

## MEDIA RELEASE



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## ARTS NORTH WEST ON TOUR: THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL IS HITTING OUR REGION WITH A BUMPER LINEUP OF FESTIVAL FAVOURITES!

3 July 23

Australia's biggest and best comedy festival is on the road again for a huge 25th year, home delivering some of the finest and funniest comedians to every corner of the nation.

The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow kicked off earlier this year with the ultimate comedy road trip! With over 70 stops on its journey, neighbourhoods across Australia can expect to see familiar favourites from this year's Festival line-up, alongside the most talked-about breakthrough stars of the moment all jam-packed into one show-stopping night of laughs. After the successful show in Tamworth last month, the Roadshow has a few more stops in the NSW North West.

Upcoming dates include:

- Wednesday 5 July 2023 7:30 PM Gunnedah Town Hall  
with Daniel Connell (MC), Blake Freeman, David Quirk and Jennifer Wong
- Thursday 6 Jul 7:30 pm Inverell RSM Club  
with Daniel Connell (MC), Blake Freeman, David Quirk and Jennifer Wong
- Friday 7 July 6:30 pm Chapel Theatre Glen Innes  
with Daniel Connell (MC), Blake Freeman, David Quirk and Jennifer Wong
- Saturday 8 July 7:30pm Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts  
with Daniel Connell (MC), Blake Freeman, David Quirk and He Huang

Arts North West acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands we work on; we recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people and respect the Aboriginal Elders past and present.

Arts North West is assisted by the NSW Government through Create NSW and the partnership of 11 local government authorities in the New England North West



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For a one-way ticket to laughter, those looking for their next comedy fix can book now for when the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow rolls into a town near them.

For more information about the Melbourne International Comedy Festival visit <https://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2023>

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**Artists' biographies follow below. Interviews with comedians are possible.**

Daniel Connell (MC)

Daniel Connell could easily be described as the ideal Aussie comedian; affable, loveable and hilarious. His observational, dry, often unanticipated comedy has seen him take to stages all over Australia. Daniel has also performed in India, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Scotland.

Driven to further his career in comedy, Daniel moved to Melbourne in 2010 and quickly established himself in the local scene. In 2011 he performed in 'The Comedy Zone' at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF), a line-up show of up and coming Australian comedians, hand picked by the festival.

Since then Daniel has performed a brand new hour of stand-up at 10 consecutive Melbourne International Comedy Festivals. He has also taken each show to every major Australian festival.

In the past few years Daniel has made several TV appearances, performing on the MICF Oxfam Gala (2017, 2019 & 2021), Comedy Up Late (2018), and the Opening Night Comedy Allstars Supershow (2022).

Blake Freeman

After a standout 2022 that saw him perform in New York, LA, and at the prestigious Just For Laughs Montreal festival, Blake Freeman has returned to his hometown of Melbourne.

Widely regarded as one of Australia's brightest new comedians, Blake has made a name for himself with his energetic and disarmingly honest brand of comedy. His youthful energy and charismatic delivery allow him to weave charming stories that make the intensely personal relatable. With his impressive achievements and rising profile in the industry, Blake Freeman is undoubtedly one to watch.

"This guy is live and direct and has the easy, candid demeanour of a man born to be a comedian." - Herald Sun 2019

#### David Quirk

Stand-up comedian and actor David Quirk has cemented his place on our TV screens and as an original voice on the international comedy circuit, with hit live shows in Australia and the UK.

His break-through live show, *Shaking Hands With Danger*, a storytelling tale about infidelity, took out the coveted peer voted award- The Piece of Wood Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and was nominated for Best Comedy at the Sydney Comedy Festival. The show also ran successful seasons in both London and Edinburgh.

You might have seen David Quirk in *Rosehaven*, Celia Pacquola and Luke McGregor's acclaimed ABC series where he plays the odd / lovely character of Damian, the Tasmanian hoarding locksmith. Or maybe it was as Josh Thomas 'love interest in *Please Like Me*. If not there, perhaps it was with Sam Simmons in *Problems*, or with Sammy J & Randy in *Ricketts Lane*. Who can say?

#### Jennifer Wong

Jennifer Wong is a Chinese-Australian writer, comedian, and the presenter of ABC's *Chopsticks or Fork?*, a six-part series about Chinese restaurants in regional Australia. She writes for *The Guardian* and *SBS Food*, and is a regular guest on *Celebrity Letters and Numbers* (SBS) and *The Cook Up* (SBS). Her first book, *Chopsticks or Fork?*, co-written with Lin Jie Kong, will be published by Hardie Grant in May 2024.

#### He Huang

Originally from a small town in southwest China, He Huang got her masters in the US then abandoned real work for live comedy. In 2021 she was a RAW Comedy National Finalist and was selected for the Comedy Zone in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2022. She has recently been on Australia's *Got Talent* and her audition was a global viral hit accumulating more 60- million views on various social media platforms.