

BRAG [SYDNEY]  
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# Wil Anderson

[COMEDY] *Willful workaholic.* By Dylan Behan

**W**il Anderson is the 'Grateful Dead' of Australian comedy: a tireless road warrior, seemingly on a never-ending tour, he delivers without fail a brand new one-man show every year - full of his trademark rants about media, politics, sport and society.

In fact, Wil's a perfectionist workaholic with a self-deprecating streak; anyone else might well use the excuse of a cushie ABC television gig (*The Gruen Transfer*) as an excuse to slow down on standup and ease into middle age. Not Wil. He's touring more than ever, still playing the world's top comedy fests like Montreal and Edinburgh, as well headlining dates in Australasia and the U.K.

Home in Sydney to present a month-long run of his *Willful Misconduct* show at the Comedy Store (and tape season three of *Gruen*), July offers Anderson a very rare indulgence: domesticity. "I've been on the road for five and half months, overseas and here around Australia, and the great thing about doing it in Sydney is I do the show and then I just go home... I can be home in the tracksuit pants and moccasins on the couch with the cats by 9pm."

Knowing Wil, couch dates with the cats won't last long. After a recent three month stint scouting out work opportunities and gigging in Los Angeles, the comedian has his sights set on bringing his self-described 'topical dick jokes' to the American heartland. But he admits he might have to change his script a bit. "There's even clubs in the middle of America where you're not allowed to swear, so my 70-minute set will be about 17-minutes."

Having written most of *Willful Misconduct* while doing late night gigs in typical basement comedy clubs overseas, Wil says the material has developed a dirtier, old school comedy vibe, more suited to the club environment of the Comedy Store than his usual digs at the Enmore Theatre or the Opera House. "It's certainly edgier," he says - "even though I hate that word."

The intimate vibe will also provide Wil with an opportunity to indulge in one of his strengths: off-the-cuff audience interaction. "There's fun to be had when you can see your audience and smell your audience... Talking about masturbation or whatever, I can talk to the kid who's there with his mum. It just feels more like standup to me."

Recently in the headlines for Tweeting rude jokes ripping into his fellow celebs while seated at the Logies, Anderson has a warning for anyone who may have found his John Mayer/herpes jibe offensive.

"If you're offended by that then here's a tip: don't come see my live show. Because that shit is tame compared to what I say on stage."

By my count (and Wil's), this is something like Wil's fourteenth one-man show, beginning with *I am the Wilrus* in 1998 and continuing with names like *Wil*

*Communication* (2006), *Jagged Little Wil* (2003) and *Wil of Fortune* (2001). So realistically, Wil Anderson's standup career looks set to continue for as long as he's got Wil-based puns for names of shows left.

"I would say that my legs will give out and I won't be able to stand up in front of people well before the puns run out sadly. People just keep giving them to me. I honestly probably have a list of thirty or forty."



**What:** *Willful Misconduct*  
**When:** July 1-26 / Thurs - Sun at 7:00pm  
**Where:** Comedy Store (Fox EQ)  
**More:** comedystore.com.au