

20 December 2017 – The 2017 NZ Comedy Guild Awards last night celebrated New Zealand’s talented comedy stars.

“The nominees and winners in the 2017 NZ Comedy Guild Awards continues to showcase the best and brightest in Aotearoa’s diverse and thriving comedy scene. Across the growing range of mediums online, on television, in film, print and radio, our comedians are not just doing a great job of reflecting our kiwi humour back at us, but increasingly bringing our brand of funny to rest of the world.” said Debs McSmith, Chair of the NZ Comedy Guild.

The Classic comedy club on Auckland’s Queen St, which this year celebrates its 20th year, hosted a brilliant night of laughs and celebration. 2016’s Best MC winner, Justine Smith hosted the evening of awards, which were decided by NZ Comedy Guild members and an industry panel.

The NZ Comedy Guild was established in 1999 and has been representing the interests of New Zealand comedians ever since. The annual Comedy Guild Awards, or “Guildies” as they are affectionately known, are a highlight of the year for the whole community and are a great illustration of just how far the industry has come over the years.

Below are winners for this 2017, the full list of nominees can be seen at the Guild’s website, <http://www.comedyguild.org.nz/2017-guild-awards.html>

**Best Male Comedian**  
Guy Montgomery

**Best Female Comedian**Justine Smith

**Best MC**  
Rhys Mathewson

**Breakthrough Comedian of the Year**  
Melanie Bracewell

**Outstanding Artist Achievement (The Kevin Smith Memorial Cup)**  
Taika Waititi

**Best Newcomer**James Mustapic

**Gag of The Year**  
Fan Brigade

**Best Improv Show**Snort

**Best Live Show**  
Rhys Mathewson

**Best International Guest**  
Ray Badran

**‘The Classic’ Best Comedy Venue Award**Basement Theatre

**Outstanding Contribution to The Industry**  
Brendhan Lovegrove

**The Green Roomer**  
David Correos

**Comic Originality**  
David Correos and Tom Sainsbury (tie)

**Best Writer – Live Performance**Nick Rado

**Best Comedy Performance on Television**Josh Thomson

**Best Comedy TV Series or Event**  
Funny Girls

**Best Comedy Writing for Film or Television**  
Taika Waititi

**Most Offensive Gag (The Andrew Kovacevich Memorial Cup)**  
James Malcolm and Lucy Roche (tie)

**Best Comedy Web Series, Podcast or Radio Series**  
Tom Sainsbury

**Funniest Twitterer**  
Lauren Mabbett

**Funniest Blog/Column**  
Raybon Kan

**Funniest Online Presence**  
Tom Sainsbury

ENDS