

From Centrestage – Casey Donovan and Aaron Pedersen page 6

From centrestage

ALL EYES WILL BE ON AARON PEDERSEN AND
CASEY DONOVAN AT THIS YEAR'S DEADLYS

The all-rounder

He's an actor known and loved across Australia for his roles in high-profile television dramas – most recently playing Detective Senior Constable Duncan Freeman in Seven's *City Homicide* – and in 2011, Aaron Pedersen will also become the newest host of the Deadly Awards.

Aaron's connection with the Deadlys goes back to 2003, when he won Male Actor of the Year. He won it again in 2007 and also received a nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Film for the documentary *My Brother Vinnie*, which he wrote and acted in.

He's played a doctor, a lawyer and a cop, and he's been nominated for both a Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Actor and an AFI Award for Best Actor in a Drama for his performance in the SBS series, *The Circuit*. He's also starred in the popular TV shows *Wildside*, *Water Rats* and *The Secret Life of Us*.

This Arrernte/Arbana man born in the central desert town of Alice Springs with a swag of film and television credits behind him and a committed audience, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, has been described as 'a quiet, one-man revolution on Australian TV'.

He's also a passionate advocate for his people, using his talents and his craft to raise awareness on the hard issues. He's been to New York to perform a reading of *Conversations with the Dead*, Richard Frankland's compelling play about his experience as an investigative officer for the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, and addressed the United Nations.

Quite simply, he's a role model in Australia and he'll be bringing his talent, reputation and entertaining ways to centrestage at the Deadlys.

Feeling right at home

The Deadlys and the Sydney Opera House are familiar territory for Casey Donovan. In fact, Sydney's famous landmark has played the setting to some of the big highlights of Casey's career.

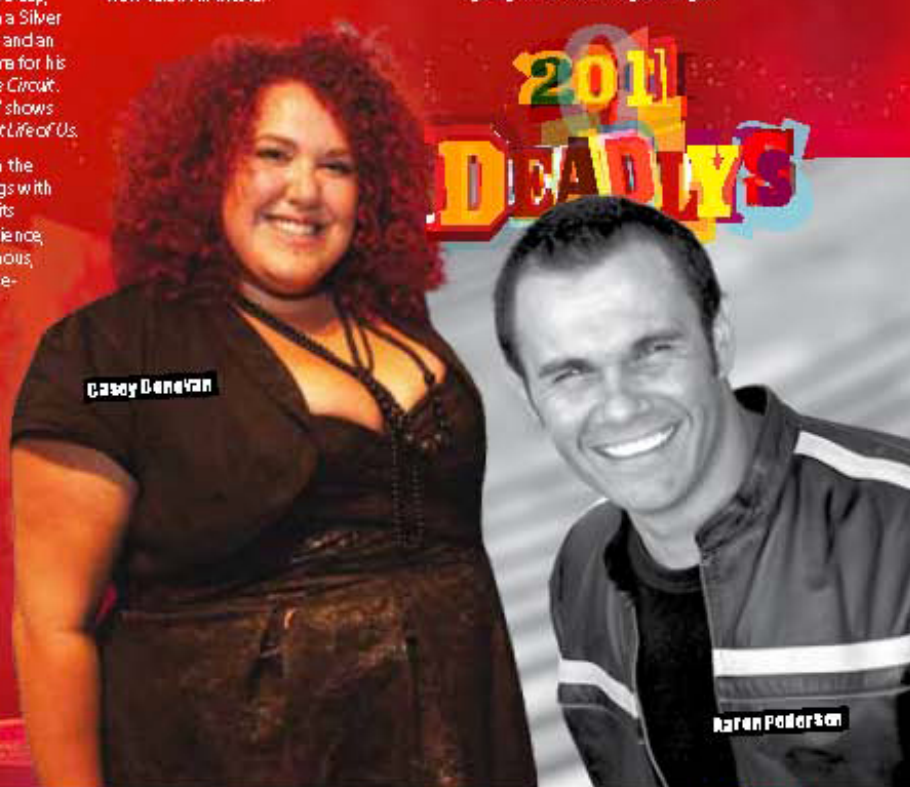
In 2004, a 16-year-old Casey shot to national stardom when she became the second person to win the talent contest *Australian Idol*, the finale of which was held in the very same concert hall in which the Deadlys have been staged for the past 16 years.

In 2004, Casey also visited the Opera House Concert Hall, this time to accept her first Deadly Award for Most Promising New Talent in Music.

Since then, Casey's been a regular presence at the Deadlys, picking up several more awards including Album of the Year and Single of the Year, and delivering a series of standout performances.

Now, things have come full circle with Casey stepping up to host an event that's become close to her heart – and anyone who knows Casey bristling with confidence and humour in last year's hit musical *The Supphies*, will know she's tailor-made for the Deadlys stage as one of the event's new hosts.

"As always I think there are going to be lots of surprises," says Casey. "It's going to be another great night."



The Deadly Awards are a special event held every year to celebrate the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to their community and to Australian society.

You will recognise a lot of national and local role models at the Deadlys.

This year, Casey Donovan and Aaron Pedersen will host the awards.



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Building reading skills

- skimming and scanning for information
- reading headings, text boxes and pictures
- reading for meaning
- making connections between the text and your world

There are three levels of comprehension questions:

Literal The answer is located in one sentence in the text.

Inferred You need to make links between sentences and graphics (such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.

Applied The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.

ACTIVITY 1 READING FOR MEANING

Shade one bubble.

1. Which event will Casey Donovan and Aaron Pedersen co-host this year?

- ☐ The Sydney Opera House
- ☐ The Deadly Awards
- ☐ City Homicide
- ☐ *My Brother Vinnie*

(literal)

2. What is Aaron Pedersen best known for?

- ☐ singing
- ☐ playing football
- ☐ acting
- ☐ his job as a police officer

(inferential)

3. In which year did Casey Donovan win a Deadly award?

- ☐ 2004
- ☐ 2006
- ☐ 2009
- ☐ 2011

(inferred)

ACTIVITY 2 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS - SPELLING

The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined.

Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.

1. Casey Donovan is a grate singer.

2. Aaron Pedersen one the Male Actor of the Year Award.

3. They will give is the best performance ever.

Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.

Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

1. They are both very experianced.

2. Will you be in the audiance?

3. It will be very entertaneing.

ACTIVITY 3 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – GRAMMAR

Shade one bubble.

Which word correctly completes these sentences?

1. Watch the Deadlys for lots of _____.

- ☐ surprise
- ☐ surprised
- ☐ surprising
- ☐ surprises

2. Casey and Aaron will host the show together because _____ work well together.

- ☐ it
- ☐ them
- ☐ they
- ☐ he

3. Which word correctly completes this sentence?

_____ is ready for this year's Deadlys.

- ☐ Every-thing
- ☐ every-thing
- ☐ Everything
- ☐ Every Thing

4. Which words mean the same as "centrestage"?

- ☐ standing in the middle of the stage
- ☐ being the centre of attention
- ☐ staying in the background
- ☐ being part of the audience

ACTIVITY 4 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – PUNCTUATION

1. Which sentence has the apostrophe (') in the correct place?

- ☐ They are co-hosting the Deadlys'.
- ☐ They are both star's.
- ☐ You'll have a great time at the Deadlys.
- ☐ You shouldn't' miss this event.

2. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- ☐ You will see lots of stars, hear great songs and watch professional dancers at the Deadlys.
- ☐ You will see lots of stars hear great songs and watch professional dancers at the Deadlys
- ☐ You will see, lots of stars, hear great songs, and watch professional dancers at the Deadlys.
- ☐ You will see lots of stars, hear, great songs, and, watch professional dancers, at the Deadlys.

3. Put the two missing apostrophes (') where they should go in this sentence.

Shes one of Australias most talented singers.

4. How could these two simple sentences be made into one complex sentence?

Casey has won many awards. Casey's awards include a Deadly Award for Most Promising New Talent in Music.

5. Which punctuation is correct in this sentence?

- ☐ Will we see you at the Deadlys .
- ☐ Will we see you at the Deadlys !
- ☐ Will we see you at the Deadlys ?
- ☐ Will we see you at the Deadlys ,

ACTIVITY 5 WRITING A BIOGRAPHY

A Biographical Recount retells the stages in a person's life.

This genre of text always starts with an **Orientation** to explain why the person is remembered, then gives a **Record of Stages** in the person's life (such as when and where they were born, growing up, school life, career highlights etc).

Choose a person who has been nominated for a Deadly Award to research.

Fill in their details in the table below.

Person's name	
Where they were born	
When they were born	
Growing up - where they went to school, early life	
Main achievements and career highlights	