

STRICTLY COME DANCING PREMIERES ON UKTV IN JANUARY 2014

PUTTING THE SPARKLE INTO WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS
FIRST ON FOXTEL



One of the biggest shows on British television - *Strictly Come Dancing* is premiering on UKTV on Wednesday, January 1 at 8:30pm, with series 11 bringing an all-star line-up of celebrities with more sparkle, sizzle and glitz than ever before.

15 celebrities take on the challenge of perfecting the art of ballroom and Latin dancing under the tutelage of 15 phenomenally talented professional dancers at the top of their game.

Celebrities joining the ranks include multi-platinum selling singer/songwriter, model and DJ **Sophie Ellis-Bextor**; former *Coronation Street* baddie **Natalie Gumede**; Rugby World Cup champion **Ben Cohen**; queen of the runway and TV presenter **Abbey Clancy**; *Hollyoaks* hunk **Ashley Taylor Dawson**; one half of the Hairy Bikers **Dave Myers**; British multi-millionaire **Deborah Meaden**; *Strictly's* very first fashion designer, **Julien Macdonald**; actor **Mark Benton**; *Casualty* star **Patrick Robinson**; television presenter **Rachel Riley**; journalist and presenter **Susanna Reid**; sporting legend **Tony Jacklin CBE** and finally TV presenter, broadcaster and journalist **Vanessa Feltz**.

Judges are **Len Goodman**, **Craig Revel Horwood**, **Bruno Tonioli** and **Darcey Bussell**.

Reaching a series high of 11.7 million viewers in the UK, Australian viewers will be dazzled with two episodes to look forward to each week. To kick things off, UKTV will screen the Performance Show every Wednesday at 8:30pm, hosted by television presenters **Sir Bruce Forsyth** and **Tess Daly**.

Joining Tess on Thursday evenings at 8:30pm is television and radio presenter **Claudia Winkleman** to present the Results Show where the couple with the lowest combined scores will face each other in the all-important dance off, with one couple leaving the competition for good.

Tim Christlieb, Head of Channels at BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand, commented "*Strictly Come Dancing* is phenomenally popular in the UK and we're incredibly excited to be bringing it to Australian audiences on UKTV. The Australian version – *Dancing With The Stars* was a huge hit this year and we're delighted to be keeping the glitter ball rolling."

Five new professionals **Anya Garnis, Iveta Lukosiute, Janette Manrara, Kevin Clifton** and **Aljaz Skorjanec** join *Strictly's* renowned dancers **Ola** and **James Jordan, Brendan Cole, Anton du Beke, Kristina Rihanoff, Robin Windsor, Karen Hauer** and **Aliona Vilani**.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

- *Dancing With The Stars* is the Australian version of the BBC format *Strictly Come Dancing*.



Deborah Meaden



Sir Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly



Sophie Ellis-Bextor

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About BBC Worldwide Australia & New Zealand

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