

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 28 September 2015



SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS
THE LISTIES RUIN XMAS
and STICK MAN

"Nobody else does comedy for kids this brilliantly" The Age on The Listies

"Wonderfully exuberant and imaginative" ★★★★★ Time Out London on Stick Man

Pack your Christmas crackers, the Sydney Opera House has festive family fun covered this summer! Liven up the pre-Christmas countdown with ***The Listies Ruin Xmas***, a cheeky comedy bursting with belly laughs from **16 - 24 December 2015**, then rediscover the meaning of family as ***Stick Man*** leaps from bestselling page to musical stage from **6 - 17 January 2016**.

First up – and fresh from the launch their illustrated *Ickypedia: A Dictionary of Disgusting New Words* – hot comedy duo The Listies add some 'poetry' to panto with the premiere of *The Listies Ruin Xmas*, the ultimate end-of-year party for kids.

The Listies are comedians **Richard Higgins** and **Matt Kelly**, two of the rudest, silliest, grossest, clumsiest guys in Australia. Combining slapstick, clowning, some utterly ridiculous props and their signature obsession with creating lists, they get kids where they live.

Higgins and Kelly's first comedy show was nominated for a Barry Award at the 2010 Melbourne International Comedy Festival and went on to five-star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. They've since toured the country and word has spread across playgrounds nationally.

Sydney Opera House Head of Children, Families & Creative Learning **Bridgette Van Leuven** said: "Summer is such a fun time for families at the Opera House. *The Listies* will have kids and their grown-ups in stitches with a healthy dose of holiday mayhem, and little ones will love the tender adventures of *Stick Man* as he discovers the world on his inspiring journey back to his family tree."

Stick Man, who "lives in the family tree with his Stick Lady Love and their stick children three", will arrive in Sydney direct from a UK tour, in time to add to the holiday cheer. **Julia Donaldson** and **Axel Scheffler's** rhyming picture book has been adapted for the stage by award-winning UK theatre company **Scamp Theatre**. Donaldson and Scheffler captured the imagination of children worldwide with their beloved, bestselling stories *The Gruffalo*, *Room on the Broom* and *The Snail and the Whale*, which delighted Sydney audiences last summer.

Brought to life with inventive puppetry, *Stick Man* features bubbly songs that will really stick in your head. Follow Stickman as he is dognapped by an overenthusiastic pooch, discovering that the world is a big, sometimes dangerous place – but with the love of family and a bit of bravery even a small character can make a big difference. He may just save Santa along the way! Whatever your branch of the family tree, audiences of all ages will identify with Stick Man's determination to return to his family.

The Listies Ruin Xmas and *Stick Man* are part of the Opera House's Kids at the House program, a year-round series of performances and creative experiences for young people. Keep up to date with Kids at the House by joining us on our Facebook page, [Kids at the House – Sydney Opera House](#).

THE LISTIES RUIN XMAS

Dates: 16 - 24 December 2015
Venue: Playhouse, Sydney Opera House
Ages: 6+
Website: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kath_2015_the_listies_ruin_xmas.aspx
Bookings: 02 9250 7777

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STICK MAN

Dates: 6 - 17 January 2016
Venue: Playhouse, Sydney Opera House
Ages: 3+
Website: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kath_2016_stick_man.aspx
Bookings: 02 9250 7777

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