



Eli Matthewson.

Height 171 cm

Master Of Ceremony Biography
JOHNSON&LAIRD

Eli is a leading voice in the new blood of comedy who in just a few short years has earned accolades across New Zealand and abroad. Eli is a two time Billy T Awards nominee, twice winner of the Auckland Fringe's Best Comedy Award and in 2017 was a nominee for New Zealand's top comedy honour, the Fred Award. Based in Auckland, Eli is originally from Christchurch and performs in his home town as often as possible at events such as the famed World Buskers Festival.

Since breaking onto the scene in 2013 Eli has become a recognisable face onscreen. As a huge music fan, he started out in a dream job as a music presenter for TVNZU and since then has appeared as a panelist on 7 Days, an actor on Jono and Ben, Funny Girls and Rhys Darby's Short Poppies. His stand-up act has featured on Aotearoha: Rising Stars and TVNZ's Backbeat Comedy Special.

An exciting and dynamic live performer, Eli's stand-up career has had a continual upward rise, seeing him selling out shows at the Melbourne, Sydney and Edinburgh Comedy Festivals. Eli was a co-founder of Auckland's late-night cult comedy hit 'Snort', a hugely successful weekly show at The Basement Theatre, and as a member of FanFiction Comedy was honored to be invited to perform for The New Zealand Team at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014.

As a writer for television Eli is well in-demand, and over the last few years has written for almost every New Zealand comedy TV show on screen. An expert in sharp, cutting lines he has been a gag writer for the Vodafone New Zealand Music Awards and 'punched up' scripts for many other major events.

Known for having a political edge to his comedy, Eli has performed in comedy debates alongside Labour leader Jacinda Ardern, as well as David Seymour, Grant Robertson and Nikki Kaye. As a member of the queer community he has also been a regular MC and performer at events such as Rainbow Youth's 25th Anniversary celebration. A hit with students, Eli has performed at Orientation and Re-Orientation events at most of the country's Universities.

Passionate about music, film, and all things pop-culture, Eli's feature writing has been featured on The Wireless and The Spinoff, and his weekly podcast with Chris Parker, The Male Gayz, gets thousands of listeners from all around the world.

Testimonials.

Just thought I'd say Eli was brilliant this morning. Edgy, but smart enough to make it work with a corporate audience, and speaking from the heart as well. We've had heaps of good feedback about him already.

- SkyCity Rainbow Breakfast 2018 - Michael Stevens

"He nails every punchline, with entertainingly candid jokes and an engaging, animated delivery. "

- NZ Herald Review

"A must-see " - stuff. co. nz

"Eli captures everyone's attention from the moment he steps out on stage and manages to hold it for the duration of the hour...He's hilarious. "

- The SpinOff

"We've asked Eli several times to MC and perform at our events. He always brings down the house with his wit, and as MC connects the evening together well to give attendees that feel of a polished, produced event. Eli is always well liked by everyone and we will be asking him to work with us again in the future! "

- Duncan Matthews, Rainbow Youth Executive Director