

2019 NZ COMEDY GUILD AWARDS HANDED OUT

ROSE MATAFEO, PAUL HORAN, GUY WILLIAMS NZ TODAY WIN BIG

Rose Matafeo was the big winner at the annual NZ Comedy Guild Awards that took place on Tuesday (10 December). Comedians from all over the country gathered at The Classic in Auckland to celebrate a big year for the local industry, recognizing huge successes overseas and burgeoning local scenes taking off around New Zealand.

UK Based Matafeo won the Kevin Smith Memorial Cup For Outstanding Artist Achievement for her incredible year of success that included a star turn on *Taskmaster* and the recent announcement of an HBO Max comedy special. This is the second year in a row Matafeo has won the award, joining past winners Rhys Darby, Te Radar, and Flight Of The Conchords among other icons of NZ comedy.

“Remembering the history of kiwi comedy was a big part of New Zealand’s year, and we wanted to reflect and acknowledge that with our Executive Board Medal”, says Comedy Guild Chair and comedian Donna Brookbanks.

The Executive Board Medal is awarded to someone who has made massive contribution to the industry. The 2019 Medal was awarded to producer and director Paul Horan, for his immense effort in collating, documenting, and archiving the history of New Zealand comedy while making the critically acclaimed docu-series and book *Funny As*. Based in Melbourne, Horan accepted the award via a message read by Michele A’Court.

With the comedy industry booming in recent times, the nominees for Best Comedy Venue featured a South Island venue for the first time, with Queenstown’s Yonder picking up a nomination, alongside eventual winner Basement Theatre in Auckland. Breakthrough Comedians who have risen to new levels over the year were also voted on, with Ray O’Leary, Li’i Alaimoana, and Audrey Porne being tapped as the new ones to watch around the country.

“Kiwi comedy is booming right now, and it’s great to see local comedians being told they’re doing well by their peers. We’re a funny country, and our comedians are world class, so we should celebrate that” says Comedy Guild Board member and stand up comedian Brendon Green

International comedian and star of *The Chase* Paul Sinha was voted Best International Guest for his visit during the 2019 NZ International Comedy Festival.

Nick Rado was a double winner for Best Male Comedian and Best MC, with Justine Smith taking home Best Female Comedian. Pro comedian Paul Douglas picked up two awards for Best Gag and Best Show, for his NZ International Comedy Festival show *Fire Yarns*.

Wellington Paranormal won Best Comedy Writing for Film or TV, while it was the hugely popular *NZ Today* hosted by Guy Williams that dominated the Best Performance On TV award.

The awards are nominated by and voted for by member of the New Comedy industry, which is

represented by the NZ Comedy Guild.

FULL LIST OF NOMINEES AND WINNERS AS FOLLOWS:
(Winners in Bold)

KEVIN SMITH MEMORIAL CUP FOR OUTSTANDING ARTIST ACHIEVEMENT

Rose Matafeo

Urzila Carlson

Jarred Fell

Melanie Bracewell

BEST MC

El Jaguar

Steven Lyons

Rhys Mathewson

Nick Rado

Brendhan Lovegrove

BEST MALE COMEDIAN

Brendhan Lovegrove

Nick Rado

Paul Douglas

Ben Hurley

BEST FEMALE COMEDIAN

Justine Smith

Urzila Carlson

Donna Brookbanks

Melanie Bracewell

UPPER NORTH ISLAND BREAKTHROUGH COMEDIAN

Ray O'Leary

Hayley Sproull

Keegan Govind

Tony Lyall

Lana Walters

Joshua Jack

LOWER NORTH ISLAND BREAKTHROUGH COMEDIAN

Li'i Alaimoana

Sera Devcich

Patch Lambert

SOUTH ISLAND BREAKTHROUGH COMEDIAN

Audrey Porne

Bec Sandys
Liv McKenzie
Darren A Hill

BEST COMEDY WEB SERIES, PODCAST, RADIO SERIES, ONLINE PRESENCE

Male Gayz Podcast

I'll Be Back Catalogue Podcast
Educators
Baboon Yodel Podcast
Tom Sainsbury

BEST COMEDY PERFORMANCE ON TELEVISION

Guy Williams – New Zealand Today

Ray O'Leary – Have You Been Paying Attention
Dai Henwood - 7 days
Hayley Sproull - Golden Boy

BEST COMEDY WRITING FOR FILM OR TELEVISION

Wellington Paranormal

7 Days
The Project
Golden Boy
New Zealand Today

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE INDUSTRY

Lauren 'Lolly' Griffin

Brendhan Lovegrove
Bec Sandys
Scott Blanks
Steven Lyons
Tim Muller
Jerome Chandrahasen

'The Classic' BEST COMEDY VENUE

The Basement Theatre – Auckland

TABAC – Auckland
San Fran Bath House – Wellington
Fringe Bar – Wellington
Yonder – Queenstown

BEST LIVE SHOW

James Roque - Boy Mestizo
No Homo: Queer Comedy
The Dice Show
Paul Douglas – Fire Yarns

BEST INTERNATIONAL GUEST

Rhys Nicholson
Paul Sinha
Phil Nichol
Takashi Wakasugi
Demi Lardner

BIZARRE MOMENT OF THE YEAR

Keegan Govind being attacked by a lady
Anything at Ding Dong
Steve Hughes' heckler filled festival show
Melanie Bracewell has a man vomit in her festival show
7 Days getting reduced to 12 episodes

GAG OF THE YEAR

Paul Douglas - Albino Bats
James Mustapic - Dido White Flag
Eli Matthewson – How To Pronounce Adult

THE ANDREW KOVACEVICH MEMORIAL CUP FOR MOST OFFENSIVE GAG

James Malcolm - Losing My Virginity
James Malcolm - Disneyland Sex
Jamie Patterson - Peadophile Shaming
James Mustapic- Thanking The Bus Driver

THE GREEN ROOMER

Justine Smith
Rhys Mathewson
Paul Douglas
Josiah Day

BEST NEWCOMER

Lane Pilkington
Courtney Dawson
Megan Cartwright
Becky Umbers