

THE Essential



NEW EPISODES, NEW FACES, SAME OLD JABBA FROM THURSDAY 16 AUGUST AT 9:30PM ON MAX

It's time to tell it like it is. After much anticipation, MAX's ultimate countdown show: **THE ESSENTIAL 20**, returns to your screens this **August**. In all new episodes, incomparable host, **Jabba** is back to dish the dirt on music.

Have you ever wondered how much more fun *20 to 1* would be with someone as unpredictable as **Jabba** at the reins? Wonder no more! An exclusive, six-part series, each episode counts down the 20 most essential music lists from all over the music spectrum. Dosed up with **Jabba's** comedic flare and featuring commentary from notable music experts – artists, critics and industry heavyweights – new episodes of **THE ESSENTIAL 20** premiere **Thursday 16 August at 9.30pm**.

If you love music, trivia or just want to hear an anecdote from some industry legends, take a trip down memory lane and tune in to a topical collaboration of entertainment as the series kicks off with **THE ESSENTIAL 20 Gone Too Soon** – which looks at musicians who've had their careers (and lives) cut short. Other themes throughout the series include *Love Songs*, *Guitar Gods* and *Break Up Songs* that will take you on a wild ride of highs and lows.

Each 60 minute episode is packed with commentary from famous faces across the musical landscape including the likes of, **Jimmy Barnes, Dave Gleeson, Josh Pyke, Megan Washington, Brian McFadden, Diesel, Shannon Noll, Merrick Watts, Brian Mannix, Deni Hines, James Reyne, Andrew Mercado, Sarah McLeod** and more.

THE ESSENTIAL 20 is a locally-produced series and a uniquely Australian representation of stories in music history. Its upbeat format gives exclusive access to artists and industry heads as they provide insightful commentary on each of the topics.

If you only watch one countdown show this year, make it **THE ESSENTIAL 20**. Brand new episodes screening **Thursdays at 9.30pm from 16 August**, exclusive to MAX.

THE ESSENTIAL 20 – NEW EPISODES

World TV Premiere

Thursday 16 August at 9.30pm

Screening Thursdays

Produced by & Exclusive to MAX

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THE ESSENTIAL 20: EPISODE GUIDE

1. THE ESSENTIAL 20: GONE TOO SOON

Thursday 16 August at 9:30pm

In this episode we take a look at musicians who had their careers (and lives) cut a little short. There are the plane crashes, the autoerotic asphyxia, the shootings, suicides and the drugs and booze. It's not always pretty, but it is, in slightly morbid way, quite lighthearted. As usual Jabba charges us through the list with expert comments by our industry heavyweights.

2. THE ESSENTIAL 20: LOVE SONGS

Thursday 23 August at 9:30pm

The Essential 20: *Love Songs* is a chance to cry, hug and possibly puke. By the end of this episode you'll either be engaged (legally or otherwise) or have a cat. Here we're reminded that some of the most shocking affronts to good taste have simultaneously been some of the biggest hits in history, and even if we think we hate them, we still know all the words. As usual our team of trained experts give us their thoughts on the schmaltz.

3. THE ESSENTIAL 20: GUITAR GODS

Thursday 30 August at 9:30pm

In this episode we look at the kings of the riffs – a theme that almost always attracts dispute. This list is definitely one for the music lovers. For the people that know Jimi Hendrix played a right-handed guitar upside down and that Joe Satriani actually isn't bald – oh wait, he really is. From Tom Morello from Rage Against The Machine, through to the metal gods and the living legends, *Guitar Gods* is a great ride through solo after solo.

4. THE ESSENTIAL 20: AUSSIE ARTISTS

Thursday 6 September at 9:30pm

You'll never have felt so proud of our musical heritage after watching The Essential 20: Aussie Artists. Some will say there are some criminal omissions and there's the usual creative geography, but in the end, this list of Top 20 Australian artists will leave you more patriotic than watching The Ashes. Half of these people could be our Prime Minister.

5. THE ESSENTIAL 20: BEST OF BRITISH

Thursday 13 September at 9:30pm

When it comes to producing music legends, Britain leads the way. The Essential 20: Best Of British will apply the usual controversial cleaving blade and come up with the best of an amazing bunch. You'll be screaming and rejoicing at who pops up in the list. Just a warning so you're not disappointed though: there's no East 17 and the Number 1 spot is again not really negotiable!

6. THE ESSENTIAL 20: BREAK UP SONGS

Thursday 20 September at 9:30pm

The Essential 20: *Break Up Songs* is another list that'll have you heading to the pet shop for cats. We apologise in advance! Whether it's the wallowing in self-pity ballads, the self-empowerment anthems, or the acts of contrition, we've got breaking up covered. We'll be patching it up with everyone from Kelly Clarkson, to Nancy Sinatra, Phil Collins (sorry), Michael Bolton (sorry again), Jeff Buckley, Cee-Lo Green and Roy Orbison.

