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ABC IS KICKING GOALS ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

#GIRLSCHANGETHEWORLD

ABC ME's newest recruits, *Mustangs FC*, are leading the charge on the United Nations International Day of the Girl, Wednesday, October 11, as the ABC showcases a full day of entertaining and informative programming across TV and online that celebrates Australian girls of all cultures, abilities, ages and interests.

ABC's #GIRLSCHANGETHEWORLD campaign shines a spotlight on Australian girls and women who have taken risks, been rewarded for their intelligence, shown leadership, and driven social change at local, national and global levels that actively promote a better world.

Girls will take control of all the ABC ME platforms across the day with a stunning line-up of programs crafted by an impressive group of highly celebrated and emerging Australian female content makers. Fresh new faces of the future are presented for the first time, with 40 young female actors between the ages of 10-16 have been cast in these new programs.

The striking line-up of programs that celebrate incredible and powerful women and girls include:

- **Mustangs FC – WORLD PREMIERE at 5.00pm:** a goal-kicking comedy drama about girls who abandon the sidelines and start their football club's first all-girls team. Against the odds, they'll stand united and overcome any challenge the club, the boys or the opposition can throw at them, all while wrestling with what it means to be a girl today.
- **Girls Change the World – 4:30pm:** a documentary about girls who are making a difference, big and small, creating positive change through activism.
- **Girls Film Season – from 6.15pm:** Five films selected as part of ABC ME and Screen Australia's joint initiative - dramas *Summer's Day* and *First Day* and documentaries, *Shame*, *The Funny Ones* and *A Field Guide to Being a 12-Year-Old Girl* - explore the pivotal and challenging moments in a 12-year-old's life.
- **Advice to My 12-Year-Old Self – screening throughout the day from 7.45am:** Thirty-seven of Australia's distinguished and brightest women are supporting the campaign and offering advice to Australian girls, including the President of the Australia Human Rights Commission Gillian Triggs, Australian professional soccer striker Kyah Simon, musician Dami Im, academic and author Dr Susan Carland, Astronomy and Astrophysics Postgraduate student Karlie Noon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs The Hon Julie Bishop, and more.

In addition, ABC Children's programs we know and love, including *News To Me*, *Spawn Point*, *Play School* and *Giggle and Hoot* all have dedicated episodes.



The ABC invites all Australians to join the campaign that Australian girls can do anything by sharing stories about the girls in their life who change the world every day in big and small ways. [A User Generated Competition](#) (UGC) has launched for school age kids to send in their videos – the winner will be announced on 11th October. We encourage Australians of all ages to get involved by posting photos and sharing their #GIRLSCHANGETHEWORLD content on social media on the 11th October.

At the heart of the ABC's International Day of the Girl celebrations is the message that Australian girls can do anything! Join the conversation: #GIRLSCHANGETHEWORLD

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NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

ABC ME and ABC ME App

Mustangs FC – Wednesday October 11 at 5.00pm

Mustangs FC is a goal-kicking comedy drama about a bunch of girls who abandon the sidelines and start their football club's first all-girls team. Against the odds, they'll stand united and overcome any challenges the club, the boys, or the opposition can throw at them. All while wrestling with what it means to be a friend; a sister; a daughter; a girlfriend.

With an impressive female strong creative team, more than 60% of the cast and crew are female, *Mustangs FC* presents a dynamic and exciting new cast including Emmanuelle Mattana, Ashleigh Marshall, Gemma Chua Tran, Molly Broadstock, Celine Ajobong, Monique Heath alongside Jacek Koman, Pia Miranda and the voice of Celia Pacquola.

Mustangs FC is produced by Matchbox Pictures for ABC Television with production investment funding from Screen Australia in association with Film Victoria and will be distributed internationally by NBCU. Produced by Amanda Higgs and Rachel Davis. Executive Producer: Debbie Lee. ABC Executive Producers Libbie Doherty and Jan Stradling. Writers: Michael Miller, Kirsty Fisher, Rae Earl, Warren Clarke and Magda Wozniak. Directors: Tori Garrett, Roger Hodgman, Corrie Chen and Fiona Banks.

#MustangsFC

Girls Change the World – Wednesday October 11 at 4.30pm

This film is a 'how to' guide for girls about how to create change in areas of unfairness and discrimination in their lives, and in the lives of others. With help from young female activists championing a variety of issues, it will show girls that it's ok to be angry about injustice, and how to channel that anger into productive and powerful action. One girl can make a difference, no matter how big or small their effort, and they all have the potential to create positive change. GIRLS CHANGE THE WORLD!

Girls Change the World is produced by ABC ME Productions. Produced by Amanda Isdale. Written and directed by Amanda Isdale and Matt Gibb. ABC Executive Producer Jan Stradling.



'Girls' Film Season – Wednesday October 11 from 6.15pm

Following a nation-wide call out for emerging women content makers, ABC ME and Screen Australia selected five films to be a part of this joint funding initiative. The five short films explore the pivotal and challenging moments in young girls lives and are:

- *Summer's Day*: a film about the transition into womanhood when Summer gets her period for the first time and tries to make sense of her blooming body. *Summers Day* is produced by Di Robertson, written and directed by Hattie Dalton.
- *First Day*: a story about the fears associated with the transition between primary school and high school - but in Hannah's case, the stakes are even higher: this year, she will be attending school for the first time as a girl. Produced by Kirsty Stark, written and directed by Julie Kalceff.
- *The Funny Ones*: four budding stand-up comics dream of a life as comedy performers, and get the chance to learn from some of Australia's funniest comedians. Created and produced by Belinda Dean and directed by Genevieve Bailey.
- Jaral in *Shame* struggles with the embarrassment of being a 12-year-old girl while trying to learn Noongar language to honour her family and culture. Created, written and directed by Karla Hart and produced by Paloma Bartsch.
- *A Field Guide to Being a 12-Year-Old Girl*, gives twelve girls the task of investigating their own species in an innovative blend of theatre and documentary. Produced by Katrina Lucas and written and directed by Tilda Cobham-Hervey

Advice to My 12-Year-Old Self – screening throughout the day from 7.45am

During these 37 x 2 min shorts, amazing women who are achieving incredible things talk about what advice they would give to their 12-year-old selves.

The incredible women sharing their advice include: Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop, Zimbabwean activist and entrepreneur Chido Govera, Australian professional soccer striker Kyah Simon, former President of the Australia Human Rights Commission Gillian Triggs, Shadow Minister for Human Services Linda Burney, Disability & LGBTIQ rights activist Jax Jacki Brown, transgender advocate Georgie Stone, writer, actor and director Leah Purcell, musician Dami Im, anti-domestic violence campaigner and 2015 Australian of the Year Rosie Batty, academic and author Susan Carland, 2015 Young Australian of the Year and Auslan Advocate Drisana Levitzke-Gray, 2017 UN Youth Ambassador Paige Burton, Greens Senator for South Australia Sarah Hanson-Young, Astronomy and Astrophysics Postgraduate student Karlie Noon, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong, Comedian/Actor/Writer Susie Youssef, Indigenous activist Aretha Stewart-Brown, professional race-car driver Simona de Silvestro and more.

Advice to My 12-Year-Old Self is produced by ABC ME Productions. Produced by Amanda Isdale and Matt Gibb. ABC Executive Producer Jan Stradling

ABC ME's Girls Change the World competition

ABC ME is calling on Australian girls to get involved in International Day of the Girl by filming a short one-minute video showing how they are changing the world, or how they are going to change the world. Whether you're a sporting superstar, an earnest eco-warrior, an innovating inventor or the world's best sister, ABC ME wants to hear all about it!

**GIRLS
CHANGE
THE WORLD**



The winner will be flown to Melbourne where they'll host an episode of *News To Me*.

The competition is now open and closes on Friday 15 September. For more information visit: [here](#)

ABC NEWS and ABC NEWS Digital – Monday 9 October to Wednesday 11 October

The ABC NEWS division is celebrating International Day of the Girl by showcasing a series of segments featuring girls ages between 12 to 16-years-old from Australia and the world, reflecting their hopes for change and highlighting their statistical social and life expectancy outcomes.

A selection of these eye-opening and educational segments will be broadcast on ABC NEWS between Monday 9 October to Wednesday 11 October, with all segments available to view online.