

Press Release

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Celebrities to face TV's toughest quiz show

SBS commissions BBC Studios for more *Mastermind*

BBC Studios has scored a new commission for *Mastermind*, along with a spin-off version of *Celebrity Mastermind*.

Announced today at SBS's Upfronts, a second series of *Mastermind* will return for 85 programmes in early 2020. In addition, BBC Studios has been commissioned to produce five one hour *Celebrity Mastermind* specials.

With quiz master Jennifer Byrne back at the helm, Australia's smartest contenders will face the iconic *Mastermind* chair, the spotlight and a brand new round of questions to test their knowledge.

Plus, for the first time in Australia, Jennifer Byrne will be quizzing celebrities on their specialist and general knowledge, in a special series of *Celebrity Mastermind*. Watch your favourite celebrities conquer or crumble under the spotlight as *Celebrity Mastermind* uncovers some surprising and unusual hidden knowledge.

BBC Studios ANZ Director of Production, Kylie Washington, secured the two *Mastermind* commissions from Josh Martin, Commissioning Editor, Entertainment at SBS. The Executive Producer for both series will be Lucy De Luca.

Kylie Washington said: "We're delighted that the first series of *Mastermind* successfully established an early evening 'smart slot' for SBS audiences and can't wait to be back with more. *Celebrity Mastermind* gives us a chance to build on the success of the brand and invite some of Australia's smartest household names to bravely step up to the black chair too."

SBS Commissioning Editor Entertainment and Food, Josh Martin said: "SBS is thrilled to see the return of two new series of *Mastermind* with quizmaster Jennifer Bryne at the helm. This is a timeless format and the diversity of specialist topics is a joy to watch – not to mention that the play-at-home nature of the series has proven to be an important destination for audiences at 6pm on weeknights. We are particularly excited about *Celebrity Mastermind*. Which celebrities are willing to be put to the test in the famous black chair? And more importantly, what will be their speciality topics? We can't wait to find out!"

Mastermind is a BBC Studios format, produced for SBS by BBC Studios ANZ and distributed by BBC Studios.

Since the BBC Studios Australian production arm was established under Kylie in September 2018, it has produced *Mastermind* S1 for SBS, *Stargazing: Moon and Beyond* for the ABC and co-produced *Dancing with the Stars* for Ten.



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For more information, please contact: Laura Dumbrell, Head of Communications for BBC Studios APAC, on 02 9744 4502.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About BBC Studios APAC

Covering Australia, New Zealand and 23 countries across the Asia region, BBC Studios APAC is overseen by EVP Jon Penn. Operating from eight offices, with its main bases in Sydney, Beijing and Singapore, BBC Studios APAC comprises of Content Sales and Co-productions, Branded Services, Production, Format Sales, Consumer Products and Live Events.

The BBC Studios business in Australia and New Zealand wholly owns seven channels: BBC First, BBC UKTV, BBC Earth and CBeebies on Foxtel and Fetch TV in Australia; BBC Living (shortly to be replaced by BBC Brit) on Fetch TV; and BBC UKTV and BBC Earth on Sky TV in New Zealand. It distributes great British content from the BBC and other British producers to free-to-air, subscription channels and SVOD platforms and works with partners to bring BBC Studios DVDs, consumer products and live events to the local market. The production arm in Sydney produces BBC formats for the local market and creates new IP.

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