



WILL ANDERSON

WILFUL MISCONDUCT

If one had already formed an opinion on Wil Anderson based on his TV appearances, one may be surprised at how quickly their opinion will change in the live stand-up environment. On screen, Anderson comes across as loud, aggressive and at times smug; on stage and on his lonesome, it's his nervous energy that's immediately palpable. It's as if he's shouting to block out the voices in his head; his confident exterior becomes overshadowed by a sensitivity and socially-conscious core screaming to be heard, not merely noticed. Few comics possess the skill to execute informed opinions on issues of relevance as voraciously and passionately as the cynical black-clad Anderson, who will never cease to find material when living - as he often reminds us - in a dark, disturbing, and sad world. Anderson's relentlessly scorching attack on the intolerant, ignorant, racist and homophobic was gripping, moving, and utterly memorable. It's to the vast betterment of the audience that Anderson has the audacity and courage to express his views completely uncensored. Sure, Anderson has no problem with jokes of a crude and obnoxious nature. But overall, it's admirable

that Anderson can be so unrestrained and tenacious while remaining incredibly perceptive. Also notable was Anderson's approach to *Wilful Misconduct* - one in which he based his show around topics he held as most pertinent. Issues of racism, a corrupt beauty industry, aging, society's blame mentality, and euthanasia are all included. Anderson criticises everything that provokes one to swing an axe to the television set and distils it into relatable and compelling prose. Whereas most comedians tip-toe around issues of racism, Anderson marches right up to the racist's face abominating, detesting, and condemning the "fuck off, we're full" southern cross tattoo sentiment with such fervour and brutality that anyone with the aforementioned tattoo would've sought to burn it off with their own cigarette lighter. *Wilful Misconduct* is an immensely thought-provoking and riveting show - clever, informed and witty prose doesn't come with more necessary expletives, frequent laughs, and burning social conscience than Anderson's.

BY CHRISTINE LAN