

Press Release

Brand new children's comedy series

# DROP DEAD WEIRD™

launches on the Seven Network and RTE Ireland.



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Created by Sally Browning and Dean Cropp | Produced By Ambience Entertainment, Air Pig Productions and Telegael

Ambience Entertainment, Air Pig Productions and Telegael had loads of laughs filming their brand new 26 x 24-minute series, which received production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW.

The series was commissioned by the Seven Network Australia and RTE Ireland. "Seven is delighted to have backed this series as the commissioning broadcaster."

The Australian/Irish co-production Drop Dead Weird follows the hilarious antics of an Australian family who move to Ireland to run their family B&B in a remote seaside village. With three fish-out-of-water Aussie kids, one kooky Irish grandfather and two recently zombified parents ... things are going to get weird... **Drop Dead Weird!**

The three Aussie kids- Lulu, Bruce and Frankie are finding it hard enough fitting into a new hometown, but now they have to harbour an enormous secret. Their parent are zombies.... Yes, ZOMBIES.

The kids must invent on a daily (even hourly!) basis a way to keep the truth under wraps or the local Head Mistress and town busybody Bunni Shannahan will be on to them. Their schemes and ideas nearly always result in unexpected outcomes which are a constant source of adventure and hilarity.

Drop Dead Weird was created by Sally Browning and Dean Cropp and developed with Ambience Entertainment.

Ambience Entertainment, Air Pig Productions and Telegael are excited to announce that Drop Dead Weird launched on RTÉ2 on Monday the 25th of September. The series will launch on the Seven Network in October.

## **KidsOn7: From Monday the 9th of October**

## **7TWO: From Monday the 6th of November**

If you can't wait, why not check out our fabulous Bruce Champ on his brand new YouTube channel BruceTube. Click the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCurHJPZPJ9yXI4-gbNn9rng>

### **Some Drop Dead reviews:**

*An Irish-Australian co-production, Sally Browning and Dean Cropp's comedy for young audiences makes a spry gag of Antipodean inversions, for which self-sufficient siblings must care for stumbling parents who can't control sudden changes in their bodies.*

**Irish Times**

*The series is beautifully written, it's like Fawlty Towers for kids. Pauline (McLynn) was saying with Father Ted they never knew while making the first series if it was good but she said about Drop Dead Weird, 'I already know this is great'.*

**Galway Advertiser**

We are excited to introduce our dynamic young cast members along with some very familiar faces starring in this new innovative kids show!



**SOFIA NOLAN – Lulu Champ**

Lulu Champ is a 15-year-old born leader. She is the organiser in the family and once (before being relocated) a keen barrel-riding grommet surfer, but her true calling is to be the responsible one.



**JACK RILEY - Bruce Champ**

12-year-old Bruce Champ is destined for fame and fortune, spending most of his time filming clips for his BruceTube Channel and is seemingly a Grandad mini-me with his optimistic entrepreneurial spirit.



**ADELE COSENTINO - Frankie Champ**

9-year-old Frankie Champ is the youngest of the family and is just an ordinary little girl except she also happens to have a brain the size of a planet and has personally taken on the challenge to find a cure for her zombified parents.



**AMANDA BISHOP – Maggie Champ**

Former corporate high-flyer, Maggie Champ, thought moving her family to Ireland would be a relaxing sea-change. The changes were not quite as expected – she's now a Zombie!

Zombie Mum is played by the renowned actor Amanda Bishop, who has appeared in television programs such as: Law and Order, The Story of Us, Maximum Choppage, Wednesday Night Fever. Her most notable role was in the award winning mockumentary, At Home With Julia in which she co-wrote, assistant produced and starred as Former Prime Minister, Julia Gillard.



**DAVID COLLINS – Fergus Champ**

Wanting to reconnect and introduce his family to his Irish heritage, laid-back dad, Fergus Champ finds he is reconnecting in an unexpected way. In fact, he is finding it difficult to stay connected to his limbs at all....now he is a Zombie!

Fergus is played by David Collins who is better known to audiences as one half of the Umbilical brothers. David enjoys both dramatic and comedic roles, most recently being cast in Maya the Bee, working on Happy Feet 2 and appearing in Australian films, Thunderstruck and You Can't Stop the Murders.





### **PAULINE MCLYNN - Bernadette Shanahan**

Bernadette Shanahan – better known as Bunni and a former sweetheart of Fergus - is the secondary school principal, a local councillor, committee member, minor celebrity, busybody and general town trouble-maker. Constantly trying to win “Chunky’s” (Fergus’) affections and steal him away from the “wallaby woman” she is eternally suspicious of the goings-on at the B&B.

Pauline McLynn is one of Ireland’s national treasures, having starred in the internationally successful comedy series Father Ted playing the much loved character of Mrs Doyle. She has since gone on to appear in some of the UK and Ireland’s most popular and successful television series such as East Enders, Ballykissangel and Shameless, just to name a few...

Pauline is also a successful writer having written 8 best selling novels and in 2012 published her first novel for young people, Jenny Q Stitched Up.



### **MAELÍOSA STAFFORD - Grandad**

Grandad Champ, is the ever optimistic, cheerful and somewhat erratic entrepreneur constantly coming up with crazy new ideas to promote and expand his beloved B&B. The arrival of his son’s family brings much needed help...although Fergus and Maggie have developed some odd habits....

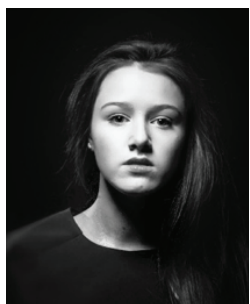
Highly experienced comedic actor Maelíosa Stafford, tackles this fun role. With an array of credits in both Australia and Ireland on stage and screen, he was most recently seen in the Australian series ‘Rake’.



### **DAVID RAWLE - Dermot Shanahan**

Dermot, is the sweet ever faithful friend of the Champ kids, particularly Lulu...who he may or may not have a crush on. Mr & Mrs Champ are the ideal parents – chilled, never tell him what to do and great listeners, offering comforting groaning support....unlike his own mother, Bunni Shanahan. It never strikes him as odd that they never actually speak, he really doesn’t twig they are zombies!

David Rawle, one of Ireland’s most recognisable up-and-coming young talents stars as Dermot. Best known for his role in the popular TV series Moone Boy, his other credits include Song of the Sea, Property of the State and Time and Again.



### **LUCY MAHER - Aisling**

Local Tubbershandy girl, Aisling who has taken a shine to Lulu and loves everything that is Summer Bay. She’s often found around town shivering in summer dresses and insists on hanging out at the beach come rain, hail, or shine....and in Tubbershandy it’s mostly rain!

Lucy has performed in numerous productions in theatres all over Leinster, most recently Lucy performed in a 1916 play 'Whom We Deliver' for Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin. A music lover, Lucy plays the Guitar, Ukulele, Piano and Violin and in her spare time she loves to paint.

With special guest appearances by Tina Bursill, Ada Nicodemou, Shane Worthington, Anne Tenney, Jonathan Biggins, Paul Livingston and The Umbilical Brothers' Shane Dundas.

### **The talented writing ensemble includes**

Stephen Abbott | Shayne Armstrong | Warren Coleman | Richie Conroy  
Rachael Coopes | Edwina Exton | Kitty Flanagan | Penny Flanagan | Kate Forster  
David Hoey | Shane Krause | Paul Livingston | Tadhg Mac Dhonnagain  
Greg O'Braonain | Joel Slack-Smith | Martin Threlfell

### **The series is led by an internationally experienced team of producers**

#### **Air Pig Productions**

Executive Producer Sally Browning

#### **Ambience Entertainment**

Producer Kylie Mascord  
Co-Producer Keaton Stewart  
Executive Producer Monica O'Brien  
Executive Producer Michael Boughen  
Executive Producer Matthew Street

#### **Telegael Productions**

Producer Christine O'Connor  
Executive Producer Paul Cummins

#### **For more information, contact**

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