



## Bruce Hopkins.

**Height** 182 cm

MC/Entertainer Biography  
**JOHNSON&LAIRD**

It's safe to say that few crayfishermen would dream of becoming professional dancers. Bruce Hopkins did though and in the space of six months the fourth-generation Stewart Islander went from cray pot hauler to fully fledged member of a dance company.

Lord of the Rings fans will recognise Bruce as Gamling, commander of the horse riding armies of Rohan, and talkback lovers will know him as 'Les' from his top-rating Sunday night radio show on Newstalk ZB. He has entertained at brewing baron Douglas Myers wedding, and sung at Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's 50th birthday in her Bay of Islands home; Bruce's CV needs more pages than the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Quick with a quip, and a master of improvisation, Bruce's musings on the human experience makes him a sought-after MC, speaker and entertainer.

He's wrangled the crowd at the World Dairy Summit, and kept the 1200-strong crowd laughing at the hairdressing industry Oscars, the L'Oreal Colour Trophy awards. And he's clearly a hit with software company Advanced Professional Solutions which has hired him for the past 13 years to MC its client conferences.

After ditching the ocean life, Bruce spent eight years dancing with Impulse Dance Theatre in New Zealand and Australia, touring with the New Zealand Ballet Company and dancing for the acclaimed Limbs Dance Company.

Legendary theatre actor and director Raymond Hawthorne asked him to perform in Auckland's Mercury Theatre production of West Side Story and, after a sell-out season, Bruce gave up dance and became a full-time Mercury member. He has trod the boards in countless productions, most recently as the psychologically tortured lead in a sell-out season of the Silo Theatre's Macbeth. He was also on the wining team of the inaugural New Zealand Theatresports championships and represented New Zealand in Brisbane at the international competition.

Not shy of taking a stand for what he believes in, Bruce has used his voice to good effect at anti-GE rallies, and spoken up about actors' equity issues. He's also an active member of Amnesty International, and belongs to Greenpeace.

A father of three, Bruce has a special interest in at-risk youth. While in Los Angeles on Lord of the Rings business, Bruce started working on a reading programme with at-risk youth, and has since been awarded a commendation from LA County for his efforts. He has a few similar projects on the boil in New Zealand, and also hopes to set up a visiting programme between rest homes and primary schools. He has also sponsored children through CCF (the Crippled Children's Fund) for more than a decade.

His youth is littered with sporting acclaim: he won a bronze at the national surf lifesaving championships, captained the Otago under-20s rugby team, and toured Australia in the New Zealand secondary schools waterpolo team.

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To relax Bruce heads out west with his surfboard to catch the waves at Piha, or clears his mind with yoga. He dreams of buying a Triumph Bonneville motorbike, and riding off into the horizon to become a nomad.

## **Testimonials.**

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Bruce was exceptional. On the actual night he produced the exact performance we had envisioned with an uncanny instinct for what was needed - '2008 L'Oreal Colour Trophy Awards'.

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Bruce has been an exceptional MC at every event. Bruce is a unique character, able to mix professionalism with his down to earth and hilarious sense of humour. Our audience of Chartered Accountants is the ultimate test for an MC. Bruce is loved by our clients as much as he is by our staff, a testament to his energetic personality and the fantastic job that he's done for us over many years- 'APS Conference'.