

MISS*UNIVERSE NEW ZEALAND

2019 Grand Final







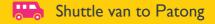
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The Miss Universe New Zealand Grand Final Charity Gala Dorothy Winstone Centre Saturday 17th August, 7 p.m.

THE PRE-SHOW Introduction from the Executive Producer Nigel Godfrey

THE SHOW

The Finalists for the first time
Meet your Hosts and Judges
A little more from the finalists
Performance by Eden Kavanagh
Swimwear by Shek Kini
The Eveningwear Parade

The first elimination
Estelle Curd, Miss Universe New Zealand 2018
Let's meet the Top 7
Performance from Verity Howells
Looking Back and Looking Forward
The second elimination
And then there were three
Performance from Eden Kavanagh
Announcement of the Winner of Miss Universe New Zealand 2019

At the end of the show, accredited Media and Sponsors are invited onto the stage for photos with the new Miss Universe New Zealand.

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A welcome from the Executive Producer

Good evening and welcome to this year's Grand Final, the seventh coronation since our Consortium took over the reins in 2013. If you are reading this while seated inside the theatre, then you are in for a great night of live entertainment. If you've downloaded the programme and are watching us on screen, then do sit back and enjoy the show.

This year, our finalists travelled to Thailand for what will be our final international retreat. We must thank both Mr Logan Daley



On stage you will see some beautiful eveningwear created by our designer Sidney Eculla, who we have flown in from Manila to join us. We are delighted to welcome a new swimwear sponsor, Shek Kini, designed by former contestant Shekinah Delos Santos. Entertaining us on stage is Verity Howells, who after performing at Christmas in the Park, headed overseas and picked up a recording contract in LA and a \$200,000 scholarship to study musical theatre in New York. Eden Kavanagh will also join us—after stunning British audiences in *The Voice UK*, she has now returned to New Zealand. Evana Corric is back as our key judge; Tania Dawson, Miss Universe New Zealand 2016 rejoins the panel; MUNZ choreographer, actress and singer Jane Strickland is also casting her critical eye this year. Redressing the gender balance, we are delighted to welcome the owner of Essential Talent, Shaun O'Neill, and well known local business champion and a long-term supporter of Miss Universe New Zealand, Sunny Kaushal.

I'd also thank to thank each and every sponsor. They feature in the programme and their support is crucial to our success, and so I urge you in turn to support them.

I would like to pay tribute to my co-director and MUNZ general counsel Jack Yan, who for seven years has shared the vision of what Miss Universe New Zealand could become, and my partner Aloha Quitat who joins us this year as a director of the company.

As always, I would like to end by saying, on behalf of Miss Universe New Zealand, a very heartfelt thank-you to each and every one of our finalists, because without them we quite simply would not have a show.

Nigel Godfrey

Executive Director & Producer Miss Universe New Zealand



On December 17th, 2018 my dream turned into a reality, becoming the 67th Miss Universe and the fourth woman from the Philippines to earn the crown. More than a victory for myself, it was a victory for my entire country. It will always be one of my greatest honours to have represented my country with pride, and to carry the Philippines sash across my heart.

Although the title of Miss Universe may be the end destination for some, I feel that I've embarked on a new journey. Every step of this new path is taken with gratitude in my heart. I plan to utilize this amazing platform and plethora of opportunities to learn

achieve this year, including common underserved areas and HIV-Aids prevention.

To the incredible women competing tonight, congraturated individual journeys I ask you to remember the reason why you embarked road in the first place. Always bring yourself back to your purpose. Let it anchor you. Participating in a pageant is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and though this experience, we grow and discover new facets of ourselves. It is this personal growth that makes every woman a winner. I wish you the best of luck, love and light and don't arrior yourself!



Welcome to the 2019 Miss Universe New Zealand competition! Tonight, fans will have the opportunity to meet a group of ambitious, accomplished and goal-oriented women who will compete for the opportunity to represent their country at the next Miss Universe competition.

While there will only be one woman who walks away with the Miss Universe New Zealand title, being here tonight is already an incredible accomplishment. I hope that each contestant feels inspired by each other and leaves the competition wanting to achieve more. The Miss Universe Organization believes that this experience will give women even more confidence to guide them on a path to success no matter what they aspire to do next.

Miss Universe is someone who is strong, determined and most importantly, confident. Our directors work tirelessly to spread our message about what it means to hold the title—and what an important role it is to have.

To all the contestants, I hope that you make lifelong memories, and build a newfound confidence achieved through self-awareness. As leaders and role models, I encourage you to continue to work hard to affect positive change on issues you care about. Whether it be throughout your reign or in the future, it is our unrelenting mission to provide you with opportunities and connections to help achieve personal success.

You will always have your title, and know that you have earned an indefinite place within the MUO sisterhood. Believe in yourself and with hard work and determination, know that anything is possible.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our national director, Nigel Godfrey, the friends and families of our contestants and tonight's sponsors for their support. To the newly crowned winner, I look forward to meeting you soon at the next Miss Universe competition.

Paula Mahugat



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A message from

Estelle Curd Miss Universe New Zealand 2018

'Estelle Curd!' After the words were called out and I was named the winner of Miss Universe New Zealand for 2018 I could hardly believe it. I had had such an incredible journey getting to know so many beautiful, talented and intelligent New Zealand women, and now I was about to start a new journey, as Miss Universe NZ, with 93 women from around the world. This journey took courage and faith in myself, as it was not always the easiest of adventures, but it was incredibly rewarding.



As soon as the crown was placed upon my head we were straight into my reign, from media, to attendances at launches, it was full on! One month in and I was flown to Sydney to speak at a conference which was attended by great leaders and intellectuals from around the world, what an experience that was.

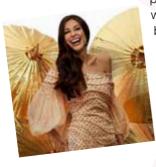
And then of course there was Miss Universe 2018 which was held in Thailand. One moment that remains in my head was being at the airport in Thailand about to fly to Krabi Island with some of the other contestants (at 6 a.m.) and there were lines of people screaming and crying, just to be close to us! Security was tight, to say the least!

On the night I stepped out in a beautiful Sidney Eculla dress, full of passion and courage, the New Zealand sash across my chest, I couldn't have been

prouder. Although my journey finished on that stage, I wished Catriona Gray, our Miss Universe 2018, all the best and I came home to my place in the world.

What an unbelievable year, filled with laughter, joy and love. Thank you to the Miss Universe NZ directors, my family and friends and supporters from all across the world. Although there can only be one winner, all the beautiful finalists should be so proud of themselves. It's not easy to put yourself out there, but in doing so, you show the world what you are made of. For Miss Universe New Zealand 2019, I

wish you all the best: remember this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so be present and enjoy every moment, and I wish you the very best of luck!



Your hosts



After moving from her home town of Leeds, **Holly Pollock** continued her career in performing and radio. Working behind the mic and in marketing for many years, Holly moved into TV with Choice TV. She set up her own TV production company and is now Executive Producer and presenter of Three's weekday morning entertainment and lifestyle show *The Café*, alongside Mike Puru and Mel Homer. Although she still has that Yorkshire accent (even after being in New Zealand for nearly 20 years), Holly is a very proud Kiwi.

As well as being the CEO of Miss Universe New Zealand, Nigel Godfrey is highly regarded in the TV Industry, having produced and directed hundreds of broadcast programmes and commercials both in N7 and overseas. He has directed stars like Michael Caine, Gorden Kaye, Trinny and Susannah, the Two Fat Ladies, and, in New Zealand, many of our best known personalities. Earlier this year he pulled together, in just three weeks, This is Who We Are, a spectacular variety show, in aid of the victims of the Christchurch massacre. He describes this as one of his proudest career achievements. He is also a well known face "on screen": in the movies he has shared the screen with Jon Voight, John Hurt, David Strathairn and a rather large ape. On TV, he has guested in around 25 TV series including Hercules, Xena, Power Rangers and, of course, Shortland Street (in his words, 'Who hasn't?'). And he's probably



best known for around 60 commercials. Who could forget the Vero bull in the china shop? He wants to make clear he didn't play the "back end". When he has time, he enjoys a return to the theatre, and last year travelled to Tokyo to appear in *Phantom of the Opera* for the third time.

Your entertainers

Half-Kiwi, half-Irish performing artist **Eden Kavanagh** has spent many years crafting her talent, first joining the Timaru Drama League when she was 10. A 2017 graduate of the Whitireia Performing Arts' Centre, she has performed both here and in Ireland, and earlier in 2019 garnered headlines and international



media coverage after appearing on *The Voice UK*. Miss Universe New Zealand executive producer Nigel Godfrey was in the UK at the time and saw that performance live. Back in New Zealand, he approached Eden's management, and asked her to appear in *This Is Who We Are*, the variety spectacular staged to raise funds for the victims of the Christchurch massacre. Once again, she wowed the audience and he felt compelled to ask her to reprise her performance tonight. Eden is now based in New Zealand working toward her EP launch, and we have no doubt that before long, she'll be boarding that plane again as international stardom awaits.



Sixteen-year-old Verity Howells from Ngaruawahia is a two-time Gold Heart Variety scholarship recipient. She has been performing in the Waikato since the age of 10, taking roles in musical theatre and singing at local events. In 2018, Verity was given the opportunity to perform at Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park in Auckland. In the months since, she gained a \$200,000 scholarship to study musical theatre and acting at the prestigious New York Film Academy. She has also signed a record deal with Indasoul and Onkey in Los Angeles. Miss Universe New Zealand is delighted to give Verity the opportunity to perform for us this evening, endorsing the ongoing relationship with Variety, the Children's Charity, that we created in 2013.

Tonight's fashion

SIDNEY ECULLA

We are honoured this year to showcase designs from international couturier **Sidney Eculla**.

Sidney Eculla is a self-taught designer and first worked for Manila-based designer Edgar Allan. He has shown in New York as well as his native Philippines, where he has dressed some of the country's top celebrities. Sidney also develops his own handwoven fabrics, giving his work a unique look. His couture collection that you see tonight has been created specially for the finalists, whom he met in person during their International Retreat in Thailand. Sidney will also create the gown that Miss Universe New Zealand 2019 will wear at the international competition.

Our choreographer



Born and raised in New Zealand, **Jane Strickland** spent many years nurturing her craft. Her passion for performing arts has taken her around the world, bringing her back to her motherland only six years ago. Prior to that, Jane spent her first few years in the industry performing throughout Australia in both the musical theatre and corporate worlds. Continuing her urge to travel, Jane then made the move to high seas, working for Norwegian Cruise Line as a principal singer–dancer. Jane is thrilled to be back home working alongside some of the country's most dedicated entertainers, as well as being a core dancer and choreographer for one of New Zealand's top commercial dance companies, Momentum Productions.

After having a fabulous time working with the Miss Universe New Zealand ladies at Stiletto Camp, Jane is very excited to be this year's choreographer for the Grand Final and wishes all the contestants the best of luck.

Our judging panel





Evana Corric is a former Director of Miss Universe New Zealand and the current Managing Director of the Talent Tree, a new Auckland-based talent and model agency.

Evana is a pageant veteran, having judged over 50 competitions in New Zealand and has been involved in the modelling world for almost two decades, as a plus-size commercial model, a make-up artist and stylist, and photographer and choreographer for World TV's annual Miss Chinese Cosmos and Miss Chinese New Zealand pageants.

If this isn't enough to keep her busy, she is a qualified life coach, holding a Diploma in Life Coaching from the New Zealand Institute of Business Studies, and is Mum to seven-vear-old Mila.

Evana is joined on the judging panel by: **Tania Dawson**, Miss Universe New Zealand 2016; **Jane Strickland**, MUNZ Choreographer, **Shaun O'Neill**, owner of Essential Talent; and **Sunny Kaushal**, GM of the Quadrant Hotel, and proprietor of the Shakespeare Hotel & Brewery.









Cassie Angus

'I need to move around a bit, wake up in cities I don't know my way around, and share in conversations in languages I cannot entirely comprehend.' This describes Cassie Angus in a nutshell. This 24-yearold grew up in Wellington and has based herself out of Auckland for the last three years as an international flight attendant. She has embraced her passion for aviation and creating lifelong memories. Cassie likes to immerse herself in the moment and engage with multiple cultures, like spending time in Soweto helping out children in the village and orphanages, to working in a soup kitchen for a day in Los Angeles. Miss Universe New Zealand has helped Cassie make a difference back home for Kiwi kids through working with Variety—the Children's Charity. 'I try to find my value in what I'm doing for people and the world, in who I am in my everyday life, in what my actions say about the kind of person I am.'

Samantha Wood, originally from London, moved to Auckland two years ago. The 21-year-old works in accounts and has been modelling since she was 15, and was a semi-finalist for Miss England.

When she's not in front of the camera Samantha is keeping fit. This includes boxing and circuit training, but this doesn't stop her enjoying a box of chicken nuggets and a large milkshake!

Samantha has done previous work for charities. One of her achievements is being given the opportunity to do a charity catwalk, working with big brands and supporting the after-care of patients who had conquered cancer.

She entered Miss Universe New Zealand because she thinks it's a brilliant platform for women to use their voices.

'Through my journey with MUNZ not only have I been blessed enough to experience Thailand and their culture, raise money and awareness for unprivileged New Zealand children, I have been able to share this with some lifelong friends.'€

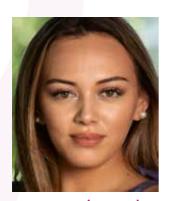


Samantha Wood

llea Baker

Ilea Baker is 19 years old and affiliates to Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Hauiti. Ilea works as a freelance make-up artist around and outside Auckland. Having come from Levin, she stepped out of her comfort zone moving to a big city to seek opportunities to become successful. Ilea entered Miss Universe New Zealand to gain confidence and to empower and encourage all women to chase their dreams. 'Pageants aren't all about looking pretty in a dress, it's about how you carry yourself as a person and being the best role model for our people, representing not just Māori women but all women proud to call Aotearoa their home.'€





Jayda Ormsby-Northcott

Jayda Ormsby-Northcott, 21, is from te Whanganuia-Tara (Wellington). She is a very family-orientated woman who embraces her Māori culture through kapa haka and te reo. She also enjoys seizing opportunities and embarking on new adventures around the world. She has recently graduated Level 4 Tourism & Flight Attending. Jayda is currently an administrator at a medical centre, which is where she gets to embrace her whakawhangaungatanga within her organization and with her patients. Jayda is here to challenge herself and to set a good example for other Māori wāhine. While being on this journey she has also become passionate about breaking the stereotype of beauty pageants. She strongly believes that beauty comes in all sizes, shapes and colours and that everyone is unique and beautiful in their own way. If Jayda were to win Miss Universe New Zealand, she would use the platform to encourage people to be who they are, spread kindness and follow their dreams, and empower and uplift other women across New Zealand

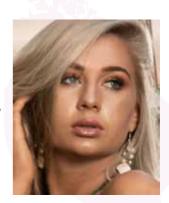


Diamond Langi

Diamond Langi is from Auckland, New Zealand with a Tongan background. She has graduated with her master's in professional styling and is a full-time fashion stylist. Currently studying her bachelor's degree in acting and performing arts, she is the main character in the feature film, *Sosefina*, that will be released later on this year. She started an eponymous non-profit foundation where she gives back to the community and those in need. This multi-talented finalist is also a musician, with her music available on numerous platforms.

Lydia Smit, 22, is a Waikato-based, vibrant individual in the final stages of completing her Bachelor of Management with Honours degree, majoring in strategic management and human resource management. Being part of Miss Universe New Zealand, she wishes to prove that people are more than their appearance suggests, and just because someone looks a certain way doesn't determine who they are as a person or what they are capable of.

Lydia works for a kennel caring for dogs, as well as her university, sharing her experience living in the Netherlands and studying at Erasmus University for her overseas exchange. She helps other students with their own exchange journeys. She also interns at a district council as an HR intern, learning the ropes for her possible future.



Lydia Smit



Hannah McCabe

Hannah McCabe is a 25-year-old police officer based in the beautiful Marlborough region. Hannah is passionate about helping others and found her calling joining the New Zealand Police. This is Hannah's second time in the Miss Universe New Zealand finals and has come back from the 2016 finals with more confidence and experience behind her. What attracts Hannah to the Miss Universe New Zealand competition is the chance for a platform to help less fortunate children throughout New Zealand.





Charissa Rehu

Charissa Rehu is a martial arts-loving 24-year-old. Her occupation is a flight attendant with a world-renowned company. Charissa is always ready for the next fun adrenaline adventure, which includes travelling the wider Pacific, looking for the next opportunity to step outside her comfort zone.

She entered this quest to challenge herself with new opportunities and to learn something new about herself.

Charissa is here to represent herself as an honest, beautiful Kiwi Māori woman who has a combination of drive and ambition to succeed at what she does.

Her passion has been martial arts for six years. Karate has taught her to set goals and to strive to achieve.

For her, the best part of Miss Universe New Zealand is meeting all the contestants who are beautiful, inside and out.





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Holly Quinn

Holly Quinn is 27 years old and lives in Auckland. She is currently studying wedding planning and design, and works in hospitality. When she's not working, she is hiking—Holly loves to be outdoors and in nature. Her reason for entering Miss Universe New Zealand this year was to show that if you keep trying and not think so much about the outcome, you never know what might happen.





Kanika Batra

Kanika Batra, 25, has studied finance at Sydney University after initially studying medicine. She is an actress, model and author, and is currently finishing off her fourth novel, a crime thriller. She fluently speaks four languages, and is a coloratura soprano operatic singer. Kanika is an avid fan of fitness, particularly ballet and Pilates, and has a love of art and classical music.

'I entered Miss Universe New Zealand for a multitude of reasons,' she says, 'primarily because I've always been told that petite women can't be models, and they can't be pageant queens. The idea that beauty always has one specific look is unacceptable to me, and New Zealand has always been the country to push boundaries and set precedents, I believe we can set another by having a petite Miss Universe! New Zealand is my home, and I'm eternally proud of it, and MUNZ not only accepts diversity but it actively celebrates it. I want other women out there to see that if I can make a difference using this brilliant platform, so can they! Miss Universe is a life-changing journey, and as an LGBT woman of an Indian background, I want to represent my community.'

Kanika is deeply passionate about feminism and brain cancer research. She focused on molecular biology in her undergrad degree and after familial experience with this cruel disease she hopes we can find a cure.

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Ashlee Cocklin is a 22-year-old from Whangarei. She works in TV and film and helps run a beef stock farm. Having lived overseas a good chunk of her life, you could say she's quite worldly and adapts easily. Ashlee has a strong love for children and has worked with many while coaching rugby over the years in Canada. She hopes to mentor in the near future.

The many past trials—that Ashlee now calls blessings—have shaped her into a positive, open-minded and passionate lady. If she's not outside fishing, you'll find her with her family. Ashlee's family is her first priority, giving her most valued opinions, and her biggest motivation.



Ashlee Cocklin



Tiara Popata

Tiara Popata, 21, is a beauty therapist from New Plymouth. She describes her home region, Taranaki, as having a good heart. Tiara is proud of her Māori heritage, affiliated with Ngāpuhi, and is knowledgeable about her background and culture. 'I joined the competition because I've never been naturally good at public speaking. Miss Universe New Zealand gave me the opportunity to face my fear by putting my public speaking to practice regularly, pushing me to be more confident and competent.' She has done jiujitsu for seven years. Should she be crowned tonight, Tiara would like to use the platform to promote the women's self-defence programme from New Plymouth and spread it New Zealand wide, championing women empowerment and equality.



Bronze Sponsors









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Pri's Pretty Designs Lucy Leah

Tarryn Wroblewski

Tarryn Marysia Wroblewski, 20, has proud half-Polish roots, and was born and raised in Christchurch New Zealand. She holds diplomas in modelling and personal beauty. Tarryn currently currently works in retail, and is continuing her studies in Christchurch.

She is very passionate about modelling and has been in the industry for seven years. She has a strong love for animals and hopes to incorporate that into her career one day. Tarryn counts herself as a confident and



outgoing young woman who works hard for what she believes in. She entered Miss Universe New Zealand to gain a fantastic new experience for herself and encourages all watching to chase their goals and always work towards challenging yourself. 'You can achieve anything you put your mind to—don't let anything hold you back,' she says.



Credits

CEO **Nigel Godfrey**General Counsel **Jack Yan**Production Associate **Aloha Quitat**

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Executive Producer Nigel Godfrey
Television Director Nigel Carpenter
Technical Producer Brendan Quaife
Choreographer Jane Strickland
Evening Gowns Sidney Eculla
Swimwear Shek Kini
Make-up Alison Brill

Outside Broadcast Facilities and Live Stream **Showvision**

Stage Manager Mark Betty

Lighting Director **Kate Burton**, 40 Watt Ltd.

Venue Audio Tony McMaster, McMusic Audio

For the Dorothy Winstone Centre Alicia Hall

Location Cameras Devi Sooksiri, Nigel Godfrey

Stills' Photographers Alan Raga, Snb. Joel, Joe of Arts

VT Editors Calum Lyall, Brendan Quaife, Rhys Duncan

Audio Native Audio

Photo Editors Alan Raga, Jack Yan

Event Ticketing **iTICKET**

For Variety—the Children's Charity Lorraine Taylor & Jess Raymond



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And, of course, there's next year

We can't wait till 2020 as Miss Universe New Zealand brings it home to Aotearoa—with our traditional calendar shoot still very much part of the competition. Alan Raga, who has shot our calendars since 2014, has worked his magic once again for the latest edition (right)—and you can be part of it all next year! Head to www.nextmissnz.com and enter!





ALAN RAGA PHOTOGRAPHY

WWW.ALANRAGA.COM



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