Presenters Profiles

Matthew Dyktynski

A person standing in front of a wall

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**Matthew Dyktynski** is an [Australian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australians) actor and comedian, graduating from Australia's [National Institute of Dramatic Art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Institute_of_Dramatic_Art) in 1992.

**Television**

Dyktinski has played lead roles on television series [*Shock Jock*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shock_Jock) and [*Raw FM*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raw_FM), and has appeared on [*The Man from Snowy River*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_from_Snowy_River_(TV_series)), [*Stingers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stingers_(TV_series)), [*Blue Heelers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Heelers), [*Water Rats*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_Rats_(TV_series)), [*Halifax f.p.*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halifax_f.p.), [*All Saints*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints_(TV_series)), [*The Secret Life of Us*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Secret_Life_of_Us), [*House Husbands*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_Husbands) and [*Offspring*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offspring_(TV_series)).

**Film**

Dyktinski's movie credits include [*Love and Other Catastrophes*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_and_Other_Catastrophes) (1996), [*Japanese Story*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Story) (2003) and *Wil* (2006), in which he played the title role.

**Comedian**

As a comedian, Dyktinski has toured the United Kingdom, Europe and Australia. He spent several years living in London, performing as a regular stand up comic. He has also performed at the [Edinburgh Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edinburgh_Festival_Fringe) and [Melbourne International Comedy Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_International_Comedy_Festival) as well as a sold-out season at London’s [Soho Theatre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soho_Theatre).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Dyktynski#cite_note-1)

**Radio & voiceover work**

Dyktinski has undertaken voiceover and narration work, including campaigns for Digital Radio Plus, [Kellogg's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kellogg%27s) and [Fairfax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairfax_Media). He co-hosted Perth’s [Mix 94.5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mix_94.5) BIG BREAKFAST, for eight years alongside Clairsy and Kymba. His final show was on Friday 15 September 2023.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Dyktynski#cite_note-mediaweek-3)

**Theatre**

Dyktinski Is currently working on a musical that he has written together with his wife, called *Funeral – The Musical* which had its first public reading in August 2023.

**Loretta Baldassar**

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**2002 - NSW Premier’s Literary Award for Visits Home, Melbourne Uni Press.**

**2006 - Shortlisted for NSW Regional and Community History Award for Baldassar & Pesman, From Paesani to Global Italians, UWA Press.**

**Currently, Professor Baldassar leads a the research group in the School of Arts and Humanities at ECU, the**[**Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab.**](https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/arts-and-humanities/staff/profiles/sage-futures/?external-uuid=1f7e97ce-b452-4fc0-b68e-88e98d841982)**Her team is leading research in social care across the life-course, contributing social science perspectives and methodologies to the creative and caring professions. This approach is targeted at the development of a social care research agenda for the aged care sector to facilitate collaborative communities of care that extend people’s support networks at every age, with a particular focus on:**

**Loretta is also leading the TRACS Migration Research Network at ECU to support an active program of national and international collaborations. This ECU TRACS Migration Research Network will co-host the Annual Migration Update Conference (launched in 2015), as well as be the Australian university Partner on two  international research projects: (i)**[**UK Sustainable Care Project**](http://circle.group.shef.ac.uk/sustainable-care)**(2017-21), which has just won further ESRC funding to establish a**[**Centre for Care**](http://circle.group.shef.ac.uk/2021/11/30/new-esrc-centre-for-care-announced)**(2022-27); and (ii) The Decentering Migration Knowledge (**[**DEMIKNOW**](https://www.torontomu.ca/decentering-migration-knowledge)**) project, which brings together four research entities in Canada, India, China and Australia, to create new knowledge about migration scholars from the Global South and North.**

**Susanna Iulliano**



Dr Susanna Iuliano is a historian specialising in Australian migration and multiculturalism and modern Italian history. Western Australia's cultural, political, economic and social character owes a huge debt to its Italian migrants.

Since the 1880s, Italians have enriched the state with their hard work, traditions and culture, from the farmers of the South-West to the miners of Kalgoorlie and the fishermen of the northern coast.

*Vite Italiane* contains the remarkable stories of hundreds of Italian migrant families and is essential reading for all proud Italian-Australians. Winner of the 2010 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards (State Library of Western Australia WA History Award) and shortlisted for the 2011 Margaret Medcalf Award.

Verena Thomas

A person wearing glasses and smiling

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Professor Verena Thomas, Associate Dean Research, ECU School of Arts and Humanities

Verena Thomas is Professor of Communication and Associate Dean Research in the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University. Verena’s work focuses on creative research approaches and communication for social change in international development contexts. She has led award-winning research and production projects in the areas of health communication, climate change, gender equity and education. Verena facilitates participatory research processes in collaboration with community groups and works with institutions and organisations that want to strategically integrate creative approaches into social change programs.

Manonita Ghosh.



Dr Manonita Ghosh is a Research Fellow in the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab, School of Arts and Humanities. Additionally, she serves as the Editor-in-Chief for the Anthropology and Ageing Journal and leads research editorial teams. With a background in anthropology and public health, her research explores cross-cultural influences on health behaviour, aging and social care, health service evaluation, and music and migrant health. Manonita holds two master's degrees: one in Sociology from Dhaka University, Bangladesh, and another in Anthropology from the University of Western Australia. She completed a PhD in Population Health at the University of Western Australia.

Manonita leads the Arts & Music Engagement stream in the SAGE Future Lab. A trained musician, Manonita applies her skills in music direction to multicultural communities. With over 15 years of experience, she has worked in government organisations like the Department of Health WA and the Department for Communities. She has also made significant contributions to non-governmental health organisations, focusing on training, capacity building, and community development.

Lesa Melynyuk Morgan

A person with long brown hair

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Lesa is a children's author with a Ukrainian historical and ethnic focus. Baba's Chooks series began in 2021 resulting in a Silver Medal for the first publication. The books are in the process of being translated into Ukrainian for wider distribution.

As a self-employed writer and researcher, I specialized in the Ukrainian Holodomor/Genocide of 1932-1933, publishing books and articles on this topic in Australia. I have over many years of experience in this field, combining my passion for Ukrainian history, education, and information science skills. I have a Doctorate in Arts History from the University of Notre Dame Australia, a Master's degree and Graduate Diplomas in both Educational Administration and Librarianship from Curtin University.  
In addition to my writing and research work, I also present workshops at the Australian College of Administration, mentor students and professionals in the information learning skills development and problem solving. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has developed fundraising activities and close involvement with the Displaced Ukrainians who arrived in Western Australia. I have maintained my involvement with Holodomor commemoration events in WA. As a result of involvement with the Honorary Consul for Sweden I became a recipient of the Swede of the Year award 2006 for services in facilitating the visit of the Swedish royal couple to Perth.

Nonja Peters

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