

Media Alert

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UKTV PRESENTS THE ROYAL VARIETY PERFORMANCE 2017, EXPRESS FROM THE UK



UKTV will bring the much-loved annual Royal Variety Performance to Australian audiences, express from the UK on **Wednesday, 20th December** at **8.30pm**.

Hosted by award-winning Queen of Comedy, **Miranda Hart**, the show promises to be an unforgettable evening of the best UK and international musical performers, extraordinary theatre and brilliant comedy, as well as a number of surprises along the way.

The star-studded spectacular was filmed last month in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, at the iconic London Palladium Theatre, which hosted for the 41st time.

The line-up includes the legendary **Kelsey Grammer** who will be performing, with his cast, an exclusive extract from the new musical *Big Fish*; plus **The Killers**, **Seal**, **James Blunt**, **Louis Tomlinson**, **The Leading Ladies - Beverly Knight**, **Cassidy Janson** and **Amber Riley** - and **The Script**, and **Paloma Faith**.

Also taking to the stage are, *Britain's Got Talent* winner, pianist **Tokio Myers**; the West End casts of **Annie** and **42nd Street**; the incredible **Circus Abyssinia**; **Michael Ball** and **Alfie Boe**; the mesmerising **Cirque du Soleil** plus comedy from **Jason Manford** and **Tom Allen**.



Miranda Hart said: "If you don't mind me I am just going to smash a glass ceiling and be the first woman to host the Royal Variety. That felt GOOD! It's thrilling for me because of that, and because I am hugely proud to be part of such an important event in our comedy and variety heritage as the Royal Variety Performance. The young-wannabe-comedian me who watched the show every year, would be just as excited to hear that grown-up me is going to be hosting - only I'll be doing it without the 1970's pudding bowl haircut that made me look like a young male monk!"

The event is staged in aid of the Royal Variety Charity (formerly the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund), whose patron is Her Majesty The Queen. The money raised from the show helps those people from the world of entertainment in need of care and assistance.

The Royal Variety Performance premieres Wednesday, 20th December at 8.30pm on UKTV, express from the UK

-Ends-

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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