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# metro

MUSIC ■ FILM ■ STAGE

## SEXY SOUNDS

Burlesque meets gypsy in Sydney's new cabaret scene

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metro stage



# Another day in fools' paradise

One of Australia's favourite comedians observes the world with a suspicious mind in *Wilful Misconduct*, writes **Charles Purcell**.

If there's one thing comedian Wil Anderson has learnt from hosting hit ABC advertising show *The Gruen Transfer*, it's to be suspicious of the men in the long white coats. Particularly if they claim to be "experts".

"Now I can't watch an ad with an 'expert' in it without asking, 'Is this guy actually an expert?'" Anderson says. "I saw an ad last night that had this 'doctor' talking and I realised they didn't say he was a doctor and there was nothing saying he was 'doctor who'."

"He was just a guy in a lab coat. In the old days, I just would have assumed he was a doctor."

Anderson has also learnt that, as an audience, we don't scrutinise advertising critically – rather, we just let its dubious claims wash over us.

"I'm fascinated by the claims in advertising, like the seven signs of ageing."

"There's this new ad for a cold sore cover-up patch to put on your lip and it solves the 'seven symptoms of cold sores'. When you look at them, they're like redness, burning,

Ad break ...  
Wil Anderson  
doesn't trust  
adverts.

itching, irritation – it's all the same symptoms. It's not seven; they've just got out a thesaurus and chosen seven definitions of the same thing."

After conducting two hours of interviews, Anderson admits he's a bit punch-drunk (he says it's "good to see me", despite the fact we're talking over the phone). He says the experience has made him realise that he's "not that interesting".

"I had a question that asked me what I did on the weekend and I realised that drinking and reading

gene pool and it is time to let them go. So, basically, the theme of the show is a list of the morons who are pissing in the shallow end of our gene pool and stopping humanity from evolving into the superspecies that we need to be."

*Wilful Misconduct* promises "a wide range of high-brow and low-brow morons".

"It tackles some of the bigger issues – such as the people who, when it comes to global warming, say, 'Well, it's pretty cold today, so much for global warming', through

'I've been beaten down Guantanamo Bay-style – I feel like people must feel just before they get involved in Scientology.' Wil Anderson

the paper and watching AFL did make me sound a bit desperate and lonely and not as cool and exciting as I thought I was.

"I've been beaten down Guantanamo Bay-style – I feel like people must feel just before they get involved in Scientology."

Fresh from winning the *Bulmers People's Choice Award* at the Melbourne Comedy Festival, Anderson will bring *Wilful Misconduct* to Sydney.

Anderson says the show was inspired by a news story about people's reactions to the secondary effects of the big Chile tsunami possibly hitting our shores this year.

"There was a report in north Queensland that thousands of people, upon hearing about the tsunami warning, flocked to the beach to check out the waves," he says.

"It got me thinking that we're running out of resources in the world and the reason for this is that there are too many morons in our

to everything from Tony Abbott's attitudes to gay marriage to Jennifer Love Hewitt revealing that she likes to remove all her pubic hair and stick on diamonds and call it 'vajazzling'."

It has been 15 years since Anderson started in comedy – does he ever think that one day he'll get his comeuppance? "I think I totally get my comeuppance constantly – do you not watch *A Current Affair* and *Today Tonight*?"

He is determined not to get his comeuppance from Sydneysiders over his latest show.

"There's a reason I did Sydney last on the tour – that's because I live in Sydney, so I have to make sure the show is great, because I run into my audience at the shops. These jokes have all been trialled on other audiences and I've got rid of all the shit ones."

**WILFUL MISCONDUCT**  
July 1-25, Comedy Store,  
Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park,  
9357 1419, \$35/\$30.