



## Dai Henwood.

**Height** 167 cm

MC/Entertainer Biography  
**JOHNSON&LAIRD**

Dai Henwood's dream has always been to make people laugh; thanks to his energy and quirky humour, the award-winning comedian has been living the dream for the past ten years.

Dai's comic characters and hilarious observations on life have seen him become one of the country's most popular and in-demand comedians. He's toured to sell-out live shows around New Zealand, and performed at prestigious offshore festivals such as Canada's famed Just For Laughs in Montreal, the Edinburgh Fringe and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

A man of many talents, Dai is as comfortable donning a pair of tights and star-spangled shorts as comic character wrestler P Funk Chainsaw as he is baking apple and blackberry cobbler to raise money for the Red Cross at a celebrity lunch.

An experienced and award-winning MC and host, he tailors his humour to the event. Dai's professionalism and infectious energy have seen him invited back to host the New Zealand Music Awards for two years running; he's kept the crowds under control as MC at the Comedy Guild Awards and music festival Splore; and he's delighted the Aussies hosting Tourism Australia's 'Ozcar' awards. Also an experienced radio DJ, Dai's latest gig is hosting the Saturday morning show on The Edge. He's also held his own at several national comedy debates, and is a regular judge at comedy competitions.

Dai has helped fund raise for several charities from the Red Cross to the Otago SPCA. He has offered a game of pool with the highest bidder of TradeMe's online auction to raise money for the Auckland City Mission winter appeals, and has performed at fundraisers on behalf of Starship.

As a part-time rookie in his early stand up career, Dai managed an Auckland bar for four years, until his 2002 Billy T James Award for best up and coming comedian thrust him into the spotlight.

The young stand up was snapped up by youth channel C4 to host music show Insert Video Here. The show quickly gained a cult following and good ratings despite little advertising or promotion, and Dai went on to host his own top-rating rural travel series called Roll the Dai, and it's second season Australian version, Roll the Dai Outback.

Dai regularly performs his solo shows at the annual NZ International Comedy Festival, selling out everywhere from Auckland's Concert Chamber to the huge SKYCITY Theatre. Since 2002 he's won a swag of awards from the 'Fred (as in 'Dagg') Award' for comedic excellence and Best Local Show at the Comedy Festival, to Best Male Comedian and Best MC at the NZ Comedy Guild Awards.

In his younger days Dai played classical piano at which he was pretty good by his own admission - and rugby for Wellington's under 16 and under 19 teams. These days his musical activities are limited to lining up the next song on his cd player and ipod, and he's switched codes to become more of a Warriors fan. When he's not performing, or writing material Dai surfs at West

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Auckland beach Piha. And despite his busy schedule, he tries to make time to perform every few months at what he calls his second home, Auckland's Classic Comedy Bar.

## **Testimonials.**

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Thank you Dai for the excellent job you did at the OZcars last week. I have received many comments on how absolutely hilarious you were. Thanks again for all the great effort to help make the OZcars 2008 the great success it was - 'Tourism Australia'.

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Dai's energy is infectious, the delegates love him, and hell I even love him! Dai fits perfectly into a Madant event. He understands corporate requirements, and gently pushes the boundaries to surprise and delight all and sundry. We love using him for events and video production, and always look forward to our next encounters - 'Madant' .

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I would like to thank Dai Henwood for adding the perfect highlight to our staff Christmas function. Everyone enjoyed having a good laugh and it set an energised tone for the rest of the evening. Dressed in a great western shirt, Dai blended in perfectly with our Wild West theme and staff are still raving about how much fun they had. Thanks for your professionalism and making it such an enjoyable night! - 'Power Farming Wholesale Limited'.

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Dai's enthusiasm, versatility and ability to understand the specific requirements applicable to the occasion and the audience were impeccable. Dai worked to the requirements of the MC brief entirely, whilst still adding his own appropriate colourful touches and personality to the awards ceremony, creating an atmosphere throughout that was a fantastic, well-balanced mix of humour, celebration and inspiration- 'NZ Herald College Awards'.

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I am sure that Pamela, our event manager, will have thanked you on behalf of DINZ for your contribution to the BeST 2009 Design Awards. Dai, we experiment with different formulas for the awards evening each year (within our budget restraints of course) and also Mc's for the evening.

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Each year the MCs are complimented to us or not.... so for what it's worth ..... This year is resounding in that the emails I have been receiving proclaim you to be the best ever.....

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I agree (although I would also acknowledge Carol and John back in 2003) you captured our audience and held them all the way through. You were measured in a way that compelled listening, your pace doing justice to all finalists and enough intelligent humour to lighten the process.

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Designers are a highly critical lot (and as one I do know this) so in pleasing them one never gets a consensus but you got that consensus on Friday night - 'The Designers Institute of NZ'.