

**BBC Worldwide Press Office**

BBC Worldwide Australia

Level 5, 6 Eden Park Drive, Macquarie Park NSW 2113

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**RUTH JONES WRITES AND STARS IN NEW COMEDY DRAMA  
STELLA****Australian Premiere Saturdays at 7:30pm from August 4 on UKTV**

**“Quick-witted, understated and charming”** *Sunday Telegraph, UK*

The fictional town of Pontyberry in the South Wales Valleys is home to Stella Morris (Gavin and Stacey’s Ruth Jones) – a 40-something divorcee with three kids and an ironing business in the warm new drama **Stella**, an Australian premiere Saturdays at 7:30pm from August 4 on UKTV.

Stella’s eldest child, Luke, is in prison. But he’s a lovely boy really and woe betide anyone who says otherwise. Emma is 16, gorgeous, lazy and in love, while Ben, the 13 year old brains of the family, has a natural inquisitiveness that sometimes gets him in trouble. When Emma reveals she’s pregnant by boyfriend Sunil, Stella’s world gets tipped upside down. Because for Stella, it is an awful repeat of her own history. She fell pregnant with Luke when she was only 16 and the dad did a runner before the baby was even born.

Then Luke gets out of prison and has to fit back into town – something that’s not easy or trouble free either. Enter Sean, a painter and decorator, with good looks and a Harley Davidson. He’s taken a shine to Stella (not that she’s noticed) and is happy to help out. As the domestic family drama unfolds Stella and Sean are drawn closer and closer together... Could it be love? Elsewhere, the series meets Stella’s odd-ball friends and relatives. Stella’s best friend and sister-in-law Paula is a functioning alcoholic funeral director with an incredibly vast appetite for sex and a loving husband, Dai, who thankfully, shares that appetite. Then there’s Alan, the lovesick lollipop man who’s had a crush on Stella since 1984.

Deirdre Brennan, GM/Director of Channels, BBC Worldwide Australia said, **“Stella** is an irresistibly moving and funny drama with a big heart. It’s a wonderful series for our UKTV audience, beautifully observed by writer and star Ruth Jones.”

*Stella* wrings the love and laughter out of everyday life without ruining the fabric. It creates a world in which millions live but peoples it with characters you would love to bump into – a heartwarming and entertaining evocation of everyday life.

*“Jones has got the knack for naturally funny dialogue and the screen presence to make the acting look easy, too”* *Guardian, UK*

**For more information, please contact:**

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## **About BBC Worldwide Australia**

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