



Jamie Bowen.

Height 176 cm

MC/Entertainer Biography
JOHNSON&LAIRD

You could be forgiven for collapsing in a state of exhaustion after a Jamie Bowen show. Notoriously manic on stage, the super-hyper human lightning bolt is prone to whipping up frenzy of fun.

And beware: audience participation is practically mandatory.

His routines take the audience on a journey through his life: his childhood, his relationships - almost nothing's sacred. However, J-Bo isn't just a lively joker. He keeps the fun flowing with power-pop performances on his ukulele. Who knew Gangsta's Paradise could sound so chirpy?

The four-time award winning comedian took to heart some advice his grandfather once gave him.

Jamie, you may grow old, but never grow up.

Jamie cut his comic teeth with the hugely successful comic trio GARY, who won Best New Face at the 2001 New Zealand International Comedy Festival and two Billy T James nominations the following years. In 2004 he hit the stand up circuit solo, and spent several years travelling and performing in Europe and Asia. His six-month stint at the Edinburgh Festival included performing in the New Zealand Comedy Showcase and also as part of Xprov, an extreme improvisation game. If you want to make him wince, just ask about the punishment for making a gaffe - it involves nipple clamps.

After a spell in Australia, where he created the character Jorge Jesus, a bi-curious Cuban drug lord, Jamie re-crossed the ditch and promptly won the New Zealand Comedy Guild's award for Most Improved Comedian in 2006.

He's been on a roll ever since.

Among Jamie's stand up heroes are Bill Bailey, Steve Martin, and Daniel Kitson, but he's becoming a local hero himself. He regularly talks and performs in schools hoping to encourage a whole new breed of Kiwi comedians, and advises on scriptwriting and music in comedy workshops throughout the country.

While travelling in Singapore he was invited to write and host several Christmas shows for the Disney channel - with a 6-foot-tall wooden puppet as his side-kick - and ran several puppet-making workshops for the local small fry. He reckons kids can be the toughest of crowds because they're so honest about what they think.

A natural performer, Jamie has hosted radio and TV shows for nearly a decade; right now he's the morning voice on student radio station bFM's The Saturday Special. He's also hosted live events such as the Smokefree Rock Quest and kept crowds entertained as MC for Wellington's Cuba St Carnival.

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When he's not nutting out new material he leaps off tall buildings, making the most of a Sky Tower bungy discount he received for a job. His mum gave him a ukulele a few Christmases ago (recently upgraded to a posher model) and like Bryan Adams, he practised til his fingers bled. Now Jamie is a ring-in for the famed Wellington Ukelele Orchestra.

Jamie regularly tests the cocktail-making skills of bar staff at his local watering hole by asking for his self-titled drink: three-quarters gin and a layer of Kahlua floating on top; he insists it tastes like pancakes, but you might want to judge for yourself.

Testimonials.

Jamie Bowen has been involved with the NZ International Comedy Festival for number of years. Most recently Jamie hosted the Stand Up For Kid season as part of the 2008 NZ International Comedy Festival. Jamie's exuberant personality and high standard of professionalism meant he was perfectly suited for this role and a pleasure to work with-'NZ International Comedy Festival'.

Jamie was assigned to our Youth Stage area for the beginning of the evening. Over the course of the evening Jamie was moved to the main stage before doing the final count down outside to the thousands of spectators situated in the Aotea Square. We found that Jamie was very professional and flexible to our ever changing requirements and audience demographic- "The Edge".

I would not hesitate in hiring Jamie for future Edge events- 'The Edge. New Years Eve Event'.