

## Simon Burke

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### *Accomplished performer, fabulous MC*

Since winning an Australian Film Institute Best Actor award at the tender age of 13 for his role in the acclaimed film *The Devil's Playground*, Simon Burke has become one of Australia's most accomplished, versatile and respected performers.

Simon has enjoyed great success both in Australia and the UK in film, television, stage, concert appearances and cabaret.

In recent years, Simon has received equal acclaim for his corporate engagements and has become highly sought after as an MC and/or special guest singer or speaker. He is also a skilled writer and able to tailor MC scripts to meet your corporate and event goals.

Widely respected as a consummate professional, Simon provides the perfect combination of wit, intelligence, warmth, gravitas, suavity and great singing to any corporate event.

Simon's highly successful career has included starring roles in many West End musicals, twenty-five years as one of *ABC TV's Play School's* best-loved presenters, a so-far seven-year stint as MC and co-writer of the prestigious Helpmann Awards, credits as host, co-writer and producer of Foxtel's widely-acclaimed variety series *Studio A with Simon Burke*, not to mention his ten years as Federal President of Actors Equity Australia.

Simon has hosted many prestigious events including Australia Plays Broadway (Carnegie Hall New York), Sydney Festival's Symphony in the Domain, NSW Premier's Gala Concert, Adelaide Cabaret Festival Gala (Adelaide Festival Centre), City of Sydney's Australia Day Luncheon, Australian Small Business Champion Awards, Luna Park Opening Celebration Concert, Hooray for Hollywood - Australian Cancer Research Foundation (Parliament House, Canberra), Opera Australia's Christmas at the House (Sydney Opera House) and Bespoke - Business & Luxury for the Australian Financial Review (Sydney Opera House).

Simon was the special guest performer at a gala dinner in London to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Qantas flying the Sydney-London Kangaroo Route and for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Australia Day celebrations in London was invited by Australia's High Commissioner to sing the National Anthem at Australia House - the last time in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.



If client testimonials are anything to go by, and they most definitely are in this case, then Simon Burke is a brilliant choice as MC - he sings, he dances, he performs, he's witty, clever, warm and professional.

## Client testimonials

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“ ...I could not have made a better choice than Simon Burke as MC. We needed someone highly professional, nimble, given we were staging an eight-hour live event ,informed about the subject matter and most of all, someone with an enormously warm stage presence. It didn't hurt that Simon Burke also looks extremely elegant in a designer suit. His ability to carry a diverse audience of well over 1,000 people through a long and informative day was an enormous contribution to our success. Extremely generous in letting others shine, he 'read' the audience brilliantly and was a calming presence backstage. Should you be staging a corporate event, I would advise you to snap up Simon Burke. I would recommend him 100%.

*- International Fashion Editor of the AFR, Curator of Bespoke*

“ Your talent and charisma made the evening a very special experience. I was also grateful for your calm professionalism at our eleventh-hour request for a special song to be performed. I was amazed you had the time, let alone the willingness, to oblige us given your other heavy commitments. Thanks again - we have had nothing but compliments and I suspect you now have a new group of fans.

*- Qantas Airways*

“ ...one thing they should never change is the host. When it comes to singing and dancing through an awards ceremony, Burke, who has hosted all five Helpmanns, can give Tonys' host Hugh Jackman a run for his money.

*- The Age*

“ Sensitive handling was called for, a combination of fun and gravitas, and this is exactly what Simon provided. He knew when to be formal and when to be a little wild. He did a terrific job and a good slice of the credit for the success of the evening is his.

*- COVE Australia*

“ Thanks yet again for your witty, urbane and wonderful performance ... and for the incisive and insightful lyrics and script. I had so many comments from those present about your talent and how you tied the whole night together so well - with which I heartily concur! And personally I had many a belly-laugh, many a wry smile, a few tears and a good reminisce. What more could I ask? Thank God for talent.

**- Helpmann Awards**

“ Host Simon Burke, with dazzling singing performances and speedy repartee, made Eddie McGuire look like - Eddie McGuire.

**- Sydney Morning Herald**

“ Wonderful. Astounding. Fabulous. Your hard work, and agonising, sure paid off. I must tell you as well, that there has been unprecedented positive feedback - and absolutely every single person has said how essential and perfect your presentation was. Even the Minister, who phoned today, said you were a triumph - which you were.

**- Live Performance Australia (LPA)**

“ The consummate professional. With very limited rehearsal time, Simon MC'd a tight show flawlessly. Funny, engaging and razor sharp timing! Simon was the 'glue' that kept 13 speaker segments on time with seamless, entertaining delivery.

**- Bespoke - Business & Luxury, for Australian Financial Review**

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