

JAMES PENDER



While the rest of the Comedy Orphans have spent the last few years joking, singing and dancing for your entertainment, James Pender has had a real job, fighting the injustices of the world as lawyer for the UN in Paris. However, at the beginning of 2010, James returned to Australia, to get back to the lucrative and more stable career of comedy.

In 2003, Sydney and Melbourne audiences would have first seen James on stage as the co-lead, alongside Heath Franklin, in the first Laughing Stock production – *The Beatification of Newt Berton and The Great Viagra Robbery*, a comedic play.

In 2005, at age 22, he became the youngest member of The 3rd Degree, the creative team behind Network 10's Logie nominated cult sketch show – *The Ronnie Johns Half Hour*. With a keen eye for the absurd and word play, James wrote and performed in both series of the show, and is most known for his characters; the tennis-playing and part time savior, Jesus Christ, Sigmund the Nihilist German, Gary the 'jangly' kicking English backpacker, and many more.

In 2010, we saw James on stage in *Felicity Ward Reads from The Book of Moron*, as Dan Ackroyd, Felicity's dog and life companion. James also reunited with fellow Ronnie Johns alumni to bring back their favourite sketches and characters in the live stage show, *The Ronnie Johns Half Hour Goodtimes Campfire Jamboree Half Hour* – which toured Australia.

In 2011, along with fellow Ronnie Johns stablemate Dan Ilic, James wrote and directed the Tropfest Finalist film *Y2GAY* which went on to be selected for short film festivals in North America and Europe. In 2014 he performed his first ever solo standup show, *Let's Get Started*.

James is currently developing narrative comedy ideas for TV. He is also recording a regular podcast with fellow BuxStock pal Nic Mattick. James is an accomplished singer and musician, playing violin, guitar, and piano.



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AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

FINALIST Tropfest 2011

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