

# CREATIVE TYPES WITH VIRGINIA TRIOLI



STARTS ON TUESDAY, 9 APRIL, 9PM



*Creative Types with Virginia Trioli* is a new six-part series in which award-winning journalist, broadcaster and unabashed arts fan Virginia Trioli explores the essence of creativity with some of Australia's greatest artistic minds.

Drawing from all artforms – acting, directing, writing, visual and performing arts – each episode showcases creative Australians at the peak of their talents and tells the story of their journey to the top.

Virginia Trioli has spent her life paying attention to creative Australians and in this series, she features artists and performers at the peak of their powers, and tells the story of their triumphs, their stumbles and why they make the glorious work we love so much.

These are the Aussie creatives who lift us up and have spent a lifetime climbing their own hills of achievement. They are loved and revered, and their work tells us so much about the nation we have become.

The guests are prolific, influential, and inspiring Australians:

**TX April 9 EPI: TRENT DALTON:** The writer who turned his complex family history into an Australian epic for our times takes us deep into the places that connect to his creative heart: Brisbane, family and love are polestars for this journey to the centre of Trent Dalton's world.

**TX April 16 EP2: RAFAEL BONACHELA:** The puckish Spanish born artistic director of the Sydney Dance Company says he was born to dance: but while that love took him to the top of contemporary dance it splintered his family: now comes the dance to reconcile that.

**TX April 23 EP3: MARTA DUSSELDORP:** Beloved star of stage and television, for Marta place is everything and now Tasmania is both home and creative wellspring for her production company and the stories she wants to tell.

**TX April 30 EP4: WARWICK THORNTON:** The singular filmmaker, Kaytetye man described as one the greatest of our times, has three people warring inside him: director, writer, cinematographer: but one must always win. In the searing beauty of his hometown of Alice Springs we witness the struggle.

**TX May 7 EP5: TOM GLEESON:** The comedian's comedian, Gold Logie winner, he's had no other job but standing on a stage making people laugh since his university days. What's the secret to his incredible work ethic and success? He'll do anything to land the joke – and he doesn't care who might be offended.

**TX May 14 EP6: PATRICIA PICCININI:** The mother of *Skywhale*, the visual artist who creates strange creatures from the frontiers of science and technology, tells us of the future that is already here and why she is compelled to "create the worlds" that live in her mind.

ABC Arts is thrilled to be unashamedly celebrating the art of making – because we are a country of so many brilliant ‘Creative Types’.

**Production credits:**

An ABC Production. Executive Producer, Jaya Balendra. Director, Stamatia Maroupas. ABC Head Arts, Music and Events, Kath Earle.

For further information or interviews contact Kim Bassett: [bassett.kim@abc.net.au](mailto:bassett.kim@abc.net.au) or 0409 600 456. For images visit [abc.net.au/tvpublicity](http://abc.net.au/tvpublicity).

## **EPISODE ONE: TRENT DALTON      Tuesday, 9 April, 9pm on ABC TV & ABC iview**

Trent Dalton invites Virginia to Brisbane, where his tumultuous family history begins and where “creativity saved my life.” Walking over the Brisbane River, Trent says his new book *Lola in the Mirror*, is a bridge between his imagination and journalism.

At Bracken Ridge Library Trent talks about how books were a refuge for the Dalton boys: mum was in jail, their loving dad struggled to leave home but was a huge reader. Looking through Trent’s eclectic personal archive, there is Steinbeck, and family letters and an early handwritten note about his complex home life, including the admonition: “I should just write a fucking book!”

With the help of his dad and a mate he got a start in journalism, which led to a prolific career as a feature writer covering the social issues he witnessed as a child: homelessness, family violence and drugs.

Crime journalist and friend Matthew Condon says Trent’s story is remarkable because he has lived the consequences of the stories he reports. That experience becomes the juggernaut *Boy Swallows Universe*. Actor and collaborator Simon Baker is in awe of his compassion and insight.

At the Adelaide Writers Festival a record crowd roars approval of Dalton, who shares even more of his painful story, but always with astonishing optimism. Next for Dalton is a stage adaptation of his book *Love Stories*, which he rehearses for the Brisbane Festival. Back at the river he reflects on how he got here, and how that 12 year old boy in Darra never leaves him.

## **EPISODE TWO: RAFAEL BONACHELA      Tuesday, 16 April, 9pm, ABC TV & ABC iview**

Rafael Bonachela invites Virginia to come see what a contemporary dance choreographer does.

Rafael rehearses with his dancers at the Walsh Bay studios and feels the inspiration of Sydney Harbour under his feet. In his apartment, he shares the story of his early years: the eldest of four, he says he was born to dance, making up dances in the streets of his town La Garriga in Spain. His dancing caused tension in the home from the start. His brother, Ivan, says their father never understood Rafael’s dancing and was very hard on him.

He left to study in Barcelona, and won an audition and a scholarship to Rambert Dance Company. He graduated to choreography but received cutting reviews. He gave choreography one more try and that show was seen by Kylie Minogue. She asked him to choreograph her now iconic 2002 performance at the BRIT Awards and then her entire *Fever* world tour. Kylie says she loved his work from the very start.

This was his first brush with Australia, but then Sydney Dance Company came calling seeking a new artistic director. His vision for the dancers was an energetic, youthful company that spoke to the expansive light and beauty of his new home. His success has been immense: record crowds, a profitable company but his father's approval always eluded him. His latest work, *Somos*, is the first that directly draws on his Spanish heritage. His brother Ivan says Rafael is the inspiration he shows his own boys in their quest to find their own path.

**EPISODE THREE: MARTA DUSSELDORP    Tuesday, 23 April, 9pm, ABC TV & ABC iview**

On a wild Tasmanian beach Virginia meets Marta Dusseldorp, the celebrated film, TV and stage actress, and she explains why Kingston Beach and Tasmania are so important to her and why they are now her home. But was it a big career risk to step away from the big cities? Marta says place and community are everything, stories connect her to place and she feels can't live without telling stories through drama.

At her book-filled home among the gums, Marta shows us where her drive and incredible work ethic comes from: a childhood of ballet and acting, including her first TV work at the age of 29 in *GP*. She was a star of the Sydney Theatre Company and its celebrated Actors Company, but family changed everything: you can't tuck in your kids when you're on stage every night.

So, ten years in hugely popular episodic television followed: *A Place to Call Home*, *Crownies*, *Janet King*, *Jack Irish*. Marta recalls these years as when she "spoke more scripted words than her own".

Then, as one of our most successful actors, a brave decision: the family moves to Tasmania. Marta shows us the exquisite 1837 Theatre Royal in Hobart, the oldest theatre in Australia and a site of several of the works of her production company, Archipelago, established with her husband Ben Winspear.

The pandemic stokes the furnace of their company, and they create many theatre works for the Hobart community and the idea for their TV show *Bay of Fires* is born.

**EPISODE FOUR: WARWICK THORNTON    Tuesday, 30 April, ABC TV & ABC iview**

It is blazing hot on the claypans of the Ilarpa Claypans outside Alice Springs where Warwick Thornton meets Virginia and explains how this was a place of great freedom for the young, wild Warwick. As he drives across the red mud, he says landscape is at the centre of his work, and that filmmaking is a craft that has been practised over and over again.

Actor Cate Blanchett tells us there is a "wonderful sense of creative danger" to his work. David Stratton describes him as the consummate filmmaker.

In the shed of his son's house where he is bunking now, Warwick shreds on an old guitar and takes Virginia through his archive: he's kept everything, especially the awards for his films, including the Camera D'Or at Cannes for his debut feature about two kids in Alice Springs, Samson and Delilah.

Going through a box of old photos and memorabilia, Warwick finds the first handwritten draft of Samson and Delilah.

Cate Blanchett says there is "an inherent restlessness" in Warwick. Back at the claypans Warwick shoots a new "Democracy Sausage" photographic series about the anger he feels at the referendum vote.

At the Wigley Waterhole Warwick walks us through a dry river bed to his happy childhood place of swimming and escape: he says he feels stronger here because of his family's memories.

Back at Warwick's son's place, Virginia is helping Warwick prepare dinner for his extended family, and recalls the fear of putting himself on film in his remarkable one-man documentary *The Beach*.

#### **EPISODE FIVE: TOM GLEESON**

**Tuesday, 7 May, 9pm, ABC TV & ABC iview**

Amid the carnival that is the Adelaide Fringe we meet Tom Gleeson: he's presenting his new show *Gear*, but says you never stop working on a show, and that a show is never finished.

In his hometown of Romsey, outside of Melbourne, Tom goes through his archive and says he had a major early realisation about trying and failing front of crowds: it was funnier when he said what he was really thinking, didn't filter himself and committed to it. The acerbic Tom Gleeson was born.

His work process includes long rides on his bike, where he rolls through comedy routines in his head as he rides along the quiet backroads of his semi-rural community. On set for *The Weekly with Charlie Pickering*, where Gleeson debuted *I Hate You Change My Mind*, which became *Hard Chat*, Pickering remembers that everyone who agreed to join the segment looked better for having a laugh at themselves.

*Hard Quiz* became a juggernaut but being nominated for the Gold Logie began his greatest joke of all: campaigning for a trophy he said he didn't care about but every other nominee did. It was a signal moment in Australian TV when he won: he says he did wonder that night if he had ruined his TV career.

But on stage in Adelaide, with a sell-out crowd, he's never seemed like a bigger boss.

#### **EPISODE SIX: PATRICIA PICCININI**

**Tuesday, 14 May, 9pm, ABC TV & ABC iview**

Long synopsis to come.

## VIRGINIA TRIOLI – BIO

Two-time Walkley Award winner, Virginia Trioli is one of Australia's best-known journalists, with a reputation as a television anchor, radio presenter, writer and commentator, and combines a rigorous interviewing style with a wicked sense of humor.

Virginia is an honors graduate in Fine Arts from the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University, and in 1996 published "Generation F", her celebrated response to Helen Garner's 'First Stone'.

In 1995 she won Australian journalism's highest honor, the Walkley Award for her business reporting and in 2001 Virginia won a second Walkley for her landmark interview with the former Defence Minister, Peter Reith, over the notorious Children Overboard issue. In 1999 she won the Melbourne Press Club's Best Columnist award, The Quill. In 2006 she won Broadcaster of the Year at the ABC Local Radio Awards.

Virginia has held senior positions at the Age newspaper and the Bulletin magazine. For four years she hosted the Drive Program on 774 ABC Melbourne, and the Morning Program on 702 ABC Sydney for three years.

She has been the host of ABC TV's premiere news and current affairs programs, 7.30 and *Lateline*; also *Artscape* and *Sunday Arts*.

She was the founding anchor of *ABC News Breakfast* on ABC TV, which she co-hosted for 11 years and was the alternative host of ABC TV's *QandA* since its inception in 2008.

Virginia presented Mornings on ABC Radio Melbourne for the four years of the Black Summer bushfires, the Covid19 pandemic, the 2022 flood emergency and the cost-of-living crisis. It was a little tiring.

Along with *Creative Types*, Virginia continues her Weekend Reads column on ABC News online as well as her podcast, *You Don't Know Me*.

Virginia is married with three stepchildren, 11-year-old son Addison, a black Labrador called Cora, and a Keeshond puppy called Marco, who is trying very hard to be good.