



Grae Burton.

Height 181 cm

MC/Entertainer Biography

JOHNSON&LAIRD

Sci Fi fan, futurist thinker, online broadcaster and comic book aficionado Grae Burton is a familiar face on stage and screen.

A long time ago, beyond the final frontier, a fan boy with a dream packed up all his possessions (consisting of a bag of clothes and four suitcases of comic books) in a rusty Toyota Corolla and headed up to the big smoke to, chasing a dream of fame and fortune.

25 years later, Grae enjoys his quasi-celebrity status, often being mistaken in the street for many famous actors such as New Zealand's own Dean O'Gorman (Goodbye Pork Pie) and international star Sean Penn. (Grae doesn't correct the mistakes).

In recent times Grae has appeared onscreen in Guest roles for Shortland Street, Underbelly NZ, Mahana, Power Rangers and most recently Shanarra, and was a Lead in the sci fi fantasy epic AFK. In that he played a 15 year old gamer trapped in a middle aged, overweight wizard who had lost his magical abilities. Surprisingly the role was not as much of a stretch as it sounds.

When Grae is not on set he is behind the camera as a writer, producer and director using cutting edge technology such as 360 panoramic video as a new form of online storytelling. He recently worked with ATEED in Auckland to support the creation of their AR/VR hub, a one-stop shop for virtual reality technology support.

In his career Grae has toured Shakespeare to South East Asia, Been lost in the Australian outback searching for the legendary Crocodile Harry and almost in a car accident with Julia Roberts's brother on the streets of L. A. He has built theatres and cinemas, toured outdoor and children's theatre around the country, interviewed two prime ministers (the good ones), been hit on by Sir Ian McKellan and had a hand in bringing to life the hit film Hunt for the Wilderpeople (insider tip –Sam Neill is a fantastic dancer).

Grae is proudly Bi-SciFictional, liking both Star Wars and Star Trek, but his biggest fan-boy crush is Incredible Hulk comic books. In fact, all things Incredible Hulk. While his wife won't let him display the boxes of toys, DVD's, t-shirts, undies, socks, board games, soap on a rope and underarm deodorant, his shelves of Incredible Hulk comics (the largest collection in New Zealand) remain proudly on display as a conversation starter (mainly with his daughter).

Beyond that, Grae's a lover and supporter of the arts and worked with Sir James Wallace for many years mentoring up and coming NZ artists in all genres. He is an advocate for equal rights and former Board member of Equity NZ and Trustee for QYouth. He loves sailing and bush walks and knowing lots about wine (from lots of practice).