



## Humanising immigration one belly laugh at a time

**James Roque**  
**Legal Alien**

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**Fresh from a sold out season at last year's NZ International Comedy Festival, accomplished Kiwi-Asian comedian James Roque brings a new show to Auckland and Wellington.**

In 2017, James Roque (roh-keh) realised he'd been pronouncing his own Filipino last name incorrectly for 17 years. So he adjusted it back, and since then has been on a journey of reclaiming his identity as an immigrant. Kind of like *Eat. Pray. Love.* but with less Julia Roberts and more of a culturally confused Filipino comedian.

*Legal Alien* tells the story of a first generation Filipino migrant who grew up (and is still growing up) in New Zealand. An immigrant who, after 18 years, feels accepted 90% of the time and the other 10% still feels like an outsider who's being allowed to stay – a *legal* alien. Packed with anecdotes about trying to fit in, his relationship with his parents, and societal pressures, the show sees James unpack how all these things have shaped him to be the man he is today.

A regular on the New Zealand comedy scene, James is featured on all of New Zealand's most popular comedy TV shows. He is a writer and cast member on Three's *Jono and Ben* as well as the sketch shows *Funny Girls* and *Only in Aotearoa*. He is also a panellist for *7 Days* and has had stand-out sets on the TV comedy specials *AotearoHa* and *After Hours*.

"Immigration is a huge hot topic issue right now." James says "Whenever people talk about immigrants it's always as a statistic or just a number. People forget that immigrants just want to live a comfortable life like me and you. I want to put a face to the word 'immigrant' in a fun way."

*Legal Alien* opens on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Wellington at Fringe Bar and runs for 5 nights, then in Auckland on May 8 at Q Theatre for 5 nights. Bookings recommended.

*"More than just your typical stand-up show"* - Megan Harvey, New Zealand Herald

*"Roque's performance is impeccable"* – Sam Brooks, The Spinoff

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**Performing as part of the 2018 NZ International Comedy Festival  
with Best Foods Mayo from 26 April – 20 May.**

**For the full line-up of shows in the Festival head to [comedyfestival.co.nz](http://comedyfestival.co.nz)**



**James Roque – Legal Alien**

**Auckland**

Dates: May 8 – 12, 7pm

Venue: Vault at Q Theatre, 305 Queen Street,  
Auckland

Tickets: \$18-\$22

Bookings: [comedyfestival.co.nz](http://comedyfestival.co.nz) or [qtheatre.co.nz](http://qtheatre.co.nz)

**Wellington**

Dates: May 1 - 5, 7pm

Venue: Fringe Bar, 26-32 Allen Street, Te Aro,  
Wellington

Tickets: \$18-\$22

Bookings: [comedyfestival.co.nz](http://comedyfestival.co.nz) or [iticket.co.nz](http://iticket.co.nz)

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**For more information, images and interviews contact:**

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