

# James Valentine

*Versatile MC, Speaker and Entertainer with a Quirky Edge*



James currently presents Breakfast on ABC Radio Sydney. Before that, he did Afternoons. He's been on live radio since the mid '90s. He's made lots of TV, for Good Morning Australia, Showtime, Midday, It Takes Two, Exhumed, ABC Children's and possibly the shortest stint ever on Playschool. He's written some books and published articles in all the the major newspapers and magazines. When he left school, he went to work as a saxophone player. He spent the '80s in bands such as Models and Absent Friends, and recorded, toured and performed with Jo Camilleri, Wendy Matthews, Kate Ceberano, Pseudo Echo, Steve Cummings and many others.

## Music

James continues to play. His current project is a jazz quartet, playing festivals, selling out clubs and gigs across Sydney. It's a fun swinging band featuring James on saxophone, playing classic soul groove tracks and giving the organ groove treatment to lots of much loved tunes. James studied classical saxophone and jazz in Melbourne, played in small groups, theatre shows and wedding bands before heading out onto the road with Jo Camilleri and his Cha band. This lead to regular touring and recording with the Dugites, Kids in the Kitchen, Pseudo Echo, Iva Davies, Richard Clapton, Steve Cummings, and Diesel. He joined Models and recorded two albums, Out of Mind, Out of Sight, and Media. Absent Friends released the hit singles I Don't Want To Be With Nobody But You, and they become Wendy Matthews Band and recorded her first two albums. At



this point, James started to work in media, in children's TV on ABC Television, so stepped back from touring and recording at that level.

## **MC and Speaking**

James has MCed every possible awards night and gala dinner. For scientists, engineers, artists, writers, politicians, judges and lawyers, the Defence Forces, the librarians, and the medical professions. He brings wit, warmth, and active engagement with the event. He responds to the brief with imagination and insight, he's a live broadcast master so is unfazed and always professional.

## **Client testimonials**

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“ We often use James for events at Aria and our venues at the Sydney Opera House. Always prepared, always professional, really knows how to read the crowd. Perfect!

- ***Matt Moran, Aria Restaurant***

“ James was very well received by all the delegates who were still talking about his topic all through the conference. James was the ultimate professional. Easy to deal with and at all times very professional.

- ***Association for Payroll Specialists***

“ James was able to ad lib and work the crowd effortlessly, throughout an entire day of events for Australia Day, 2011.

- ***Sutherland Shire Council***

“ I wanted to write to you and say a MASSIVE thank you. Your 'tone' for last night was absolutely perfect - exactly what we were after. Thank you so much. The band were also fantastic - really added class to the night. Feedback today has been incredibly positive - so again, big thank you.

- ***NSW Palliative Care Awards***

“ James was really well received. He was warm and engaging and made all our award winners feel very special. A total hit and a pleasure to work with, both beforehand and on the night.

- ***Avviso Public Relations***



“ He was very good to deal with – professional, organised, and he made himself very available to talk with us when required. My feedback would be positive!

- *Focal Attractions Pty Ltd*

“ James was warmly received in both his formal and informal interchange with the audience.

- *Australian Bulk Handling Review*

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