

# NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT APPROVES RUSSELL HOWARD TO BE FIRST COMEDIAN FROM NORTHERN HEMISPHERE TO PERFORM IN THE COUNTRY SINCE GLOBAL LOCKDOWN IN JANUARY 2021

*"Howard is a megastar" ★★★★★ The Times*

★★★★ Evening Standard ★★★★★ Metro ★★★★★ The I ★★★★★ Chortle ★★★★★ The Arts Desk

**16th December 2020** –. Following a sold-out and critically acclaimed UK arena run, **Russell Howard** is set to bring *Respite* to New Zealand in the New Year. After the global success of Netflix special *Recalibrate*, *The Russell Howard Hour* - which spawned over 400 million views worldwide on social media - and 2017 international record-breaking sell-out tour *Round The World*, **Russell Howard** one of the UK's most successful comedians, has been approved to travel to New Zealand with his tour in January confirmed to go ahead.

Russell Howard said: *"I'm very excited to announce that in January I'll be back on stage in New Zealand. Their government has allowed me in to perform, following 2 weeks of quarantining. My Australia dates have been rescheduled to July but I can't wait to get there"*

The New Zealand premiere of *Respite* will commence on 22 January 2021 in Wellington and will be followed by performances in **Auckland** and **Christchurch** making Russell the first comedian from the Northern Hemisphere to perform in New Zealand since the global lockdown.

Due to ongoing border restrictions, Russell Howard's Australian *Respite* tour dates have been rescheduled to July and August.

Further information can be found on Russell's website here: <https://www.russell-howard.co.uk/australia-nz>

All existing tickets remain valid for the rescheduled show without the need for exchange. Patrons unable to attend can obtain a refund from the point of purchase. Refund requests are to be submitted prior to 5pm, Friday 29 January.

Russell is currently on his third and largest world tour *Respite* which will take him to 69 cities across 24 countries in 5 continents, and started with a sold-out, critically acclaimed UK arena run in Autumn 2019. Russell's 2017 sell-out international tour, *Round the World*, saw him break the record for the largest English speaking stand-up show in China and play a record-breaking 10 night run at the Royal Albert Hall, overtaking 8 in a row jointly held by **Frank Sinatra** and **Barry Manilow**. The tour culminated with the global release of Netflix Special *Recalibrate*.

Russell most recently returned to our screens to offer his satirical take on global news, politics and stories dominating the cultural zeitgeist with the fourth series of *The Russell Howard Hour*. A huge hit online, show content has been seen over 400 million times across social media since the show's arrival. Every episode is also available to watch worldwide on Russell's [YouTube channel](#), with over one million subscribers, as well as being broadcast on Foxtel in Australia close to UK transmission on Sky.

Russell has over 6 million followers on social media.

After completely selling out his Australian season of *Wonderbox* in 2014 and *Round the World* in 2017 – ***Respite*** will be one not to be missed.

*"it's thrilling to see Howard with fire in his belly" ★★★★★ Metro*

*"World domination is looming... he has grown darker, angrier and more satirical on stage. His sets deal with everything from foreign policy to his fear of death, and he rages as much as he teases" The Sunday Times, UK*

## **RUSSELL HOWARD – RESPITE**

### **NEW ZEALAND 2021**

**OPERA HOUSE, WELLINGTON**

**FRI 22 JAN 2021**

**KIRI TE KANAWA THEATRE, AUCKLAND**

**SAT 23 JAN 2021**

**TOWN HALL, CHRISTCHURCH**

**MON 25 JAN 2021**

## FINAL TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW

For complete tour and ticket information, visit: [livenation.co.nz](http://livenation.co.nz)

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### About Live Nation Entertainment

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### About Avalon

Avalon is a multi-award-winning talent management, television production and live promotion group with offices in London, Los Angeles and New York.

The company represents a prolific roster of artists including comedians, actors, presenters, writers and directors and produces numerous ground-breaking television shows. Series currently in production include: *Not Going Out* (BBC), the UK's longest running sitcom on air; *Taskmaster* (Channel 4), the hit entertainment format showing in 100 countries; multi Emmy-winner, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* (HBO); *The Russell Howard Hour* (Sky), the network's most successful entertainment show launch since 2010; *Starstruck*, a new

sitcom from the 2018 Edinburgh Comedy Award winner Rose Matafeo (HBO Max/BBC); *Everything's Gonna Be Okay*, from creator Josh Thomas (Freeform); *Breeders*, a new sitcom starring Martin Freeman and Daisy Haggard (FX/Sky); *The Iliza Shlesinger Sketch Show* (Netflix); new series of the iconic British satirical puppet show, *Spitting Image* (BritBox UK); and multiple comedy specials for Amazon Prime Video, HBO Max and Netflix. Other landmark Avalon shows include BAFTA winning and multi Emmy nominated, *Catastrophe* (Amazon Prime Video/Channel 4), *Fantasy Football League* (BBC/ITV), multi BAFTA-winning *TV Burp* (ITV), and seven seasons of *Workaholics* (Comedy Central USA). Avalon also distributes its catalogue of programmes to over 150 countries worldwide.

As a leading promoter of live comedy, Avalon produced *Newman and Baddiel: Live at Wembley*, the UK's first arena comedy show; *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, the first West End show to win all four UK 'Best New Musical' awards; and has continued to produce and promote live shows globally, as well as promoting more winners and nominees of the prestigious Edinburgh Comedy Award than any other company.

For Avalon news visit: [www.avalonuk.com/press](http://www.avalonuk.com/press) or follow @avalonent