

# BBC WORLDWIDE AUSTRALASIA CHANNELS SHOWCASE

## **BBC CHANNELS LAUNCH A STELLAR LINE UP OF UK HITS AND PREMIUM PREMIERE CONTENT FOR 2013**

BBC Channels UKTV, BBC Knowledge, CBeebies and BBC World News will bring the best British programmes and international journalism to Australian audiences in 2013, on Foxtel.

Highlights revealed by Deirdre Brennan, GM/Director of Channels and Branded Services, at the BBC Channels Showcase include:

- *Top of the Lake*, created by Academy-award winner Jane Campion and Gerard Lee will launch on UKTV in March. A See-Saw Films production for UKTV, BBC Two and Sundance Channel, *Top of the Lake* is a powerful and haunting mystery set in New Zealand, starring Elisabeth Moss, David Wenham, Peter Mullan, Tom Wright and Holly Hunter.
- Vibrant and youthful serial drama *Hollyoaks* is coming to UKTV in 2013 – the only channel in Australia to show all four of the UK's smash hit soaps. UKTV has listened to its dedicated soap fans, who consistently make *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* two of the most popular shows on subscription television, and will be delivering exclusive episodes every weeknight first on Foxtel.
- A year of programming to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Doctor Who*, supported by extensive off screen activity. Fans of classic and contemporary *Doctor Who* can enjoy a feast of iconic adventures featuring each of the 11 Doctors in turn on UKTV.
- An exciting year ahead for *Top Gear* on BBC Knowledge, as it takes pole position on Foxtel in 2013, transmitting days after UK transmission.

Says Deirdre Brennan: 'We have fantastic plans for the year ahead. Our portfolio of BBC Channels offer Foxtel subscribers an unrivalled range and quality of British programming, from great British entertainment, drama, crime, soaps and comedy on UKTV to documentaries with character and credibility on BBC Knowledge; from exclusive new shows for pre-school children on CBeebies to the latest global news 24 hours a day on BBC World News.

'In 2013, BBC Worldwide will deepen the relationship between viewers and great British content, bringing the programs and brands alive off screen in more ambitious ways that ever before.'

Alongside *Top of the Lake*, viewers can enjoy more premiere dramas on UKTV. David Tennant stars in *Spies of Warsaw*, an adaptation of Alan Furst's celebrated spy novel set in the years leading up to the Second World War. BBC channels create, curate, package and promote programmes for an Australian

audience and one example is the remarkable collection of programmes from award-winning dramatist Stephen Poliakoff, including *Dancing on the Edge*.

UKTV also has a history of showcasing the finest comedy talent in the UK and next year is no different. The channel introduces the brilliant new comedy duo *Watson and Oliver* as the centrepiece of its upcoming comedy season. Next year it will also bring some of the best live events from the UK, including The BRIT Awards.

BBC Knowledge recently reinvigorated its schedule in response to a deeper understanding of its audience. As well as *Top Gear*, BBC Knowledge has a range of fascinating programs lined up for 2013, presented by charismatic experts including Brian Cox, Louis Theroux and Michael Mosley. Leading British science series *Horizon* returns to BBC Knowledge, along with a BBC Worldwide original commission, *Dara O'Briain's Science Club*, which sees comedian Dara O'Briain and a team of experts tackle the biggest ideas in science in front of a lively audience.

The CBeebies channel is the only place where pre-school children can enjoy new shows produced specifically for CBeebies around the world - educational and entertaining series that offer something special for Australian families. *Charlie & Lola* and *Teletubbies* will be joined by new and exclusive favourites *Sarah & Duck*, *Mr Bloom*, *The Numtums* and *Dinopaws*.

BBC World News delivers the latest global news and information to Foxtel viewers, with regular series including *Impact*, *GMT*, *Click* and *HARDtalk*. Early next year, BBC World News will move into a state-of-the-art new home in London's Broadcasting House, bringing together journalists across the entire spectrum of the BBC's multiplatform, domestic and international news services and dramatically enhancing the look and feel of the channel.

BBC programmes will continue to come alive off-screen in more ambitious ways than ever before. The forthcoming *Doctor Who*, *Frozen Planet*, *Charlie & Lola* and *Top Gear* live events in Australia are highly immersive ways for viewers to engage with these brands. There are also exciting plans to extend the *Doctor Who* experience for fans in its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year - and the Australian BBC Worldwide team lead the way in launching new products, from *Doctor Who* baby wear and collectible coins to the *Top Gear* Limited Edition BUGG BBQ.

**Ends**

**Press contact: Sue Affleck, Communications Manager ([sue.affleck@bbc.com](mailto:sue.affleck@bbc.com)) on 0404 604731 or Phoebe Price, Communications Executive on 02 9744 4502 ([phoebe.price@bbc.com](mailto:phoebe.price@bbc.com))**



### **About BBC Worldwide Australasia**

Australia is a priority territory for BBC Worldwide, focusing on growth across all five of its core businesses. In 2011/12, BBC Worldwide Australasia increased revenue by 9% on the previous year, generating AUS\$140m. Based in Macquarie Park, Sydney, BBC Worldwide Australasia wholly owns five channels; UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies in Australia; UKTV and BBC Knowledge in New Zealand; and is responsible for the distribution and promotion of BBC World News which transmits in both countries. It distributes great British content from the BBC and other producers to all free-to-air and most subscription channels in Australia and New Zealand. BBC Worldwide Australasia works with partners to bring BBC Worldwide DVDs, magazines, digital apps, innovative products and live events to the local market, as well as offering advertising opportunities for the BBC's world renowned [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) news site and [lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com). Australia is the most successful territory for the global BBC iPlayer.

### **About BBC Channels**

BBC Worldwide Channels is one of five BBC Worldwide businesses. Formed in 2005, the business' diverse portfolio of channel brands provides a global showcase for the best mix of British TV across factual, entertainment, children's and lifestyle programming. The company is the UK's leading international broadcaster, operating a network of localised channels that reach over 300 million homes in more than 100 countries around the world.

### **About Foxtel**

Foxtel is one of Australia's most progressive and dynamic media companies, directly employing around 2,500 people, and delivering a diverse subscription television service to both regional and metropolitan areas over cable, satellite and broadband distribution. We offer a better entertainment experience every day to each one of our 2.3 million subscribing homes through delivery of exclusive and inspiring programming across all genres, the world's most popular channel brands, and investment in high quality local content. As constant champions of innovation we have brought customers the latest personal digital recording technology, Australia's largest HD offering, Foxtel 3D, and this year, the most comprehensive Olympic Games coverage Australia has ever seen. Foxtel is owned by Telstra Corporation Limited ACN 051 775 556 (50%), The News Corporation Ltd (25%), and Consolidated Media Holdings Ltd (25%). [foxtel.com.au](http://foxtel.com.au)