

00:00:00	Music	Transition	Gentle, trilling music with a steady drumbeat plays under the dialogue.
00:00:01	Promo	Promo	Speaker: <i>Bullseye with Jesse Thorn</i> is a production of MaximumFun.org and is distributed by NPR.
00:00:13	Music	Transition	<i>[Music fades out.]</i> “Huddle Formation” from the album <i>Thunder, Lightning, Strike</i> by The Go! Team. A fast, upbeat, peppy song. Music plays as Jesse speaks, then fades out.
00:00:21	Jesse Thorn	Host	It’s <i>Bullseye</i> . I’m Jesse Thorn. Claudia O’Doherty is my next guest this week. She is, as you’re about to hear, an extremely funny person. She’s from Sydney, Australia. She was a writer on <i>Inside Amy Schumer</i> , a regular on the Netflix show <i>Love</i> . She has her own brand of comedy that you might describe as cheerfully deranged, sort of like a kinder, gentler Adult Swim bizarreness. That means standup sets sponsored by the National Chair Association, videos recorded from home while under house arrest, and a fake news magazine piece about women in magic and whether they’re witches.
00:01:01	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:01:02	Clip	Clip	Claudia O’Doherty: And we’ve got her here, today! It’s Lydia Kroman. Ooooh! You must be so nervous. Did you ever think you’d get to be on TV? Lydia Kroman: Oh, well, I’ve actually already been on TV. Um, I asked a question on <i>Question Time</i> . Claudia: Oh! Were you asking when they were gonna outlaw burning witches at the stake? Lydia: I think it’s already illegal to burn people at the stake. Claudia: Oh, sorry, people. Witches are people. You... are a person. Lydia: I’m not a witch. Um. I’m an entertainer and professional medium. I’m actually one of the top 15 corporate entertainers within a 60-mile radius, and I’m gonna be going on a— Claudia: <i>[Interrupting.]</i> Is your husband a wizard?
00:01:34	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:01:36	Jesse	Host	Claudia’s latest project is called <i>Killing It</i> . It’s a sitcom streaming on Peacock. It’s summed up pretty neatly in the tagline: “Class, capitalism, and one man’s quest to achieve the American dream.” That one man is Craig, played by Craig Robinson—Darryl from <i>The Office</i> and Doug Judy from <i>Brooklyn 99</i> . He’s an out of work security guard with a nearly surefire plan for business success. All he needs is capital. And after getting turned down for a loan from pretty much every bank, he finally catches a break. He’s got a good meeting with a loan officer in an hour, and he hustles out the door. Only, his car’s busted. So, he opens up an app and hails a ride. Enter Jillian G, played by my guest, Claudia O’Doherty.
00:02:23	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.

00:02:24	Clip	Clip	<p>Music: Upbeat, plucky music.</p> <p>Jillian (<i>Killing It</i>): You didn't have to worry. I'm not one of those weird Uber drivers that doesn't talk.</p> <p>Craig: Okay.</p> <p>Jillian: Are you from around here?</p> <p>Craig: Yes.</p> <p>Jillian: I'm from Australia. <i>[Beat.]</i> Have you ever seen the movie <i>Grease</i>?</p> <p>Craig: <i>[Beat.]</i> Yeah.</p> <p>Jillian: Well, here's a little secret for you. Olivia Newton-John is from Australia! <i>[Beat.]</i> Sandy? <i>[Beat.]</i> She played Sandy. Yeah.</p> <p>Craig: Yeah, yeah. I know who you're talking about.</p> <p>Jillian: Have you ever heard of Nicole Kidman?</p> <p><i>[A cellphone rings.]</i></p> <p>Craig: Oh! I'm sorry. I've gotta take this.</p> <p>Jillian: She's Australian, too. Music swells and fades.</p>
00:03:06	Sound Effect	Transition	
00:03:08	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Claudia O'Doherty, welcome to <i>Bullseye</i> . It's nice to see you.
00:03:13	Claudia O'Doherty	Guest	Thank you so much, Jesse! It's so nice to be here.
00:03:16	Jesse	Host	Is that your understanding of what it is to be Australian in America? <i>[Chuckling.]</i> Just a list of Australian people?
00:03:22	Claudia	Guest	100% how I have made a lot of friends.
00:03:26	Jesse	Host	You just—you get a meeting with your agent by saying that you know Yahoo Serious.
00:03:31	Claudia	Guest	Exactly. I mean, I actually do sort of know Yahoo Serious.
00:03:33	Jesse	Host	<i>[Shocked.]</i> No, you don't know Yahoo Serious!
00:03:35	Claudia	Guest	I don't know him very well, but he—my dad's band did play the song that was like the end of <i>Young Einstein</i> . You know how he plays rock and roll music?
			<i>[Jesse affirms.]</i>
00:03:47	Jesse	Host	And my—it was actually my— That's how he's different from the old Einstein. One of several ways.
00:03:49	Claudia	Guest	Exactly. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah. That's how he separates himself from his dad?
00:03:53	Jesse	Host	Yeah, I think so. Yeah.
00:03:54	Claudia	Guest	The original Einstein? I don't remember it that well. I remember the pie full of kittens, but that's my Yahoo Serious connection.

00:04:02	Jesse	Host	Wait, so did Yahoo Serious ever come over to your house when you were a kid?
			<i>[Claudia confirms.]</i>
00:04:06	Claudia	Guest	I'm sorry that this is all Yahoo Serious stuff. I think he did, yeah. I think he did. You know. I think my parents are still friends with him, but they're definitely still friends with his ex-wife.
00:04:14	Jesse	Host	Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i> That rules.
			<i>[Claudia agrees with a laugh.]</i>
00:04:18	Claudia	Guest	Congratulations on that, Claudia.
00:04:19	Jesse	Host	Thank you so much. Yeah. So, the first time I saw you perform was in Scotland, in Edinburgh.
			<i>[Claudia expresses surprise.]</i>
00:04:34	Claudia	Guest	At one of the Edinburgh festivals. And you were working mostly in England at the time. I think.
00:04:40	Jesse	Host	Yeah! I lived in London from 2012 to 2015, I think. So, the show that I saw, the main thing that I remember was that you were some kind of weird guru—maybe a business guru.
			<i>[Claudia affirms with a laugh.]</i>
			And it was sort of like—I would describe the tone—it was a tone piece, let's say. <i>[Chuckling.]</i> It was maybe like if Tim and Eric were more genial, maybe.
			<i>[Claudia chuckles.]</i>
00:05:08	Claudia	Guest	Like, it was still very upsetting. But— <i>[laughs]</i> .
00:05:11	Jesse	Host	That was often one of my aims, to be upsetting. Yeah. Yeah. And I mean, I saw that—and you had been like acclaimed at the fest. You know, you were doing great at that festival, but I remember seeing that show and thinking, "Where do you take this?" Like, <i>[laughs]</i> "Where—" Like, everyone else at that festival—like at the time, I don't know if it's still the case, but like England was in this huge standup comedy boom. So, if you could put together a decent hour to put up there, you could tour and make big money playing—you know—1000 seat community centers in Leeds all year long.
			<i>[Claudia confirms.]</i>
00:05:48	Claudia	Guest	And I saw you doing this weird thing in like a black turtleneck in front of space lights or something. I wonder if you saw the show about soil erosion or the one where I had like a rear projection screen and a scrim in front of me, so I was inside the projection.
			<i>[Jesse laughs.]</i>
			Which one—do you remember which one that was?

00:06:01 Jesse Host Those both sound right, so.
00:06:02 Claudia Guest I was wearing a turtleneck in one and in the other, I was wearing black shorts and black t-shirt.

[Jesse affirms.]

00:06:09 Jesse Host So. You know.
Well. So, what were you thinking you were doing? What was your plan there?

00:06:14 Claudia Guest Well, I just wanted to like make funny shows. And like, you know, I'd always wanted to do comedy. I'd been in a sketch group with like two friends, in Sydney, Australia. And then they wanted to not do it anymore, because one of them wanted to be like a serious actor and one of them wanted to be like a playwright. And I just wanted to like keep doing comedy. But I didn't wanna be a standup; that did not appeal to me at all. So, I was like well, I guess I could keep doing shows. And it was like very terrifying when I did my first solo show. But I was like, I guess just what I think is gonna be funny in a room for an hour and is like what, to me would be like worth making people be in a room for an hour for. Because that's a very long time to watch something.

00:07:03 Jesse Host I have a vague feeling that maybe Maria Bamford and Greg Bahrendt and Arj Barker are famous in Australia. Besides—

[Claudia confirms and giggles.]

That's great, because they're all wonderful. Just that's three of the best and I'm so glad they're famous in Australia, three American comics. Besides that and Yahoo Serious, I don't have a strong understanding of what's going on in Australia.

00:07:29 Claudia Guest In the Australian comedy world?

[Jesse confirms.]

Well, that was the weird—that's kind of the weird thing about it, where it's like it's—there's no like huge standup scene like there is in London or the UK or New York. But there is the Melbourne Comedy Festival and the Adelaide Fringe Festival. So, it's kind of like a very—it's very possible to like get started doing festival shows, which is actually probably why my showing *[chuckling]*—like, that is why I was doing what I was doing, where I was writing a new hour-long show every year. And I wasn't—I like wasn't thinking about touring. I was just always like, "What is, to me, the funnest thing you can do in like a 100-seat room every day for a month?"

00:08:15 Jesse Host What did you think you could achieve in England that you couldn't in Australia?

00:08:21 Claudia Guest Well, there just were tons more opportunities. 'Cause I started to do Edinburgh before I moved to England, and there were always like people who wanted to like—you know, develop things or like be my agent. *[Chuckles.]* And stuff like that. Whereas like I had an agent in Australia, but like Australian television back then was like—there was almost nothing to do there. And there isn't that much to do there now. There's a little bit more because they've got Netflix and all—you know, there are streamers and stuff like that. But there were very, very deeply limited opportunities.

But like, I always just wanted to like—you know, be in and make TV and movies, but I didn't wanna like be an actor. I didn't wanna like go to auditions and that didn't—like, I didn't wanna go to drama school. That seemed really, um, horrible to me.

[They laugh.]

00:09:24	Jesse	Host	So, I was like, "Well, I'll do comedy. But also, I don't wanna do standup." And you know, eventually it worked out.
00:09:32	Music	Transition	More with Claudia O'Doherty after the break. Stay with us! It's <i>Bullseye</i> , from MaximumFun.org and NPR.
00:09:37	Jesse	Host	Thumpy synth with light vocalizations. It's <i>Bullseye</i> , I'm Jesse Thorn. I'm talking with Claudia O'Doherty. She's a writer, standup comic, and actor who's worked with—among others—Amy Schumer and Will Forte and was a regular on the Netflix comedy, <i>Love</i> . On the new sitcom, <i>Killing It</i> , she stars alongside Craig Robinson as Jillian, a deranged, snake obsessed, app-based car driver. You can catch the show's entire first season right now on Peacock. Let's get back into our interview.
00:10:09	Claudia	Guest	When you moved to the United States, was it directly because you had gotten a job on <i>Love</i> ?
00:10:13	Jesse	Host	Yes. That's true. [Laughs.]
00:10:16	Claudia	Guest	What was like the—what was like the phone call that you got or whatever?
00:10:35	Jesse	Host	I had to come over. And I'd sort of like had some—I'd done <i>Trainwreck</i> already, but I was still living in my share house in England. So, it was full of mice. And our landlords wouldn't get rid of the mice for about eight months, which is tough for me, because I'm really scared of mice. There was so—
00:10:36	Claudia	Guest	How many mice are we talking about?
			Well, there was one day where like the poison that the landlords had put—which was like a powder they just like scattered across the floor. It like kicked in. And when you poison mice and rats, they go crazy because they want water. That's what the poison does to them. And when they drink water, their insides explode or something like that. Then they die. So, there was like a day where all of my roommates were out and it was raining really heavily outside, and I was waiting to be picked up for a job. So, I like couldn't leave. <u>And</u> I had dropped my phone in the toilet. So, I had a burner phone, like a little like—you know, with like two people's phone numbers in it.
			And [chuckles] the poison kicked in, and suddenly there were mice <u>everywhere</u> .
00:11:23	Jesse	Host	[Chuckles.] That sounds like horrible torture.
00:11:25	Claudia	Guest	Yeah, it was really bad.
00:11:26	Jesse	Host	So.
			[They chuckle.]
00:11:32	Claudia	Guest	So, you were surrounded by insane mice, and you got a call from Judd Apatow or whatever?
			Oh, right. So, I had been living in that house. I'd—when I did <i>Trainwreck</i> , like on my last day—I shot on that movie for like three days. And then, Judd said to me like, "Heyyy!" Like, I was in the

makeup trailer I think, and he was like, “Hey, we’re doing a show set in LA about relationships. You should be in it!” And I was like okay! *[Chuckles.]* Not thinking that was true at all, that any of that would actually happen. And then, my manager said it was true. But then I went back to England for like months. And then I went back to Australia. And I was—you know, for the Christmas holidays. And I was just like surely none of that’s happening.

I also had no money. So, I was just like, “That would all be great. But I can’t believe that’s true.” And then I was like on my way to like a little vacation to a shack in the bush is what we call it. And I got a call—had bad reception and my manager was like, “The deal’s gone through! It’s happening. You’re going to America.”

00:12:38 Jesse Host

How—

[They laugh.]

00:12:42 Claudia Guest

Great news, Fievel!

Did I give way too much detail to that story? *[Chuckles.]* Yeah! I was Fievel in this scenario.

00:12:50 Jesse Host

How much—how much warning did you have?

00:12:53 Claudia Guest

I had—I think I had like a few months’ warning. So, I went back to London, recorded like a sketch show pilot with all my friends who—all the people from *Stath Lets Flats*. Have you seen that show?

00:13:08 Jesse Host

Yeah, that’s a very funny show. It’s very—

00:13:09 Claudia Guest

Really, incredibly funny.

00:13:10 Jesse Host

Very intense, though. *[Laughs.]*

00:13:11 Claudia Guest

It is really funny. And so, we recorded this sketch show pilot that obviously did not get made, and then I like left the next day. So, it was like early—yeah, it was a couple months after I found out, I guess.

00:13:24 Jesse Host

What things were like different or overwhelming or a big adjustment to you when you moved to Los Angeles?

00:13:32 Claudia Guest

Uh, too many cars. *[Chuckles.]* The traffic was—you know. That—but actually, it was really nice, ‘cause I had lived in London, and I went from having like no money to some money. So, that’s like a fun improvement. Everyone would agree. And also, I had not realized that I missed sunshine, ‘cause I’m from Sydney, Australia. So, it was like, “Oh my god, it’s warm. This is incredible! And I have a really nice job and there’s nice people.” It was all pretty good, actually.

00:14:03 Jesse Host

Did—what was it like for you to like always enter the room as an Australian person?

00:14:09 Claudia Guest

It’s kind of good. It makes—it gives you a thing. You know?

[They chuckle.]

00:14:14 Jesse Host

Besides just the turtlenecks.

00:14:16 Claudia Guest

Yeah, exactly. It was—yeah. And it continues to be my thing. I’m Australian.

00:14:23 Jesse Host

Have you auditioned for anything where you’re supposed to speak with an American accent?

00:14:27 Claudia Guest

I definitely have. But it’s possible I like wiped them all from my brain. Often, like I’m just like can I just do it in my own accent? I mean, even with this show, *Killing It*, what we will be talking about—soon, I imagine. Like, I was—when I heard about it, I was like so desperate to audition for it, but I had a terrible feeling that they

would want me to do it in an American accent, which would almost definitely count me out of the role. Because I don't think people wanna hear a bad American accent. Although! Here's my question for you, as an American. I'm often seeing Australians in stuff and I'm like, *[muttering]* "That's a really bad accent." But you guys don't seem to care? Or you do care?

00:15:08 Jesse Host I think on the whole, of all the groups of non-American people doing American accents in film and television—of which there are innumerable ones, because we control the purse strings of the world's entertainment industry.

[Claudia confirms.]

I would say Australians are—have a comfortable lead as the best among them.

00:15:28 Claudia Guest

That's nice.

00:15:29 Jesse Host

Like, you—there's a looot of—

00:15:31 Claudia Guest

English people are worse, right?

00:15:33 Jesse Host

Dramatically.

00:15:34 Claudia Guest

Yesssss.

00:15:35 Jesse Host

Significantly so.

[Claudia laughs.]

Yeah. Like, there is just a whole world of—my friend, Jordan, does a lot of answering the phone as Liam Neeson in one of those movies, where he goes like—

00:15:46 Claudia Guest

Okay, great. Yeah. *Taken*, etc.

00:15:49 Jesse Host

[Impersonating Liam Neeson.] Yes! Arrr! Ooh! Eeeh! Ohhh!

00:15:52 Claudia Guest

Oh, is he speaking in an American accent in those movies? Ah, yes.

00:15:55 Jesse Host

Yeah. *[In a stilted American accent.]* "I'm from Brooklyn." That's what Jordan says.

[They chuckle.]

Stealing his bit completely. But yeah, there's a lot of either that or that kind of like *Monty Python* gameshow host voice, but in a dramatic film.

00:16:07 Claudia Guest

[In a slow and articulated American accent.] "Hellooo! How are yooou?" That kind of thing?

00:16:09 Jesse Host

[Matching the impersonation.] "We areeee heeere."

00:16:11 Claudia Guest

"Heeere we areee! I'm Jesse Thorn." I can't say that—no, I can't do it.

00:16:17 Jesse Host

Well, I'm glad that we got to hear your audition voice, 'cause I was about to make you do it, and I tricked you.

00:16:19 Claudia Guest

That's the audition voice I do. But I would also like to point out, if there's any like really high-powered filmmakers listening to this episode, I could totally do an American accent if I really needed to. We could hire an accent coach. It's fine.

[Jesse disagrees.]

It's fine! And also, like sometimes people aren't that great at it. It doesn't matter. Who cares?

00:16:40 Jesse Host So, you said you were desperate to get a part on *Killing It*. That's because you have always wanted to do a snake contest show?

00:16:48 Claudia Guest Yeah. *[Laughs.]* That's—no, well, I actually have worked with snakes before. So.

00:16:54 Jesse Host Worked for snakes?!

00:16:55 Claudia Guest With snakes. You know. If anything, the snakes are working for me.

[Jesse agrees with a laugh.]

00:17:06 Jesse Host But yeah. Anything with snakes, I wanna be involved in. I'm excited to hear more about this. I mean, we were talking before we came into the studio, and I was saying that one of the—I've only seen a rough cut of the pilot so far. That's all there is, as we record this.

00:17:14 Claudia Guest Yes! But that's more than I've seen!

00:17:16 Jesse Host Well, it's—one of the things that really impressed me about it was how lived-in and natural and funny this world was when, in the pilot, they had to do the work of establishing why Craig Robinson's character wants to enter a snake killing contest to get \$20,000.

[Claudia agrees with a laugh.]

00:17:37 Claudia Guest Like, that's a lot of concept.
It's a lot of work!

00:17:38 Jesse Host For a naturalistic—or relatively naturalistic—comedy.

00:17:42 Claudia Guest Totally. But you do you think we did it?!

00:17:44 Jesse Host Yeah! I thought it was fantastic.

00:17:45 Claudia Guest That's great.

00:17:46 Jesse Host I thought it was great.

00:17:47 Claudia Guest I am so thrilled to hear that.

00:17:49 Jesse Host So, how did you hear about this snake show, and in all sincerity, like what led you be desperate?

00:17:56 Claudia Guest I—well, my friend texted me, my friend Mike Silvestri, who's a standup and a writer. And he was a writer on the show. And he—and this was like months before I auditioned. And he was like, "Hey. Are you... like available at the end of the year?" Or you know. "We're doing—I'm writing this show. It's Luke Del Tredici and Dan Goor, the *Brooklyn 99* guys, starring Craig Robinson. It's set in—you know, it's set in Florida. And it's like about a snake hunt. And this character, you know, that we're talking about is this like very optimistic Uber driver."

And I was like, "I should do that!" Like, I was like, "That all sounds like great stuff I definitely wanna do." And I was technically unavailable, but I was like, "I would be available for this." And so, I was like, "Yes, please. That's what I wanna do." And then I kept telling my manager that I wanted to do it, and he was kind of like alright. Because I think that was actually kind of a longshot that it would be me doing this part. They would probably get someone more famous to do it and American. But you know. So, we were organizing this other work for the end of the year, and I kept being like, "But you know I wanna do *Killing It*." And he was like okay! Because I think they were contemplating giving it to much more famous people.

00:19:21 Jesse Host You are often asked to play foolishly optimistic people.

[Claudia laughs and agrees.]

00:19:37 Claudia Guest Or foolishly rosy people. Do you ever feel concern about how that reflects on you as a real human being?
I think it reflects kind of well on me as a human being! 'Cause actually, like my instinct when I write—you know, I just think when I write something for myself, like when I was doing those Edinburgh shows, I guess my—you know, I'd always play an idiot. That was what I was doing. But often I'm kind of a slightly meaner idiot. You know, I think nice idiots and mean idiots, those are like—to me—the two funny kinds of people.

[They laugh.]

00:20:03 Jesse Host Yeah. That's fair.
00:20:05 Claudia Guest And so, I think when I would write stuff for myself, I was always writing myself as like a mean idiot. And when I actually got the part on *Love*, they were like, "Oh, we've got this character. It's Gillian's best friend. She's kind of like this cool like dry character." And I was like I have no idea how to make that funny. And then they were like, "But if you've got any ideas for a character, bring it in and we'll talk about it." And so, I said, like—the idea I came up with *[giggles]*—which, I was told absolutely to not tell them, because I was like—'Cause I knew that there was like a TV show within that show that Paul's character was like an onset tutor for. And there were kids in that show. So, I was like, "What if—" Because I'm like 5'2", I was like, "What if I play the little boy's stand-in?"

[Jesse chuckles.]

'Cause I just thought that would be really funny. And my manager was like, "Don't tell them that! They're trying to get you to play a much bigger part on the show."

[Jesse laughs.]

00:21:24 Jesse Host And I was like, "But that would be funny! I'm a little boy's stand-in." And then when I came in, I think I was—you know—being really friendly, 'cause I was terrified and trying to make them like me. And they were like, "Oh no, we don't wanna do stand-in character. We're gonna make you a very friendly idiot." And that's—I guess that's where it all started.
So, the show that—the show that I saw you in where—it was the first time I saw you, your character had this level of broad smiling.

[They laugh.]

But it was clearly like somewhere between disingenuous and evil.

[Claudia agrees and confirms.]

00:22:02 Claudia Guest And I think that I, as a human person, struggle to believe that others could be happy or actually nice to me. *[Laughs.]*
00:22:05 Jesse Host *[Surprised.]* Oh, wow! Okay. Are you okay? *[Chuckles.]*
[Laughing brightly.] No! Of course not! No, I'm baaarely hanging on at any given moment.
00:22:11 Claudia Guest Okay, great. Yeah. Sure.

00:22:15 Jesse Host But I—so, I wonder if you have interrogated your own friendliness and asked yourself, “Am I friendly because I’m happy or friendly because I’m running from something?”

00:22:29 Claudia Guest Right. Well, I didn’t even know that in real life I’m that friendly. To be honest, I’m not. I mean, I’m not mean. But I’m, um—mmm. I can be sort of like fairly judgmental and removed.

00:22:48 Jesse Host I was worried when you came on my comedy show, years ago—my reaction when I like got home to my wife was like, “Claudia O’Doherty was so funny. I think maybe she hates us.”

00:23:00 Claudia Guest Oh my god! *[Laughing in surprise.]* See!

00:23:04 Jesse Host Like, I truly couldn’t tell. I couldn’t tell if you were being nice—

00:23:06 Claudia Guest Totally removed—

00:23:07 Jesse Host —or if you hated us!

00:23:08 Claudia Guest Removed! Oh my god, that’s scary. Well, I’m—I don’t hate you.

[Jesse thanks her and sighs with exaggerated relief.]

00:23:38 Jesse Host Didn’t hate you. Sorry for making you feel that way, but that proves what I’m saying, which is like—I think also just like when you’re a little woman, which is what I am, people come at you pretty hard. So, you kind of have to put some walls up. So, actually I’m not that—I’m not that friendly in real life. Yeah. But somehow, that’s become my schtick, I guess?

00:23:40 Claudia Guest It’s okay to have a schtick. You’re really great at it. That’s so nice. Thank you. Well, yeah! Cool!

[They laugh.]

00:23:45 Jesse Host Are you comfortable with the idea that you live in a foreign country now, and that’s probably where your career lives?

00:23:56 Claudia Guest No. *[Laughs.]* I’m not, really. I mean, definitely going back for the bulk of the initiation of the pandemic. Australia’s a really nice country to live in. It’s also very much, um... uh, you know. It suffers at the hands of climate change pretty immediately. Bush fires. Very flooded at the moment. But Australia’s really nice. It’s where my family is. And I was kind of like, “Maybe it’s time to come on back to Australia.” And then, I got a different job, which sort of brought me back to America. Also, I had left my life pretty suddenly here, and I have like an apartment that I rent here that I had sublet, and I was kind of like, “Well, I’ll go back for a little bit, do this job, see what happens.” And then I got the job on *Killing It*, which does kind of feel like it puts me here.

00:24:56 Jesse Host But who knows? Who knows what’s gonna happen? But yeah, I’m more scared of America now. Than before?

00:24:58 Claudia Guest I think—well, no, I was always scared of America. But just like kind of like I’m like, “How long can I spend in America?” You tell me, Jesse!

00:25:09 Jesse Host What part of it are you scared of?

00:25:11 Claudia Guest Um, just how far away it is from my family. I like going to the beach. I know you’ve got the beach in Los Angeles, but it’s a whole different thing.

00:25:21 Jesse Host We have bush fires too, if that helps. *[Chuckles.]*

00:25:22 Claudia Guest Yeah. I don’t—I’m not happy about that. *[Laughs.]* I should be avoiding the sort of, you know, natural disasters that I would naturally get in Sydney.

00:25:34 Jesse Host Is most of your fear about America based on not fitting in or feeling like your career could end or just being—you know—relatively alone 'cause you're far from your family?

00:25:50 Claudia Guest Mm! Okay, well! Very deep question. Actually, I feel like my career is much healthier in America. And I'm right about that. That's true.

[They laugh.]

I sort of don't really have a career in Australia. So, it's a tricky thing of like, well, where do you live when your work is in one place? What is my fear of America based on? What do you think, man?!

[Laughs.] Everything! You know. All the stuff you guys have going on. But I'm so happy to be here.

00:26:25 Jesse Host Baseball, or—?

00:26:26 Claudia Guest It's the base—I'm so scared of baseball. Look, I'm not really that scared of America, but you know, it's a terrifying time in the world. Right?

00:26:35 Jesse Host Yeah.

[Claudia affirms.]

00:26:40 Claudia Guest Do you think that that's better in Australia? Well, certainly like you guys are gonna get nuked before Australia does. Even if it's like only a couple days.

[They laugh.]

00:26:50 Jesse Host But you'll have that few days to make peace with your god?

00:26:53 Claudia Guest Well, to feel really scared.

[Jesse laughs.]

Yeah. We're just—Australia's just so far away from everything. So, you're kind of like—we're really—that's a different feeling, in America.

00:27:05 Jesse Host Are there cultural things about Australia that you miss when you're in the States?

00:27:10 Claudia Guest I don't know if the—not really. I mean, like we're much more sarcastic. We're much less earnest. But you know, that's fine. I don't worry—it doesn't worry me that everyone here is a lot more earnest. Kind of funny.

[They laugh.]

00:27:28 Jesse Host I thought you were gonna say it was kind of sweet or something!

00:27:32 Claudia Guest *[Laughing quietly.]* It's funny. Separates me from everyone else.

00:27:36 Jesse Host You really are as judgmental as they say.

[Claudia agrees and they laugh.]

I would think that there's a lot of room here to be weird.

[Claudia agrees.]

Simply just as a function of like scale. Right? Like, in the entertainment industry, there's so much different stuff going on that there's more room to be weird.

00:27:55 Claudia Guest Oh! Absolutely. I mean, as I said, there's like an actual industry here. That is like a huge difference. That's really what's keeping me here right now is like jobs. Actual jobs.

00:28:08 Jesse Host When you go back—so, like I'm from San Francisco and I live in Los Angeles, right? And every day that I live in Los Angeles, which is one of the great cities of the world, I miss San Francisco.

[Claudia "aw"s.]

00:28:23 Claudia Guest I'm lucky to grow up somewhere that I really love.
00:28:24 Jesse Host Yeah, that's really nice.

00:28:33 Claudia Guest But also, when I go home to San Francisco to visit my mom or my brothers—you know, it's not the place that lives inside me.
00:28:34 Jesse Host You grew up in. Yeah.
00:28:36 Claudia Guest Yeah. It's a different place.
00:28:38 Jesse Host Yeah, no, Sydney's the same.

00:28:50 Claudia Guest Yeah. So, like when you go home, to what extent do you feel like, oh, I'm home, and to what extent do you feel like wow, I left—you can't go home again?

00:29:11 Jesse Host No, I kind of feel like you can go home again. I went home again. I sort of reentered my teen years for a year and a half, from 2020 through to mid-2021. Although, I did—you know—like get attacked by a shark. But um. It—yeah, you can—I can go home again. My parents still live in the same house. They'll never move. *[Chuckles.]*

00:29:16 Claudia Guest Do you mean that when you were a teenager you nearly got attacked by a shark or just recently?

00:29:26 Jesse Host Oh, just recently. In May of 2021. And I didn't really nearly get attacked by a shark, but I did accidentally swim into a nest of sharks.
00:29:29 Claudia Guest Okay. So, what kind of sharks are we talking about here?

00:29:40 Jesse Host I think they were dusky whaler sharks. They've bitten people before, but not really killed—maybe killed one person. I obviously googled extensively once I had accidentally found myself—
00:29:42 Claudia Guest What are they more into biting? Whales?
00:29:46 Jesse Host I don't know! You would—is that why that shark is called a whaler? 'Cause it—
00:29:49 Claudia Guest I mean, that was my guess. I don't think they play hockey in Hartford.
00:29:56 Jesse Host They're not gigantic, but they're definitely a classic shark. So, you'll see it and your brain goes, "Uh-oh!"
00:29:59 Claudia Guest They—and they have nests in Australia?
Well, it was—I was swimming at Shelly Beach, which is this great beach. It's like a marine reserve. People love to snorkel and scuba dive there. And so—and there's so much sea life there. I love snorkeling. And it was May, and it was like weirdly hot, 'cause of climate change I guess. So, my friends and I went—'cause that's sort of getting into winter, in Australia. And were like, "Let's go for one snorkel." And we did. And I just like—I went out, I guess, kind of far. And I was like, "What's that? That's a shark. Okay, I'm gonna turn around to go—to swim back in." And then I was like, "That's another shark. And another shark." And if anything, there were just more and more sharks the more I swam. And then, I googled it and—in May—it becomes like a nursery for dusky whalers. So, that's why. There were just tons of sharks.

00:30:54 Jesse Host Did they have like—?
00:30:55 Claudia Guest Fins? Yes.

00:30:56 Jesse Host I mean, I presume they had fins.

[They laugh.]

00:31:04 Claudia Guest But I mean, were they—I'm doing—for the listener, I'm doing a fin hand gesture.
A classic *Jaws*-style hand gesture. Yeah. They look like, as I said—they look like sharks. So, your brain gets scared. So—

[Jesse laughs.]

00:31:30 Jesse Host But I was—I just was like, “I just gotta keep swimming.” But it was also kind of like a little bit murky. It had rained recently, and it was like late in the afternoon. So, I was like, “This is when people get bitten. Low visibility? I'm screwed.” But I was fine.
Do you think there's a metaphor there?

00:31:33 Claudia Guest Nope! Um. What would it be?

[Jesse concedes.]

00:31:36 Jesse Host Do you—what?
I don't know, something about swimming with sharks?!

00:31:38 Claudia Guest Just keep swimming?

00:31:39 Jesse Host Just throwing that out there.

00:31:41 Claudia Guest Just keep swimming. Just keep breathing. Uh, no. I couldn't—

00:31:46 Jesse Host Try not to look like a seal.

00:31:48 Claudia Guest Yeah, try not to look like a seal. Try not to completely freak out. I mean, I did freak out for a second. And so, then I was like swimming as fast as I could, and I realized that was actually way slower than very calmly swimming and breathing my snorkel than doing like a manic freestyle that was very thrashy.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:32:07 Jesse Host Yeah. So, that's a good lesson.
We'll finish up with Claudia O'Doherty in just a minute. When we return, Claudia will reveal to me what the Australian term for “slide” is. Like, the kind of slide that you go down at a playground. It broke my brain, and it will probably break yours too. You have been warned. A little something called intercultural exchange. It's *Bullseye*, from MaximumFun.org and NPR.

00:32:33 Music Transition Thumpy synth with light vocalizations.

00:32:38 Jesse Host It's *Bullseye*. I'm Jesse Thorn. I'm talking with Claudia O'Doherty. The actor and comedian is starring on the new Peacock sitcom, *Killing It*. Let's get back into our interview.

00:32:52 Claudia Guest What do you love about America?
Wow! *[Laughs.]* Okay. Well, I mean, having a job! I do really love that. And like getting to work with people I find like really funny and really exciting. And for there to be like—just like a healthy industry that I get to participate in, I do really love that. And I love hamburgers.

00:33:17 Jesse Host Are you just adding that onto the end because you realized that what you just described is not like something that's endemic to America?

[She snorts a laugh.]

00:33:30 Claudia Guest Or like reflective of the quality of our nation, but rather just purely practical?
Well, I'm just giving you like a true—and super true answer. I've also got like lots of really nice friends here. And I love seeing them and getting to hang out with them. And you've got great food, but that's hamburgers.

00:33:44 Jesse Host Yeah. Are you sincere about hamburgers?
00:33:45 Claudia Guest Yeah, I love a Smashburger.
00:33:47 Jesse Host Yeah, Smashburgers are really good. That's like a really—I was—I love all kinds of burgers, but those—the Smashburgers are the ones with a lot of browning. They're cooked well done.

00:33:54 Claudia Guest Yeah, those crispy—yeah. They're the best because they're also little. They can fit in your mouth easily. In Australia, the classic like sort of roadside burger is like insanely tall in the same way that maybe a New York deli sandwich is like—just a joke. You can't put it in your mouth. What's the point?

[Jesse affirms.]

00:34:31 Jesse Host But like—so, the Australian burger has like a beet root, pineapple, an egg. And it's just—you can't—and it's so much juice coming out of the beet root that the bread like disintegrates. There's no—there's no point.
I feel like you just described like a breakfast you would buy for a baby at a natural food store.

[They laugh.]

00:34:37 Claudia Guest I don't think forget though like—
00:34:38 Jesse Host What is a beach root?!
00:34:39 Claudia Guest The beef patty—what do you mean what's a beach root? You know what—oh, beets?

00:34:44 Jesse Host *[Disbelievingly.]* It's a beet?!
00:34:45 Claudia Guest Yeah. Sliced, tinned beets.
00:34:47 Jesse Host There's beets on the hamburgers?! In Australia?
00:34:49 Claudia Guest Australian burgers. Yeah! And like a tinned beet is pretty like soft and sweet. It doesn't—it's not crazy.
00:34:55 Jesse Host I mean, it absolutely, 100% is crazy.
00:34:58 Claudia Guest It's like ketchup in vegetable form.
00:35:02 Jesse Host A canned beet.
00:35:03 Claudia Guest Yeah. Canned beets absolutely go on Australian burgers.
00:35:07 Jesse Host And an egg.

[Claudia confirms.]

00:35:11 Claudia Guest I mean the egg—we have that.
Don't forget sometimes pineapple!
00:35:14 Jesse Host With—so, all three of them together or one of each one?
00:35:16 Claudia Guest And beef. Often bacon as well. All together.
00:35:20 Jesse Host Well, beef I would think would be taken as read. It wouldn't be much of a burger—
00:35:23 Claudia Guest It is a red meat. Yeah.
00:35:25 Jesse Host —if there weren't a beef patty in there.

[Claudia agrees with a laugh.]

00:35:33 Claudia Guest So—I'm sorry that the interview has become about this now, but—
00:35:35 Jesse Host No, I'm happy to talk burgers.
It's a—it's a beef patty.

[Claudia confirms several times as Jesse continues.]

00:35:48 Claudia Guest And then a piece of beet. Canned beet. Kind of soft. Is it like a
sweet—like a—is it like a pickled beet kind of thing?
00:35:56 Jesse Host It's definitely like sweeter than an uncanned beet. So, I imagine
there is a light pickling happening. Yeah.
And then the egg?

[Claudia confirms.]

00:36:01 Claudia Guest Is this like a fried egg?
00:36:02 Jesse Host It's a fried egg, yeah.
00:36:03 Claudia Guest Is it fried hard or soft?
00:36:05 Jesse Host Soft. Yep.
00:36:07 Claudia Guest And then there's a piece of pineapple.
Pineapple, tomato—which I'm saying in a lightly American accent,
so you understand what I'm saying. 'Cause I would say tah-mah-to.
00:36:14 Jesse Host Yes. Tah-may-to.

[Claudia echoes the pronunciation.]

[Using the stilted American accent from earlier.] Would you like a
tomato?
00:36:17 Claudia Guest Would you like tomato on that?

00:36:23 Jesse Host So, tomato, lettuce—like bad, shredded lettuce.
00:36:24 Claudia Guest That's the best kind for burgers.
And often some like half—like bacon that's like crispy but also
flabby.

00:36:30 Jesse Host *[Jesse snorts into a loud, surprised laugh.]* That's not a kind, but I—
00:36:35 Claudia Guest That's how it's cooked. You know, where it's like—you know, it's
been on like the big flat grill. What do you call that?
00:36:42 Jesse Host A griddle?
00:36:43 Claudia Guest Yeah, a griddle. But it's—no, doesn't have a griddle have like lines
on it?
00:36:45 Jesse Host Or a flat top? A flat top.
00:36:46 Claudia Guest A flat top. Yeah, it's been on the flat top. So, it's like—it's cooked,
but it's not cooked that great.

00:36:53 Jesse Host Are there other things about Australia that are that mental that I as
an American don't know that I should know about? In case I ever
visit?
00:37:03 Claudia Guest Probably. I mean, you guys don't have—we call things—we give
things like very cute names. Like, what do you call the thing in the
park that you slide down?
00:37:15 Jesse Host I would call that a slide.
00:37:16 Claudia Guest We call it a slippery dip.
00:37:18 Jesse Host *[Erupts into laughter that he struggles to put a lid on.]* That rules!

[Claudia agrees.]

Oh my god, does that rule.

00:37:28	Claudia	Guest	It's nice.
00:37:30	Jesse	Host	<i>[Still laughing.]</i> Is that—is there president of the United Nations? 'Cause I vote for Australia now.
00:37:36	Claudia	Guest	Thank you! Yes! Yeah, that's great.
00:37:39	Jesse	Host	<i>[Strained.]</i> A slippery dip!
00:37:43	Claudia	Guest	Are there other things like slippery dip? I mean, there probably are, but I just think they're normal names. You know what I mean?
00:37:47	Jesse	Host	Just 'cause all names are great to you.
00:37:48	Claudia	Guest	We could just go through a list of objects, and I could tell you what the Australian equivalent is.
00:37:53	Jesse	Host	Just American—you don't even know that it's—you just think all American names are disappointing.
00:37:59	Claudia	Guest	Well, they're just very straightforward. Yeah.
00:38:02	Jesse	Host	Well, Claudia, it's been a joy to talk to you. Congratulations on the show and I'm so happy for all your success here. I hope you stay here and keep working for a long time so I can continue to enjoy your work.
00:38:14	Claudia	Guest	That's so nice. Thank you. You sort of have a threatening look on your face while you say that. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:38:18	Jesse	Host	I don't! It's just sincerity, Claudia. I really mean it.
00:38:21	Claudia	Guest	Oh, it's that American sincerity that I was talking about.
			<i>[Jesse agrees.]</i>
00:38:31	Jesse	Host	Thank you, that's so much. Thank you, that's so much? That's so nice. Thank you so much for having me. Claudia O'Doherty. She's fantastic on <i>Killing It</i> , which is really funny. It's streaming now on Peacock. She's also a great standup, and if you don't believe me, just go on the internet and basically watch any video she's ever made. You know. On YouTube or whatever. You won't regret it. Claudia is so funny.
00:38:48	Music	Transition	Bright, brassy music with a steady beat.
00:38:51	Jesse	Host	That's the end of another episode of <i>Bullseye</i> . <i>Bullseye</i> , created from the homes me and the staff of Maximum Fun, in and around greater Los Angeles, California. There's a light on the porch outside my home office here, and there's been a little birdie hanging out over there. It's pretty nice. I mean, I'm not like a full-on bird guy now, but... I wish the bird the best.
			Our show is produced by speaking into microphones. Our senior producer is Kevin Ferguson. Our producers, Jesus Ambrosio and Richard Robey. Our production fellow at Maximum Fun is Tabatha Myers. We get booking help from Mara Davis. Our interstitial music is by Dan Wally, who's also known as DJW. Our theme music is by The Go! Team. It's called "Huddle Formation". Thanks to The Go! Team for sharing it with us, and to their label, Memphis Industries Records. Go! Team, great band. It's from a great record. Check them out.
			<i>Bullseye</i> , also on YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. Find us there. Give us a follow. We'll share with you all of our interviews. And I think that's about it. Just remember: all great radio hosts have a signature signoff.

00:40:04 Promo

Promo

Speaker: *Bullseye with Jesse Thorn* is a production of MaximumFun.org and is distributed by NPR.

[Music fades out.]