

A **Stan.** ORIGINAL SERIES

# *RuPaul's* **DRAG RACE DOWN UNDER**

SEASON 2  
JULY 30



**Stan.**  
ORIGINALS

For more information, please contact: [stan.publicity@stan.com.au](mailto:stan.publicity@stan.com.au)



# **SERIES SYNOPSIS**

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS:**

RuPaul makes her return to see more of what Australasian drag has to offer. Ten contestants partake in an elimination style contest as they compete in a variety of challenges and strut their stuff on the mainstage of RuPaul's Drag Race, all to prove that they've got what it takes to be the next Down Under Superstar!

## **LONG SYNOPSIS:**

RuPaul is back! And she is seeking out the very best in Australasian drag as the brightest in Aussie and Kiwi talent compete for the title of the Down Under's Next Drag Superstar. Each week the queens are given outrageous challenges that test their fashion, acting, dancing, singing, and comedy skills. RuPaul presides as mentor and host alongside faithful sidekicks Michelle Visage and Rhys Nicholson, as they all help to mentor and guide the queens through the journey of their mother tucking lives. At the end of each episode, one queen wins the challenge and the bottom two queens battle to see who stays, and who "sashays away" in the wildly dramatic Lip Sync For Your Life!

In 2009 RuPaul's Drag Race, a show that celebrated the art of drag, debuted on a small LGBTQ+ network, and has since shattered all expectations by becoming a major influence in mainstream pop culture -having launched the careers of over 150+ drag queens around the world, inspired top fashion designers, consistently trended #1 on Twitter, and attracted mega-talented guest stars like Lady Gaga, Lizzo, Miley Cyrus, Nicki Minaj and many more.

The series is as dazzling and hilarious as it is inspirational to viewers of all ages and backgrounds. When asked what makes Drag Race such a hit, RuPaul says: "At its core, our show is about the tenacity of the human spirit. It's the common thread that we all want to be recognized for who we are, we all want to be loved, and we all want to be accepted. Even the toughest, most courageous queen who's fought the biggest battles, in their own family, in the neighborhood, with mother and father, to get on that show and say to the world, 'Here I am. And I'm gonna be proud of who I am, I'm not gonna apologize for who I am.' That's why our show is so much more than men in pussycat wigs and cha-cha heels. That's what people connect with."

## **ASSETS:**

Promotional and Press assets are available at [media.stan.com.au](http://media.stan.com.au)



The brand new season of the Stan Original Series RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under premieres July 30, only on Stan.



## BIOGRAPHIES - JUDGES

RuPaul Andre Charles (born November 17, 1960) is an American actor, model, singer, songwriter, television personality and author. Since 2009, he has executive produced and hosted the reality competition TV series RuPaul's Drag Race, for which he received eleven Primetime Emmy Awards in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, making him the Guinness World Records title holder for most Emmy wins for Outstanding Host of Reality/Competition Program, and the most Emmy awards of any Black artist in history. RuPaul is the most commercially successful drag queen of all time, and in 2017, he was included in the annual Time 100 list of the most influential people in the world. RuPaul was born and raised in San Diego, CA and later moved to Atlanta, GA to study performing arts. He settled in New York City where he became a popular fixture on the nightclub scene. RuPaul achieved international fame with the release of the single, "Supermodel (You Better Work)", which was included on his debut album Supermodel of the World (1993). In 1995, he became the first spokesperson for MAC Cosmetics, raising millions of dollars for the MAC AIDS Fund, becoming the first man to land a major cosmetics campaign. In 1996, RuPaul landed a TV talk show on VH1, The RuPaul Show, taping over 100 episodes with co-host, Michelle Visage, while simultaneously co-hosting a morning drive radio show on WKTU, also with Visage. As a recording artist, RuPaul has co-written and co-produced seventeen studio albums to date, including Foxy Lady (1996), Champion (2009), Glamazon (2011), Born Naked (2014), American (2017) and MAMARU (2022). RuPaul's Drag Race has produced fourteen seasons to date and has inspired several international spin-off series, including RuPaul's Drag Race: UK and RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars. RuPaul was also featured as a host on the series Skin Wars: Fresh Paint, Good Work, Gay for Play Game Show starring RuPaul, and as the guest host of NBC's Saturday Night Live Feb. 8th 2020.

As an actor, RuPaul has appeared in over 50 films and television shows both in and out of drag including Crooklyn (1994), The Brady Bunch Movie (1995), To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar (1995), But I'm a Cheerleader (1999), Comedy Central series Broad City (2017), Girlboss (2017), Gracie & Frankie (2019), and the voice of Queen Chante in The Simpsons (2018). Most recently, RuPaul has teamed up with Michael Patrick King (Sex in the City, 2 Broke Girls) to produce comedy series, AJ & The Queen, in which RuPaul also stars. As an author, RuPaul has published three books: GuRu (Harper Collins, 2018), Workin' It! RuPaul's Guide to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Style (Harper Collins, 2010), and Lettin' It All Hang Out (Hyperion Books, 1995).

On March 16, 2018, Jane Fonda presented RuPaul with a star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame at 6652 Hollywood Blvd. RuPaul splits his time between New York, California and Wyoming. He is married to Australian rancher, Georges LeBar, who he met on the dance floor in 1994 at Limelight Disco in New York City.

RUPAUL





Emmy and Producers Guild Award winning, internationally renowned television personality, radio show host, podcast host, platinum-selling recording artist and author, Michelle Visage has made a name for herself in the entertainment industry, across multiple mediums for the past three decades. Bestseller, *The Diva Rules* [Chronicle Books] offers Michelle's advice for living life to the fullest, and finding success no matter what hand you're dealt.

On the television front, Visage can be seen as THE judge on the multiple Emmy Award winning VH1 show, "RuPaul's Drag Race," alongside RuPaul, Carson Kressley, and Ross Mathews. The reality competition show leaves fans wanting more each week with their rapid-fire quick wit, impeccable sense of style and signature sass, as they decide who will stay or "Sashay Away."

Visage can also be seen as a judge on RuPaul's Drag Race UK next to RuPaul, Graham Norton and Alan Carr and that airs on BBC3 and BBC1.

Michelle is so excited to be a judge on the all new RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under on Stan TV in Australia and TVNZ in New Zealand coming soon.

Also on BBC3 and BBC1, Michelle and her family kept everyone's spirits high during lockdown in her own reality show *How's Your Head, Hun?*

Michelle was also a judge for both years on the IFTA-nominated Ireland's Got Talent.

Visage has been a staple on morning radio for 17 years, hosting and co-hosting programs on various stations such as WKTU 103.5 [New York], HOT 92.3 [Los Angeles], SUNNY 104.3 [West Palm Beach, FL], WMIA [Miami] and Sirius XM, to name a few. In this time, Michelle has recorded thousands of commercials and delivered even more live reads. She is currently a co-host of the hugely successful RuPaul's What's the Tee? With Michelle Visage podcast, which won a 2018 Webby Award as well as the show having been downloaded over 40 million times.

On the music front, Visage rose to fame as a member of the girl group Seduction in the early 1990s, with their platinum-selling album "Nothing Matters Without Love," that spawned multiple hits that climbed the billboard charts. Visage was also featured on the best selling soundtrack of all time [35 million copies sold], *THE BODYGUARD* [Warner Brothers Pictures], with her remake of Bill Withers' "It's Gonna Be A Lovely Day," that she wrote and sang. Visage was immediately signed to Arista Records by Clive Davis himself.

As a newly crowned dancer, Michelle competed and dominated in the 2019 season of the UK's biggest show, *Strictly Come Dancing*, leaving after a controversial dance off. She was the fan favorite and fell in love with the world of dancing!

Visage currently splits her time between Los Angeles and the UK. She shares her life with her husband, two daughters and two rescue pups.





Rhys Nicholson is a Multi-award winning Australian stand-up, writer, podcaster and collager. After moving to Sydney in 2009 at the age of 18, Rhys was very enthusiastic but had limited success as a comedian until in 2012 when he won the Best Newcomer award at the Sydney Comedy Festival.

For a few years Rhys quietly plodded along performing all over the place, trying to get better and not doing anything particularly special until 2016 when he was selected to perform at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala, he sold out his run, received a nomination for the illustrious Melbourne Comedy Festival Award for Best Show award for best show and went on to sell out shows throughout Australia and the UK. Also that year, to highlight the importance of marriage equality in Australia, Rhys publicly married lesbian and fellow comedian Zoe Coombs Marr at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Zoe won the award for best show. Rhys is fine with that.

With an enormous passion for performing stand up, his live work continues to receive awards and accolades around the world. Within two years he was nominated for an Aria Award for best Comedy Album, twice nominated for a The Helpmann Award for best Comedy Show and in 2018 he won the New Zealand Comedy Festival Best Show award.

Alongside a booming stand-up career, Nicholson is fast becoming a favourite across our small screens too. With a whole bunch of TV credits in Australia including various acting roles, panels shows, a documentary and an hour stand up special commissioned by ABCTV. In 2018 Rhys was invited to film yet another of his shows for the the BBC making is UK TV debut at the prestigious BBC Broadcasting House in London. Later that year he would go on perform in the Comedy Central UK smash hit Roast Battle.

Rhys lost and is fine with that. Then early 2019 the inconceivable happened and Rhys was hand picked to be one of three opening acts for Conan O'Brien during his Australian tour. Then a couple months later he was invited to Los Angeles where he made his USA television debut with a stand up spot on the Conan Show. Conan hugged Rhys. He was fine with it.

Never happy to sit still for very long, Nicholson is currently splitting his time between Australia, America and the UK where he has a number of exciting bookings and projects in development.



# BIOGRAPHIES - QUEENS

## AUBREY HAIVE



**(BAILEY DUNNAGE)**

**25 years old**

**Timaru, New Zealand**

Aubrey Haive is no stranger when it comes to being in front of the camera, already a budding actor and musical artiste, this fashion forward queen originally hails from Timaru, New Zealand (now based in Melbourne, VIC).

Aubrey is relatively new to the artform of drag, first dabbling in 2020 – and during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. After recently moving to Melbourne, Aubrey found herself enduring one of the longest lockdowns in the world, however, she took this as an opportunity to practise her make-up and develop a drag aesthetic with the encouragement of her partner.

It wasn't long until Aubrey made her debut, and when she did – she made a real impact on the Melbourne drag scene. Aubrey is now booking gigs left, right and centre, and her dream of doing drag as a full-time career is coming to fruition.

## BEVERLY KILLS



**(REECE JACKSON)**

**21 Years old**

**Brisbane, Australia**

Beverly Kills started doing drag within just a few months of turning eighteen. After entering a local drag competition, Beverly managed to take out first prize and within a year she secured a weekly residency at one of Australia's most renowned nightclubs, Fluffy (Brisbane) – which is no small feat for a new queen on the scene.

Since then, Beverly has established herself as one of Brisbane's most noted up-and-coming drag performers. Not just a pretty face, Beverly Kills offers something a little extra with her burlesque and sideshow style performances in which you can expect a good whipping, or even some fire breathing!

## FAÚX FÚR



**(TOMMY TRAN)**

**27 years old**

**Sydney, Australia**

Faux Fur has been a regular face, and the loudest voice, among the Sydney Drag scene for the last seven years. Few queens in Sydney can rival the on-stage presence of Faux, known for her high energy performances that leave the crowds screaming for more.

Faux has always been proud of her Asian heritage and noted the lack of Asian Queens in the Sydney scene. In 2020 she started her popular weekly IGTV show 'Faux Mondays', a platform where she strives to give not only other queens, but all members of the Queer and POC Queer community, a voice to share their stories in the hope of inspiring others.

Whether hosting an awards night as emcee or simply killing it on stage at the club, Faux is a queen with the biggest of hearts that aims to touch and uplift others in all she does.



# BIOGRAPHIES - QUEENS

## HANNAH CONDA



**(CHRISTOPHER COLLINS)**

**30 Years Old**

**Sydney, Australia**

After conquering the Perth drag scene, Hannah Conda took a leap of faith and made her way to Sydney in 2015. Here, she cemented her drag status by being the only queen to have ever won both 'Rising Star' and 'Entertainer of the Year' at the Drag Industry Variety Awards (DIVAs) all in the same year (2016). Hannah has been a featured face numerous times at many iconic Sydney Mardi Gras Events, opened for Bianca Del Rio on her Australian tour and even made the journey across the pond to appear at RuPaul's Drag Con in Los Angeles.

As well as being an award-winning entertainer, Hannah co-founded 'Drag Storytime' in 2016, an initiative whereby reading to young children while in drag helps to educate them about inclusion, acceptance and love - as well as allowing them to dream big and use their imaginations.

Hannah has also had a string of silver screen appearances, most notably on an episode of Keeping up with the Kardashians (Season 11) and on Jack Whitehall: Travels With My Father (Series 4).

## KWEEN KONG



**(THOMAS FONUA)**

**29 years old**

**Adelaide, Australia**

Kween Kong is originally from New Zealand, and of Tongan and Samoan heritage, currently residing in Adelaide SA. Known for her powerhouse performances; Kween is a renowned dancer and choreographer within the queer community, frequently touring internationally with the Australian Dance Theatre.

At just sixteen years old she was offered a two-year apprenticeship with Black Grace (one of New Zealand's leading contemporary dance companies). Kween is also the matriarch of Haus of Kong; a drag collective that aims to change the lives of its young recruits both on and off the stage.

In 2019, Kween won the title of 'Miss Drag Nation' Australia, representing Adelaide, SA. Drag Nation is a national competition in which drag talent from each state competes locally before getting the opportunity to represent their state and compete at a national level.

## MINNIE COOPER



**(AARON FARLEY)**

**49 Years Old**

**Sydney, Australia**

Minnie Cooper is considered drag royalty among the Sydney circuit, with a glittering career that spans over twenty years and having entertained audiences from Oxford Street in Sydney to Oxford Circus in London. In 2016 Minnie was semi-finalist on 'Australia's Got Talent' combining her drag and musical theatre talents. Minnie has performed for gay icons such as Cher at the 2018 Mardi Gras parade, and Kylie Minogue the following year.

Minnie has won more DIVA awards (Drag Industry Variety Awards) than any other drag artist in Australia, including taking the title of 'Entertainer of the Year' four times, as well as winning 'Sydney's Favourite Drag Queen' and 'Choreographer of the Year', just to name a few. In 2018, Minnie moved into the world of cabaret with her one woman show 'From Chorus Boy to Leading Lady' which was the winner of 'Best in Cabaret & Musical Theatre Award' at the Sydney Fringe Festival in 2019. Minnie also appeared in the series Jack Whitehall: Travels with My Father (Series 4).

# BIOGRAPHIES - QUEENS

## MOLLY POPPINZ



**(RICKY ELDRIDGE)**  
**30 years old**  
**Newcastle, Australia**

Molly Poppinz originally made a name for herself in Vancouver after struggling to find the confidence to do drag in her hometown of Newcastle (NSW). Often referred to as 'The Thunder from Down Under', Molly was embraced by the queer community in Canada, finally enabling her to find the assurance she needed to perform for the crowds.

During her time away (2016-19), Molly worked as a full time drag performer, known for her fun and campy numbers, but also lending her talents as a Drag DJ, MC/Host, and live rapper. In 2018 Molly was crowned as Vancouver's most 'Fierce Queen', receiving her award from Drag Race Alumni, Aja (Season 9 & All Stars 3).

Arriving back in Australia in 2019, Molly found herself back in her hometown of Newcastle, which was still yet to offer any queer venues or safe spaces. This inspired Molly to cultivate her own shows in hopes of building a thriving drag community in Newcastle.

## POMARA FIFTH



**(BRAD KENNEDY)**  
**28 Years old**  
**Sydney, Australia**

Growing up in the suburbs of Western Sydney, Pomara Fifth always stayed true to herself and never let the bullies and naysayers keep her down for long. Thankfully her amazing mother and four sisters provided a very open home environment which nurtured her natural exuberance and love for performance.

Pomara represents both First Nation Australian and M ōri queens. She has a reputation as being a versatile, multi-talented performer and host, first beginning her drag career in 2014.

In 2018 Pomara won the coveted 'Rising Star' award at the DIVA Awards (Drag Industry Variety Awards) and worked at the Sydney Mardi Gras that same year. Pomara has gone on to work for numerous companies and has performed all around NSW, working corporate events and entertaining the masses at drag brunch, bingo... you name it!

## SPANKIE JACKZON



**(BLAIR MACBETH)**  
**37 Years old**  
**Palmerston North, New Zealand**

Spankie Jackzon is a New Zealand drag performer best known for competing on original Kiwi series House of Drag (Season 2), where she came in as an intruder in Episode 4 and was eventually crowned as the winner, taking home the 10k cash prize.

With over fifteen years of experience, twelve of which were spent amongst Melbourne's competitive drag scene, this Palmerston North (NZ) queen admits she isn't here to play games as she vies to take another crown.

Spankie Jackzon is the official host and roving reporter of The Wellington International Pride Parade, bringing drag to small towns across Aotearoa. With buckets of charisma, a vivacious personality and cheeky sense of humour, Spankie has it all covered!



# BIOGRAPHIES - QUEENS

★ YURI GUAI ★



**(ELLIOT IRELAND)**

**25 years old**  
**Auckland, NZ**

Starting out at the age of eighteen, Yuri Guaii has been doing drag for going on eight years, however making her start on the Auckland drag scene was not easy ground to break. Despite spending six months developing her make-up and sewing skills within the confines of her bedroom, Yuri was known for her spooky aesthetic which only got her booked for gigs taking place on Halloween.

Yuri really had to try hard to get herself out of the “spooky girl” box – and that she did – now living up to the reputation of being one of Auckland’s most talented drag make-up artists, and so it’s no surprise that she finds herself here on the mainstage of RuPaul’s Drag Race to show the world what she’s made of.

Having studied Fashion Design, Yuri’s secret weapon is her sewing skills and she’s known for creating all her own show-stopping drag looks.







## **PRODUCTION BOILERPLATES**

World of Wonder (WOW) has reshaped international pop culture, earning 28 Emmys, inspiring 2 Oscars, creating global network WOW Presents Plus across 190 territories, and bringing drag culture to the world stage via RuPaul's Drag Race and DragCon.

WOW's pioneering television portfolio includes other smash-hit franchises like Million Dollar Listing. Their film division WOW Docs produces groundbreaking documentaries including Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures, Party Monster, and The Eyes of Tammy Faye. WOW also operates YouTube channel WOWPresents, music label World of Wonder Records, the WOW Podcast Network, and year-round international live events.

Co-founders Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato have been profiled in Variety's Reality TV Impact Report. Honors for their trailblazing work include the IDA Pioneer Award, Realscreen's Global 100 list, and the OUT 100. Most recently, World of Wonder was ranked #2 among film and TV powerhouses in Fast Company's World's 50 Most Innovative Companies.





Stan is Australia's leading local streaming service and unrivalled home of original productions.

Stan's recent original production slate includes the hit series *WOLF LIKE ME*, starring Isla Fisher and Josh Gad; *THE TOURIST*, a six-part drama series starring Jamie Dornan and Danielle Macdonald; *GOLD*, a taut thriller film starring Zac Efron in his first Australian production; *CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM*, the crowd-pleasing romcom starring Poppy Montgomery; multiple AACTA Award-winner *NITRAM*, directed by Justin Kurzel; *BUMP* series 1 & 2, a modern parenthood drama starring Claudia Karvan; *RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE DOWN UNDER*, hosted by RuPaul, Michelle Visage and Rhys Nicholson; and countless other acclaimed original series and films.

Stan's studio partnerships include NBCUniversal, Starz, Lionsgate, Showtime, Paramount, CBSViacom, Sony, Warner Bros, Disney, all3media, BBC and more.

Through these partnerships, Stan offers Australians unlimited access to thousands of hours of premium entertainment – with an outstanding lineup of blockbuster movies and exclusive premieres.

For more information, **VISIT [STAN.COM.AU](https://www.stan.com.au)**.

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