

John
Down
Under.



TV medium John Edward has broken through to mainstream acceptance and success

Once when you thought of a medium or a psychic the image was of an old woman draped in scarves and silver, begging you to cross her palm with silver. But the modern day medium is compassionate, comforting and totally accessible via TV and your local bookstore. And instead of prophesising about tall dark strangers, they bring messages of comfort and love from the other side.

Acclaimed New York medium John Edward, who has been communicating with the dead since his teens, has been battling stereotypes and personal attacks

JOHN crosses over

for 10 years, since his name became well known in the psychic world.

He still attracts more than his fair share of cynics, but he says perceptions are slowly changing. And he thinks Australians are leading the way.

Earlier this year John did a Down Under seminar tour, his first out of the US, and he got the largest audiences of his life.

Many of the stories from his trip appear in his new book *After Life: Answers From the Other Side* (Hay House, \$24.95).

'It was an unbelievable experience. I was blown away!' John says.

'I couldn't believe the reception I got, and it was amazing because the people are so open to the subject matter, and so spiritual, much more so than Americans.'

He wasn't nervous getting up in front of 10,000 people at a time, but he was overwhelmed by the support and interest.

'I walked out on stage to a standing ovation. And I was like: "Oh my God! I

didn't even say anything yet!" There are moments in life that you never forget, and that was definitely one of them for me.

'But I said: "Thank you so much, but you are not clapping for me, you're applauding the process, and it represents the boundless love you have for your loved ones on the other side."

John talks a lot about the process, in which he delivers messages to people from loved ones who have died, because he is uncomfortable when the focus is on him.

He is the charismatic host of TV's *Crossing Over with John Edward* (weekdays on Arena), but he'd rather be anonymous.

'It was never: "I want to be famous, I want to be on TV." It just became part of the work, an amplification of the message.

'But it's not about me. I am just the instrument on which they play,' he laughs.

As a regular guest on *Larry King Live* and other US prime time shows, he has worked hard to demystify the process of what he does and educate people about mediumship, the afterlife and grieving.

He's been told by many people that watching *Crossing Over* is like therapy.

'I think in some respects that's true,' he says. 'But I would like to stress that mediumship is not an alternative to counselling. It's very important to honour your grief and your personal journey through it.'

And no matter how much comfort he gives people through his work, his message is clear.

'Live your life, enjoy the journey and enjoy the people in your life in the present. Don't wait until they're not here to decide you want to say what you need to say.'

By Serene Conneely

'Enjoy the people in your life in the present'