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Unfiltered Podcast Series Transcript - Episode 2

Clare: Okay, and welcome back to the next episode of unfiltered. We're having some conversations about disability and everything people wanted to know and have usually been too afraid to ask or just ask without asking if it's okay. I'm joined today by Wes and Leticia, some really great folks who work here in the city of Belmont and we're just going to have some conversations today about just general things. So, we don't have a specific theme. It's kind of that any other duties or any other conversational type stuff or random things. So, I'm going to start with you, Letitia. Can you just tell me a little bit about yourself?

Leticia: Yeah, sure.

Hello. I'm Letitia. I am the Senior Digital Content Manager at the Centre for Accessibility Australia, which sounds really fancy, but basically, I just proof read and write brand new stuff. I am an amputee and I'm a nerd. And that's basically me

Clare: All the best people are nerds really. That's why I specifically asked you two because I wanted to have a nerdy conversation.

Wes, do you want to tell me a little bit about yourself? Yeah,

Wes: So, I'm a Digital Accessibility analyst, so I take apart websites and that and then audit them to meet 50 international criteria for being accessible and stuff, basically write it down, look through websites, say yes, no, pass, try a little harder, or something like that.

Clare: you failed!!

Wes: Yeah, pretty much it is you might just start from scratch. Yeah. Yeah, which is really cool, I haven't worked here for that long, but it's been really awesome work so far. But at home, I'm like a bird enthusiast, and I like art, and yeah, a lot of Fantasy games and stuff. I'm a big video game player.

Clare: Awesome. Yeah, awesome. They're very fancy titles. Yeah. So today, as I said, we're going to just talk about different sort of random questions. And we've had a question that came in around travel. And so as for you guys your support needs are a little bit different. Same with me. Is it hard for you to travel around? What makes it hard?

Leticia: Well, Wes knows I had an experience this morning.

Clare: Oh, okay, tell us.

Leticia: I was on the bus, sitting on the seat, and the bus driver, it wasn't his fault, he broke really fast. And I went flying and I cracked my head on the ground. And my legs, my prosthetic legs fell off, skimming away. Yeah, I think I gave the bus driver therapy for the rest of his life

Wes: The need for therapy

Leticia: The need for therapy, yeah.

Wes: He was quite upset about it.

Letitia: He was quite upset, but yeah, not basically, physical obstacles. For me, it's kind of difficult too, I can't drive yet because our overlord, Elon Musk, hasn't made driverless cars completely available to the public.

Clare: I cannot wait for driverless cars; can I just say?

Leticia: Every time anyone gets all hesitant about it. Oh, but the risks are like, no, I'll sign me up, I do not mind. The car can drive off a cliff as long as I get five minutes of autonomy, I'm there.

Wes: Yeah, that's fair enough.

Letitia: Sorry, what were we talking about? Oh, transport. Yeah, so basically for me it's physical obstacles but public transport I usually use. And besides today, and a few other times, it's actually been pretty good. I've got a scrunchie thing, so I put my Transperth card on it and I beep all the time on it when I get on and off. Yeah, public transport for me is, yep.

Clare: What about like airline travel and stuff, how do you go with that?

Leticia: I don't really go on planes a lot, so I don't really have that much experience. But from my own experience… It's been good. American airlines suck. There is something about Qantas where they, I don't know if they, I know there's probably been bad press, I don't know. But from my own experience everyone's always been quite welcoming and helpful with my needs. Just if I need a wheelchair, oh my wheelchair has gotten lost a few times – going around the nation – it's travelled more than me, so I kind of take that as natural, which I guess it's not. Like, whenever my wheelchair gets lost, I'm like, oh yeah, that happened. But I suppose when you step back and think about it, that's actually not that good.

Wes: Yeah

Letitia: Yeah, my wheelchair needs a passport. Yeah, I don't know. I haven't really had much dramas besides missing wheelchairs.

Clare: My friend has an air tag now that they put on the wheelchair.

Wes: Oh, so they can locate it. Nice.

Letitia: That's nice. That's a good idea.

Clare: I know. I was like, why didn't I think of that with my suitcase and stuff, but yeah. Yeah. Interesting. How about you, Wes? Do you have any issues around travel?

Wes: Yeah. I would say public transport, yeah, can be a hassle unlike, well, Letitia's experiences, like mine are kind of more psychiatric in nature.

Clare: Yeah.

Wes: Physically, everything's fine, but I could be sitting on a bus smiling and having an absolute moment inside. Yeah, and, I won't because I don't drive, and yeah, driving is a whole other basket. It really is one of the biggest barriers to me actually going out to start a recovery process. Like getting back outside and kind of coming back to reality and that I won't because of public transport. And I have to, I had to work through that for quite a lot. I guess really there's nothing you can do, but it is an experience I have, yeah..

Clare: What do you think we could do? Like the public or the work, could do to make it easier?

Wes: That's the thing. I don't think it there really is much to do besides break down the overarching stigma of seeing someone being mentally ill or different, yeah. For public transport, I think. Yeah.

Clare: Yeah. Okay, yeah, that's cool.

Wes: I really do wish there was more trains and buses though. And I think that's not even related to disability in general. That's just something that should happen. Because there is a lot of buses. And there is a lot of waiting.

Clare: Yeah, I think in terms of climate change, it would be great to have more public transport available, and more affordable public transport. More people would use it.

Wes: That's it, more like electric, not natural gas et cetera.

Clare: That's one of the reasons why I'm really excited about driverless cars. There's not only the thing around people with disability who can't normally drive, actually just being able to go where they want to, it's we can share cars now. We could just call up for what we need rather than have one sitting around in my garage that I might, if I work from home, is never going to move. I can send that out with my kids or whatever.

Letitia: Yeah.

Wes: Which is interesting, but... I think that's really because that's another barrier. It's just like getting a car.

Letitia: Yeah

Clare: Affordability, do you mean? Yeah,

Wes: Yeah, like that is bananas. I know.

Clare: I know Especially when we might struggle to get a job. Yeah, being and then able to afford it.

Wes: That's it. And then, everything associated with learning. Which you know, driving is easy, but driving is not risk free. That's for sure.

Clare: No, I think I don't think it's as easy as we think. We've got some shocking drivers here in WA. That's the other reason why I'm hanging out for driverless cars. People go, oh, the risk. And I'm like, have you met the people who have licenses?

Wes: Yeah, that's true.

Clare: Oh, it's a bit scary. Okay, cool. So, one of my next questions is, it's about dating. We'll see how we go. Do you only ever want to date other people with disability? If so, why?

Leticia: No, I would date anyone I feel a connection with. Although it is interesting when other people assume when you have a disability that you would date only people with disability. When I was dating someone once and I mentioned it to someone I know and the first question was, oh, wow, do they have a disability too? Like, why would you assume that? It's weird, man. Yeah. But yeah, I don't really have a preference.

Clare: No. People just assume because, they're the only people that we're interested in.

Wes: Yeah, that sounds like it was just a bit of a like a probably a moment where you just don't think… Sometimes people are good people, but sometimes it's gonna be like, squish their lips a bit like, don't say that! There

Leticia: ….

Wes: Yeah, just Like

Clare: Yeah, stop talking.

Wes: Yeah, stop talking.

Clare: Yeah, Yeah, how do you feel about that question, Wes?

Wes: I think, yeah, Pretty similar lines, hey, where it's like, yeah, you can date anyone, but there is conversations you gotta have with a partner if they don't have a disability and those conversations aren't easy because you're trying to share your perspective, but with someone who doesn't, who can't, who hasn't lived that and, lived experience is like full on, that's not just "Oh, it was like this" and then the person sitting there is "I completely get that. I have all your trauma." That doesn't happen, so it's that's work on top of a relationship, that's already got 50 things that are really, it's really intense. Like someone said a relationship is like, someone who is your boss and then you do everything together and you sleep in the same house and if you have a kid, you have a kid and both of you have got to look out for it. It's like you're doing 50 jobs at once with someone else, and then disability is honestly, another whole 50 jobs. But then, at the same time…disability and disability together, if that, if that were to happen, I would find, um, has its own, certain barriers, like, support for one another - and for mine, like I mentioned before, - because it was psychiatric, that's a lot of energy, and for years, it can actually develop into something unhealthy without it being, because if something serious happens, the person has to put their all to make sure that person's okay, but then their mental health, who they might be vulnerable to, will drop, and then you've got this imbalance, and, it can be really tricky.

Clare: Yeah, I hadn't thought about it like that.

Wes: Yeah, it can get tricky, because who's there, who's going to help them? And then if you can't help yourself. And then what if both of you can't help themself, like yourself, yeah. So, you can't help them because you're struggling and then they're struggling, and they can't help you. That's it - two rock bottoms. And that's not, that's not fun, but it's not intentional either and that's what really hurts sometimes. So, it can be pretty tough.

Clare: It can. I live in a diverse household. My poor husband, we call him the diversity hire, it's not very politically correct, but he's middle aged, he's white, and he doesn't have any disabilities, so he's like the diversity hire in our house.

Wes: That's not the first time I've heard that too, like, where it's just here's my partner, yeah!

Clare: Yeah, token normal guy. One of the questions came around from someone who didn't have a disability and they were like what do we say? Because I'm always scared, I'm going to say the wrong thing. And so, like for me I'm happy, I'm proudly disabled. Like I literally have the t shirt, but how do you guys feel about that?

Do you prefer people - that whole concept of disability pride. Do you prefer, I'm just, I'm, I have a disability, I'm disabled, I'm a person with disability do you not have a preference? How do you feel about that language side of things?

Leticia: I am 100 percent a disabled person. What is it about the word proud? I'm all for others who have disability pride, but that isn't my, please don't come for me.

Clare: Nobody will.

Leticia: I don't know whether I would say I have disability pride, but I have, I am disabled. And that's who I am. And I feel like until we have equal footing in socially, politically, all of that, then I don't really see why we should pussyfoot around disability first language.

Wes: That’s true.

Sorry, first person language.

Wes: Like person first. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I think it kind of does take the highlight when there are other things that are like, shockingly obvious, that should be addressed first. I reckon, and I understand this, like that's how people start to normalise, our reality, and that's when stuff, but then, you've got places where like people can't even access, there's events people can't even access. There's jobs, people can’t access, and then everyone's the news is Hey, by the way, should it be he, him, hers, or would you like, prefer to be called, but it's that's, yeah. But at the same time, it's so subjective too. I'm sure, what you call yourself is different from what I call myself, but that's because we've had really different lives.

Letitia: Yeah, completely. Yeah.

Wes: But we both share an interest in having a job. In the sector, yeah. That's it, yeah. Yep. Yeah. To me, a label's just like a name. It's just something.

Clare: Yeah, That's true. Some people see it as a really key part of their identity. Others, I guess it's what you're exposed to. I think probably the fact that I'm in the sector has influenced my thinking around that. I might not feel so comfortable saying it if I work somewhere completely different. Yeah.

Wes: Yeah, That's it, true. And that's what, yeah, that just, just proves it, it's so fluid. It's such, it's an opinion that you hold to yourself, or just...I did, I remember having this speech before about what identity is, and I was just like, it's your favourite game, because that's actually what it is. It's just bits of things that come and you just, and you're just like, I like that,

Clare: It fits.

Wes: Yeah exactly, that fits, and it doesn't have to fit ten years later, it doesn't have to fit ten years ago, it's about the now yeah.

Clare: Yeah, that's a really good way to look at it, I like it. So just following on from that, what's the hardest thing about having a disability?

Wes: I'm trying to explain it.

Clare: Yeah?

Wes: In all honesty, anything that isn't just taken nicely. Taking the piss. Yeah. But that's it. But it's kind of, go to my boss and say, I had this moment, or go to my parents, and they're like, so why were you in hospital? Like, how do you it's hard to explain that. That's what I've found is the most troubling, above anything else in the end you can get through it, but honestly, I'm still having that same conversation with my parents, and it's been like 10 years.

Clare: Wow, That takes a lot of energy, doesn't it?

To keep having the conversations. Yeah,

Wes: you kind of, you pick your battles. That's for sure.

Clare: Yeah. I think particularly when the disability is not visible, you have to explain and explain. Letitia, what about yourself? What's the hardest thing? What's the thing that annoys you the most?

Leticia: Honestly, people I hate saying people's attitudes, people can be really terrified of you. Like you're literally living your existence, getting on a bus, or doing whatever, and people freak out - you shouldn't, oh, do you have someone with you, or are you okay doing this? And the thing is, yeah, I can't even really fault people necessarily. And I don't want to judge people necessarily because objectively if I had been born able bodied and I had no experience with disability it might be a bit, oh is that person okay sort of thing.

Yeah

Wes: Everyone goes through it.

Leticia: Yes. Yeah. But like man just let me fricken buy a movie ticket, calm down Rhonda I'm fine. That's it. Yeah.

Clare: Calm down Rhonda I'm fine. I love it.

Wes: I've definitely seen that happen so much where it's like, It's this overbearing nature. And in their mind that's why you don't fault them. They're like, yeah I'm gonna help someone out. But that's, they do that once a day. You get told crap like that 50 times a day. And you get sick of it, I imagine,

Leticia: People are people, man. People be people. People be people. And that's, I need that on my shirt.

Clare: I like it. Yeah, people do.

They try to be helpful, but it's, I'm an adult. I can do my thing. Yeah, I'm fine. That's not my first go on the bus. Yeah, it's interesting. What about when you're going out to, Clubs or gigs or events and stuff like that. What makes that kind of hard?

Leticia: You assume I have a social life?

Clare: Mate, I'm the same. I haven't got one either.

Leticia: No, I didn't manage to get ERA tickets, but I'm okay because I saw Reputation. I'm fine. It's fine. You're not bitter? I'm not sad at all. But yeah, we went to the concert cinema thing. Yeah, what was the question?

Clare: What makes it hard to go out to clubs and gigs and events?

Leticia: Stairs, physical barriers. Yeah, again, see, it's obvious for me because it's...Oh, actually, I guess not. I keep thinking it's obvious for people, but I guess it isn't obvious for people. Yeah, stairs physical barriers, I've said that that's, yeah. Yeah.

Clare: Yeah. People try to be helpful.

Wes: Yeah, it's true.

Wes: I imagine you're going to a concert, and they're like, you're like, drinking and having a good time, within your limits, and someone's Oh, yeah, give me another one.

Leticia: Being an adult, drinking, people, it's okay, this isn't really the same, but kind of, it's inner ableism. You know when you get the hundred year olds and people go up to them and they're like, “Oh wow, how did you live so long?” And they give some answer, and everyone's oh wow. Frickin George has been through both world wars, people. He's alright. Treat him like an adult, man.

Clare: And so, does the same sorts of things happen to you?

Leticia: Yeah, but it’s like one time oh, like a decade ago. I still think about it. It's just a bit wrong. Okay, so I was sitting... And my, my friends had gone off to go wherever, and I was eating McDonald's, and I had chips on the table on a napkin. And yes, one chip fell on the table. This was pre COVID days. I know that's wrong. I sat there, I looked at it, I wanted to eat it, and someone from the other table literally came over and took the chips from me and then they're like, where is your mum? And I replied without thinking, no that's not my mum, that's my parole officer.

[Laughter]

Wes: you should get an ankle bracelet!!

Clare: No, that's what you're getting on a t shirt! This is not my carer, that's my parole officer

Leticia: No, you joke. I'm getting that now.,.

Clare: That's so good. But it's true though, isn't it? There's that assumption that you can't.

Wes: Yeah. You need your mum there.

Clare: Oh, far out. That's hilarious. Wes?

Wes: Yeah, honestly, I wouldn't say there's anything specific for me that isn't, for everything else, so not really much to say on that.

Clare: Yeah, fair enough. I know, it's hilarious, right? I've had a couple of people also want to ask about telling people that you've got a disability so when you've got to go apply for a job or when you call up and you're looking for medical appointments or things like that, do you do you have to tell people?

Leticia: okay, this brings up a lot of employment trauma.

Clare: uh oh, sorry.

Leticia: No, no, because it's a good discussion to have. I finished uni and I applied and applied for every job under the sun and I had this question I get asked by people like, I know legally you don't have to, but let's forget legality.

Clare: Yeah, the reality of.

Letitia: The reality is, should you tell, is that a thing that you should tell? And I still, if someone asked me, I still wouldn't know that the right answer is no. You shouldn't, but I don't know the actual right answer because yeah. Yeah, I don’t know.

Clare: what's been your experience then when you have, and you haven't? Because you said you've had employment trauma.

Leticia: Yeah, just in cover letters I've written that I have a disability, and I have applied for jobs I am way too overqualified for, and I didn't even get an interview. And of course, you don't know whether that is because of what you wrote, or because of the fact that jobs are scarce out there. You never know, but it plays in your head should I have done that? And then, when you don't write you have a disability, and you get a job interview, and you walk in and it's obvious that I am an amputee and...

Wes: Yep.

Letitia: I don't know. Y

Wes: And then they're like, oooh.

Letitia: Yeah.

Wes: Yeah, and then the air's like stiff.

Leticia: Yeah. So, you just, I don't know. Am I really privileged to have this job because it is a disability related, disability run organisation. And I know that my employer would not have discriminated against it. But that's in the disability sector. We are rare to have such a good boss.

He's a legend. Yeah.

Yeah, that's great.

Yeah, but that's never been my experience before. Yeah. My previous job I had, I got because I knew, it's all about how you know. I knew the people and they knew me. Yeah, it's, I've always had issues with employment. Yeah,

Clare: it's difficult. it's not as if you get through an interview stage, it's not like you can't.

Letitia: Yeah.

Clare: Not disclose it as soon as you walk through the door kind of thing.

Wes: Yeah

Leticia: Yeah. I feel like my experience would be completely different to yours Wes.

Clare: Yeah. So, I'd really like to hear about your experience Wes if you wanted to answer the question.

Wes: Yeah. in any like professional environment, when my disability is inevitably seen as time it does, it’s not like anyone else was going to do that. That didn't happen. It's common. It's got so many factors to it. Like, how I present myself, how I speak, and that. And that's really hard because the time I have to talk about it is the time I'm in it.

That's a challenge.

Wes: Yeah, especially medical. Actually, more so than employment. I've been through every job I've been... I've lost the cause of my disability, but I've found it so much, it is surprising how much medical staff don't know about psychiatric, or don't listen to lived experience. I've had like a grain of salt to listen to me.

And that's [00:22:00] not emphasis in kind of way, but as in like a just taking in my experience with actual empathy, yeah. So, every time I look for a doctor, I go, I tell them my history, they make the wrong assumption. I go look to the next doctor, and it's that over and over and over again. Yeah.

And

Clare: that has, comes with trauma too, doesn't it? Oh

Wes: yeah. One of, one of the, I'm alright talking about this actually more so than any of my, just like my long term. I had to I went through chemotherapy two years ago. So I had cancer, and, like, it's so much easier explaining anything physical from my experience than it will be for mental, because I got treated so much different in the hospital for cancer than I did, and for the heart problems that I had before it, than what I did when I was having a mental health crisis, and it was crazy, I looked at it and I was like, like I was in there for , because I had something wrong with my heart and I'd come in for my heart.

But I had a severe moment of [00:23:00] mental health, like, barrier then, and I got it was like that, I got told to basically shut up. Cause I was having a panic attack, cause they were telling me that my, I had a heart attack. You know what I mean?

What?

Yeah, it was weird, it was really weird, and I don't remember much, but I remember that, and I just remember thinking.

Like everyone going oh, you might have had a heart attack and I didn't, but in that moment they didn't know.

Yeah.

And then I started fully flipping, you would. Yeah. Yeah. It was a stressful day, right?

Yeah.

and then the nurses, they come over and said you need to be quiet because people were sleeping here.

Yeah. That was, yeah. That was crazy.

Letitia: Wow.

Wes: I look back at it now and I was like, yeah, no, that was... but then, when the day passes on, it's heart, it's cancer, it's this, it's treated, like the pats on the back, and “aw, you're okay”, but when you're, cause mental health can be loud, that's it, mental health crisis is really loud. People think it's like someone left in the room doing their own little thing, but you see it, everyone's seeing it every day.

Letitia: Yeah.

Wes: There's always someone who's going through it, someone in the streets who's talking for themselves.

Letitia: Yep.

Wes: Crying and they can't get consoled, it's loud and people don't like that.

Letitia: Yep.

Wes: But like crap, you got to treat them the exact same as you would if someone was bleeding on the floor,

Leticia: Yeah,

Wes: and yeah, it's very rare that I've had to get that, which I think is a bit poor

Clare: honestly. Yeah. Yeah, that's a really powerful statement mental health crisis is loud

Wes: Oh, it is, yeah.

I love,

Clare: I love, I don't love that, but I love the way you framed that because I've not thought about that before.

Wes: Yeah, no, that's the thing. And it's true. It's true, because interesting, our brains pick it up, and I remember doing research. I'm a little bit of a, I can do a little deep dive. So, our brain has something called pathogen awareness.

Clare: Yep.

Wes: And it's like fully ancient, and it's cause we used to be like monkeys chilling in a group, right? And birds do this as well. And monkeys chill in a group and one, one monkey gets sick, to not endanger the group, the monkey is pushed out, right? And this is what our brains do when we pick up something that we see that we think, in an ancient term, it's a threat to ourselves and our safety. That is like an unconscious thing, like a lizard brain thing. We call it the lizard brain because it's so ancient, and I've experienced this from watching someone else, which is weird, because you think, because I've been the loud one watching the loud one, I wouldn't think that, but I do.

So, if someone starts, screaming, and in mental health wards as well, when it's really loud, you crap your pants a bit, and yeah, and it's it's an unconscious thing, but then it's your actions after is what really matters. It's okay to see someone having a mental health crisis and be startled by it, because not allowing yourself too actually, that's actually probably unhealthy, because they're loud, yeah. And they affect everyone in the room. But it's about the actions after that really count. That if you see someone, you let them be, but you ask them if they're okay.

Clare: Wow. Yeah, that's really cool. Thank you. I don't have a segue to the next question, but that was really powerful. Thanks for that. It's true. No, but it's true, but it's really important what you're saying.

Wes: Yeah.

Clare: Yeah. I never thought about it like that. Yeah.

Yeah, it's good. It's good. Because you do, you can't help your response your fight or flight. But it is what you do next that matters.

Wes: Yeah.

Clare: Wow. That's really cool. Thank you. Yeah. Completely unrelated question now. Just our last one for the episode. It's about what we see in the media. about representation. And I'm asking you two this because you deal a lot with digital media. And I can see you getting all excited. What do we need to do to improve our representation in the media?

What frustrates you the most about media representation?

Leticia: When you have people with disability, and I know I just said disability, not disabled people in... Maybe they either fit the two groups, the inspirational porn, or the pity porn. But I have found in a genre called anime, that disability is just not even - it's wrapped up in the nuance of the story. And characters... There's always amputees in anime. There's always a story, and there's always like the full, they're a full human being. Wouldn't it, isn't that funny when you think about how people are actually full human beings. And it's like western kind of media hasn't really caught up to that yet. And like, all I want to see is well rounded, good written characters. Which, cause I want to be a writer and that's kind of my passion - It's not to write about disability, but just to write characters who have disability. This excites me a lot.

Wes: Even disability that you don't have.

Letitia: No, completely.

Wes: Doing your research. And I was going to say lived experience. Yeah. Holy crap, like lived experience is a tool if you want to write something compelling or illustrate something compelling and we're both artists so we could probably agree on that. Having someone with lived experience is crazy, like I would write a character let's say who has OCD, I don't have OCD. But I would consult my friend who has OCD and there is also, there's always bridges, when it comes to stuff where you can go yeah, it'd be like that, and you'd be like that, and how do you think about this, and yeah. And also, not having - as an artist - I don't know, where it's oh, but you should only draw that

Clare: But who does that, who do you know what, who could possibly only do what they know?

Wes: Oh, one thing, yeah, that's it. It'd be very stale, but... Yeah, I feel like that's something western media's scared of, is actually asking and I know that's probably the reason why this, but it's just get some lived experience, talk to people, hang out with them, and stuff, and then you, boom, you've got a better story.

Clare: I really struggle when you see say I'm autistic. I see non autistic people playing autistic characters and it's I'm pretty sure there's enough autistic folk out there who want to work in the arts.

Wes: Yeah. That's it. They think autism is a checklist.

Clare: Yeah, we're not all rain man.

Wes: Yeah, that's it. But they're like, oh yeah, so they gotta be like this. That's man, everything, it is huge. It is way bigger than anything you've

Leticia: Yeah. I completely agree with that statement. Okay, so I've always thought representation is important. All of that I've never doubted that, but for me, for some reason, I never really thought about representation for myself. I never thought that I was like, oh yeah, it's cool. Until I saw Mad Max, Fury Road.

Wes: Yeah, you were telling me about this.

Letitia: Eight years ago, whenever it came out, I went to sit there, having no idea really what it was about, except Tom Hardy was in it, and I'm literally in love with Tom Hardy. Australian. Then Furiosa came out, and she was an amputee, and I literally sat there tense from beginning to end thinking this is gonna be some inspirational porn bullshit sort of thing. And it was just - I had never seen something like that before and I actually, I was like 30 years old. Sitting in the cinema at the end, like events sitting as like sobbing my arm. Sobbing arm. Yeah. Because I've never had that representation before. But at the same time, like you said, why can't we have actors who have disability play. Because I think Charlize Theron was great as Furiosa, but how many amputee actors are there out there? And I can tell you how many are there out there. There is one less out there, because growing up all I wanted to do was to go to a law firm and be an actor. That was my absolute dream. That's what I wanted to do. That's what I wanted to be. And of course, there aren't roles out there for people with disability, and when there are roles out there for people with disability, able bodied people get them, and that makes me so upset. [00:31:00] And now I've reconciled to the fact that I'm a writer, and that's what I want to do, and I'm actually really happy with that, but, 20 year old Letitia would have killed it as an actor.

Clare: Yeah, absolutely, I think you'd kill it as an actor now. Excuse you!!

Clare: That's interesting.

Wes: You gotta, you have to change your dreams. Because it didn't fit what was in place already. And I think everyone does that to an extent and that's life. But I think you should have been given a go.

Clare: Yeah, I agree

Leticia: Yeah, I can just write for other people.

Clare: And make them put the characters in. Yeah. That's good. Awesome. Wow, guys, this has been a really great conversation. Thank you so much.

Leticia: Yeah, thank you.

Wes: Time for a nap now.

Clare: Yeah! Time out. So, thanks for joining me today.

That was that was Unfiltered. Really appreciate it. See you next time everyone.

Leticia: Bye. Bye.