

## Press Release

21 June 2019

### **Stargazing special to be produced by BBC Studios ANZ and The Science Unit**

BBC Studios has been commissioned by the ABC to make a special edition of *Stargazing* called *Stargazing: Moon and Beyond*, marking the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landings. Following the success of two previous *Stargazing* series, the one hour special will be produced by BBC Studios ANZ in collaboration with experts from the BBC Studios Science Unit.

Filmed in front of a live studio audience and hosted by Professor Brian Cox and Julia Zemiro, *Stargazing* sits at the heart of a season of programs marking the historic event on the ABC this July.

*Stargazing: Moon and Beyond* is BBC Studios' third local production since its ANZ production arm was set up in September 2018. Headed by Director of Production, Kylie Washington, the unit has wholly produced 85 episodes of *Mastermind*, currently broadcasting on SBS, and was a co-producer on Ten's recent successful series of *Dancing with the Stars*, along with producers Warner Bros. Entertainment Australia.

A BBC Studios format, *Stargazing* will be produced by the new production arm in Australia for the first time, with the majority of the crew drawn from the talented local production industry, working alongside experts from BBC Studios' world-renowned Science Unit.

Kylie Washington said: 'We're delighted to be working with The Science Unit to produce this *Stargazing* special for ABC's landmark season of moon landing programs and that BBC Studios ANZ's crew will be delivering this premium show.'

Helen Thomas, Executive Producer, BBC Studios Science Unit said: 'It is great to be collaborating with BBC Studios ANZ on this special production, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the amazing Apollo moon landing and looking ahead at the very exciting future of space exploration.'

Aidan Laverty, Manager Science, ABC, said: 'We're really excited to be working with the BBC to create a show that pushes the boundaries on what a factual studio show can look and feel like and to develop the *Stargazing* brand across our different platforms.'



The ABC's season of programs marking the 50th anniversary of the moon landing also features BBC Studios' spectacular new series, *The Planets*, showcasing our solar system like never before.

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For more information, please contact: Laura Dumbrell, Head of Communications BBC Studios ANZ, on 020 9744 4502.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

##### About BBC Studios

BBC Studios, a global content company with British creativity at its heart, is a commercial subsidiary of the BBC Group. Formed in April 2018 by the merger of BBC Worldwide and BBC Studios, it spans content financing, development, production, sales, branded services and ancillaries. BBC Studios' award-winning British programmes are internationally recognised across a broad range of genres and specialisms. It has offices in 22 markets globally, including seven production bases in the UK and production bases and partnerships in a further nine countries around the world. The company, which makes 2500 hours of content a year, is a champion for British creativity around the world and a committed partner for the UK's independent sector. BBC Studios has revenue of £1.4bn, and returns around £200m to the BBC Group annually, complementing the BBC's licence fee and enhancing programmes for UK audiences.

##### 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.

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