



Justine Smith.

Height 168 cm

MC/Entertainer Biography

JOHNSON&LAIRD

If Justine Smith had married her Japanese truck driver boyfriend years ago, Japan could have had its first ever naturally red-headed comedian.

However she turned down the lovelorn truckie, ditched her English teaching job and returned to New Zealand to become one of the country's best-loved female comedians.

The queen of ad-libbing, Justine is notorious for getting sidetracked - usually to hilarious effect. The award-winner mostly draws her material from everyday life: people in general, turning 40, her stints as a cocktail waitress in Melbourne and barbs about her hometown of Christchurch - only when she's not performing there of course.

The flamboyant funnywoman also gets good mileage out of her time as a fluffer on Puppety of the Penis (look it up in the dictionary) and she's got a great story about an (imagined) night on the lash with Kermit the Frog.

But beware the heckled comedian: while Justine doesn't get much flak from the audience, when she does, she will not hold back:

"It's open season, mate."

Definitely no shrinking violet, Justine is a crack debater and opponents regularly feel the lash of her tongue at national comedy debates. She is a regular performer at the Lindauer Comedy Divas performances during the annual New Zealand International Comedy Festival and takes charge of the mike and the stage at Auckland's Classic Comedy bar most weeks. She's also showcased her talent on Pulp TV, and co-hosted Ruby Tuesday, a news and entertainment show on Alt TV.

A self-confessed loudmouth, Justine's career in comedy was sparked by a boast that she was sure she could do stand up. A friend took her at her word and signed her up at a comedy night at an Auckland pub. Justine reckons she was terrified but she shouldn't have been afraid. The crowd loved her and she's been on the scene ever since. Besides, comedy is in her blood. Her dad Bill Ramsay toured the country in the 1970s and 1980s as the comic entertainment with country bands.

After two years on the Melbourne comedy circuit, Justine returned to New Zealand where she promptly shot to fame with a sell-out show This is what we call the Justine Smith show. She also won the Billy T James Award in 2003, and followed that up by the award for best show in the Comedy Guild Awards.

A longstanding member of the Bette Midler Fan Club, Justine adores the flame-haired comedian's razor sharp wit, but don't mention Wind Beneath My Wings or Beaches.

When she 's not cracking up to Bette, she's scavenging Auckland's second hand stores for retro collectibles; her most prized possession is a freestanding formica bar and stools topped with padded leather. She's also learning the ukulele, spurred by repeat invitations to perform with the famed Wellington Ukelele Orchestra.

Like a good Kiwi, she does her bit for the environment by using biodegradable products and by taking public transport—probably another goldmine for joke material. Beware the red-headed woman sitting near you taking notes.

Testimonials.

TREASURY WINE ESTATES ANNUAL CONFERENCE - ENTERTAINMENT - DEC 2014

"Just wanted to say how great Jamie Bowen and Justine Smith were as entertainers at our annual conference last night.

Both comedians were exactly on brief, engaged the audience and provided 40 minutes of very light hearted relief to set the night up. As a pair they were actually very good together—both very different with different angles, and I think this made for a great act, they both seemed to take from each other. Despite given the short notice they both managed to get some understanding of the business and related their act to suit.

They were undoubtedly the catalyst for what ended up being a great night, way above our expectations and we would have no hesitation in recommending them or using them again. "Andrew Lawrence, National Business Manager, Treasury Wine Estates

"Justine is a fantastic comedy debater, she had the audience in stitches at the Speight's Great Comedy Debate, her quick wit meant she included the audience and kept them engaged throughout her speech. "

—OUSA Event

"Justine Smith has been a regular performer at the annual Divas showcases during the NZ International Comedy Festival. Her honest yet bold style of comedy has ensured that she is always in high demand from the Divas audience. Justine's consummate professionalism always makes her a pleasure to deal with. "

—New Zealand International Comedy Festival

"I employed Justine as a debater in the American Express Great Comedy debate, as a stand up comedian in the Lindauer Laughs, both sell-out shows with a high audience expectation and also as one of two stand-up comedians to host in-flight entertainment on a themed flight from Sydney, Australia to Queenstown for the same Festival. On all occasions, Justine was outstanding, not only as a

Testimonials continued...

performer, but also as a professional: she is a pleasure to do business with. "

- Queenstown Winter Festival 2008

"With her rapid-fire delivery and inability to stay on track, resulting in hilarious asides and ad-libs, Justine Smith is at the top of her game. It's grubby, it's hedonistic and the crowd loves her. "

- Lindauer DIVAS

"Smith delivers a highly entertaining, slick night of comedy. "

- Lindauer DIVAS

"Smith 's trademark crazy eyes are still in the mix, but this show contains a lot of new material and a more seasoned view on life...If you' re heading out for one more festival show this week, head to The Return of the Jussi for a bloody good night out. "

- Solo Show review