

TEN YEARS OLDER

Characters:

Torah Pilcox, presenter

Jeannie Figgins, style consultant

Karen Bilder b 1962, guest

Wendy Carrolls and Elaine Carper - guests

Scott Barnard, electrician in BBC Canteen

Rebecca Calves, Random Teenage Marketing Assistant

AN EARLIER CONVERSATION

JEANNIE: Um, Toya we've done a lot of shows now, haven't we.

TOYA: Yes I was going to talk to you about that.

JEANNIE: The fact is I'm starting to run out of beads and peroxide

TOYA: But you're Jeannie Figgins, internationally known style consultant. Surely you can get hold of them.

JEANNIE: The whole country's clean out. Not only that, but some of the women we've worked on, have started getting older again.

TOYA: Tell me straight - is Ten Years Younger dead.

JEANNIE: Pretty much. But I may have a solution...

IN THE LIFT

CALVES: Torah, those two ladies I spoke about....

TORAH: Oh, great. They're coming on the show, aren't they? How are you today?

CALVES: Yeh well I'll introduce them later. I'm just fantastic (she ripples) - I'm off to Glastonbury next week, then it's LA. CBS are doing a segment on executive styling and I am just Off My Feet. (Glances down at her fancy sandals, anticipating a comment from Torah) How are you?

TORAH: A bit rough love. (She steps out of the lift and into a waiting camera and microphone, walking down the corridor with her.) I am the most famous person on TV. I'm working in France and Mexico, Paraguay and Alaska this summer and the world of beauty is just exploding. I'm shooting two series and ugly women all over England are

getting their bodies sorted across a range of programs. Next week I'll be working with Wendy Carrols and Elaine Carper, who my studio tell me, have a very unusual request! They are middle aged women who actually want to look older!

Calves is left with her small satchel watching the troop of people follow Torah Pilcox down the corridor

THE BBC CARPARK

In reality there have been several failed attempts to make Welaine look pretty.

Welaine was sent out in a blazing gale to 'freshen up' after her 20hr coach journey. She was then given a tub of 'beauty base' to rub in her hair, but she looked at the tub and saw it was actually labelled 'farm lard: Farm Larder's finest pork lard - gives a glow to even the dullest surfaces'.

WELAINE (to herself): 'ang on a minute. Wots this they've given me. It's bleedin pig fat. I knoo the BBC was hard up, but if I knoo all they was gonna do is slap me out in a gale, and make me rub pig lard on my chops, I'd a done all that by meself back home in Pogshire.

CALVES: (opens the fire exit door) Have you sorted yourself out yet. You ready for your big moment?

WELAINE: Wot do you mean, my big moment. I've just got off a coach journey and still not got the feelin back in me knees, and you chuck me out in the wind without even a cuppa, and I'm supposed to be ready for my big moment?

A second woman sticks her head out the door, and holds it open with her foot.

JEANNIE: Hello pet. You must be one of our guests. I'm the style consultant. And I've only got five minutes with you thanks to this tight new budget. You'll be amazed how good you're going to look on the telly tonight. I know it has been a long time on that coach, but I just need you to practice smiling for me. Let's improve your face with this pendant. (Jeannie passes over the pendant and quick as a flash she flicks on the powerful studio grounds searchlights as well.)

WELAINE: Hello, miss. Miss. Er. I can't see ya. This light's helluva bright. (She struggles to put on the massive pendant.)

JEANNIE: That's it guestie, just give us big smiles. I'm taking some stills.

WELAINE: But I can't even open me eyes.

JEANNIE: Oh that's fantastic. You look ever so fresh after that gale. I'm really trying to catch the light off your pendant. That'll make it harder for the camera to pick up your face.

WELAINE: Is that all you're going to do. I'm cold and tired, and outside.

JEANNIE: Well Welaine2 is indoors getting pampered, and ready to talk about how she's been buddying you through this transforming process.

WELAINE: Transforming me through? Well I did try on a pair of her magic knickers, but she's just after the glass of champers. That's why she's here.

JEANNIE: Oh my goodness. Torah Pilcox is out by reception with the camera crew. There must've been a change of schedule. It looks like we're on air. Oh heavens, oh heavens. I can't work miracles. How old are you supposed to be?

WELAINE: Well they want to bring me down to 33, but I'm really 40.

JEANNIE: Oh I heard about you. Ten years younger was looking impossible so they pretended you were 47 and went for seven years off. I've got the searchlights on full, and that gale brought a bit of colour to your cheeks. The pig lard, sorry Face Firmer, will give the impression that you're glowing. And you've not had a chance to pig out in the canteen. That all really helps and only cost me fifty p at Shepherds Bush market. But getting rid of seven whole years on fifty p..... Hello Torah, we're over here!

TORAH (flanked by crew and security): don't you look fantastic. Do we have any stills, Jeannie, of what this guest looked like earlier this evening.

JEANNIE: We caught Welaine on the coach earlier sleeping off a pork pie! (She holds up a polaroid, and the camera zooms in.)

WELAINE: What!

TORAH: And aren't you looking great now. You're lazing around in the sunshine, with a lovely pendant round your neck, and the sun is really. Actually, the sun is really making it hard to see WHAT you look like, but I'm going to guess..... amazing! Let's ask the audience. Hello do we have... Steve on the line from Preston?

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1: Hiya Torah

TORAH: Hiya Steve. So what do you think of Welaine's quickie transformation.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1: Well to be honest Torah I'm a bit confused. You say she's lazing around in the sunshine, but it looks more like searchlights. And it may be my telly, but the camera lens is looking really greasy. It's hard to work out what's going on. Can I ask where this is meant to be?

TORAH: Clean the lenses, crew! Roving reporters often get their lenses dirty, but we want you to see the magic of Welaine close up! Can we zoom in on Welaine?

(The camera slowly zooms out, and moves left into the glare of the searchlights.)

TORAH: I think the viewers at home are really struggling to see Welaine. Thanks Steve, for your thoughts, and just to reassure you that we're NOT in the BBC carpark. We've flown Welaine by helicopter to catch the fading light in glorious Jersey. Aaaahhhh! Feel the sea breezes!

A few hours later in the Travelodge at East Acton.

WENDY: Well I thought that really took the piss.

ELAINE; Oh I don't know, the make-up girl was lovely to me. I got a bit too warm by those heaters in the green room.

WENDY: Heaters! I was in that gale, then surrounded by all those crew. I've been in these trackie bottoms since half five and I feel like shit. Can you see if you can get that kettle to work. I can't believe they're going to try again tomorrow.

ELAINE: Yeh apparently, the audience thought you looked 'about the

same' as in that polaroid, and definitely not Ten Years Younger.

WENDY: Ooh that tea's gonna be good. So what did you say about me?

ELAINE: Hehe, the usual. How you always wanted to give up chips, but then your Bazza gave you a deep fat fryer for Christmas. You know Barry is gonna record this, so it should be a surprise you watching it all with him.

WENDY: You cow. You better not of said nothing bad. Bazza's calling me later, so watch out!

ELAINE: To be honest, I'm not sure what munter of a 33 year-old looks like you, but I got my glass of champers, and it's free brekkie tomorrow! The phone rings

ELAINE: EIIIIlo?

JEANNIE: Hello yes it's me, Jeannie Figgins. (Who?) The style consultant for Ten Years Or So, that's our new name. I'm afraid it's a no, for today. You didn't look ten years younger. You didn't even look five minutes younger. In fact, the viewers couldn't see you at all. And we didn't really convince them you were having the time of your life in Jersey. Instead, they just saw a silhouette of a very cold lady, and I'm afraid they guessed it was the carpark. They said it looked like you were waiting for a bus.

ELAINE; You listenin to this Wendy. They say you looked like the back end of a bus. So what happens now. We've still got our breakfast vouchers for tomorrow in the canteen right?

JEANNIE: Well they're going to have one last try to bring Wendy's age down a day or two. They did toy with the idea of flying over the international date line. Sorry that was a joke. I can't say too much more but it's a good job you girls don't embarrass easily. You'll have to help, Elaine.

It's morning in the BBC Canteen

SCOTT: Alrite then luv, you ladies look good. You up here for a show.

WENDY/ELAINE: Why yes, well actually (blushes), it's ten years younger.

SCOTT: Ah good on ya girls, well congratulations. It looks like the show

was a success! When can we see you on the box?

WENDY: Well actually, we've not been on yet!

SCOTT: Wow, ya meean... Ladies ya gonna be knocking them dead back home, if they can shave another ten years off ya. Hats off to ya.

The electrician moves ahead past the salad to get a selection of fried materials at the canteen.

The two ladies load up on salad with 3 large scoops of mayonnaise

WENDY: Well he was nice, wasn't he? I'm looking forward to going on this show properly (primping her hair, in front of the salad counter mirror)

RANDOM TEENAGE ASSISTANT (CALVES): Here you are, Mrs Carrols, Mrs Carper. Hurry up and eat please. You're very lucky to get on this show, and I just don't need this stress.

She shoves their bags at them, and they make off to move.

Torah will come up and say hello and be delighted to meet them - little do they know why!

THE BIG REVEAL - BBC CANTEEN

TORAH: Hello love, do you remember this place?

WELAINE: We certainly do - you've not exactly pushed the boat out. It's either been here or the Travelodge Moat room these last two weeks, apart from the two days by the coast to 'tighten the skin'. I must admit I've never felt so brass monkeys- me drawers proper iced up, and there're still out there drying in our bathroom. I think I'll have to chuck 'em.

TORAH: Right pet, I know you're new to beauty. It does take a little time for the regime to bed down. But chin up, girl, and are you ready? We're going to run through the Big Reveal with you all! How do you feel?

WELAINE: Bit nervy to be honest.

TORAH: Wendy and Elaine you're two very attractive women, who've been hiding your glory for too long. You've been trying to pass as 40 year-old women, when in reality you're bodies are showing the weight

of extra years, and that's been a fight you've had for some time. I know your husband loves you just as you are, and he's not been moving in circles where you have to worry what you look like. But beauty is important, and you've come to us to make some necessary steps.

Congratulations Wendy, Elaine, you are now . . . Ten Years Older!!

The mask is peeled back and the curtain is whipped off.

Wendy is handed a walking stick and an old mothercare dress shoved over her head, and a shopping trolley pushed into her path.

TORAH: Go on brave Wendy - take your new self for a spin!

The audience yell - why go backwards, when you can go forrrrwards!!!

Wendy goes out of the studio, and her friends count the number of people who clock her, or men who step out of her way. The number previously was 10, and today it's actually zero.

WENDY: I don't believe it. I'm invisible. What's happened!

Possible continuation

TORAH: Now what's going to happen next? We need you to do an investigative assignment here. Wendy is handed a sheet of paper.

WENDY: But this is round the corner. It's Croxley Working Men's Club.

TORAH: And you're their new in-house detective!

WENDY: But they don't need a detective. You don't need to be Einstein to work out what's going on there.

TORAH: Oh yes they do. Now remember not to speak too much on this show, warned Torah.

TORAH: You're real age is a secret, scrombled Torah, but the audience know all about you. Here's a photograph of you with your husband Barry.

TORAH: How old is she audience!

AUDIENCE: 16, 32, 25 – yelled out the audience.

TORAH: Exactly – far too young, for such a husband.

WENDY: But that's not even me in the picture.

TORAH: Not to worry, there. Suddenly a scrubbed up looking Barry (except it's not him) is ushered into the TV studio, with a very American smile and a superficial similarity. They have the same hair.

TORAH: And here's Barry now! Gushes Torah

AUDIENCE: Wow – goes the audience. There's a whistle.

Some talcum powder is hastily poured over Wendy and she is dragged by the Mothercare dress and trolley over to her supposed husband.

TORAH: Audience – how old does Wendy look now?

AUDIENCE: Errrr 50, 70.

TORAH: So how many years have we added today.

AUDIENCE: 2? Minus 300? Yell's the audience.

TORAH: That's not enough, give us some bus numbers. What bus goes from here to Shepherds Bush, tapping the audience in a vulnerable area.

AUDIENCE: 474?

TORAH: That's right Wendy looks four hundred and seventy-four years older. And all at no cost to the taxpayer.

TORAH: I think we have worked magic today. Are you happy with your more mature lady Barry?

Barry smiles like a mannequin and waves.

After their experience, Wendy and Elaine promise not to bother with any more make-overs and enjoy a nice pie and chips on the pier at Rhyl while their husbands kept some seats warm for them in the nearby Wetherspoons.