

Tom Ballard

Comedian/Broadcaster

Tom Ballard is a comedian who gets to perform the ancient art of stand-up all around Australia and who also gets to talk on the radio on a regular basis.

He began performing in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Class Clowns competition when he was in high school but he never won it which has left him with an overwhelming sense of inadequacy and bitterness and he'd rather we all just moved on.

He was a national finalist in RAW Comedy 2006 and, based on that performance (which featured a joke about his small penis), he was approached by the hip and funky managers at national youth radio network triple j. They offered him some airtime and he's since signed some contracts and now they can't take that back.

In 2008 Tom was selected to perform in the MIFC's Comedy Zone, a showcase of up-and-coming comedic talent. In 2009, along with his silly friend Alex Dyson, Tom took over the triple j Weekend Breakfast shift, as well as performing his debut solo stand-up show, *Tom Ballard Is What He Is*. The show was nominated for a Golden Gibbo Award (an award that recognises shows which "buck trends and pursue the artist's ideas more strongly than [they] pursue any commercial lure") and saw Tom become the youngest person ever to win the prestigious Melbourne Airport Best Newcomer Award.

Since then, Tom's performed at the invite-only Montreal Just For Laughs Comedy Festival, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and at comedy festivals, fringe festivals, theatres and comedy clubs all over Australia.

2010 saw Tom and Alex take over the weekday triple j breakfast show, following in the footsteps of the likes of Wil Anderson, Adam Spencer, Helen Razer, Mikey Robbins, Marieke Hardy and Paul McDermott. He considers the show to be a lot of good old-fashioned fun and worth getting up at 4am for.

You may have seen Tom wearing make-up and telling jokes on *Good News Week*, *Spicks'n'Specks*, *Adam Hills In Gordon Street Tonight*, *Can of Worms*, *The Circle*, *triple jtv*, ABC's *The Drum* or as co-host of ABC TV's broadcast of the 2011 *RAW Comedy Final* with the mega-awesome Hannah Gadsby. He appears as *The Project's* Resident Expert fortnightly and pretends to get angry and know things about issues.

In 2011, Tom released a DVD of his *Is What He Is* show and a half-hour special from that taping screened on ABC2 as part of *The Warehouse Comedy Festival*. 2012 will see him release a CD of his critically-acclaimed stand up show *Since 1989*.

In his spare time, Tom suffers from eczema and has fluctuating weight



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issues and in the spring of 2010, he contracted scabies.

"[Ballard's] material, most importantly, absolutely kills...It's tightly paced, it's perfectly delivered and it's funny as hell... ★★★★★" Time Out Sydney

"consistently, acutely hilarious... ★★★★★" Herald Sun

"...excellent, unflinching and at times brutally funny...[Ballard's] natural poise and charming on-stage persona means he appears likely to have a long career ahead... ★★★★★" The Age

"...a comedian rightly being touted as one of Australia's finest new talents..." Chortle [UK]

Live Shows

- 2011 *Since 1989- Solo Show*
Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Brisbane Comedy Festival, Wild West Comedy Fest, Belvoir St Theatre, Sydney Comedy Store
- 2011 *Tom Ballard Is What He Is – Solo Show*
Belvoir St Theatre, Sydney
- 2010 *Tom Ballard Is What He Is – Solo Show*
Feast Festival Adelaide
- 2010 *Cogito Ergo Some Funny – Solo Show*
Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Brisbane Comedy Festival.
- 2009 *Several Nights Only – Solo Show*
Melbourne Fringe Festival
- 2009 *Tom Ballard Is What He Is - Solo Show*
Melbourne International Comedy Festival & St Kilda Laughs Festival
- 2008 *The Comedy Zone*
Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Radio

- 2010-12 triple j triple j breakfast – Host
- 2011 QRadio Qantas Inflight Radio, Smile High Club (Guest Host)
- 2009 triple j Weekend Breakfast Host
- 2008 - 2009 triple j Summer Lunch Host

Television

- 2011-12 Network Ten The Project, Resident Expert, Fortnightly segment
- 2011 Network Ten Can of Worms, Guest
- 2011 ABC TV Spicks and Specks, Guest
- 2011 ABC TV The Drum, Regular Guest
- 2009-11 Network Ten The 7PM Project, Regular Guest
- 2010 Network Ten The Circle, Guest
- 2009-10 Network Ten Good News Week, Regular Guest
- 2009 SBS ADbc

2009	Channel 31	Studio A – Regular Guest
2009	ABC TV	triple jtv with the Doctor Writer/performer
2008	ABC TV	Triple jtv's The Hack Half Hour Guest
2008	Channel 31	Studio A – Guest

Recordings

2011	Madman Entertainment	<i>Tom Ballard Is What He Is</i> (Stand-up DVD)
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Writing

2010-11	JMAG	Regular Contributor
2010	Good Weekend	Guest Contributor
2009-2010	The Warrnambool Standard	Monthly Blog Contributor

Other Notable Live Work

2009	<i>Shiny Thing</i> – Acting Role, Short Film
2009	Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow
2009	Class Clowns Gala – Melbourne International Comedy Festival
2008	<i>Young Blood Comedy Tour</i>
2008	<i>Squeaky Clean Comedy</i>
2007	<i>Eskimo Jokes</i> – Guest Performer, Melbourne International Comedy Festival
2007	<i>Young Blood Comedy Tour</i>

Awards

2009	Best Newcomer Award – Melbourne International Comedy Festival
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Contact Erin Zamagni on 03 9417 4700 for further details.
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