

If Wishes Were Horses

10 X 1/2-hour children's drama series.

Occasionally known as the Sex-Change Soccer Star Cyber-Tranny Granny, in recent years I've been an LGBTI advocate/lobbyist, a stand-up comic, briefly dead, a ghost tour guide, a book in the Hobart Human Library and a Greens candidate in a Federal election. All while, with my partner of seventeen years, raising an abandoned child.

Frustrated by the lack of employers looking for an outspoken transgender employee, I began writing a feature film screenplay four years ago. It was optioned, leading me to this new world.

- Martine Delaney, writer/creator of *If Wishes Were Horses*

Logline

Jess emerges from a coma with the uncontrolled power to alter reality - and hunted by people who'd like to take advantage of this newfound ability.

Concept

JESS is a transgender 14-y.o who spent months in a coma, after an auto crash that killed her father. When they emerge from the coma, they find their hearing-impaired mother, ANGIE, coping very badly with Life after the crash. Jess experiences seriously bad headaches and discovers something incredibly scary - when their head's aching, how they imagine things should be is what reality becomes for everybody. Unsurprisingly, this leads to some amazing, media-grabbing and inexplicable situations.

Jess eventually gains some control over this ability, but not before coming to the attention of several government authorities and the Police; as well as a rather ruthless businesswoman, who's looking for solutions to some very serious business problems.

While dealing with their own and Angie's grief, along with all the complexities of being trans and a teenager, Jess frequently needs to use her ability - sometimes unwittingly - to protect her family and friends. And to discover a way out of the problems she's facing.

And Jess is a goodhearted individual, so they're looking to do good things with their "gift". Except it's all so complicated, seemingly impossible to do something "good" without it causing some unforeseen bad. It all leads to so many questions and problems. Like, is it right for a kid to have god-like power, and is it really OK Jess' father is alive?

If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride. A line from an 18th Century Scottish folk poem, my grandma used to quote to her daydreaming grandkids. Sounds a grand idea. But is it?

What do you do, Jess? Ride, or get down and walk with the rest of us? Your choice.