



Justine Smith.

Height 168 cm

Master Of Ceremony 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 and most in-demand comedians.

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. Following a two-year stint in Melbourne, Justine returned to Auckland where she shot to fame with a sell-out show and two prestigious award wins. She's been a regular on the local comedy circuit ever since.

Those who know Justine, or have seen her perform, will know she does not suffer fools gladly. Her charming and expressive performance takes her audience on the journey with her, while never far away from a punch line or a subtle gag using the raise of an eyebrow.

This Christchurch girl made good, now resides in west Auckland and it's fair to say there's not a lot that gets past Justine. If you were to try and define her as a lover or a fighter, you'd have to say both. She is capable of tearing strips off people on stage, and then buying them a drink after the show.

A popular New Zealand International Comedy Festival performer, Justine's critically acclaimed shows include: 'The Justine Smith Hour', 'Return of the Jussi', 'Jussi Town' and 'Justine Smith Abroad'. Justine has also written two live shows with Irene Pink, 'I'm Sorry I Said That' and 'The Pitch'. The latter was the recipient of the NZ Comedy Trust's creative comedy initiative grant.

Justine's television appearances include the New Zealand International Comedy Festival Gala, Aotearoha and 7 Days and as a writer on Rhys Darby's Short Poppies. In 2017, she toured the country with the 7 Days Live Tour. Her earlier screen credits include Pulp TV and Ruby Tuesday on AltTV. A leading light in New Zealand comedy, Justine is just as comfortable in a theatre, local bar in the country or as a seasoned corporate event MC.

Justine 's awards include: The Billy T Award 2003, The NZ Comedy Guild Awards for Best Female Comedian in 2008, 2015 and 2017, and The NZ Comedy Guild Award for Best MC in 2015 and 2016.

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

Testimonials continued...

- 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
