



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## From the edge of obscurity to the verge of celebrity.

Perrier Comedy Award winner, actor, composer, pianist, musical director and less we not forget, "Rock 'n' Roll Megastar" (self proclaimed, however).

Australian born Tim Minchin has taken the world of comedy and music by storm with his eccentric appearance and darkly comedic songs – all of which captured in the Rhian Skirving documentary *Rock 'n' Roll Nerd*, playing as part of the DOCNZ Focus season on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chronicling the three years from his debut in Scotland, *Rock n Roll nerd* charts the dizzying heights attained after his run in Edinburgh, television appearances and press attention from across the world, recording his sophomore album and suffering "second album syndrome" and the move from his hometown of Melbourne to London – all the while trying to provide for his childhood-sweetheart-turned-wife and their young daughter **and** try to live up to the hype.

Minchin achieved one of the most successful premiere seasons at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2005 and picking up their prestigious newcomer gong, held by such prolific comedians as *The Mighty Boosh*, Arj Barker, Josie Long and Harry Hill and is one of a handful of comedians who transcends between music and comedy – following in the steps of Tenacious D and our very own Flight Of The Conchords, and releasing two CD's to critical and commercial acclaim.

Working as a freelance writer/director, Rhian Skirving's work has taken her across Australia filming *The Snakebuster* series for Discovery's Animal Planet, Micronesia for National Geographic's *Shipwreck Detectives* and Turkey with *Shipwreck Detectives II*. Her documentary *The Kindness of Strangers*, which surrounded Sri Lanka after the 2005 tsunami, garnered her the 2007 Eureka Science Prize for Scientific Journalism, the 2006 ATOM award for Best Documentary Human Story and a Remi Award at Worldfest Houston International Film Festival.

This month's guests for the post-show panel discussion and forum include Jacqui Brown, fresh from her performance on the acclaimed TV3 series *The Jacqui Brown Diaries* alongside the show's writer, director and co-creator Gerard Johnstone and NZ Comedy Festival Director Kylie Atchinson, who has seen first hand Minchin in action at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The Documentary NZ Trust is proud to bring this eccentric, heartfelt and above all else hilarious "rags to rich rags" tale to audiences in Auckland as part of the DOCNZ Focus initiative – six documentary movies screening every two months in the Academy Cinema, Auckland, with a chance to discuss movies with not only with other doc-enthusiasts but also with a panel of guests with a distinct relevancy to the films shown.

**Rock 'n' Roll Nerd** – as part of the DOCNZ Focus Season  
30<sup>th</sup> September 2008  
Academy Cinema, Auckland

**Annual Membership Fee (prices include GST)**  
Single membership - \$78.75  
Dual membership - \$146.25  
Students and OAP's - \$67.50

For more information on DOCNZ Focus and registration, visit [www.docnz.org.nz](http://www.docnz.org.nz)

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