



## Jennifer Te Atamira Ward-Lealand

**Height** 180 cm

**Pronouns** She/Her

MC / Entertainer Biography

# Johnson&Laird

### Event Highlights.

- 2025** Xena Event LA, Creation - Entertainer/Speaker
- 2025** Anzac Day Dawn & National Services, The Department of Internal Affairs - MC
- 2024** Anzac Day Dawn & National Services, The Department of Internal Affairs - MC
- 2024** NZCS Awards, New Zealand Cinematographers Society - MC
- 2024** Survivors In Care Event, Oranga Tamariki - MC
- 2023** Tūwhitia Symposium, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa - MC
- 2023** Best Design Awards 2023, The Designers Institute of New Zealand - MC
- 2023** NZCS Awards - New Zealand Cinematographers Society - MC
- 2022** NZCS Awards, New Zealand Cinematographers Society - MC
- 2022** Physiotherapy NZ, Conference Innovators - Speaker
- 2022** Best Design Awards 2022, The Designers Institute of NZ - MC
- 2022** Best Design Awards 2021, The Designers Institute of New Zealand - MC
- 2021** PPTA Education Conference 2021, Conference Events Ltd. - Speaker
- 2021** Philanthropy Summit 2021, Philanthropy NZ - Speaker

Jennifer Te Atamira Ward-Lealand is one of New Zealand's most recognised and respected actors, having worked in theatre, film and television for over 40 years. Not only is she an award winning actor; she is a director, board member, MC, judge, Keynote Speaker, live performance host, panellist and Intimacy Coordinator. Among many honours, she was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for her significant contribution to the arts.

### Mission

Jennifer's dedicated service to her industry in her role as president of Equity New Zealand for over 15 years has seen her build the performers union from hundreds to thousands. Her work as one of the first accredited intimacy coordinators in New Zealand has ushered in a culture change around best practice for intimate scenes.

A champion of the arts, Jennifer is deeply curious, loves change, and doesn't want to sit still. Service is in her genetic makeup. She is working to make her industry a better and safer place.

Jennifer has been a student of Te Reo Māori since 2008. Her fluency and dedication contributed to her being named the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year in 2020. Jennifer brings her passion for Te Reo Māori into all of her work and feels a deep responsibility to use her platform to advocate for the language.

### Keynote

Whether advocating for Te Reo Māori, shining a light on a career in the arts, or advancing career inequities, Jennifer is as elegant as she is down-to-earth.

In hot-demand as an MC and Speaker for arts and corporate events, her warmth, self-assurance and wit have carried audiences at events such as the Whitecliffe Fashion Show (eight times), The New Zealand Institute of Architecture Awards (five times), and The Equity Lifetime Achievement Award (six times). Alongside this is a plethora of speaking projects that range from Developing women in Engineering (2022), to the NZ Opera School (2023). Her fluency in Te Reo Māori brings an added depth to her work.

Jennifer prides herself on her professionalism and encourages others to embrace creativity and change. She is an advocate for empathy and a builder of community.

### Testimonials.

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We had the absolute pleasure of having Jennifer as our MC for our recent awards event, and once again, she exceeded all our expectations. This is the third time we've invited her to lead our largest event of the year, and her invaluable screen industry knowledge and connections have consistently elevated our prestigious occasion. Jennifer's fluency in Te Reo Māori added a beautiful and meaningful touch, creating an inclusive atmosphere that resonated deeply with our diverse audience. Her professionalism and poise brought an undeniable energy to the evening, ensuring that the event flowed seamlessly and that all attendees had an engaging and enjoyable experience. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication, talent, and the warmth she brings to the screen industry. Jennifer is not just a fantastic MC; she's a wonderful person to work alongside, and we wholeheartedly recommend her for any future events.

NZCS Awards 2024

New Zealand Cinematographers Society

- **Amber Wakefield | Executive Officer**

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It was an absolute pleasure working alongside Jennifer for the Anzac Day 2024 Services held at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. Jennifer did amazingly and was so resilient with the very last-minute change to the Anzac Day National Service being cancelled to the public and a reduced service being held for Officials and relevant Veteran Associations. Jennifer's loving and caring nature and support to all event officials managing the last-minute changes was greatly appreciated. What Jennifer was able to achieve in such a short amount of time reflected her exceptional professionalism. The Visits and Ceremonial Official, Department of Internal Affairs looks forward to working with Jennifer again in the very near future.

Pukeahu Anzac Day Dawn & National Services 2024

The Department of Internal Affairs

- **Maraea Paul | Visits and Events Organizer**

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**Testimonials continued...**

Jennifer was a keynote speaker at the Philanthropy Summit 2021, speaking about her Te Reo Māori journey, learning's and implications. Jennifer was professional to work with, adaptable and focused on delivering to the needs of Philanthropy New Zealand and summit attendees. Initial feedback told us that Jennifer's talk was insightful and highly rated.

Philanthropy Summit 2021

- **Sue McCabe | Chief Executive Officer**

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Jennifer held the evening together with poise and confidence, and the audience in the Waterfront Theatre in Auckland was purring with delight at her Te Reo pronunciation and fluency. She's been integral to the success of the awards programme this year.

We have used Jennifer a number of times in the past ...this is because she is so reliable, professional and is able to adapt at a moment's notice. She takes the stress out of script-writing and the performance. She is the ultimate MC; proficient and skilled with class and mana. She is mesmerising to watch and a pleasure to work with.

New Zealand Institute of Architects 2020

- **Daryne Begbie | Events & Sponsorship Director**