



Sun February 21
to Sat February 27
2016

Week 09 Highlights



Afghanistan: Inside Australia's War
Series Premiere Tuesday 23 February at 8.30PM



Call The Midwife
Premiere Sunday 21 February at 8.30PM



Peep Show
New Series Tuesday 23 February at 9.00PM



Meet The Elephant Man
Premiere Special Wednesday 24 February at 8.30PM



Afghanistan: Inside Australia's War

Series Premiere

Never before have Australia's fighting women and men talked so candidly to the nation about war so soon after the shooting stopped. *Afghanistan: Inside Australia's War* draws on the raw experiences of our longest war – from private soldiers to Prime Ministers. In their own words and through their own extraordinary helmet-cam battle footage (much of it never seen before) Australian ground war warriors lay bare their hearts in a searing, profound 3 x 1 hour epic – not just how they fought, but why and to what end.



The contributors to the series are all members of the Australian Defence Force who served in the 12 year war, the politicians who sent them to fight or Afghans with sharp insights into Australians' contribution to the war.

Their accounts are complemented by Dan Wyllie's spare, down-to-earth narration and elegantly cut archival footage. Afghanistan would become Australia's first self-shot war and from the ADF archives of professionally and personally gathered footage come images that are poignant, dramatic and fresh. The series takes viewers inside the experiences of Australian soldiers in action, on patrol and at base.

The series puts Australia's war in Afghanistan in the context of a global war on terror. The events of 9/11, Bali, Madrid, London and Iraq – plus candid reflections of former Prime Ministers John Howard and Julia Gillard – sit up against the experiences of Australian soldiers who constantly examine the reasons why they fight. Afghan commentators like Senator Hila Achekzai and former Warlord Pacha Khan Zadran reveal the complexities of that country, the moral as well as military maze in which our soldiers fought.

As much as a war story, *Afghanistan: Inside Australia's War* is a portrait of a generation. What Australia's fighting men and women did on our behalf is chilling, fascinating and often inspiring. The way they did it – the search for solid moral foundations from which to fight this confusing war – is perhaps their most lasting legacy.

Episode 1 runs from the war's trigger, the attacks on the USA of September 11 2001, through the first Special Forces clashes to the war's biggest battle, Operation Anaconda. That temporary victory, ousting of the Taliban and withdrawal of Australian troops is followed by their return in August 2005 as part of a coalition to fight a rising insurgency – a very different war begins.

#AfghanistanABC

Short synopsis

In their own words and their own extraordinary, never-before-seen helmet-cam battle footage, Australian fighting men and women reveal their war. In the wake of 9/11, a Special Forces war builds to a fateful battle.

Production details

3x60 mins. Essential Media and Entertainment. Writer/Director Victoria Midwinter Pitt. Executive Producer Alan Erson. ABC Commissioning Editor Matt Scully.

Contact

Rachel Fergus on (02) 8333 5085 / 0416 263 194 or fergus.rachel@abc.net.au

Will also be available on 

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



Call The Midwife

Premiere

This special episode opens in 2005 with Jennifer Worth at home preparing for Christmas with husband Philip, and reminiscing about the friends and colleagues of her youth at Nonnatus House.



Festive cheer is in plentiful supply as Poplar readies itself for Christmas. It is 1959 and rehearsals are underway for the Sunday School Christmas concert. While Chummy tries to choreograph dancing snowflakes, Trixie sets to work designing a Father Christmas outfit for Fred to wear. Chummy is enlisted to help run a poorly managed mother and baby home and with Patsy's help succeeds in bringing some Christmas joy into the residents' lives.

Cynthia is drawn deeply into a case concerning two former residents of a Victorian mental hospital who have been left to fend for themselves and are barely coping.

There is but one question in all of their hearts, though it goes unspoken – what will 1960 bring?

Stars Jenny Agutter, Pam Ferris, Miranda Hart, Judy Parfitt, Helen George, Bryony Hannah, Laura Main, Charlotte Ritchie, Linda Bassett, Ben Caplan, Stephen McGann, Cliff Parisi, Vanessa Redgrave.

Short synopsis

The nurses and midwives ready themselves for the Winter of 1959. An unexpected surprise for a grieving mother helps bring some cheer, while Nonnatus House is rocked to the core when one of its own goes missing.

Production details

Created and written by Heidi Thomas, from the memoirs of Jennifer Worth. Executive Producers: Pippa Harris and Heidi Thomas. Producer: Annie Tricklebank. Writers: Carolyn Bonnyman, Harriet Warner, Damian Wayling. Director: Dominic Leclerc.

Contact

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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](#).



Peep Show

New Series

PEEP SHOW is back for a ninth and final series!

Last time we saw Mark (David Mitchell) and Jeremy (Robert Webb) they had just been abandoned and mildly electrocuted in a field, spurned by Dobby's rejection of their declarations of love in favour of a new life in New York... it looked like the end of the El Dude Brothers.



But now time has passed, and while Jez has some rather constrictive new living quarters, Mark has a new flat mate and has landed a swanky bank job. But it seems that the wounds have not yet healed. Jeremy is reluctant to apologise, at least until the time is right. Mark on the other hand - content thanks to Napoleon's correspondence - is determined not to show any emotional scars. The pair have to put their differences aside however in order to celebrate with a newly clean and healthy Super Hans (Matt King). But despite his best efforts a good detox can only last so long, and when Jeremy goes cap in hand to ask for a loan it appears Mark might have his chance for some Machiavellian revenge.

Short Synopsis

Last time we saw Mark and Jeremy it looked like the end of the El Dude Brothers, but time has passed and while Jez has new digs, Mark has found a new flat mate and landed a swanky bank job.

Production details

Director Becky Martin, Producer Hannah Mackay, PEEP SHOW is an Objective Productions, an all3 media company for Channel 4.

Contact

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

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



Meet The Elephant Man

Premiere Special

Joseph Merrick, for much of his lifetime, was regarded as a freak, a sideshow exhibit, a figure of derision. However, because of the unique friendship of one man the legend of the Elephant Man lives on. It's been over 125 years since the death of Joseph Merrick and 30 years since the release of the David Lynch film about his life, now a team of experts have brought Joseph Merrick back to life.



With exclusive access to his skeleton - for possibly the last time due to its fragility - they have been able to recreate it in the virtual world and use this as a basis for modelling work - using photographs, measurements, casts and first-hand accounts - that puts flesh onto Merrick's bones. How did he move? How did he speak? And, most intriguingly, how did he die?

Also, accompanying the team will be Brian Richards, a modern-day sufferer of Proteus Syndrome: the disease that turned Joseph Merrick into the Elephant Man. It's a hugely personal journey for Brian who is just a year younger than Merrick was when he died - and feels that this is his chance to find the answers he has been seeking about his own future.

Short Synopsis

It's been over 125 years since the death of Joseph Merrick, 'The Elephant Man'. Now, using Merrick's skeleton, a team of experts has brought Joseph Merrick back to life.

Production details

Narrator Richard Lintern, producer and additional camera Phil Stein, written and directed by Mark Radice, produced by Windfall Films for Discovery Networks and Channel 4.

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Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery: Stan Grant

Stan Grant spent the first year of his life living in the shell of a model T Ford on a mission on the outskirts of Griffith in rural NSW. It's perhaps fitting that his early days were spent in the back of a car because he spent much of his childhood travelling along dusty roads and living in bush shanties as his sawmiller father followed work all around the state. Despite the transient lifestyle, Griffith was always home and in this revealing episode of *Home Delivery*, Stan takes Julia back to where his unlikely path from gifted but unambitious boy to acclaimed globetrotting journalist, writer and commentator began.

Their Griffith tour begins at the end of the long main street where Stan bundles Julia into a ute, far shinier than the one his Dad once owned, and he points out his old haunts. They drive to the Three Ways mission and take a walk around the block his grandparents and parents called home. Many of the old Mission buildings have gone and the roads are tarred these days rather than dirt, but the area is redolent with memories for Stan.

Stan drives Julia to the housing commission bungalow the family lived in for a few years. He remembers how excited the Grants were when they moved in and how the humble dwelling was as good as a palatial mansion to them. Stan recalls the determination, strength and dignity of his parents and how his mother's storytelling instilled a love of reading and writing in him.

They visit a nearby Community Hall and finish the day at Griffith High School where they meet Stan's former bestie 'Didge' on the footy oval. Stan talks about his career as an international correspondent for CNN, often reporting from warzones, and how he has always gravitated toward stories of the dispossessed. He candidly reveals how the weight of working in this environment for many years took a huge toll on him, breaking open a well of pain related to the trauma his family and forebears have endured. He reflects that the young boy he once was would never have dreamed of the life he's since lead and how being home for the day reminds him all the more how bewildering it is.

#HomeDelivery

Short synopsis

Stan Grant has had huge success as a foreign correspondent, but his recent commentary on Indigenous affairs at home has struck a chord. He takes Julia back to Griffith NSW and reflects on his life and career. #HomeDelivery

Production details

A Cordell Jigsaw Zapruder production. Presenter and co-producer Julia Zemiro. CJZ Executive Producer Nick Murray. CJZ Executive Producer / Director Damian Davis. ABC Executive Producer Richard Huddleston. ABC Head of Entertainment Jon Casimir.

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Will also be available on 

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



Black Comedy

On this week's episode we meet a slightly unhinged Indigenous driving instructor and his terrified white student, a traveller who keeps more than just her boobs in her bra, and a group of corporate types who respond to being told they have to have a Welcome to Country ceremony by putting on one of their own.

There's also an appearance by Uncle Doctor, an Indigenous man who practices medicine even though his only qualification is an honorary doctorate awarded for his work as a cultural advisor. Working with little more than Vicks, flat lemonade and vinegar Uncle Doctor insists that while his methods may be unconventional, they must be respected – this despite a litany of failed diagnoses and treatments.

Brooke Satchwell's racially confused white woman Tiffany is back. We find Tiffany in an institution where she is undergoing therapy to cure her of her racial confusion – but has it worked? For her ex-boyfriend John's sake we can only hope so. And we meet May and Cale, a hip young mixed race couple struggling to find a sexual position that is both non-racist and sexually satisfying.

Featuring guest appearances by Deborah Mailman, Andrew McFarlane and Brooke Satchwell.

#ABCBlackComedy

Short synopsis

We meet a mad driving instructor and Uncle Doctor, an unconventional medico, and Tiffany the racially confused white woman is back. #ABCBlackComedy

Production details

Scarlett Pictures Production. Producers Kath Shelper and Mark O'Toole. ABC Head of Indigenous Sally Riley.

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

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Hatch, Match & Dispatch

Hatch, Match & Dispatch steps inside the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM), for an intimate look at the milestones that unite us all.

Cecil and daughter Mary-Anne have come into the Registry to try and find out who they really are. Cecil heard whispers at a recent family gathering that they might have convict blood running through their veins. Registry genealogy detectives, Joy and Marilyn, take on the case and begin searching the nation's archives dating back to 1798. Cecil's overwhelmed with gratitude and emotion – but will Joy and Marilyn find him a convict?

Around 120,000 couples tie the knot in Australia a year. 75 year-old Peter and 23 year-old Thi Be (from Vietnam) are next in line. It's Peter's fourth marriage and Thi Be's first. Their age gap doesn't seem to be a problem but Thi Be's lack of English is. Registry celebrant Jim is concerned that Thi Be doesn't understand what she's doing. Will he refuse to marry them?

One in three Aussie families are blended families. It's the modern face of multiculturalism. Model mum Stephanie is about to have her fourth child (with partner John); she has children from two previous relationships. But now there are complications. Will her long awaited dream of a natural birth come true?

#HatchMatchDispatch

Short synopsis

Cecil and her daughter have come into the Registry to try and find out who they really are. Will they find a convict ancestry?

Production details

Production details
Hatch, Match & Dispatch is a Fredbird Entertainment production for ABC TV and supported by Screen Australia and Screen NSW. Executive Producer: Craig Graham, Series Producer: Marc Radomsky, Supervising Producer: Rachel Hardie, Producers: Sandra Welkerling, Colin Thrupp & Faye Welborn. ABC Commissioning Editor: Matt Scully.

Contact

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Will also be available on 

Not available for preview.
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Jack Irish

Jack is determined to uncover who framed him for Wayne Dilthey's murder, convinced of a potential conspiracy stretching deep into the prison and church repatriation system run by The Way of the Cross. And when the discovery of Janene's body adds another notch to the belt of witnesses silenced, even a reluctant Barry Tregear must concede that Jack's suspicions are right. Jack tracks down the lone witness to the motel murder of Dilthey, a stripper and hooker named Donna 'Double D' Donovic. Jack manages to weed the truth from her – it turns out she was paid to lie about Jack by the deadly Stedman.

Meanwhile in Manila, Linda receives a potential lead to an interview with Hadji Adhib on the island of Mindanao, and an even more ominous detail emerges when local 'hack journalist' Orton discovers that the essentially defunct Holman-Dang bank is purchasing large swathes of land on the island. Despite all warnings, Linda and Orton set off towards Mindanao.

Back in Melbourne, the absence of Linda seems to recede deeper into Jack's mind as he falls for Sarah Longmore. Their search to find Tina now takes them to Pastor Rob Shand, the charismatic front man of Christmas mega church The Way of The Cross. Sarah and Jack suspect Pastor Rob may know much more about Tina's whereabouts than he will admit.

#JackIrish

Short synopsis

Jack is determined to uncover who framed him for murder. Linda gets a lead to an interview and despite warnings, puts herself in danger. CAST: Guy Pearce, Marta Dusseldorp.

Production details

Producers: Ian Collie and Andrew Knight. Written by Andrew Knight, Matt Cameron and Andrew Anastasios. Directors: Kieran Darcy-Smith, Daniel Nettheim and Mark Joffe. ABC TV Executive Producers: Carole Sklan and Christopher Gist. An Essential Media & Entertainment production in association with ABC TV, Screen Australia and Film Victoria.

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The Doctor Blake Mysteries

A local jockey dies on the racecourse at Ballarat Racetrack the day after his very last win, surrounded by a bevy of nefarious characters. Complicating matters for the Doctor is that the deceased is Agnes Clasby's beloved nephew, Alexander.

What had Alexander gotten himself involved in at the track? And Blake's home life has been thrown into chaos by the astonishing arrival of Mei Lin (Ling Cooper Tang) the wife he thought had died almost 15 years ago during the fall of Singapore...

Guest appearances by Damien Richardson, Helen Morse

#drblake

Short synopsis

A jockey dies the morning after a big win. But Blake has other worries, his wife, thought long dead, has landed on his doorstep, just as he was about to ask Jean to marry him. How will he solve this one? CAST: Craig McLachlan

Production details

A December Media Production in association with ABC TV and Film Victoria. Produced by George Adams, Executive Producer Tony Wright and Associate Producer Craig McLachlan. ABC Executive Producers Christopher Gist and Carole Sklan.

Contact

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