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Media Release

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Justine Clarke takes centre stage in new ABC KIDS series

Justine Clarke, Australia's beloved children's entertainer, introduces her new exciting preschool series for ABC KIDS, which has started production in Sydney with secured production investment funding from Screen Australia.

Justine Clarke's Ta Da! invites preschool children into the 'behind the scenes' world of a theatre where Justine and her Stage Manager friend, Dash the dog, are making the final preparations to her performance before she heads onstage. Together, they have melodies to master, dance moves to fine tune, sets to dress, and a costume box full of fun to be had before the final call - and then Ta Da! the show begins.

This is a show about putting on a show! An energetic, humorous journey through imaginative play and drama where preschool children get to experience the craft of theatre and music production from the dressing room. They will learn about singing, improvisation, acting, set building, costume design and dancing.

During the 15 x 7 mins series, Justine and Dash are accompanied by an exciting ensemble of special guest performers and artists, who all work together to get everything ready just in time for the live show. Special guests include, musician Tim Rogers, actress Denise Scott, dancer and TV personality Paul Mercurio, hip hop artist and *triple j* host Hau Latukefu, actor and physical comedian David Collins, plus many more.

Each episode concludes with Justine performing the song of the day, which will be filmed in front of a live audience. These original songs have been co-written by Justine Clarke, Peter Dasent, Arthur Baysting, Josh Pyke, Sean Peter, Jane Lindsay, Cameron Bruce, Bruce Griffiths and Tim Rogers, and cover a variety of genres including rock, country, hip hop, classical, folk and more.

Justine Clarke said: "*Ta Da!* is the culmination of my years in children's entertainment; making music, producing DVDs and touring the country performing live shows for Australian preschoolers and their families. My aim was to create a TV show that celebrates the best of the performing arts and creativity. *Ta Da!* embraces the joy I have always felt about music and performing - I hope it's infectious!"

Screen Australia and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, in association with Create NSW, presents this Fredbird Entertainment production in association with Ta Da! Productions.

Michael Carrington, Head of Children's at ABC Television, said: "ABC Children's is dedicated to bringing Australian preschoolers exceptional locally produced programming so we are thrilled to be working with Fredbird Entertainment on this entertaining and engaging new musical series. Justine Clarke is a much-loved ABC KIDS personality and preschoolers will no doubt be excited and captivated by her performance during each episode."



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"We're excited to be working with Justine and a talented cast of performers on this delightful series, which celebrates all the excitement and collaboration of music and theatre. We hope it inspires children to embrace creativity and self-expression and put on their own shows at home," said Sarah Dabro, Head of Fredbird Kids.

"We are thrilled to partner with the ABC on another home grown children's series," said Sally Caplan, Head of Production at Screen Australia. "Justine Clarke is an immense talent and, with the creative team FredBird has assembled, *Ta Da!* is bound to be an engaging and educational series - and perhaps even ignite the imaginations of future artists!"

Michael Brealey, CEO of Create NSW said: "Justine is well known for her thoughtful and engaging children's entertainment and is the perfect choice for new home-grown preschool programming. We're proud to be involved in developing new and high quality Australian children's productions and excited about the new legion of fans she will reach with the show."

Justine Clarke's Ta Da will screen on ABC KIDS and ABC KIDS iview later this year. **#JustineClarkesTaDa**

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