

RACHEL BERGER

COMEDIAN
ACTOR
MC
PRESENTER
WRITER

2019 BIOGRAPHY

www.rachelberger.com



"There are moments that have you laughing out loud and then suddenly gasping as you choke back tears...this was one of the better evenings I will spend in a theatre this year."

AUSTRALIAN STAGE ONLINE, *Review for Hold The Pickle*, 2011

"Rachel Berger is well known as a comedian, a performer who delivers rapid-fire lines with assertive and acerbic virtuosity. In *Hold the Pickle*, however, she leaves the microphone behind to paint an intimate portrait of her parents' life story, and by extension her own cultural heritage. Scores of characters come to life, each crafted with affection and wry observation. But this is no mere sentimental nostalgia trip, and Berger's honesty in exploring the gamut of family life is a key factor in the success of *Hold The Pickle*."

THE AGE, Melbourne

"She could make the Sphinx crack a smile."

THE SUN HERALD, Sydney

"She's brave, funny, clever and best of all, human."

THE SUNDAY AGE, Melbourne

"Berger, queen of stand-up satire and dominatrix extraordinaire of audiences."

THE AUSTRALIAN

"There are passive stand-ups and there are active ones. Berger is one of the latter ... but there's still a centre to the act too. She's sharing her observations with us rather than pounding out the gags."

TIME OUT, London

"Experience this hour of machine gun delivery and ricocheting thoughts, and you realise she must be as pumped as an AFL footballer."

STAGE LEFT

RACHEL BERGER is one of Australia's most highly regarded, adept, and adaptive comedic talents, working variously as a comedian, broadcaster, novelist, columnist, agitator and television entertainer. Political, passionate and armed only with her material, Rachel has been prowling the stand-up circuit like a tigress for 30 years. She's taken four solo shows to the Edinburgh Festival and her dynamic presence and engagingly sharp observations have made her an extremely popular performer both live and on television, across Australia and overseas. Her debut novel for Penguin, *Whaddya Mean You're Allergic To Rubber?* sold out faster than Judas.

RACHEL'S CAREER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

2018

Jean Hailes for Women's Health Comedy Gala Melbourne
The Fearless Initiative Comedy Gala Canberra

2017

Stop Laughing This Is Serious: Featured in this ABC TV series, which delves into the defining moments of Australian comedy and how they shaped our comedic lens.

ABC Radio Hobart: Regular contributor to Hobart afternoons with Helen Shields.

2016

Melbourne International Comedy Festival 30th Gala Bash for FOXTEL
Melbourne International Comedy Festival Road Show Queensland

2015

Cabaret Lumiere: MC for Glen Eira City Council.

Inaugural Melbourne Jewish Comedy Festival: MC Opening Night Gala

Shir Madness Jewish Music Festival: MC

2014

Inaugural Jewish Writers Festival: MC for Opening Night Gala.

Hold The Pickle: Return seasons at Frankston Arts Centre & Whitehorse Arts Centre.

Short & Girly: MC at Comedy Fundraiser at National Theatre St. Kilda for Victorian AIDS Council.

2013

Ironic Iconic: weekly column in *The Weekly Review* Magazine

Comedy @ The G: MCG Stand Up Comedy with Dave Hughes, Peter Helliar & Colin Lane

Heart of St. Kilda Concert: at The Palais, St. Kilda for Sacred Heart Mission

2012

Television:

Ten Network's **The Circle & Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation**, special guest.

The Dr. Blake Mysteries for ABC TV role of Nurse Gloria.

The Opera Studio: A Very Very Very Short History of Opera at Sotheby's Rooms in Melbourne- MC Role

International Women's Day: International Women's Development Agency concert *Half The Sky* at The Forum Theatre-MC Role

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2011

Hold The Pickle: The Fairfax Studio, Victorian Arts Centre, September 20-27.

2010

Calendar Girls: Australian tour of *Calendar Girls* with Lorraine Bayly, Rhonda Burchmore, Cornelia Frances, Jean Kittson, Anna Lee and Amanda Muggleton. John Frost, said, "We searched far and wide, talking to nearly every actress of 'a certain age', and found an incredible group of women to bring the most successful British comedy of the past decade to the Australian stage."

Hold The Pickle: Regional Victorian Tour to Clock Tower Theatre, Ballarat, Horsham, Shepparton, Colac, Drysdale and Portland.

Statesmen Of Comedy: Comedy Channel (Foxtel).

2009

Hold The Pickle: Return season at Chapel off Chapel June 9 - 21st **SOLD OUT**

Green Room Awards: *Hold The Pickle* nominated for 3 Green Room Awards including Best New Writing & Best Female Performer.

2008

Hold The Pickle: One-woman show (written & performed by Rachel Berger) at La Mama Theatre, Carlton. Season (12 shows) sold out and extended. October season at Chapel off Chapel (7 shows) also sold out and extended.

ABC Radio Melbourne 774: Presenter for 6 weeks over December/January for Breakfast slot.

2007

Miss (you) Melbourne – (4 nights) an evening of comedy from some of Australia's best-known female comedians who have all at one time or another been nurtured, embraced or inspired by the city of Melbourne. Performed **Perfect (2007 version)** at Riverway Arts Centre Thuringowa, Queensland.

Blasphemy – special guest performer at exhibition launch at Burrinja Gallery Upwey, Victoria

RACHEL'S MEDIA CREDITS INCLUDE:

Appearing on **Statesmen of Comedy, Rove-Live, The Glass House, Good Morning Australia** with Bert Newton, **Good News Week, World Series Debating, Tonite Live, The Big Gig, The Midday Show, Hey Hey It's Saturday** and **Denton**.

Hosting **UPFRONT**, an all women line-up, as part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival for **ABC TV**.

Featuring on **Punchlines**, a documentary about twenty years of Australian comedy and **The Smallest Room in the House**, ABC-TV.

Regular guest on **The Conversation Hour** with Jon Faine, ABC Radio 774

Writing for **The Weekly Review, The Age, The Sunday Age, Sunday Herald Sun** as well as national magazines such as **New Woman** and **Rolling Stone**.