

## **Anh Do – Biography**

Anh arrived in Australia at age 3 on a small fishing boat packed with 47 other Vietnamese refugees. Having survived pirate attacks, dehydration, and internment in a Malaysian refugee camp, young Anh came through this adversity with a determination to make the most out of life. No one had any idea, including Anh himself, that he would go on to become one of Australia's best-loved entertainers!

An entrepreneur through childhood (during which time he bred and sold tropical fish), as a young man Anh went on to study Business Law. Six months shy of finishing his double degree, and with multiple offers from various law firms on the table, he opted instead for a far more stable and sensible job as a comedian.

Since deciding to pursue his true calling, Anh has never looked back. He went on to bag every comedy award in town, including Sydney Comedian of the Year, and was soon able to fulfil his lifelong dream of buying his mother a house. He's played to sell out crowds at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and Sydney Opera House, and appeared on TV shows such as *Rove Live*, *Spicks & Specks*, *Thank God You're Here*, and *The Footy Show*. He was a grand finalist on *Dancing with the Stars*, on which he was a huge favourite with the voting home audience. This saw him offered his own TV show, *Made in China with Anh Do*, an Olympics special which rated through the roof. Off the back of this, Anh produced the highly successful *Anh Does* series with Channel 7.

As an actor, he has appeared in Aussie TV favourites such as *Seachange*, *All Saints* and *Pizza*. He has also starred in the movie *Footy Legends*, and in 2003 he co-produced *The Finished People*, which was described by Margaret Pomeranz as 'one of the best Australian films of the year'.

In 2010 he released *The Happiest Refugee*, his enormously popular memoir detailing his journey from war-torn Vietnam to Australia. The book won numerous awards in 2011, including Australian Book of the Year, Biography of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, and Indie Book of the Year. Since then Anh has brought the story to life in a critically acclaimed inspirational live show, *The Happiest Refugee Live*, which has commanded sell-out seasons in hundreds of locations all over the country.

Anh has written other books since, including the nationally best-selling *Weir Do* and *Hotdog* series for children.

Recently, Anh has been exploring his passion for art. In 2016 he created *Anh's Brush with Fame* for the ABC, a program in which Anh interviews a celebrity while painting their portrait. The show has been a phenomenal success, and continues, now in its fourth season, to this day. He has also twice been nominated for the Archibald Prize, and took out the People's Choice award 2017.

### **FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION:**

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## Quotes for Live Performance

*"irrepressible good humour, infectious energy and bright optimism"*  
- The Sydney Morning Herald

*"the happiest audience experience I have ever had"*  
- Arts Hub

*"Two thumbs, five stars, show of the season"*  
- [www.themusic.com.au](http://www.themusic.com.au)

## Quotes for Happiest Refugee

*'This really is a page turner of laughter and tears'*  
- Courier Mail

*'Funny and moving, it tells the story of our times.'*  
- The Age

*'Had me up all night reading ... it is a ripper'*  
- Leon Compton, ABC Radio

*'I laughed, I cried ... such an inspiring book.'*  
- David Koch, Sunrise

*'The work of a truly gifted storyteller and one of the most enjoyable books I've read this year.'*  
- Alex Miller, Miles Franklin Award winner

*'A truly lovely memoir ... great pathos and humour, and a straight-talking style.'*  
- Daily Telegraph

*'A BELTER of a book. I've been at the National Library for ten years; I've read a lot of books ... this is one of the best!'*  
- Heidi Pritchard

*'the most surprising and inspiring read I have had in years.'*  
- Russel Crowe