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**WIL ANDERSON**  
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"People always give them to me," Anderson chuckles about his show names, which have included such pun-tastic gems as *Jagged Little Wil*, *Wil By Mouth*, *Kill Wil* and now *Wilosophy*. "I've got a list of about 50 or 60. And then there are all the people who come up to me and say, 'I reckon your next show should be *Last Wil And Testament*'. And you think, 'Okay, well clearly you're not a big fan!'"

Okay, so the show names are not exactly in short supply. But how about the jokes? Anderson has built a reputation on writing new shows completely from scratch, rather than gradually evolving old shows into new ones. Anderson works in television, radio, newspapers and onstage, and says that when he writes a joke, it's easy for him to see which of those four disciplines he'll use it in.

"Different places for different comedy," he confirms. "When I'm doing the radio show, I love Amy Winehouse and the sort of people who do stupid things every day, because you do get up in the morning and think 'Shit, how am I going to fill two hours of radio this afternoon?' and then Amy Winehouse or Russell Crowe or Shane Warne has done something ridiculous. But insofar as when you come to stand-up comedy, I find that stuff a little lazy. When you do radio you have to cater for the person who tunes in halfway through, but in a stand-up room you have people's full atten-

tion, so I like to use that to take people a little further away than just your first thought."

Anderson is probably best-known as the guy who sat in the middle on the sadly-departed *The Glasshouse*, but he's been more recently seen on our screens as the dapper host of *The Gruen Transfer*, where he wrangles a panel of advertising executives.

Doing a show about the advertising industry is a little different from anything Wil's done before. "Particularly because it was successful," he laughs, "Which makes it different to pretty much *everything* I've done before. It was the highest-rating debut in the history of the ABC. Look, I tee it up to a combination of people liking smart TV and people being too lazy to turn their TVs off after *Spicks And Specks*. It's one of those things I look back on and love having done, but while shooting it, I wasn't exactly enjoying it – because I had to become an instant expert on each topic we'd talk about. I spent an entire weekend trying to become an expert on the Australian banking industry."

Anderson says he didn't learn much about how to promote himself during his time on Gruen, but says he may have his career strategy sorted.

"I got quite a lot of job offers while I was on – people saying 'If things are tight in comedy, come and work for me'. So I may have arranged my superannuation scheme if comedy ever stops working for me!"

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**Wil Anderson is at the Comedy Theatre from April 14<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9pm; Saturday 7pm; Sunday 6pm.**  
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