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Jetstar 

MAGAZINE

FLIGHT OF THE KIWI COMICS



WHAT'S
JEMAINE
CLEMENT
UP TO NOW?

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JEMAINE CLEMENT IS ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S MOST RECOGNISABLE COMEDIANS AND ACTORS. HE'S ALSO ONE OF THE MOST COLLABORATIVE – HE GETS WRY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS

COMIC



RELIEF

PHOTOS KANE SKENNAR

Think of Jemaine Clement and the first character that comes to mind

may be the wannabe musician of the same name that appears as one half of music-comedy duo *Flight of the Conchords*. More recently you may recall him as *Men in Black 3*-villain Boris the Animal or as the Prison King in *Muppets Most Wanted*.

Then there was *Eagle vs Shark*, a film in which he played Jarrod, an oddball who, dressed as an eagle at a party, encounters a girl in a shark costume who becomes his girlfriend. Or you might know his vampire Vladislav from the movie *What We Do in the Shadows*. (If you haven't seen either of these last two Kiwi films, you really should check them out on our inflight entertainment selection this month.)

Jemaine's Vladislav in *Shadows* is your regular, everyday vampire, struggling with the common problems of our age, such as sharing a flat with untidy people, and the constant hunger for human blood.

"It's character comedy," he says, "where the characters come across these problems that they have to get past, but go on for eternity."

While vampires are hot property at the moment, he says the idea precedes the vampire craze sparked by the *Twilight* series.

"We didn't think too much about [Twilight] but we did mention it – it's become so big," says Jemaine. "When we were thinking about it we were more thinking of the vampire movies that we grew up on and watched when we were kids in the 1970s and 1980s. But it has all different references



TOP 3 COMEDY HOT SPOTS

Bats Theatre

"Taika, Bret and I all did shows here starting out."
Cnr Cuba and Dixon Sts, Wellington; bats.co.nz

San Fran

"I have a real affection for the venue – it was where we started doing music stuff."
171 Cuba St, Wellington; sfbh.co.nz

Isaac Theatre Royal

"A beautiful place."
145 Gloucester St, Christchurch; isaactheatreroyal.co.nz



JEMAINE'S COLLABORATORS

Taika Waititi

Actor, producer, writer, director. Directed five episodes of TV series *The Inbetweeners* and co-directed *What We Do in the Shadows* with Jemaine.

Bret McKenzie

Co-star in *Flight of the Conchords*, composer of *Muppets* songs, writer and actor. He played an elf in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings*.

Rhys Darby

Actor and writer. Played Flight of the Conchords' manager Murray Hewitt, was a werewolf called Anton in *What We Do in the Shadows*.

in there, like Dracula movies, Christopher Lee, *The Lost Boys...*”

The “we” Jemaine mentions are the friends he regularly collaborates with, including fellow Kiwis Taika Waititi, director of *Eagle vs Shark*, and Bret McKenzie, the other half of the Flight of the Conchords duo.

“It’s really fun working with people and coming up with [comedy routines],” says Jemaine. “It’s really just having a laugh with your friends.”

Does he think that NZ comedy is inherently kooky?

“There’s quite a range of NZ comedy, and people think of it as this kind of quirky, quiet thing, but when I started it wasn’t like that,” he says. “Everything I do seems to turn out dorky, so maybe dorkiness is a part of the NZ identity.”

“Sometimes I love [comedy], and think it’s the best job in the world.”

Other times I’ve been in some ridiculous costume out in front of hundreds of people and think, ‘I am supposed to be a grown man; this is not a grown man’s job.’ But then I couldn’t think of anything better to do than get paid for that.”

Jemaine has more projects on the horizon, including two films and a new series with network HBO – though he points out that this will be a new project, not more *Flight of the Conchords*.

“Right now, Taika and I are working on some other script ideas for TV,” he says. “Hopefully we get to make a pilot for that show, and then I’ll be rehearsing with Bret again... I would like to do more [live comedy], and Bret and I are planning on touring *Flight of the Conchords* next year some time.” *

WATCH HIM NOW! *Jemaine stars in two films on Jetstar this month: What We Do in the Shadows and Eagle vs Shark. Turn to page 170 for our inflight entertainment listings*