

# Rock along for a night of nostalgia

Come on, baby boomers! You won't be able to resist this, **Ron Cerabona** writes

**W**hen you want to stage a mini-history of rock 'n' roll focusing on the 1960s and '70s, who better to front it than someone who was there? Veteran singer and actor Jon English is the front man for *The Rock Show*, in which 10 performers ranging in age from 16 to 60 (no prizes for guessing who's 60) take the audience on an energetic tour of two of the greatest decades in rock music. The first act covers the 1960s – the likes of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Beach boys, Simon and Garfunkel – while the second act deals with the '70s – Led Zeppelin, The Who, Meat Loaf, and many more.

English, whose career encompasses everything from rock musical star (he played Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*) to vocalist (with hits like *Hollywood Seven*), says of his fellow performers, "They're kids – it's a relative term; to me they are: they're under 30."

And, in fact, the show's music director, Isaac Hayward, is younger still: at 17, he already plays five different instruments including guitar, piano and cello.

But it's English who has the name and the reputation and the star aura, though he wears it all lightly. He describes *The Rock Show* as being like a tribute band to a whole bunch of different bands, with everyone involved being a multi-talented performer. As for concentrating on the



Performers aged from 16 to 60, including Jon English, will take us on a musical trip back to the '60s and '70s.

1960s and '70s, he says, "How long do you want the show to be?!" A baby boomer himself and a member of the consuming public as well as, later, a performer, he thinks the period spanned by *The Rock Show* – "my era" – was the most creative for rock 'n' roll. With the highlights including Bob Dylan's *Blowin' in the Wind*, AC/DC's *Let There Be Rock*, and what English describes as "a monster version of *Good Vibrations*", it's not hard to see what he means.

And yes, there will be some of his material in the show. "You can't not, really."

*The Rock Show* is intended to be fun, he says.

"It's not a lecture by any stretch of the imagination."

Director Stuart Smith, who's 32 and also plays piano and sings in the show, says the idea for *The Rock Show* came up last year when a theatre manager in Nowra wanted a show for the Australia Day weekend.

"I'd been working on a rockumentary show with my friend Isaac Hayward," he says, "about when rock 'n' roll turned into different forms – folk rock,

soul rock." For Smith, the '60s and '70s are when rock defined itself, with bands like The Beatles, the Stones, Queen and The Who, individuals such as Dylan and festivals like Woodstock and Monterey making their impact on the culture of the time.

The deadline spurred definitive action – including the involvement of English, a friend of his – and the show became a reality, going into a sold-out second week of performances. Canberra is only the second city to see *The Rock Show* before it goes on a tour of regional NSW. Intriguingly, he says

that the band always knows by the end of the first act what sort of audience it has and tailors its finale accordingly.

"We know if it's a Deep Purple audience, a Zeppelin audience, a pop audience," he says.

What sort of audience will Canberra be?

■ *The Rock Show* is on at the ANU Arts Centre on June 5 and 6 at 8pm (show only tickets \$37.50). Dinner and show packages are available from Teatro Vivaldi from 7pm for \$70. Bookings: phone 6257 2718.

## ARTS IN BRIEF

### Kidman pulls out

Nicole Kidman has scrapped plans to star in an upcoming Woody Allen movie due to start filming in London later this year, entertainment industry press report.

The Oscar-winning Australian star was expected to have been part of an all-star cast that also includes Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Brolin and Naomi Watts. No reason for the 41-year-old's withdrawal has been given, *Variety* reported.

### Jackman in a Western

Australian heartthrob Hugh Jackman and British actress Rachel Weisz are to star in a long-awaited Western directed by actress

Madeleine Stowe, *Daily Variety* reports. Weisz, a best supporting actress Oscar winner in 2006 for *The Constant Gardener*, is to play a woman whose husband is killed and children kidnapped by a Comanche war party in 1859, *Variety* reported. Wolverine star Jackman is to play a frontiersman who rescues Weisz. Teen idol Robert Pattinson, the star of vampire hit *Twilight* has also signed for the film, titled *Unbound Captives*. AFP

### Scorsese on Sinatra

Martin Scorsese will be telling Frank Sinatra's life story on film. Universal Pictures says the Academy Award-winning filmmaker will direct Sinatra, the first feature film about Ol' Blue Eyes' life. AP

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<b>3D</b>	<b>ANGELS AND DEMONS (M)</b> • MON 10.00, 10.30, 11.50, 12.30, 1.40, 2.40, 3.40, 4.30, 5.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30PM	<b>GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (M)</b> MON 12.10, 2.15, 6.50, 9.00PM
<b>SPECIAL EVENT CONDITIONS APPLY</b>	<b>STAR TREK (M)</b> • MON 10.30, 12.15, 1.15, 3.00, 4.00, 5.45, 6.45, 8.30, 9.15PM	<b>DEFIANCE (M)</b> MON 10.30, 3.30, 8.30PM
<b>JONAS BROTHERS 3D (G)</b> • MON 10.15, 12.00, 1.45, 3.30, 7.30PM	<b>OBSERVE AND REPORT (MA15+)</b> MON 10.45, 2.50, 4.50, 7.00, 9.00PM	<b>FAST &amp; FURIOUS (M)</b> MON 10.00, 1.15, 6.15PM
<b>MONSTERS VS ALIENS 3D (PG)</b> • MON 5.15PM	<b>X-MEN ORIGINS. WOLVERINE (M)</b> MON 12.00, 2.10, 4.20, 6.30, 8.45, 9.30PM	<b>17 AGAIN (PG)</b> MON 10.15AM
<b>CHINESE LANGUAGE FILM</b>	<b>SHINJUKU INCIDENT (MA15+)</b> MON 4.20PM	<b>BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS (M)</b> MON 10.00, 12.45PM
WODEN		
<b>ANGELS AND DEMONS (M)</b> • MON 10.00, 11.20, 12.50, 2.20, 3.40, 5.30, 6.30, 8.30, 9.30PM	<b>OBSERVE AND REPORT (MA15+)</b> MON 3.30, 5.20, 7.15, 9.10PM	<b>DEFIANCE (M)</b> MON 10.00, 12.45PM
<b>STAR TREK (M)</b> • MON 10.45, 12.15, 1.15, 2.45, 4.15, 5.45, 6.45, 8.15, 9.15PM	<b>X-MEN ORIGINS. WOLVERINE (M)</b> MON 10.00, 12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 8.15, 9.15PM	<b>FAST &amp; FURIOUS (M)</b> MON 11.00, 1.15, 6.00PM
<b>CHINESE LANGUAGE FILM</b>	<b>SHINJUKU INCIDENT (MA15+)</b> MON 4.20PM	<b>17 AGAIN (PG)</b> MON 10.00, 3.00PM
<b>ANGELS AND DEMONS (M)</b> • MON 10.10, 11.40, 1.00, 2.30, 3.50, 5.40, 6.40, 8.30, 9.30PM	<b>STAR TREK (M)</b> • MON 10.45, 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00PM	<b>MONSTERS VS ALIENS (PG)</b> # MON 10.15, 4.40PM
<b>X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (M)</b> MON 12.30, 2.40, 4.50, 7.00, 9.15PM	<b>OBSERVE AND REPORT (MA15+)</b> MON 10.30, 12.20, 2.15, 7.00, 8.50PM	<b>RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)</b> # MON 12.15, 4.20PM
<b>GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (M)</b> MON 10.30, 4.15PM	<b>DEFIANCE (M)</b> MON 10.30, 4.15PM	

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**GOMORRAH (MA15+)**  
Today/Tues 1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30, 9:20

**MARY AND MAX (PG)**  
Today/Tues 12:10pm

**STAR TREK XI (M)**  
Today/Tues 10:10am, 12:50pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:10

**SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK (M)**  
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Today/Tues 10:00am, 4:30pm, 9:00pm

**THE BOAT THAT ROCKED (M)**  
Today/Tues 10:00am, 1:15pm

**THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS (M)**  
Today/Tues 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 7:30pm

**TULPAN (M)**  
Today/Tues 10:00am, 2:10pm, 7:00pm

**X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (M)**  
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MANUKA	
<b>ANGELS AND DEMONS (M)</b> NO FREE TICKETS MON 10.15, 1.00, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30PM	<b>STAR TREK (M)</b> NO FREE TICKETS MON 10.45, 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.10PM
<b>X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (M)</b> MON 12.30, 2.40, 4.50, 7.00, 9.15PM	<b>GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (M)</b> MON 10.20, 12.30, 2.40, 6.50, 9.00PM
SAMSON AND DELILAH (MA15+)	
MON 10.30, 12.40, 2.45, 4.50, 7.00, 9.20PM	
DEFIANCE (M)	
MON 10.15, 1.00, 3.45PM	
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS (M)	
MON 10.30, 4.50, 9.20PM	
Q & A SCREENING WITH SACHA HORLER	
MY YEAR WITHOUT SEX (M)	
MON 6.30PM	

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**CINEMA & VIDEO**

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**CENSORSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS**

**TBC** This film has advertising approval. Check the classification closer to the release date.

**G** General

**PG** Parental Guidance recommended

**M** Recommended for mature audiences

**R18+** Restricted to 18 and over

**MA15+** Not suitable for people under 15. Under 15's must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian

**X18+** RESTRICTED TO 18 YEARS AND OVER