



## James Nokise

**Height** 185 cm

**Pronouns** He/Him

### Event Highlights.

**2021** 40 Years of Community Access Radio, NZ on Air - MC

Award winning comedian James Nokise is a versatile speaker, acclaimed theatre maker, playwright, columnist, renowned social commentator and .... fried chicken conversationalist, connecting audiences with an abrupt humour and earnest insight. Winner of the New Zealand Fred Award in 2021 and 5 stars in The Scotsman, Nokise is a home favourite with international success.

### Mission

James Nokise is on a mission to connect. His critically acclaimed podcast Eating Fried Chicken on Radio New Zealand sees him interviewing celebrities while sharing kai together. Nokise effortlessly creates an intimate environment for both guests and listeners alike, approaching tough subjects like mental health, culture and religion. In 2020, Eating Fried Chicken was a finalist for Best Podcast at the Voyager Awards.

He has toured in Edinburgh, Perth and New York City with the International Fringe Festival, is the founder of No Fefe Theatre Collective, and in 2016 became the very first comedian to travel to the Festival of Pacific Arts as part of the New Zealand delegation. Leaving New Zealand, he acquired a more holistic view of his country and the structures built within and now has a better understanding of how to talk to that community. Nokise doesn't just want to make people laugh, he wants to understand them, open space for them, and bring them joy ...while making them laugh.

### Keynote

From performing poetry at Glastonbury music festival during Brexit, to creating an 8 part series, Yours Faithfully, an NZ on demand project exploring different religious perspectives in Aotearoa, to his latest 6 part documentary series on Pacific Rugby in an international setting, Nokise can speak on anything with dedicated passion, nuanced research and activated joy.

Known for speaking on mental health, Nokise is specific in his kaupapa of normalising the subject by keeping it light. He sets his audience at ease with his trusting nature and engaging rapport. Using his skills in comedy, writing and interviewing, Nokise encourages and activates his audience in a tailored outcome specific to them.

MC / Entertainer Biography

# Johnson&Laird

**Testimonials.**

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NZ On Air and CAMA (Community Access Media Alliance) had an important date to celebrate—40 years of Access radio and the launch of a book ...about 40 years of Access radio. The Minister of Broadcasting and Media Hon. Kris Faafoi was hosting the event at Parliament, a colourful group of people from access radio, government, media and community groups were invited—and we needed someone very special to make it all work. James Nokise was our choice because he had great connections into access radio, and frankly, he's funny. James brought to our event a lovely warmth and appreciation for access radio that was genuine. We loved that he was able to just roll with it when people went off script. The feedback from many of our guests was that James was a fabulous choice of MC—and we agree. By the end of the night it felt like he was a friend for life, for everyone in the room.

NZ On Air

40 Years of Access Radio

- **Allannah Kalafatelis | Head of Communications**

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James performed at two of our work functions. He spent time before his performances researching our company and the interests of the attendees to tailor his performance. The audience loved him and people commented about his knowledge of our company. He also made time to socialise with everyone before and after his performance.

- **Nic Keating | PWC**

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James was an excellent host for the annual industry convention for the NZ Motion Picture Industry Council and comes highly recommended. He's enthusiastic, witty, a great entertainer and all-round a pleasure to deal with. NZMPIC have used him for a second year in a row and we are looking forward to inviting him back for a third year. Thanks James for all of your great efforts at this year's Trade Show.

- **Sandra Carrucan | General Manager Luminary Group**

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James Nokise was our MC for the Party Congress held in Wellington, covering the Friday and Saturday sessions in two different venues with audiences in the hundreds. As a values led organisation, we want to make sure that people who come together to support our party, candidates and campaigns feel fired up and ready to go. James Nokise did just that with humour, charm and weaving his personal narrative with his passion to see a better and fairer world. He was helpful, insightful, got the vibe of what we wanted to achieve and performed past our expectations. A true professional.

- **Tim Barnett**