

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL



4-29 APRIL 2007

Raw Comedy, Deadly Funny, Class Clowns
Judging Policy: December 8, 2006

Context

This document is intended to be concise enough for a busy judge to read and understand quickly, but comprehensive and clear enough to ensure consistency and transparency in the judging of the whole national competition.

The Judges' Objective

The over-riding aim of Raw Comedy and kindred competitions is to uncover and support new performers with the potential to make a sincere contribution to the artform and the industry in this country, in the years ahead.

Some entrants will have had more stage time than others and therefore will be better 'performers', but we aren't concerned if they are a little nervous or they forget the next line. Who looks like they could have a career in comedy? Who could be a possible star of the future? Who could go on to present new, innovative and exciting comedy in the years to come?

The judging pro-forma

The judging pro-forma is part of this policy. It makes some specific notes on what judges look for. Judges don't rely on precise numerical scores; they make qualitative notes, for discussion amongst themselves, considering each act in the context of the whole night they've just seen, to pick a "winner".

Judging comedy is really subjective

The Comedy Festival, judges, contestants and audiences need to recognise that no creative endeavour can be precisely "measured" to be "best". Judges make a subjective – although final – decision informed by their own experiences in the artform and industry.

Deal-breakers: what's absolutely not on

- Doing material that the contestant didn't write.
- Material that is racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise seriously offends the sensibilities of the audience. You know.

And:

- Keeping to noted time limits as far as possible, and displaying respect for the event and other performers is an important consideration of the judges.

Complaints and queries

Judges will only discuss their decisions with the responsible Comedy Festival staff members. It's important to remember that the performers they choose as "winners" don't necessarily progress to semi, state or national finals; and those who "miss out" might. Choosing a "winner" is a guideline, not an instruction, to those who programme finals.

Raw contestants and audiences are invited to contact the Comedy Festival office to discuss judges' decisions. It is not appropriate to enter into discussion with judges themselves at a heat, where they have so generously volunteered their time.

Contestants are reminded particularly of the relevant Terms and Conditions (available on the website, where they are applicable) regarding how semi, state and the national finals are programmed.



JUDGING PROFORMA

HEAT:
NAME:
ACT #:

Material

Things to consider: Originality of material, subject matter, was it clever and interesting, were they new ideas. Was the material well-written & well thought out?

Comments: _____

Performance/Delivery

Things to consider: Original style, vocal (mic) technique, was their personal appearance and presentation appropriate to their performance? Were they comfortable with performing, timing, pace, manner, did their ideas come across clearly?

Comments: _____

Audience response

Things to consider: Did they get a good response, did they deserve it, how did they handle response or lack of it, did the audience like them?

Comments: _____

