



Justine Clarke's  
**TADA!**

Starts Monday 6 Nov 5.50pm



It's five minutes until show time at the Ta Da! Theatre and Justine Clarke has invited you backstage to help with the final preparations. There are melodies to master, dance moves to fine tune, sets to dress, and costumes to create. And then ... Ta Da! the show begins.

*Justine Clarke's Ta Da!* is an energetic, humorous exploration of music, dance, theatre and performance - where children get to experience real musical concepts through imaginative play and drama. In each episode, Justine, accompanied by her stage manager friend, Dash the dog, and a special guest will work together to get everything ready in time for the big show.

The exciting ensemble of special guest performers and artists include: musician Tim Rogers, actress Denise Scott, dancer and TV personality Paul Mercurio, hip hop artist and triple j host Hau Latukefu, actor and physical comedian David Collins, plus many more.

Each episode starts with a 'getting ready' phase followed by a live performance. In the pre-show segment, our audience will learn about the art and craft of theatre and music production, including singing, improvisation, acting, set building, costume design and dancing.

The episode concludes with Justine performing a themed song of the day recorded live at the Ta Da! Theatre in front of an audience of enthusiastic children. These original songs have been co-written by Justine Clarke, Peter Dasent, Arthur Baysting, Josh Pyke, Sean Peter, Jane Lindsay, Cameron Bruce, Bruce Griffiths and Tim Rogers, and cover a variety of genres including rock, country, hip hop, classical, disco, folk and more.

Whether it's turning rhyme into rap, mastering a glam rock 'n roll dance move or creating some cool drum beats, preschoolers will be engaged in the drama and the preparation and be ready to sing and dance along during the show. This

is the show about putting on a show - so take your places everyone ... it's time for *Justine Clarke's Ta Da!*

**Production details:** 15 x 7 mins. Executive Producer: Craig Graham, Executive Producer/Series Producer: Sarah Dabro (*Play School, Giggle and Hoot*), Executive Producer / Co-creator / Actor: Justine Clarke (*Red Dog True Blue, The Time of Our Lives, Tangle, Play School*), Writers: Bruce Griffiths (*The Flamin' Thongs, The Adventures of Figaro Pho, Dennis the Menace and Gnasher*) and Clare Marsden (*Little J and Big Cuz, Sydney Sailboat Zigby*), Director: Justine Flynn, Consulting Producer / Co-creator: Sonia Le, A.C.S DOP: Martin McGrath (*Proof, Muriel's Wedding, Children of the Revolution, Blackrod, Passion*).

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW, presents this Firebird Entertainment production in association with Ta Da! Productions.

**For more information, images or interviews please contact Amy Reiha, ABC Audiences, on (02) 8333 3852, 0404 026 039 or reiha.amy@abc.net.au**



FREDBIRD ENTERTAINMENT



Create NSW  
Arts, Screen & Culture





## Episodic synopses

### Episode 1: Air Guitar – Monday November 6 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS

Justine is getting ready for her big Glam Rock Show when Dash arrives with a guitar case that has no electric guitar inside. With help from her wardrobe consultant **Tim Rogers**, can Justine find a new way to rock in time for the show?

### Episode 2: Lemon Aid – Tuesday November 7 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS

It's five minutes until show time and Justine has a major problem - she doesn't have song to sing! Luckily, Snack bar attendant **Shari Sabeans** has some ideas and it's all to do with making Lemonade.

### Episode 3: Ready Set Country – Wednesday November 8 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS

Building a set in time for Justine's country music boot scooting show is going to be a huge challenge, especially because set builder **Denise Scott** loves an old-fashioned country yarn.

### Episode 4: Totally Rapt – Thursday November 9 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS

Justine is preparing a special gift for Dash and desperately needs help with the finishing touches before the show starts. With help from their audio engineer-come rapper **Hau Latukefu** the show takes a surprising twist.

### Episode 5: Dancing Clean – Friday November 10 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS

Justine is trying to put together a special dance routine for today's funky disco dance show when she's interrupted by the super loud super clean cleaner, **David Collins**. But it might be just what Justine needs!



### **Episode 6: Just A Little Cold – Monday November 13 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

Justine is sick and can't reach the high notes for today's show. But her no-nonsense vocal coach **Eva Kong** has some tips that just might get her out of trouble, unless Dash turns things around with his own surprise.

### **Episode 7: Birthday Rumpus – Tuesday November 14 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

It's Ta Da! Theatre's big birthday bash but it's raining and the theatre is leaking. The guest sax player **Melissa Mony** can't stop playing the blues and it's making everybody sad. Can they get the party started in time?

### **Episode 8: Shoe Biz – Wednesday November 15 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

When Justine accidentally stomps on the foot of ballroom dance partner **Paul Mecurio** and Dash chews her fancy dancing shoes the Ta Da Ballroom Dancing Spectacular Show suddenly turns very wobbly.

### **Episode 9: Making Do – Thursday November 16 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

Justine and Dash are getting ready for their Jazz show. But props master **Ben Woods** has had a giant clean out and there are no props left! By learning how to improvise, can they imagine their way of our trouble in time?

### **Episode 10: Classical Pickle – Friday November 17 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

It's a classical quartet performance today with eccentric conductor **George Ellis**. However, there are blowflies in the theatre and GEORGE can't stand blowflies. Justine and Dash now have a very big buzzy challenge their hands.



### **Episode 11: Once Upon A Time – Monday November 20 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

Dash is writing his first ever stage play for today's show. But two of the cast haven't turned up. Can actor **Sheridan Harbridge** play every role? Justine has a musical idea that might turn Dash's theatre dream around!

### **Episode 12: A Banana Is A Banana – Tuesday November 21 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

When special guest percussionist **Bree Van Reyk's** musical instruments don't arrive in time for the show, Justine, Dash and Bree all have to put their heads together to come up with a new way to create some amazing new sounds.

### **Episode 13: Whistle With Me – Wednesday November 22 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

Justine has invited some young singers to join her for today's Rainbow Spectacular Show! But Dash's rainbow painting has bombed – it's all just a big brown mess. But the biggest rainbow surprise is yet to arrive.

### **Episode 14: A Windy Day – Thursday November 23 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

Justine and guest dancer **Bec Morris** are backstage rehearsing for today's Dance of the Wind Show. Dash is doing his very best to design and create an extravagant costume. But it's nothing short of a big little disaster!

### **Episode 15: True Friends – Friday November 24 at 5.50pm on ABC KIDS**

The Theatre's Box office attendant **Rhys Nicholson** and Dash are terribly worried. They haven't sold a single ticket for the show. But does a show really need a big audience to go on? Dash is in for a treat he'll never forget.



## Cast and Crew Bios

### **JUSTINE CLARKE: EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / CO CREATOR / ACTOR**

Justine Clarke is one of the most recognised and beloved faces on the Australian entertainment landscape: best-selling children's music artist and author, acclaimed stage and screen actor in some of our most iconic productions; and for the last 17 years a constant, reassuring presence on children's television benchmark program, *Play School*. With platinum and gold selling CD/DVDs of original children's songs, music videos programmed on ABC KIDS, and successful sell out national tours; Justine is undoubtedly the Queen of children's entertainment.

Justine co-created the original Ta Da! concept for TV, to capture the fun and excitement of making music and performing.

### **CRAIG GRAHAM – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Craig is recognised as one of Australia's leading producers of wide audience appeal factual entertainment. Over the past 20 years, Craig has created and produced over 250 hours of original programming for the free to air and pay television markets. In 2009, Craig formed Fredbird Entertainment to provide factual, entertainment and children's programming to the local and international market. Fredbird has evolved into a multiple award-winning supplier of original and innovative content.

### **SARAH DABRO – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / SERIES PRODUCER**

Sarah has over 20 years' experience producing innovative and high-rating television programs for children, youth and family audiences in the US, UK and Australia. She has held senior production and live-to-air broadcast for the ARIAS, NEW YEARS EVE and roles at Channel [V], ABC, Network 10, Nine Entertainment Co. and Seven Network. More recently, Sarah worked across a range of Australia's most successful children's brands including *Play School*, *Giggle and Hoot* and ABC ME. In 2016 she was nominated for an ACTA Award in the best children's program category as well as an ARIA award for Best Children's Album.



## BRUCE GRIFFITHS – WRITER

One of Australia's most in-demand comedy, animation and children's writers, Bruce Griffiths' written output has been consumed by a Who's Who of local and international laughter, from Emmy-award winners Jason Alexander (Seinfeld) and Rich Hall (Letterman) to Adam Hills, Andrew Denton, Wil Anderson, Bette Midler, Paul McDermott, Adam Spencer, Amanda Keller, Anh Do, and many more. Winner of the 2015 and 2013 Australian Writers' Guild Awards for Animation and nominated again in 2016 and 2014, his rapidly-growing children's animation CV includes the 2015 AACTA Awards Best Children's Television Series *The Flamin' Thongs* – winner also of the 2014 Asian Television Awards Best 2D Animation Programme – and multi award-winning *The Adventures of Figaro Pho*, along with BAFTA-nominated *Dennis The Menace & Gnasher*, *Bottersnikes & Gumbles*, *Pirate Express*, *Winston Steinburger & Sir Dudley Ding Dong*, *The New Adventures of Figaro Pho* and *Erky Perky*.

## CLARE MASDEN – WRITER

Clare's television credits span situation and sketch comedy, children's live action and animation. Clare is currently script producer on the animated series *Little J and Big Cuz*, with series 2 in development for NITV and ABC. Clare also has drama concepts in development with Ruby Entertainment. Clare has more than 200 preschool credits including *Sydney Sailboat*, *Zigby* and *Magic Mountain* for ABC, and *New Macdonald's Farm* for Nine Network. Her writing for children has been nominated for AWGIE and AFI awards. Other television credits include sit coms *All Together Now* and *Newlyweds*, and four seasons of sketch comedy series *Full Frontal*. Clare also has wide experience as a playwright and director in young people's and applied theatre, fringe and cabaret settings.

## JUSTINE FLYNN – DIRECTOR

Justine has worked in the film and television industry for over eighteen years in both the independent and broadcast sectors. Justine has held senior executive roles including: Manager of Development at ABC Commercial; Manager of Factual and Entertainment Development at ABC TV, and both Executive Producer and Acquisitions Manager for Nickelodeon. Justine has created a strong reputation as a writer, director, creator and producer. In recent years, she has collaborated with some of Australia's most dynamic film and television companies to facilitate creative audits and develop new projects. This year Random House Publishing will release Justine's first children's book.



## SONIA LE – CONSULTING PRODUCER / CO CREATOR

Sonia is an entertainment industry professional with a background in the music industry. For the past 10 years, she has successfully managed Justine Clarke's awarded and acclaimed career in the children's entertainment landscape. Together they have produced and delivered gold and platinum selling albums and DVDs, programmed interstitial clips on ABC KIDS, children's books, sell out national tours and created the original Ta Da! concept for TV.

## MARTIN MCGRATH – A.C.S DOP

Martin McGrath's career took off when he shot Jocelyn Moorhouse's *Proof* and the hugely successful *Muriel's Wedding* two years later. He was nominated for Best Achievement in Cinematography AFI for his work on both *Children of the Revolution* and *Blackrock*, and won an AFI for *Passion* starring Judy Davis and Richard Roxburgh. Martin's television credits include the locally produced *Packed to the Rafters*; ABC3's *Dance Academy* Series 1 and 2 and *My Place*; real crime drama series *Killing Time*; the ABC's *Rake* and telemovies *Jack Irish* and *The Broken Shore*; *Blue Murder*; *Blackjack*; *Valentine's Day* and the Golden Globe nominated *On the Beach*. Martin also shot the docudramas *The Last Confession of Alexander Pearce* and *The Extraordinary Tale of William Buckley* for the ABC. Martin won two ACS Awards and the 2015 AACTA Award for Best Cinematography in Television for *The Broken Shore*. Most recently, he shot the *Dance Academy* telemovie; ABC2's *Maximum Choppage*; Australian/UK co-production *Banished*; and the ABC3's *Ready For This*.