

# XFACTOR



**Sunday 13 September 7.00pm on**





# WHO HAS THE X FACTOR?

**In 2015's search for Australia's newest singing sensation, it's a whole new competition.**

Created by the world's most powerful media identity, Simon Cowell, THE X FACTOR is one of the hottest television franchises around the globe.

This year, the show welcomes two internationally acclaimed entertainers to the judging panel. British singing superstar James Blunt and American icon Chris Isaak join homegrown heroes Dannii Minogue and Guy Sebastian, who returns after a two-year break.

Last year, THE X FACTOR discovered 15-year-old Marliisa Punzalan, who wowed Australia with her amazing voice. THE X FACTOR is unparalleled when it comes to producing superstars having launched the careers of Dami Im, Samantha Jade, Nathaniel Willemse, Reece Mastin, Johnny Ruffo and Taylor Henderson.

THE X FACTOR is open to both solo performers and groups 14 years and over. Once hopefuls make it past the initial audition process, the four judges mentor the performers as they are split into the following categories: Boys Under 25, Girls Under 25, Over 25s and Groups.

The ultimate winner is awarded a recording contract with Sony Music Australia.

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# THEY HAVE THE X FACTOR

Now in its sixth series on Channel Seven, THE X FACTOR has launched the careers of many successful Australian performers.

**Marlisa Punzalan** - Winner 2014

**Dami Im** - Winner 2013

**Taylor Henderson** - Runner-up 2013

**Jai Waetford** - Runner-up 2013

**Samantha Jade** - Winner 2012

**Nathaniel Willemse** - Runner-up 2012

**The Collective** - Runner-up 2012

**Reece Mastin** - Winner 2011

**Johnny Ruffo** - Runner-up 2011





# SHOW FORMAT

**Contestants have a long and tough road ahead in order to be crowned winner of THE X FACTOR. They must win over not only our judges but special guests and the Australian audience.**

## AUDITION STAGES

At the beginning of the competition, all four judges work together. After a contestant auditions on stage in front of a live audience, THE X FACTOR judges vote on whether an act has what it takes to progress further in the competition. Performers must receive at least three 'yes' votes in order to move to the next stage.

## BOOT CAMP

At Boot Camp, the judges put the contestants through their paces, testing them on vocal and performance ability. From here, judges will discover which category they have been given.

## HOME VISITS

Each judge will take their group of contestants away for an intense session of music workshops. Judges call upon some of the world's best performers to help them select their three favourite acts who will progress to the live shows.

Guests in previous seasons have included Beyonce, Kylie Minogue, One Direction and Jennifer Lopez. This year will see the contestants travel to London for Super Home Visits. In his first appearance on THE X FACTOR Australia, Simon Cowell, the original creator and founder of the franchise, will pass on his critique to the visiting contestants.

## LIVE SHOWS

The Top 12 will make it to the live shows, which take place twice a week. The public votes for their favourite act to stay in the competition. In the results show, the two acts with the lowest public vote sing once again for the judges who vote on who they think deserves to stay in the competition and who should go home.





# JUDGE DANNII MINOGUE

**Dannii Minogue knows what it takes to make a star. The multi-talented singer returns as a judge on THE X FACTOR and brings with her a lifetime of music experience.**

Dannii first began judging on the UK franchise of THE X FACTOR in 2007. She successfully mentored the winner in both her debut year and final season in 2010, when the series peaked at close to 20 million viewers.

She joined the Australian judging panel in 2013, where she mentored Dani Im to a spectacular victory. Now returning for her third series, Dannii is determined to win the title again.

"I'm thrilled to be back on THE X FACTOR this year and to work with Chris, Guy and James," she says. "With this new line-up of judges, I'm sure it will keep me on my toes but those boys better be ready because I'm in this to win it. I'm very excited to see what amazing contestants we'll find in 2015."

Locally, Dannii also appeared on the judging panel of Australia's Got Talent from 2007 to 2012, instrumental in discovering acts such as Justice Crew and Tim Omaji. She's also appeared as a judge on Britain and Ireland's Next Top Model.

Internationally regarded for her fashion style, Dannii launched her own online boutique as well as a petites range for Target last year.

Dannii has been an entertainer since the age of seven, performing professionally for more than 30 years. She first appeared on Skyways and The Sullivans before joining Young Talent Time and then Home and Away.

Next year will mark 25 years since the release of her first Australian single, Love & Kisses. Hits such as This Is It, Baby Love and later her first foray into the dance genre with All I Wanna Do followed. Her fourth studio album, the critically lauded pop-dance record Neon Lights, produced hit singles Put The Needle On It, Who Do You Love Now? and I Begin To Wonder.

The undisputable 'Queen of Clubs' has achieved 14 number one UK Club Chart hits. She also holds the record for the most consecutive number ones in the UK Upfront Club Charts.

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# JUDGE GUY SEBASTIAN

**Guy Sebastian is the only Australian male artist to have ever achieved six number one singles and two number one albums in chart history.**

His interest in music started at a young age, taping his favourite songs from the age of four. It was at the age of 14 that he started singing.

Over the course of his career, Guy has received 22 ARIA award nominations including Single of the Year, Best Male Artist and Best Pop Artist, and ARIA awards for Highest Selling Single for Angels Brought Me Here and Who's That Girl.

Altogether, Guy has released 11 top ten singles and three top 15 singles. Six of those singles have achieved multi-platinum certification, including the 8x platinum Battle Scars.

With 42 platinum, three gold certifications and combined album and single sales in excess of three million in Australia, Guy is one of Australia's best success stories. In August 2013, Battle Scars went platinum in the US, with Guy being one of few artists in Australian music history to achieve this feat.

In November 2010, Guy released a retrospective greatest hits package called Twenty Ten. The single Who's That Girl and the album both went straight to the top of the ARIA charts and within four weeks had both reached platinum sales.

This year marked a career highlight for Guy when he was selected to represent Australia at the 60th Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna.

He wowed a global audience of nearly 200 million people with his hit single Tonight Again.

Aside from his music, Guy is an official ambassador for the Australian Red Cross and World Vision.

In late 2013, he and his wife Jules established The Sebastian Foundation, which aims to create a lasting change in the lives of the less fortunate.

After taking a break from THE X FACTOR, Guy makes a welcome return to the judging panel. He is keen to hold onto his winning crown after mentoring Reece Mastin and Samantha Jade both to victory.

"I loved my time as a judge on THE X FACTOR so I'm really excited to be coming back," he says. "I can't wait to get to work on finding incredible new Australian talent and I'm looking forward to working with this new panel of judges. I've won twice so they better be ready because I'm back and ready to go for my third win!"

**Twitter:** @GuySebastian

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# JUDGE JAMES BLUNT

**Global singing superstar James Blunt needs no introduction. But for those who've been on another planet, here's a recap on the story so far.**

The English singer/songwriter and musician started his career as a commissioned officer in the British Army. He rose to the rank of army captain and served as a NATO peacekeeper in the strife-torn Kosovo region.

After six years of service, he resigned from the army to focus on his musical career.

His debut studio album, *Back to Bedlam*, propelled him to international stardom following the release of the hit singles *You're Beautiful* and *Goodbye My Lover*.

The album sold 11 million copies worldwide, going number one in 18 countries and top 10 in 35. He was also nominated for five Grammy awards, plus two BRITs and a host of MTV awards. He also became the first British act since Elton John's *Candle in the Wind* in 1997 to top the US music charts.

James' second album, *All the Lost Souls*, topped the charts in more than 20 countries. His other albums, *Some Kind of Trouble* and *Moon Landing*, also rocked the charts producing the hit singles *Bonfire Heart* and *Stay The Night*.

The numbers spiral out of control when charting James' ascent in the music industry: 20 million albums and 20 million singles sold worldwide, plus 250 million plays on Spotify and an astonishing 257 million YouTube views and counting.

His success has allowed him to use his high profile to do some good, supporting charities such as Médecins Sans Frontières and Help For Heroes (including three foiled attempts to play in Afghanistan for serving soldiers), and to draw attention to the issue of climate change.

This is not James' first appearance on *THE X FACTOR*. In 2014, he was a guest judge for Dannii Minogue's Group category during her *Home Visit*.

This year, he's ready to take the competition by storm and is thrilled about his new role. "It's the most fun job I can imagine, in the best country in the world," he says.

**Twitter:** @JamesBlunt

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# JUDGE CHRIS ISAAK

**Platinum-selling and Grammy nominated singer/songwriter, Chris Isaak, is a heavyweight in the world of music.**

Platinum-selling and Grammy nominated singer/songwriter, Chris Isaak, is a heavyweight in the world of music.

In the course of his career, he has released 11 extraordinary studio albums, been nominated for two Grammy awards, acted in several motion pictures and starred in his own critically-acclaimed TV series. His live shows are legendary.

Chris knows what it takes to make it on the world stage and brings an international career's worth of experience to THE X FACTOR. "I'm excited to join THE X FACTOR; it's going to be surreal to be on the show as a judge after having watched so many episodes as a fan," he says.

Born in California, Chris taught himself how to play guitar and started writing songs as a teenager. In 1985, he released his debut album, *Silvertone*, which became a major international hit, as did the singer's sophomore effort, the self-titled album *Chris Isaak*.

It was his third album, *Heart Shaped World*, which put him on the map. Herb Ritts' video for his hit song *Wicked Game* featured the singer bare-chested frolicking on the beach with supermodel Helena Christensen. The steamy video confirmed his sex symbol status and drove the song to the top of the charts.

His following releases, *San Francisco Days* and *Forever Blue*, produced numerous hits including *Somebody's Crying* and *Baby Did a Bad Bad Thing*. In 1996, Chris followed up with *Baja Sessions*. The album went gold, and found the singer recording some of his favourite songs, such as Roy Orbison's *Only The Lonely*.

In 1988, while continuing to record, Chris branched out into acting appearing in Jonathan Demme's *Married to the Mob*, alongside Michelle Pfeiffer. Roles in David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* (1990), *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991), *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me* (1992) and Bernardo Bertolucci's *Little Buddha* (1993) followed.

In 2009, he hosted *The Chris Isaak Hour*, interviewing musical artists from around the world. Then in 2001, he starred in the sitcom *The Chris Isaak Show*, loosely based on his life.

Music, however, remains his first love. He maintains a vigorous touring schedule, which has earned him a reputation as one of the finest live artists in the world. And he's currently gearing up for the release of his 13th studio album.

**Twitter:** @ChrisIsaak

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# HOST LUKE JACOBZ

**Returning as host of THE X FACTOR is Luke Jacobz who has enjoyed huge success both as an actor and TV presenter.**

Growing up in Sydney, Luke showed an interest in sports and performing arts at an early age. After appearing in several commercials and guest roles, he gave up a plumbing apprenticeship at 17 to achieve his lifelong ambition of being an actor.

After landing his first full-time acting gig as Zac Croft in the ABC's Heartbreak High, his gift of the gab scored him the hosting role on Seven's children's show Big Arvo and later Popstars.

In 2008, he and dance partner Luda Kroitor took home the winner's trophy on Dancing With The Stars.

He won roles in McLeod's Daughters and then Home and Away, for which he was nominated for Most Popular Actor at the 2010 Logie Awards.

Luke is an Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation and Camp Quality.

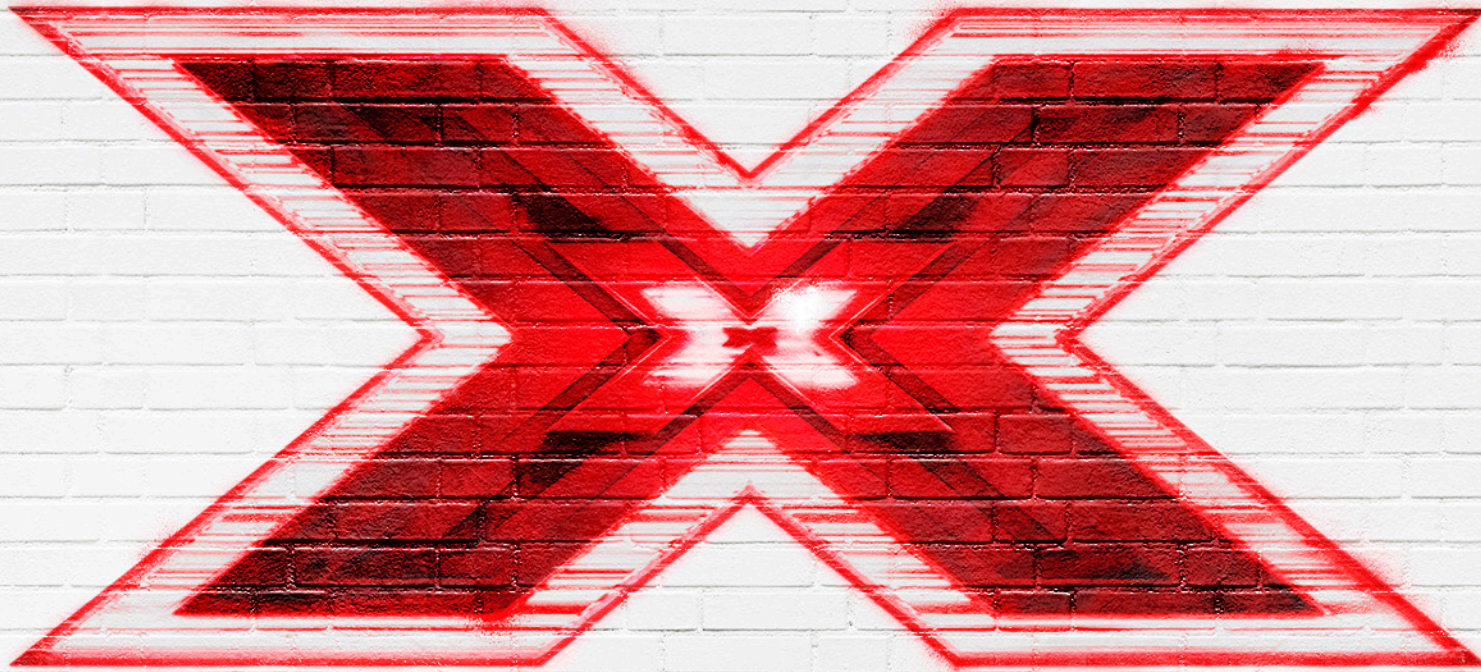
As host of THE X FACTOR, Luke joins our new judging panel on a quest to find the country's next singing superstar.

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