Bert Newton

Australia's #1 Television Star!

Since television began in Australia, Bert Newton, with his twin talents as a natural comedian and compere, has been a favourite with the viewing public, visiting celebrities and critics alike.

Bert Newton’s remarkable career has been recognised by an incredible collection of awards including: 18 Logies – of which 6 are Gold Logies, The Gold Sammy, The Gold TV Star award, Gold Penguin – incorporating the Colin Bednall award for contribution to television, Gold Penguin – Performance in TV Variety, 3 Penguin Citations – Television Society of Australia and the Footlighter award – from his entertainment peers. In 2006 he was nominated for the Gold Logie for his role in Good Morning Australia.

For his radio work, Bert received the Inaugural Grand Pater in 1982. In his last year at 3UZ he won the Pater for the Most Popular Radio Personality. In 1988 he was awarded the Pater for the Year’s Best Radio Special, 3DB: The First 60 Years. This program also received a citation at the 1988 New York Radio Festival.

His dedicated professionalism was acknowledged with an MBE from Queen Elizabeth II in 1979, for services to the Performing Arts.

Bert has earned a reputation as Australia’s premier Master of Ceremonies for special event TV. He has hosted the TV Week Logie Awards a record 19 times. Other specials Bert has hosted include: The Royal Charity Concert before Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, The Royal Gala Concert attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales, three specials celebrating Australian television history and the Sydney Entertainment Centre opening.

In 1976 Bert became compere of the Nine Network’s New Faces program, which was on air for 22 years. In 1984 he hosted Tonight with Bert Newton and was the first compere to present a four-nightly variety show on a national basis.

Bert attracted the attention of the Seven Network in its first days of broadcasting and was signed up to compere The Late Show with the late Noel Ferrier. Bert’s opposition was Graham Kennedy in the same time slot on the Nine Network. In March 1959 they ceased being rivals and teamed up on Channel Nine for In Melbourne Tonight. No-one who saw Kennedy and Newton on IMT could ever forget their brand of humour and entertainment and Bert became one of Australia’s favourite sons with his impeccable sense of timing and his natural warm humour.

Bert and Don Lane combined in the highest rating national tonight show in Australia’s history The
Don Lane Show. Their unique and award-winning partnership entertained a massive audience for almost 10 years (1975-1983).

In May 1986, Bert joined 3DB Melbourne as General Manager and on-air announcer and he remained there for two years, being the last on-air personality to be heard on this pioneering radio station, which ceased operating in April 1988.

1989 saw Bert’s return to the Seven Network where he began his television career. He was the host of the daily program The Bert Newton Show, which was seen nationally around Australia.

In 1991 Bert starred in the $3m dollar theatre production of The Wizard of Oz. In the title role, he received rave notices right around Australia. In 1996 Bert starred as Cogsworth in the Disney $15m stage production of Beauty And The Beast for which he won a Mo Award. 1999 saw Bert take to the stage again in the lavish production of The Sound Of Music as Uncle Max. In 2001 Bert reprised his role as The Wizard of Oz in the musical of the same name. He went on to play the role of Franz Liebkind in the Melbourne production of Mel Brooks’ award-winning musical The Producers.

Bert Newton hosted Channel 10’s Good Morning Australia for fourteen years from 1992 before moving to Channel 9 in 2006 to take over from Bud Tingwell as host of the series 20 to 1. He again hosted the TV Week Logie Awards in 2006. To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of television in Australia, Channel 9 ran a show titled 50 Years, 50 Stars, where they looked back at the Top 50 stars of Australian television. Bert Newton was listed as the #1 Australian TV star of the past 50 years.