



Nelly Thomas

Comedian

Nelly Thomas has been described as one of Australia's most natural comedians. As well as being an award-winning performer, she was listed as one of Australia's "most innovative thinkers" in *The Age Newspaper's*, *The Zone* and was featured on the ABC's *Big Ideas: The Smartest Stuff on TV, Radio and Online*. You'd be hard pressed to find a more engaging comedy experience.

In recent years, Nelly released her comedy DVD *The Talk* (a sexual health and ethics DVD for teens and their carers) as well as her first book with Random House Publishing. The book is called *What Women Want* and canvasses the big issues of the modern era: politics, education, sex, relationships, health, porn, family and Beyonce's bottom.

"With all the moxie of an RSL barmaid and the library card of a research fellow, Nelly Thomas has emerged to talk about nothing slighter than the trials of her generation... She's erudite, earthy and entirely unemployable."

Helen Razer
The Age Newspaper

Nelly sprung into comedy suddenly, winning the national Triple J National Raw Comedy competition in 2003. In 12 action packed years since then, she has toured nationally and internationally (including twice to the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival), established her own Melbourne comedy room, directed award winning comedians such as Maria Bamford and Stella Young, created and toured several comedic health-promotion shows (including the highly acclaimed *The No Means No Show* and "Closing the Gap" initiative *Smokes and Jokes*) and has performed in over sixteen festivals nationally and internationally. She pops up on the telly and is a regular guest on ABC Radio 774 Victoria and Radio National; often appearing on Rafael Epstein's *News Therapy* and Waleed Aly's *What I Learned from the News This Week*.

Nelly also continues to do live work in the community and government sectors, in particular, as a highly sought-after speaker, MC and producer of custom-made performances, specialising in social & political commentary and health promotion.

She's also grown two humans of her own.

And, finally, her crowing glory - Nelly was once an under-13s girls regional BMX champion.

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CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

"Nelly Thomas is the best MC we've ever had at one of our conferences"

Betty Kitchener, CEO, Mental Health First AID Australia (MHFA)

"100% of our evaluation forms rated you 5/5. Gold star for you! Not surprised though, it was great."

Ellen White, Community Leadership Loddon Murray

"Nelly Thomas is the gold standard of comedy. This year the WBA celebrated its 20th anniversary. We needed a speaker who was funny enough, and brave enough, to entertain a room full of politicians, judges, magistrates and barristers. We wanted someone who would have the room in stitches while tackling the big issues. Nelly was 10/10 on each count. She was professional, well researched and a pleasure to work with. We are so grateful to her for making our night a success."

Diana Price, Convener - Women Barristers Association

"Thank you so very much for your superb facilitation of our evening and your genuine humour. I really didn't "get it" that a comedian would have such sensitivity... Brilliant, your bio is accurate."

Michael Beaumont-Connop, Executive Officer, Loddon Campaspe Centre Against Sexual Assault

"Thank you Nelly! You were a stand out stand up total star. So very professional, completely hilarious, a top crowd pleaser and a real pleasure to work with. We can't wait to book you again and thank you so much"

Fi Bendall, Managing Director, Bendalls Group Pty Ltd

"We had overwhelming praise of our choice of Nelly as an MC. For those that already knew her, they were adamant that she never fails to please with new comedy surprises. Those who didn't know her, demanded to know where we found her."

Eva Awards organising committee

"Thank you so much for your performance at the SCAP conference. It was pitched perfectly and everyone loved it ... it put everyone in high spirits for the remainder of the conference."

Paula TeggeLove, School Psychologists and Counsellors Conference

"...[T]he audience that they were the most raucous bunch we've ever had at a library event! Nelly's talk was so funny and entertaining... Comments from the audience included ... "Nelly was the best so far – so good to listen to, she had everyone's attention". Nelly was definitely a hit!"

Leanne Murray, Events Officer, Darebin Library

"Nelly never fails to impress, she has a gift for translating complex issues into common language... She is great to work with. We know when we ask Nelly to speak we can be confident that she will be funny, engaging and irreverent."

Kiri Bear, VicHealth (Victorian Health Promotion Foundation)

"We have already received many reports back from community about how greatly empowered and stronger the women have returned... your session was actually mentioned as being one of the most useful and enjoyable of the whole Forum! Thank you again for the magic you brought ..."

Bev Greet, Manager Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Marie Stopes International