

A promotional image for Miriam Margolyes in New Zealand. She is in the foreground, wearing a tan jacket and a bright orange scarf, with a surprised expression. The background features a scenic view of a turquoise lake, purple lupine flowers, and mountains under a blue sky with a large white fern frond graphic.

# MIRIAM MARGOLYES

**IN NEW ZEALAND**



# DIVE HEADFIRST INTO AN UNEXPECTED ADVENTURE WITH ONE OF THE MOST KEEN-EYED OBSERVERS ON THE PLANET

This two-part special follows the irrepressible Miriam Margolyes as she embarks on another adventure in preparation for a New Zealand film role...as a Kiwi nun!

As a dual British-Australian citizen, the celebrated actress has spent the past 40 years coming and going from her home in Sydney. But she's ashamed to say she knows very little about the nation that is one of Australia's closest friends and allies.

Determined to overcome her ignorance and prepare for her new film role, Miriam embarks on a road trip across New Zealand's North and South Islands, to find out what it means to be a Kiwi today.

The ever-intrepid British-Australian dives headfirst into the journey – meeting the people who call New Zealand home, uncovering revealing stories, and finding herself both hilariously surprised and unexpectedly challenged.

As ever, Miriam confronts her own prejudices – developing a new appreciation for rugby and a surprising affiliation for hobbits. Coming face-to-face with members of the notorious Mongrel Mob gang, she finds strength and kindness in the face of adversity.

Spending time in communities across the country, Miriam digs into what makes New Zealand unique, including the ways in which it is tackling the challenges it faces today.

As she explores this far-flung country of just over five million people, Miriam uncovers a fierce, passionate and diverse nation that's unlike any other, and one that offers surprising lessons for us all.



FACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT  
HD 2 X 60'  
SOUTHERN PICTURES





1.1M+

PREMIERE EPISODE EXCEEDING  
1.1M TOTAL AUDIENCE



+9%

PROGRAM PERFORMED 9% ABOVE  
TOTAL AUDIENCE TARGETS



Top 10

NETWORK'S TOP 10  
PROGRAMS IN TX YEAR







## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

'Miriam Margolyes is the David Attenborough of humans'

– **The Guardian**

'If there's one thing Miriam Margolyes wants her new documentary to be, it's entertaining – and thanks in large part to the beloved, no-holds-barred host, the two-part series certainly is that'

– **Women's Day**

'An incredibly timely show...taking viewers on an entertaining and thoughtful trip around the country'

– **The Spin Off**

'Filled with shades of Margolyes' trademark droll humour, mixed with heartfelt moments where Margolyes chats to everyday Kiwis about what it means to be a New Zealander'

– **NZ Herald**





## SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

What a beautiful series full of beautiful people...  
love it!!

– **kirstaluna**

Fantastic!!! Love this lady and her straight talking.  
The way she uncovers areas/topics that others  
ignore 💜 Just loved her Oz series so waiting with  
bated breath for this one

– **Cheryl.gedye**

Miriam is a true icon. So glad she came to New  
Zealand to experience our kiwi culture

– **Les**

When can we watch this in the UK!!!!

– **Craig William McGhee**

Love this lady. She brings something so different  
than others. Beyond compare xo

– **nOs**

Miriam makes me literally laugh out loud & wonder  
why I get so worried about what other people  
think! Love it! 😊

– **Doreen Bruhn**



# EPISODES

## Episode One:

Determined to get to know New Zealand before taking on her first film role in the country as a Kiwi nun, Miriam Margolyes embarks on a road trip around the North Island. Beginning in Wellington, the nation's capital, Miriam dives headfirst into the distinct culture of New Zealand today. She discovers a country that is fanatical about rugby – a sport she 'loathes' – and finds it has many other surprises up its sleeve!

Along the way, she discovers an unexpected affinity with hobbits – and uncovers how New Zealand's unique Māori heritage is shaping its identity today.

## Episode Two:

Miriam Margolyes heads south on her first New Zealand road-trip. To better understand the country and its people, she confronts the challenges facing the nation today and explores how Kiwis are responding to them.

As intrepid and outspoken as ever, Miriam tackles the issue of gangs, meeting a member of the notorious Mongrel Mob. Following in the footsteps of the character she'll be playing in her first New Zealand film, Miriam ventures into the remote and rugged South Island. Here she comes face-to-face historic rivalries – and finds strength and kindness in the face of adversity.





# KEY TALENT



## Miriam Margolyes

A veteran of stage and screen, celebrated actor Miriam Margolyes has been coined ‘the David Attenborough of humans’ for her innate ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

Her extraordinary curiosity and empathy has led Miriam on adventures across numerous countries — including on the award-winning trilogy, *Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian* (ABC, BBC), *Miriam Margolyes: Australia Unmasked*, which won the 2022 AACTA Award for Best Documentary Series and *Miriam Margolyes: Impossibly Australian* which has been nominated for the 2024 AACTA Award for Best Documentary Series.

Priming her appetite for social commentary and adventure, Miriam’s earliest roles were in theatre, where she took the stage in Cambridge Footlights productions. From there she began to take on television roles of increasing significance including *Blackadder* and the acclaimed BBC adaptation of *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*, and film roles including *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *The Age of Innocence*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Babe*.

Known from her many talk show appearances, Miriam has been famously acclaimed by both Graham Norton and Andrew Denton as being one of their all-time favourite guests.

Miriam’s relationship to Australia has always been an enduring one, upheld through longstanding relationships with close friends such as the Manning Clark family, Germaine Greer, Clive James and her life partner of 56 years, Heather Sutherland.

Since 2013, Margolyes has also been an Australian citizen, sharing her time between work in Europe and England, and her home in the Southern Highlands of NSW.



# KEY CREATIVES



## Southern Pictures PRODUCTION COMPANY

Southern Pictures is a market leader in creating original screen IP for the international marketplace, existing to tell entertaining and eye-opening stories.

An independent, woman-led production company with an undeniable record for gaining access and intimacy, Southern Pictures has achieved significant global audience success in original formats and programming including the AACTA Award winning *Hawke: The Larrikin and the Leader* (ABC), *Missing Persons Investigation* (Nine Network, Fremantle US), *Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian* (Netflix, BBC, ABC), the AACTA winning *Miriam Margolyes: Australia Unmasked* (BBC, ABC), and *The Swap* (SBS) which won the MIPCOM Diversify Television Award in 2023.

The latest Miriam series, *Miriam Margolyes: Impossibly Australian* has recently been nominated for a 2024 AACTA Award for Best Documentary Series.

### Executive Producer

Paulo Vivan

### Producers

Georgia Woodward, Mary Durham,  
Kirstin Quayle-Graham

### Director

Ariel White

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