SAMMY J



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Winner: Spirit of the Fringe, Jakarta International Fringe Festival, 2012 Winner: Barry Award, Melbourne Comedy Festival, 2010 (with Randy) Winner: The Age Critics Award, 2008 Winner: Best Newcomer, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, 2006

Sammy J is an award-winning comedian, writer and musician. A proud nerd, he abandoned his law degree to travel the world and sing funny songs for a living. You may have seen him on TV, at a festival, or as one half of the man/puppet duo Sammy J & Randy.

As a solo act, Sammy J won the Best Newcomer award at the 2006 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. He has since performed at the Edinburgh Fringe, Montreal Just For Laughs, and every major Australian comedy festival. His album "Skinny Man, Modern World" was nominated for Best Comedy Release at the 2012 ARIA awards, and in 2013 he hosted the ABC's political sketch show "Wednesday Night Fever". He went on to interview several high-profile politicians as part of his "Democratic Party" series at the Wheeler Centre in Melbourne.

In 2008, a collaboration with puppeteer Heath McIvor led to the dark musical comedy Sammy J in the Forest of Dreams, which won the Age Critics' Award in Melbourne and went on to receive five-star reviews in Edinburgh and London's West End.

As "Sammy J & Randy", the duo received Australia's most prestigious comedy prize - the Barry Award - at the 2010 Melbourne Comedy Festival, and went on to play the Sydney Opera House, headline a Montreal gala, and gain a national following on the TV sketch show "Good News World". In 2014 Sammy J & Randy travelled to South Africa as Oxfam ambassadors to witness Oxfam's work firsthand. Their debut sitcom, "Sammy J & Randy in Ricketts Lane", premiered on ABC TV in 2015, and will launch in the United States in 2016.

As a composer, Sammy J has written countless comedy songs for stage and TV, and scored the incidental music for "Sammy J & Randy in Ricketts Lane".

Away from the comedy world, Sammy J regularly runs workshops in schools, co-hosts The Conversation Hour on ABC radio, and has written for multiple publications including The Age newspaper. His MC work has seen him host awards shows, corporate events, and inject much-needed humour into panel discussions. He is a proud Ambassador for <u>Big</u> <u>Brothers Big Sisters</u>, a national organisation that matches volunteer mentors with young people in need of guidance and friendship.

Sammy J's **biggest** project remains unfinished. In 2008, he started <u>The 50 Year Show</u>, a comedy spectacular that will run every five years until 2058. The show continues in Melbourne in 2018.

"One truly spectacular hour of comedy" - Chortle, UK "An endlessly creative talent." - Time Out London, UK "Sammy J is witty, talented, and possessed of incredible timing and memory." - The Age

www.sammy-j.com

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