NZ COMEDY AWARDS TOP HONOURS FOR THE FUNNEST PEOPLE IN AOTEAROA THIS YEAR!

A packed Classic Comedy Bar on Auckland’s Queen St saw the 2016 New Zealand Comedy Guild Awards last night, and it proved to be a belter of a show. With nominees and winners across a broad range of categories from Best Gag of the Year to Best MC, the night was a brilliant cap off to the year for a growing and ever more inclusive industry.

Hosted by last years winner of Best MC, Justine Smith, and ably assisted by Rhys Matthewson, it was a hilarious and slick show with plenty of in jokes tailored to the crowd of comedians.

The 2016 Guildies saw the inclusion of a new award “The Ewie”, named in honor of Kiwi comedy legend Ewen Gilmour. Given as a Lifetime Achievement Award, the inaugural winner was fittingly Ewen himself. Much missed by his comedy whanau, the award was presented by his manager and long time friend Hilary Coe and collected by his brother Lyal and mother Janet.

The awards were attended by comedians, friends and family such as Rhys Darby (Hunt For the Wilder People, Flight of the Conchords), Jacinda Ardern (Labour Spokesperson for Arts Culture and Heritage) and Laura Daniel (Funny Girls, Jono & Ben).

Chair of the NZ Comedy Guild Debs McSmith said “It was such a great event and showed how far we have developed as an industry. It was particularly special to recognise Scott Blanks, owner of the Classic and regarded as the Godfather of New Zealand Comedy, with the NZ Comedy Guild Medal for his commitment, drive, and dedication to comedy for more than 20 years”

The awards are voted for by members of the Comedy Guild and a panel of industry judges. The annual awards have been celebrating the achievements of the comedy industry since 2001.

The event was generously sponsored by Karma Cola, Omny Studio and Bigpipe Broadband. Their investment ensured this was the best ceremony in many years.

The full list of winners is:

NZ Comedy Guild Awards 2016 - Winners

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| Outstanding Contribution to the Comedy Industry | Vaughan King |  |
| The Green Roomer | Paul Douglas |  |
| “The Classic” Best Comedy Venue | VKs |  |
| Best International Guest | Rich Wilson |  |
| Comic Originality | Jesse Griffin |  |
| Best Comedy Writer – Live Performance | Rhys Mathewson |  |
| Best Improv | Snort |  |
| Best Live Show | Rhys Mathewson – Nouveau Rhys |  |
| Best Newcomer | Ray O’Leary |  |
| Breakthrough Comic of the Year | Patch Lambert |  |
| Best MC | Justine Smith |  |
| Best Male Comedian | Ben Hurley |  |
| Best Female Comedian | Urzila Carlson |  |
| Gag of the Year | Pax Assadi |  |
| Andrew Kovacevich Memorial Cup for Most Offensive Gag | Brendhan Lovegrove |  |
| Kevin Smith Award for International Achievement | Sam Wills / Tape Face |  |
| Best Comedy Writing for Film or TV | Taika Waititi – Hunt for the Wilderpeople |  |
| Best Comedy TV Performance | Brendhan Lovegrove – Flick Electric Co Comedy Gala |  |
| Best Comedy TV Series or Event | 7 Days |  |
| Best Comedy Web or Radio series, Podcast | Tim Batt & Guy Montgomery – Worst Idea of All Time |  |
| Best Comedy Twitterer | Melanie Bracewell - @meladoodle |  |
| Best Comedy Blog / Column | Raybon Kan |  |
| Best Online Comedy Presence | Frickin’ Dangerous Bro |  |
| The ‘Ewie’ Award for Lifetime Achievement | Ewen Gilmour |  |