



Thursday 30 March

Melbourne Comedy Festival & ABC Radio Melbourne putting smiles on dials for 15 years

Melbourne Comedy Festival and ABC Radio Melbourne have launched their annual partnership and will present a series of special broadcast events as part of the Festival's 2017 program, providing listeners and audiences with multiple opportunities to immerse themselves in comedy in March and April.

The longstanding relationship, with ABC Radio Melbourne was launched on Tuesday night to a full house and great acclaim with the annual Festival preview and live-to-air broadcast **Comedy Bites**.

The good times continue as the station takes up **Radio-in-Residence** at Melbourne Town Hall from Friday 31 March to Sunday 2 April, plus a live **Conversation Hour** with East India Allstars Comedy: Bengaluru from the Famous Spiegeltent at Arts Centre Melbourne on Wednesday 19 April.

Melbourne Comedy Festival Director, **Susan Provan** said: "We are delighted to continue one of the Festival's longest standing media partnership with ABC Radio Melbourne.

"The Comedy Bites live radio gala has become an institution for ABC Radio Melbourne listeners with deliciously funny bite-sized tastes of the Festival broadcast far and wide. We're thrilled to extend the funnies with Radio-in-Residence setting up shop in Melbourne Town Hall across our opening weekend because really, who DOESN'T want Red Symons in their venue at 5am after a late night out? Hosting all the Radio Melbourne crew across three whole days will be an opportunity for hours of extra fun!"

ABC Local Manager, Melbourne, Warwick Tiernan said "When something funny happens to this city, ABC Radio Melbourne will make sure audiences know about it. Comedy Bites always puts a smile on the dial of our audiences, and we can't think of a better reason to pull up stumps from our home studios and take up residence in the Town Hall, the centre of funny business at festival time. We're very proud of our longstanding partnership with the Comedy Festival, bigger this year than ever before."

Comedy Bites:

Couldn't make it on the night? Catch up on the comic magic of this radio Gala featuring over 20 local and international performers recorded live from Melbourne's Comedy Theatre. Hosted by Lindy Burns and Sami Shah with special back stage reports from the Green Room by the Friday Revue Team, Richelle Hunt and Brian Nankervis. Listen: <http://bit.ly/BITESREPLAY>

ABC Radio-in-Residence at the Melbourne Comedy Festival

Friday 31 March - Sunday 2 April, Melbourne Town Hall

The immersive experience begins with Red Symon's on Breakfast, followed by Jon Faine's Mornings Program and Conversation Hour, the Friday Revue hosted by Richelle Hunt and Brian Nankervis, and then Raf Epstein's Drive program wraps up the day-long live radio set. On Saturday morning Hilary Harper will showcase some of the Comedy Club for kids acts, then the champions and stalwarts of Saturday morning footy talk the Coodabeen Champions. On Sunday morning Libbi Gorr broadcasts live from the Peter Cook Bar.

All welcome. More details: <http://bit.ly/RinR2017>

Bengaluru Comedy Festival Showcase: The Conversation Hour

Wednesday 19 April at 11am, Famous Spiegeltent at Arts Centre Melbourne

Bengaluru is India's premiere comedy festival, appearing at MICF for the first time in 2017, representing the finest from India's burgeoning comedy scene. New Delhi jokers Sumit Anand and Neeti Palta, Goa's political dynamo Daniel Fernandes and Mumbai's star of East India Comedy (with 80 million YouTube views) Sapan Verma.

All welcome.

-ENDS-

For more information please contact Natalene Muscat, Marketing Manager m: 0417 192 540 e: muscat.natalene@abc.net.au