a four time Deadly Award nominee for Male Actor of the Year for his performances in *R.A.N.* and *East West 101*.



“Bruce Spence, Deb Mailman, Matt Day, Leah Purcell... it was just amazing to be able get out of bed in the morning and work with these kings of their craft. It was fun to pull out some of the old stuff, like the Tiddas and Blakforce, but it was also great to be able to play with some new ideas, channeling funny characters from my community”.

Aaron Fa'Aoso



NAKKIAH LUI



Nakkiah is a writer/actor and Gamillario/Torres Strait Islander woman. She is a co-writer/star of **'Black Comedy'** ABC and is a monthly columnist for The Australian Womens Weekly Online. She has been an artist in residence at Griffin Theatre Company (2013) and was playwright in residence at Belvoir from 2012 - 2014.

In 2012, Nakkiah was the first recipient of The Dreaming Award from The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Arts Board of the Australia Council. The same year, Nakkiah was also the inaugural recipient of the Balnaves

Foundation Indigenous Playwright award. In 2014, Nakkiah was the recipient of the Malcolm Robertson Prize and a Green Room Award for Best Independent Production.

Nakkiah's previous works include; *'This Heaven'* Playwright, Belvoir 2013, *'I Should Have Told You Before We Made Love (That I'm Black)'* Playwright, You Are Here Festival 2012, *'Stho Sthexy'* Playwright, MKA Melbourne 2013, *'Blackie Blackie Brown: The Traditional Owners of Death'* Playwright, Bondi Feast, Tamarama Rock Surfers 2013. *'Sovereign Wife'* Dramaturg, Melbourne

Theatre Company 2013. *'Black Comedy'* Writer/Actor. ABC, 2014, *'Blak Cabaret'* Playwright, Sydney Festival/ Malthouse Theatre Company 2015, *'Kill the Messenger'* Actor/Playwright, Belvoir 2015.

Nakkiah is also a young leader in the Australian Aboriginal community and has contributed to The Guardian, has been a featured panelist during Sydney Writers Festival (2014) and has appeared on *'The Drum'* on ABC.

She recently was awarded the Belvoir Philip Parsons Fellowship for Emerging Playwrights.

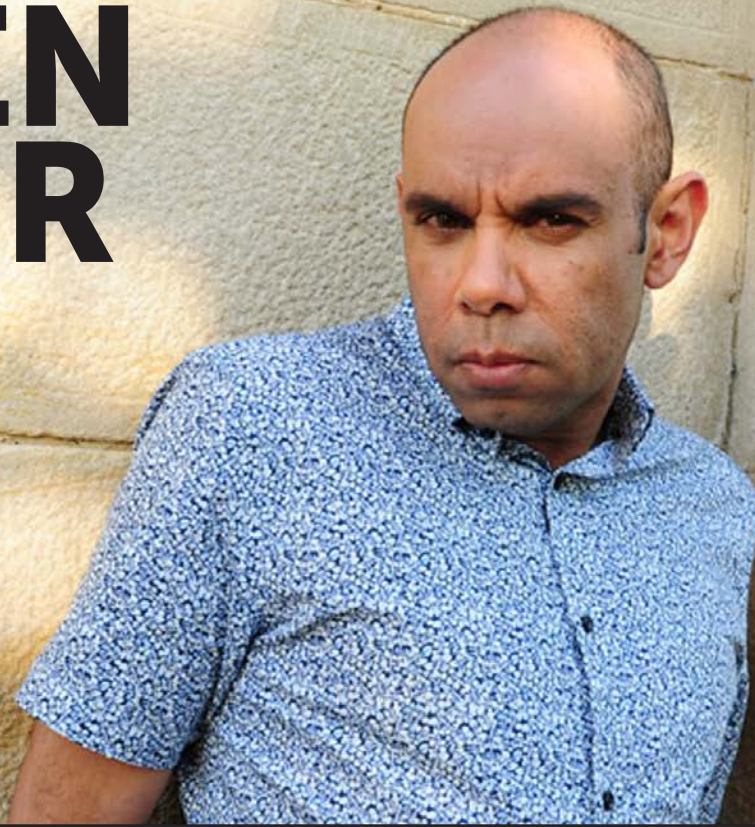


“Working on Black Comedy again really reiterated how powerful comedy is. Laughing is the biggest act of rebellion and the best comedy is rebellious. We’re big blacks having a laugh and that can’t not make an impact. I had one goal this series: pick something we’re not supposed to be laughing at and then write a sketch about it”

Nakkiah Lui



STEVEN OLIVER



Steven Oliver is a descendant of the Kukuyalanji, Waanyi, Gangalidda, Woppaburra, Bundjalung and Biripi peoples. He studied at the Aboriginal Music Theatre Training Programme in Perth and from there was accepted into the Music Theatre Programme at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).

Upon his return to Queensland he took on the role of Assistant Artistic Director with the Aboriginal Centre for

the Performing Arts in Brisbane. He has worked with companies such as Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre, Kooemba Jdarra Theatre, La Boite Theatre, Jute Theatre, Kite Theatre and the Queensland Arts Council.

He has had showings of his musical *Black Queen Black King* as part of Queensland Theatre Company's Creative Development Series in Association with Playlab and also at the Brisbane Powerhouse for their

World Theatre Festival Program and will feature at their 2016 Melt Festival. He has also been a Queensland state finalist twice and national finalist for the Australian Poetry Slam.

His play *Proper Solid* was produced by Jute Theatre in 2014 and will tour Queensland in 2016. He was also a writer, actor and associate producer for ABC's Logie nominated first season sketch show **Black Comedy**.



ELIZABETH WYMARRA



Elizabeth has been dabbling in comedy for many years. She made a comedy short film through Metro Screen called *The Biggest Port* and also a half hour drama/comedy through Metro Screen called *Woollo*, which screened on ABC TV in 2013. A published children's

author, actor, writer and now producer/director, Elizabeth comes from a background in radio, theatre and TV. She recently made another short comedy film through Metro Screen, titled *Dawney Slack* and several short documentaries for NITV.



ADAM BRIGGS



Adam Briggs, also known by the stage name Briggs, is an Australian rapper, lyricist, hip hop artist, writer and actor. He is an Indigenous Australian of the Yorta Yorta people.

Briggs has released an independent EP, *Homemade Bombs* (2009), and two albums, *The Blacklist* (2010) and *Sheplife* (2014) through the Hilltop Hoods imprint 'Golden Era Records', in addition to appearances on songs with other artists, such as the Hilltop Hoods, Funkoars, Drajt and The Last Kinection. In the live arena, he has supported international artists such as Ice Cube, KRS-One, Ghostface Killah, Yelawolf, Xzibit. and Pharoahe Monch. *Sheplife* was released on 22 August

2014 through Golden Era Records to critical acclaim, with appearances from Ill Bill, Joyride, Sietta and Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu. '*Bad Apples*', Briggs's 2nd single reached #87 on Triple J's Hottest 100. Briggs recently started his own record label, Bad Apples Music, and wants to help young black artists write and record songs.

Adam is relatively new to the acting world, having recently finished his first acting job shooting an ongoing role in the new 8 part series *Cleverman* for Goalpost Pictures/ABC, with directors Wayne Blair & Leah Purcell. He has also just completed filming on the feature film *Spin Out*. He was a writer on the second series of **Black Comedy** (Scarlett Pictures/ ABC) and is currently

developing a semi-autobiographical tv series.

Awards:

In 2015, Briggs is nominated for Artist of the Year and Best Song at the National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMA), Best Male Artist and Best Regional Act at the Music Victoria Awards and is a finalist in The Australian Performing Rights Association (APRA) Professional Development Awards.

Previous awards and nominations include the Best New Talent award at the 2014 National Indigenous Music Awards, two Deadly Awards nominations: Best Single in 2011 (*The Wrong Brother*) and Hip-hop Artist of the Year for 2012.



“You said there would be sandwiches”

Adam Briggs



IAN ZARO



Ian Zaro is a 20 year old writer/performer with fabulous hair who has found fame worldwide as the self-appointed Dubsmash King. He lives in Townsville with his mother, his millions of online fans and his mobile phone collection. Ian likes chicken and... more chicken. Check out his videos on his Facebook page, which has more than 40,000 followers.

<https://www.facebook.com/ian.zaro?fref=ts>



PRODUCERS



KATH SHELPER



Kath is best known for producing Warwick Thornton's feature film *Samson & Delilah*. She also produced Beck Cole's debut feature *Here I Am*.

More recently Kath produced Brendan Cowell's feature film *Ruben Guthrie*, the first series of *Black Comedy* and Mia Wasikowska's contribution to the MTV anthology film *Madly*.

In 2013 Kath produced Warwick's *The Darkside*, a feature doc and TV series

for ABC TV and two chapters of *The Turning* (directed by Warwick and Mia Wasikowska). She also produced *Tender* a documentary about a community group setting up a funeral service, which got a Special Mention at the 2014 Sydney Film Festival documentary competition and won the AACTA Award for Best Television Documentary.

But before that she produced more short films than she cares to remember including: Warwick's *Green Bush* (Best Panorama Short Film – Berlinale, Sundance, IF Award) and *Nana* (Crystal Bear - Berlinale, IF Award), Beck's *Plains Empty* (Sundance), Sally Riley's *Confessions Of A Headhunter* (Best Short - AFI Awards) and Carla Drago's *Above The Dust Level* (Best Comedy - Melbourne Film Festival, nominated AFI Awards). She received the Inside Film



MARK O'TOOLE



Mark O'Toole started his writing career on TV programmes such as *Full Frontal*, *Eric* and *The 10.30 Slot*. He co-wrote the award winning *John Safran's Music Jamboree* and *John Safran Versus God* with John Safran and was Associate Producer on the latter. During this period Mark also co-wrote the

feature films *Take Away* and *You And Your Stupid Mate* with Dave O'Neil, again being credited as Associate Producer on both projects. *Sex: An Unnatural History*, a six part comedy/documentary series that Mark wrote, and served as Associate Producer on for Matchbox Pictures aired on SBS

in mid-2011. Mark was most recently writer/producer of *Spicks and Specks* (ABC), Head Writer of two series of the kids sketch comedy program *You're Skitting Me* (ABC3) and Series Producer of *Tractor Monkeys* (ABC1) and Producer of **Black Comedy** Series 1 (ABC).



BLACK COMEDY



Starts Wednesday 3 February
at 9pm