



For release: 27.03.18

ABC's Stargazing Live returns to take Australia on a journey through the galaxy

Renowned physicist, Professor Brian Cox and popular TV personality, Julia Zemiro return to take Australia on a breathtaking journey through the galaxy with *Stargazing Live*, airing on the ABC and ABC iview at 8pm local time on 22, 23 and 24 May.

Broadcasting over three nights from Australian National University's Siding Spring Observatory (SSO) in New South Wales, the series, produced by BBC Studios, will immerse the audience in a celebration of the night sky, with a focus on features that are best experienced from Australian soil.

Throughout the series, Brian and Julia will be joined by a team of celebrated scientists and space enthusiasts, including CSIRO's Dr Lisa Harvey-Smith who will be showcasing the capabilities of a different telescope each night and 'Space Gandalf' Greg Quicke, who will show to ABC reporter Kumi Taguchi the best sights in the night sky, including live views of Jupiter and Saturn, while utilising low-light camera technology to capture live video for viewers. Each episode will take a unique thematic focus, with episode one focusing on the solar system, episode two examining deep space and episode three looking at space exploration.

Highlights include the return of the Stargazing Live citizen science challenge. Off the back of the ground-breaking discovery of a new solar system by viewers in 2017, this year the program will attempt to identify new supernovae, potentially allowing us to refine the known age of the Universe.

Julia Zemiro will take viewers on a 'road trip' tour of NASA facilities across the United States, in which she witnesses a rocket launch, meets the voice of the countdown and enrolls in Astronaut School at Johnson Space Centre. *Stargazing Live* will also take over the Parkes Dish in the Parkes Observatory in NSW, using it to listen live for signs of intelligent life from a newly discovered earth-like planet.

ABC will air a comprehensive suite of astronomy-themed content to accompany *Stargazing Live*, including special episodes of *Gardening Australia*, *Compass*, *Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery*, *rage* and *Giggle & Hoot*, as well as podcast *Cosmic Vertigo* on ABC Listen, a dedicated iview series on the night sky by Greg Quicke and a playlist of music to watch the stars by on Classic FM. ABC ME's *Launchpad* will countdown the 15 minutes ahead of *Stargazing Live* each night, taking on daily space themed missions, stories from Siding Spring Observatory, interviews with some very young space experts, and loads of space trivia. Each night following *Stargazing Live*, ABC COMEDY will air a half hour live chat show *Stargazing: Back to Earth* at 9pm (AEST).

Stargazing Live 8pm local time on 22, 23 and 24 May 2018 – ABC and iview

Stargazing: Back To Earth: 9.00pm local time on 22, 23 and 24 May 2018 – ABC COMEDY

www.abc.net.au/stargazing #StargazingABC

Stargazing Live will be produced for ABC by BBC Studios. The Executive Producer is Helen Thomas and the Series Producer is Paul King.

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