

line-up and a 'Big Day Out' tour

Wiggles John Pearce, Tsehay Hawkins, Anthony Field, Lucia Field, Simon Pryce, Evie Ferris, Caterina Mete and Lachlan Gillespie. Picture: David Caird



This is Anthony Wiggle speaking not Dad

Anthony Field

Speaking to daughter Lucia

dance! It's just really beautiful, it means the world to me because I guess it makes me know that what we're doing is really changing things, to help young people feel more confident in themselves.

"That's exciting."

John Pearce, once a heart-throb in chart-topping pop group Justice Crew, has also had a profound impact on The Wiggles' shifting audience.

His dance and exercise Tik-Toks are melting hearts and viewer stats. And selling tickets to teen fangirls and their



mums. He is teased relentlessly on and off stage by his Wiggly family because it's become a thing to wave "I'm Here For John" signs at the shows.

"The Wiggles is for the whole family," he said diplomatically. "We use TikTok like any other social media platform as a creative outlet, we do it ourselves and love to try different content."

"That's part of what we do as The Wiggles, to encourage people to be creative and follow their dreams."

The Wiggly Big Day Out tour kicks off at the Canberra Theatre on November 4 and winds up at ICC Sydney on December 23. Tickets are on sale from 10am on July 20 from thewiggles.com

The Kid Laroi with the Wiggles (above). Picture: Twitter. The Wiggles(right) on the cover of Rolling Stone Australia.

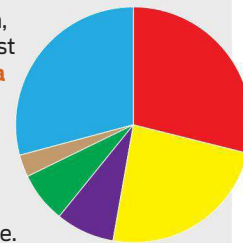


BY THE NUMBERS THE WIGGLES

200,000,000 streams

Spotify: More than 200 million streams in 2022, with more than two billion total streams across all platforms.

YouTube: Over the past month, **American** fans account for the most views (29%), followed by **Australia** (24%), **UK** (8%), **Canada** (7%) and **New Zealand** (3%). **Ireland, Italy, Germany, Brazil, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Pakistan** account for 29% of the audience.



4.1 million followers

Socials: Each day, The Wiggles' YouTube channel receives more than two million video views and gains more than 1000 new subscribers, and is watched by more than 10 million unique users each month. The Wiggles' social channels have 4.1 million followers across YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok.

350 live shows in 2022

Live/Music/TV: In 2022, The Wiggles performed more than 350 shows to more than 350,000 fans worldwide. The Wiggles made history in 2022, becoming the first act to play two separate arena tours around Australia in a calendar year, with sellout shows in April and December.

Musical instruments in a live show: guitar, bass, drums, keys, trumpet, bouzouki, banjo, bagpipes.
Dance styles in a live show: ballet, contemporary, Latin, hip-hop.

80	9	9	18	400
Studio albums	Live albums	Compilation albums	Number of ARIA Awards	Number of TV episodes

Extreme US heat sparks warnings

Tens of millions of Americans are facing dangerously high temperatures this weekend as a powerful heatwave stretches across the southwest.

The heat dome has been posing serious health risks.

Arizona capital Phoenix will record its 15th straight day above 43C, while the weather service in Las Vegas warned that assuming high

temperatures naturally came with the area's desert climate was "a dangerous mindset". "This heatwave is not typical desert heat due to its long duration, extreme daytime temperatures and warm nights," it said.

California's famous Death Valley, one of the hottest places on Earth, is also likely to reach new peaks on Sunday, with the mercury possibly rising to 54C.

Meanwhile, the Acropolis in Athens, Greece's top tourist attraction, closed to protect visitors as the country sweltered. Temperatures reached 39C in Athens on Friday local time, and parts of the country could see highs as much as 44C on Saturday, according to the national weather service EMY.

'We are in uncharted territory', P58-59

Fungus offers fire solutions

Sam McNeill

Paper-thin fungi could be the green solution to fireproofing buildings and preventing deadly blazes, Melbourne researchers have found.

Scientists from RMIT have discovered a way to grow sheets of mycelium – the roots of the fungus – that can be engineered for a variety of purposes, including flat panels for homes and even leather-like

material for the fashion industry.

Associate Professor Tien Huynh says her team has found a way to harness the fungi's fire-retardant properties through chemically manipulating its composition.

"We found a way to grow pure mycelium sheets that can be layered and engineered into different uses," said Professor Huynh, an expert in biotechnology and mycology.

She said the discovery could help create fire-retardant cladding for buildings to prevent future tragedies such as the Grenfell Tower fire in London, which killed 72 people in the 24-storey apartment inferno.

Associate Professor Everson Kandare, an expert in flammability, said unlike composite cladding, which releases toxic fumes when it burns, bio-derived mycelium was a natural alternative.