

# Hits and Giggles: A Nostalgic Journey Through the Years in New Zealand



## The Early Years: Laying the Foundation for Laughter

The story of Hits and Giggles begins in the mid-1980s, when a group of young comedians and performers came together with a shared passion for bringing joy and laughter to New Zealanders. Founded by John Clarke, Billy T. James, and Jon Gadsby, the company quickly established itself as a force in the country's entertainment landscape.

The early years of Hits and Giggles were marked by a series of groundbreaking shows that pushed the boundaries of comedy in New

Zealand. "Clarke and Dawe," a satirical sketch show featuring Clarke and Gadsby, became a national sensation, tackling topical issues with wit and irreverence. "Billy T. James Live" showcased the unique and infectious humor of one of the country's most beloved comedians. And "The Late Edition," a late-night talk show hosted by Clarke, became a platform for both established and up-and-coming comedians.



### **Hits and Giggles: 5 years in New Zealand** by Grant Pickup

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
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### **The Golden Age: Hits and Giggles at its Peak**

The 1990s and early 2000s marked the golden age of Hits and Giggles, as the company produced a string of iconic shows that are still fondly remembered by Kiwis today. "Jono and Ben," a sketch comedy show starring Jono Pryor and Ben Wood, became a cultural phenomenon, with its razor-sharp wit and memorable characters. "The Footrot Flats Movie," based on the popular comic strip, was a box-office smash, capturing the hearts of New Zealanders of all ages. And "7 Days," a satirical news show hosted by Jeremy Corbett, became a weekly must-watch for its incisive commentary and clever sketches.

During this period, Hits and Giggles also expanded its reach beyond television, with successful live tours, comedy albums, and even a record label. The company became synonymous with quality entertainment, and its performers were some of the most recognizable faces in New Zealand.

## **The Changing Landscape: Hits and Giggles in the Digital Age**

The advent of the digital age brought about significant changes in the entertainment industry, and Hits and Giggles was no exception. With the rise of streaming services and social media, the company had to adapt to new ways of reaching its audience.

In recent years, Hits and Giggles has continued to produce high-quality content, but its focus has shifted towards digital platforms. The company now produces a range of online shows, podcasts, and web series that cater to a wider audience than ever before. It has also established a strong presence on social media, where it engages with fans and promotes its latest projects.

## **The Cultural Impact of Hits and Giggles**

Throughout its history, Hits and Giggles has had a profound cultural impact on New Zealand. The company's shows have helped to shape the national sense of humor, and its characters have become iconic figures in New Zealand pop culture. Hits and Giggles has also played a significant role in promoting New Zealand comedy talent both at home and abroad.

Over the years, Hits and Giggles has produced a vast array of memorable characters, from the satirical Mr. Clarke to the lovable Billy T. James. These characters have become part of the fabric of New Zealand society, and

they continue to be referenced and parodied by comedians and entertainers today.

## **The Future of Hits and Giggles**

As Hits and Giggles enters its fourth decade, the company shows no signs of slowing down. It continues to produce new and innovative content that resonates with New Zealand audiences. With its strong brand recognition and loyal fanbase, Hits and Giggles is well-positioned to continue to be a major force in the country's entertainment industry for many years to come.

The future of Hits and Giggles is bright, and the company is poised to continue to bring joy and laughter to New Zealanders for generations to come.

Hits and Giggles is more than just a comedy company. It is a cultural institution that has played a significant role in shaping the New Zealand entertainment landscape. For over three decades, the company has produced iconic shows, memorable characters, and cultural moments that have become part of the fabric of New Zealand society.

As Hits and Giggles enters its next chapter, it is well-positioned to continue to be a major force in the country's entertainment industry. With its strong brand recognition, loyal fanbase, and commitment to producing high-quality content, the company is poised to continue to bring joy and laughter to New Zealanders for generations to come.

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