

# CAROL'S WAY

## SUMMARY

CAROL'S WAY is a heartwarming interactive comedy-drama about Carol, a 52 year old American life coach who teaches her world famous goal-setting workshop to a group of out-of-work no-hopers at a local Aussie community centre.

## OVERVIEW

Carol arrives in Australia on a one-way ticket with the promise of an international tour and lucrative book deal. When she lands however, she is greeted only by message to say the company who brought her here are in liquidation. For the first time Carol is faced with having to fund her own facelifts and saving for a plane ticket home.

Carol accepts a job teaching her 'world-renowned goal setting workshop' at a local community centre. It's here that she meets an eclectic mix of troubled students from all walks of life and everything begins to change. We will love and hate Carol, the stubborn brash American who waltzes into a small Australian suburban world and turns it upside down.

Set in and around the community centre, a humble old weatherboard situated near takeaway shops and a railway line in the kind of place where pollution builds up under your fingernails.

The series is designed to be complemented by an online interactive space so viewers register to complete their own life plans in a step by step program that coincides with the episodes.

Carol's Way is a single-camera character drama that takes a wry look at our culture's current obsession with self-help and self-improvement programs, and motivational speakers who are revered as cult-like spiritual leaders and celebrities. Much of the humour arises from larger than life characters, clashes in culture and values, and an element of farcical physical comedy, but performances are delivered with deadpan reality. Various comparisons could be drawn with "The Vicar of Dibley", "The Lucile Ball Show" and "Welcome Back Cotter".

Carol herself is tightly face-lifted, preened, stubborn, uptight, amply bosomed, blunt and set in her ways. She's fashioned with the sense of style and hair we'd expect to find on Bronwyn Bishop but she's botoxed like a fashion magazine editor. She's teased, sprayed, fixed, ironed and pearled. And she repeats herself.

Stan is 48, he runs the local community centre and he's got a heart of gold. Stan's as Aussie as tomato sauce and in his 22 years of running the centre, he's never met anyone like Carol.

Carol's students include: Vin, a 17 year old Indian/Pakistani hip hop VJ shrouded in self doubt, pimples and no hope. Souki who is 19 and Vietnamese. She lost her cleaning job after being accused of stealing. Norma is a 64 year old retiree, stuck in a bad marriage and bored at home. Tyler is 21 and rather likes the idea of becoming a millionaire. Ivan is 40 or so, he's one of those people who always stands too close.

Other semi-regular characters: Alaan, a gay Russian who runs the Yoga classes and believes Carol's aura is too black for him to do his work. Michael is the Managing Director of the tour company who brought Carol to Australia. He's very difficult to track down because he's usually attending minor court cases or playing golf. Rula is the local Councilor. She does things by the book. Henry is Carol's skin specialist and a great listener. Kitten is Carol's small fluffy Pekinese lap dog. Marquis is the local parking inspector who relentlessly targets Carol's car. Rexinald is ex-husband number four, and exceedingly good-looking for a man of 70.

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### EPISODE BREAKDOWN

1 – EMBRACE THE FEAR: Carol lands in Australia to find she has no money, no tour and no ticket home. She meets Stan who talks her into teaching her workshop at his centre.

2 – MUSTS AND SHOULD'S: Carol wants to cancel the whole thing but can't afford to. Carol has no luck tracking down the tour organizer, or her dog Kitten, who is stuck in quarantine

3 – DO IT NOW: Stan builds a meditation garden after being inspired by Carol. Extra people want to enroll because word has spread that her program works. Carol takes her first pay packet straight to the botox clinic.

4 – IMAGINE YOU CAN: Carol admits to the class her own goal is to write a new book. The local Councilor arrives to let Stan know his funding at the centre is under threat.

5 – GOOD OLD GOALS: Carol receives notice that her dog is carrying an unknown virus and she needs to pay for expensive treatment before they can release him from quarantine. Carol buys a second hand car and gets her first parking ticket.

6 – THE YES GAME: Everyone's learning to say 'yes'. One of Carol's students offers to type if Carol still wants to write a book, Carol begin writing "Carol's Guide to Winning at Divorce".

7 – THREE NEW THINGS: Carol upsets other staff because she's changing the way they do things. She turns up at the tour organizer's golf course to demand he honour her contract.

8 – FOCUS ON AN ORANGE: Wish fulfillment and focus. Carol's dog Kitty arrives. But it's not Kitty. Carol's ex husband is holding Kitty ransom until she returns all his cufflinks.

9 – BUGGING ME BLOCKS: Carol's new dog causes havoc in Stan's garden. Carol suffers writers block and her parking fines turn into a court order. Stan asks Carol out for dinner.

10 – REVIEW AND REVISE: The Council notifies the centre they are withdrawing funding unless it can raise a percentage of running costs privately. Carol and her class come up with an idea to publish Carol's book independently as a comic book Zine and sell it at the centre.

11 – SOME HARD YARDS: The class find it difficult to secure the deals they need to stage Carol's book launch, but perseverance pays off. Carol forms a bond with her new dog and she manages to finish writing her book. Stan suggests "if we never get married we'd never have to divorce" and he attempts to kiss her but they're interrupted.

12 – LOOK AT ME NOW: It turns out someone wrote the wrong time on the posters advertising Carol's book launch, so after it seems like no-one showed up, suddenly the place is inundated. Carol challenges the court over her parking fines and loses. She challenges her ex over his cuff links and loses. She and Stan sit in silence in the meditation garden. She's got just enough money left to buy a ticket home.

### 13 – AND THEN THEY WERE GONE

Carol mounts a slander campaign against Michael and he is banned from his golf course. At the airport with her two dogs on board and ticket in hand Carol receives news that Oprah is interested to have her on the show. Carol looks around and realises she's managed to create an army of talented minions out of her class., if only they were all coming with her. Stan tries one more time to ask her to stay, and Rula even offers her a position at the local Council. But Carol wants to go home, she thinks..... or perhaps she just needs to review her goals!

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### **INTENDED TIMESLOT:**

7pm Monday night

### **TARGET AUDIENCE:**

PG adult/young adult audience. 18-30. Female skew.

### **KEY BIOGRAPHIES:**

KATRINA MATHERS – “CAROL” / WRITER / CREATOR / PRODUCER

Katrina is best known for creating and performing the character of “Sandra Sultry” for Channel 10’s “The Wedge”. She was a Moosehead Recipient for the two-hander comic stage play “Footy Chicks” at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, and one of the regular writer/performers on the ABC late night comedy series “Flipside”.

Katrina also has years of production experience as a producer and freelance director. She’s won many short film awards and was a Tropfest finalist director with her short “The Referees”. Project Greenlight winners The Macrae brothers recently produced Katrina’s short screenplay “No Mail” and she’s received development funding for various other projects.

Full biography, showreels and further information can be found online.  
Katrina is contactable through Stacey Testro International Management.

Carol character sample: [www.longshot.tv/cw01](http://www.longshot.tv/cw01)

More info:

[www.longshot.tv](http://www.longshot.tv) - production company

[www.katrinamathers.com](http://www.katrinamathers.com) - general info and showreels online

[www.lampshadecollective.com](http://www.lampshadecollective.com) - 3d animation and digital effects company

[www.innersense.com.au/mif/mathers.html](http://www.innersense.com.au/mif/mathers.html) - filmography

### **OTHER/S**

Katrina has two other writers and a director in mind, as well as a particular actor for the role of ‘Stan’. She has not approached anyone at this stage, but they are all people she has worked with previously, with commercial television credits and she feels confident that they would come on board if the project were to progress further. Names can be provided if requested.

### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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