

## OVERVIEW

### Log Line:

In this quirky comedy, a dissatisfied perfectionist, Mum, and tv producer, Toni, moves back home for a better work-life-family balance. A strong feeling like she has stepped back in time, and surrounded by begrudging dysfunctional misfits, the way home for Toni isn't so clear.

### Synopsis:

TONI and MARCUS, upon realising life isn't giving them what they want, decide to swap their traditional gendered roles, and give away their city living, to move to Canberra to be nearer to grandparents for their kids. Toni finally returns to full time work after being the main care-giver. Marcus takes on more domestic duties and a return to teaching, after finding himself in a rut lecturing future teachers at Uni.

But when neither work nor family goes to plan, things begin to unravel. Their son gets in with the wrong crowd of teens at his new school, their kindy kid, gets lost after school, Marcus needs to take on more hours as a much-sought-after relief teacher, and can't cope with managing the house or finances. Toni's Dad is having an affair, and her Mum seems to have developed dementia, and neither are available, willing or able to assist with being reliable grandparents.

And when Toni turns up to her new job, to run a film crew to make a promotional video about Canberra, she finds no one on set, except a disinterested teen and an arrogant Camera operator who tries to flirt with her.

\*\*\*ROUNDAABOUT RIGHT is also being explored as kind of a Rom Com – a **Love Letter to Canberra**.

Toni has met, left, and now returns to, to almost break again with, but ultimately falls in love with Canberra, and against all odds, eventually decides (at the end of a series) to stay on.... or does she?

**8 x 30min - Sitcom / comedy / dramedy / 'quirky' 'heartfelt'**

**PG**

**RETURNABLE series**

### TARGET AUDIENCES:

- Those who've relocated from a big city for family-orientated opportunities
- Proud Canberrans, and people who have a personal connection to Canberra
- Sandwich generation
- People who love or hate Canberra
- People living with or caring for loved ones, children, or adults with dementia

Inspirations: *Fisk, Mother and Son, DeadLoch*

## Series CHARACTERS:

### Family Characters:

#### MAJOR:

**\*TONI** (THE Protagonist. **PRODUCER**) – 40s. The Mum. Recently moved to Canberra for better work-life balance. Tries to mostly work from the office but finds she must go on set/location to hold everyone's hand. Sometimes the only steady force of action, she soldiers on, holding it together, trying to make everyone happy. *Most Identifiable: Perfectionist*, Hopeful, Ambitious, Controlling, due to anxiety and, well, perfectionism

**MARCUS** – 40s. The Dad. Health-kick freak, fitness gear, green juice, creative, charming, romantic, tries to be calm and sensitive, but is highly strung, over-reacts to most things. Toni's husband, and Dad to IZZY and JOEL.

**GRAN** – mid 60s overly nice and always says yes to help, but often happily confused, forgetful or has excuses. Toni's MUM. She calls GRAMPS 'Grumps'. Uses Rhyming slang, old fashioned phrases, and metaphors but gets mixed up, often is rude without knowing it.

**GRAMPS** – mid 60s Grumpy, short sentences, tries not to get involved, but mostly warm and loving when you get to know him. Loves Gran. Calls her 'Love'. Toni's Dad.  
Quotes or mentions something heard on the radio a lot

#### MINOR:

**IZZY** (5yo Kid) — happy, honest to a fault but playful innocent as you'd expect a 5-year-old.

**JOEL** (15yo Teen) – hormonally challenged, negative, rebellious, always on their phone, plays electric guitar loudly. Speaks in monotone single word sentences, rolls eyes, and grunts. Pretends not to care, but cares. Wears headphones always, even if around his neck.

**UNCLE JAMIE** – Toni's younger brother. Holds a grudge Toni left for Syd, can't stand children and the idea of parenting, but ultimately loves Toni, and eventually Joel and Izzy. LGBTQIA character

### Film Crew/Company Characters:

#### MAJOR:

**GERTURDUE (SYD EXEC PRODUCER)** 45-50 – The 'Smiling Assassin'. Effervescent, talkative, laughs loudly, positive, often dismissive, interrupts with gusto, 'monologues', is often on phone, on-line, and pops into the Canberra office occasionally, always unannounced. (end or start of each ep – eg Kitty from *Utopia*)

**CAMERA OPERATOR: AIDAN** – 30-40s Attractive, smooth talker, naturalist, environmentalist. Good at their job mostly. Has ideals about documentaries and gets distracted filming arty and pretty things. Is a little bit pervy at times.

**SOUND GUY:** called "Sound Guy" – Geeky/daggy, Shy, Melancholy. Never speaks, except one word at the end of a series. Is clownish, but clever, (chats quietly to other crew. Toni tries to get them to speak with no success, possibly at end of a season says a word). Possibly on spectrum. Has deep insight into people and things.

**DOP/DP CHIC** (probably a name like SHAHARAZAARD) – 20-30s – Rebellious, outspoken, activist, trend-setter, ADHD talkative, too hip for culture, always scrolling on their phone (shares regular bad news or saves the day as always Googling and on social media), possibly culturally diverse or gender diverse person. Annoying, even pretentious at first, but a true ally for Toni.

#### MINOR:

**J.M. (BIGWIG in SYD)** – 40s threatening and a bit scary (Only ever on the phone or online to Gertrude, but might make an appearance at the very end of a season?)

**DIRECTOR / AD:** CAROL - Always hungover, loud, late, in needs of a coffee/drink (team end up coping without them mostly, and even prefer when they're not there)

**PRESENTER(S)** – This is likely a different person each episode, as they can't get the right fit? Eg Too arrogant, incompetent, not talented, too nervous, too talkative, opinionated, disruptive, distracted, too lovely, too busy, chronic head cold, etc

**TV Series / SITCOM: 'Roundabout Right'** (Working title) **July 2024** copyright Ruth Pieloor  
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**GAFFER GIRL KIT** – 30s-40s Has a very visual disability, but is respected or feared by the group. She is always happy until she has a temper. She swears a lot and has confidence to tell people off if needed. Others unsure how much to help her at times. She has her own van and driver with wheelchair access and equipment. Is blunt at times, honest, and never wrong.

**EDITOR ROD** – 30s-40s A laid back, gamer, bearded (literally or not), bit geeky, but down to Earth, pessimist, loves death metal. Works in the office / edit suite and is never seen anywhere else. Possibly appears lazy, but is just fast at their job, so hangs around to tell stories. A very good editor, too good for this job. First Nations person. Knowledgeable. Charming. Lonely.

Other characters/extras or feature actors:

Locations Manager/Hosts, School Principal, Teachers, TONI's old boss, work colleague, other teenagers, Pop's Girlfriend, Gran's friend, Security, Activist, Fans, Tourists, Cleaner/carer, Driver, Location extras, receptionist, an X, sibling or old school friend of TONI's

Narrative Obstacles/Antagonisers for 'film crew' series characters

- Individual Characters are unable, reluctant, ignorant, arrogant, have their own ideas, are over-sensitive, precious, careless, high turnover for one character eg presenter.
- Individual locations/companies prove difficult or put-up road blocks.
- Well recorded footage lost due to crew incompetency
- Poor weather or lack of professional planning causes a reschedule.
- Model/style of video changes – eg Lack of funding, Competition gets a video made first, exec says so.
- Individual stress between characters, dynamics & inner conflict/personalities eg scared of heights, being very pregnant, relationship breakdowns, don't believe in war, etc.

Worlds for TONI:

- Work: On set, on location, office, editing suite, contacting Syd
- Home life with family at Gran and Gramps, with Joel, Izzy and Marcus
- Dates, excursions, appointments, or activities about Canberra with any family members or others

Series / Regular LOCATIONS required:

- Office/Edit suite (this is where the Crew's Truck and gear is stored, collected, and returned to most days so includes interior, and exterior for Truck and Loading Bay/car park
- Family home of Toni, Marcus & Kids (Canberra & briefly Syd)
- Family home of Gran & Pop
- Coffee pop up spot (regular coffee shop for crew even if not near location)
- Sydney Producers office (can be shot in Canberra with some Syd B-roll?)

Possible 'visiting crew' narrative Location settings for Episodes:

Zoo & Aquarium

Arboretum (Balloon Spectacular)

National Film and Sound Archive

National Gallery / National Library

Old Parliament House

War Memorial

National Museum of Australia

Other well-known Canberra possible locations:

Big Owl, Mt Ainslie, Big Galas, Telstra Tower, Sheep, Civic Carousel, Lake Burley-Griffin, Braddon Rainbow roundabout, Manuka Oval, Canberra Bus stop, Tidbinbilla, Floriade grounds, Stage 88, Questacon, Smith's Alternative, Hotel Hotel