

# JENNY ÉCLAIR REVEALED AS THE NEW HOST OF TASKMASTER: THE PEOPLE'S PODCAST

FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> September, 10am – London - It was announced today that award-winning comedian **Jenny Éclair** is set to host *Taskmaster: The People's Podcast* alongside Taskmaster aficionado, **Jack Bernhardt**.

Each week, Jenny and Jack will take a deep dive into the world of *Taskmaster*, talking to behind-the-scenes guests, superfans and some of the most beloved *Taskmaster* characters, in the official fan podcast from the producers of the BAFTA and National Comedy Award winning show.

Taking over from Series 8 champion and Pantsuit Princess **Lou Sanders**, the new series will bring more guests, more behind the scenes insights and of course the fan favourite stats from stat-man Jack Bernhardt and Series 15 veteran Jenny Eclair.

If you want to share your Taskmaster obsession, whether it's talking about your favourite task, what you loved from the latest episode or that you love to whack on a pair of stilts and cosplay as Greg Davies we're all ears. Leave us a message on the Fanswering Machine by sending a voice note on WhatsApp to 07810 025570 or emailing us at [fans@taskmaster.tv](mailto:fans@taskmaster.tv). Your time starts... NOW!

***Taskmaster: The People's Podcast is published through Acast and available on all major podcast platforms***

**Ends-**

## **Notes to Editors:**

### **About Jenny Éclair**

Stand-up comedian Jenny Eclair was the first woman to win the Perrier Award – the UK's top comedy award – in 1995. Since then, she has also found fame as the author of six critically acclaimed novels and one non-fiction book. Her latest, *Older and Wider*, combines Jenny's quintessential wry humour whilst covering the almost taboo topic of menopause. Jenny serves as a wise – but always witty – guide to others on the experience of menopause.

Jenny will spend the end of 2021 touring the UK with SIXTY! (Ffs). This tour serves as a timely sequel to her previous stand-up show *How to be a Middle-Aged Woman (without going insane)*, that sold out in venues across the UK – and as far afield as Australia! Her biggest theatrical hit to date has been co-writing (with Judith Holder) and starring in all three *Grumpy Old Women Live* shows, both in the UK and Australia.

She is the writer of the popular BBC Radio 4 series of monologues, *Little Lifetimes*. Jenny also co-hosts the Menopausal-friendly podcast, *Older and Wider*, with Judith Holder and has many TV and radio credits to her name.

Small screen highlights include all the *Grumpy Old Women* series, *The Apprentice: You're Fired!*, *Room 101* (BBC), *Loose Women* (ITV), *Alan Davies As Yet Untitled*, *QI* (UKTV), plus of course reality TV shows such as *Splash* (ITV) and *I'm a Celebrity* (ITV) in 2010, where she came third.

### **About Taskmaster**

- *Taskmaster* is a BAFTA winning and International Emmy nominated comedy entertainment show originally created by Alex Horne. Greg Davies stars as the all-powerful “Taskmaster” who, with the help of his loyal assistant Horne, sets out to test the wiles, wit and wisdom of five comedians through a series of strange and surreal challenges in what is the most hard-fought and ridiculous comedy entertainment format on TV.
- 159 episodes have been produced in the UK so far, as part of a landmark six season deal with Channel 4 in 2020, which has recently been renewed for a further six series by the broadcaster following nine record-breaking series on UKTV's Dave.
- The show enjoyed its best performance on record with its Channel 4 launch which reached 3.9 million consolidated views after the first episode, winning the majority share of young viewers 16 – 34's and making it the best-performing new entertainment show of the year (Broadcast, 2020). Watched by a broad multi-generational audience, it was Channel 4's youngest skewing series last year. In terms of audience share of young viewers (16-34) it is in the top three in the coveted 9pm slot, with Gogglebox and Derry Girls. Taskmaster is also hugely popular on All 4, where it is available for free and, since 2021, the average views per episode [0-7Days, O+O] have grown for the title with each series. Since the programme's initial launch in 2015 on UKTV's Dave, *Taskmaster's* audience has grown by 80% from series one to series nine.
- *Taskmaster* was crowned Best Comedy Entertainment Show at the National Comedy Awards 2022 and 2023, Best Comedy Entertainment at the BAFTAs 2020 and won Best Entertainment Programme at the Broadcast Awards 2018, having previously received two more nominations for the Broadcast Awards and recently picking up its third BAFTA nomination for the 2023 ceremony. It has also been nominated for the Bruce Forsyth Entertainment Award at the NTA's 2021 and 2022, Studio Entertainment at Rose d'Or 2021, Best Entertainment Programme at the RTS Awards, Broadcasting Press Guild Awards, the Broadcast Digital Awards, Edinburgh TV Award, the TV Choice Awards, and Best Returning Format in the International Format Awards 2020.

- The original *Taskmaster* programme has been sold to 94 countries and aired on The CW in the U.S. in 2020.
- Over 350 episodes have been produced outside the UK with local versions now in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Nordics, Croatia and Portugal where it ranked first for most watched entertainment programs on its channel RTP 1. While *Taskmaster Australia* launched on Channel 10 where it became the channel's top new show of the year and received a nomination for Most Outstanding Comedy at the Logies, produced by Avalon Television with Kevin&Co and featuring Tom Gleeson as the Taskmaster with Tom Cashman as the Taskmaster's Assistant, and *Taskmaster New Zealand* has received funding for a fourth season from New Zealand On Air to play on TVNZ and TVNZ+ in 2023. The first season of *Le Maitre du Jeu* for Bell Media, which aired in Canada in September 2022, increased Noovo's performance in the Thursday time slot by 50%, while the UK original won Canada's film and TV Rockie Awards 2023 for best Comedy and Variety show.
- The format has seen huge success in Europe, with the Swedish version reaching ratings of over a 50% market share in a primetime weekend slot on SVT and now in its seventh series. Norway's original version of Taskmaster, *Kongen Befaler*, won the Norwegian TV Academy Award (Gullruten) for Best Entertainment Show in 2022, where an eighth season is in production for Discovery. Finland's version of Taskmaster, *Suurmestari*, won Game Show of the Year at the Venla Gaala awards, with a fourth series ordered by MTV, and *Stormester*, Denmark's Taskmaster, which is now in its seventh series, won Best Game Show at the 2022 Vindere Awards, with TV2 commissioning a 'Champion of Champions' series for 2023.
- The Taskmaster YouTube channel has seen huge success internationally, reaching over 7.5 billion impressions since it first launched in October 2019, with just under 500 million views and over 1.1 million subscribers, of which over a third are from the U.S. The channel has had over 110 million hours' worth of content viewed with 51% of those hours from the US (56 million hours watched). The show has grown significantly in popularity with U.S. audiences and over the last year there have been a total of 74 million views.
- *#HomeTasking* had over 100 million impressions across all content on YouTube. Viewing grew by 42%, while subscribers grew by 85% since it launched on the Taskmaster YouTube channel. It was watched in 125 countries with viewers ranging from the US to the UK and from Moldova to Mongolia.
- The Taskmaster Book *200 Extraordinary Tasks for Ordinary People* has sold over 150,000 copies, while a second book 'Bring Me The Head of the Taskmaster' published in September 2021 and has sold almost 30,000 to date. Both books featured as Sunday Times Bestsellers at launch. The Swedish version of the book has sold 108,000 copies to date.

- A Taskmaster boardgame was released in Autumn 2019 and entirely sold out a week after it went on sale. It has sold over 200,000 copies to date along with an expansion pack. A second game, Taskmaster The Secret Series Game was released in 2022. All the games are available to buy from the official Taskmaster shop, [www.TaskmasterStore.com](http://www.TaskmasterStore.com)
- Taskmaster Education takes elements of the show and uses them to inspire, engage and teach children and young people. Tasks can be adapted to meet a near infinite range of teacher objectives, whether curriculum-based or more focused on social and emotional development.
- Taskmaster is working with Homeless Link; the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services, creating a virtual Taskmaster at Home event with all the money raised going to homeless charities across the UK. Having raised over £115,000, more information on the virtual event can be [found here](#).
- The launch of series 13 also saw the unveiling of the brand new Taskmaster App; a show companion where viewers can watch the show on TV and score along at home, taking on the role of the mighty Taskmaster themselves. The app also features the Taskmaster Academy with quizzes from every series of the show, group and solo tasking games, and a Jukebox featuring all of the music from the show.

Taskmaster can be watched on:

[TaskmasterSuperMax+](#)

[Channel 4 / All 4](#)

[Taskmaster YouTube Channel](#)

[iTunes](#)

[Google](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Microsoft](#)