

THE RUSSELL HOWARD HOUR ANNOUNCES CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

"Russell Howard has found his place with this satirical vehicle"

Victoria Segal, The Sunday Times

"sardonic but ultimately affirmative and optimistic take on global news and politics. What sets Howard apart from other TV satirists is his faith in human nature."

Ed Power, The i

"hugely physical with his performances and relentlessly funny, he has been a mainstay of the schedules for more than a decade"

Iman Amrani, The Guardian

"the star doesn't shy away from the biggest news stories of the week...hilarious"

Louis Staples, The Independent

22nd November - *The Russell Howard Hour* Christmas special is set to see **Russell Howard** take a look back at the biggest moments this year, plus some top stand-up, special guests and a festive edition of Playground Politics on **Thursday 15th December** on Sky Max and streaming service NOW at 10pm.

Now in its sixth series including Russell's 100th episode on Sky, *The Russell Howard Hour* immediately became one of Sky's most successful entertainment series when it launched and has also gone on to see huge success online with over 500 million views on social media including multiple segments recently going viral such as: [Russell and Greta Thunberg chatting to kids about the climate crisis](#) (8.5 million views), [Russell getting fledgling junior correspondents views on the rail strikes](#) (6.7 million views), [Russell calling for PM Liz Truss to quit](#) (4.3 million views) and a [sketch on the fuel crisis](#) (6.4 million views).

This news arrives shortly after Russell was joined by the world's most famous environmental activist, **Greta Thunberg**, with *The Russell Howard Hour* previously featuring interviews with well-known faces including **Ed Sheeran, Matthew McConaughey, Dizzee Rascal, Elizabeth Day, Billy Connolly, Akala, Keanu Reeves, Lady Leshurr, Guz Khan, Naomi Klein, Jim Carrey, Jack Black, Louis Theroux, Tyson Fury, John Oliver, Alesha Dixon, Tan France, Brian Cox, Rob Delaney, Armando Iannucci, Elizabeth Banks and Jimmy Car**, while also spotlighting unsung heroes such as disability activist **Sinead Burke**, anti-knife crime campaigner and former champion boxer **Mark Prince** and KKK converter **Daryl Davis**.

Each episode is available to watch worldwide on Russell's [YouTube channel](#), with over 1.4 million subscribers and over 400 million views, as well as being broadcast on Foxtel in Australia and TVNZ in New Zealand close to UK transmission

Russell returns to the live stage in Spring 2023 with his first new tour, *Russell Howard Live*, since 2019. In response to the opening on-sale weekend selling out 50 shows, 120, 000+ tickets, Russell immediately added 22 dates, amassing over 50, 000 new tickets and following incredible demand, has subsequently recently added 16 dates which now sees him play 98 shows at venues nationwide including six sold out performances at The London Palladium and seven homecoming Bristol shows.

Russell has over 9 million followers on social media. His [TikTok](#) channel attracted over 100k followers within 48 hours of launching and is currently tracking over 1.2 million with over 150 million views.

For more information, please contact Victoria Wedderburn on 07557160139 or VWedderburn@avalonuk.com and Jasmine Ruparelia on JRuparelia@avalonuk.com

Other Things The Press Said About The Russell Howard Hour:

★★★★The Mail On Sunday ★★★★★ Heat Magazine ★★★★★ The Daily Star ★★★★★ TV Times ★★★★★ The Daily Express ★★★★★ Star Magazine

"one of the world's top comedians"
Martin Hemming, The Sunday Times

"Apparently ageless, hugely physical with his performances and relentlessly funny, he has been a mainstay of the schedules for more than a decade"

Iman Amrani, The Guardian

"Altogether more politicised and hard-hitting....It was a treat to find Howard showing so much bite... it's not often you get such spiky satire on Sky1...Howard and his Hour should be applauded."

Michael Hogan, The Daily Telegraph

"Howard's routines provide a more pointed critique of government incompetence and malfeasance than you might expect...his interview segments offer extended chats with an eclectic range of guests beyond the same old roster of celebrities"

Jack Seale, Radio Times

"Underestimate Russell Howard at your peril...behind that smile is a performer with real teeth ready to tear into current affairs and the many failings of our lords and masters"

Mark Wareham, The Mail On Sunday

"There is no denying the popularity of Russell. As his topical comedy returns for its fourth series, the numbers it can boast are staggering- it's had over 400 million views on social media and has covered topics as varied as the porn industry and Ku Klux Klan"

Eleanor Relf, The Sun

"the star doesn't shy away from the biggest news stories of the week...hilarious"

Louis Staples, The Independent

"a big hit for Sky"
Forbes

"His topical chat show has been a hit, securing fascinating celebs like Louis Theroux, Jon Ronson and Naomi Klein for extended chats"

Graeme Virtue, The Guardian

"Russell Howard gets set to nail our messed-up world once again with another series of sharp comedic insights from the week's biggest stories"

Emily Baker, The i

"The Russell Howard Hour, a weekly comedy series on Sky 1 in which Howard brings his characteristic wit and observational humor to the stories dominating the cultural zeitgeist."

Dane Rivera, UPROXX (USA)

"a refreshing antidote to the default world-weary cynicism of so many of his comedy peers."

Sharon Lougher, Metro

"Russell Howard has truly gone global...Though he may be known for his cheeky, happy-go-lucky demeanour, Howard has never been one to shy away from the bigger issues...Whether it's highlighting child hunger, unashamed praise for the police, or taking aim at Trumps' views on transgender people in the military, the varying topics are all things Howard has a strong opinion on."

Alex Nelson, The i

"no one can seriously deny him his place at comedy's top table...the way in which Howard views the world has changed. He is more reflective, less flippant, than he used to be"

Rupert Hawksley, The Daily Telegraph

What The Press Have Said About Russell's stand-up:

"Howard is a megastar" ★★★★★

Allan Radcliffe, The Times

"In Respite he takes stock of the current chaos and concludes that we need more fun.... Howard says laughter brings people together. It certainly did last night."

★★★★★ Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

"With smart, satisfying and well-rationed callbacks, Howard builds his giddy anecdotes into a tsunami of feelgood humour, drenching the sizeable crowd in positivity. No wonder they were moved to rise to their feet... and not just in the usual festival shuffle for the exit." ★★★★★½

Steve Bennett, Chortle

"Howard's riffs on life in 2021 that is the best material...Respite is, at times, Howard's philosophy on life. Sort of like a self-help book for a flawed world slowly coming out of hibernation that would be a whole lot better – and sillier – if we followed his advice....has achieved global success... You would have to be pretty joyless yourself not to have fun at a Russell Howard gig. He will now take these life lessons around the world, offering togetherness, hope and a lot of silliness" ★★★★★

Martin Booth, The Telegraph

"In 2021, what does gratitude sound like? Having witnessed it firsthand, I'd say it's the sound of a 2000-seat auditorium lit up with laughter...Howard is one of the world's biggest comedy stars. His flow is punchy and unstoppable"

Maggie Wicks, The New Zealand Herald

"Russell Howard is at the top of his game, his elegantly crafted observational stand-up using cunningly spun callbacks and physical comedy to flirt with controversy, domesticity, politics, sex, and Calippo ice lollies"

Stephen Armstrong, The Sunday Times

"Hero's return for the uplifting comedy king...Howard is undeniably one of the biggest names in comedy"

★★★★★ Josh Stephenson, Metro

"Howard masterfully builds a show that is hilarious and convincing in equal manner"

★★★★★ Owen Richards, The i

"It's safe to say this show went down a storm"

★★★★★ Tabitha James, Young Perspective

"Arguably one of the funniest blokes to come out of the United Kingdom right now, you can rest assured Russell Howard will be keeping the laughs coming"

Mina Kerr-Lazenby, Stuff

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Russell Howard:

- Russell recently completed his third and biggest sell-out world tour to date. Selling over 300, 000 tickets, the *Respite* tour saw Russell play a UK arena run plus a second UK leg including 5 Hammersmith Apollo dates culminating with taping his second Netflix special *Lubricant* which is streaming now.
- The two-part Netflix instalment features his stand-up special striving to make sense of a world that is spinning out of control, *Lubricant* and documentary mapping his attempts to keep performing throughout the Covid 19 pandemic, *Until The Wheels Come Off*.
- Russell is the first comedian to release a special accompanied by a documentary on Netflix.
- Following *Lubricant's* release, Russell became the sole comedian to have two of the top ten most-streamed specials across all platforms in the UK in the last 12 months.
- Russell has over 9 million followers on social media.
- In response to the government's step 4 roadmap delay, Russell moved his homecoming run of *Respite* from the Bristol Hippodrome to play seven socially distanced shows at Ashton Gate Stadium, the home of Bristol City FC.
- Russell became the first stand-up comedian from the Northern Hemisphere to perform in New Zealand and Australia since the global lockdown in 2021.
- Whilst on tour in New Zealand and Australia, Russell filmed a new 3 x 60 min travelogue, *Russell Howard Stands Up To The World*, airing in the UK on Sky in New Zealand on TVNZ in 2021.
- In London during lockdown in 2021, Russell was the first to open The Clapham Grand's doors playing a series of work in progress gigs alongside some of his favourite performers.
- Ratings and critical hit *The Russell Howard Hour* was recommissioned for a fifth and sixth season, whilst the fourth season was still on air, by Sky One and TV streaming service NOW TV. The acclaimed topical show was the most successful entertainment show to land on Sky One since 2010. A huge hit online, show content has been seen over 500 million times across social media since the show's arrival.
- During lockdown in 2020, Russell was on our screens twice a week presenting a new Sky One show, *Russell Howard's Home Time*, from his childhood bedroom for which he donated his fee to NHS Charities Together and The Trussell Trust. The series saw Russell give his unique perspective on current world events, as he chatted to some famous faces and interesting people in lockdown including Marc Maron, Jack Whitehall, Louis Theroux, Katherine Ryan, Greg Davies, Michelle Wolf, John Richardson, Guz Khan, James Bay, Stephen Merchant, Kasabian's Serge Pizzorno, and heroes on the front line including Bafta and Emmy award winning film maker Hassan Akkad, intensive care doctor Aoife Abbey and mental health volunteer Caitlin Grant.
- Russell began *Respite* with a sold-out and critically-acclaimed UK arena run in Autumn 2019. In total, the rescheduled tour will take Russell to 79 cities across 24 countries in 5 continents.
- Russell Howard and his mum Ninette were on our screens with the fourth series of Comedy Central's *Russell Howard & Mum: Globetrotters* in 2019. The first three series reached 4.2M individuals, with the first series being the highest rated new commission on the channel the year it launched. After achieving as much as +241% on the 16-34s slot average and +172% on the adults slot average, series three and four were commissioned with extended episodes.
- A Netflix special of Russell's previous critically acclaimed world tour titled *Recalibrate* launched worldwide in December 2017.
- Russell's 2017 sell-out international tour, *Round the World* saw him play a total of 87 dates with runs in the UK, USA, Canada, Europe, China, New Zealand and Australia. This tour also saw a record-breaking 10-night run at the Royal Albert Hall, overtaking eight in a row jointly held by Frank Sinatra and Barry Manilow, and performing the biggest ever stand-up show in China.

- Whilst Russell was touring *Round The World* in 2017, his previous stand-up show *Wonderbox* (2014) went viral with 15 million views in China (with Mandarin subtitles) and 55 million views worldwide. Russell Crowe and Stephen Fry are amongst some of the Twitterati who shared the heart-warming story of Russell and a sick fan's triumph over adversity.
- The last series of *Russell Howard's Good News* saw multiple sections go viral, including a passionate backing of junior doctors and the NHS (8.2 million views), an interview destigmatising Tourette's (4.9 million views) and a demonstration of the absurdity of the tampon tax (10.2 million views).
- *Russell Howard's Good News* is available around the world via a YouTube channel launched in 2014 – allowing fans to watch full episodes of the show (without piracy) in countries where the show wasn't already broadcast – and has had over 48 million views and been watched in 180 countries (including North Korea and Vatican City)
- Christmas 2015 saw Russell's first comedy-drama with the premiere of, *A Gert Lush Christmas* (BBC Two). As well as co-writing the special, Russell starred for the first time along-side his sister Kerry Howard (*Him & Her*, BBC Three), Greg Davies (*The Inbetweeners*, *Man Down*, Channel 4), Neil Morrissey (*Men Behaving Badly*, *Waterloo Road*, BBC1), and Sophie Thompson (*EastEnders*, BBC1).
- Russell's stand-up series, *Russell Howard's Stand Up Central*, which aired from April 2015 on Comedy Central (UK) achieved viewing figures of 159% above the slot average for its first episode.
- Episodes of *Russell Howard's Good News* have even been subtitled and uploaded to Chinese video site AcFun, where the show has also been watched over 4 million times.
- 10 series of *Russell Howard's Good News* has seen Russell write and star in 96 episodes.
- *Russell Howard's Good News* was regularly the most watched show on iPlayer across all BBC Channels.
- On the 10th anniversary of the channel, a poll of over 10,000 readers of *Digital Spy* voted *Russell Howard's Good News* as the best ever BBC Three Show, beating shows such as *Little Britain* and *Gavin & Stacey*
- Russell's 2014 *Wonderbox* tour saw him perform to over 285,000 fans at 40 shows across the UK and Ireland, including four consecutive nights at London's Royal Albert Hall.
- Russell extended his 2014 *Wonderbox* tour across the world following over 17,000 suggestions from his fans after he asked them via Facebook where they'd most like to see him perform. The extra sold out dates saw Russell travel to New York, LA, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington DC, Denver, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane and Auckland.
- Russell's tour in 2011, *Right Here, Right Now* saw him perform to over 240,000 fans across the country, including three sold out dates at London's O2 arena.
- Russell performed to over one million people on his UK and international tours from 2006-2014.
- Russell Howard has four bestselling stand-up DVDs, 2014's *Wonderbox Live*, 2011's *Right Here, Right Now*, 2008's *Russell Howard Live* and 2009's *Russell Howard Live – Dingleberries*, which have sold over 619,000 DVDs and all been in the top 5 DVD comedy chart.
- Russell was voted Heat Magazine's "Weird Crush of the Year 2013"
- Russell made 58 appearances on *Mock The Week* between 2006 and 2010.
- In addition to being a regular on *Mock The Week*, Russell was twice featured on *Live At The Apollo* and appeared on *Would I Lie To You* (BBC One), *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* (BBC Two), and *8 Out 10 Cats* (Channel 4).
- In 2010 Russell took part in the Sport Relief Million Pound Bike Ride with David Walliams, Jimmy Carr, Fearne Cotton, Miranda Hart, Patrick Kielty and Davina McCall – cycling 874 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End in 4 days and raising over £1,337,099.
- In 2010 Russell ran the London Marathon, raising money for the National Society for Epilepsy – a condition from which his brother suffers. He completed the 26 mile course in 4 hours and 15 minutes and raised over £7,000.

- Russell Howard's fifth ever stand-up gig got him to the final of Channel 4's *So You Think You're Funny*.
- In 2006 Russell Howard was nominated for the Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Award for his show *Wandering*, which followed with a nationwide sell-out tour.
- From November 2006 to July 2008, Russell co-hosted The Russell Howard Show (BBC 6 Music) with fellow comedian Jon Richardson in a Sunday morning slot previously hosted by Russell Brand.

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.

Avalon, Artist Rights Group (ARG) and The Agency represent a prolific roster of artists including comedians, actors, presenters, writers and directors. Avalon's numerous ground-breaking returning television shows currently in production include: *Not Going Out* (BBC), the UK's longest running sitcom on air; *Taskmaster* (Channel 4), the BAFTA-winning 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 sitcom starring Martin Freeman and Daisy Haggard (FX/Sky); a 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 *Workaholics* (Comedy Central USA). Avalon also distributes its catalogue of programmes to over 150 countries worldwide. Avalon has produced many globally successful podcasts and is at the top of the UK iTunes chart with the multi-award-winning *Shagged. Married. Annoyed* by Chris and Rosie Ramsey.

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 or follow @avalonent