

Press Release

20 November 2018

“I’ve started so I’ll finish”

BBC Studios Australia production arm off to flying start with Mastermind commission

BBC Studios has scored its first commission since setting up a production arm in Australia, with SBS ordering 85 x 30 minute episodes of TV’s toughest and most enduring quiz show, *Mastermind*.

Synonymous with the catchphrase “I’ve started so I’ll finish” and the fearsome, black, spotlighted chair for its contestants, the series was announced by SBS at its Upfronts today.

Airing in the UK for over 40 years, *Mastermind* is the legendary quiz that sets the toughest questions on television. No matter who takes to the iconic black chair, the tension is always immense.

In round one, four contestants have one minute to answer as many questions as possible on their specialist subject. In round two, each contestant has one minute again, this time on general knowledge. The contestant with the highest combined score wins and goes on to compete against other program winners for a place in the grand final.

In the UK, the latest series of this popular long-running series on BBC Two increased its reach. Its success around the world has also seen the show trending on Twitter, as it fires up discussion and engagement.

BBC Studios ANZ Director of Production Kylie Washington secured the commission from Josh Martin, Commissioning Editor, Entertainment at SBS.

Jon Penn, Managing Director of BBC Studios ANZ, said: ‘*Mastermind* is an incredible UK success and a great first commission for Kylie, who set up our production arm just two months ago. We’re excited to bring this globally renowned format, combined with BBC production values, to SBS in 2019.’

Kylie Washington, Director of Production for BBC Studios ANZ, said: We are thrilled to bring this iconic BBC quiz to SBS and can’t wait to find Australia’s smartest mastermind.’

SBS Director of TV and Online Content, Marshall Heald said: “*Mastermind* is the perfect commission to lead the evolution of our 6pm timeslot. Famous for its challenging questions, intimidating setting and air of seriousness, this iconic BBC game show will celebrate Australian’s general knowledge and fierce competitive nature in a fun nightly challenge as they compete for the prestigious title of Australia’s *Mastermind*. We can’t wait to launch it in 2019.”

Mastermind is a BBC format, produced for SBS by BBC Studios Australia and distributed by BBC Studios. Filming commences in Melbourne in early 2019.



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Press contact: Laura Dumbrell, Head of Communications on laura.dumbrell@bbc.com or +61 2 9744 4502.

About BBC Studios in Australia & New Zealand

The BBC Studios business in Australia and New Zealand is primarily content sales and branded services, with a newly established production arm. It wholly owns seven channels: BBC First, BBC UKTV, BBC Knowledge and CBeebies on Foxtel and Fetch TV in Australia; BBC Living 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 new production arm in Sydney will produce BBC formats for the local market and create new IP. Jon Penn is the Managing Director of BBC Studios in Australia and New Zealand, overseeing distribution, production and all ancillary business. Kylie Washington heads up the new production arm, having joined BBC Studios in September 2018.

BBC Studios, a global content company with British creativity at its heart, is a commercial subsidiary of the BBC Group. Its production teams have received over 100 awards and 200 nominations in the past year, making BBC Studios the most awarded producer in the UK.

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