

# NIGHT TERRACE

## NIGHT TERRACE - MELBOURNE TIME TRAVELLERS RETURN TO BBC RADIO

The first season of the award-winning Aussie sci-fi comedy audio series will be repeated on BBC radio, 6 PM evenings from November 9<sup>th</sup> 2020.



### WHAT IS NIGHT TERRACE?

*Night Terrace* is a half-hour narrative comedy series starring *Neighbours*' Jackie Woodburne (Susan Kennedy) as Anastasia Black, a government scientist who used to save the world, but now wants a quiet retirement. She's understandably miffed when her house unexpectedly starts travelling through space and time. From the ancient past to the distant future, from pre-historic Melbourne to the edges of human understanding, Anastasia fights monsters and solves mysteries, all while trying to find a way home.

The BBC will be broadcasting all eight episodes of the first season of *Night Terrace* in a nightly comedy time slot: 6 PM on BBC Radio 4 Extra, from November 9, with a repeat at midnight. Each episode will be available internationally via BBC apps (BBC Sounds etc) for 30 days following each broadcast.

Originally funded through a Kickstarter campaign and available to buy as a digital download, *Night Terrace* was acquired for broadcast by the BBC in 2019. It premiered on Sunday evenings

on Radio 4 Extra at 6 PM UK time (repeated at midnight), with season one broadcast in April through June, and season two in August to October that year. The first episode was the "Pick of the Day" in *The Guardian's* radio guide.

Winner of the Convenors' Award for Excellence at the 20th annual Aurealis Awards in Canberra.

A third season is currently in production, though it has been delayed by the coronavirus outbreak. In the meantime the team have released a spin-off in-character podcast, "For Your Ears Only", and produced a mini-episode for Damian Callinan's *Bodgy Creek Community Podcast*.

### **WHO MADE NIGHT TERRACE?**

In January 2013 two local nerds recorded a *Doctor Who* podcast in a Northcote cafe. This turned into the iTunes chart-topping *Splendid Chaps*, described by *The Age* as "part intellectual panel discussion and part nerdy Tonight Show". The *Sydney Morning Herald* applauded the show's ability to "combine analysis, enthusiasm and irreverence" while *Time Out* declared it "a smash hit".

The success of *Splendid Chaps* gave birth to the award-winning audio comedy series *Night Terrace*.

Jackie Woodburne, famous for playing Susan Kennedy in over 5000 episodes of Australian soap opera *Neighbours*, was approached to play the lead.

Joining Jackie on her interstellar trek are actor/comedian Ben McKenzie (*Pratchat* podcast, *You Chose Poorly*) and actor/singer Petra Elliott (*Petrasexual*, *Sonnigsburg*).

The guest cast includes Alan Brough (*Spicks & Specks*), Cal Wilson (*QI*, *Dancing With The Stars*), Toby Truslove (*Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries*, *Utopia*), Celia Pacquola (*Rosehaven*), Adam Richard (*Outland*, *Spicks & Specks*), Colette Mann (*Neighbours*, *Prisoner*), Francis Greenslade, Stephen Hall, Emily Taheny and Ming Zhu-Hii (all *Mad As Hell*), Cate Wolfe (*Dr Blake*), Chris Taylor and Andrew Hansen (*The Chaser*), Gary Russell (*Big Finish*, *The Famous Five*, *Octopussy*), Dave Callan (*Rove*, *JJJ*), Jane Badler (*V*, *Mission: Impossible*), Lawrence Leung (*Offspring*, *Sucker*), Virginia Gay (*Winners and Losers*, *All Saints*), Steven Gates (*Tripod*) and the late, much-missed John Clark, among others.

It even features cameos from Louise Jameson (*Doctor Who's* Leela) and Nicholas Briggs (voice of the Daleks).

*Night Terrace* was lovingly hand-crafted by John Richards (Head Writer, Producer), Ben McKenzie ('Eddie', Writer, Producer), Lee Zachariah (Writer), David Ashton (Writer, Sound) and Petra Elliott ('Sue', Co-creator).

The *Night Terrace* writing team have worked on 3RRR radio sketch show *The Third Ear*, ABC2 comedy *The Bazura Project*, ABC1 sit-com *Outland*, long-running television podcast *Boxcutters*, sketches for programs including Shaun Micallef's *Mad As Hell*, *The Hamster Wheel*, *The*

*Hamster Decides* and *The Checkout*, and more than a dozen Melbourne International Comedy Festival shows.

David Ashton, the show's audio engineer, has recorded big names including The Church, Regurgitator and Michael Franti, and worked for SBS and ABC radio.

Detailed biographies for each of the Splendid Chaps are available.

## QUOTES

### **Jackie Woodburne - Anastasia Black:**

*How would you describe Black? What do you have in common?*

I love Anastasia. I enjoy her bluntness, acidic wit and super sciencey intellect. We are very much alike because - little known fact - I too used to head up a top secret government department investigating extra terrestrials.

*How is audio acting different to telly?*

Telly has pictures, so you have to make faces as well as sounds.

*Um... a little more?*

In the 80s, along with many others, I worked fairly regularly in radio at the ABC, recording plays and poetry. It was great then and even better now with the advances in technology to add richness and texture to the recording process.

*How would you describe your experience being part of Night Terrace?*

Sheer joy working with such a talented - slightly nerdy - group of creative artists.

### **John Richards - head writer:**

"I'm stunned we went from doing a podcast in Melbourne pubs to having our comedy series on BBC Radio. It's like we just won an Oscar for pole dancing. I'm a huge fan of radio drama and comedy - due to a long commute I currently listen to more drama than I watch. So it's a thrill that Anastasia Black is heading to the home of *The Goons*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy* and that show that used to look at famous pipe organs\*".

"We came into *Night Terrace* wanting certain things - we wanted a female lead, we wanted her to be a bit grumpy but also the smartest person in any room. And we wanted it to be distinctly Australian. We wanted it to be big and bold and thoughtful and silly and it's been all of those things. Jackie Woodburne - or "Susan From *Neighbours*" as we like to call her - was our only choice to play Anastasia Black and she's been phenomenal. And we've been blessed with an amazing and diverse cast. It's all been a dream. Oh, if this a dream? This is a dream, isn't it?"

## FREE EPISODE

Episode one of the first season, "Moving House", has been released for free so a new audience can get a taste of what the series is all about. It's available to stream online via YouTube and

Soundcloud, and to download directly as a DRM-free MP3. Links to all formats are available on the Night Terrace website at [nightterrace.com](http://nightterrace.com)

### **MEDIA CLIPS & IMAGES**

Images and audio clips are accessible at [nightterrace.com/media](http://nightterrace.com/media) or for a review copy of the full first season, please email us at [info@nightterrace.com](mailto:info@nightterrace.com)

### **INTERVIEWS & ENQUIRIES**

Contact Barbara Wright at [thewrightwordpublicity@gmail.com](mailto:thewrightwordpublicity@gmail.com) for interviews with cast and crew.

“Wonderfully strange” - SameSame

“Like *Doctor Who*, if Tom Baker had corks dangling from his hat and was more interested in physics than flirting with his side-kick” - Broadsheet

“4 stars - Laugh out loud” - AudioDramaReviews.com

“Stellar cast ... a superb piece of work” - Katherine Phelps

“Extremely enjoyable” - The Weekly Review

“Well worth your time ... Permission to squee?” - Paul Cornell – Writer, BBC’s *Doctor Who*

*\*The Organist Entertains - BBC Radio 2, 1969 - 2018 (RIP)*