



Noelle McCarthy.

Height 169 cm

MC/Entertainer Biography
JOHNSON&LAIRD

It's hard to imagine stylish radio It-girl Noelle McCarthy grappling with a three-metre snake in the middle of the Amazon River, but she's dined out many times on the story of how she helped catch an anaconda in Peru.

It was all part of TVNZ's reality show Shock Treatment, and a mission to raise money for charities. Noelle's brave deed raised \$5000 for the Auckland City Mission and gave the self-confessed scaredy-cat and exercise-phobe one of the most exhilarating experiences of her life.

You'll have heard Noelle's lilting tones on Radio New Zealand National where she regularly hosts and produces the afternoon show. Highly intelligent and opinionated, Noelle relishes a good political debate, and has held her own sparring against the likes of notoriously tough-to-interview politician Winston Peters, and former Prime Minister Helen Clark.

No shrinking violet, the dark-haired Irish import stands out in a crowd. A popular face at social events, her unique style, usually inspired by a local designer, is often snapped for the society pages. She's always stood out whether it be by winning the all-Irish high school speech championships or as a mini-goth (think black velvet swing-coats and black lipstick) and a staunch animal rights supporter in her working-class hometown. She also once delighted the crowds at a local club in character as the rich bitch Alexis from 1980s American TV drama Dynasty.

Noelle hit New Zealand shores six years ago, wanting a break from post-graduate study at the University of Cork. While waitressing at an Auckland restaurant, she volunteered at student radio station 95bfm and got a gig writing the breakfast show news. She later landed a full-time job as the station's news and current affairs director, followed by a stint at Newstalk ZB until Radio New Zealand came calling.

Witty and charming, she's in demand as an MC and presenter, and has hosted events such as the Auckland Art Gallery's biennial Walters Prize, as well as numerous corporate conferences, charity debates and fashion shows.

The busy broadcaster is also a columnist for the New Zealand Herald, and regularly contributes opinions on arts, culture, fashion and entertainment for publications such as Fashion Quarterly and Real Groove magazines, and current affairs website thewire.co.nz.

A true fashion junkie, Noelle gets her sartorial highs from poking through new and second-hand clothes shops and dreaming about her next pair of (expensive) shoes. In her spare time she tries to improve her cooking skills and goes to the gym, but she'd rather be reading Victorian literature (her still-unfinished Master's thesis was to be on Dracula) or crime novels.

A minor technophobe, Noelle has shunned Blackberries and palm pilots for spiral bound notebooks, of which she usually has six on the go at once.

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She's a ringleader in a regular pub quiz team where she's the resident movie and book expert. Don't challenge her on Irish history either. Noelle is a former winner of the National University of Ireland's prestigious Mansion House Prize on that very topic.

And if it's your round, while she's happy to down a pint of Guinness, this Irish lass would prefer a glass or two of Murphy's stout.