

# 2020 AACTA AWARDS

## COMEDY PROGRAM HANDBOOK



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## At Home Alone Together

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**Production Company:** ABC

**Broadcaster:** ABC

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Nick Hayden

Janet Gaeta

Nikita Agzarian

Dan Ilic

Comedy Performer

Ray Martin - *Ray Martin* (Episode A, Episode B)

Anne Edmonds - *Helen Bidou / Dr Dianne Strize* (Episode A, Episode B)

Bjorn Stewart - *Bjorn Stewart* (Episode A, Episode B)

Becky Lucas - *Jacinta Bell* (Episode A, Episode B)

Laura Hughes - *Birget Oestengardt* (Episode A, Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 30 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

The survival guide we need right now: a lifestyle show for a world where nobody has a life. Beloved national treasure Ray Martin joins Australia's best comedians to share advice on living your best life in the COVID era.

#### Target Demo:

The show is a younger skewing show, aimed at the under 55 demographic.

#### Popularity and Engagement:

Most weeks At Home Alone Together was 2nd or 3rd in its time slot .....regularly rating in the mid-400 thousands... and more often than not was the number 1 trending topic on twitter. It has averaged 700,000 complete audience.

#### Originality and Innovation:

When COVID-19 struck it wiped out the main revenue stream for many of the country's performers. The ABC with help from Screen Australia came up with an idea that would put joke-ready comedians to work; hire a multiple logie-winning TV veteran, Ray Martin, and dismantle his legacy by making him host a sketch comedy lifestyle show about the pandemic. \*At Home Alone Together\* pulled together Australia's top comedians, and tv professionals to make an entire TV sketch show filmed, edited, and produced from their own houses, and also gave a platform to new talent and creatives.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 6

**Episode A Title:** Episode 6

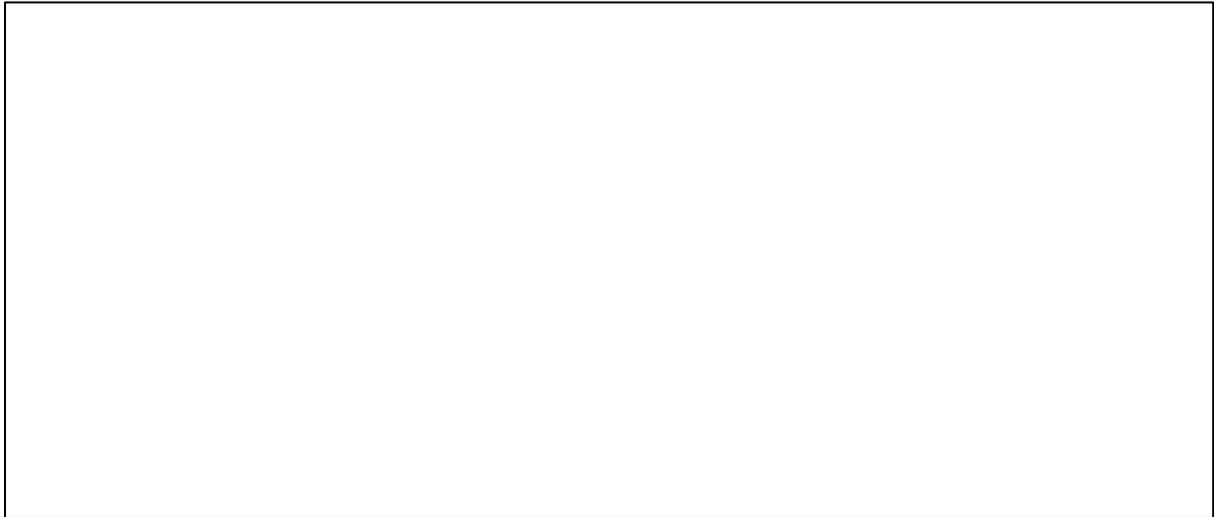
**Episode A Synopsis:** When Dianne Strize comes to Waratah National Park to persuade Ray Martin to enrol Jacinta in a Sydney boarding school, Jacinta and Skippy save Dianne from death by drowning - and Billy D is saved from a fate worse than death.

**Episode B Number:** 8

**Episode B Title:** Episode 8

**Episode B Synopsis:** A doctor meets Ryan at his farm and convinces him that he has escaped from Ray Martin's house with an invisibility ray. Ray Martin then attempts to kidnap Ryan as he tries to figure out if the invisibility ray is real to keep it for himself for when he goes to the shops.

**Notes:**



## Australian Amazon Original stand-up specials

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**Production Company:** Guesswork Television Pty Ltd

**Broadcaster:** Amazon Prime Video

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Todd Abbott

Frank Bruzese

Kevin Whyte

Kathleen McCarthy

### Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 70 minutes

### Series Synopsis:

Ten stand-up specials from some of Australia's best comedians, filmed at Melbourne's Malthouse Theatre for a global release on Amazon Prime Video.

### Target Demo:

We targeted a subset of Entertainment Enthusiasts known as the Core Comedy Club, identified as 18-54 males and females who regularly watch comedy television and comedy genre films in the cinema, on television and/or via streaming services and attend live entertainment experiences including live comedy and stand-up comedy shows.

### Popularity and Engagement:

The episodes were heavily featured in the top ten lists of Prime Video for April and May, 2020. The specials engaged comedy fans as well as entertainment and lifestyle fans on social media. In total, the individual trailers had over 1.7 million views on YouTube. Stellar Magazine commented "In uncertain times, having a laugh feels more important than ever. But in the face of self-isolation and social distancing, comedy festivals and gigs are off the table for the foreseeable future. Which is why Amazon is releasing a series of stand-up specials for those needing some light viewing at home."

### Originality and Innovation:

Judith Lucy's unique comedy style is taken to the next level as she not only takes the audience at the iconic Malthouse Theatre through the disastrous history of her love life, but hands them the power to determine her romantic future in an interactive twist on the live stand-up show. Filmed live at the iconic Malthouse Theatre, Anne Edmonds entertains the crowd as only she can, with acute social commentary on everyday life and acerbic wit fused together through a uniquely Australian lens.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** n/a

**Episode A Title:** Judith Lucy

**Episode A Synopsis:** After reflecting on her entire history with men, Judith Lucy has concluded that maybe it's time to shut up shop. "Whatever it is that I'm selling, a lot of straight guys simply aren't that interested in buying it. And I'm including people like my father." Judith Lucy vs Men toured in 2019, exploring stereotypes, Judith's own desires and recounting her full history with the opposite sex, leaving it up to the audience to determine whether she should ever date again.

Accolades: Winner of the People's Choice Award, Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2017; Winner, Best Comedy Performer, Helpmann Awards 2015.

**Episode B Number:** n/a

**Episode B Title:** Anne Edmonds

**Episode B Synopsis:** Eddo let her alter ego Helen Bidou take her spot at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival last year but now, against her better judgement, Anne has returned and she wants to know... what's wrong with you? Not just you, but the whole lot of you. Humanity has clearly flushed its own head down the drain and she can't decide whether to pull you all up or leave you down there. Clear eyed and in no mood to suffer fools, Eddo is as angry as she is over it.

Accolades: Nominated for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Award (formerly the Barry Award), Melbourne International Comedy Festival, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; Nominated for Best Comedy Performer, Helpmann Awards 2018, 2019

Anne Edmonds is the rock star of Australian comedy and everybody knows it. Welcome to her debut special. In just one hour, she's going to tell you what's wrong with you and everyone else. 'The best comedian in Australia' - Herald Sun.

**Notes:**

## Australian Lockdown Comedy Festival

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**Production Company:** Guesswork Television Pty Ltd

**Broadcaster:** Stan

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Kevin Whyte

Jon Casimir

Todd Abbott

### Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 27 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

When COVID-19 hit, comedians, like everyone else, were forced indoors. With festivals cancelled and venues closed, there were suddenly no stages to stand on and no audiences to laugh at their jokes. If your whole being is focused on making strangers laugh, that's pretty confronting. The Australian Lockdown Comedy Festival was conceived as a helping hand for our out-of-work funny people. Two dozen of our best and brightest had sterilised camera and lighting rigs delivered to their houses. Working with directors remotely, over the internet, they took on the challenge of reinventing stand-up as something you can do in your own home. You'll see them in their bathrooms, bathrobes, baths, bedrooms and kitchens. But their home is only half of the deal. The other half is your home, the place where you can be part of this festival, where it's streamed directly to you. The four episodes are MCed by Dave Hughes, Nazeem Hussain Cal Wilson and Wil Anderson. They feature performances from Tom Ballard, Becky Lucas, Randy Feltface, Nikki Britton, Oliver Twist, Zoë Coombs Marr, Dilruk Jayasinha, Nath Valvo, Demi Lardner & Tom Walker, Lauren Bonner, Tommy Little, Aaron Chen, Geraldine Hickey, Sam Taunton, Bec Charlwood, Claire Hooper, Sam Campbell, Steph Tisdell, Blake Freeman and Michelle Brasier.

#### Target Demo:

The Stan Original special series was announced as a direct result of the unfortunate cancellation of many of Australia's most-loved comedy festivals and tours, including the Melbourne Comedy Festival and Sydney Comedy Festival. The series was aimed at that existing fan base and any comedy-loving audiences aged between 18-60 years.

#### Popularity and Engagement:

Every comedian involved already have an established fan community, from their own live standup, televised specials and guest spots on popular shows such as Rosehaven, Utopia and The Weekly with Charlie Pickering. The series has performed strongly on Stan, and proved as a great comic distraction in a very uncertain time for viewers.

#### Originality and Innovation:

Guesswork Television continues its track record of outstanding, creator-driven Australian comedy television, bringing together Australia's biggest comedians to create, control and execute their own content. The series artfully combines whip smart social commentary, outrageous physical comedy and a carefully crafted layer of visual and stylistic gags, all set up and filmed by the comedians themselves, and all while adhering by safe Covid-19 practices.

### Episode Summary

Episode A Number: 2

**Episode A Title:** Episode 2

**Episode A Synopsis:** What do Australia's funniest people do when a pandemic takes away their audiences? The Australian Lockdown Comedy Festival delivered sterilised camera rigs to some of our favourite comedians and challenged them to invent socially distanced comedy, to make us laugh from the comfort of their own homes. The second instalment of the comedy series features MC Nazeem Hussain, along with Zoë Coombs Marr, Dilruk Jayasinha, Nath Valvo, Demi Lardner & Tom Walker and emerging talent Lauren Bonner.

**Episode B Number:** 3

**Episode B Title:** Episode 3

**Episode B Synopsis:** What do Australia's funniest people do when a pandemic takes away their audiences? The Australian Lockdown Comedy Festival delivered sterilised camera rigs to some of our favourite comedians and challenged them to invent socially distanced comedy, to make us laugh from the comfort of their own homes. The second instalment of the comedy series features Cal Wilson taking up the MC spot, while other comedians include Tommy Little, Geraldine Hickey, Sam Campbell, Sam Taunton and newcomer Bec Charlwood.

**Notes:**

## Black Comedy

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**Production Company:** Scarlett Pictures Pty Ltd

**Broadcaster:** ABC

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Kath Shelper

Mark O'Toole

Nakkiah Lui

David Woodhead

**Comedy Performer**

Rob Collins - *Prosecutor Chris* (Episode B)

Aaron McGrath - *Shane* (Episode A)

### Program Summary

Season: 4

Average Episode Duration: 28 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

It's comedy by blackfellas, for everyone.

#### Target Demo:

Indigenous audience, largely in early 20s but ranging through to older audiences. Online - peak audience late teens/early 20s, and the gender skew depends on the sketch - female driven skews slightly female and male skews slightly male. We do have a broad audience - and being ABC includes an older audience.

#### Popularity and Engagement:

Our ratings to air are niche, however iView catch ups are solid and the sketch segmentation online via our Facebook page and the ABC Indigenous Facebook page are very strong. The sketches are very shareable and often number in the millions for views, comments and shares.

#### Originality and Innovation:

The idea of a cheeky Indigenous sketch comedy show was pretty original and innovative when we started 6 years ago. Each season we have introduced and trained up new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers and performers to keep pushing the envelope for content - just for laughs and also to be provocatively political, socially current and well, just funny. This is our last season and we tried to achieve a balance across all seasons between just plain silly and stuff that makes you think.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 1

**Episode A Title:** Episode 1

**Episode A Synopsis:** In this episode we meet a Full On Murri who has very strong opinions on how Blackfellas should and shouldn't behave, we spend some time on the couch with a couple of cousins who are considering getting to know each other a LOT better, and we meet Aunty Val, a curmudgeonly old Aunty who spends her days keeping her long suffering nephew Marley Boy on his toes.

In our narrative spine sketch we accompany Shane on his first day at University as he discovers that things are not all as they seem. Upon visiting the campus Indigenous Support Centre, Shane stumbles upon a conspiracy to use Blackfellas as pawns in a scam to raise revenue while furthering

the university's ideological quest for diversity. Captured and chained up in a dungeon below the campus, Shane soon realises that his captors have only evil intentions for him. Will he escape? Or will he become one of them?

We also meet Uncle Joombi, a gung-ho fella who's preparing his niece and nephews for the inevitable zombie apocalypse in his backyard Apocalypse Bootcamp, we discover the history of Murri Time in Great Moments In Back History, learn that the Tooth Fairy is actually a Blackfella, and we revisit old favourites the Black Sharehouse ... and of course Blakforce – who are still enforcing what is and isn't black in the community.

**Episode B Number: 6**

**Episode B Title: Episode 6**

**Episode B Synopsis:** In this, the final ever episode of Black Comedy, we drop in on a game of chess where a Blackfella questions why the whites have to always go first, we meet a woman who's flying back home with an unusual travel companion, and we sit in on a support group for white people who are trying to convince themselves, albeit without much success, that once you go black you can go back.

We also drop down to the beach to bid fond farewell to the Bondi Blackfella, we say adieu to the Bushman as he tries to find his dog and his horse - both named Rover, we visit the Aboriginal Percentage Investigation Agency as Nancy meets with an historically significant client, and we get another, long overdue, final visit from the Tooth Fairy.

And to tie everything up and say goodbye after four series we go to court to witness an epic battle, a showdown between good and evil, and pay homage to 'To Kill A Mockingbird', as a straight-talking Indigenous lawyer prosecutes a flash white chef for creating an 'affront to Indigenous gastronomy' in the powerful, and powerfully funny, 'Deconstructed Bully Beef Stew'.

**Notes:**

## Drunk History Australia

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**Production Company:** Eureka Productions

**Broadcaster:** Ten

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Paul Franklin

Chris Culvenor

Sophia Mogford

Ashley Davies

**Comedy Performer**

Anne Edmonds - *Anne Edmonds* (Episode A)

James Mathison - *Robert O'Hara Burke* (Episode A)

Harley Breen - *Harley Breen* (Episode A)

Darren McMullen - *Darren McMullen / Prince Philippe D'Orleans* (Episode A, Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 35 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

Drunk History is a scripted comedy series produced by Eureka for Network Ten. The show takes Australia's rich and often surprising history and retells it through the tipsy words of our most loved comedians, entertainers and sports stars. In each episode, the featured narrator recounts an event from history in a hilariously free and easy way while they sip on their favourite tippie. This storytelling is cut slickly in to the reenactments where some of Australia's favourite entertainers (including XYZ) enact the narrator's anecdotes and lip sync along to their dialogue to make the history come alive.

#### Target Demo:

Drunk History's target demographic is between 18 - 49 years of age.

#### Popularity and Engagement:

The season premieres on Ten this Monday, 14th September after it's launch on Ten Play.

Drunk History was one of the most successful titles in the 10 Days of 10 Play campaign – in the three weeks following the campaign's launch on March 26th, Drunk History was the 3rd highest program for Video Views (73,284), Visits (43,540) and Video Unique Visitors (31,751).

In the month following the campaign, Drunk History continued to attract new viewers, scoring in the top 20 programs for 10 Play Video Unique Viewers (36k).

Since then it has remained in the top 50 shows on 10 Play.

#### Originality and Innovation:

Drunk History Australia brings our countries history to a whole new mainstream audience via the all levelling genre of comedy coupled with the quintessential Aussie pastime of telling a good yarn. This programme has the ability to straddle the culturally sensitive with the obscure and suprizing in the telling of these Australian events. Outstanding attention to detail was undertaken for the locations, props, wardrobe and art, and the vastly diverse casting results in truely original story telling and performances.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number: 1**

**Episode A Title:** Episode 1

**Episode A Synopsis:** Starring Susie Youssef, Yvie Jones and Darren McMullen, Anne Edmonds recounts the history of opera legend – Dame Nellie Melba. Then, James Mathison and Osher Günsberg reenact the disastrous expedition – as told by Harley Breen – of Burke and Wills

**Episode B Number: 2**

**Episode B Title:** Episode 2

**Episode B Synopsis:** Darren McMullen regales with an account of cannibal convicts, brought to life (and death) by Wayne Hope and Phil Lloyd. Then, Nikki Osborne recalls the tale of Beryl Mills, first Miss Australia, with performances from Alex Nation and Yvie Jones

**Notes:**

## Fat Pizza

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**Production Company:** Antichocko Productions Pty Ltd

**Broadcaster:** Seven

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Paul Fenech

Matt Bowie

Serena Hunt

Comedy Performer

Paul Fenech – *Pauly Falzoni* (Episode A, Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 45 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

Pauly Falzoni, former pizza delivery boy, now boss, is trying to rebuild the infamous Fat Pizza restaurant in the notorious suburb of Hashfield.

#### Target Demo:

15-50 year olds

#### Popularity and Engagement:

Revival series of cult comedy 'Fat Pizza'. The first series in 12 years became the Top rated first run Australian series for 7mate in 2019.

#### Originality and Innovation:

Pauly Fenech's brand of uniquely Australian comedy has grown a dedicated audience over the last twenty years. 'Fat Pizza: Back in Business', his latest series, continues the inclusive multi-cultural snap shot of Australia with Fenech's trademark mix of satire, action and slapstick.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 1

**Episode A Title:** Episode 1

**Episode A Synopsis:** Pauly Falzoni, former pizza delivery boy, now boss, is trying to rebuild the infamous Fat Pizza restaurant in the notorious suburb of Hashfield.

**Episode B Number:** 2

**Episode B Title:** Episode 2

**Episode B Synopsis:** Pauly becomes the victim of fake news and must deal with the backlash.

### Notes:

## How To Stay Married

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**Production Company:** Princess Pictures & Pablo Pictures

**Broadcaster:** Ten

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Peter Helliar

Pennie Brown

Jenni Tosi

Emma Fitzsimons

Andrea Denholm

### Comedy Performer

Peter Helliar - *Greg Butler* (Episode A, Episode B)

Lisa McCune - *Emily Butler* (Episode A, Episode B)

Judith Lucy - *Audrey Price* (Episode A)

Louisa Mignone - *Martina Garcia* (Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 2

Average Episode Duration: 22 minutes

### Series Synopsis:

HOW TO STAY MARRIED is an eight-part comedy series about staying together when romance has made way for routine and the everchanging nature of family life continually throws curve balls into the mix. It's a refreshing and heart-warming look at the problems that can befall even the best marriage, blending the daily challenges with the hilarious minutiae of domestic life.

Six months on from the events of Season One, the Butler family have adjusted to their new norm, with Em working in publishing full time and Greg relishing life as stay-at-home dad. But there's little time for Greg and Em to rest on their laurels, or even share a quick glass of wine or cuddle on the couch. 14 year old daughter Sophie is morphing into a lovely and sometimes moody teen, while 7 year old Chloe is obsessed with sharks, pirates and her pet turtle Hannibal. Greg's live-in brother Brad has fallen for his Russian flame Nadia, whilst Em still dreams of writing a novel and Greg thinks a family holiday will provide the perfect antidote to all their stress. Can Greg and Em make those dreams a reality?

### Target Demo:

18-49 family viewing.

### Popularity and Engagement:

Tens audience research findings for HTSM is the comedy is the favoured element of the show with audiences also enjoying that the show is Australian made. Audiences feel the balance of comedy and drama is just right. And they connect with Lisa McCune and Pete Helliar in their respective roles of Emily & Greg Butler and stated that the characters and situations feel relatable.

### Originality and Innovation:

How To Stay Married is arguably the only half-hour sitcom currently on commercial television, and one of a handful being produced in Australia. The importance of HTSM is seen in the scarcity of this format. HTSM provides Australian viewers relatable experiences of modern marriage, work/life balance and parenting not manufactured overseas.

Behind the camera, HTSM took advantage of its second season commission by offering a training ground for writers, creatives and emerging talent, giving three emerging writers their first broadcast credits. HTSM has an impressive number of female crew in key production roles backed by the core female-led Princess team.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 5

**Episode A Title:** NBN

**Episode A Synopsis:** With internet problems driving the family crazy, Greg is tasked with waiting for the NBN technician but is persuaded to abandon his post when Brad calls with an Aldi sale offer that he can't ignore. Meanwhile, a devastated Chloe misses out on a school excursion because Greg can't be reached to give consent, as Sophie's navigates her own troubles at school ignoring Greg's request to head home for the NBN guy. Consequently, all the family's problems land in Em's lap on the day of an important meeting.

**Episode B Number:** 7

**Episode B Title:** New Best Friend

**Episode B Synopsis:** After befriending fellow stay-at-home dad Carlos Garcia, Greg is delighted to score an invitation to the Garcia's house for paella and a spa. Em is less than thrilled – she has been trying to tell Greg about her book but just hasn't found the right moment. Greg unknowingly brings the proof copy of Em's book to the Garcia's. Em goes to drastic lengths to conceal the book from Greg, but Carlos and his tipsy wife Martina almost spill the beans, causing Em to create havoc. With her parents out, Sophie invites Ravi over for 'alone time', but is confused and hurt when he shows more interest in playing with Chloe.

### Notes:

## LOL: Last One Laughing Australia

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**Production Company:** Amazon Prime Video - Australia

**Broadcaster:** Amazon Prime Video

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Elliot Elliot Spencer

Marty Benson

David McDonald

### Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 30 minutes

### Series Synopsis:

Hosted by Rebel Wilson, LOL: Last One Laughing Australia, see these 10 professional comedians go head to head to see who can keep a straight face while simultaneously trying to make their opponents laugh in this first-of-its-kind comedy social experiment. Comedians who laugh will be eliminated one-by-one, until a single comedian remains. With \$100,000 on the line, who will Rebel crown the Last One Laughing?

In this 6-hour competition, there are no rules. Comedians can say and do whatever they like, except laugh. Laugh softly, and you'll receive a yellow card violation. A second offence will earn you a red card elimination and cost you the game. Missing out on \$100,000 is no laughing matter!

The comedy-variety series, produced in conjunction with Endemol Shine Australia, is hosted and executive produced by Australian actress, writer and producer Rebel Wilson and features leading Australian comedic actors Dilruk Jayasinha, Frank Woodley, Nazeem Hussain, Anne Edmonds, Ed Kavalee, Becky Lucas, Joel Creasy, Nick Cody, Sam Simmons and Susie Youssef.

The show follows the format of the successful Amazon Original series from Japan, HITOSHI MATSUMOTO Presents Documental, produced by and starring comedian Hitoshi Matsumoto who leads ten comedians betting their own money in an anything goes "battle of laughter behind closed doors". The format was also launched in Mexico with comedian Eugenio Derbez as the laugh-house's host. The series in Japan and Mexico are customer favourites and are currently on their seventh and second seasons, respectively.

### Target Demo:

Entertainment Enthusiasts aged 18-54, including fans of Rebel Wilson, Frank Woodley, Anne Edmonds, Sam Simmons, Nick Cody, Susie Youssef, Dilruk Jayasinha, Joel Creasey, Becky Lucas, Nazeem Hussain and Ed Kavalee. Edgy comedy fans and celebrity and competition reality viewers.

### Popularity and Engagement:

The show was the highest watched program in June and July on Prime Video. LOL campaign date announcement had 2.1MM video views on social, and the trailer on May 20 with 5MM video views. We hosted a virtual premiere/watch party on our Facebook handle and YouTube channel with Rebel Wilson and Five comedians, which generated 34.2k organic views across social channels. From organic social perspective, our LOL social media channels generated in total 10.4k organic followers across Facebook and Instagram. The engagement rate of the social posts is on average 83% higher than standard social media content engagement.

### Originality and Innovation:

Based on the original Japanese format, LOL is a unique social and comedy experiment, where ten professional comedians must attempt to amuse the toughest audience in the world – other comedians – without laughing themselves. Completely unscripted, this show relies solely on the comedic and improvisational skills of the comic talent, reacting to their surrounds and each other as they compete for the title of Last One Laughing.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 1

**Episode A Title:** Episode 1

**Episode A Synopsis:** The very best of Australian comedy come together to not laugh. Sam Simmons, Ed Kavalee, Anne Edmonds, Joel Creasey, Nazeem Hussain, Susie Youssef, Nick Cody, Dilruk Jayasinha, Becky Lucas and Frank Woodley enter the competition. Host Rebel Wilson explains the rules of the game - laughter is fatal. The moment a player cracks a chuckle, giggle, smirk or laugh, he or she will receive a yellow card violation. The second time he or she cracks, it's game-over for that player. As a tactic to eliminate fellow players, each comedian is given a single "Joker Card" that they can activate at any time. As soon as the comedian pulls it out, the entire room must devote their full attention for 3 minutes.

After the initial pleasantries wane, the comedians go for the jugular. There are rapid-fire exchanges of verbal and physical humour, a surprise birthday cake, a pig's head and much more. Comedians are on the brink of laughter and then Sam Simmons shocks everyone with an unforgettable dance wearing a jacket covered in rubber penises.

**Episode B Number:** 2

**Episode B Title:** Episode 2

**Episode B Synopsis:** Our first comedian drops their guard and earns themselves a yellow card violations. With five hours on the clock, comedians bring out their best props, musical instruments and costumes. A comedic stunt becomes a fizzy ritual. When Rebel hands out her first red card it proves that in this game a simple one-liner can be fatal.

**Notes:**

## The Other Guy

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**Production Company:** Aquarius Films

**Broadcaster:** Stan

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Angie Fielder

Polly Staniford

Jude Troy

Alice Willison

Comedy Performer

Matt Okine - *AJ Amon* (Episode A, Episode B)

Harriet Dyer - *Stevie Nicholls* (Episode A, Episode B)

Claudia Karvan - *Miranda* (Episode A, Episode B)

Christiaan Van Vuuren - *Dezzy* (Episode A, Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 2

Average Episode Duration: 30 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

AJ Amon has lost everything - his house, his job, his best friend. Could life get any worse? Yeah, he just found out his ex-girlfriend is pregnant - and it may or may not be his. When a producer approaches AJ about making a TV show about his shitty life, he thinks he may finally have an opportunity to get back on top. But how do you make a show about your life without pissing off everyone in it? Will AJ use the show to get revenge on the people who wronged him or will reliving the past only keep him stuck there?

#### Target Demo:

The Other Guy targets a broad 18+ audience with equal gender skew aiming to capture similar audiences to those of MASTER OF NONE, CATASTROPHE and PLEASE LIKE ME.

#### Popularity and Engagement:

The Other Guy creator/writer/star Matt Okine has a loyal and ever-expanding fan base built through a huge presence on social media, his popularity on local and international comedy circuits, and Matt's tenure as a radio host on Triple J. With supporting performances from Aussie favourites Harriet Dyer and Christian Van Vuuren, the show received a lot of traction with its target demographic following Season 1. The series enjoyed audience engagement not just in Australia but to new audiences overseas and is playing on leading platform Hulu in the US (Normal People, The Great, Handmaids Tale) and Super Channel in Canada.

#### Originality and Innovation:

The Other Guy is a millennial character-driven comedy/drama with a funny, raw and poignant voice, diverse characters and a memorable urban soundtrack of emerging Aussie artists. Given that the story has been shaped around the lead character AJ, a Ghanian Australian radio host, the series foregrounds contemporary Australian music by organically integrating local music and musicians into the narrative. The script and characters have also been written with diversity in mind in order to represent what we believe to be the real Sydney.

## Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 1

**Episode A Title:** Fake Dicks and Caravans

**Episode A Synopsis:** Estranged best friends AJ (Matt Okine) and Stevie (Harriet Dyer) reunite at the funeral for her absent father, where the bequest of a mouldy old caravan sets Stevie on a mission to obtain her driver's licence. AJ's attempt to get his career back on track with a stint on Celebrity Fight Club leads to an offer to make his own TV show.

**Episode B Number:** 3

**Episode B Title:** Headlice and Hospitals

**Episode B Synopsis:** AJ's past collides with his future when Liv threatens legal action over Cuck, just as things with Charlie grow more serious. But Stevie demonstrates characteristic ingenuity when she manages to get hold of some free legal advice that would seem to put him in the clear

## Notes:

## Retrograde

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**Production Company:** Unless Pictures & Orange Entertainment Co

**Broadcaster:** ABC

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Meg O'Connell

Dan Lake

Jackson Lapsley Scott

Kurt Royan

Comedy Performer

Pallavi Sharda - *MADDIE* (Episode A, Episode B)

Ilai Swindells - *RAMSAY* (Episode A, Episode B)

Esther Hanaford - *SOPHIE* (Episode A, Episode B)

Maria Angelico - *ISABEL* (Episode A, Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 22 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

Maddie is about to embark on an exciting career in Korea when COVID-19 crashes her farewell party. As fast as you can say social isolation Maddie is both unemployed and homeless. Thankfully she hadn't got around to dumping her boring but nice boyfriend Rob — so she can lockdown with him (and his 8 year old daughter!) But even at 35 years old, adulting is not something that comes naturally to Maddie. And to make things worse her fuckboi ex boyfriend from London is back on the (online) scene. But, she's not alone. Her group of friends have created an online bar where they drown their sorrows and workshop their terrible life choices as they try to navigate this new world order. Should Maddie get back together with the guy who broke her heart? What is zoom sex etiquette, anyway? Are drug dealers really providing contactless services? What do you do when your immune medication is sold out after being touted as the cure to COVID-19 by Trump? And is it ever a good idea to get stoned after listening to The Daily podcast about a global pandemic? When tragedy strikes the gang, Maddie is forced to take a good hard look at herself in the preview window — and work out what she wants her life to be in lockdown world and beyond.

#### Target Demo:

25 - 40 female skew

#### Popularity and Engagement:

Screened on ABC at 9.30pm Wednesdays from 8 July 2020. First Episode 239K metro with 33% under 50.

#### Originality and Innovation:

RETROGRADE has been produced completely virtually - actors have mobile filming setups in their homes or locations including ring lights, MacBooks and iPhones which allow them to act to a zoom call whilst they're being filmed with high quality vision and audio. Retrograde was the first original scripted production to commence shooting in Australia during lockdown. Production actually began for the series as the restrictions were being lifted across Australia - but then restrictions were again imposed in the city of Melbourne which proved the socially distanced and remote location filming method a smart decision.

## Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 1

**Episode A Title:** Farewell

**Episode A Synopsis:** Maddie is leaving Australia for a new exciting career in Korea when Covid-19 crashes her (online) farewell party. Now she doesn't have a job, a house or a reason to break up with her boring but nice boyfriend, Rob. Maddie is forced to reassess her (sometimes questionable) life choices with her best friends in their new local — the online bar, Retrograde. But when her ex-boyfriend who broke her heart drops by, everything gets a little complicated.

**Episode B Number:** 3

**Episode B Title:** Catfish

**Episode B Synopsis:** Maddie is planning a fun night in the bar, when Rob asks her to keep an eye on Maya while she's asleep. But when Maya wakes up and refuses to go back to sleep, Maddie gets a crash course in parenting (which includes a literal crash). Meanwhile Isabel gets a crash course in online dating, with her first date since her separation from Marco. But when Sophie suspects Isabel's date is a catfish, they gang invite him to the bar with the hope of catching him out. And Dylan crashes the bar all the way from London, but isn't happy when he finds out a few surprises about Maddie's new life.

## Notes:

## Rosehaven

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**Production Company:** What Horse? and Guesswork Television

**Broadcaster:** ABC

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Andrew Walker

Kevin Whyte

Celia Pacquola

Luke McGregor

Comedy Performer

Celia Pacquola - *Emma Dawes* (Episode A, Episode B)

Luke McGregor - *Daniel McCallum* (Episode A, Episode B)

Kris McQuade - *Barbara McCallum* (Episode A, Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 4

Average Episode Duration: 27 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

Just when we needed some comfort during the second Covid wave, two of Australia's favourite friends came to visit. Best friends and workmates at Emma (Celia Pacquola) and Daniel (Luke McGregor) brightened up 2020 with more stories from the quirky and lovable town of Rosehaven. The multi-award-winning ABC comedy series returned for a fourth season, with the duo now housemates again after Daniel's break-up with Grace. They're spending every waking moment together. It seems fine, but is it too much, even for best friends? They try new ways to make friends and find love in Rosehaven (but not with each other. That would be GROSS). Rosehaven is written by and stars two of Australia's favourite comedians, Luke McGregor and Celia Pacquola, and is based on their real life friendship, though the bit about them selling real estate may not be 100% accurate.

#### Target Demo:

Following three successful seasons, Rosehaven was written for the ABC Wednesday night comedy audience. The program attracts a younger audience to ABCTV, with a significantly higher percentage of the audience aged under 50 than the ABC primetime average. It also attracts a significantly more regional audience than most ABC programs.

#### Popularity and Engagement:

Rosehaven season four was highly anticipated by fans and has preformed well for ABC both on Wednesday nights, on TV and on iView. In the midst of a global pandemic, escaping to the sweet and quirky town of Rosehaven has been just the balm that the audience was looking for. The show has had multiple award nominations and wins across the AACTAs, Logies, AWGIE, Directors' Guild and SPA Producers Awards, an industry appreciation that mirrors that of the public's. Rosehaven has been picked up by Amazon Prime Video as part of its local slate for Australia and New Zealand.

#### Originality and Innovation:

Rosehaven films in Tasmania, bringing a largely local cast and crew and stunning local scenery to a national audience. It is a program that locals feel is theirs - it has helped put Tasmanian TV production at the top of the local political agenda. At the heart of Rosehaven is the wonderful platonic friendship of Emma and Daniel, created by real life best friends Celia Pacquola and Luke

McGregor. It seems odd to say it, but a platonic relationship between a man and woman on television is surprising, almost radical, and definitely innovative.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 1

**Episode A Title:** Episode 1

**Episode A Synopsis:** Daniel and Emma are having a relaxed night in watching TV and drinking wine as new housemates.

It's a new dynamic for both of them. Who kills the spiders? Is bread cut into circles a fair substitute for replacing crumpets? There's a lot to iron out.

At McCallum Real Estate, everyone is getting used to the new office.

Suspicious of Daniel's composure to all these changes, Emma floats the idea of getting a new place to live - a fresh start - out of the house he shared with Grace. Emma thinks Daniel is being a bit too calm about the breakup with Grace.

When Grace calls from Japan, she wants to use the service of McCallums. She's after a new rental property. Against Emma's advice, Daniel signs on to help.

A mystery package arrives at the new office and Emma is desperate to open it. She can't resist packages. It might be something exciting. But it's not addressed to her, so she sets out on a quest to find the recipient. Meanwhile, Grace let's slip to Daniel that she met someone, and Daniel crumbles. He calls Emma to help.

**Episode B Number:** 8

**Episode B Title:** Episode 8

**Episode B Synopsis:** Olive from community watch finally has her Rosehaven emergency warning broadcast system up and running. Blaring through speakers all over town. It's testing day.

Meanwhile, a flyer is being distributed around town from real estate tycoon Donovan – his agency is now servicing the area. He is targeting everyone in the town, offering new tactics and first-rate advertising videos for their properties.

Barbara goes into action mode. Everyone should remain calm, but best to touch base with their clients.

Daniel and Emma try to match Donovan's offering, recreating a similar video for their clients, but they simply don't have the skills. He's got a much bigger budget and online presence. He is even on local radio with Bruce and is doing a presentation that night at the pub AND he's offering everyone free drinks.

Unsure what to do and fearful that Donovan will take over Rosehaven's real estate business, Daniel hatches a plan to use the emergency broadcast system while everyone is at the pub listening to his presentation. They break into the radio station but they can't do it - this isn't them, they're adorable! And this isn't adorable.

They'll get through it another way, like get better at their jobs.

But Donovan doesn't know the town and a pivotal choice might just turn the whole town off him anyway...

### Notes:

## Sammy J

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**Production Company:** Buxstock Entertainment Pty Ltd

**Broadcaster:** ABC

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Michelle Buxton

Sammy J

Chris McDonald

Comedy Performer

Sammy J - *Sammy J, Government Coach, SJ Paterson, Buster J, Mr Dad, White Man, NSW Border Runner* (Episode A, Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 3

Average Episode Duration: 3.5 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

Biting, bite-sized comedy as Sammy J and his team of troublemakers tackle the news of the week.

#### Target Demo:

Our audience ranges from school/university audiences to the baby-boomer generation. "Sammy J" airs on ABC TV at 6.55pm every Thursday, attracting a strong following from the the 35yrs+ ABC audience. It is also released online, which attracts a younger and broader audience with many episodes reaching views of 2M+.

#### Popularity and Engagement:

Top 20 TV ratings for various weeks throughout 2020

Average ABC TV & iVIEW broadcast audience: 630,000 per episode

Online views: Highest viewed episode via Facebook - 'Ballard of the Dunny Roll' currently 8.6 million views

Online views: Most episodes are attracting views of 500,000+ each week

ABC audience feedback (note: 2020 statistics are not yet available):

2019 - Extraordinary Experience 78%

(Sammy J is the highest rated show on ABC in this category)

2019 - Quality and Distinctiveness - "STANDOUT PERFORMER" 90+%

Excellent public feedback online and in publications including The Green Guide (The Age/SMH)

#### Originality and Innovation:

Working to very tight deadlines, the team deliver a high-quality satirical sketch every week which is broadcast in prime time on ABCTV. Filming and editing takes place just 24 hrs before broadcast, resulting in some of the most topical and thought-provoking content produced in Australia. Sammy J's authentic voice and comedic versatility enable him to create comedy in a variety of ways, utilising live music, unique characters, and guest performers as required. Constantly pushing comedic boundaries and trying to avoid repetition, Sammy J proves that "It's not the size of timeslot, it's how you use it."

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** Various

**Episode A Title:** Where's My Surplus?, The Ballad of Dunny Roll, Coach Makes Things Clear, I'll Always Keep My Bluetooth On For You

**Episode A Synopsis:** Josh the dog can't find his surplus! Can you help him?  
Renowned bush poet S.J. Paterson empties the shelves in verse.  
Government Coach clarifies some confusion around the club's messaging.  
Buster J returns with a song about love in the age of corona.

**Episode B Number:** Various

**Episode B Title:** Home School With Mr Dad, Well-Meaning White People, 2020: Mid-Year Performance Review, NSW Border Police

**Episode B Synopsis:** As remote learning continues all over the country, one dad tries to replicate the full school experience.

It's a safe space for well-meaning white people.

God looks back at the year so far.

Be warned - Random Victorian Tests now underway on the border.

**Notes:**

## Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL

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**Production Company:** ITV Studios Australia

**Broadcaster:** ABC

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Shaun Micallef

Peter Beck

Gary McCaffrie

Comedy Performer

Shaun Micallef – *Shaun Micallef* (Episode A, Episode B)

Emily Taheny - *Ita Buttrose* (Episode B)

Stephen Hall - *Darius Horsham* (Episode A)

Francis Greenslade - *Bluey* (Episode A)

Tosh Greenslade - *Chris Lorax* (Episode A)

### Program Summary

Season: 11

Average Episode Duration: 30 minutes

#### Series Synopsis:

A half-fortnightly reaping, threshing and winnowing of current affairs asphodel by the combine harvester that is Shaun Micallef.

Along with a like-minded Think Tank of reporters and pundits, Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL offers not only reportage and analysis of the week's events, but discussion, argument and dissection of what's making the world turn every which way.

Other members of the cast include Emily Taheny, Francis Greenslade, Tosh Greenslade (not related to Francis), Christie Whelan Browne and Stephen Hall

Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL - The show that knows that if NEWS isn't NOW it's NOWHERE

#### Target Demo:

Target Audience – 16+

Gender skew – all

Classification band - M

Aimed at young Sinks and Dinks: SINK (single income, no kids) and DINK (dual income, no kids)

25% target audience under 54

75% target audience over 54.

#### Popularity and Engagement:

MAH is the best satirical political humour around.

REACHING AND ENGAGING MORE PEOPLE MORE FREQUENTLY IN THE MOST RELEVANT WAY: Every episode had a complete average audience of 1,356,000.

It's one of the youngest skewing entertainment programs on the ABC slate attracting 29.9% U50 viewership. MAH generates 5 city metro average of 750,000 and a total of almost 900,000 iview plays.

Facebook: 114,265 followers, 41% women, men 59%; Instagram 14,795 followers with 45% women, 55% men.

YouTube subscribers: 7, 556. Viewers are 88.1% male, 11.9% female

This show is crafted, funny, topical and relevant. Audience experience is second to none.

**Originality and Innovation:**

Shaun Micallef's acerbic wit creates edgy, hilarious social commentary running as close to the line as allowable, creating extraordinary originality & innovative content.

The program's editorial prestige and the freedom it enjoys being on the ABC, is no doubt a major reason for its popularity.

The production engages the best comedy brains in the country and has developed long running partnerships in the writing and producing of the show.

Poignant, relevant, topical, acerbic, clever, taking truth to power, fearless and just that little bit mad.

**Episode Summary****Episode A Number: 1**

**Episode A Title:** Season Premiere

**Episode A Synopsis:** Tonight's Mad as Hell will be broadcast only to marginal and targeted electorates, providing much-needed satire to communities affected by the live coronavirus import industry, the bushfire-donation-industrial complex, the National leadership recycling crisis and the puns in the Daily Telegraph.

**Episode B Number: 3**

**Episode B Title:** Episode 3

**Episode B Synopsis:** Tonight, we swear by our first home loan deposit scheme and sub-optimal manufacturing industry, give our full support to deputies old and new, share our takeaways on Labor's dine-in saga, witness a virus change its spots and could this be the end of swastikas and self-serve checkouts?

**Notes:**

**Production Company:** Lingo Pictures

**Broadcaster:** Foxtel – Fox Showcase

### Candidate Summary

Best Comedy Program Candidates

Jason Stephens

Helen Bowden

Melissa Kelly

Chris Taylor

Tim Minchin

### Comedy Performer

Tim Minchin - *Lucky Flynn* (Episode A, Episode B)

Milly Alcock - *Meg Adams* (Episode A, Episode B)

### Program Summary

Season: 1

Average Episode Duration: 28 minutes

### Series Synopsis:

When family outcast Lucky Flynn learns that his mother is dying, he decides to drive to the other side of Australia to see her, packing nothing but an upright piano for the journey. But his plans are soon turned upside down when he meets the runaway teenager Meg, who's dealing with some family demons of her own. Together they forge an unlikely friendship, as they embark on a road-trip adventure across the Nullarbor Plains in a race against time. Along the way they encounter feral camels, a magical pink lake, highway thieves, cliff-top parties, a speed-loving truckie, an underworld fight ring, suspicious cops, and the world's most musically appreciative motorcycle gang. Over eight hot days, Lucky and Meg drive, hitch and scam their way across the scorching desert continent – with the upright piano never leaving their side - on a journey that will ultimately make them both feel more at peace with everything in life that they've been kicking against.

### Target Demo:

The series has a fairly broad target market, aimed at those between 25-49 years of age, gender neutral. The age difference between the two characters helps us to capture this larger market. As does the universal themes, and enjoyable comedic moments.

### Popularity and Engagement:

Upright rated extremely well in Australia and overseas. It was the #1 most watched new drama series on Fox Showcase and the #1 new series launch on Foxtel in 2019. It was also Sky UK's fourth most-watched premiere over the last three years.

Rated 8.6 on IMDB, it has also received ardent critical and audience acclaim – Joss Whedon tweeted that it was his “favourite show since ‘Fleabag’”.

The audience enthusiasm for the show is also reflected through the strong engagement on social media (see eOne Post TX press kit for trending reactions).

### Originality and Innovation:

Upright is visually spectacular, with the majority shot on the road, capturing remote locations such as the Great Australia Bight and pink lakes.

Upright is also distinctive in how it presents the uniqueness of rural Australia without falling into cliché. The characters, fauna and landscape that you meet on our road trip are authentically diverse, surprising and challenge stereotypes.

Tonally the show is also unique, striking the perfect balance, between comedy and drama, action and stillness, intellect and emotion. Whilst watching Upright, you'll likely find yourself yo-yoing between laughter and tears.

### Episode Summary

**Episode A Number:** 5

**Episode A Title:** Day Five

**Episode A Synopsis:** Lucky wakes up to find that Meg has taken off with the ute and the piano, leaving him all alone in the scorching Nullarbor heat. He contemplates giving up and going home, but a potentially poisonous snakebite causes him to have a vision of his mother, who urges him to find the piano and keep going. Hitching a ride with an amphetamine-addled truckie, Lucky fears the snake poison might kill him, but he stirs from his stupor when he spots Meg's ute upturned on the side of the highway.

**Episode B Number:** 8

**Episode B Title:** Day Eight

**Episode B Synopsis:** Arriving at the Flynn family home in Perth, Lucky has a touching reunion with his mother, but his homecoming gets a much frostier reception from his brother Toby, who seems quite thrown by the presence of Lucky's young travel companion Meg. As old tensions come to the surface, it's Meg who reassures the family that Lucky isn't the selfish screw-up they perceive him to be. When Lucky meets his 8-year-old niece Billie for the first time, he tells her that he got her a special present for her birthday – the family heirloom piano – and the penny finally drops for Meg about Billie's real relationship to Lucky, and also why it was so important for him to bring the piano all that way.

### Notes: