

INTRO

WENDY LOVE (WL)

Mel Buttle couldn't believe she was finally making it. The comedian and current co-host of *The Great Australian Bake Off* was debuting her first-ever solo show at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. It was 2010. Mel's a huge fan of the Comedian Judith Lucy. She'd watched her on TV since she was eight years old. So, to see Judith Lucy's name under her own on the big blackboard outside the Melbourne Town Hall was hard to believe.

MEL BUTTLE (MB)

And it blew my mind that it had "Mel Buttle sold out. Judith Lucy sold out." I was like, "What is happening?"

WL

There was a lot of buzz and excitement around Mel, being a newcomer and all. But, one day, that buzz, turned into a whole lot of pressure, and then, almost out of nowhere, she found herself crippled with anxiety in the bathroom of her hotel.

MB

I don't know what happened, but I could not physically stand up in the shower. I just couldn't get up.

WL

Mel had a full-blown panic attack. Sitting there, with the water raining down on her, she had no idea what was happening. Here she was on the verge of a career breakthrough, and instead of feeling elated, she was crushed by the pressure. It's a paradox that happens sometimes that getting exactly what you want can have you feeling at your lowest.

MUSIC

But Mel's journey into comedy didn't end there on the shower floor. She went on to do much more than she ever dreamed possible. But before all that, Mel had to discover her own voice in comedy with a little help from her friends.

MB

And he said, "Why don't you just once, just for me, just get up and tell a story about your dad or whatever and just see how it goes. Just do it once, and if it doesn't work for you, fine," and I did it, and it worked.

INTRO / THEME MUSIC

WL

From Museum of Brisbane, this is *Where I Belong*, a show that brings you stories about fascinating and creative people, shaped by Brisbane. I'm Wendy Love.

In this episode, Mel Buttle and the bumpy road to her success. The struggle to find her own voice in comedy, and the pivotal moments that pushed her along the way.

RECORDING PLAYS: HERE IF YOU NEED, LIVE AT THE BRISBANE POWERHOUSE 2021

I like to call her mum. You know her as Mel. Ladies and gentlemen, make some noise for Mel Buttle!

APPLAUSE

WL

Mel Buttle has been doing stand-up comedy for more than 15 years. I got to see her perform on a recent Saturday night in Brisbane.

MB - RECORDING CONTINUES

Soccer is a visual sleep story, that's all it is (laughs). A very calming activity. Soccer is like, if a PE Teacher invented a drill, right? To warm you up for a better game that will happen later.

WL

Stand-up Mel is a bit different from the one we see on *The Great Australian Bake Off*, the show she co-hosts with Claire Hooper. For one thing, less swearing, but she also just looks different. She wears makeup on the show, and her hair is usually straightened. Not tonight though, Mel's naturally curly hair is tied up in a ponytail. She got teased for her curly hair as a kid. It was red and really short back then. She says her mum was in charge of her hair for way too long.

MB

I sort of got bullied a bit for it, but like, I get it. I did look like Ronald McDonald and then later on, sure, I did look like Pauline Hanson, like, I get it.

WL

Mel grew up in a three-bedroom brick home in Cedar Creek, just past Samford, west of Brisbane. It was a simple house on top of a hill. A drive away from any neighbours. She's an only child, so she played alone most of the time.

MB

I had a Spice Girls VHS tape and my parents, and that was it, yeah (laughs).

WL

She'd do very normal things for fun, like burn the rubbish in the backyard, because, you know, they had yet to receive a council bin. That or her dad didn't want to fork out the money for one. Mel was very, very shy in primary school.

MB

Like, it was a problem. I think, like there were a lot of meetings up at the school with my parents about how I didn't have any friends, but I didn't want any. I didn't get the point of it. I wasn't interested. I wanted to be in the library, reading books, or I wanted to be just playing sport with the boys.

WL

But as the familiar story goes, that all changed when Mel got into Drama at high school. It was at St Margret's in Ascot, where it was compulsory to take Drama, something she says she would never have voluntarily signed up for, but after no time at all, Mel realised Drama class was exactly where she needed to be.

MB

It started off in grade eight Drama with fun games. So, it was a bit like the World of Sport, and I was like, "Oh, I can get into this. This is sort of sport with no ball." And then we did theatre sports, improvisation, and I was like, "ah, this is something that I can do, and I do at home to muck around, that is a subject at school?" I was like, my mind just, I was like, "ahhhh."

WL

She was quick to take on the roles of characters very different from herself.

MB

You know you get handed a play, and you sit there as a class, and you read this play, and the characters are never your age. It's always like, a Louis Nowra play, and you're trying to imagine what it's like to be a 50-year-old shearer, but somehow I was like, "I kind of get it. He's just trying to get a better life. He's away from home, whatever." I don't know, maybe, something about it just clicked, and I enjoyed it, but I think it drew on a skill that is kind of punished in school and other subjects, which is the quick-wittedness. Having a reply, having a bit of a, maybe a funny answer is praised in Drama. Whereas, if you did that in other subjects, you'd get a detention, I guess.

WL

Mel realised she had a knack for Drama, for Improv, for making people laugh, and she was loving it.

MB

So good to have them laughing with you for a change was a real delight, and then realising that, with a few simple things, you could really take a scene to the next level and the teacher would be impressed, and kids would clap at the end, and I'd be like, "I'm just being my dad. I'm just doing an impression of my dad, is that all you wanted? Oh, easy, oh great, thanks."

WL

She felt a real sense of belonging with the other Drama kids. She'd found her people. It was clear from the start that Mel's specialty was comedy, but she resisted fully embracing that niche for a while even though she'd sometimes get annoyed having to read the words written by other people.

MB

I always had a thought in the back of my head like, "well, who wrote these words? Why do I have to say them? I can think of something heaps funnier to say at this point in time, ugh, anyway." Like, that sticking-to-the-script grated on me a little bit, but something in my brain went, "oh no, you definitely want to be an actor." But then, a quiet voice underneath went (whispers), "you don't really, you want to just be a comedian and be funny." But I ignored that quiet voice for way too long I think.

MUSIC

WL

Mel finishes high school and decides to get a Bachelor of Secondary Education in Drama. This was practical, she thought. She'd get to have a bit of fun teaching students how to act and do improv. It'd be a sensible job. She still wanted to pursue Drama as a hobby. So, while she was still at Griffith University, she took an acting class outside of Uni, but for some reason, it just wasn't working.

MB

Acting for me felt like I was fighting against the universe to try to make it happen. Everything was hard and heavy, and I'm pushing, and I got nothing coming back easy, no success, nothing, but I just kept going at it.

WL

During one of her acting classes, something happens that finally validates that unshakable little voice that's been pushed down inside Mel for too long.

MB

One day, the teacher just said, "if you just put like half the time you put into acting into comedy, the success you would experience would blow you away." Or something like that, and I knew he was right. I knew, and yeah, it seemed way too scary and too hard, and how do you? How do you? Where do you go? What do you do? There's no Bachelor of Comedy, you know? How do you get started?

MUSIC

WL

Meanwhile, Mel graduate's uni and gets a job teaching at a school, but it wasn't teaching Drama though, so after eight months, she decides to leave. She gets a job in marketing at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, known as WAAPA, where she knows a couple of people. But before she moves across the country, she takes this two-week standup comedy course at Metro Arts.

MB

And as part of that course, the teacher said, "go out and watch live comedy, don't watch it on the internet, go watch live comedy because it's different." Which is great advice because it is different, and you learn so much more. So, he gave us a list of people who are probably around

our ability, like open mic rooms in Brisbane. So, I went and watched lots of comedy, and I was like, "ah, they're not all better than me and geniuses and brilliant, and this isn't going well for everyone, and I see now. I see that the gap between me and these people is not kilometers, it's meters."

WL

At one of those open-mic nights, Mel met the now-famous Comedian and Actor Matt O'Kine. He's from Brisbane, too. Back then, he was on the doors before going up to do his own set.

MB

And he knew me from acting, and he was like, "when are you getting up, when are you going to do this? Put your name down." He's quite firm, and I was like, "just here to watch, just, no, just watching, thank you."

WL

But Mel did get up eventually. It was for the Comedy Workshop, which culminated in a performance for her family and friends. She remembers the high she felt after the show. It had gone really well. So, she booked a second one at an open mic night at the Stones Corner Hotel. That one did not go so well.

MB

You know, like second night blues, as they say in theatre, I think, and it was just not great. I was like, "oh, well, that's done, won't be doing that again. I've done my comedy. It didn't work out. Let's move to Perth."

WL

Just to be clear, Mel was 22 at the time.

MB

Yeah, yeah, 22, yeah. No, I've given it a good solid go, yeah (laughs).

MUSIC

WL

Mel settles into her new job in Perth, and before long, her friends drag her along to comedy clubs. She eventually gets back up there, signing up for open mic nights. She did a couple of gigs at the Brisbane Hotel in Perth's CBD. The gigs went pretty well, but she wasn't all in. She was still hesitant about comedy.

MB

I wasn't going after it. I was like, "hmm, oh yeah, maybe." I don't know why I kept going, in the early days. I can't explain it.

WL

The emotional rollercoaster of the before, the during, the after of her standup gigs made it hard to settle into.

MB

You feel good when it's over because, at the beginning, it's absolutely terrifying. All-day you're worried about it. You feel sick. You feel like you're gonna vomit, so much anxiety, and then you do the gig, and you're like, "yeah, this is the best!" Like, the feeling is over the release you get, and you get the adrenaline.

WL

Around this time, Mel read a book called *The Comedy Bible* that really helped her stay consistent with her standup. One of the biggest takeaways Mel got from that book was that, for beginners, the best thing you can do is to just book in gigs. Book ten gigs right away before you even do your first one so that, when you do, you're still locked in for nine more. It kept her going. It kept her accountable.

MB

And I used to keep track in my diary. I'd mark down how many gigs I'd done. I think that's a real beginner thing. A lot of people come up to me and go, okay, I've done 44 gigs, Mel, and I'm like, "oh yeah, you've got about 20,000 to go."

WL

A sort of trick of the mind to ensure you keep going by making a game of it.

MB

Because once you've done 10, you've made friends, you're on the hook. You've had some highs and some lows, and you now want to master it a bit more and have good gigs, and you think, there's a thing, I don't know if all comedians have this, but you go, "I can't end on my bad gig, I'm not stopping on that. I'll just keep going until I get a really good one." Then you say, "I'll just keep going until I get three good ones in a row."

WL

And this worked for Mel. She did keep going, doing the rounds at open mic nights in Perth. She'd walk up there in front of everyone, wearing jeans and a t-shirt and a cardigan to cover up the sweat underneath, and being from Queensland, she'd turn up in thongs. She can recall some of those first gigs in Perth. The space felt massive, and it was packed. It was in a room of the pub where people would come and sit down with their steak and chips to watch some comedy. She was obsessed with the order of her jokes, terrified she'd forget which one comes next.

MB

I would write them out. I'd have a Moleskine notebook, and they would be in a specific order, and I was like, "I cannot forget one of these jokes. It goes, school, hair, mum, dad, bus." I would just be walking around, just obsessively looking at my notepad, trying to remember the order,

which for some reason seems the biggest deal to get you from each joke to the next joke when you're brand new.

WL

So, there was Mel, clutching her Moleskine notebook, mic in hand, standing up in front of the audience.

MB

Sweating into my cardigan, the lights are so bright when you first start. You cannot believe it. It's like you think something's gone wrong, and someone's turned the lights up really bright just for you, and you're like, "how am I ever going to manage to see and to do this?" And you can never see the audience, and you just look at your feet, and you don't smile very much because it's serious business to remember your jokes. So, yeah, it just felt bright and big and scary.

WL

Mel's comedy back then was, well, dirty. Lots of sex jokes, gags about bodily functions. She says a lot of comedians start off with pretty rude one-liners.

MB

You will get a laugh, but you realise later on there's different kinds of laughs, and it would just get a shock kind of laugh, and you'd be like, "well, the audience is making noise, great. I'm winning."

MUSIC

WL

One night, Mel met the Comedian Claire Hooper backstage at The Brisbane Hotel. She was starstruck. Claire was a rising talent in Australian comedy. She was actually headed to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh when Mel met her.

MB

Which blew my mind. Imagine doing comedy overseas. Wow, what a rockstar she is. She knew all the famous people. Like she would just tell stories about what Wil Anderson's like, and what Tripod were like, and I was like, "oh, can't believe it."

WL

Mel was very shy and just in awe of Claire.

MB

And she was classy and warm and elegant and friendly and didn't drink alcohol. She still doesn't drink alcohol. She had like a peppermint tea backstage, and I was like, "ok, alright, you're sophisticated."

WL

Around this time, Mel started to get some feedback from other comedians about her standup. Those dirty one liner's, the angry rants. She remembers Claire trying to help her.

MB

Like she'd say things like, "um, the audience doesn't want you to hate them as much." Or stuff like that, and I was like, "hmm, okay. I see what you're getting at." But, I wasn't ready to receive her advice.

MUSIC

WL

Mel was struggling with finding her own style, her own way of telling jokes that would resonate with her audience, but it wasn't until she moved back home to Brisbane that she'd find it.

MUSEUM OF BRISBANE AD

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MUSIC

WL

In 2008, Mel Buttles leaves Perth and returns to Brisbane to pursue Comedy. She moves back into her childhood home in Samford to keep her expenses at a minimum. She booked a number of regular gigs around Brisbane. One of them was on the balcony of the Chalk Hotel in Woolloongabba.

MB

Which overhangs the freeway. Which on game day, for the Brisbane Lions, is just packed to the rafters with football fans who are getting loaded up with alcohol to go to the game, and then, of course, let's have some standup comedy that starts at 4 pm in the daytime on a pallet, and that was a tough gig. If you can get their attention like you might have something. I think that's where I learned to make it about the audience and kind of talk to them. If there was

someone in the audience who was up to being picked on, give them a bit of shit, and don't worry about the material. Don't worry about mum, dad, hair, bus, doesn't matter. This is a survival situation now, this gig.

WL

And then, one day, Mel caught up with Josh Thomas, another comedian and actor to come out of Brisbane. He was up from Melbourne, doing some standup shows across the city. Josh could see that Mel was still having a hard time finding her own voice with her comedy, and for some reason, Mel was finally able to take in the advice she so desperately needed to hear. Josh sat her down, looked her straight in the eyes.

MB

And said, "you need to tell the stories you tell in real life on stage, and your career will go heaps better." And I knew, I knew he was, 100 per cent knew he was right.

WL

Josh pushed her to step outside her comfort zone. They were both booked to perform at the Newmarket Hotel that coming Monday.

MB

And he said, "why don't you just once, just for me, just get up and tell a story about your dad or whatever and just see how it goes? Just do it once, and if it doesn't work for you, fine." And I think he helped. He got his laptop out, and he was like, "tell me that thing again," and he wrote it out for me in a Comedy format and helped me structure it. He was like, "anything funny happened there? Add this in." And I did it, and it worked.

WL

Mel debuts her new style. Her own personal stories for the first time ever at The Newmarket Hotel in Brisbane. She remembers the audience being a bit of a mix, uni students sitting on beanbags in the front.

MB

There's some Army boys that have come over from Enoggera for something to do. There's old barflies at the back just with their beer, just sort of watching the greyhounds, kind of watching you. And to cut through and get their attention, Josh is completely correct, it has to be the truth, a story and something they can relate to. And I don't remember what the joke was, but I think I talked about my dad online dating, and it worked, and it was like, "wow, so what people want is you, the real you, the truth, but funny, they don't want some weird one-line gag that's made up."

WL

She'd finally done it. She let her guard down and let the audience in to see some of the real Mel Buttle.

MB

And then, coming off that gig, I just went and got my free Coke, and I was like, "I get it," you know. It's like when you're playing a video game, and you have to do a jump to a thing that you can't see that's off the screen, or when it appears like the rock will appear." It felt like that. It felt like, "I've done a leap. Is there anything there? Oh, thank God, I've made it to the other side of the cliff, okay, now, we've got a new hill to climb up."

MUSIC

WL

Mel booked more and more gigs and did some relief teaching on the side to pay the bills. Slowly, she got longer time slots and more money. Fifty bucks became one hundred, one hundred became five hundred. Her success was building and building. Eventually, she gets approached by an agency to represent her, something that rarely, if ever, happened back then, and not long after, in 2010, her manager gets her into the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

MUSIC

WL

Now, the thing to understand about the Melbourne Comedy Festival is that it is a huge opportunity for up and comers. The festival is long, it goes for three and a half weeks, and they do a show every night except Mondays. They go on TV, do radio interviews, and they're all hoping to be nominated for the best newcomer award. The festival has the potential to make or break careers.

MB

You're on this huge adrenaline high, and you get a big shot of adrenaline every night you're performing at 8.30 pm till 9.30 pm. People clap, you get the rush, go and hang out, have some drinks, bit of a party, so exciting.

WL

Mel was thrilled to be there, to have this opportunity. She was actually making it, but it was such a big deal. To perform her own show every night, in front of huge audiences. It was exhausting.

MB

So, it's a very full-on time, and I remember not being very ready for it.

WL

Mel was doing all the things, media interviews, spots at local comedy clubs, hanging out at after-parties, mingling with comedians she'd looked up to. Then one morning, she made her first-ever debut on TV, on this national morning show called *The Circle*. She didn't feel prepared for it and wasn't sure it went well. Back at her hotel, the weight of all that was expected of her was growing heavy. Her heart began beating faster and faster. So, she gets in the shower and sits down on the wet tiles.

MB

I had a massive anxiety attack or panic attack, I don't know what happened, but I could not physically stand up in the shower. I just couldn't get up, and I was like, "who do you call? What do you do? I just can't," and the water's on me. I was like, "I can't get off the floor."

WL

She was all alone in this small corporate apartment hotel in the middle of Melbourne. On the 56th floor, so far away from Samford, no greenery, just stark white walls.

MB

It felt like I was in there for hours and hours and hours, and my brain's going, "we can't have this, we can't just sit on the floor of the shower, what are you going to do? Just be in the shower for a month, are you?"

WL

Mel eventually peels herself off the shower floor. She calls her manager, who gets her an urgent appointment with a psychologist. Mel was so unwell. The idea of food made her feel even worse.

MB

I couldn't eat, which has never happened to me before in my life because I'm obsessed with food. I couldn't swallow food. I didn't want to eat any food and the idea of certain foods made me, I imagine what it's like being pregnant, just disgusted me.

WL

Mel was determined to get better, though. She couldn't let this low point derail the opportunity to make her mark. She had a show that night and for Mel, cancelling just wasn't an option.

MB

That was the first taste of *the show must go on*. It's not just like a gig you can send an email and pull out of because you're only getting paid fifty dollars. It's like, no, it's your own show, and you're the talk of the town. Everyone's coming. It's selling out.

WL

So, she listens to the psychologist and follows his advice.

MB

He was like, "just write a list of foods that are disgusting to you. Go and get them. Who cares if you eat pasta with nothing on it for the next week or whatever it is you can eat?"

WL

Mel spent the remainder of that day resting, and somehow, she made it to her show that night. She never missed a single show during those three and a half weeks. She dialed back her socialising, skipped the after-parties. She just slept. She'd sleep all day, and at 7.00 pm, an alarm would wake her up so she could make it to her show. She'd perform, then go back to bed, day in, day out, for the rest of the festival.

MB

Then toward the end, I got the best newcomer nomination, which was like, (sighs), a relief of pressure because everyone's coming up to you like, "you better get it. Have you got it?" And they mean well, but it's just, in your little baby comedian mind, it's just adding to all this pressure.

WL

Mel didn't end up winning best newcomer, but that she got nominated at all was enough. She got noticed, she had completed her first big comedy festival, and she was a hit. So, when she got back to Brisbane, she wasn't booking 5-minute gigs anymore. She was getting 20-minute slots.

MB

Twenty minutes is like. You're the support act now. You're not like a warmup or open mic, you know, while they're eating their food. You're like, part of the, it goes support act, headliner. You're up in the big end of the bracket. You're towards the end of the show.

WL

People started recognising her. Her social media following was growing. But even in her success, the life of a comedian remained unstable. The money rolling in was inconsistent. Plus, she'd used up her life's worth of material at the Melbourne Comedy Festival.

MB

But also, you're not living a super normal life anymore because now you're a comedian. So, you don't have funny stories about what happened at high school and that old job and because you're having a big sleep-in and watching Dr Phil. You don't have stories, and all your stories are about other comedians.

WL

Over the next couple of years, Mel does a few more comedy festivals around Australia. But back in Brisbane, she's still living at home with her dad, and she's feeling lost.

MB

I'm getting closer to 30, and I'm like, "well, that's a big number, what have you got? Nothing."

WL

Soon, Mel moves in with her girlfriend, which is great but stressful. With all the bills coming in, the weekly rent coming due, she wondered how she would ever afford her own car.

MB

It wasn't just like it used to be. It wasn't fun anymore. It was like, okay, that didn't go well, great, and then it's like, your job, job, which, I didn't like that feeling of all my income, all my social stuff, all my fun, is coming from this one source.

WL

So, she decides to lay down her microphone, kick her daytime TV habit with Dr Phil, and get a stable job. She tells her agent that she's having a break. She's not doing the Brisbane Comedy Festival this year or the Melbourne one. Instead, she gets a full-time job teaching students with special needs at Everton Park State High, and she loves it. She adores the kids and the reliable paycheck.

MB

It was so nice to have the same amount of money, every single fortnight, appear in your bank account. Oh, that's so good.

WL

Now, despite telling her manager that she was taking a break from comedy, Mel still did a gig once in a while. Her agent would send her a text about this or that opportunity, always keeping it general in the message, "call me when you can, no rush," kind of thing. So she was surprised to see her agent ringing her while she was teaching in class one day. She knew Mel couldn't answer.

MB

And she was like, "call me back," and she put a clue about what it was, and they never do that. It was something about "a cooking show is after you" or something like that, and I was like, "oh, I love cooking shows!"

WL

Mel is obsessed with food. Her dad was a chef, and she'd loved cooking shows ever since she was a kid. She'd watch three hours' worth, back-to-back, at her mum's work during the school holidays. She'd told her agent in the past that she'd love to somehow combine her love of food and comedy into a job but really didn't see that happening since she didn't have any professional cooking credentials. Mel was too curious to wait until after class to ring her agent back. So, she tells her students she'll be right back and steps out onto the balcony to make the call.

MB

And she's like, "you need to get to Sydney. They want you. They're only auditioning a set amount of people. It's very small. You've got a really good chance." They never talk to you like this. "For this show it's Claire Hooper, you, someone, someone, someone, someone, someone else" and I was like, "it's only like six people," and they wanted two female hosts. They were only looking at a very small pool and as soon as she started talking, in my brain, I was like, "this is your show. This is your show. This is yours, and you're either going to blow it for yourself." But in my mind, it's a bit arrogant, I was like, "there is no one else on that list who could do this as well as me."

WL

The show of course is *The Great Australian Bake Off*.

MB

I just remember being super. I was like, "this felt different, "this felt like something that was for me, like not something I was trying to fit myself into for once or mold or change or maybe it could work out or if I did this, not really me. I was like, "this is 100% the dream gig for someone like me."

WL

Mel flies down to Sydney for the audition, and as she said, Claire Hooper was in that very small pool of people they were auditioning to cast. Mel and Claire had stayed in touch over the years. They even shared an agent, and in Mel's mind, she and Claire would strike the perfect balance as co-hosts.

MB

Because she is the opposite of me, she is sensible, calm. I'll be the silly-billy one. She'll keep the interview with the baker on track and ask the questions the producer wants.

WL

After two whirlwind auditions in Sydney, Mel is back in Brisbane, waiting for the final call to hear whether she's been cast or not. On this particular day, she's actually in the school kitchenette, cooking with her students, measuring out ingredients, writing out recipes. It was a fun way to bring together literacy and maths, and just as she's instructing them to measure out half a cup of milk or something, her phone rings. She takes a deep breath and steps out onto the balcony to take the call.

MB

And she's like, "yeah, you got it, and I'm like, "got what sorry? She's like, "Bake Off. It's yours. You got Bake Off", and I'm like, "what do you mean?" She's like, "it's you and Claire Hooper, you both got Bake Off," and I'm like, "what do you mean?" She had to say it like 500 times.

MUSIC

WL

Mel simply couldn't believe it. After more than a decade of trying to find her way, in acting, teaching, in comedy, she'd finally be given the dream role she didn't even know existed.

MUSIC

WL

Mel Buttle just wrapped up the 5th season of *The Great Australian Bake Off*. She's still doing standup around the place when she can, and you can catch her on social media. Her series of videos impersonating the Aussie mum have gone viral. Like this one of Mel's interpretation of the typical Aussie mum, looking after you when you're sick.

MB - INSTAGRAM CLIP

You don't look well, don't look well at all, white as a ghost. How long ago did you have Panadol? 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, have more at 3.30. Hmm, yeah, I can tell by your eyes, you're not yourself.

WL

Or this one, when you've asked mum for tacos for dinner.

MB - *INSTAGRAM CLIP*

I'm not making tacos. Aw the mince isn't thawed out. Your father needs about 12 of them to touch the sides. Why don't you eat what I cook? What's wrong with what I make for tea?

WL

And if you're lucky, you can catch her someday soon, telling personal stories, making audiences roar with laughter, performing her standup that launched her career those many years ago.

WHERE I BELONG THEME MUSIC plays

OUTRO

WL

Where I Belong is written and produced on Turrabul and Yaggera land by me, Wendy Love. Museum of Brisbane acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land and pays its respect to Elders past, present and emerging. If you like what you heard, please share it with your friends and be sure to listen to the rest of the episodes of *Where I Belong*.