WENDY HARMER

Wendy Harmer is one of Australia's best-known humorists with a hugely successful career taking in areas as diverse as journalism, stand-up comedy, top-rating breakfast radio, television, theatre and bestselling books, both fiction and non-fiction.

STUFF, a four-part television documentary series which Wendy has produced, written and presented, premiered on ABC TV in 2008. The series examines, in a lighthearted and penetrating way, what a person's 'stuff' says about them and what society's stuff says about us.

In late 2008 Wendy and Angela Catterns recorded a 16 part podcasting series for ABC Radio Local called IS IT JUST ME?. Together they debate and discuss their observations and conclusions on everyday life. The podcasts are currently available for download from the ABC Radio Local website.

Wendy's children's book series about Pearlie the park fairy have sold more than 400,000 copies in Australia and internationally since the first title PEARLIE IN THE PARK was published in 2003 by Random House. The subsequent books in the series; PEARLIE AND THE LOST HANDBAG, PEARLIE AND OPAL, PEARLIE AND THE BIG DOLL, PEARLIE AND JASPER, PEARLIE AND THE CHRISTMAS ANGEL, PEARLIE AND SAPPHIRE, PEARLIE AND GREAT AUNT GARNET, PEARLIE AND HER PINK SHELL, PEARLIE AND THE FAIRY QUEEN have outsold all previous Random House books for children in their age-group becoming instant bestsellers. PEARLIE IN THE PARK, a stage show adapted by Wendy, played at the Seymour Centre in Sydney and toured regional NSW in 2005 and toured nationally in 2007.

The animated television series based on Wendy's PEARLIE books is currently in production in Australia and Canada with Sticky Pictures and Canadian broadcaster Nelvana co-producing. The fifty-two part series is expected to air in 2010. Wendy is developing the series as Creative Producer and writing many of its episodes.

In 2005 Wendy's first novel FAREWELL MY OVARIES, chick-lit for the slightly more mature woman, was published and made the annual Australian bestseller list. This was followed with her second novel, LOVE AND PUNISHMENT, which examined revenge in a blackly humorous way. Wendy's latest novel ROADSIDE SISTERS will be released in April 2009.

In 1993 Wendy joined Sydney radio station 2 Day FM to lead the Breakfast Show team. During the 11 years she hosted this program it was rated number one in 84 out of 88 surveys. The news of her departure brought 3000 emails from disappointed listeners. She has written for numerous Australian magazines and has been a contributing columnist for THE AUSTRALIAN WOMENS WEEKLY, NEW WEEKLY, THE AUSTRALIAN WEEKEND MAGAZINE and HQ.

Wendy has written six books for adults which include four humorous non-fiction books including NAGGING FOR BEGINNERS (2007) a how-to guide for women, IT'S A JOKE, JOYCE (1989) a book on Australian women's humour, LOVE GONE WRONG (1991) a humorous look at failed relationships and SO ANYWAY (1997) a collection of her weekly columns from The Sydney Morning Herald's Good Weekend Magazine.

Wendy has written two plays: BACKSTAGE PASS and WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH MARY JANE? which has been enormously successful in promoting a wider understanding of the disease anorexia nervosa. Wendy wrote the libretto for Baz Luhrmann's Opera Australia production of LAKE LOST.

Wendy was the host of the much-loved ABC TV series THE BIG GIG (from 1989 - 1991) and hosted the Logie Awards in 2002. Wendy is a veteran of the Edinburgh, Montreal and Glasgow-Mayfest Festivals and has worked extensively in London, America and Ireland, appearing at the Edinburgh

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Festival five times. In 1990, her one-woman show LOVE GONE WRONG received a “Pick Of The Fringe“ award and transferred to London and Wendy followed this by beginning her career in radio on the ABC’s Radio National with her own drive time programme in 1991.

Wendy has made contributions to books including AUSTRALIAN STORY, Ita Buttrose’s MOTHERHOOD, Marie Claire’s WHAT WOMEN WANT and THE BEST EVER SPORTS WRITING …200 YEARS OF SPORT WRITING.

Wendy is married to Brendan, a committed environmentalist, surfer and house-husband and has two children aged 9 and 12. She still finds time to be involved with the Manly Football club’s Eagles Angels club.

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