

ABC HIGHLIGHTS



THINK TANK

Series Premieres Monday 5 February 6.00pm



STAG

Series Premieres Tuesday 6 February 9.30pm



SHAUN MICALLEF'S MAD AS HELL

Wednesday 7 February 8.30pm

WEEK 6

SUN 4 FEBRUARY TO SAT 10 FEBRUARY 2018



★Top Pick

Weeknights from Monday 5 Feb 6.00pm

ABC iVIEW



Think Tank

What do tram drivers know about Ancient History? What do medieval scholars know about Pop Trivia? And what do educational psychologists know about the Animal Kingdom?

Welcome to **Think Tank**...Hosted by grandmaster Paul McDermott, *Think Tank* is an exciting new nightly quiz show at 6pm on ABC TV. Each episode sees three contestants go head to head, pitting their general knowledge and their general luck against each other. To win the game, they need to pass five, challenging rounds. Helping or maybe hindering them in their pursuit of game show glory, is the *Think Tank*.

The *Think Tank* features eight relatively ordinary Australians with an extra-ordinary love of trivia and general knowledge. The eight form a 'repository of wisdom' from which our contestants on *Think Tank* can draw.

But be warned...Our Think Tankers – like Australia itself – are made up of a diverse mob of people plucked from all walks of life. They are there to help but sometimes they get it wrong.

What happens then? Do you trust your instincts or trust the masses? Do you tag along with popular opinion or strike out on your own? The excitement, drama and brain-twisting fun of *Think Tank* comes in these moments of interaction between our contestants and the Think Tankers.

The ringmaster for this cavalcade of mind-expanding madness will be the shy, self-effacing Paul McDermott.

This is a game show with a difference, one the whole family can enjoy. Join us for the battle of brains, the thrill of victory, the hilarity of defeat. Come for the competition, witness the wonder, meet the Think Tankers and who knows – you might just learn a thing or two.

Short synopsis

Hosted by Paul McDermott, *Think Tank* is an exciting new nightly quiz show, each episode sees three contestants go head to head, pitting their general knowledge and their general luck against each other. Helping or hindering them along the way is the Think Tank.

Production details

An ITV Studios Australia Production for the ABC.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera (03) 8646 2629 / 0418 813 071 / Kentera.Yasmin@abc.net.au

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



★Top Pick
Tuesday 6 February at 9.30pm



Stag

A stag weekend in the Scottish highlands turns into the holiday from hell in this tense, dramatic three part series full of black humour. A mild-mannered teacher joins his future brother-in-law and his obnoxious group of friends in a stunning but remote part of Scotland for a hunting adventure weekend. Right from the start Ian finds himself targeted for humiliation by the rest of the party. But his fellow 'stags' soon become targets themselves as a hidden killer starts picking them off one by one. As they try to get to safety, sordid secrets begin to emerge and old friendships are tested to the limit in a ruthless battle for survival.

Short synopsis

A group of friends struggle to survive a stag weekend from hell as a deer-hunting expedition in remote Scotland quickly turns messy. When the hunters become the prey, friendships are tested in a battle for survival.

Production details

A BBC Comedy production in association with Idiotlamp.

Contact

Bridget Stenhouse on (02) 8333 3847 or stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au

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



★Top Pick

Wednesday 7 February at 8.30pm



Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL

In a move guaranteed to prompt a flurry of poorly worded questions at the next Senate Estimates Committee, Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL returns in 2018 for its own record-breaking eighth season. Like a frenzied ape running amok in a museum of priceless Tiffany lamps, the Mad As team cleverly deconstructs Australian politics in the hope that it can be rebuilt into something more useful, like a giant Lithium battery, a climate policy that makes sense or perhaps an ashtray. Stars Shaun Micallef, Roz Hammond, Emily Taheny, Stephen Hall and Tosh Greenslade - with special guest star Francis Greenslade as 'Dr Smith'.

Production details

Produced by ITV Studios Australia and Giant Baby in association with ABC TV. Executive Producers: Peter Beck and Shaun Micallef. ABC Executive Producer: Tarni James.

Contact

Tracey Taylor on (03) 8646 2313 / 0419 528 213 or taylor.tracey@abc.net.au

**Program not available for preview.
Further information will not be available until 2018.**



Monday 5 February 4.35pm



My Year 7 Life

The most highly anticipated year of a student's life is also the one that can change the course of their adult psychology forever - the transition into Year 7. Psychologists have discovered that the way we navigate the change from Top Dog to Small Fish affects how successfully we navigate our entire lives, making the finding of new friends, dealing with new teachers and surviving puberty critically important.

In **My Year 7 Life**, 16 diverse kids from around the country were given cameras to document their transition from primary school to high school. The series goes straight to the source, getting first-hand accounts from the kids as they navigate the monumental changes taking place during their first year of high school. Through their experiences we discover just how much homework parents and carers have to do to help the kids relieve the stress and anxiety around a year that everyone remembers as one of the hardest at high school.

ABC ME introduced viewers to this series with a sneak peek of episodes one and two on December 14. Available on the ABC ME App to view, these episodes covered the kids' final days in Primary School and the school holidays leading up to their first day in Year 7.

Tonight, this series kicks off with the kids' first day of Year 7.

Episode three – Monday 5 February at 4.35pm on ABC ME and the ABC ME App

Having survived their first day of high school the kids debrief about the litany of firsts they experienced and it seems making new friends looms large on everyone's agenda. Isabel feels like she is slowly finding her groove as her packed extra-curricular schedule heats up; Hudson struggles with feeling like a loner; Chelsea is enamoured with the high school canteen and finds strength in positive affirmations; Seb gets asked out by two girls he doesn't know but soon finds love. The kids ponder early high school differences and their approaches to forging new friendships.

My Year 7 Life is the premiere series in ABC Children's Back to School programming. ABC KIDS, ABC ME and ABC TV EDUCATION will be providing school and education focused content for the return of the school year and throughout February.

Short synopsis

16 diverse kids from around Australia document their transition from primary school to high school with video diaries. Through first-hand accounts, see how the kids navigate the monumental changes taking place during Year 7.

Production details

Created by Laura Waters. Series Producer: Karla Burt. Executive Producers: Laura Waters, Emma Fitzsimons and ABC Television's Libbie Doherty. Produced in association with Screen Australia and Film Victoria, My Year 7 Life is a Princess Pictures production for ABC Television.

Contact

Amy Reiha on (02) 8333 3852 / 0404 026 038 or reiha.amy@abc.net.au

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



The Checkout

Australia's leading - and only - satirical consumer affairs show, **The Checkout**, returns to ABC with 12 new 30-minute episodes with:

***NEW LOOK!** *The Checkout* has had an extreme makeover with new logo, show branding and theme music.

***NEW TIMESLOT!** after 5 years airing on Thursdays, *The Checkout* moves to Tuesday nights 8pm

***NEW SEGS!** like *Shocking Savings*, Craig Reucassel, fresh from the success of his *War on Waste*, hunts for practical ways to save you money on your power bills. Of course you'll need to have your TV on to find out how, but you're welcome to unplug it after!

And in *What To Reject When You're Expecting*, presenter and expectant mother Zoe Norton Lodge explores the questionable products flogged to expecting couples and recommends cheap, effective alternatives that aren't marketed to a Guilty Mum.

Series 6 also sees the return of old favourites such as *Product vs Packshot*, *The Catch*, *Asterisk Man*, *Signs of the Times* ... and the outlet for viewer complaints *FUtube*.

And as always, the core of *The Checkout* will continue to be stories addressing all manner of consumer issues that directly affect your life... and will help save you money. Topics on the menu including buying a TV, bed sheets, and bread; aged care; life insurance in superannuation; and dealing with the challenge/horror of building your own home.

Each episode will tackle issues that face all of us when we open our wallets - identifying ways consumers are being taken advantage of, manipulated and ripped off... even if there's nothing illegal about it.

#TheCheckout

Short synopsis

Australia's leading and only satirical consumer affairs show returns with a new look, new timeslot & new segments as well as stories addressing all manner of consumer issues that affect your life and help save you money.

Production details

The Checkout is a co-production between Giant Dwarf, CJZ and ABC TV.

Contact

Amy Reiha on (02) 8333 3852 / 0404 026 039 or Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au

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



Squinters

The six-part comedy series ***Squinters*** celebrates the great Aussie ritual that is the everyday work commute.

An extraordinary ensemble cast includes beloved performer/composer Tim Minchin, Academy-Award nominee Jacki Weaver, Miranda Tapsell, Mandy McElhinney, Damon Herriman, Sam Simmons, Andrea Demetriades, Wayne Blair, Christiaan Van Vuuren, Justin Rosniak and Jenna Owen, along with young comic talents Susie Youssef (*Rosehaven*), Rose Matafeo (NZ's *Funny Girls*), Steen Raskopoulos (BBC's *Top Coppers*), YouTube sensation John Luc (aka 'MyChonny') as well as the UK's Nyasha Hatendi (Hulu's *Casual*).

Squinters tracks the trials and tribulations of five carloads of travellers in peak hour morning transit and again on their drive home to find out how the workday turned out.

Our commuters include: a dispatch driver hoping to win the woman of his dreams by carpooling her to work; a single mum keen to avoid her teen daughter making the same mistakes in love, while juggling a new romance of her own; a clueless ex-school bully hitching a ride with the guy he tormented; best girlfriends whose friendship is tested when one becomes the other's unlikely boss; and a newly 'out', middle-aged man grappling with both possible redundancy and a recalcitrant dog.

Short synopsis

This six-part comedy series tracks the trials and tribulations of five car loads of travellers in peak hour morning transit and again on their drive home to find out how the workday turned out. CAST: Tim Minchin, Mandy McElhinney, Sam Simmons, Jacki Weaver and Damon Herriman.

Contact

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



Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream

Comedian Romesh Ranganathan is travelling the world again and once again he is off to meet family members. This time he is meeting his family who left Sri Lanka to settle in North America and see what his life could have been like had his parents not chosen Crawley. Unfortunately for him, this time his Mum, Shanthy is coming too. It has always been her dream to visit the relatives across North America, and now it's Romesh's job to make her dream a reality. He's somewhat less than delighted...

In episode one, they kick off their trip in Tampa, Florida, where they have arranged to meet Romesh's cousin Pratheep who has set up an all American week. Romesh starts the trip as his means to go on by trying to get rid of his mother at a Floridian retirement park, but Shanthy is having none of it. Pratheep's first activity is to get Romesh to take part in a spicy food competition, one that involves downing a vomit-inducing concentrated Naga chilli soup. With a tender stomach he is then introduced to a group of locals whose idea of fun is to drive Monster trucks and shoot AK47's. Romesh and his mum's relationship hits an all time low when he breaks free from Shanthy to attend a beer chugging Frat party initiation. On the final day Pratheep has arranged the one thing Shanthy wanted to do – see a Gospel choir, however she is so angry with Romesh that she takes herself back to the retirement Park and misses the whole thing, leaving Romesh trying to work out how to make it up to her...

Short synopsis

Comedian Romesh Ranganathan is travelling the world again. This time he's off to meet family who left Sri Lanka to settle in North America. Unfortunately for him, his Mum is coming too. He's somewhat less than delighted...

Production details

A BBC Production.

Contact

Tracey Taylor on (03) 8646 2313 or taylor.tracey@abc.net.au

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



Death In Paradise

The Saint Marie Literary Festival is rocked by the death of a young literature student - and Florence's childhood friend - whose body is discovered at the bottom of a cliff. Suicide seems the likely cause, but as ever Humphrey isn't so keen to jump to conclusions - even with the presence of a note in the victim's bag. But with everyone the dead girl knew at the festival, who could have pushed her over the edge?

Away from the investigation, Humphrey is busy preparing the shack for Martha's stay.

Sun-soaked whodunit, stars Kris Marshall, Danny John-Jules, Josephine Jobert, Tobi Bakare, and guest starring Fiona Allen, Ramon Tikaram and Monica Dolan.

Short synopsis

Florence finds herself becoming emotionally involved in a case when a young literature student is found dead at the foot of a cliff.

Production details

Created by Robert Thorogood. Executive Producers: Tony Jordan and Tim Key. A Red Planet Pictures production for the BBC.

Contact

Kim Bassett on (03) 8646 2580 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

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

Marketing Contacts

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Kristine Way	(02) 8333 3844 / 0419 969 282 Way.Kris@abc.net.au	The Book Club Christmas Special, Royal Variety Performance 2017
Safia van der Zwan	(02) 8333 3846 VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au	Mystery Road, Rake, Making Muriel, NYE
Peri Wilson (News and Current Affairs)	(02) 8333 2263 / 0409 888 866 Wilson.Peri@abc.net.au	ABC NEWS, 7.30, Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Media Watch, Q&A, Insiders, Lateline, News Breakfast, The Drum, Offsiders, Behind the News, National Press Club, The Mix, The World, One Plus One, The Business, Australian Story
Amy Reiha	Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au	ABC ME, ABC KIDS, Junior Eurovision, Play School, Story Time S2, Tonightly with Tom Ballard, Back Roads, Wildwoods, The Checkout, My Year 7 Life

Melbourne

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