

# Jessica returns to her roots

Songs on a new album and upcoming national tour reveal a more personal side to Aussie pop princess Jessica Mauboy, writes **Chris Herden**



Jessica Mauboy's singing and acting career continues to soar since she first grabbed the nation's attention during the 2006 season of *Australian Idol*. At 24 she's already a veteran performer and recalls her parents telling her she was singing along to TV commercials and Michael Jackson songs from the age of about three. By 14 she had won her first singing contest, so it's no surprise to see she's already at the top of her game.

She is the highest-selling *Australian Idol* female artist and has notched up a swag of ARIA, APRA and MTV Awards, as her album and singles sales nudge towards the 2 million mark. Mauboy established herself as one of Australia's top talents when she was invited to perform for Oprah Winfrey and US President Obama in 2011, the same year she won rave reviews and an Australian film industry award as Best

Supporting Actress for her role in the smash Aussie film *The Sapphires*.

"I was away from musical performing for two years during the filming and it was a whole new world for me, but I was telling someone else's story and I wanted to do that well," Mauboy says ahead of her first headlining national tour

which begins in November. The experience reminds her of her childhood dreams of movie stardom. "*The Sound of Music* was my dream gig, and I used to perform in front of the mirror and stand there with a hair brush or with a mop and mimic a lot of Mariah Carey."

Mauboy is also a fan of Beyoncé and lived the dream when she was called up to be the Australian support artist during Beyoncé's 2009 world tour. "I know a lot of people see me as Australia's answer to Beyoncé but I'd like to be seen as more of a singer-songwriter. Watching her team put a show together was definitely helpful in preparing for my own tour but don't expect any flips in the air or booty-shaking like Beyoncé," she says.

The Queensland leg of the national tour starts in Brisbane on 19 November at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre and will showcase songs from her latest album, including the single *To The End Of The Earth*, as well as other popular hits.

"I want to get more personal and show everyone the back scene of where I come from," she says. "I wanted to tone it down from my second album, *Get 'Em Girls*, and not be so tricky with using effects and delays. I've found an honesty with this album."

For more show dates and to book tickets see [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au).

**SHOWCASE** From a new season of sport to a symphonic spectacular which celebrates the 50th anniversary of popular TV show *Doctor Who*, there are events in Brisbane to suit all ages this spring



## King Cohen

Like fine wine, some things get better with age and, at 78, Leonard Cohen continues to be one of the most influential songwriters of the time. He will make a rare appearance in Cairns and Townsville before playing the Brisbane Entertainment Centre on 30 November. Tickets from \$141.50 plus fee. See [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au).



## Doctor Who spectacular

Inspired by the Doctor Who Proms at Royal Albert Hall in London, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra will premiere the Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular for one night only on 8 February 2014 at Brisbane Entertainment Centre. Tickets on sale now \$76.80 plus fees. See [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au).