

# KETHER DONOHUE

## PRESS KIT

### INDIEWIRE

"But we probably should present the lion's share of our love for Donohue, who aside from a small role in "Pitch Perfect" was also new to us, but on this evidence, is going to be a megastar."- Oliver Lyttleton

<http://blogs.indiewire.com/theplaylist/why-youre-the-worst-turned-out-to-be-the-best-tv-show-of-the-summer-20140925?page=2>

### ROLLING STONE

"The biggest scene-stealers of the night were Kether Donohue and Jordan Fisher. Donohue, who already steals scenes on *You're the Worst*, gave an even more playful flare to the already goofy Jan. Even when she didn't have lines, Donohue's reactions and movements in the back of the scene would be particularly amusing to watch and made it seem regretful that Jan doesn't have a bigger role in the show."- Brittany Spanos

<http://www.rollingstone.com/tv/recaps/10-best-grease-live-moments-to-relive-20160201>

### VARIETY

"Kether Donohue brought infectious joy to every moment she was on screen as Jan"- Maureen Ryan

<http://variety.com/2016/tv/reviews/grease-live-review-fox-julianne-hough-aaron-tveit-1201693411/>

### AV CLUB

"Falk's great script aside, Kether Donohue's performance is stellar, especially when she's playing off of Gretchen's more fractured personality, and both Lindsay and Edgar really benefit from more structured personas."- Vikram Murthy

<https://www.avclub.com/jimmy-and-gretchen-are-on-the-run-in-the-one-hour-youre-1801351236>

### THE DAILY BEAST

"You're the Worst's Kether Donohue stole every scene she was in—as anyone who has watched her on the FXX series knew she would"- Kevin Fallon

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/02/01/grease-live-was-a-sexy-pelvic-thrusting-triumph.html>

### ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"And Kether Donohue's Lindsay may have actually been the worst, but her performance elevated the character beyond simple caricature. (Follow how Donohue plays the disintegration of Lindsay's marriage over the course of the season, or even just watch her singing in the finale, and you'll have a sense of how complex she makes the character.) And when Lindsay and Edgar pair—well, that's a spinoff FX should greenlight immediately."

<http://ew.com/article/2014/12/12/underrated-underdiscussed-2014/>

### E! ONLINE

"Kether Donohue: A national treasure."

"Dear world: Please cast Kether Donohue in everything. Every. Single. Thing."- Lauren Piester

<http://www.eonline.com/news/735746/grease-live-gif-blog-all-the-best-moments-from-tonight-s-big-show>

### ET ONLINE

"We cannot say enough amazing things about Donohue's performance as the Twinkie-loving queen of one-liners. Despite the fact that Jan is the only Pink Lady without a solo, Donohue's on-screen charm, subtle physical gags, and impeccable comedic timing caused her to steal every scene that she was in." Leanne Aguilera

[http://www.etonline.com/tv/181301\\_grease\\_live\\_the\\_7\\_most\\_unexpected\\_scene\\_stealers\\_and\\_breakout\\_stars/](http://www.etonline.com/tv/181301_grease_live_the_7_most_unexpected_scene_stealers_and_breakout_stars/)

### TV LINE

"Let's get this out of the way to start: *You're the Worst's* Lindsay is a terrible human being. Unredeemable. Shallow. Bitchy. But she's also our absolute favorite, and that's all thanks to Kether Donohue's on-point portrayal of the young Mrs. Jillian."

<http://tvline.com/2014/09/13/justin-theroux-performance-the-leftovers-season-1-finale/>

Q&amp;A | DEC. 9, 2020

## How Do You Follow Up a Role As TV's Best Mess?

By Kerensa Cadenas [@kerensacadenas](#)

Photo: Robyn Von Swank

If you watched FX's *You're the Worst*, you're already familiar with the many talents of Kether Donohue, who played Lindsay Jillian, one of the most memorably messy characters in recent TV history. There's no shortage of funny people making bad choices on television, but Donohue's vulnerability made her stand out. Her performance kept her character grounded, even when she was trying to convince her snively husband that he had a cuckolding fetish or when she was stealing her co-workers' lunches, and let her showcase her talents for comedy, drama, and karaoke (never forget her stirring rendition of

Kate Bush's "This Woman's Work."

So where does one go after that? Now Donohue is back on television screens in the CBS sitcom *B Positive*, about a man who needs a kidney donor and a woman from his past, Gina, who offers to help him. Donohue plays Gabby, Gina's best friend, a party girl who is a source of comic relief. The Cut talked to Donohue about her love of traditional sitcoms, clown class, and her new favorite pastime.



**You are used to doing comedy with *You're the Worst*, and even musical comedy like *Royalties*, but *B Positive* is a pretty traditional sitcom.**

I was the kid that would stay up late and watch Nick at Nite. I loved *Three's Company*, *I Love Lucy*, and *Happy Days*. For me, the joy of this job is I've really always wanted to be on a multi-cam [sitcom] specifically. When *You're the Worst* was over and my agent was asking, "Hey, what do you want to try to do next?," I did say to management — I was like, "It would really be really cool to be on a multi-cam."

We don't have the live studio audience right now because of COVID, but when the audience is here, it is a combination of [theater and television]. I love the spontaneity of the writing. What's most fun for me is when you're taping and the live studio audience is there — you'll do a take, and the writers huddle up, and then they do rewrites on the spot, and then they give you a line. I also like improv — so anything that's spontaneous and keeps you on your toes. When I took acting conservatory in New York, my favorite class was clown class.

### **Clown class?**

I saw more people cry in clown class ... In this clown class, there was a teacher that said, "Everybody here has to get up and make everyone unanimously laugh, and if you don't, we will be here all night." There was one woman that got up. She was making people chuckle, but then everyone's just getting mad at her because she desperately was just trying to make people laugh. So she took a broom that was on the wall and started running around like a witch, thinking it would make people laugh. It didn't. Then, she props up the broom against the wall, and the broom falls and goes up her nose as she's crying. And everyone laughed.

There'll be rehearsals where you don't get laughs and you're like, *Oh no*. I think the lesson was she only got a laugh because that was her only authentic moment. I just love the world of comedy because I have a lot of respect for it.

**Hasn't it been over a year now since *You're the Worst* ended? Have you thought about the show since it ended?**

The cast is still very close, and Stephen [Falk, the creator] and we keep in touch. When you're on a show for five years, it really feels like graduating high school. It's mixed feelings of nostalgia. And of course you miss it, but at the same token, everyone has to move on with their lives. I know what a gift it is when you're working with the people you're working with. What we had on *You're the Worst* was a beautiful experience, and it should be cherished.

**You've done a lot of voicework and musicals with *Grease Live!* Are there things that you're excited to do that you haven't gotten the chance to yet?**

I [used to be] shy to call myself a singer because I went to school with so many people that actually trained in singing and studied it. But I've gone on to sing in quite a few [projects] now, and it happened organically. I think it would be cool to explore singing and songwriting. I really do enjoy that.

I wrote and directed a short film in college that meant a lot to me about my dad, who struggled with PTSD, being a Vietnam vet. I think it would be cool to explore my directing side. There's so many things that I want to do and try and explore, even if it's not perfect. I feel like in our culture, we're so obsessed with perfection. I think we have this ideology that we're all just defined by one position and one job.

**Totally. I feel like, right now, with the pandemic, that's both being reinforced and taken apart.**

We could all do so much, and it doesn't mean that you have to make a living in each thing. I've taken up pottery — I have a secret life as a potter. Before I got this pilot, I told my agent, "Stop pitching me. I'm moving to Big Sur to become a potter." I swear to you, the next day, he said, "Please don't move to Big Sur because I got a call last night that Chuck Lorre — he wants to read you first." I love pottery for mental-health purposes. I love pottery because no matter how bad it gets, you can always make something even more beautiful out of it.

There is something so therapeutic and healing just about the principles of pottery. Honestly, when I read the sides for the show, I was like, *Oh, wow, this is a show about second chances*. I connect to that theme of a second chance, when you have experienced that and then you come out the other side, and you see the world with fresh eyes.

# LOS ANGELES CONFIDENTIAL

## CLASS OF '19

SOME OF THE GAME-CHANGING TV SHOWS THAT CONCLUDED THEIR BELOVED RUNS THIS SEASON—*GAME OF THRONES*, *VEEP*, *ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK*, *YOU'RE THE WORST* AND *JANE THE VIRGIN*—MAY YET COLLECT A FINAL BOUNTY OF EMMY TROPHIES. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY'VE INTRODUCED US TO BREAKOUT PERFORMERS WHO WE'RE QUITE SURE WILL BE AT THE CENTER OF MANY AWARDS CONVERSATIONS TO COME. BY SCOTT HUVER

scene EMMYS!

## KETHER DONOHUE

*YOU'RE THE WORST*, FX

**"WORSTIE" BESTIES:** "The cast just gelled! When we got into the show, if we had a scene on a Tuesday, we'd get together on Saturday and have a barbecue and run lines together. We all just put genuine caring into preparation as scene partners. I'll never forget every single f---ing scene I shot with each and every one of them—and we did it as though our lives were on the line!"

**GAME CHANGER:** "I was literally going nonstop for 20 years, just trying to make a living being an actor. When the audition came in and I read the sides for Lindsay, I distinctly had a visceral reaction in my body. I was like, this character is funny as f---! She's written with all the things that I dreamed of—broad comedy, but you see she's in pain, she's going through shit. It was literally fulfilling my dream of everything I had wanted and worked for."

**UP NEXT!** "I never really felt like

I had a right to call myself a singer, [but] I've found a freedom and a joy in singing when I'm playing a character.

If you're talking bucket list, I'm very excited to branch out into exploring singing-songwriting territory—getting to play that through a character is just that much more exciting."





TV

## How Kether Donohue Quietly Became the Funniest Woman on TV

YOU'RE THE WORST -- Pictured: Kether Donohue as Lindsay. CR: Autumn de Wilde/FX



Lindsay from *You're the Worst* speaks her mind—in her real voice.

BY LAUREN LARSON

November 17, 2016



In this season, the good-ish people of FX's *You're the Worst* have grappled with depression, PTSD, failure, and grief. In last night's two-episode finale, the show broke new ground with Kether Donohue's character Lindsay. We find Lindsay naked on her friend's couch ("What, I'm supposed to wear pajamas like an *old*?") having just dumped her husband Paul after telling him she aborted their baby. A few episodes earlier, Lindsay stabbed Paul a little bit during a pre-portioned home-cooking experience. **We doubt she's the first.**

We had a few questions for Donohue, and even though she was home sick she let us call her to ask about *You're the Worst*, her vocal stylings, and Donald Trump. Then, she called us back.



**GQ: Are you a pretty sick person or a messy sick person?**

**Kether Donohue:** Oh, I'm a *mess*. I look like a cavewoman werewolf. My *hair*.

**I just watched the finale. You've had a *season*. You stabbed a man. How dark are things going to get for Lindsay?**

It has to get worse before it gets better. Lindsay starts off in the beginning of the season with her external life and her internal life completely at odds. Obviously when you go about living life that way things are tumultuous and chaotic, and you hurt yourself and you hurt other people. I think her choosing to get an abortion and leave Paul—even though that's deeply hurtful to Paul—is her first step in owning her womanhood. I see it as a deeply feminist approach in the writing.

**What was Lindsay's most Lindsay moment?**

My favorite was the stabbing. When someone has all these demons living inside of them, and isn't living their life for themselves, it's bound to come to a head. I feel like the stabbing was the worst possible thing that could have been done. All that pent up, repressed anger—I just love that scene.

EDITOR'S PICK



**Entertainment**  
***You're The Worst* Starts Season 3 With the Wildest Sex Scene We've Seen in a While**

**I think my favorite was the Season Two finale when you sang "This Woman's Work." What's your singing background?**

I had an audition for *Pitch Perfect*, and my manager said, you have to prepare 16 verses of a pop song. And I was like, "Oh no, they're gonna think I'm a fraud! I'm not really a singer!" So I totally frauded my way through the whole audition. I sang "Natural Woman," and my friends were like, Kether, if you're not a singer, why the hell would you sing an Aretha Franklin song? Sing happy birthday or some bullshit song.

**Yeah, you really leaned in with that one.**

The director was like, "OK, that was really good but this time I want you to really belt it out for me." And I honestly didn't know what "belting" was, but I was like, "Oh I love belting! I prepared a belting version." And in my head I'm like, "God, or whoever is up there, whatever belting is, just let me do it." I guess I belted, because I got the part.



**Vocally, but in a different vein, how do you describe your Lindsay voice? Because listening to you talk right now, your voice is so different from your character.**

I read **Jane Fonda's** autobiography, and in one of the chapters she's talking about when she really came into her own as a feminist. She found that when she wasn't really living life authentically, for herself, she would speak more from her head and not really from her gut. I speak in a higher-pitched voice when I'm Lindsay, naturally, because Lindsay has been accustomed to not really knowing who she is. When I'm more myself, my voice is a lower register than Lindsay's—not to say that if you have a high-pitched voice you're not living authentically.

**In last night's finale, Paul calls Lindsay stupid. Do you think Lindsay is stupid?**

No. Absolutely not. I think Lindsay is very smart. A lot of people may disagree with this, but I think Lindsay is a really good person. She gives Gretchen the best advice. There's so many different ways somebody can be smart or stupid. Some people are intellectually smart but not emotionally smart. We're not just one thing.

**I don't know where you stand, but it's been a bleak week for some people post-election. What would Lindsay do if she met Donald Trump?**

I mean, the stabbing... I'm just kidding, I don't promote violence. This week has been devastating, and our president-elect has completely devalued human rights. I'm grateful to be part of a show that in a small way is taking a stance for female rights and empowerment.

**"I speak in a higher-pitched voice when I'm Lindsay, naturally, because Lindsay has been accustomed to not really knowing who she is."**

**Absolutely. Thank you so much. I really appreciate you jumping on the phone, especially when you're sick!**

*Two minutes later, the phone rings.*

I hate giving service bullshit answers. When I got off the phone I was like, Wait, there *is* something that I wanna say here.

**Carry on.**

That night when Trump won, I started to feel small. I started to be afraid of my own intensity and my own emotion, because Donald Trump and his misogynistic rhetoric is exactly the type of ideology that perpetuates women being small and being put in boxes and being categorized. I think the way Lindsay is written is very feminist and is necessary in media. That stabbing scene—even though yeah, it's not right to stab your husband—is symbolic of a larger thing. As women, we're put in boxes as either nice, virginal, innocent good girl, or bad, monstrous woman. And the truth is I'm sick and fucking tired of it. We're everything!

I like that Lindsay could be angry and have that in her, and then in another episode she's just bubbly and dancing. It's imperative that the images we repeat here of women reflect the beautiful complexities of who we really are. We are taught to be nice and not angry, even when our own sanity is at stake. And our president-elect... the LGBT community, Muslims, women, all marginalized groups, our lives and sanity are at stake. And it is normal to be angry. It's a sane reaction to insane events. That's what I wanna say.

There's times when I want to say something so positive and I don't know what to say. *Aye-yai-yai*, I'm angry.

[Editor's note: 40 raised-hands emojis.]

# VARIETY

May 2017 (Emmy Special Issue)

**CONTENDERS** | Portrait Studio in partnership with Shutterstock



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## Kether Donohue

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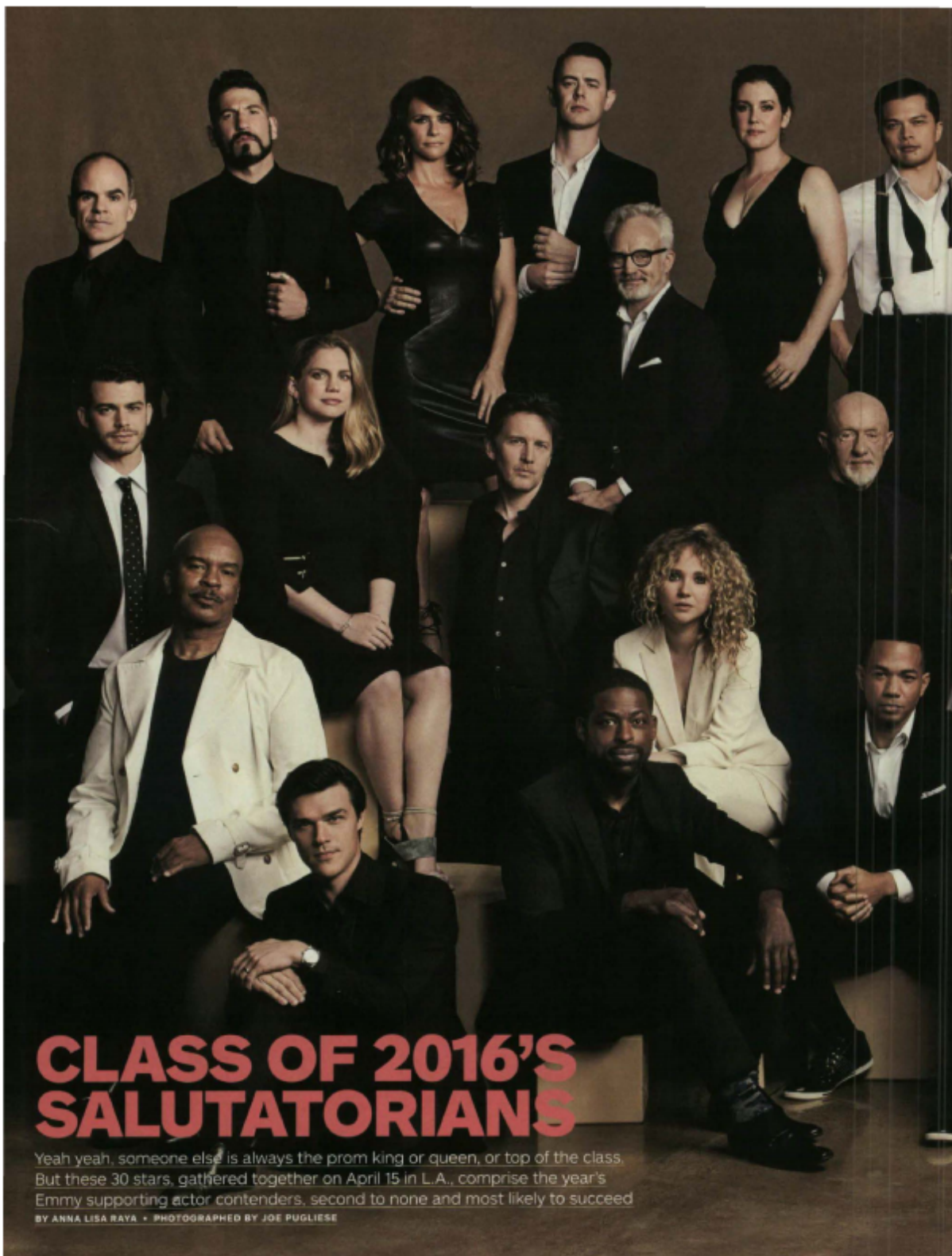
### "YOU'RE THE WORST"

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"I've literally been auditioning for 20 years. I've been through decades of pilot seasons. It's just been a dream role in the sense that I have a love for comedy and drama. It's pretty f--king magical that I'm able to do both. I just feel so fulfilled having a job that I love."

# *THE* **Hollywood** *REPORTER*

Class of 2016's Salutatorians - June 10, 2016



## **CLASS OF 2016'S SALUTATORIANS**

Yeah yeah, someone else is always the prom king or queen, or top of the class. But these 30 stars, gathered together on April 15 in L.A., comprise the year's Emmy supporting actor contenders, second to none and most likely to succeed

BY ANNA LISA RAYA • PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOE PUGLIESE



Supporting Actors & Actresses



The actors were photographed at M&A Studios in Hollywood.



# 1. Michael Kelly

*House of Cards* (Netflix)

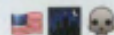
→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"For a serious crime, I'd call Kevin Spacey because he would deal with shit and it wouldn't be with a sympathetic tone."

# 2. Jon Bernthal

*Daredevil* (Netflix)

→ WHICH THREE EMOJIS DESCRIBE YOUR SHOW?



# 3. Amy Landecker

*Transparent* (Amazon)

→ YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW GROWING UP?

"I feel low-rent here, but I was obsessed with the Saturday night lineup of *Love Boat* and *Fantasy Island*."

# 4. Colin Hanks

*Life in Pieces* (CBS)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Zoe Lister-Jones. I think it would be good to have the TV wife bail you out."

# 5. Melanie Lynskey

*Togetherness* (HBO)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Amanda Peet. She would take care of it in every way possible. No one would even hear about it."

# 6. Vincent Rodriguez

*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* (CW)

→ WHICH THREE EMOJIS DESCRIBE YOUR SHOW?



# 7. Jonathan Rhys Meyers

*Roots* (History)

→ YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW GROWING UP?

"Monkey. I think it came from Japan. It was this monkey god who would pull bits of hair from his chest and make clouds out of them."

# 8. Emayatzy Corinealdi

*Roots* (History)

→ YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW GROWING UP?

"I loved *Alf*. It wasn't a weird show for me as a kid. I wanted an *Alf*, he was so cute."

# 9. Anna Paquin

*Roots* (History)

→ YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW GROWING UP?

"I didn't watch a lot of TV growing up because we weren't allowed to, but, I mean, *Friends*."

# 10. Harry Lennix

*The Blacklist* (NBC)

→ TV PRESIDENT YOU'D WANT IN OFFICE?

"I played the president on *Little Britain USA*. One day, I have full intentions of occupying the White House."

# 11. Joey Pollari

*American Crime* (ABC)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"I think Felicity Huffman would put up a mean fight for me. I'd get myself in jail just to see that happen."

# 12. Anna Chlumsky

*Veep* (HBO)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Matt Walsh. Not because he has any more money than the rest of us or anything. It's not about, 'Oh, he's my rich friend!'"

# 13. Andrew McCarthy

*The Family* (ABC)

→ TV PRESIDENT YOU'D WANT IN OFFICE?

"I guess Martin Sheen [*Jed Bartlet* in *The West Wing*]. He's got the hair."

# 14. Bradley Whitford

*All the Way* (HBO)

→ TV PRESIDENT YOU'D WANT IN OFFICE?

"Jed Bartlett. Not Martin Sheen, I love him, but it has to be Bartlet. There's that new character, Trump, but that's just crazy."

# 15. Jonathan Banks

*Better Call Saul* (AMC)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Who in the hell would I call? Bobby [Bob Odenkirk], of course."

# 16. Liv Tyler

*The Leftovers* (HBO)

→ WHICH THREE EMOJIS DESCRIBE YOUR SHOW?



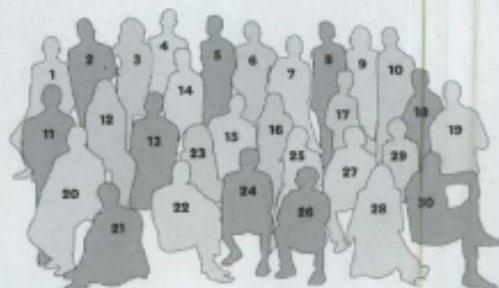
# 17. Zoe Lister-Jones

*Confirmation* (HBO)

*Life in Pieces* (CBS)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Colin Hanks. He's very reliable. I feel like that's actually going to happen in our near future. Glad you asked me because now I have that at the ready."



# 18. Andrew Rannells

*Girls* (HBO)

→ YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW GROWING UP?

"I really liked *Night Court* as a kid. I watched that religiously."

# 19. Joel Kinnaman

*House of Cards* (Netflix)

→ WHICH THREE EMOJIS DESCRIBE YOUR SHOW?



# 20. David Alan Grier

*The Carmichael Show* (NBC)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Jerrod [Carmichael]. He would never blow me up on Instagram after."

# 21. Finn Wittrock

*American Horror Story*

*Hotel* (FX)

→ WHICH THREE EMOJIS DESCRIBE YOUR TV SHOW?



# 22. Sterling K. Brown

*The People v. O. J. Simpson*

*American Crime Story* (FX)

→ TV PRESIDENT YOU'D WANT IN OFFICE?

"Michael Douglas in *The American President* because he went to Stanford, as did I."

# 23. Juno Temple

*Vinyl* (HBO)

→ FAVORITE TV SHOW GROWING UP?

"I loved *Saved by the Bell*. And *SpongeBob SquarePants*. *Beavis and Butt-Head*, too."

# 24. Alano Miller

*Underground* (WGN)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Jurnee Smollett-Bell. She's proactive. She'd make sure the bail money was there."

# 25. Maggie Siff

*Billions* (Showtime)

→ YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW GROWING UP?

"*Family Ties*. I had the biggest crush on Michael J. Fox. My mom found a fan letter I wrote to him and never sent."

# 26. Jay Duplass

*Transparent* (Amazon)

→ YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW GROWING UP?

"*Cheers* was big for us. Sam and Diane have been in my mind forever."

# 27. John Leguizamo

*Bloodline* (Netflix)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Jamie McShane. Kyle [Chandler] is too busy. I'd be in jail for a while if I had to wait for him."

# 28. Kether Donohue

*You're the Worst* (FX)

*Grease Live!* (Fox)

→ WHICH THREE EMOJIS DESCRIBE YOUR SERIES?



# 29. Melissa McBride

*The Walking Dead* (AMC)

→ TV PRESIDENT YOU'D WANT IN OFFICE?

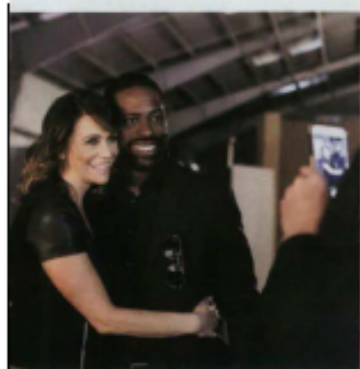
"Kevin Kline in *Dave*. *Dave* was dope."

# 30. Alexander Ludwig

*Vikings* (History)

→ CO-STAR YOU'D CALL TO BAIL YOU OUT OF JAIL?

"Well, Travis Fimmel would be in jail with me, so Gustaf Skarsgard."



Left: Landecker and a very popular Brown smiled for cellphone pics. Above: Bernthal bonded with his dog, Boss, at the photo shoot.



|all access tv|

## SHE'S THE BEST

YOU'RE THE WORST'S **KETHER DONOHUE** IS A COMEDY METEOR WAITING TO EXPLODE...AND THEN LAUGH ABOUT IT.

BY JESÚS TRIVIÑO ALARCÓN

■ **KETHER DONOHUE SHOULD'VE BEEN A DOCTOR.** She has the perfect voice—tender, sweet, warm—to deliver the most devastating news. Tell us more about how Grandma was hit by a Range Rover. Yet it's not only her voice that has endeared her to fans of the cult FOX comedy, *You're the Worst*, now in its third season—it's the way she masterfully stretches the writers' craziest ideas into comedic gold.

"Prior to having the scripts I would bug [YTW creator] Stephen Falk, 'Tell me what's happening this season,' says the Cuban and Irish actress. "He'd tell me, 'Lindsay is doing even more f\*cked-up stuff.' I was like, 'How can a human being do something more f\*cked-up than artificially inseminating herself with a turkey baster?' Whether it's getting that semen from her estranged husband or downing a football player-sized amount of buffalo wings, Donohue's Lindsay does it all with a devilish grin and a too-cute-to-hate face. She's a millennial Lucille Ball with dashes of Ricky Ricardo, Goldie Hawn and Dave Chappelle.

Born and raised in New York City, Donohue started going on auditions at age 8. With a traditionally Roman Catholic background on both sides, she says, she was bound to attend Marymount, an all-girls high school. But



a mischievous Donohue only lasted until her sophomore year.

"I pranked the wrong girl," says Donohue, who declined to elaborate. "After we pranked her I found out her parents or her grandparents were benefactors of the school. I was like, 'Shit we definitely messed with the wrong girl.' My parents didn't have money, but they always wanted me to go to a private school so I was in a rich private school on financial aid and I just didn't fit in."

Instead, she found her home in front of the camera. At 17, she booked her first pilot, *Saving Jason*, starring Bow Wow and airing on the WB, now known as the CW. Even though it went nowhere, it was for the best.

"I am grateful that I didn't get on a big show when I was younger. I probably wasn't ready," she says.

After that, Donohue built a healthy career as a voice actor, including a stint on the popular *Pokémon* cartoon series. Bit parts in blockbusters like *Pitch Perfect* followed before she became the potty-mouthed, baby-voiced, body-positive Lindsay.

"I'm so grateful that I get to play a female character on television and I get to work with a boss that encourages me to just be myself," says Donohue, who also stole the show on FOX's ratings bonanza *Grease Live*. "Whether I'm 10 pounds heavier or 10 pounds thinner or whatever the size, it doesn't matter. I don't feel any sort of pressure to lose weight. I love my half-Spanish side that gives me my curves."

And we don't want her to change one bit, because Donohue is giving us the best medicine—laughter.

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LEWACH



## Kether Donohue & 'You're The Worst' Prove That Rom-Com Sidekicks Don't Have To Be, Well, The Worst

By SYDNEY BUCKSBAUM 2 months ago

*Throughout July, [Bustle's Comedy IRL package](#) is featuring photo shoots, profiles, and stories of the women in comedy who are using their craft to elevate female voices and speak out on important issues. Comedy is powerful as hell, and we're toasting the women who prove it. Check out the whole package [here](#).*

Whether they admit it or not, everybody in Hollywood wants to be a star — play the lead role, sing the big solo, stand front and center in a photoshoot. Ask anyone in the industry, and they'll tell you so (and if they don't, they're lying). But [You're the Worst](#) star [Kether Donohue](#) is achieving this goal backwards — by recognizing the power and the freedom of playing the oft-dreaded sidekick role.

In just three short seasons, as Lindsay on *You're the Worst*, Donohue has completely taken down the stereotypical rom-com best friend role with every step, just like her costar [Aya Cash destroyed the idea](#) of rom-com protagonist. While Lindsay does things like convince her husband to watch her sleep with other men, stab her husband in the back (literally), and accidentally stumble into a career as a pop star, she is also the character who opened the frank discussion about choice by getting an abortion with no fanfare or hand-wringing in Season 3. Donohue has made Lindsay more three-dimensional than so many stereotypical rom-com heroines could ever hope to be, in part *because* she's not trying to be the heroine. The actor actually wants to be the weird, offbeat bestie. In fact, she's made it her speciality.

**I feel happy that I've never really had to worry about my weight or looks very much. I let the comedy speak for itself.**

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"In high school I was always cast as the sidekick role. I was always the evil stepsister or something," she says as she curls up on the soft velvet couch next to me on a warm day in Los Angeles. "I'll never forget, I was on a cruise ship with my family when I was, like, eight years old and they were doing a play with the kids on the cruise ship. I had auditioned for the lead girl, and then the director of the play was like, 'Um, we're going to cast you in the sidekick birdie character.'"

She laughs as she remembers how she was forced to dress up as "this weird bird" instead of whatever glamorous costume the lead got to wear. She says she remembers thinking, "OK, this is where I belong. I'm a sidekick." What could have been a disappointing experience for another kid actually gave Donohue love and respect for the best friend role, one that the actor says offers her more freedom to focus on her comedy.

"I like how I never had to really care about my appearance very much," she says, picking pieces of metallic confetti left over from her earlier photoshoot off of her legs. "There are no boundaries. I like playing roles where vanity is out the window. It's nice to not have a pressure to feel like you have to be sexually attractive when you're playing a role."

It's clear from her attitude during her photoshoot that ended just minutes earlier that she means it. As she moved through different poses, people on set stepped in to pull up her dress here or cover that bit of skin there, but Donohue just shrugged her shoulders and laughed each time as if to say, "Oh well, who cares?" She was game to do whatever it took to get the most entertaining photos possible.

"I let the comedy speak for itself. There's really no room for vanity when you're acting," she says.

And that's perfect, considering that on *You're The Worst*, Donohue has had to play all kinds of wild extremes as the Cash's character's best friend. Sure, there have been some lows, like that time she stole her ex-husband Paul's (Allan McLeod) sperm and artificially inseminated herself with a turkey baster, all in attempt to win him back. Then there was the part where she cheated on him every chance she got when they were together, and even made him watch her "cuckold" him in some bonkers emotional manipulation scheme that I still can't believe worked. And, let's not forget that she straight-up stabbed the guy in the back and still managed to stay with him for a while after that.



**...playing a best friend can sometimes feel minimizing, so it's nice to feel like you're playing a character that women can connect to and feel inspired by.**

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But there have also been some truly applause-worthy moments in the course of all this drama, like when she became a semi-famous singer, or when she finally earned independence and learned how to take care of her own home without a man around, or when she nonchalantly got an abortion because she felt confident that the most responsible thing she could do for that unborn baby was to not bring it into the world. At times, it's true that Lindsay is downright deplorable, but she doesn't have to be likeable, because it's her imperfection (to put it lightly), complexity, and zaniness that make her such a watchable character.

But for all that insanity, what really comes through Donohue's performance is that Lindsay is still very much a real person. After all, even the most unhinged human is still, well, a human.

"It's nice to walk out of work and feel that there's an integrity involved," Donohue says, referring to her character's treatment on *You're The Worst*.

And fans have taken notice of that integrity. In fact, Donohue says a pregnant woman once stopped her in the middle of a line for a restaurant bathroom because she just *had* to thank her. Apparently, Donohue's sex positive portrayal of the once-pregnant Lindsay helped this woman to feel less ashamed of her heightened sex drive during her pregnancy — [an urge that is not only common](#), but also often [brings about serious doubt and worry for expectant mothers](#).

"Lindsay is inspirational in a lot of ways to women because there's an embracing of complexities — she can be grotesque and sexy, she can be funny and tragic," Donohue says, pausing to take a sip of her coffee. "And playing a best friend can sometimes feel minimizing, so it's nice to feel like you're playing a character that women can connect to and feel inspired by."

Add to that the fact that Donohue says that she has never been asked about her weight or had her looks inspected by the team at *You're the Worst* or FX. So not only is Donohue giving voice to women and "best friends" everywhere, she's also doing it while being totally, and completely, herself in every way, without being forced into a box by Hollywood. "I mean, it's sad to say that that's a thing, but it [happens]," she says with a slight shrug. "According to some industry standards, some people consider me heavy. It's nice that Lindsay isn't seen on the show in that way."

So yes, while Lindsay's actions sometimes border on insanity like so many rom-com sidekicks before her, Donohue brings Lindsay depth, somehow keeping her grounded and relatable (even when she's microwaving semen for her DIY artificial insemination).

"I heard a reporter say once in an interview and it has stuck with me that Lindsay lives from the id. It's so true," she says, referring to the part of the psyche that seeks immediate gratification. "It's one of those things where your greatest strength is also your greatest weakness. Sometimes living from the id is to Lindsay's detriment, but it also makes her lovable and fun and in the moment in life. She has so much power inside of her that with a little bit of focus, she could do some amazing things."

And the scene where Lindsay stabs her husband might actually be one of those amazing things, because according to Donohue, much like her character, there's so much more to that "campy" scene. "Sure, objectively speaking, of course it is not correct to stab your husband. But when you're watching at home, I do think a lot of women connect to Lindsay's, what is typically considered 'masculine,' aggressive quality," she says. "It's fun to watch that because we all have these different aspects inside of us as women that don't necessarily connect to what the status quo of what [femininity] is supposed to be."

Considered to be one of the most shocking scenes of the series, the stabbing scene also showcases what *You're the Worst* does best: subvert classic stereotypes and gender norms. In that game changing scene, Paul was trying to make his partner stay home and cook a meal while Lindsay felt suffocated in their stereotypical patriarchal relationship and retaliated on impulse.

"I kind of related that whole scene in general to a larger metaphor of hating the patriarchy," Donohue says. "It was symbolic of a larger thing and it was nice to see a female character do something like that, because women don't get to be violent very often in roles."

And since Lindsay constantly pushes the status quo, she was the perfect character to show an authentic portrayal of what getting an abortion is really like for a woman. When it happened in episode 10 of last season, there was no preaching from other characters about whether or not she was sure about making the right choice (even an anti-abortion picketer, after hearing Lindsay's story, approved of her decision to terminate her pregnancy).



"The way we did it, it was like, 'OK, we do this all the time, 'abo-bo' and then Marie Callender's after,'" Donohue says. "[The abortion] was not a big deal, which is great because that's how it should be ... We should have that choice and it shouldn't be anyone's business other than your own."

Even though Lindsay's pregnancy started with a microwave and a turkey baster, the end result was an incredibly real and responsible piece of storytelling. And for Donohue, that comedic start was the best possible introduction to that arc.

**...we all have these different aspects inside of us as women that don't necessarily connect to what the status quo of what [femininity] is supposed to be.**

---

"All of these heavier life moments are told best through comedy because it kind of sneaks up on you as the audience," she says. "It makes you feel [less] alone. And as long as it's handled with care and compassion and in a delicate, eloquent way without losing its edge, it's the right way to do it."

But before our conversation ends, Donohue cracks me up one last time — apparently researching for her role of Lindsay leads to some ... ahem, *questionable* Google search histories. "I was dating someone at the time, so if it ever came up where you're looking on someone's phone, my god, they would think I'm a psycho. I had like, 'How to artificially inseminate yourself with a turkey baster,'" she says with a laugh. "I had to delete the search history on my phone."

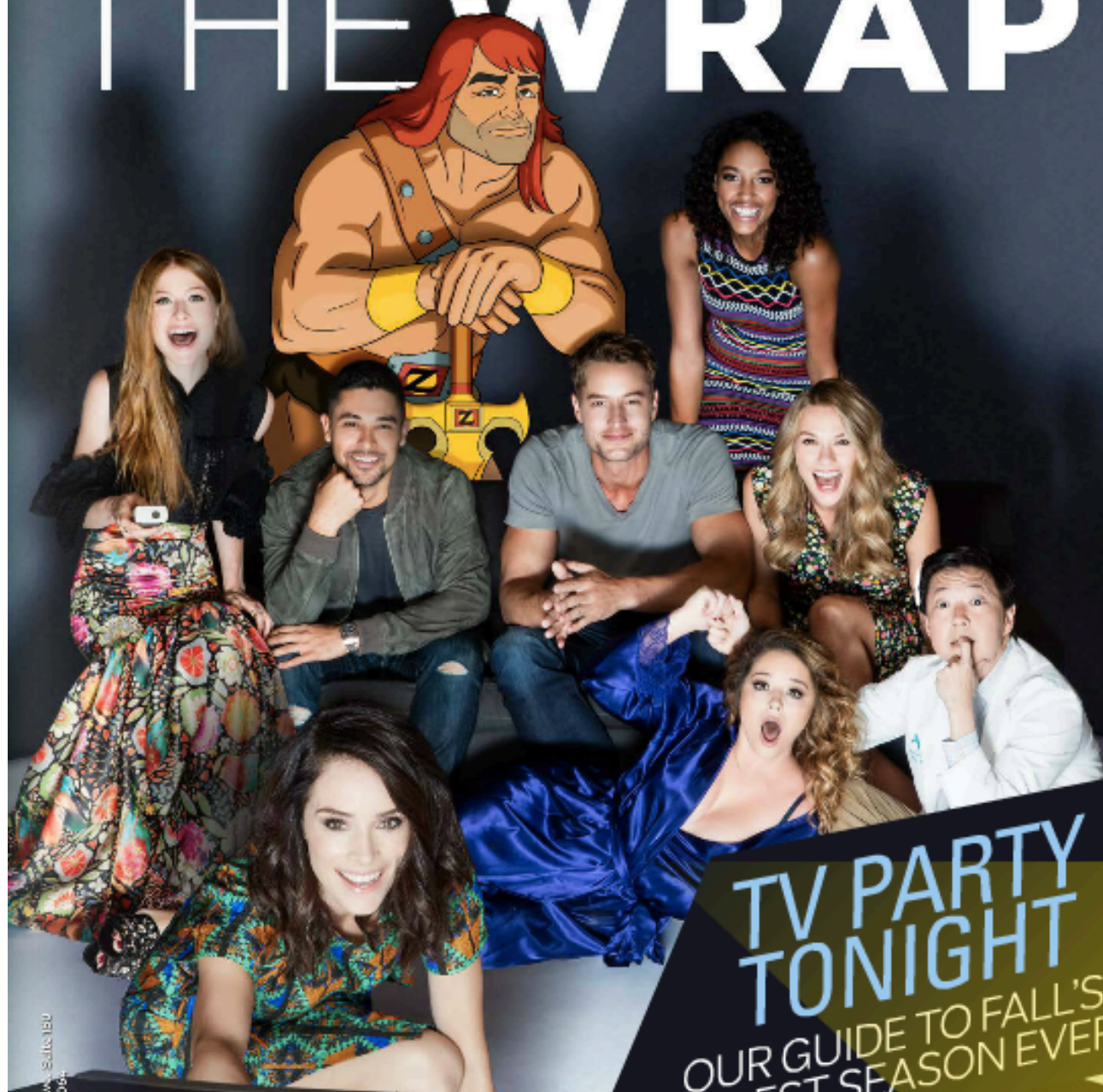
And if anyone can turn awkward, heavy, serious moments like that into something we can all laugh at, it's Donohue. After all, that's why her "sidekick" was never destined to stay on the sidelines of anything.



THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO FALL TELEVISION

FALL TV ISSUE | SEPTEMBER 2016

# THE WRAP



TV PARTY  
TONIGHT  
OUR GUIDE TO FALL'S  
BIGGEST SEASON EVER

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Los Angeles, CA 90064

# IT'S TV





# SO

you decide to invite some friends over to watch TV, and there they are clustered around the couch: The first female major-league baseball pitcher, a magazine researcher from the '60s, an amusing doctor, an undercover agent, a hunky actor, a separated-but-pregnant party girl, a mid-level manager waiting for the end of the world, a time-traveling history professor, an animated warrior who recently moved from the mythical island of Zephyria to Orange County, California...

If that doesn't sound like a strange get-together, you must have a remarkably eclectic group of friends. But that's the group we've assembled on our cover—and it's reason to celebrate the new season of TV, where a cross-section of hot new shows and notable returning series can produce the kind of deliriously mismatched, popcorn-tossing, binge-watching crew you see on these pages.

Television, you see, brings people together. Sometimes those people make sense together and sometimes they don't. But they all fit under TV's wide, wild and weird umbrella. So on these pages, we celebrate them—and by extension, everybody else who'll light up the small screen this season. —SP

HAIR: JENNIFER COLEMAN; MAKEUP: JESSICA BROWN



# KETHER DONOHUE



## YOU'RE THE WORST

AIR DATE: **Aug. 31**

CABLE: **FX**

WHEN HER PHONE RANG AT 7 A.M. LAST DEC. 14, Kether Donohue looked at it, saw her manager's name, hit MUTE and went back to bed. When he called back almost immediately, though, she got worried: "I thought, why is he calling again?" she told *TheWrap*. "My first thought was that he's in trouble, he was in a car accident or something. Or maybe he's in jail and I'm his one phone call. So I picked up, and then we got disconnected, and so I thought, 'He's definitely in trouble.'"

In fact, he was calling to tell her that she'd been nominated for a Critics' Choice Award for her performance on FX's comedy *You're the Worst*. The show's sophomore season had taken things to a new level, adding a storyline about clinical depression to its raucous tales of toxic relationships and self-destructive young adults, including Donohue's Lindsay.

"It's hard to imagine, but it's taken to an even higher level in Season 3," the 31-year-old actress insisted. "I think the best way to deal with a difficult subject is to laugh your way through it. When you're in the pits of depression or grieving or dealing with a tough issue, sometimes all you can do about it is laugh. One of the most special things to us is reading tweets and comments and letters from people who've opened up to us about their own depression. I think that was very powerful to everyone last season, in that at least we got a conversation started."

She's also delighted by what has befallen her recently divorced character, who in the last season attempted reconciliation, flirted with using her ex's surreptitiously frozen sperm, became obsessed with web-based conspiracy theories, helped a depressed friend, tried to apologize for past misdeeds and got pregnant. "In comedy, sidekicks and supporting female characters are pretty one-dimensional," she said. "It's really special to get to play a character that's not put in a box. Lindsay can be gross and sexy and funny and strange at the same time. And that's pretty cool."

Donohue also sang on *You're the Worst*, and in the *Pitch Perfect* movies and in Fox's *Grease Live!* last January. "When I was younger, I went to Catholic school, and the nun who was the director of all the musicals told me I couldn't sing," she said. "Any time she cast me in a musical, I was always the character who didn't sing. I grew up thinking that I couldn't sing, so it's kind of cool that all these different projects came along."

She grinned. "Sister Rebecca, I can sing."

—STEVE POND



*Bella*

SPOT  
LIGHT

YOU'RE THE WORST  
**Kether  
Donohue**

PHOTOGRAPHY MAARTEN DE BOER



Kether Donohue is the ultimate triple-threat. She can sing, she can act, and she's one of the funniest women in Hollywood. BELLO had the chance to catch up with Kether by phone where the 31-year-old entertainer gives us a glimpse of what we can expect from her character Lindsay in the upcoming season of *You're The Worst*, tells us what she would do if she could create her own TV series, and recounts the story of one improv moment she had on stage with a tube of lipstick that changed her experience with performing forever.

by Brent Lambert @FEELguide

"He would give these incredible speeches almost everyday during rehearsals," gushes Kether when we asked her what it was like to work with director Thomas Kail (Broadway's *HAMILTON*) on the *Grease Live!* TV special back in 2016. "The dedication and devotion he has to leadership is something I've never seen before, and he is always working hard to perfect his craft." She adds, "He genuinely cares about his whole team, and in one of his speeches, for example, he described us as being a garden which we water together each day. He really respects and trusts actors' instincts, and he's an excellent listener and collaborator."

Collaborations are nothing new for Kether. After all, her impressive 20-year career has been filled with them. But it's her role as Lindsay on the FOX comedy, *You're The Worst*, that is closest to her heart right now. Lindsay has made fumble after fumble on her road to becoming a functioning adult, but is this brand new fourth season going to be the one that finally gets her on track? "Lindsay has an awesome journey this year," Kether tells us. "Just like in real life, sometimes it has to get worse before it gets better -- you have to reach the worst parts of yourself before you realize you need to change, and I think this is what's happening to Lindsay right now. She's realizing she doesn't want the life that she's created for herself. In season four she's really beginning to start her own life and experience autonomy for the first time. We've never seen her do this before, so things are on an upswing. She has a job, lives in her own place, and isn't dependent on Paul. I'm excited for her."

Excitement is a big part of Kether's own life these days as well. We asked her if she has any pet projects of her own in the works, and that's when the conversation turned towards her dream of one day becoming a

director herself. Showrunner and YTW creator, Stephen Falk, may have inadvertently accelerated this dream for Kether a couple of years ago when he asked her to take part in his live storytelling show that he organizes at the Virgil, a 1920s saloon and comedy club here in LA. For each show, Falk invites around seven or eight storytellers to perform a ten-minute story in front of the live audience, and Kether tells us when she performed her own, something unexpected happened.

"That night the theme was 'Bruised Pride, Out of Control Ego, and Tarnished Reputation.' So I told a story that was a very vulnerable one about myself that I had never shared with anyone before. The response from the audience was remarkable, and many of them came up to me afterwards to say they related to my experience." That reaction led Kether to the idea of turning the story into something much bigger. "It's a story that I loved telling out loud, and I think it could have a life of its own outside that experience. I think it could make an interesting short film, and I would love to direct it."

It's this kind of instinct that drives all great performers. And with such a terrific career under her belt -- both on stage and in front of the camera -- I asked Kether if there was any one moment in particular where she recalls feeling the most 'in the now' as an actress. "I remember doing an off-off Broadway show in which I had a really long monologue, and I had some choreography when my character puts her lipstick on as she's looking in the mirror. One night my lipstick broke off and it started rolling everywhere." It was a moment that might have sent some actors off the rails, but for Kether it was nothing off the sort. "It was as if the theatre gods had arrived on stage -- my instincts kicked in, and I started going after the lipstick as I was doing my mono-

logue. That lipstick moment completely took over and stole the show. I could never have planned it, and the audience loved it. I love those moments that you can't plan -- it's a gift to the scene, and it's an opportunity."

To test her improv skills, BELLO put Kether through the 'Career Blender Challenge': take three of your favorite shows, mash them together, and come up with a brand new series where you would have the lead role. "Shark Tank is my favorite show -- I love it," she says. "I also love *The Handmaid's Tale*, and I love *Big Little Lies*, too. So I would call it *The Handmaid's Big Little Tank*." So who exactly would she play in this original new mashup series? "I would play Ann Dowd's character, and she would put these men in their place [Dowd portrays Aunt Lydia, the vicious instructor and guardian of the Handmaids]. We would throw men in a tank, punish them for their wrongdoings, sentence them, and bring justice [laughing]!"

Being a Hollywood veteran, yet still being so young herself, means Kether has many young girls out there watching her every move, and dreaming of how they, too, can make it in showbiz just like her. We asked Kether what advice she would give them. "I'd tell them to be excited about the 'lipstick moments,' embrace the failures and rejections, and just enjoy this really wild ride. I would say: be persistent, don't ever put yourself in a box, and fearlessly go after everything you want."

*You're The Worst* airs Wednesdays at 10pm ET on FOX.



*Bella*

Issue #159

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*Bella*

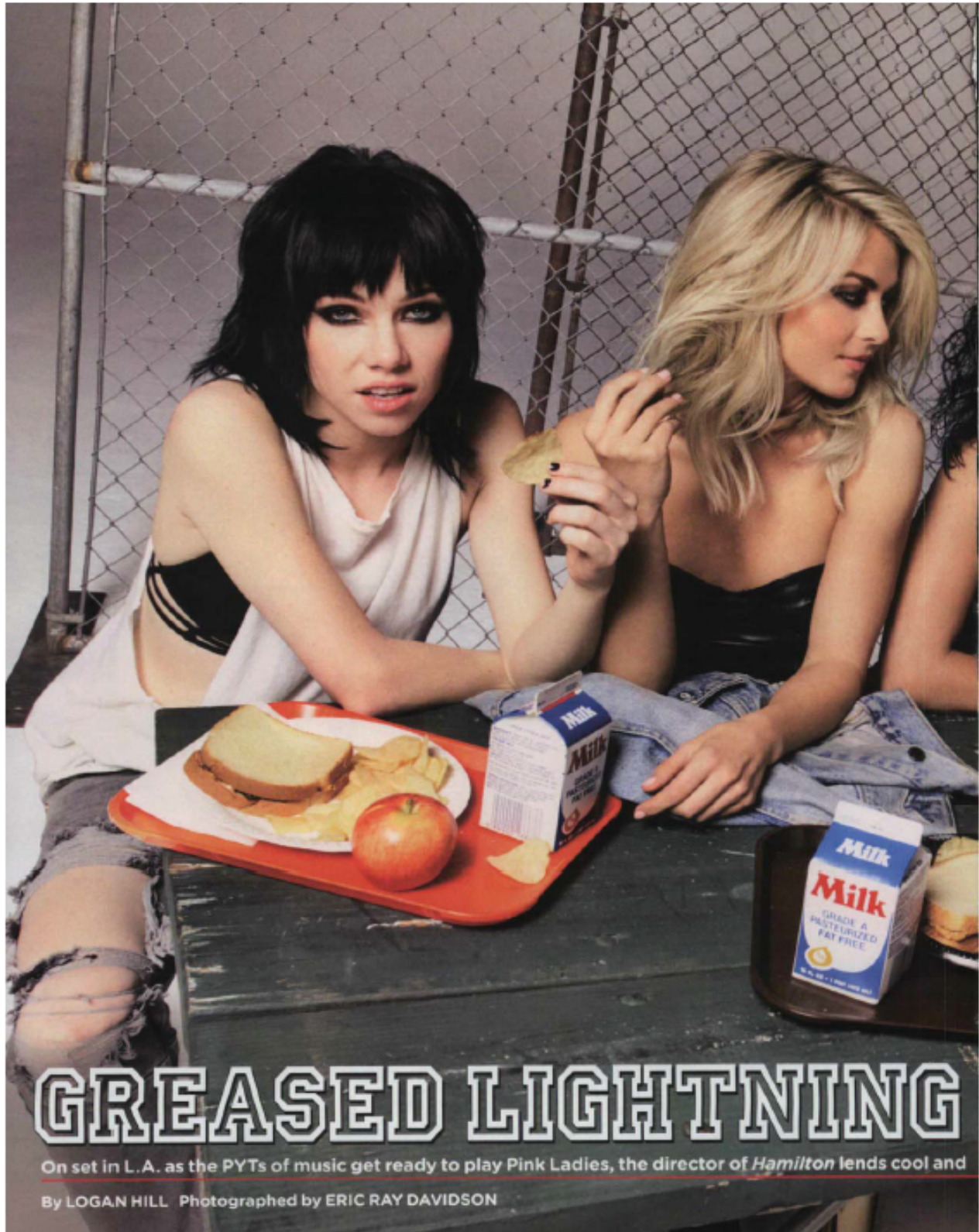
issue #159

22









## GREASED LIGHTNING

On set in L.A. as the PYTs of music get ready to play Pink Ladies, the director of *Hamilton* lends cool and

By LOGAN HILL Photographed by ERIC RAY DAVIDSON





Carly Rae Jepsen, Julianne Hough, Vanessa Hudgens, Keri Palmer and **Dianna Agron** from left photographed Dec. 20, 2012, at Oculute Studios in West Hollywood. Styling by George Kotikopoulos.

Jepsen wears a Michael Stars T-shirt and Q&A Teaspoon bra and jeans. Hough wears an American Apparel bustier. Agron wears Levi's vest and Forever 21 necklace. Hudgens wears a G-Star Raw jumpsuit. Palmer wears a Burberry jacket. Nagi Galambos wears Levi's shorts. Dianna wears an A&P dress.

For exclusive interviews and a video of the women doing the Hard Five, go to [billboard.com](http://billboard.com) or [billboard.com/123456](http://billboard.com/123456).

# STRIKES AGAIN

Fox diversifies (natch) and modernizes the original high school musical, set to go live Jan. 31 on TV



# T

"THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS," SAYS CARLY Rae Jepsen, wide-eyed at the dozens of carpenters and gaffers hammering, sawing and wiring the massive high school gymnasium still under construction at Warner Bros. Studios. "I have to get my Hula-Hoop!"

It's the first day of school at Rydell High — or, rather, the first day of on-set rehearsals for the young stars of Fox's TV musical *Grease: Live*, which on this dreary December day is only six weeks away, with a 7 p.m. ET air date on Sunday, Jan. 31.

Overhead, banners hang high from the gym rafters: "Wrestling State Champs 1949," "Soccer Champions 1947." Large cardboard boxes mark where school bleachers will soon host a live, onscreen audience as part of what may be the riskiest live TV musical yet.

It's no surprise that Fox chose *Grease* for its first foray into live musicals, where half-minute ads have sold for as much as \$400,000. NBC got 18.6 million people to watch its poorly reviewed smash *The Sound of Music Live*, 9.1 million to hate-watch the star-starved *Peter Pan Live* and 11.5 million to celebrate the celebrity-studded *The Wiz*, according to Nielsen. In TV's latest oil rush, *Grease* is pure crude: a multigenerational crowd-pleaser that boasts one thing other musicals don't have — smash staples of karaoke, weddings and radio like "Summer Nights" and "Hopelessly Devoted to You."

The stakes are high for Fox, which is jumping into the genre with both feet, with *The Passion* (Tyler Perry's musical take on Jesus Christ's last days) scheduled for March and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* coming later in 2016. The network of *Empire* and *Glee* wants to align even more closely with music — and drum up excitement as it rolls out other programming, like the *X-Files* reboot and new series *Lucifer*. "Having an event that will appeal to such a wide audience and will promote all of that [at the same time] is very meaningful," says Dana Walden,



chairman/CEO of Fox Television Group. Lachlan Murdoch, executive chairman of 21st Century Fox, stresses the importance of featuring sports, news and live events. He says that bold programming is critical in the age of Peak TV, with its seemingly limitless menu of shows: "You don't want to do anything average or bland."

Which is why, in addition to hiring a brash crew of pop-star actresses, Fox brought in Tommy Kail, the 38-year-old director of revered Broadway sensation *Hamilton*, to direct with Alex Rudzinski, 43, a vet of *Dancing With the Stars*. (Paramount

"In 'Greased Lightning,' when they sing, 'The chicks will scream,' I was like, 'What? That's bad! Real bad!' " says Hough (above). Right, from top: Newton-John, Tinseltia, Kelly Ward and Pearl; Susan Blakeslee; Newton-John and an unidentified actress in the 1978 movie.







Back row, from left: Palmer, Donohue, Andrew Carl, Jepsen, Carlos PenaVega, David Del Rio, Jordie Fisher and Hudgens. Front: Hough (Jeff) and Tveit. Below: Donohue.



"I'm always the good girl, super enthusiastic and smiling," says Hudgens. "I've never been the tough girl I'm not meant at all. So [when Rizzo] came along, I was like, 'Perfect.'"



Pictures, which owns the rights, put the initial package together with Kail.) Kail touts the old-fashioned theater tricks he plans for *Grease: Live* — vaudeville-style quick changes (with Tony-winning designer William Ivey Long, who says the clothes will be “tighter, shorter, sexier”) and turntable sets — as well as big gestures only possible on TV. Rudzinski says handheld cameras will push into the action for close-ups that have more in common with an NFL game than *Great Performances*. “This will be the biggest radio, mic and [communications] footprint any company has ever done,” he says. (The show’s budget is reportedly about \$16 million.)

Not that there are visible jitters among the actors on set — seven of them separately say the rehearsals feel “like summer camp.”

“With the girls, it’s really easy,” says Jepsen, 30. “You’re braiding each other’s hair, grabbing each other’s asses. We’re just girlfriends in that way, like the Pink Ladies.”

The Pink Ladies are, of course, the girls who “rule the school,” alternately fighting off and crushing on the skirt-chasing, leather-jacketed T-Birds. Right now, they’re tangled in a pile of entwined limbs

on the gymnasium floor, trading gossip and jokes and snapping duck-face selfies, when Kail calls everyone back to their marks: “‘Summer Nights!’ Let’s go!”

First to hit the floor: Vanessa Hudgens, 27, who’s essentially a 10th-year senior, having starred in 2006’s *High School Musical*. “The live aspect doesn’t freak me out,” she says, but “it’s a bit nerve-wracking” to step into the role of Rizzo, whom Stockard Channing immortalized in the *Grease* movie as an icon of take-no-shit toughness. Coming close behind Hudgens are two singer-actresses with experience as Cinderella on Broadway: Jepsen — whose 2015 album, *Emotion*, won all sorts of critical praise — as the beauty-school dropout Frenchy; and Keke Palmer, 22, the *Scream Queens* star who plays the lovesick Marty. Kether Donohue, 30, who co-stars on the FX sitcom *You’re the Worst*, plays Jan (and wears the braids twisted by Jepsen).

With all assembled and the music kicking in, the Pink Ladies circle the new girl, Sandy, played by singer, *Dancing With the Stars* champ and *Dirty Grandpa* actress Julianne Hough, 27. Hough, who grew up Mormon in Utah and says she had to sneak viewings of her parents’ *Grease* laser disc because it was so “racy,” may be just perfect to play the innocent Sandy. Hough and her beloved Danny Zuko — Broadway





star Aaron Tveit—sing the song's teasing verses: "She swam by me, she got a cramp..." "He ran by me, got my suit damp..." As Danny and Sandy move in for the final verse, one of the T-Birds strikes a pose on a cardboard box and—*crunch!*—it collapses underneath him. Kail calls out "Cut!" to a hail of giggles, as another T-bird comes in with the punch line: "Crushed it!"



REASE WAS nostalgic from the very start. In 1971, Warren Casey and Jim Jacobs wrote a little musical about life in 1958, at Chicago's rough-and-tough Taft High School, and based

many of the characters on their friends. They set their sweet love story of two kids working up the courage to be themselves in a world of teen issues—pregnancy, social pressure, abortion—to a soundtrack of vintage-inspired originals that were meant to make young audiences dance and older audiences feel young again.

After the rowdy show's Chicago run, its 1972 downtown New York transfer "didn't even open to great reviews," says Barry Bostwick, who originated the role of Danny Zuko, later played by Richard Gere, Patrick Swayze and John Travolta, but "it just sparked something." *Grease* eventually became the longest-running show in history at the time. "American Graffiti hadn't been out, and the Fonz hadn't been invented yet," says Bostwick. "After the turmoil of the '60s, I think audience members wanted to recapture that innocent time when things didn't seem so complicated."

The appeal remained potent a few years later, when the 1978 film—produced by Robert Stigwood, the Bee Gees impresario who died in January, and directed by first-timer Randal Kleiser—became a global phenomenon, leaping over *Superman* to eventually (with a 1998 rerelease) earn \$394 million worldwide—roughly \$1.3 billion today. (Bostwick still prefers the musical to the movie, in which "everyone is so frenetic and hyper [and] seems coked up.") People talk about Travolta's career as if *Saturday Night Fever* (another Stigwood production) was as important as *Grease*, but *Grease* has earned twice as much domestically as that film. (*Grease 2* famously bombed.)

Meanwhile, the movie's original soundtrack eventually spent 12 nonconsecutive weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard 200. Since 1991 alone, when



MARTY



Top, from left: A London production of *Grease* in 1993; '70s-era Playbill cover. Middle: Maxwell Caulfield and Michelle Pfeiffer in 1982's *Grease 2*; Adrian Zmed and Andrea Walters in a New York production, 1972. Bottom: Maureen Teefel, Lorna Luft, Alison Pycia and Pfeiffer (from left) in *Grease 2*.

"We're not hiding the fact that everything is happening live and on the stage," says Palmer. "You're actually going to see some of that raw stuff."

**"I'm glad they've got a cast that's believable and younger and sexy because *Grease* is sexy. I mean, the sweet girl falls in love with the bad boy, then the roles reverse? That's unbelievably sexy."**

—JOE JONAS

hit, I never would have gotten it. I guess it keeps coming back because *Grease* was a celebration of the teenager."

Valli, 81, still performs his *Grease* hit, as does Newton-John, 67, who just extended her Summer Nights revue at the Flamingo Las Vegas casino for another year. "They were made of sharkskin or something," Newton-John says, remembering the form-fitting pants that "Sandy Two" wears in the film's finale and without which her pre-Madonna 1981 hit "Physical" might never have spent 10 weeks atop the Hot 100. "Gosh, I was kind of thought of as the girl next door, country and all that, and *Grease* was considered so naughty! Playing Sandy Two gave me the courage to branch out and do more rock." In Vegas, Newton-John says, fans come up and tell her they watch the movie with their kids and now their grandchildren: "*Grease* is timeless."

Of course, it's not timeless in every respect, and *Grease: Live* dispenses with the all-white cast singing R&B, the gay jokes about the nerdy Eugene and the racist crack about Koreans. Fox means to reach the widest possible audience



Jonas is a lifelong *Grease* fan. "I auditioned to be Danny Zuko months ago," he admits. "I'm glad they've got a cast that's believable and younger and sexy because *Grease* is sexy. I mean, the sweet girl falls in love with the bad boy, then the roles reverse? That's unbelievably sexy."

**K**AIL, WHO spent the morning on conference calls for his gig directing *Hamilton*, huddles the cast for a pep talk after the "Summer Nights" run-through. "We are going to establish that this is a live show," he says. "You'll see the hustle and bustle, the gunk of it—the golf carts, the crew, the cables, the satellite uplinks."

The format may be what ultimately sets this show apart from countless other iterations of *Grease* like the Broadway revival starring Rosie O'Donnell as Rizzo, the London revival with Debbie Gibson as Sandy or the 2006 reality show *Grease: You're the One That I Want*. Kail tells the cast that he has been drawing from a wide

range of inspirations, from concert films and *Playhouse 90* (the live CBS series from the 1950s) to "the site-specific theater of the '60s and '70s" and social media, which will be aggressively integrated into the show.

To underscore that *Grease: Live* is one night only — “Grand opening, grand closing, as Chris Rock says,” jokes Nail — the show will begin in natural daylight at precisely 4 p.m. Pacific time, rain or shine, with Jessie J’s “Grease.” It will conclude three hours later, in the actual dark of night, at exactly 7 p.m.

"We'll end in the town square," Kail tells the cast, noting that they're building a full-size Ferris wheel and 50-foot carnival tent. "Any questions?"

Hough: "Um, where are the restrooms going to be?"

Kail says the potential for hate-watching is part of the kick. "The number of people who watched *Peter Pan Live* [equals] 22 years of a sold-out Broadway house," says Kail. "Something is going to happen. When it does, I tell the actors, you just have to get back up because that's the beauty of these live events. We love Rocky because he gets back up."

Kail has inserted a self-referential little joke into the script, which the cast rehearses in an institutional green hallway on set: The Rydell principal shares the thrilling news that the National Dance-Off will be performed here in the gym and broadcast live.

"What if something goes wrong?" shrieks a peppy student.

"It doesn't matter," says the principal. "The American audience is pretty forgiving." ●

## Snapshots Of A 45-Year Legacy

From Broadway to music to movies, every generation of the franchise seems to set a new record.

3,388

Total performances of the original Broadway show, then a record run

\$394M

Worldwide earnings of the Grease movie, which cost \$6 million to make

8X

RIAA-certified  
platinum sales  
of the original Grosse  
soundtrack, as of  
1984

238K

YouTube clips found  
after searching for  
"Grease" and "high  
school" productions

600

Extras Nail intends to use in the closing scene of *Grease: Live*



"It's fun to have the perky boobs and crazy hair and that quirky side," says Lepore of playing Frenchy.

February 8, 2016

## QUICK TALK

### Kether Donohue

*After wrapping Season 2 of FXX's acclaimed raunch-com You're the Worst, the actor dons her Pink Lady jacket as Jan in Fox's Grease: Live, which airs Jan. 31.*

#### How does this production put its spin on a musical as iconic as Grease?

The writers were very much a part of our rehearsal process and have done a great job. They'd add jokes that were specific to Keke Palmer's voice as Marty or my voice as Jan. There are also some jokes that are relevant to today's generation—it's very hip.

#### Are you nervous about live TV?

I'm excited! What we're doing is revolutionary—yes, they've had live [musical] shows on TV, but no one's ever done it for a live [in studio] audience. The director, Thomas Kail, I mean, he directed *Hamilton*! He's a genius, and what he's doing is really epic. We're shooting on multiple soundstages. Normally theater is kind of static. This is very much a 360-degree world that's alive. It's a concert, a play and a movie all in one.

#### Do you have any good-luck rituals?

What's been so exciting for the cast is how much we embrace spontaneity. Before all the Pink Ladies are in a scene, we make sure to be on the same page in terms of the energy we have as a group. Our ritual has become bonding: something as little as cracking up with the girls can really go a long way.

**You're the Worst** took a dark turn last season as one character struggled with depression. What was it like watching the show reinvent itself? The older I get, the more I'm realizing how much I want to be a part of something meaningful. Fans of the show started to open up to us about their own depression and how watching the show literally helped them get through their week. I'm just honored to be a part of that. —NOLAN FEENEY

## ON MY RADAR

### SHARK TANK

'My castmates make fun of me all the time because I'm not joking when I say it's my favorite show. I'm obsessed.'

### ELLE KING, 'EX'S & OH'S'

'Her music really gets me going. It's one of those songs that comes on the radio a lot, and I never get sick of it.'





# Entertainment WEEKLY

August 26, 2016





# When it Comes to

SUNDAY DRINKING

THE CAST OF *YOU'RE THE WORST* IS, WELL, THE BEST. AFTER ALL, WHEN THE BLEAK COMEDY'S WINSOME, LOSE-SOME FOURSOME—GRETCHEN (AYA CASH), JIMMY (CHRIS GEERE), LINDSAY (KETHER DONOHUE), AND EDGAR (DESMIN BORGES)—LET US TAG ALONG FOR A BOOZY BRUNCH, THE OFFSCREEN ACTION WAS AS BRILLIANTLY BAWDY AS ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN ON AIR.

This is the first time you've all hung out in a while, right? How are you?

**AYA** Actually, I woke up with an infected belly button—I think—from a piercing I had years ago.

Anybody else have piercings they want to confess?

**KETHER** Look how tiny my earlobes are. I tried to pierce them, like, five times.

What about tattoos?

**AYA** I'd be covered from head to toe if I wasn't an actor. I have a tramp stamp. It's like a giant hawk whose talons sort of grip each cheek. It takes two hours to cover up when we have sex scenes.

Speaking of questionable choices, what were your characters like in their teens?

**KETHER** Probably much like myself. I had my first fake ID when I was 11. My name was Farrah LaStraud.

**AYA** We've seen in Gretchen's past that she was a total

Goody Two-shoes but was just doing the kind of drugs that get you through—like Adderall instead of heroin. And she was at tennis camp but also giving b— jobs behind the shed kind of thing.

**DESMIN** I don't see Edgar being too wild considering it was, like, 13 years since he had a girlfriend.

**KETHER** He deserves a b— job.

**CHRIS** He does.

**AYA** I went to tennis camp. I didn't give a single b— job.

On screen, you have some extraordinarily random arguments. What's the dumbest thing you've ever fought about in real life?

**AYA** My husband and I recently got in a fight about how he was walking down the street.

**KETHER** With my ex, I could tell how our relationship was going based on how he would act when I farted. If it was good, he'd think they were cute. If it was on the rocks, he would be like: You're disgusting.

**CHRIS** My wife—accidentally.

I think, on purpose—gave away a huge *Homeland* story line. We slept in separate beds that night.

**DESMIN** I continue to argue about this: Is a burger a sandwich or a subcategory of the sandwich category?

**KETHER** Well, if something's in the middle of two other things, that makes a sandwich.

**CHRIS** A threesome is a sandwich.

Do you remember the movie *Threesome*?

**AYA** Yes! The first movie I masturbated to. Hi! When Lara Flynn Boyle has an orgasm because Josh Charles is saying big words. I was like, YES.

**KETHER** I masturbated to *House-sitter*. What's her name? Dana?

Dana Delany?

**KETHER** She plays Steve Martin's ex. Her boobs looked really good.

**CHRIS** My mum and dad had *Basic Instinct* on VHS, and I knew the exact point when Sharon Stone uncrossed her legs.

**AYA** What about *USA Up All Night*?

**KETHER** Or that movie where Robert Downey Jr. is dead and he's, like, an angel?

**DESMIN** Anything Robert Downey Jr., Kether has masturbated to. *Iron Man 3* was just a f—fest over there.

**AYA** I met Josh Charles once and I remember thinking: Maybe he'll love me because, you know, *Threesome*. He was not interested.

**DESMIN** Although he is a very fine actor.

Do conversations like these ever make it into episodes?

**AYA** My moles were removed from the *You're the Worst* poster. So I tweeted, "By the way, that's not my face." There's a line in this season where Jimmy calls me his—

**CHRIS** Mole-lipped Lillian Hellman.

**AYA** I was like, motherf—er.

**CHRIS** When we did the pilot, [creator Stephen Falk] asked if I was comfortable with sex scenes. And I was like, "I'm fine with my front, but I've got back fat." Cut to



(Clockwise from top) Donohue, Borges, Geere, and Cash

Next season, back fat pops in.

**AYA** [Whispers] He doesn't have any back fat.

**CHRIS** But people pick up on this.

**KETHER** Trolls.

**You're not supposed to read comments!**

**CHRIS** I mean, if you're super-duper bored in this profession and you've had a few drinks...

**KETHER** Someone once said, "Kether has gained 10 to 15 pounds since *Pitch Perfect*. I hope she's okay."

**DESMIN** Insecure and failing at life, hence they write things on message boards.

**CHRIS** On Facebook, someone wrote, "I am not going to watch season 3 because they never really cleared up the depression arc."

**DESMIN** We live in a world where there's no delayed gratification anymore.

**CHRIS** If people don't get answers immediately, they give up. That's not what this show is about. We don't have a beginning, a middle, and an end. This is life, these four

people are changing all the time. And that's what makes it interesting.

**You seem to really like one another. Does that help you get through the criticism?**

**DESMIN** One of the things that helps is that none of us have ridiculous egos and we're—

**AYA** Happy to have a job.

**DESMIN** We all just want to tell the story Stephen wants us to tell because we believe wholeheartedly in him. And FXX just completely backs it up.

**CHRIS** We're together so much that of course we're going to say or do something that rubs another one the wrong way. But the difference is—

**DESMIN** How we rub each other off. [Everyone laughs.]

**DESMIN** Plus, we always have Taco Bell for Aya close by. Or doughnuts for all of us.

**AYA** We're all eaters. That's our bond. Let's be real. The reason actors are a--holes is because they don't eat. If I didn't eat,

I would be a bitch! So if these actresses and actors would put some food in their mouths, they would be better human beings.

**DESMIN** I'll take friendship and sanity over six-pack abs any day.

**Will the fact that Gretchen is seeing a therapist (played by Orange Is the New Black's Samira Wiley) change the dysfunctional group dynamic?**

**AYA** It's not like suddenly everybody gets fixed. Gretchen is dealing with stuff in that she's bought a gym membership—then she sits and watches people work out. But it's darker for other characters. I go up this season, and everyone else goes down.

**How could your characters get even darker?**

**DESMIN** You wouldn't think they could.

**KETHER** It makes artificially insinuating yourself with a turkey baster look like—

**DESMIN** Nothing.

**KETHER** —a carnival.

**DESMIN** Edgar starts to fight back a little, we don't get our normal gleeful, highly optimistic Edgar we've had in the past.

**CHRIS** Jimmy realizes he can't live within his own little bubble anymore. But he does do it with Gretchen. They're a team again. Which is wonderful.

**When I watched the "I love you" scene in the finale, I realized it was the first time you'd said that. Were you surprised when you got that script?**

**AYA** No, I felt the same way you did. For Jimmy and Gretchen it's a big moment, but for the audience it's like: Duh.

**CHRIS** I think Jimmy's loved Gretchen from the very beginning.

**AYA** And I think Gretchen, well, you know, very slowly got on board.

**While the show is a "comedy," you deftly tackle serious issues. Will you mention the election?**

**CHRIS** Not so far.

**AYA** It's a hard place to talk about it, because you don't want to alienate people. But, you know, spoiler alert: We're all liberals and that's going to end up in parts of the show.

**So then, what issues are on tap for season 3?**

**CHRIS** More with PTSD. And there's a big event in Jimmy's life that will be revealed.

**DESMIN** [Whispers] It's about his penis.

**AYA** Here's an amazing spoiler: There's a penis cage. That's all I'm going to say.

**Should I know what a penis cage is?**

**CHRIS** Google it. If you get even slightly aroused, it's the most painful thing in the world. Not from firsthand experience.

**AYA** The actor who wears the penis cage did not know. I showed him a picture before he read the script.

**Most important: Do we get another Sunday Funday?**

**AYA** You do. The episode is called "The Last Sunday Funday."

**CHRIS** They're played out now, and these four people would not associate themselves with anything that's played out.

**AYA** When you're on a Forever 21 T-shirt, it's time to move on to something new. ♦

**You're the Worst returns Aug. 31 at 10 p.m. on FXX**



June 14, 2016

## Kether Donohue on Standing Out in *You're the Worst*, Learning to Dance on *Grease: Live!*, and Doing Anime Voiceover Work

By Jackson McHenry [Follow @mchenryjd](#)



**Last we saw Lindsay, she had her duet with her husband Paul at the end of the season. Are end-of-season songs going to be a thing? Also, where does that leave Lindsay?**

I hope that the end of the season always ends with a song. But the cast, we're just like the audience, we're on the edge of our seats throughout this because Stephen [Falk, *You're the Worst's* creator] keeps us in suspense. We do block shooting, and we just got the scripts for block one, and we have no idea what happens in the remaining blocks. So I will not know the answer to that question

until probably the end of the summer.

In response to the second question, Lindsay is in quite the conundrum. I just got the scripts from block one, as I said, and they're so good. I didn't know how Stephen and the writers were going to top what they did last season. Stephen came up to me recently and was like, "I'm just warning you, Lindsay does more effed up stuff this season." I'm like, "How could a human being get more fucked up?" But she does! I mean, she's just in a pure state of confusion of about life.

**It seems like she spent last season trying to figure who she was apart from Paul and as a grown-up adult. But it's very hard to be a grown-up adult.**

It is! I'm still trying to figure out what the hell I'm doing. When I started shooting season two, I moved into my own apartment and it was the first time I lived alone, and I didn't have furniture for eight months. I literally just had a mattress. We were shooting, and I wanted to focus on that. When I got home after I was done shooting the season, I'm like, *Wait, I feel like I'm not really an adult either. I don't have furniture.*

**You didn't make a trip to IKEA or anything?**

I did a trip to IKEA and I didn't like anything! I'd rather just have a mattress in my apartment than have furniture I don't like.

***You're the Worst* also lets Lindsay resist the pressure to pair her character off with Edgar. She still decides what she wants and has her own adventures.**

What I love about the female characters in general, and I know Aya has talked a lot about this in interviews — how Gretchen is a mess, but she's still really great at her job. The writers do a great a job showing the paradoxes that are true to complex human beings. Just because you're a disaster or mess in some areas of your life doesn't meant that other areas of your life aren't great. You're right in saying that Lindsay, she is this mess. But she also has some awareness that she does get her way a lot.

**Well, she is naturally funny. I love the episode, "There Is Not Currently a Problem," where Lindsay comes into the room and just starts dancing with Gretchen, and then later, Edgar's girlfriend starts taking notes on everything Lindsay says.**

Yes, that episode was so fun to shoot, and I love dancing. After that season, I was like, "I want to dance more!" and then I booked *Grease*.

**You can put those skills to use.**

I show up and I was like, "I learned a thing or two from that bottle episode." [Laughs.] Let me show you how to have an uncoordinated dance.

**In that episode, there's also this moment between Gretchen and Lindsay where you see a lot of their personal history, going back to time in college. Did you talk with Aya and Stephen about how long they've known each other and what that dynamic would be like?**

Now that I think about it, before that episode even happened, even back in season one — and I think this is what makes the writing so good — we were able to have those talks so early on about how long they've known each other and what they've been through together, so by the time we got to the episode, it was like, *oh, this makes sense*. It explains, a.) why Gretchen acts the way she does, b.) why Gretchen and Lindsay can get into these disaster fights. They've been into huge blowout fights, these two, but they always come back together. When the clinical depression episode came out, it actually informed so much of what we previously had talked about. It was a nice deepening of the layers of what we already knew.

**It was interesting to watch this season, because it got so much more serious.**

It was shocking to everyone when we read the script, and it was shocking to viewers when they see it. But then, in some surreal way it makes so much sense. It's kind of like watching a really good movie a few times, and then you go back and it's like, *Oh my god. In the first the first minutes, that totally informed what happened later.*

**For *Grease: Live!*, you all spent months in rehearsal, and then it rains on the day of the show. What was it like to mix things up on the fly?**

What was so great was Marc Platt [the executive producer] gave us a speech. Well, first of all [director] Tommy Kail is a fucking genius. He would give a speech before, mostly, every rehearsal. Really great speeches rallying the troops together. Vanessa Hudgens's father dies, so we're all together in that and with her. Then Marc Platt makes a speech and he goes, "It might rain tonight. But you know what? I hope it rains, because we're going to show everyone in the world a curveball isn't going to throw us off and we're able to roll with the punches and we're so prepared in the heart and soul. The spirit of this show we've created together is what matters." Basically, the whole message throughout rehearsal is if someone falls — you know, we're live — if anything happens just embrace it and go with it.

**And you have the rehearsal time together, so you know the group well.**

It was such a well-oiled machine. There were so many people involved in the production. It was such a happy set. Nobody had any egos, everyone got along. It was just a wonderful experience.

**Did you do musicals growing up?**

Only in school productions. I'd never done a professional musical outside of middle school. I did play Frenchie in my eighth-grade production. That's the thing, honestly I didn't have singing experience either. It came when I did *Pitch Perfect* in 2012. I didn't know that I could sing, and I honestly feel like I frauded my way through the audition, pretending I could sing.



### **How do you pretend that you can sing?**

My manager called and said, "Hey, you have this audition for a movie called *Pitch Perfect*. You have to sing 16 bars of a pop song and prepare the sides for the audition. And it's for the director Jason Moore." I immediately got scared, I was like, *I can't sing. I don't want to go in there.* I went to a performing arts high school in New York with a lot really trained, talented singers, and seeing how hard they worked, I just didn't feel like I had a right to call myself a singer, you know what I mean? And he was just like, "Just act like you can sing. Come on."

So my strategy in the audition was to sing what I sing at karaoke, which is "Natural Woman." If I go in and I just pretend that I'm at karaoke with all my friends drunk, I'll feel at ease. So I sing "Natural Woman" and all my singer friends are like, "Kether, why would you sing an Aretha Franklin song? If you're not confident in singing, why the fuck would you do that?" I was like, "I don't know, ignorance is bliss." So I sang the song and then Jason was like, "That was good, but this time I want you to really belt it out for me." And I didn't even know what belting was — that's how much of a non-singer I was — so I just played along: "Oh yeah, I *love* belting. I can do a belting version, *of course.*"

Then, I guess I belted, because then I got the part. It was the same throughout the whole production. When I sang my solo in the studio, the engineer was like, "okay, give us a high C note" and I was like, "I *love* high C notes."

### **The key is just to say you love whatever anyone tells you to do.**

Exactly. Then, after *Pitch Perfect* came out, for my boyfriend at the time, I wrote him a song for his birthday, because he liked when I sang in the movie. The song actually turned out pretty good, so I sent that song that song to Stephen. Just for fun, honestly, Stephen and the cast, we email each other shit all the time. I was like, "Look, guys, I wrote a song." That's why Stephen put Lindsay singing in the show.

### **So it was completely fake it 'til you make it.**

I never had any intentions of pursuing singing, so that's what's nice about it, too. Lindsay doesn't have to be a great singer. If I fuck up here and there it doesn't matter. But if I happen to be good, that's cool. Same with Jan, which is why Jan was the perfect character to play, because Jan is not very coordinated in general. So whenever I didn't know the dance numbers in rehearsal, I would just be like, "Well, Tommy, *Jan* doesn't know what she's doing!"

### **It's all for the character.**

Because these dancers are professional, they're not fucking around. They're dancing machines. I couldn't really keep up in rehearsal. I would just go out and, like, smoke cigarettes and eat donuts. It just became a thing that every time I didn't know what I was doing, I'd just blame it on Jan.

### **Well, Lindsay has more of a singing career now with the whole "New Phone Who Dis" song.**

Oh my god. I just love the show. And "New Phone Who Dis" has become very popular. I saw on Instagram that people had made hats.

### **I know that you're done a lot of voice acting work. Do you still do voice work?**

Oh yeah, I love voice-over. I was doing Japanese animation voice-over dubbing all through college to make money.

### **How did you get into that?**

My first job, because I went to a Catholic school, I worked at a rectory answering phones for the priest. But no one really calls the rectory, so I would answer the phone in different voices to occupy myself. I'd be like, [*low, gravelly voice*] "Hello, you've reached the rectory." So that's when I discovered that I could do different things with my voice. And then, again, like the singing, it happened in an unplanned way. I was in an acting class when I was 17 in New York, and my scene partner said, "I like your voice, Kether, you should come on this cartoon audition with me tomorrow. I think you'd be good at doing this." I was like, what actress invites you to an audition with her? What a nice person. She has really good karma. I went

**That sounds like a Pokémon or something.**

It's in that world. So I booked that, and then because it's such a small world in New York, the anime world, I did *Pokémon*, I did *Yu-Gi-Oh*, I did straight-to-DVD Japanese animation. That was my life all through college. And now, I'm very excited, I just booked a role on a Comedy Central animation called *Rudy* that Ed Helms's company is doing. I've had a nice year with voiceover. I've done some stuff for Nickelodeon and there's a Netflix animation coming out that I did.

**It sounds like a cool way to have fun with a character.**

Yeah, I think it's a good way to really just not be ashamed of doing something outrageous, because these cartoon characters, you're playing broad outrageous characters, but you find the truth in it. I think that informs live-action work. It just oils that muscle inside of you that's like, *Hey, let's just try this out.*

**It's interesting that you say "ashamed," because on something like *You're the Worst* or a live musical, you get to throw it all out there in a way that a lot of roles would limit you.**

Yeah, I think it's like freedom — the freedom to try out a lot of stuff. This might not work, and this might be weird and crazy, but let's just try it out.

**You talked about your close relationships on the *You're the Worst* cast. Do you find yourself pitching ideas for the characters?**

It's a running joke on set. Me and Aya are always trying to pitch stuff to Stephen, but it's a joke. We come up with ideas that probably aren't even good. At this point, we leave the writing to them. They know what they're doing.

**What has been the most ridiculous pitch?**

I've been trying to have Lindsay have a lesbian excursion for years. Because I broke up with my ex-boyfriend, I'm like, "I want to make out with girls! Have Lindsay make out with a bunch of girls on the show!" What else have we pitched? I forget. Also, we try to pitch stuff to get our other actor friends work. My friend can play my sister, or my brother, or maybe I have a long-lost aunt that my other friend can play.

**Did you move to L.A. after starting *You're the Worst*?**

It's funny, I am a born and raised New Yorker, and New Yorkers love to hate L.A. The first season of shooting, I did not move. I wasn't going to give up my place in Brooklyn, I was all stubborn about it, and I rented an Airbnb for season one. Then, when we got picked up for season two, I was like, "You know what? Stop being in denial. You live in L.A." Now I live in L.A. I actually really like it. I love driving. All my friends are here. I have the most amazing job in the world. I held onto my 917 area code, and that's something I can't give up.

**Everyone moves to L.A., it seems like.**

Sooner or later, we all come over here. When I was in New York, all my friends would trickle away. It was like that Agatha Christie novel, *And Then There Were None*.

**Have you finally gotten furniture for your apartment?**

I did. I'm actually sitting in a chair right now. Honestly, it sounds like a joke, but it's true. I didn't have furniture for eight months. I'm like, *Yay, I'm actually sitting in a chair!* And my elbows are on a table. I have furniture.

"Oh, Lindsay," Kether Donohue laughs when you ask about her character on FX's *You're the Worst*. Of all the characters on FX's *You're the Worst*, Lindsay Jillian may actually be the worst. Married at the beginning of the show and navigating a separation from her husband in season two, she is selfish, often drunk, and almost totally incapable of acting like an adult. Still, with a committed performance, and crackling timing, Donohue makes you laugh, and often sympathize, whenever Lindsay's onscreen. The same goes for Donohue's turn in Fox's *Grease: Live!*, where she played Jan, the ditziest member of the Pink Ladies — the one who sings the "Brusha Brusha Brusha" song. With that and her role in the *Pitch Perfect* movies, you might expect that Donohue came from a musical background, but she promises she started out with almost no idea how to sing, or dance, really. Vulture caught up with Donohue to talk about how to fake a vocal audition, whether Lindsay will get her life together (probably not), and what you learn from years of dubbing Japanese animation.



October 2015

NOW IN L.A.

ONE TO WATCH

## BEST IN SHOW

Actress Kether Donohue is equal parts hilarious, tragic and adorable in her hit series, *You're the Worst*.

BY MEG MCGUIRE  
PORTRAIT BY THE RIKER BROTHERS

**Kether Donohue** could be considered a child prodigy of sorts. After stints pretending to be a weather lady and taking on competitive gymnastics, Donohue decided to become a professional actress at the ripe old age of 9. "I have always had the performance bone in my body," explains the starlet. "Once I was enrolled in acting school, I finally found where I was supposed to be." After what she describes as "20 years of rejection," the ingénue finally scored a breakout role on FX's hilarious comedy *You're the Worst*, which centers around dating and relationships in the City of Angels. Donohue plays Lindsay, a young woman who is struggling between what is expected of her and who she truly wants to be. "Lindsay is a little messed up," says the L.A.-based actress. "In season two [which just returned in September], she is trying to figure out who she really is by herself, without any external pressures. Lindsay is trying to make her way in the world."

When asked what it's like on set, Donohue immediately lights up. "It's a dream. It doesn't happen very often that you book a pilot that goes to series, and then on top of that you love the writing and the people. It just feels like summer camp."



THE BRIGHT SIDE  
Kether Donohue  
stars alongside  
Chris Geere  
and Aya Cash in  
the FX series  
*You're the Worst*.

RARE FINDS

## Eclectic Slide

If you ever needed proof that **Gucci's** new creative director, Alessandro Michele, has the creative chops required for the job, this is it. Lined with (wait for it) kangaroo fur, Michele's Princetown slippers are among the quirkiest flats the fashion world has ever seen—and an absolute must-have for fall. Sporting Gucci's signature horsebit hardware, these street slippers, available in the same style for both men and women, sync perfectly with the gender ambiguity trend that's taken this season by storm. You may have to endure a waitlist in order to slip your feet into a pair, but once you do, you won't want to take them off—unless, of course, it's raining. 347 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, 310.278.3451, [gucci.com](http://gucci.com) —JZG



FUR SURE Leather sole slipper with natural fur, \$995, at Gucci



**SEEING STARS** **OPRAH WINFREY** broke bread with a young gentleman at Montage Beverly Hills' Italian eatery Scarpetta. ♦ On a warm afternoon, **CAITLYN JENNER** caught a showing of *Mission: Impossible—Rogue Nation* at Westlake Village's Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas. ♦ Hot spot E.P. & L.P. welcomed **GERARD BUTLER**, who noshed on crispy-skin chicken and vegetable curry with his manager. ♦ Fox Sports' **ERIN ANDREWS** hit up Physique 57 in Beverly Hills for a barre class with popular instructor Lauren Decierdo. ♦ **BROOKLYN BECKHAM** and Moschino's **JEREMY SCOTT** hung out in Sunset Plaza's courtyard, while **VICTORIA BECKHAM** and actor **JAKE GYLLENHAAL** took an early-morning ride at SoulCycle WeHo. —The Editors

# VANITY FAIR

January 29, 2016

## What *Grease: Live* Will Do That No Live TV Musical Has Done Before



By Jason Merritt/Getty

Kether Donohue fills us in: live audience, live-tweeting, and GoPros to take you behind the scenes.

BY KATEY RICH

**I**t's one of many iconic moments in *Grease*, but when it came time to bring the story of Rydell High to television for Fox's upcoming *Grease Live!*, it almost didn't make the cut. "It was one of the best days of our lives when **Tommy [Kail, the co-director]** walked into rehearsal and said, 'We have the rights to "Brusha Brusha Brusha!"'" says **Kether Donohue**, who plays Jan in the live musical that airs Sunday.

Technically she's referring to the Ipana toothpaste jingle, which Jan sings during a scene in Frenchie's bedroom in the 1978 movie. But it's just one of the many elements of pop culture that has been co-opted and transformed by *Grease* over the years, a 70s-era nostalgic look back at the 50s that has become, for the generations that came after, the definition of the 50s itself. Thirty-year-old Donohue is part of that generation; she played Frenchie in her eighth-grade production of *Grease*.

Known for roles in the *Pitch Perfect* films and on FX's *You're the Worst*, Donohue hasn't done a full-on musical since her days at

New York's Professional Children's School. And though *Grease: Live* will have all the familiar highlights—"Greased Lightning," Teen Angel, "Brusha Brusha Brusha"—it won't really resemble those high-school musicals, either. Unlike the NBC live musicals that kick-started this mini-genre, *Grease: Live* will have a live audience incorporated into the sets, sitting in the bleachers at Rydell High, on park benches outside, and who knows where else. "It's really interactive, it's never been done before," Donohue says. "We all don't know what to expect, and we're all so excited to see what it looks like."





Kether Donohue, Carly Rae Jepsen, Vanessa Hudgens, and Keke Palmer on the set of *Grease Live!*  
By Kevin Estrada/Courtesy of FOX

The actors, too, will be pushing boundaries; when they make transitions between scenes, and the soundstages on the Warner Bros. lot where the production will take place, they'll wear GoPro cameras to document the frenzy and share it all online, live. "We're all admitting that what we're doing is a production," Donohue says. "The audience is able to witness that and be a part of it and see what the transitions are like in between scenes."

That interactivity extends, of course, to social media, where recent live TV musicals like *The Wiz* and *The Sound of Music* have been as celebrated for their quality as for their live-tweeting potential. Donohue, like any good millennial, is on board. "Not to say that in between scenes I'm going to be on Twitter," she says with a laugh. "We have to embrace that social media is a huge part of everyone's lives in this day and age. How do we take that and integrate it into what we're doing in a creative way?"

But don't go thinking that Donohue, and her castmates—including **Julianne Hough**, **Vanessa Hudgens**, **Aaron Tveit**, and **Boyz II Men** (!)—are taking the whole thing in stride. "We're all nervous. I speak for everybody when I say we are nervous, but it's a good nervous," she admits. "Like, every scene is a blow-away moment. It's epic. What we're doing is epic and I'm really proud of it."



Katey Rich is the editor of *Vanity Fair's Hollywood*.

December 4, 2015

(<http://www.vulture.com/2015/12/ytws-kether-donohue-makes-her-talk-show-debut.html>)

LAST NIGHT ON LATE NIGHT

## *You're the Worst's* Kether Donohue Explains Why Her Apartment Burning Down Was the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Her

By Nate Jones   [Follow @kn8](#)



Before she was stealing scenes on *You're the Worst*, Kether Donohue was just a struggling actress in New York City trying to get ahead. As if being broke wasn't bad enough, one day her apartment caught fire! But don't worry. As Donohue explained to Conan O'Brien, once she discovered one "magic secret," that fire totally turned her life around. The name of that magic secret? Lying through her teeth. It's a pretty great story for Donohue's first talk-show appearance — that is, if this really is her first talk-show appearance.

**LADYGUNN**

A black and white photograph of actress Kether Donohue. She is standing in front of an ornate wrought-iron gate, looking over her shoulder with a slight smile. She is holding a large, light-colored coat or shawl draped over her shoulders, with her hands near the collar. The background shows a stone wall and a window with a grid pattern.

**KETHER  
DONOHUE**

Coat, Stella and Jamie.



writer / Anna Furman  
photographer / David Lekach  
styling / Devon Nusser  
makeup / Lysette Castellanos  
hair / Ashleigh Childers

You may recognize her as the bossy songleader Alice in *Pitch Perfect*, or from the hilarious dance videos she Instagrams. But Kether Donohue is blossoming in a new direction—as the sassy, outrageous character Lindsay in FX's critically-acclaimed *You're the Worst*.

I chatted with Kether in the midst of wrapping Season 2, and we spoke about growing up in New York, Meryl Streep, and the joy of free fro-yo.

Can you tell me a bit about your upbringing?

I was born in New York and am very New York. For the first three years I lived in LA, I didn't change my 917 area code or driver's license. I literally waited until a cop pulled me over to change my license. I grew up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in a lower middle class family. My mom's a school teacher and my dad used to be in the car business, but now he's retired. He's a Vietnam vet from Cuba.

When did you start acting?

I enrolled in an acting class at Weist-Barron Kids Love Acting Program when I was nine. An agent visited the class and took a meeting with me and my mom and signed me! My first audition was for the movie *Madeline* and I didn't get it. At one point my parents couldn't afford to keep me in the class and the teacher—her name was Sharon Richardson—let me stay in for free. I called her when I booked my first pilot but she didn't work at the school any more.

What led you to acting?

I just always gravitated toward it. I loved performing as a kid. When I was really, really little I wanted to be a weather lady or a camerawoman. I would sit in my room alone and turn on the TV and talk to myself, like, "Today it's partly cloudy with a chance of rain." I loved telling the weather. I don't know why. I was a very strange child. I acted for different reasons at different periods of my life. When I was very little I liked being a little show off. And then in high school I loved being the class clown. It was fun to be the comedic relief. In my early twenties I started appreciating the magical aspects of acting and realized it could be a healing tool. It became a spiritual cleansing process.

Who would be your dream actor or actress to work with?

I know this is such a typical answer, but who wouldn't want to work with Meryl Streep? I really don't understand how she exists and is real. I really just want to see her in action. She once said that "process is clunky" and "sometimes when you're rehearsing it looks like bad acting." That's become my mantra: that the creative process is clunky. I also really want to work with Charlie Kaufman. I just find his movies quirky and offbeat and very much in the wheelhouse of things I like. Also, I'd love to do a sex scene with Michael Fassbender. That would be phenomenal.

How did you come to play Lindsay on FX's *You're the Worst*?

I booked an Audi car commercial with Claire Danes that premiered at the Emmy's in 2013 and the director of the commercial, Jordan Roberts, referred me to the *You're the Worst* casting office. When I auditioned in LA there were literally hundreds of girls. I was just a girl on a limb that [Roberts] had asked to read. When I went in it just clicked—it fit, it worked. It was one of those great auditions that you walk out feeling good. Three hours later they called and said they wanted to test me for the role. When I got to the test it was a chemistry read with Aya [Cash]. We did a lot of takes and it was a lot of fun. It just felt like we were on set. I've tested for pilots where network executives in business suits sit in the room and they don't laugh and it's awful and scary. This was a very low-key, casual, fun, environment.

You just wrapped filming Season 2. What was your favorite scene to film?

What you're going to watch in Season 2 is pretty crazy. Lindsay dances a lot and I like to dance in real life. Also, eating a lot of fro-yo. I get so excited when we shoot in the fro-yo joint because I get to eat fro-yo all day. The other day, in between takes, the props guy Cody took the fro-yo away from me and I was like, "Cody, what's happening?" He's like, "Kether, I'm concerned for you, you're gonna get sick," and I was like, "Well, it's not your place, Cody."

So you don't have a stunt double on deck to eat your fro-yo?

Oh my God, never! I would make sure to have it in a contract that I get to eat my own food.

What do you do when you have a day off?

I run to the Korean spa as fast as I can! I love the Korean spa more than anything. I just love going with a really close girl friend, sitting in the steam room, catching up, getting a massage, going to brunch, sharing a bottle of wine, and having a nice dinner. I also love driving. Sometimes I just get in my convertible and go.

What's next for you?

I have a film coming out called *One Shot* that Topher Grace produced and stars in. It's a musical comedy starring Taye Diggs, a really great actress named Alona Tal, and Lauren Lapkus. And now I'm just auditioning like a mad woman to get another job!

January 7, 2016

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WHAT'S *right* NOW!

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## Who Is Kether Donohue? 6 Things to Know About the *Grease: Live* Star



*Kevin Mazur/WireImage*

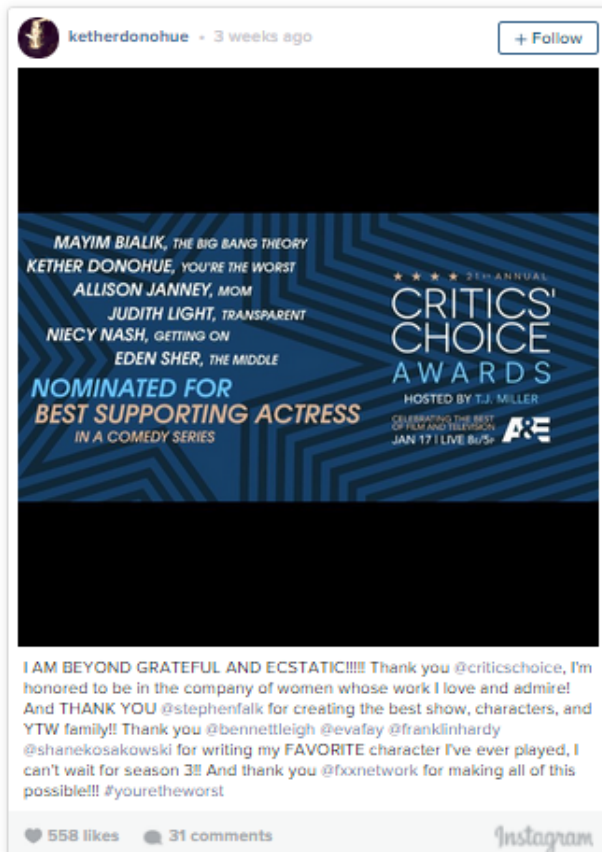
**G**rease: Live's leading ladies—or, rather, Pink Ladies—turned heads the minute they hit the red carpet at Wednesday night's [People's Choice Awards](#) in Los Angeles. Dressed in coordinated black and silver looks, four of the stars from the upcoming Fox musical, which airs on Jan. 31, were easily recognizable: [Vanessa Hudgens](#), [Keke Palmer](#), [Julianne Hough](#), and [Carly Rae Jepsen](#). But one face in the fivesome wasn't quite as familiar as the rest: Kether Donohue, who plays Pink Lady Jan in the one-night TV special. Scroll down to learn six things about the 30-year-old New Yorker before she takes the stage in *Grease: Live*.

#### 1. She stars in *You're the Worst*.

Donohue plays Lindsay Jillian, the BFF of Los Angeles-based music PR executive Gretchen Cutler (played by Aya Cash), on the FX/FXX sitcom that centers on Gretchen's relationship with polar-opposite writer Jimmy Shive-Overly (Chris Geere). Lindsay's hobbies include drinking, doing drugs, and cheating on her rich-but-boring husband. (Thursdays, 10:30 p.m. ET)

#### 2. She was recently nominated for a Critics' Choice Television Award.

In December 2015, Donohue scored a nod for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series nod for her role in *You're the Worst*. She shared her excitement about the nomination with an Instagram post, writing that she was "honored to be in the company of women whose work I love and admire!" (The 21st annual Critics' Choice Awards take place on Jan. 17.)





### 3. She was in *Pitch Perfect*.

In the original 2012 hit film, Donohue starred as Alice, the catty leader of the Barden Bellas a cappella group who was appalled when Aubrey (played by Anna Camp) vomited during the World Championship at the start of the film. Donohue also made a cameo in the 2015 sequel, *Pitch Perfect 2*.

### 4. She shares hilarious dance videos on her [Instagram account](#).

Donohue's 'grams will fill your feed with plenty dance-packed videos that will keep you laughing. Whether she's hanging out with her *Grease: Live* co-stars (below), [killing it in rehearsals](#), or having a [solo jam-out sesh](#), Donohue's videos prove that she's game to take her dance skills way beyond the hand jive.



### 5. She's also a voice actress.

Donohue doesn't always appear onscreen when she works. She has voiced characters in many animated programs, including the Nicktoons network series *Kappa Mikey* and TX Network's *Yu-Gi-Oh! 5D's*.

### 6. She still gets star-struck.

Even though she spends her days with famous co-stars like Julianne Hough and Vanessa Hudgens, Donohue still gets star-struck from time to time. Take the day that she "totally fangirl'd out" when she met Mario Lopez, aka *Saved by the Bell*'s AC Slater, for instance.



# Los Angeles Times

January 24, 2016

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LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

## TELEVISION



KIRK MCKEY Los Angeles Times

**"GREASE: LIVE"** team members, back row from left, executive producer Mare Platt, director Thomas Kail and actor Andrew Call; second row, from left, actors David Del Rio, Vanessa Hudgens, Julianne Hough, Carly Rae Jepsen, Kayla Parker, Jordan Fisher and Aaron Tveit; and front row, Koko Palmer and Carlos Pena Vega.



# Greased and ready to roll

["Grease," from E!] events spectacular enough to battle the power of the DVR. Fox, perhaps of all the legacy networks, is a natural fit for a musical production because it's the home base for musical powerhouses of the present and recent past: "Empire," "Glee" and singing competition "American Idol."

"Any time that you can send a message to a broad audience that there is something special happening, like live sporting events, where people are flying without a net and bringing a level of showmanship that you can't have with a drama that's been highly edited, is a good thing," said Fox Television Group Co-Chairman Dana Walden, who noted her two daughters have done versions of "Grease" at school.

The revamped-for-live-TV event, a Paramount Television production, features well-known names among the millennial set.

In addition to Hough and Tveit as leads Sandy and Danny, others donning leather jackets and poodle skirts include Vanessa Hudgens (Disney's "High School Musical," Broadway's "Gigi") as tough girl Rizzo, singer Carly Rae Jepsen as Frenchy, Keke Palmer as Marty, Kether Donohue as Jan, Carlos PenaVega as Kenickie, David Del Rio as Puffie, and more.

The elaborate NBC renderings rotated scenes on one New York soundstage; the Fox affair is even more ambitious. The production will unfold over two soundstages housing a number of sets on the Warner Bros. lot in Burbank. Production will also take place on Mid-west Street — i.e., a backlot that they'll use for exterior scenes of Rydell High and the carnival grounds (during rehearsals, however, the lot was still the town of Rosewood seen in "Pretty Little Liars").

"Ask me after it's all over if I think the multiple soundstages was a good idea," joked stage director Thomas Kalil, known most recently for his celebrated stage work with Lin-Manuel Miranda in the smash "Hamilton."

"I wanted it to feel vibrant and vital the way the film did," he said. "I wanted locations that felt like real places that could ground us so when we lift off and go to the fantasy of 'Greased Lightning' or the Teen Angel arrives, you have something to depart from."

The musical delves into the lives of working-class teenagers during the early 1950s rock 'n' roll era. Originally a 1971 theater production in Chicago, the musical became a cultural touchstone when it was adapted for the big screen in 1978 with Travolta and Newton John as its leads.

"When we first got together to do the photo shoot, I remember thinking, 'Are we actually doing



KATIE FALKENBERG FOR ALPHATV.COM

**PAST MEETS PRESENT** as Didi Conn, right, who portrayed Frenchy in the 1978 film, huddles with, from left, Kether Donohue, Vanessa Hudgens and the TV Frenchy, Carly Rae Jepsen.



KATIE FALKENBERG FOR ALPHATV.COM

**REHEARSING** on a Warner Bros. backlot, the production's Sandy and Danny, Hough and Tveit, strike a pose. During the broadcast, action will range across two soundstages and the backlot.

this?" Hudgens said. "It's sort of surreal to be a part of introducing this iconic musical to a new generation."

Playwrights-screenwriters Robert Cary and Jonathan Tolins were charged with writing the three-hour production, using the familiar Paramount Pictures film as a starting point. But they also worked in elements from the stage show — particularly since the film's run time is 1 hour, 50 minutes.

"We had to figure out how to expand the show without it feeling drawn out and padded," Tolins said. "And, of course, the other job

was coming up with where to put it commercial breaks."

Two songs from the original stage show — "Freddie My Love" and "Those Magic Changes" — made their way into the Fox production. Cary and Tolins also found ways to play up Hough's background by having Sandy dance more than she usually does — including in a scene in which she's auditioning to be a cheerleader.

The show also will feature an original song, "All I Need Is an Angel," written specifically for Jepsen's Frenchy by "If/Then" duo

Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey. And given the show's 7 p.m. start time, adjustments were made to some of the more suggestive lyrics in the soundtrack (in those cases, the school-sanctioned production versions of the lyrics were used).

"I think we're very much doing our own stunts on it," said the show's live director, Alex Rudzinski, who has directed more than 500 hours of live broadcasts on "Dancing With the Stars." "It would be fielded to try to do a copycat live broadcast. This is a live TV production. If you get too close then all people will do all night is just compare take for

take and you open yourself up for problems."

The NBC productions were big ratings draws, but they also proved fodder for plenty of snark of social media. And if "grease" is the word, "Grease: Live" will surely be a conversation on Twitter. Good or bad, the cast say they're ready for it.

"Sing along and enjoy it and maybe introduce it to someone new," Hough said. "It's inevitable that people are going to say stupid... But I've had the best experience of my life doing this, and I don't give a crap."

Helping to make the production as seamless as possible is a crew of about 400 people and about 20 cameras. There will also be a second-screen element, in which viewers can get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes action during commercial breaks.

"Of course there's going to be snafus or people tripping up," Rudzinski said. "But you try and step back from that and you try to be reactive to the problems we're going to have."

Since the live broadcast will be filmed partly outdoors, a 40-foot-tall, tent-like shield was recently erected to cover the exterior of Rydell High as a safeguard against an unpredictable El Niño strike.

The show will also have a more interactive element than its NBC counterparts. It will feature a live audience that will play a role in the production at various moments (e.g. seat fillers in bleachers during gym scenes, etc.).

In a passing of the "Grease" baton, Barry Pearl and Didi Conn (who played Doody and Frenchy, respectively, in the film) will make cameos in Fox's live production.

As the new generation of Pink Ladies and T-Birds rehearsed the scene in which Danny and Sandy's date at the Frosty Palace gets crashed by friends, Conn was off to the side observing with an ear-to-ear grin.

She'll be playing Viola, the waitress at the diner. But as rehearsal wound down and Jepsen was the only one left at a table, she turned to Conn with her eyes beaming. "It's so nice to meet you!" Jepsen said to her Frenchy forbear.

Conn, who still revels in her "Grease" days by hosting sing-alongs of the film at the Hollywood Bowl, said being on set was almost like traveling back in time.

"The little Didi wants to come out and play Frenchy. But I'm a big Didi now," Conn said. "It's just so exciting. They really captured the DNA of the show — the friendship, the love. It touches the kid in every body. I hope people just get up and dance along."

Cue the music.

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## AYA CASH AND KETHER DONOHUE OF 'YOU'RE THE WORST' ON MARRIAGE, FRIENDS WITH BABIES AND THE BEAUTY OF BROKENNESS

by **Stacy Elaine Dacheux**

08/31/16 at 07:06PM



Share



On FXX's anti-rom-com runaway hit *You're The Worst* -- returning to television for its third season tonight-- Aya Cash's character Gretchen Cutler and Kether Donohue's Lindsay Jillian are best buds whose antics range from self-centered to downright terrible. Their friendship with one another, however, never waivers. Even in the show's first season, when Gretchen catches Lindsay drunkenly smooching her love interest, the confrontation that follows sidesteps judgment or betrayal, opting instead for a catharsis of mutual failures and fears.

In real life, Cash and Donohue are just as close.

"We balance each other and I think that's true of Gretchen and Lindsay too," says Cash. "Kether is going to be Kether in every situation, and I can always count on that as her friend. She's incredibly loyal."

Like their characters, Cash and Donohue's bond has helped each other through personal lows off-screen.

"This past year, I was in the darkest depression," says Donohue. "It sounds so dramatic, but it's true. Aya changed my life because she was one of the few people that I rawly opened up to -- and she didn't run away. Her words and actions are in harmony. That's a big deal."

We're standing in Los Angeles' Museum of Broken Relationships, which felt like the perfect place to interview the stars of a show known for its own wry take on amiss relationships. The main gallery looms with hundreds of objects on display, the painful detritus leftover from break-ups and given to the museum by anonymous donors looking to clean away the cobwebs. Each item -- from a wedding dress shoved into a pickle jar to an empty toothpaste tube -- is bequeathed to its own pedestal with a typed contextual story of love gone awry.

Cash and Donohue are also friendly with the the museum's director, Alexis Hyde, and, later, we invade her office for our chat. Perhaps it is the emotional frequency of the museum, but Cash and Donohue gamely dive right in to a candid conversation with Hyde and I about marriage, death, Tinder and friends with babies.

**My take on *You're The Worst*, is that your characters resist relationships because they are pulled by a larger existential dilemma, a resistance to aging and death— like, you move in, get married, have kids, and die. I wonder if you feel this in your own lives?**

**Kether Donohue:** It's strange. You can have success in the external world, but internally, you're shattered. I'm with someone now, but before— all my friends were in relationships or buying houses, doing grown-up things. While I have a wonderful career, and I'm successful in that realm, I wasn't feeling like an adult on the inside. It was constantly being reminded of my own mortality— fear.

**Aya Cash:** I'm super aware of death. You get to a certain point in your life and you think, 'Am I doing this because it's how I want to live my life or because this is what we're told we should do?' It's something I have to constantly reevaluate.

**Donohue:** In the midst of my depression, I told Aya, 'I don't want to be vulnerable anymore.' I was living in a traumatic state. She said to me, 'Just because someone else couldn't handle your vulnerability, that doesn't mean you stop.' Stephen [Falk, creator of *You're the Worst*], was also an inspiring force. When I confided in him about my depression, he said, 'Remember Lindsay's advice to Gretchen in Episode 7 of Season 2: 'Wear the stains on the outside of my clothes.' Both he and Aya reinvigorated my belief in the power of vulnerability. Things matter. As humans, we want to think we are investing in something. What's it all for?

**Cash:** And that's not an answerable question. So, what you do with that question is my question?

**That's a good question.**

**Cash:** I have to choose not to ask that question because I can't live that way. It's debilitating.

**Donohue:** When you have genuine present moments of joy, you're in such a beautiful state that this question doesn't even matter. So, maybe that's the purpose.

**Cash:** I'm going to call this movement Buddhism. [Everyone laughs]. I name it BUDDHISM!

**I'm just a witness.**

**Cash:** My dad is a Buddhist priest so.

**Donohue:** Oh my God.

**Cash:** He used to sit me down and make me meditate with him. We'd look at each other and he'd say — I'm not your father. He wanted me to see him just as a person. And, he'd look at me like not his daughter.

**Donohue:** No way!

**Cash:** So, by the time I was fourteen, I was like— You're not my dad!



**That's amazing.**

**Cash:** As a culture, overall, I think we value interpersonal relationships above most— like, Alexis, you're single.

**Hyde:** I'll let you play with my Tinder when we're done.

**Cash:** Everyone expects you to be actively looking—or else something is wrong with you.

**Hyde:** Most of my hours are at this museum. When I do look, it's vastly unsatisfying. The problem is sometimes you just don't find people. You know, I'm wrapping my head around that. It's fine. But, people's knee jerk reaction— Oh, you'll find someone. Well, no, that's not true. I might not.

**Cash:** Or you might find someone who is amazing for a few years and then not. But, this idea of a forever person . . .

**In relationships, and especially in marriage, you hear the word "compromise" often. What does that word mean to you?**

**Donohue:** It's romantic. It says, you matter to me— therefore, I'm willing to create a new way of looking at the situation. I think it involves sacrifice.

**Cash:** In college, I read *Letters to a Young Poet* and I remember this idea of two whole people coming together and creating something outside of themselves as opposed to two halves trying to make a whole. I don't know if compromise always entails sacrifice. It's not so much about giving something up, but shifting perspective.

**Donohue:** It's a creative act.

**Hyde:** My compromises are with my friends who are in couples having kids. Their priorities have shifted, but mine have not. Our compromise is, ' I'm going to see you at 7 p.m. on Monday because that's when the baby's asleep.'

**Cash:** Why would people do that? Have kids and shorten their fun time? [Laughter.]

**Hyde:** I'm like, 'Okay, I'll accommodate you. Maybe you'll accommodate me? Maybe you would have gone to sleep earlier because you didn't sleep the night before because of said kid, or whatever.' We have to redefine our time together.

**As you get older, do you find it's harder to stay friends with people who have different lifestyles than you or people who still engage in a lifestyle you once had?**

**Cash:** I feel deep sadness each time a friend tells me she's pregnant for selfish reasons. I don't engage in the same way. I assume their things are more important than mine, so I don't invite them out. I don't want them to feel bad if they can't come. It's a weird walking on eggshells. I'm sad that I feel this way— like I won't see them as much anymore.

**Hyde:** I may never understand it because children aren't in my life trajectory now and may never be.

**Donohue:** If you are really a priority and love each other, you will compromise, no matter what. You will stay connected.

**Hyde:** It's broken because it's never going to be what it was. It's a new layer of death, and I guess it's okay to grieve those Saturday nights or last minute phone calls. You can miss those things, but still support each other on this new journey . . . Very little sacrificing or compromising happens on Tinder, though.

**Cash:** I know! How does that work with dating?

**Hyde:** Poorly. Online dating is very firm. Everyone has what they want and I'm guilty of that too. It's like, 'Oh God, he wants me to go kayaking!' If I met him in real life and he wanted to kayak, I could let him do those things . . . while I go to an art museum. But, instead, I'm like, 'Nope! No compromise on that. This is on your menu. There's nothing I can do about it. I'll go eat somewhere else.'

### **What is a broken relationship? Do all relationships get broken at some point?**

**Cash:** Yeah, I guess all relationships are ultimately broken because relationships change. They break and come back together. Sometimes, it's hard to identify whether it's permanently broken or just taking new shape. I've been with my husband for eleven years. Our relationship has broken many times and we've put it back together in many new forms. This is commitment. I also have had broken friendships, and those are just as devastating.

**Donohue:** The worst.

**Cash:** Women who ghost other women: I don't understand. I was ghosted by a girl. I had to chase her down and say, 'Do you or don't you want to be my friend?' I felt like an idiot.

**Donohue:** I was talking with my boyfriend about this. I was sad because I had lost some relationships. He dramatically looked at me, and said, 'At one point in your life, everyone will break your heart: your mother, your sister, your brother.' It wasn't negative. It was like an understanding of life. That's how it goes.

**Hyde:** Just because it's broken doesn't mean it's bad. That's what I've learned here at the museum. Breaks inform you as a person. That's the important thing for people to remember. Everyone gets broken.

January 29, 2016

## 'Grease: Live' Actress Kether Donohue Is Redefining Hollywood's 'Every' Woman



Kether Donohue is a laid back, easy-breezy chick. She's lying on the couch in her "high-tech" dressing room, as she describes the small piece of fingerprint-secured real estate she's occupying on the Warner Bros. lot, taking a break from rehearsals to speak with me about playing the part of Jan in Sunday's one-night production of "Grease: Live!"

"I'm kind of living the life right now," she says.

Kether radiates positive energy while gushing about the project, a three-month endeavor soon to come to fruition. She says,

*It's just so fun... Honestly, it feels like I'm in summer camp. It has a really nostalgic feel to it 'cause I went to a performing arts-type school, and as a kid I was used to being around performers — singers, dancers and actors — and the feeling on set is like that.*

*There's this incredible camaraderie between all the Pink Ladies and the T Birds. Everyone's happy to be here, and everyone loves what they do. We work really hard, but we're having a great time, and so there's a very positive energy on set that's just infectious.*

Although the 30-year-old describes having a visceral reaction to the theater experience, Kether's oeuvre is rooted in television and film.

She got her footing doing voiceovers for Japanese animation series throughout her college years at Fordham University on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, not a far shot from where she grew up on the Lower East Side with her mother, father and younger brother John.

Just after graduating, Kether landed an off-, off-Broadway gig that paid a cringe-worthy \$300 for the entire run, a rude awakening that ushered her into a waitressing gig at New York City's oldest standing watering hole, Landmark Tavern.

She's honest about how that fared, admitting,

*I was actually really excited to be a waitress. I kind of glamorized the idea of being a starving, struggling actor doing theater — there was something about it that felt really cool to me.*

*And then I got fired for trying to unionize the waitresses so that didn't work out.*

She's inherently engaging, the quintessence of The Girl Next Door, and I find myself picturing her in a waitress' apron, Rosie The Riveter-esque ensemble, fist in the air, red lipstick strewn, leading a gaggle of women through the rickety doors.

A little bit of patience would bring roles in Michael Morrissey's "Boy Wonder" (2010) and Barry Levinson's "The Bay" (2012), which received critical acclaim and led to cameos in TV series like "The Carrie Diaries" and "Royal Pains."

It was her small but mighty role as Alice in "Pitch Perfect" and then a cameo "Pitch Perfect 2," however, that came at a pivotal moment in Kether's career, shooing her into the regular role of Lindsay Jillion in FX's "You're The Worst," a dark romantic comedy in which the reality of living with clinical depression comes to life.

And now, Sunday brings another opportunity for Kether to immerse herself in reimagined television, in the aged-but-timeless tale of Rydell High told through a new lens.

She stands among a diverse cast of singers, dancers and actors in the one-night national telecast, including Julianne Hough, Carly Rae Jepsen, Vanessa Hudgens and Keke Palmer as the OG squad, the Pink Ladies.





carlyraejeepsen

1,249 likes

17 comments

Instagram

The production has been a palpable learning experience for Kether; she's first to address that she's not a professionally trained dancer, which posed the biggest challenge for her coming into the project.

She says,

*Sometimes I feel like Lucille Ball in 'I Love Lucy' when she's trying to dance. ...*

*I'm not the most coordinated of the bunch; however, I like to use everything as a gift. I've actually found that that kind of works for the character of Jan and that actually was part of the way I found Jan in my body.*

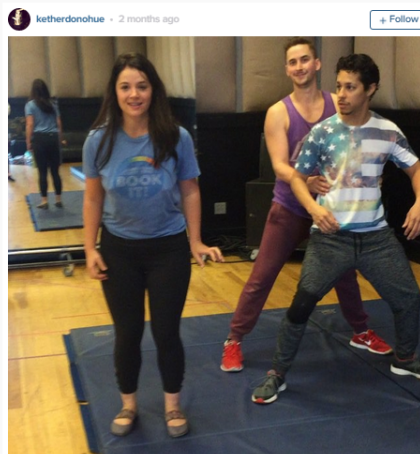
*Jan is clumsy. Jan is not very put-together.*

There's an iconic scene in Randal Kleiser's 1987 film adaption of "Grease," during which the Pink Ladies are gathered around during a sleepover and Jan steals the spotlight with her imitation of the toothpaste commercial on television: "Brush-a, brush-a, brush-a / it's the new Ipana / with a brand new flavor / it's healthy for your teeth."

Jan is the epitome of awkward; she's gangly and quirky, not yet as sexualized as her Pink Lady counterparts Rizzo and Marty, nor as sensationalized as an air-headed Frenchy.

Jan fits in; she's comfortable being as she is, and the strong personalities she's bound to thrive in the absence of another.

When Sunday's big event arrives, however, Kether surely will not melt into the social identity of Jan. There's a new Pink Lady to be expected with Kether embodying the character, one that effects a cultural change in the name of the infallible every woman.



1,408 likes

61 comments

Instagram

Kether consciously emulates the flawed, imperfect, human, every woman in the role of Lindsay in "You're The Worst," capitalizing on the creative freedom it allows to stake her claim as an actress in Hollywood.

She astutely says,

*No matter what shape or size, or what you look like, I think all women can relate to feeling a complex mixture of qualities.*

*Some days you wake up and you feel great, and you look in the mirror and you're like, 'Oh my god, I look great today.' And other days you wake up and you're like, 'Oh no, I gained five pounds, and I have pimples, and I feel disgusting.'*

*Some days you feel sexy and other days you don't. Women are complicated — thank god, for complicated, complex creatures — and it's nice to have a platform to portray that. And I think it's comforting to women ...*

*I think it's critical for there to be a diverse portrayal of different body types of women on TV, shown in a positive light. And I'm really happy to be a part of that.*

It's her personification of Lindsay (aka, Linzer) that landed her a nomination at this year's Critics' Choice Awards for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series sidekick to Best Actress in a Comedy Series nominee Aya Cash as Gretchen Cutler.

in Los Angeles, quietly making waves for women in new age media.

We can impatiently anticipate seeing Kether again in season three of “You’re The Worst,” but when I ask her whether the “Grease” experience has altered her opinion in considering opportunities she may have been uninterested in before, Kether’s optimism shines again,

*I’m excited to see what’s to come. You know, the exciting thing about being an artist is that you have no way of predicting when your next job is going to be, where it’s going to come from, or where it’s going to be. ...*

*I just kind of trust that the next job I do will be what’s meant to be and that’s exciting.*

In the meantime, though, it’s her passion for her craft that keeps her motivated to work hard for her next big gig. I’m actually left feeling somewhat enlightened by her refreshing perspective on what so many refer to as the dreaded, monotonous, everyday grind.

She tells me,

*I think that for me, as an artist, [being continually, authentically inspired is] critical. Whether you’re in an audition, whether you’re in a call back, whether you’re on set, whether you’re in rehearsal, keeping things fresh and spontaneous and new and feeling that inspiration is also what keeps me going.*

*I think that the minute you feel like you’re on auto-pilot or doing something mechanical just for the sake of doing it, is death for an actor. That pours over to anything.*

Television star, theater actress, voiceover artist... guru?

I wonder what makes Kether so seemingly level-headed, a surprising deviation from Lindsay, a 20-something so drastically fazed by superficial appeal, she marries a man for nothing but that.

“Eww,” Lindsay responds in the season two premiere, after learning the definition of love is to put someone else’s needs before your own, rather than her assumption of “Hey, I love you, smooch smooch, now go make me some Bagel Bites.”

Where Kether’s authentic self aligns with her fictional character, however, is in her spontaneous and innately free-spirited nature. She credits the show’s creator, Stephen Falk, for giving her the opportunity to play Lindsay and push the boundaries.

Kether tells me,

*I think so often in comedy, women are put in a box. Oftentimes, you are either categorized as the larger, funny girl, who is not portrayed as attractive, or more the thinner, leading, pretty lady who doesn’t get to be funny.*

*The great thing about Lindsay is that she’s a delicious mix of both.*

The delicious mix she’s referring to is the captivating personality with which viewers so deeply empathize. Lindsay challenges the norm set forth by the media’s predetermined, picturesque, *perfect* woman.

She’s funny, in both an oblivious and conscious way. Her curvy sex appeal is juxtaposed by a woman who’s acutely unaware of when she’s actually being somewhat gross.

Lindsay is fundamentally flighty, but she has gravitas. The complexity of the character is tangible, and her conviction, despite being repressed by her ex-husband, makes me want to give her a standing O — if not for Paul’s inability to give her one on his own.

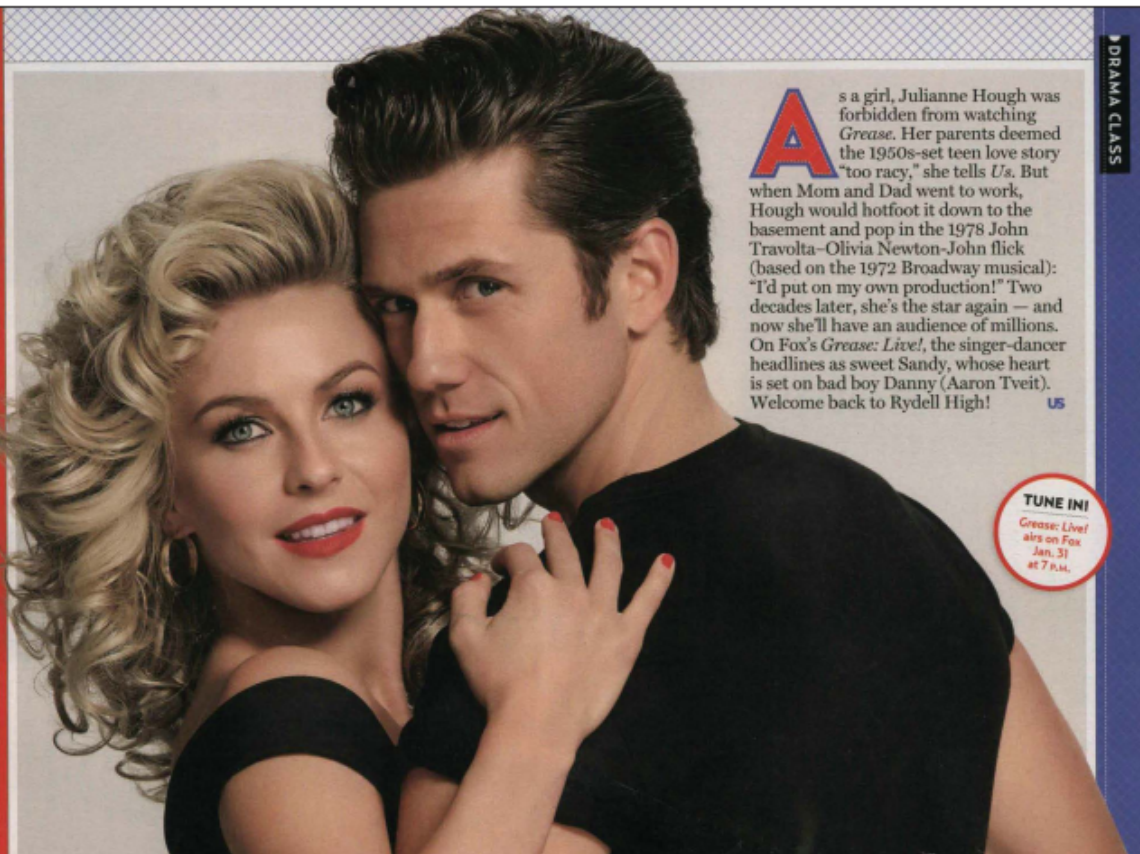
There’s one last bit of information I must squeeze out of the bubbly voice on the other end of the phone, and that’s if her love life is as nonexistent as my own. She reveals to me candidly, “I’m enjoying a single phase in my life because I was in long-term relationships since I was 17 years old.”

After two lengthy, serious relationships and another short-term, involved romance, Kether is just like every other single female, weaving through the slim pickings: She’s ready to indulge in alone time and selfishly embrace being her.

She says, “I think [alone time is] important. When I do meet the man of my dreams, I’ll know more of what to look for and more of what I need.” She knows it sounds cliché, but such is life. Woman to woman, I can agree.

Come what may for Kether Donohue, her ingenuity will continue to captivate.

Don’t miss the one-night production of “Grease: Live!” this Sunday, January 31 at 7 pm ET only on FOX.



**A**s a girl, Julianne Hough was forbidden from watching *Grease*. Her parents deemed the 1950s-set teen love story "too racy," she tells *Us*. But when Mom and Dad went to work, Hough would hotfoot it down to the basement and pop in the 1978 John Travolta-Olivia Newton-John flick (based on the 1972 Broadway musical): "I'd put on my own production!" Two decades later, she's the star again — and now she'll have an audience of millions. On Fox's *Grease: Live!*, the singer-dancer headlines as sweet Sandy, whose heart is set on bad boy Danny (Aaron Tveit). Welcome back to Rydell High! **US**

**TUNE IN!**  
*Grease: Live!*  
airs on Fox  
Jan. 31  
at 7 P.M.

with opening by John Carlini & Greg Kinnear

USMAGAZINE.COM | 49

# Grease

## IS THE WORD

Who isn't a hopelessly devoted fan? Before the übercatchy musical airs live, Rydell High's favorite seniors tell *Us* more **BY ERIC ANDERSSON**

Tveit warns he and Hough also don't "period swimsuits."



Newton-John was 28 and Travolta 23 when the film shot in 1977.





**KEKE PALMER, 22  
MARTY**

**AT RYDELL HIGH** Having pro hooper Hough to help with the dancing has been a boon. "I'm into hip-hop," the *Scream Queens* alum tells *Us*. "I'm like, 'Girl, how do you do this box step?' It's not my thing." (FYI: *Glee*'s Zach Woodlee provides the *Grease* choreography.)

**IN REAL LIFE** No prom for Palmer, who was homeschooled while on Nickelodeon's *True Jackson, VP*. "It was work, really."

**VANESSA HUDGENS, 27  
RIZZO**

**AT RYDELL HIGH** "I am obsessed," she tells *Us* of the "iconic" Pink Ladies satin jacket. "I plan on taking it!" Meanwhile, she's nailing the torchy "There Are Worse Things I Could Do." Says Kether Donohue: "We cry when Vanessa sings."

**IN REAL LIFE** The *High School Musical* star never went you-know-where. After being homeschooled by Mom, she would hit Disneyland! "We lived down the street."

**JULIANNE HOUGH, 27  
SANDY**

**AT RYDELL HIGH** Her "full-out" dance style caused a stir during a "Summer Nights" rehearsal, she tells *Us*: "Too many hip thrusts!" Director Thomas Kail (*Hamilton*) "said, 'Yeah, I don't think Sandy has those moves yet.'"

**IN REAL LIFE** Having moved around as a teen, she says, "I could relate to Sandy, for sure." Hough went to three different high schools in Utah and Nevada.

**KETHER DONOHUE, 30  
JAN**

**AT RYDELL HIGH** "I feel like I'm frauding through a singing career," admits the *You're the Worst* actress. For her audition, she tackled "Summer Nights" — the male and female parts — but "I forgot the lines and I tripped."

**IN REAL LIFE** Getting kicked out of an all-girls Catholic establishment in NYC (she's mum on why) landed her at the Professional Children's School, "where I met my best friends."

**CARLY RAE JEPSEN, 30  
FRENCHY**

**AT RYDELL HIGH** The "Call Me Maybe" pop star sings an original piece, "Next to Normal." (Download the cast album, with Boyz II Men's "Beauty School Dropout," on show night.)

**IN REAL LIFE** Good times at Heritage Park Secondary School in Mission, British Columbia: "I got to be Sandy in *Grease*, Annie in *Annie* and Dorothy in *The Wiz*." Not so good: "A bad perm. I looked like a rooster!"

January 31, 2016

## NEWS/ All of *Grease: Live*'s Best and Sexiest Moments—In GIF Form!

by LAUREN PIESTER Sun, Jan 31, 2016 4:01 PM

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Let us guess: Your face is stuck in a permanent grin too?

Grease: Live has officially graced the world with its presence, and it probably couldn't have been more magical. We honestly had a great time, and it looked like everyone on those multiple stages had even more fun than we did.

The sets were incredible, the choreography was insane, and most of the performances had us jumping out of our chairs, both in awe and to make it easier to sing and dance along.

Starring [Julianne Hough](#), [Aaron Tveit](#), [Vanessa Hudgens](#), [Carly Rae Jepsen](#), [Keke Palmer](#), [Carlos PenaVega](#) and [Kether Donohue](#), Fox's *Grease Live* was all the magic of the movie, plus a little extra.

You're gonna be hand-jiving for the rest of your lives, basically. Don't fight it. Just let it happen, and embrace the magic that is *Grease Live* with GIFs from the entire show!

Feel free to head to the comments with your own thoughts, but if you hated it...we do not agree.



Fox

Same, Jan. Same.





Fox

Honestly, this might just be an entire blog of Kether Donohue GIFs, because this girl is having a GREAT time tonight. Bonus appearance by Patty Simcox, who is quickly becoming our favorite character.



Fox

Dear world: Please cast Kether Donohue in everything. Every. Single. Thing.

# BUSTLE

Who Plays Jan In 'Grease Live!'?  
Kether Donohue Is An Actress  
To Watch

SHANNON CARLIN  
January 28 • ENTERTAINMENT



There's a lot of familiar names when it comes to the actresses who play the Pink Ladies in *Grease Live!* There's *Dancing With the Stars*' Julianne Hough playing Sandy. *High School Musical*'s Vanessa Hudgens returns to high school once again to play Rizzo. *Scream Queens*' Keke Palmer is the new and improved Marty, while Carly Rae Jepsen plays beauty school dropout Frenchy. But you may be left wondering, [who is playing Jan in Grease Live!](#)? Well, that would be Kether Donohue, which probably leads to your next question: [Who is Kether Donohue?](#)

Donohue is an actress and voice-over artist who currently appears on the FX show *You're The Worst* as the best friend, who is funny and unapologetic. Basically, she's the worst, but you'll still like her. If you don't watch that show (and you really should), you may have seen Donohue in *Pitch Perfect*, where she has a cameo as a lead Barden Bella who's not so happy to pass the torch. Or perhaps you saw [The Bay](#), a found footage horror flick about the spread of a parasitic disease. She's starred in a few off-Broadways shows and has made a few TV cameos on shows like the *Carrie Diaries*, *Royal Pains*, and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* where she played "Pregnant Intern."

None of those ring a bell? Well, then maybe you've [heard Donohue's voice in a commercial](#) for Chanel lip gloss, IHOP's stuffed French toast, or Ben & Jerry's ice cream. She's also done some animation work, with her voice popping up on *Pokémon*. It's safe to say, though, that *Grease Live!* is her biggest project to date, being that it's on a major network who's been promoting the heck out of it.



But whether you recognize Donohue or not, she's definitely someone who is changing how we see women on TV. She told Bustle back in September that [You're The Worst plays with female stereotypes](#), revealing how ridiculous they can be through humor. "[*You're The Worst*] pokes fun at the fat best friend with the fat Lindsay, but also Lindsay also gets to be sexy and funny and grotesque," Donohue said. "It's very rare that you see a woman eating the way Lindsay does on the show." She also added, "What's great about this show is that there's really no label on the female character."

great as a lot to do with the actress playing her. It's something she can certainly bring to the character of Jan, who, in the 1978 movie starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta, is portrayed as someone who loves to eat but isn't necessarily celebrated for it. In her hands, Jan can actually be multi-dimensional and more than just the "fat friend." Plus, she'll be a seriously good singer.



Donohue showed off her vocal talents on the first season of *You're The Worst* when her character Lindsay drunkenly did an amazing karaoke version of Kate Bush's "This Woman's Work." Luckily too, since [Grease Live! is taking from both the movie and the musical](#), Jan has a chance to sing more than the "Brusha, Brusha, Brusha" toothpaste song. She could possibly sing a song called "Mooning," and help Sandy out on "It's Raining On Prom Night," if they decide to go that route.

Donohue showed off her vocal talents on the first season of *You're The Worst* when her character Lindsay drunkenly did an amazing karaoke version of Kate Bush's "This Woman's Work." Luckily too, since [Grease Live! is taking from both the movie and the musical](#), Jan has a chance to sing more than the "Brusha, Brusha, Brusha" toothpaste song. She could possibly sing a song called "Mooning," and help Sandy out on "It's Raining On Prom Night," if they decide to go that route.

Seriously, the more Donohue, the better since this probably means we'll see her on more late shows, where she can tell more stories about her life. She made her late night debut on *Conan* recently and managed to tell her apartment fire audition story, which is just one of many things that will basically make you wish she would do more movies or TV specials. It's that good.





February 1, 2016

## 10 Best 'Grease: Live' Moments to Relive

Vanessa Hudgens gave a career-highlight performance as Rizzo, plus Boyz II Men were truly Angels

■ BY BRITTANY SPANOS | February 1, 2016



The multicultural casting in 'Grease: Live' was refreshing to watch Tommy Garcia/Fox

Fox's *Grease: Live* production was as flashy and fun as one would hope the adaptation to be. Fusing the Broadway show with the familiarity of the film, the three-hour television event was a fun, entertaining event packed with strong performances, gorgeous costumes and massive sets. While the show overall was one of the strongest televised musicals from the recent influx of them (and only beat by *The Wiz*), here are 10 of our favorite moments, performances and aspects of the TV spectacle.

### 9. Those Magic Breakout Stars

The biggest scene-stealers of the night were Kether Donohue and Jordan Fisher. Donohue, who already steals scenes on *You're the Worst*, gave an even more playful flare to the already goofy Jan. Even when she didn't have lines, Donohue's reactions and movements in the back of the scene would be particularly amusing to watch and made it seem regretful that Jan doesn't have a bigger role in the show. Fisher became the resident heartthrob of the T-Birds, singing "Those Magic Changes" to not only a rapt audience on set but the viewers who made his version the **most downloaded track** off the soundtrack.

# The 7 Most Unexpected Scene Stealers and Breakout Stars of 'Grease: Live!'



We are hopelessly devoted to the cast of *Grease: Live!*

We knew that Rydell High's biggest names like **Julianne Hough** and **Vanessa Hudgens** would rule the school with their impeccable dance moves and proven pipes, but we were blown away by the spectacular ensemble cast.

From **Carly Rae Jepsen's** impressive acting debut to **Boyz II Men's** heaven-sent performance, here are the seven breakout stars who unexpectedly stole the show!

### 3. Jan (Kether Donohue)



We cannot say enough amazing things about Donohue's performance as the Twinkie-loving queen of one-liners. Despite the fact that Jan is the only Pink Lady without a solo, Donohue's on-screen charm, subtle physical gags, and impeccable comedic timing caused her to steal every scene that she was in.



# Emmy Breakout Kether Donohue on 'You're the Worst' Breasts, Cocaine and Bad Romance: Watch Her #selfieinterview (Video)

TV | By Tim Appelo on June 24, 2015 @ 8:21 am

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## RELATED



Watch #selfieinterview With TheWrap's Emmy Breakout Stars (Video)



"I get to say outrageous things but also explore complexities of the human mind," actress tells TheWrap

A version of this story first appeared in the **TheWrap Magazine's Emmy Comedy-Drama Issue**. #selfieinterview produced in partnership with **Verge**.

Kether Donohue, a fresh face and comic voice known for **"Pitch Perfect"** and **"The Bay,"** got a career boost when her FX show **"You're the Worst"** got a Critics' Choice Award nomination for Best Comedy Series.

**TheWrap:** What's distinctive about **"You're the Worst?"**

**Kether Donohue:** It shows the darker sides of life that other romantic comedies do not. Stephen Falk, our creator and showrunner, is brilliant, and all of our writers push boundaries and aren't afraid of showing the dark side — but you're laughing the whole way through.

**Stephen Falk** is noted for producing **"Weeds"** and **"Orange is the New Black."** Will fans of those shows find something to like?

Absolutely. It's similar in the way it's hilarious but it's also really dark and honest, and you see yourself in these characters in the most genuine way. I think the thing that separates our show from other shows is that it's not afraid to talk about the things we're ashamed of. 'Cause shame is a thing that no one really talks about, but we all have weird stuff that we do when we're by ourselves that we don't even want

## EMMYS



TheWrap's complete coverage of the Primetime Emmy Awards.



## LATEST FROM EMMYS





**So the two lovers, Jimmy (Chris Geere) and Gretchen (Aya Cash) are the stars, and you and Desmin Borges are the best friends.**

Yes, they're two toxic, self-destructive people who don't believe in love but of course they fall in love. But they don't know how to be in love. Who knows how to be in love, quite frankly? Nobody. There's no rule book. They're trying to figure it out.

**The show got a Critics' Choice nomination. Exciting?**

All the reviews have been beyond, I mean—I'm speechless by the love we've gotten from them.

**Also Read: [12 Emmy Breakout Stars From 2015 TV Season's Comedies and Dramas](#)**

**Tell me about the start of your career.**

I've been auditioning since I'm nine years old. Honestly, most of my friends I've met in audition rooms, because you're always auditioning. I've done commercials that **Sam Mendes** directed. **Paul Feig** directed me in a commercial. I was honored to work with **Barry Levinson** in a film called "The Bay." Jordan Vogt-Roberts ["The Kings of Summer"], who is blowing up right now, directed me in an Audi commercial, and he's the reason I got the audition [for "You're the Worst"].



Jeff Vespa

**Tell me how opportunity struck when you were a waitress.**

I kind of wanted to be a waitress in New York City. I thought it was fun and glamorous in its own way. Like in the movie "Beaches" when **Bette Midler** is banging on the radiator and it's cold and she's poor. I kind of thought that would be fun to be like a poor struggling actor.

**Also read: [9 Questions With 'Veep' Star Anna Chlumsky: Emmy Contender Quickie](#)**

So I got a job at the oldest Irish pub in New York City. But they didn't pay minimum wage, we just worked for tips. Which was great, if it was busy, you could walk away with 300 bucks. But once I worked a 12-hour shift and we only had one table so I made \$6. So I tried to unionize the waitresses and then I got fired. The owner called me up and was like [in a thick Irish accent], "Let's just call it a day, Kether, this just isn't working out."

But it was nice because simultaneously I had booked my first-ever play in New York at Ensemble Studio **Theater** [Taylor Mac's "Okay"] and I got to do a really fun one-act play. And from there I just kept working, whether it was commercials or voiceovers.

**Are there spontaneous moments on the show?**

All four of the actors in "You're the Worst," we all have strong **theater** backgrounds. We all play off of each other in that way that you would in **theater**. You kind of are up for anything out of the blue happening and getting it on film, you know? We're all just open to playing. It kind of feels like we're all playing a basketball game together and we're all warmed up and passing the ball and we have a nice rhythm going on.

**What did he see in you? Do you think some of the spunk and irreverence of your character is actually part of you?**

That's kind of the cool thing about acting: It's kind of a mystery, you don't know where anything comes from. You have to draw from your personal experiences but also you use your imagination, and it's kind of nice to not think about it too much and just play.

**Did your friendship with Aya Cash contribute to the performance?**

Absolutely. When we were testing for the show we had chemistry reads. I was testing with two other girls, Aya was testing with someone else. And when Aya and myself got in the room, we had genuine chemistry because we had known each other already. I think it was that whole New York bond.

**What was your favorite scene in Season 1?**

What I love about Lindsay is that on one hand I get to do funny, outrageous stuff, like in Episode 9 of Season 1 I snorted cocaine off my breast. So that's funny. But then there's also like sweet, touching, heartfelt stuff, like in the season finale Lindsay and Gretchen have a real heart-to-heart moment, and kind of a breakthrough moment in their friendship. And that was an honor to play out.

I love how I get to say outrageous funny things but also explore complexities of the human mind and share that with the other characters.

**Also read: [6 Questions With 'Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt' Star Jane Krakowski: Emmy Contender Quickie](#)****You're going for the laugh and also the character arc.**

Yeah. The show experience is the whole canvas of emotions on both ends, of funny and sad and confusing.

**What's funny and sad about Lindsay?**

What's funny about her is she's spontaneous and just does things you don't expect. What's sad is I think what all people go through. You may think your life is going to play out one way, and decisions and behaviors and your everyday life are based on what your parents want for you or to impress people in society for external superficial factors. But then in all of our lives we'll have something where things shatter and fall apart, and relationships fall apart, and you question who you are. And you feel lonely and you feel lost and you feel judged and you feel ashamed.



September 30, 2016

## "You're the Worst" Star Kether Donohue: "It's Cool to See Women Eating on TV"

"We eat things other than salads."



By Sarah Caldwell Sep 30, 2015

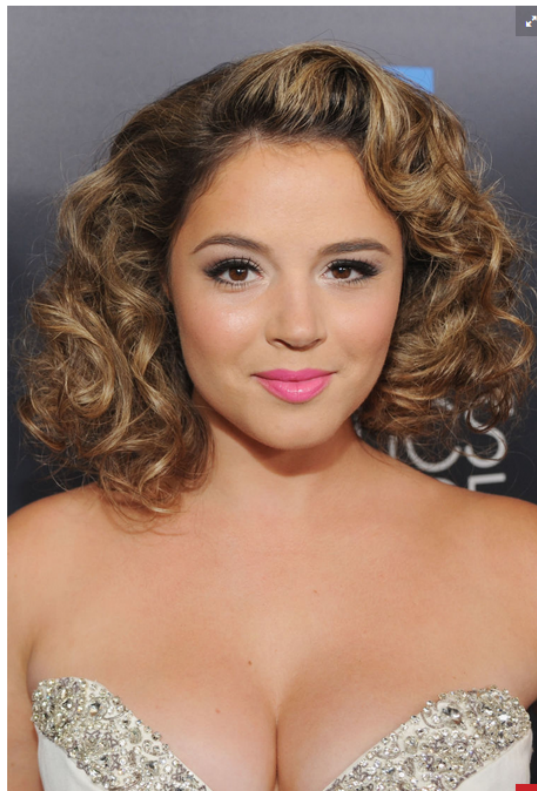


On *You're the Worst*, scene-stealer Kether Donohue plays Lindsay, a lovable, unemployed, recently separated mess who is both hilarious and blunt, but also vulnerable and maybe a little unhinged (see: her putting her ex's used condom in the freezer). Lindsay may not be part of the main couple of the show, but, in her character's own words, she's Beyoncé, not Kelly Rowland. In honor of *You're the Worst's* stellar second season, with new episodes Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m. on FXX, Cosmopolitan.com chatted with Donohue about Tinder, stealing dresses from set, and why she doesn't want to talk negatively about her own figure.

**In the last episode, we learned that Lindsay's dating profile said she was looking for guys with a lot of money and/or giant hogs. Your reaction to that?** [Laughs.] She has really high standards.

**How would you personally critique her Tinder profile?** I would probably say that she should look a little more at internal qualities of men, perhaps. Although the external qualities are, you know, important, I think maybe she should be a little less superficial.

**Have you ever helped a friend set up their Tinder profile?** No. However, a bunch of my friends convinced me to go on Tinder a year ago. And I found the idea of having a profile so awkward that I just put my pictures up with no writing. Because any time I went to write something about myself like, "Hi, this is my age and this is what I'm looking for." I just felt way too corny. Tinder is ridiculous. I got kinda tired of the whole thing after two days.





**What's the main kind of Tinder guy you saw in L.A.?** Well, actually, this was when I was in New York. And I thought I got lucky. The first guy I went on a date with, I'm not gonna say who it was, but he was this saxophone player in a famous band. So I'm like, "Oh, Tinder is really working out well for me. I'm getting really lucky here." And then I met him and it turned out to not be so great. He was kind of weird.

“

**I'M KINDA TIRED OF TRYING TO STEP INSIDE GUYS' HEADS. IT'S A LITTLE EXHAUSTING.**

f t

Also, the thing that bothers me is, as a single woman, you kind of want to be courted and you want the guy to ask you out on a proper date. And on Tinder, the guy has it mapped out for him. And what I found was common on Tinder, which I don't understand, [is] even after you match and you're messaging, it seems like pulling teeth to actually [get the guys to] ask you out. It's like, "Are we just gonna chat for five days?" I was messaging with this one guy for, like, *week*. And he knew everything about me! He knew the time I was born. He knew my mom had a Cesarean. At the end of the week, I was just so confused. I'm like, "Does this man just love messaging me and never wants to meet me?" I'm kinda tired of trying to step inside guys' heads. It's a little exhausting.

**One thing I thought was funny about Lindsay's profile was that she had this hot lingerie on, but then she had wing sauce on her face. What do you think that says about her as a character?** I think it's great. What I love about playing Lindsay is that she kind of has this childhood innocence about her where she doesn't seem to have basic, normal, human manners. She's not malicious about it. You know what I mean? She's not trying to hurt anybody. She's just a little oblivious sometimes. So she probably just went home and kept eating the wing sauce. And then she was like, "Oh shit, I've gotta multitask here. Gotta put on the lingerie, 'cause Edgar's coming over." And then she probably just forgot she had wing sauce.

**In the pilot and in the opening credits, we see Lindsay in more conservative clothes, but now she wears more revealing, flattering dresses. Are you happier with your new wardrobe?** I know, in the opening credits she's such a good girl. I feel like the raunchy Lindsay was always living inside of her, just waiting to be unleashed. But, yeah, I love, love, love the wardrobe department on our show and we just have a really great time together in fittings. I loved the white dress from episode six of season one so much that I stole it from the wardrobe department. And then this season I stole another dress that I just wear everywhere now.



**What is it that you like about it?** I'm short and I'm curvy and so shopping is hard for me sometimes. So what I love about the dress is that it just fits my body well. You know, my boobs are a little bigger on top and my waist goes in, so it hugs my waist and then it kind of flairs out around the leg area. It just accentuates the good and hides the bad.

**Lindsay seems very sex-positive and she seems to be very comfortable with her sexuality, so why do you think that she's still kind of into Paul, who is clearly not good at sex?** It's a mixture of ego and also authentically missing him. It's very natural that when you feel rejected by someone, you are really bruised and hurt, and you want to get them back. And then even though their marriage wasn't great, he was still a very important person in her life. I believe perhaps she genuinely misses him and is regretting being a bad wife. And what I love is that *You're the Worst* explores these complexities in a very honest way, because we are not black-and-white.

“

**WE'RE TAUGHT AS A SOCIETY WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE FOR WOMEN TO LOOK LIKE AND WHAT'S NOT. AND WHERE FAT SHOULD BE AND SHOULDN'T.**

As a feminist, just to speak to what women go through, I think women are put in a box way too often. What I love about *You're the Worst* is that no female character is portrayed as a black-and-white cartoon character. We're all complicated, messy human beings. And a part of me even regrets talking about that dress in that way. Because why are we always trying to hide things about our bodies? You know what I mean? I'm guilty of it too. I think women are very guilty of buying into that. Sometimes I catch myself if I'm shopping and I'm like, "I want to hide my thighs and my arms." And then I kind of take a minute where I'm like, "No, that's not really being kind to yourself. Maybe learn to embrace things that we're taught as women not to like." We're taught as a society what is acceptable for women to look like and what's not. And where fat should be and shouldn't. And I think it's important to sometimes reprogram ourselves and recondition ourselves to not have so much negativity toward our own bodies.

**Definitely. In the first season, Lindsay was dieting and kind of self-conscious about herself, but this season the very exciting thing is how she's so free and having fun.** Exactly. And I think it's cool to see women on television eating. Women eat. We eat things other than salads.

June 22, 2015

## ***You're the Worst's* Kether Donohue on Her 'Brilliant' Coke Scene, Edgar's Infatuation and More Season 2 Scoop**

By Kimberly Roots / June 22, 2015, 2:45 PM PDT

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It doesn't matter that, outside of [Kether Donohue's](#) trailer on the set of [You're the Worst](#), it's Friday afternoon.

Inside, it's Sunday. (As in, Funday.)

"I wish I could tell you what I'm wearing right now, but I can't, because it'll give stuff away," the actress teasingly tells TVLine, laughing, via phone.



Fans of the show will recall when, in Season 1, Lindsay passionately snorted cocaine off her own chest, a deliciously over-the-top scene that showcased Donohue's physical comedy skills and made an excellent argument for her inclusion in this year's Outstanding Supporting Actress Emmy race.

"Lindsay's at an 11 when she does the coke," the actress says, laughing. "OK, Lindsay is at a f—king 25 right now," as the series shoots its second annual Sunday Funday episode. "If that was 11, you don't even want to know."

But who could blame Linds for wanting to have a little fun? After all, she finished the FX comedy's first season tearfully singing Kate Bush karaoke after learning that her husband, Paul, had engaged in an emotional affair with a fellow homebrew aficionado. (Nevermind that Lindsay had engaged in an *actual* affair of her own)

Lindsay meeting herself face-to-face and saying, "Who am I? What do I want in life? How did I even get to this place?," Donohue previews. "She's figuring out who she is by herself."

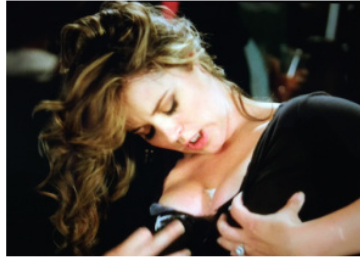
Read on as Donohue, clad in her mystery costume, looks back on Lindsay's lowest point and previews what's to come — including the aftermath of that hair-sniffing moment in the Season 1 finale.

**TVLINE | I have to tell you, I know this is not the most important thing, but is the scene that has stuck with me the longest is you trying to snort cocaine off your boobs.**

We were being interviewed at ATX Festival recently and someone asked me... "What was your favorite thing to shoot in Season 1?" I was like, I can't come up with one, because the cocaine sniffing off my t-ts has to be in there. I can't make that the favorite, because that might be strange... That was pretty brilliant on [series creator] Stephen Falk's part to put that in the script.

**TVLINE | Was every take of that scene as frenetic as the one that was used in the episode?**

I remember I was so sad that day, because it was the last day of shooting Season 1, and we're all so close. We've all become such a family. I was devastated. I remember saying to myself, "This is your last scene you're going to do for Season 1. You better fucking enjoy it." ... I did feel like I was on something — and I wasn't. [Laughs] I really was snorting something healthy that the prop guy put for me, but just the act of snorting it made me feel — it's kind of like if you're smoking a fake cigarette, you still feel like you're smoking a real one. I think the prop situation definitely helped, and then mixed with the fact that it was the last day of shooting, I was running on adrenaline, I guess.



**TVLINE | ...would be an easy character to hate. How do you keep her fun?**

Thanks. I honestly think it's in the writing. Honestly, we're very lucky that the characters are so fleshed out, and the plot and the story. Stephen Falk and the other writers on the show — there's Alison Bennett, Eva Anderson, Shane Kosakowski, Franklin Hardy, Philippe Lujvidin — all of them are just brilliant writers. They all did it. I can't take the credit for that.

...Then also, when I read the script, I didn't judge Lindsay... I approached it by just looking at her like a girl who just wants to be seen and heard. She just wants to be acknowledged and validated and feel special in the world in some way.

**TVLINE | In the finale, we saw Paul ask Lindsay for a divorce. What can you tell us about how that plays out?**

I cannot say if there's going to be a divorce or no divorce. However, I can tell you that we get to meet Paul's new love interest, Amy, which is the beer girl. The beer kooz. [Laughs]

**TVLINE | Does Lindsay meet her, as well?**

Ohhhhh yeah, frickin'! There is a lot of fun stuff where we get to see Lindsay

**TVLINE | Before you go, let's talk about Edgar.**

Des[mon Borges] always calls Edgar the moral compass of the show.

**TVLINE | He definitely is. We see him in the finale not only watching Lindsay sing and having a big reaction to it, but in that last scene, sniffing her hair.**

I made sure the come to set with fresh shampoo. My hair smells great this season. [Laughs]

**TVLINE | What can you tell us about what's ahead for those two?**

I cannot say how Lindsay reacts, but it's nice. In Season 1, Edgar and Lindsay did a lot of bonding. This season you get to see different sides... You get to see different dynamics between them. They have fun together. There's a lot of fun stuff where we team up and pair up and go off on adventures.



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November 12, 2015

## Kether Donohue Is the Best on 'You're the Worst'



On FXX's *You're The Worst*, it's still unclear who is actually the worst — although the show's crude, egotistical, perpetually underemployed Lindsay appears to be leading the pack. Then how is she is also so darn lovable? It might be to the credit of actress Kether Donohue, who plays Lindsay with such profound hilarity and unabashed confidence that you'll no doubt forget all the rest. (She also happens to get all the best lines. From last night's episode: "I thought all English people were *fancy*, but these are like Alabama English people.") So how does she do it? I asked Donohue about playing "the worst", how the show recently took a surprising turn for the dark and why voicing a Pokémon prepared her to play basically any role.

**How does it feel to be redeeming the name Lindsay? I feel like we have been dragged in the mud a little bit.**

I know, I love it. Whenever I hear the name Lindsay, I actually have a literal reaction. Where I'm like, *Oh, it's me*.

**Well, there aren't too many like Lindsay or Lindsey role models.**

Totally. Wait, are you LindsAy or LindsEy?

I'm "E-Y", as in Lindsey Buckingham. But it's pronounced the same so I have learned to accept all spellings.

Yes, I agree that our portrayal of the "A-Y" is revolutionary.

**You're just changing history. You guys are also changing the perception of the TV rom-com. Did you kind of have any inkling that the show would take a turn from wacky-dark, to a dark-dark?**

That's all Stephen [Falk, *You're The Worst's* creator]. And I don't think anybody could have really prepared me for what we're seeing now. All I knew from the get-go was, when I read the pilot script, that there were hints of darkness. But I'm blown away. I think [Stephen] and the writers allowed themselves to go into the unknown.

**The audience knows what's going on with Gretchen, but it feels like no one else does. Why do you think that is? Why do you think that, as her best friend, Lindsay is kind of blind to this very serious thing?**

What was hilarious was that Stephen came up to me on set to tell me that I wasn't going to be in [last week's episode]. He was so nervous to tell me I [wasn't] in the episode. He was like, "You're not in episode 9 ... But you're one of my favorite people, and you're singing in season 2 — that makes up for it." It does!

**At the end of the episode, you get a hint of the song and you're like, *In the world of the show, is this a hit?* So if Lindsay had to be one pop star, what pop star do you think she'd be?**

Oh. Duh. She loves Beyoncé. I think Lindsay is idolizing lives here and Beyonce is a number one dream goal. Her hashtag goals. But I think in actuality she would try really hard to be like Beyoncé and it will definitely not work out.

**It seems like kind of as Gretchen sinks lower, Lindsay gets higher — they're passing ships in the night, in terms of one's on an upswing while one's on a downswing.**

Yeah, exactly. It's like I won. Yeah, I feel like Lindsay and Gretchen are both thinking in their heads like, *Man, I wish we could both just be normal for a day.*

**I was kind of cruising your IMDb and you're also the voice of a Pokémon. Did that voice work, that type of anime exaggeration, help you look toward real life characters?**

Absolutely. It's always been something I've done. I remember in middle school I would always imitate my teachers. Actually, it was my birthday on Halloween and my best friend flew in from New York, so I wanted it to be special. I wanted to go to a really nice restaurant and she called one tried to make a reservation. They turned us down. So I called them, and I've never done this before, but I was really in survival mode. I put on a really deep voice, I was like [does a deep voice] "*Hi, I need to make a reservation.*" I was like, "*My client is being a pain in the ass. You want to go to a restaurant on your birthday, and what can we make this happen?*" And it worked, it worked!

**Oh my god. You did it.**

My friend was like, *Who's this alter ego that came out of you?* So I created this character named Phyllis Deegan. She really gets shit done. She can get you into any restaurant you want.

**That could be a good side gig for you.**

We went to a dance club later and I thought, *I wonder what else Phyllis can do for us.* So I went up to the waiter and I was like, "*Hi, I really want to sing karaoke, what can you do?*" And she was like, "*No, we love you guys so much. Karaoke is on us.*"

**What?**

They gave us a karaoke room! I'm telling you, it's all Phyllis Deegan. If you ever need to get into a really fancy restaurant, just call me.



8 of 10

## Grease: Live's 10 Best/Worst Moments

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### BEST INCOGNITO SCENE-STEALER

*You're the Worst's* Kether Donohue — almost unrecognizable in pigtails and horned-rim glasses — had us howling with laughter with everything from goofy punlines about recipes from *Good Housekeeping* to more subtle moments like pointing a harsh finger of judgment at Danny's ne'er-do-well behavior.



January 18, 2016





# '50s SHADES

Fox's star-studded *Grease: Live* brings back the ultimate high school musical  
(Tell us more! Tell us more!)

BY ROB MOYNIHAN

**O**n a warm mid-December afternoon in Burbank, the unmistakable strains of "whoa whoa whoa," "doobie-do" and "ramma lamma lamma" echo through the hallways of a dance studio. "I find myself singing those 'ramma lammass' in my sleep," whispers Kether Donohue (*You're the Worst!*), who plays bubbly Pink Lady Jan in Fox's upcoming musical adaptation *Grease: Live*.

It's only the third week of rehearsals, but it's already apparent that the cast members go together like a-wop-bam-boom. During a run-through of the iconic penultimate number, "You're the One That I Want," pop singer Carly Rae Jepsen and *Scream Queens*' Keke Palmer, who play fellow Pink Ladies Frenchy and Marty, respectively, challenge each other to a Hula-Hoop competition, while Donohue and costar David Del Rio (Putzie) improvise some very NSFW moves. At the center of the dance floor, the show's two leads, *Dancing With the Stars*' Julianne Hough and Broadway vet and *Graceland* star Aaron Tveit, collapse into fits of laughter as they work on perfecting the elaborate routine, which sends them flying through the studio on top of tables and bleachers.

"It feels like I'm in 11th grade doing *West Side Story* in a high school cafeteria," Tveit says during a break. "The balance of fun and work, plus the energy that goes with it, is intense."

Former Disney Channel star Vanessa Hudgens, who plays head Pink Lady and perennial bad girl Rizzo, agrees with her costar. "It's six





"These are big shoes to fill," says Hough (second from left, with Jepsen, Tveit and PenaVega), who met Newton-John (below, with Travolta in the 1978 film) when the Aussie guest judged *Dancing With the Stars*. "She gave me a blessing to pass the torch."

days a week, nine hours a day, consisting of scene work and choreography, so we're now at that point where we're starting to mesh it all together. But these are all genuinely good people who love their craft, so we all make each other better."

Under the direction of renowned Broadway helmer Thomas Kail (*Hamilton*), *Grease: Live* marks the next chapter in the growing trend of live musicals broadcast on network television. After the success of NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!*, which attracted over 18 million viewers in 2013, Fox purchased the rights to *Grease* from Paramount, which produced the classic 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, itself based on the 1971 musical. "*Grease* is ripe for live television because it is full of joy, energy, music, dance and fun," says executive producer Marc Platt (*Wicked*). "It's so much a part of our culture—the film has been seen by generation after generation, so there's that nostalgia."

Set in the 1950s, *Grease* centers on the romance between good girl Sandy (Hough) and greaser Danny (Tveit). After the two engage in a summer fling, they meet again during their senior year at Rydell High and must balance their feelings while staying loyal to their cliques, the Pink Ladies and the T-Birds. Thanks to smash hit songs like "Summer Nights" and the Oscar-nominated "Hopelessly Devoted to You," *Grease* remains the highest-grossing movie musical in U.S. history. "Our version is taking the spine of the film and grabbing stuff from the stage play that we thought could enhance the experience," Kail says, adding that original songs will be weaved in. Ana Gasteyer and Mario Lopez will also appear, while '90s R&B group Boyz II Men will cameo for "Beauty School Dropout." "This is an opportunity to keep the focus on the love story but also build out and honor some of the ensemble work that the stage play had featured."



*Grease: Live* will be the first of the network television musical events to feature a live studio audience. Instead of being a passive viewer to the action, the crowd will be integrated into the sets—such as the bleachers in the school gym or the crowd at the year-end carnival—to be a more active element of the production. "I feel like the life just gets sucked out of the room when there's no audience," Hough says. "Our whole life as performers is based off of connecting with people, so to have a connection with a live audience means we're performing for them, not just for a camera."

On the big night, *Grease: Live* will broadcast from the Warner Bros. lot in Burbank and take up two stages and an outdoor space. Golf carts will be used to transport the actors to and from scenes, and they will all be outfitted with portable GoPro cameras, with viewers able to follow the behind-the-scenes high jinks. "We're literally going to be running and changing and breathing and Instagramming and Vining all at the same time," Hough says. "What world do we live in?!"

Juggling aside, the company are well aware they have only one shot to continue the success of live musicals on network TV. "We're just trying to be a part of this landscape," says Kail, who gathered with the rest of the *Grease: Live* company and producers on December 3 to watch the latest successful NBC live musical, *The Wiz*. "We have a deep appreciation for how difficult this is, and we're here because of the effort of the people who have already made these things. Now you don't have to travel to New York or go to your local theater. Stay where you live, and let us come to you." And after *Grease* drives into the sunset, Fox will prep its second musical, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, to air in fall 2016, betting big that such events will be the ones that viewers want.

**GREASE: LIVE, Sunday, Jan. 31, 7/6c, Fox**

TOP: KEVIN STRAUSS/FOX; BOTTOM: EVERETT COLLECTION





January 26, 2016

## Watch Carly Rae Jepsen and Kether Donohue Adorably Try Out the "Frenchy Voice" for *Grease: Live*



by [Sadie Gennis](#) | Jan 26, 2016 10:21 AM EST



Fox's upcoming live production of *Grease* is putting its own spin on the classic film, which means everything is up in the air, including the delightfully squeaky - and completely iconic - Frenchy voice.

"I remember asking early on, 'Should Frenchy have that iconic Frenchy voice?'" [Carly Rae Jepsen](#) recalls in the video above. But since [Didi Conn](#), who originated the role of Frenchy in the 1978 film, will be appearing in *Grease: Live*, "it would be kind of strange to have two of those," Jepsen notes.

However, that doesn't mean you absolutely won't hear the Frenchy voice on *Grease: Live*. "It's weird though, because in rehearsal when I do Jan, sometimes I feel like I sound like original Frenchy," [Kether Donohue](#) adds. "I'm like, 'Wait. I'm not Frenchy. I'm Jan. But Jan sounds like Frenchy.'"

Watch Jepsen and Donohue discuss the odd way their roles overlap and do their best Frenchy voices in the video above.

January 21, 2016

# Kether Donohue plays a Pink Lady on 'Grease Live'



Kether Donohue co-stars in the upcoming TV musical 'Grease Live.' she plays one of the 'Pink Ladies'...and if you don't remember what a pink lady is or whether you might be one, here's Kether to explain.

**By: Jeffrey Thomas DeSocio**

Kether Donohue co-stars in the upcoming TV musical 'Grease Live.' she plays one of the 'Pink Ladies'...and if you don't remember what a pink lady is or whether you might be one, here's Kether to explain.

In the interview with Steve Edwards and Maria Sansone, Kether also shares details on another TV project she is in that got some good news. 'You're the Worst' was also renewed for a 3rd season.



January 27, 2016





## 'You're the Worst' Stars Aya Cash, Kether Donohue Reveal Why Shame Is the Show's 'Secret Ingredient' (Video)



### RELATED



**'You're the Worst' Stars Aya Cash, Kether Donohue Play a Round of TheWrap's 'Shot Topics' (Video)**



**Emmy Breakout Kether Donohue on 'You're the Worst' Breasts, Cocaine and Bad Romance: Watch Her Self-Introspect**



**'You're the Worst' Creator Talks Season 2 'Strange Turn,' Drunk Driving Storyline Cut at the Last Minute**

"We're showing an honest portrayal of fucked up things we do that we're ashamed about," Donohue tells TheWrap in new episode of "Drinking With the Stars"

**Aya Cash** and Kether Donohue star as Gretchen and Lindsay, respectively, in FX's "You're the Worst," a comedy about characters who treat each other and the people around them terribly.

In an episode of "Drinking With the Stars," the actresses explained to TheWrap's Greg Gilman what exactly it is that makes their characters the worst.

"Gretchen is the worst because she steals food. Oh, and she does coke," said Donohue of her co-star's character. "Lindsay is the worst because she sleeps with anyone who she makes eye contact with," responded Cash. "She's constantly covered in food."

**Also Read: 'You're the Worst' Stars Aya Cash, Kether Donohue Play a Round of TheWrap's 'Shot Topics' (Video)**

But Donohue also said that as an actress, it's fun for her to go to work and get to act vicariously through her on-screen character. "It's fun for Kether to shoot that," she said. "Going to work is a true joy."

Donohue plays Lindsay, a woman who does drugs, cheats on her husband and finds herself faced with a divorce by the end of the first season. In one episode, she sleeps with a 19-year-old who just moved out to L.A. in his family's minivan, and Donohue tackled the scene so aggressively, she ended up hurting her scene partner.

**Also read: [Emmy Breakout Kether Donohue on 'You're the Worst' Breasts, Cocaine and Bad Romance: Watch Her #selfieinterview \(Video\)](#)**

"In the script it says, 'Lindsay destroys Aiden.' I take my job very seriously," Donohue said. "This little kid was so innocent, and he looked like he was going to cry ... He opened his shirt and he was bruised. And he's so white and pale, it looked like I beat him up."

Despite their characters' awful antics, the actresses say one simple factor keeps the show from being unbearable: Shame.

**Also read: ['You're the Worst' Creator Talks Season 2 'Strange Turn,' Drunk Driving Storyline Cut at the Last Minute](#)**

"On TV, we don't really talk about things we do that we're ashamed of," Donohue said. "I think the reason that people tune in every week and actually like us is because we're showing an honest portrayal of fucked up things we do that we're ashamed about."