



Sun May 22
to Sat May 28
2016

Week 22 Highlights



Comedy Showroom: Bleak
Premieres Wednesday 25 May at 9.00pm



Rake
Thursday 26 May at 8.30pm



Miss Transgender UK
Premiere Friday 27 May at 9.30pm



Catalyst: Becoming Superhuman
Premiere Tuesday 24 May at 8.00pm



Comedy Showroom: Bleak

Premiere

Created by Kate McLennan and Kate McCartney from *The Katering Show* comes Bleak, the next pilot to air in our Comedy Showroom.

Self-obsessed screw-up Anna O'Brien (Kate McLennan) loses her terrible boyfriend, her septic tank of a house and her dead-end job all in one day. With no friends, no money and nowhere to go, she crawls back to the warm embrace of her well-to-do family, only to be given a drink and then shown the door.



Cast out onto the street, with both her life and her mental resolve disintegrating like old jocks, Anna stumbles upon an Open for Inspection at a nearby townhouse. And it's here, surrounded by empty cupboards and hire furniture, that the unhinged Anna O'Brien seeks to reinvent herself, and her luck.

Also stars: Shane Bourne, Jean Kittson, Brooke Satchwell, Toby Truslove, Sammy J and Kate McCartney.

Short synopsis

Self-obsessed screw-up Anna O'Brien returns to her family home after her life falls apart, only to be given a drink and then shown the door. Will Anna be able to reinvent herself and her luck?

Production details

A Princess Pictures Production. Directed by Kate McCartney. Produced by Laura Waters and Jessica Leslie. ABC Executive Producers Brett Sleigh and Rick Kalowski.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera on 03 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 or kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au

Will also be available on 

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



Rake

As Cleaver (Richard Roxburgh) hides out in the country posing as a writer recovering from cancer, Wendy calls to report her house has been broken into yet again, leaving him feeling increasingly spooked.

Meanwhile, local girl Alli (Justine Clarke) has caught his eye, but Cleaver's doing his best not fall into old habits.



In Sydney, David Potter (Matt Day) is still publicly questioning why Edgar Thompson (John Waters), the man responsible for Cleaver's country sojourn, still hasn't come to trial. Witnesses have disappeared and three judges have recused themselves from the case. Little does he know that Assist Police Commissioner Ruth Rogers (Rachael Blake) and Thompson have resumed an old romance.

Barney's balloon fiasco ends up on Australian Story, and unfortunately for Cleaver, Alli wants to watch; so when pictures of Barney's friend Cleaver appear, he knows the game's up.

Meanwhile, Missy blows into town on the back of a drug-fuelled sojourn in LA. With Cleaver nowhere to be found, she searches for a drug dealer, so Barney and Nicole decide to intervene. Meanwhile, Scarlet (Danielle Cormack) and David's romantic night at home is being sabotaged by her kids.

Alli proves too much temptation for Cleaver and it's not long before the whole town knows about their relationship. But the unexpected return of the house's owner coincides with Alli's ex-husband arriving brandishing a gun, and chaos ensues. When Thompson's goons arrive Cleaver is left with no choice but to come back to town.

#Rake

Short synopsis

Cleaver's been hiding out in the country posing as a writer, but his cover's blown when Barney appears on Australian Story, complete with images of his best friend. It isn't long before Thompson's goons arrive on the scene.

Production details

Produced by Essential Media & Blow by Blow; Written by Peter Duncan and Andrew Knight; Produced by Ian Collie, Peter Duncan and Richard Roxburgh; Directed by Peter Duncan, Peter Salmon and Rowan Woods.

Contact

Kristine Way on 02 833 3844 or 0419 969 282 or way.kris@abc.net.au

Will also be available on 

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



Miss Transgender UK

Premiere

Across Britain transgender women are competing in a pageant with a difference. Over 40 women will battle it out to be crowned the UK's first Miss Transgender. But they're not just fighting for first place, they're battling to be accepted as the women they were born to be. Fed up of living in the shadows and determined to take centre stage, we follow three contestants on their extraordinary personal journeys, exploring what it's really like to be young and transgender in Britain today.



22-year-old Jai has been living as a woman for just two months and of all the contestants is at the earliest stage of her transition. Jai's determined to win, but she's worried because she's up against girls with feminine figures, while she still has to rely on stuffing her bra and shaving to keep her five o'clock shadow in check. For Jai entering the competition is a step towards being recognised as the woman she's struggled to become.

Courtney has been working on-and-off as an escort and web-cam girl since she was a teenager, but she wants to leave that life behind. Despite the stigma, she wants to use the competition to speak out about how young trans women can get trapped in the sex industry.

28-year-old Fay from Newcastle is one of only a handful of post-op contestants in the competition. She wants to use the £5000 prize money to help fulfil her lifelong dream of becoming a Mum. Fay had her sperm frozen before transitioning and winning the money would help kick-start her fund for a surrogate.

Short Synopsis

A documentary following three Trans women competing to be crowned the nation's first Miss Transgender UK. But they're not just fighting for first place, they're battling to be accepted as the women they were born to be.

Production details

Filmed, Produced and Directed by Jasleen Kaur Sethi. Production Company Minnow Films for BBC.

Contact

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

Will also be available on The logo for ABC iview, featuring the letters 'ABC' in white on a green background, with the word 'iview' in white on a blue background.

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



Catalyst: Becoming Superhuman (Part 1)

Premiere Special

In this two-part series, biomedical engineer Dr Jordan Nguyen tries to make a boy's wildest dreams come true with cutting-edge technology. He's promised 13-year-old Riley Saban he will invent a device to help Riley achieve the impossible.

Riley lives with severe cerebral palsy. It means he has no voluntary control over any part of his body, except his eyes. He can't walk or talk, let alone get up and turn on a light or the air-conditioning in the hot northern NSW summer.



But Jordan has promised Riley he will not only invent a device to enable Riley to turn on lights, air-conditioning, the television, and computer at home; he will enable Riley to achieve his dream of being able to drive. And all this technology will be controlled solely with Riley's eyes. Riley has so much faith in Jordan, he's even asked Jordan to give him a superpower.

Jordan's aim is for Riley to have 'telekinetic control' – the ability to independently take control of the technology in his environment using only his eyes. He sets about designing a headband that will respond to the electrical activity associated with Riley's eye movements to command lights and other appliances in the home remotely.

But for the technology to be effective, Riley has to work just as hard. He will have to train his eyes and his brain to perform unique functions. For this to work, both Jordan *and* Riley must succeed. Together, they tell a story about the incredible capabilities of the human brain when connected to ability-enhancing technologies.

Short synopsis

Dr Jordan Nguyen is a biomedical engineer. Riley Saban is a 13-year-old kid with cerebral palsy. Together they develop extraordinary, cutting edge technology that gives young Riley superhuman powers.

Production details

Executive Producer: Julia Peters. Writer/Director: Wain Fimeri. Writer/Producer: Ili Baré. ABC Commissioning Editor, Factual: Matt Scully. Produced by The Feds. The Feds Executive Producers: Michael Cook and Lizzy Nash.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 9524 2580/0409 600 456 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

Will also be available on 

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



Surfing The Menu: Next Generation

Series Premiere

Surfing the Menu, is one of ABC Commercial's most successful cooking series, it launched the international careers of chefs Ben O'Donohue and Curtis Stone, and enjoyed global success, being sold in over 70 countries. Now the series has been rebooted and re-energised and stars good mates Dan Churchill and Hayden Quinn.

Dan and Hayden share a love of cooking, surfing, fresh food, travel and adventure and that's exactly what the new series **Surfing the Menu: Next Generation** is all about. The 13 part series starts Sunday 22nd May at 6pm.

In this series, Dan and Hayden head off on an adventure around Australia in their trusty, rusty fifty-year-old VW Bug, nicknamed GiGi. On the journey they four-wheel drive in the desert, head to an outback cattle station, share a Tongan feast, learn to sail, snorkel on the Ningaloo and Great Barrier Reefs, catch mud crabs, swim with Mantra Rays and prove that they're perhaps the unluckiest fisherman in the country.

They share experiences with Indigenous communities such as searching underground for native bee nests and searching for bush medicines and foods. They also surf and go horseriding in some remarkable locations.

Along the way they meet passionate food producers – of everything from heritage tomatoes, cheeses, beef, goats, mangoes and herbs, to exotic mushroom, shrimp, rum and salt. The boys turn these fresh ingredients into simple, healthy and delightfully delicious recipes that will inspire you.

In tonight's first episode, Dan and Hayden are in Noosa. They help roast coffee, try kite surfing and yoga and visit a Shambhala farm. Hayden cooks up a delicious breakfast salad with chorizo, herbs and eggs while Dan uses Kimchi picked up at the local market in his Korean pork pot roast dish.

Short synopsis

Dan and Hayden are in Noosa. Hayden cooks up a delicious breakfast salad with chorizo, herbs and eggs while Dan uses Kimchi picked up at the local market in his Korean pork pot roast dish.

Production details

Noma Films Pty Ltd. Producers Marian Bartsch and Lance Reynolds.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera on 03 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 or kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au

Will also be available on The ABC iview logo, featuring the ABC logo and the word 'iview' in a blue box.

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



Compass: Prison Chaplains (Part 2)

A unique perspective on the drama of prison life through the work of Prison Chaplains inside men's and women's prisons and out in the community, as offenders participate in an empowering post-release program.

More than 35,000 men and women are serving time in Australian prisons. Deprived of liberty and with an uncompromising routine, it can be a traumatic experience, even for hardened inmates. It's Prison Chaplains who are there to provide the emotional and spiritual support prisoners need.

As chaplains help offenders meet the challenges of incarceration and find meaning in their lives, they also assist some inmates to work towards a crime-free future. Fundamental to every chaplain's work is the understanding that regardless of their crimes, no prisoner is ever given up for lost.

In this episode Chaplain Suzie Johnson is an Evangelical Christian with a big heart and her work at Dillwynia Correctional Centre is defined by her own experience of life's challenges. Zoe and Lesley are inmates who have been profoundly affected by Suzie's support. To Lesley she is a confidante who will always keep a secret, for Zoe who has embraced Christianity as a lifeline to change, Suzie offers the pathway to a better life.

Short synopsis

Chaplain Suzie Johnson is an Evangelical Christian with a big heart who works at the Dillwynia Correctional Centre. Zoe and Lesley are inmates who have been profoundly affected by Suzie's support.

Production details

Producer & D.O.P: Richard Corfield, Research & Sound: Mark Webb, Editor: Danielle Akayan, Series Producer: Jessica Douglas-Henry, ABC Head of Factual: Steve Bibb.

Contact

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

Will also be available on The ABC iview logo, featuring the letters 'ABC' in a small box above the word 'iview'.

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



The Murder Detectives

A groundbreaking three-part UK series with unprecedented access to a police murder investigation, telling the true story, as a drama, from the perspective of the police and the victim and suspect's families.

Filmed over 18 months, and with intimate and unprecedented access to the police major crime team, this dramatic trilogy of films creates a unique, unfolding picture of a real-life murder, weaving together the stories of three different worlds.

It follows the ripples that spread after a 19-year-old is murdered in March 2014, a young life cut short in a senseless stabbing.

Featuring a detective faced with a whodunit, a grieving family desperate for justice and another who'll do anything to save their son from a life behind bars, the series is shot with a drama-like quality – but this is real life with genuine and far-reaching consequences.

In this episode, prime murder suspect Luchiano Barnes is on the run. 48 hours ahead of the murder squad, he's fled the UK on a flight to New York. Detectives in Bristol circulate his details to the FBI, but by now he could be anywhere in the world. And so the hunt begins closer to home as the police target his mother and father. Meanwhile, as the parents of victim Nicholas Robinson try to come to terms with his murder, they also face the ordeal of burying their son. Only one thing keeps his dad Carlos going; the desperate need for justice.

Short synopsis

Prime suspect Luchiano Barnes is on the run and flown to New York. Detectives in Bristol circulate his details to the FBI, but by now he could be anywhere. Police now look closer to home as they target his mother and father.

Production details

Producer/Director: David Nath. Executive Producer: Neil Grant (*Three Days That Shook Paris*, *For Neda*, *Brett: A Life with No Arms*.) **The Murder Detectives** is a Films of Record production for Channel 4.

Contact

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

Will also be available on The ABC iview logo, with 'ABC' in small letters above 'iview'.

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



The Book Club

Series Return

This year THE BOOK CLUB celebrates its 10th anniversary with lots of new surprises in store.

Returning in its original home on Tuesday nights at 10pm, **THE BOOK CLUB** will roll out as a weekly show for twelve weeks from Tuesday, May 24 at 10pm. **THE BOOK CLUB** will also return for its annual hour-long special in December.

Jennifer Byrne will once again be joined by fellow book lovers and long time club members Marieke Hardy and Jason Steger but this year welcomes a rotation of regular club favourites including Michael Williams, Michael Robotham, Adam Liaw, Virginia Gay, Ben Law, Toni Jordan, and Omar Musa. We are also pleased to introduce author and blogger Rosie Waterland as the newest member of **THE BOOK CLUB**.

In addition to heated debate on the year's latest releases, audiences will be treated to breaking literary news, must-read classics, **THE BOOK CLUB's** best moments from the vault, guest favourites and publishing trends.

The first **BOOK CLUB** of the season includes special guest, award-winning author Jeanette Winterson, who along with Virginia Gay, Marieke Hardy and Jason Steger, will discuss Australian author Dominic Smith's historical fiction *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, before heading off to the wild and desolate moors of Emily Brontë's gothic masterpiece *Wuthering Heights*.

On Tuesday, May 31 **THE BOOK CLUB** presents *Books That Changed My Life* featuring a panel of Sydney Writers' Festival international guests; best-selling author Paula Hawkins (*Girl On A Train*), British poet and musician Kate Tempest (*The Bricks That Built The Houses*), Man Booker Prize winner Marlon James (*A Brief History of Seven Killings*), and American memoirist Vivian Gornick (*the Odd Woman and the City*).

Complementing **THE BOOK CLUB** is **BOOKISH** on the ABC Arts Channel on iview. **BOOKISH** is a fun weekly program exploring all aspects of books, writing, reading and publishing hosted by ABC Arts newcomer, comedian and writer Jennifer Wong.

To get book lovers of all ages in the mood, *Jennifer Byrne Presents: Andy Griffiths* – an intimate interview with Australia's best-selling author and kid's book sensation, airs on Tuesday, May 17 at 10pm on ABC and iview.

Short synopsis

Special guest Jeanette Winterson joins Jennifer Byrne, Virginia Gay, Marieke Hardy and Jason Steger, to discuss Australian author Dominic Smith's historical fiction *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, and *Wuthering Heights*.

Production details

Presented by Jennifer Byrne. Series Producer: Marie Davies. Executive Producer: Jo Chichester. Head ABC TV Arts: Mandy Chang

Contact

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Will also be available on 

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



Tomorrow When the War Began

Final

In the final episode of the first season, Corrie clings to life inside the hospital. Despite begging the doctors for medicine and even the chance to see her daughter, Kath is refused on every count.

After all they have suffered and lost, Homer returns to the rebel group, determined to take the fight back to the enemy. He hatches a plan to destroy Cobblers Bay Bridge, which is not only the key to the enemies supply chain, but the only pass they can use to relocate their families.

Ellie leads Robyn and Lee out of Hell to join up with their friends just as the soldiers arrive. Hell has been invaded and they are surrounded.

In a sign of things to come, Homer's father George is taken back to his farm. But things are not what they seem. He is only there to farm the land for the enemy.

Pretending to be mad from isolation, Robyn is purposefully captured by the enemy. Thrown into the cage with their families, she identifies the time when the truck is scheduled to leave and with the help of Jack, tosses the scribbled information over the fence for the rebels to use.

Fi and Lee begin their assault, using low impact explosives to distract the soldiers. The shock of the attack is enough to open a window for Jack as he and the others wrestle control of the situation. Though they manage an escape, a stray enemy bullet takes Jack in the leg and Liz is forced to leave him behind. The families, though free, are separated in the dark.

#TWTWB

Short synopsis

Corrie clings to life, Homer is determined to fight back and Ellie leads Robyn and Lee out of Hell to join their friends just as the soldiers arrive. Hell has been invaded and they are surrounded. CAST: Molly Daniels.

Production details

An Ambience Entertainment production in association with ABC3, Screen Australia and Film Victoria; Based on the novels by John Marsden; Producers Michael Boughen and Tony Winley; Executive Producers Matthew Street and Kim Vecera.

Contact

Tracey Taylor on 03 9524 2313 / 0419 528 213 or taylor.tracey@abc.net.au

Will also be available on The logo for ABC iview, with 'ABC' in a small blue box above 'iview' in white text on a blue background.

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