Still Buffering 327: "Broad City" (2014) Published August 29th, 2022 Listen here at themcelroy.family

Rileigh: Hello and welcome to *Still Buffering*, a cross-generational guide to the culture that made us.

I am Rileigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Teylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Sorry!

Rileigh: Syd!

Sydnee: [through laughter] I almost forgot to say my name!

Rileigh and Teylor: [laugh]

Rileigh: You've got like-

Sydnee: When we counted... When we counted in to sync our tracks we went in ascending order of age and so for some reason I thought, "Now we do that again."

But that's not our intro.

Teylor: No.

Sydnee: It's different.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And that's... I'm tired.

Teylor: It's okay.

Sydnee: I'm so sorry.

Teylor: You know, everything's changed. Rileigh's in a different state. We've got three little screens in front of us instead of two. There's differences going on. It's okay.

Sydnee: I know-

Rileigh: It's true. You don't have me there to look at to see when to say your name.

Sydnee: Yeah and it's really... What's— I tell you what's throwing me is that the Skype thing is next to Audacity on my computer.

And when I have Audacity in front it usually like... I'm used to my little popup window of Teylor where I can see Teylor. Because Rileigh you're here with me.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But now my little pop-up window is alternating between Teylor and Rileigh depending on who's speaking. And I can't see both your faces at the same time and it's...

That was a gnat. I wasn't grabbing the air.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] Anyway it's very... It's all disconcerting!

Teylor: We can't troubleshoot that now but there is a way where you can see both of us at once. So we'll figure that out.

Today you figured out how Instagram works, maybe tomorrow you'll figure out how Skype works. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I mean I did just fix that problem for myself and all I did was scoop my audacity screen so it only takes up half my screen and my Skype screen—

Sydnee: I did that-

Rileigh: ... takes up the other half. So now I'm just looking at my whole Skype screen, not my pop-up bubble.

Sydnee: [tired] Uh-huh.

Teylor: I live fast and loose and I just have the Skype open and then I just check Audacity every now and then like, "You still up and runnin'? Alright thank you buddy."

Rileigh: That works.

Sydnee: See one time I did that and it was like because the Skype was in front of my Audacity, the Audacity recording was messed up.

Teylor: No!

Sydnee: And it probably had nothing to do with the fact that the Skype box was in front of it.

Teylor: No, absolutely not.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: But I linked the two.

Teylor: No, that's not.

Sydnee: And so now I always-

Teylor: You're making up computer science now.

Rileigh: [through laughter] That's not true.

Sydnee: I always try to keep the Audacity box in front of the Skype box just in case.

Teylor: Okay that's... Well that's... That's not how that... Alright, well that's fine. That's the... You know what? I respect alternative beliefs. Uh—

Sydnee: [laughs] Today— I'm on a hospital service this week and today— The residents are all young and they know cool tech things that I don't know.

And I said does someone have one of those call phones so I can call... I needed to call a patient's family and I don't want to use my cell phone.

And they said, "Well don't you have Doximity?"

And I said, "What's that?" Which apparently is something you can use to call patients and it's like a way to do that with a hospital number so it's not your personal cell or whatever.

Rileigh: Ooh.

Sydnee: I'm like, "No, I have no idea what that is or how that works or anything about it."

And they were like, "Well just use this phone."

And I said, "Okay. How do you call out from it?" And they all looked at me like I was very old. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I said, "Just someone..." Finally ended up handing the phone like, "Someone please help." [laughs]

Rileigh: I mean to be fair-

Sydnee: [despairing] No.

Rileigh: You asked how to look at Instagram stories today and were just scrolling going, "What's a... is that a story? What's a story? Is that a post? I don't know what stories are."

Sydnee: Sometimes stories start and I don't know how I started them. And then sometimes on TikTok I accidentally am watching something live and I don't know how I started watching it live and then I feel weird 'cause like I feel obligated. Like they can see how many people are watching right?

Teylor: Yes.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: And they can see you specifically if you were watching.

Rileigh: Yeah, when you join.

Sydnee: So if I dip in and out that quickly it looks like I'm not interested when actually I don't know if I'm interested or not I just didn't wanna watch something live because there's too much pressure.

Rileigh: [laughs] So you weren't interested.

Sydnee: Well I'm not interested in watching anything live. It's the pressure of them knowing I'm watching and feeling like now I'm in it. I have to watch to the end but what if I don't want to, you know?

You will feel like maybe hurt by me and I don't want you to feel hurt. It's just sometimes like, I can't watch your whole thing.

Teylor: [disbelieving] I...

Sydnee: I feel a lot of pressure with the live things.

Rileigh: You put a lot of thought into that.

Teylor: I don't... I mean I never... But you can choose whether or not to click on a live. You know that right? Like I don't— I don't— You don't have to. They're not just in your regular feed.

Sydnee: I've accidentally done it when I've been trying to like, find—

Like if it's a several part thing that comes up just on my "For You" page and then I try to click on their little things so I can go look at Part 2 or whatever. I've accidentally gone... I've clicked on their live thing.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Syd-

Sydnee: I think it's like... If they are going live at the same time you're looking at their feed and you click on this certain thing then it... I'm not sure. [laughs].

Rileigh: [snort-laughs]

Teylor: I think a big part of... I don't do this, I don't know. Maybe a big part of going live is accepting that some people are going to come and go as they please and you don't have to know why.

So maybe you just need to like, just loosen up about it. You know? They don't have to know why. It'll be way weirder if you like, sent them a message like, "Here's the thing. I accidentally clicked on your live."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Teylor: "I did not mean to. I could not sit through your content because I had things to do. But I wanted you to know." Like that would be... That would be weird. Just clicking away is fine.

Rileigh: And it's not personal. It's just, "The nature of a live broadcast versus a prerecorded TikTok really is concerning to me so I just can't consume live media."

Sydnee: [through laughter] It's just the pressure. I just don't... I don't want someone to feel judged by me because if they are enjoying creating their content, I hope that they continue to do so, you know?

Teylor: What ...?

Sydnee: I don't want them to feel...

Teylor: I like that Syd, like you're a very important person to me and lots of people but the idea that like, [as Sad Live Streamer] "Sydnee McElroy clicked away from my live TikTok! I will never talk again!"

Rileigh: [As Sad Live Streamer] "No!"

Sydnee: I just mean someone. I just mean like, [as Sad Live Streamer] "Oh look there's a new... Oh, they're gone."

Teylor: [laughs] [As Sad Live Streamer] "Sydnee McElroy has said nay! Nay to my content!"

Sydnee: No, I... I don't mean me!

Teylor: [As Sad Live Streamer] "I am digging a hole and I will never emerge!"

Sydnee: I just mean like someone you know? Like, [As Sad Live Streamer] "Look! There's another person watching my... Oh, no. They're gone."

Teylor: That's just... That's just not how...

Sydnee: I know.

Teylor: Well, alright. Don't worry about it. That's all I'm gonna say. Don't worry about it.

Rileigh: Don't worry about it. It's okay.

Sydnee: Stop worrying about it... I'm just going to stick with my pimple popping and weird recipe TikToks.

Teylor: My... Somehow... Like, I follow very few people on TikTok, but I like TikTok. I understand TikTok is the place that I can just let my brain just go, "Bluuuuugh" for like 15 minutes at a time.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yup.

Teylor: But I think I liked too many like weird fortune telling TikToks. So now it's just people giving me readings. And they're all like, "You're here for a reason."

But then everyone is like that? And they're all contradictory. And I'm like, "Well no. You can't all be right!" [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah, when you start getting too many of those and your algorithm starts getting too comfortable thinking that's all you want to see, then it's just like every other video is a different person you know doing a card pull or something for you.

It's like, "Okay. Hold on. No, no."

Teylor: Yeah, I've tried to fight against the tide by just like typing in every name of an animal, every type of animal I know, and just liking videos so I get more animals on my feed.

'Cause I like an occasional tarot card reading, but mainly I just want to see a crab wearing a hat eating cheese.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: There... I... Somehow my algorithm thinks, and I don't like this so I don't know how this happened, I get these like split-screen... It's not the vertical, it's the horizontal split, like on top of each other, dueted videos?

Or not du— I guess it's not a duet. I don't know. It's a split-screen video and the top part will be a scene from some TV show or movie, usually it's like *House* or that Chicago medicine show or something like that?

Teylor: Chicago Medicine Show!

Sydnee and Rileigh: [laugh]

Teylor: [sarcastic] I know that band! They do a really good cover of "Wagon Wheel", right?

Sydnee: [through laughter] And that's on the top and on the bottom is somebody like... making slime or playing with things that squish and break open and turn colors.

Doing something like that. Like one of those ASMR-y kind of thingies on the bottom. And they're always paired like that and I don't know how I keep getting them, but I get so many of those.

And I don't have any interest in the thing that's happening on the bottom of the screen, but occasionally the thing that's happening on the top of the screen will be like from an episode of *House* that I really liked.

And then I'll get distracted and be like, "God I loved *House*, that was such a good show. Look at that. Man, I love that episode."

And then I realize that I have told the algorithm that I enjoyed this but I hate the bottom half and I... Anyway, I don't know how this happened.

Teylor: I don't think I've ever seen anything like that.

Rileigh: It sounds like you just wanna watch *House*.

Teylor: You could just go watch *House*, Syd.

Sydnee: I could just watch House. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Anyway. Or Chicago Medicine Show.

Rileigh: Our dad usually ends up watching the last 10 minutes of like *Chicago Fire* or *Chicago Medicine,* whatever. There are several Chicago shows of various emergency departments.

Sydnee: Yeah, all of the Chicago first responders have their own show.

Rileigh: Yeah. And usually like he'll turn back on the news, but right before the news comes on at 11:00 o'clock it's the last few minutes of the Chicago show that he gets really invested in.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: But then never watches it again.

Sydnee: Mom and Dad keep asking me if I've watched the new *Game of Thrones* show and I keep saying, "I never watched the old one."

Teylor: I don't think I'll trust...

I'm gonna wait until it completely finishes then decide if I wanna watch it 'cause I played that game before. I got deep into the other one, the old one, and then... Yeah. We don't need to talk about that.

Sydnee: But there is a show we need to talk about.

Teylor: Yes.

Rileigh: Yes.

Teylor: I brought *Broad City* to the table this week. It's a five season TV show on Comedy Central. Created by... Now Abbi and Ilana are also the

names of the creators, but they have different last names in the show as in the series. So I always get them confused but...

And it started out actually as a web series where they just kind of played themselves and did that and then it got made into the show.

But *Broad City* is about two girls in their 20s trying to make it in New York City and I adore it. It's one of my favorites. I'm curious what you all thought of it?

Sydnee: You know it's one of those shows that a lot of people had always talked about but strangely I had never had, I don't think, any contact with, like at all.

Teylor: Really?

Sydnee: Yeah. But I was very aware of it. I just had never seen any of it. Not even on like weird TikToks with people making slime on the bottom.

Teylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] But I really enjoyed it. I thought it was very funny. I did start off watching it with Charlie and Cooper in the room.

Teylor: Oh no you... No.

Rileigh: No.

Sydnee: Well-

Teylor: Episode one, you can't do that. Literally the first bit involves a vibrator. [laughs softly]

Sydnee: A vibrator and then two people having sex.

Teylor: Oh that's right! Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: All in the same scene.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And I was like, "Oh no! Uhh..." [laughs]

And then I had to turn it off really fast and pick a different episode, 'cause Cooper was going, "What was happening? Turn that back on! Tell me what was happening!"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I was like, "Nope. I don't wanna talk about any of this yet. You're four. But I really did enjoy it. I thought it was very funny. I'm going to watch more of it, even though I...

Teylor: Well good.

Sydnee: You know, I watched some of it for this episode, but I'm going to continue watching it 'cause I enjoyed it.

Teylor: Well that's what I feel like. I feel like both of you would actually enjoy it. You'd enjoy the humor, enjoy the characters. Ilana Glazer and Abbi Jacobson are the creators' real names.

But yeah it... I mean there are a lot of shows about trying to make it in New York and especially like a bunch of...

I mean it it's kind of unfair, it gets a comparison to like *Sex and the City* or *Girls*. And I don't think it's like either of them. I think it's a lot more like *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* or maybe *Seinfeld* like in its tone.

And it's funny that just because it's all girls it gets lumped in with this like, "Oh it's a bunch of girls" category.

Like it's not. It's... It's very self-aware which I love.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah no, I did not... Especially not *Sex and the City* I would not have... I mean other than obviously, women in New York, that is about the end of... Like I would not have...

Rileigh: That's all that's in the middle of that Venn diagram.

Teylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, exactly. I mean and I don't know. Maybe that changes as the show goes on...

Teylor: No.

Sydnee: But... No.

Rileigh: Um, I realized that I... 'Cause I watched, I think, about the first season, I think is what I've watched. And I kept thinking like, "This seems familiar. I feel like I've seen parts of this before."

And I was wondering, like was it in a TikTok, was it in YouTube?

And I remembered that Tey, when I came to visit you, when I was much younger at one point, you just like had it on?

Teylor: Oh!

Rileigh: While you were like cooking or something? I don't know. But it was on and I just remember glancing over every once in a while like, "Oh. This looks like a big kid show. Oh! This looks like a grown-up show."

Teylor: [laughs] That's believable.

Rileigh: But I never actually got to watch it and I don't think I would have appreciated it even if I would've been actually paying attention at that point.

But now it is much more enjoyable for me to watch. [laughs]

Sydnee: How old were you?

Rileigh: Probably 13?

Sydnee: Yeah...

Rileigh: Something like that? Fifteen, maybe?

Teylor: Oh that ma— Oh, like I was *home*. Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teylor: That would make sense.

Rileigh: Yeah, umm-

Teylor: Yeah 'cause it started—

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: In 2014, is when it started. And it went to 2019.

Rileigh: Yeah, so I was probably 15 then.

Teylor: That makes sense.

Rileigh: Yeah. But I remember thinking like, "This seems like something that I wouldn't tell Mom that I was watching. I'm going to watch this later."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: And obviously I didn't have access to my own streaming services at that point. But now I do!

Teylor: Well it was something that... And both of you have met my former roommate Haley, a good friend of mine. Still good friend. Now lives on the opposite side of the country.

But while we lived together this was sort of our show, you know?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Like we had a... I think had a similar dynamic to our friendship. Which is funny 'cause like, I'm a weird introvert, and yet like Haley was sort of the Abbi and I was [through laughter] sort of the Ilana.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: So it was sort of our show. Like there was one Thanksgiving that Haley came home with us, that I think is what you're thinking of, or came home with me.

Rileigh: That's probably what I'm thinking of.

Teylor: Yeah. Yeah. It holds such a special place in my heart. And one thing that I love about it, it is... I mean it's over. And they only did the show for that period of time.

And part of it was because they didn't want to get...

They wanted to be making the show while they were still kind of living that life and once they felt they were kind of past that point they didn't want to be like, cosplaying as their younger selves.

Rileigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Sure.

Teylor: So it's made by people that are very aware of what they're representing and then they kind of stopped making it when they didn't feel that represented themselves anymore.

So that's I think why it felt so like, relevant to me and my roommate, when we were just two young people in Brooklyn. Like kind of being total messes but self-aware? Like not in like that very self-important way that *Girls* is where it's like, "Everything is so meaningful and deep."

It's like, no we know we're kind of like garbage humans and we're a little bit like over... Everything seems bigger than it probably is. Nothing's that big of a deal. We're sort of ridiculous. We know this. We're living a ridiculous life but it's fine. We've chosen this.

Like there's that self-awareness that like... I can't relate to a show like *Girls* 'cause it's not... You're 22, things are going to be fine. Like it's gonna be fine.

Sydnee: It's self-awareness without like, declaring yourself the voice of a generation. [laughs]

Teylor: Yeah! Well it's like that... Like when you're, you know, mid to early 20s, like you're a little bit self-involved. If you were in a... Like there's a lot of us that have been and it's good to just kind of be aware of that.

Like, "Yes this is my time to sort of be selfish and have fun and make mistakes." And it's not... It doesn't deserve dramatic background music. It's fine.

I like that about this show. It's like, you don't hate the characters but you're not supposed to love them either. I do love them, but you can laugh at `em.

Rileigh: You're gonna think this is a silly comparison but I hope you know where I'm going with it.

I've never lived in New York, but like I watched Friends, and would think-

Sydnee: [guffaws]

Rileigh: ... this is not what living in New York is like.

Teylor: Yes.

Rileigh: This is not... This is not written by people that are actually living in New York in this age group at this time.

Like it never felt realistic even as someone who never lived there.

As someone who does live in New York and has for a very long time, to me at least *Broad City* seemed much more accurate.

And I don't know if you feel that way, 'cause again I still don't live there, but it seems like it's probably a more realistic representation.

Teylor: Well you know, it's funny there was a... I don't know why this ended up, it was on my "for you" page on TikTok, but there was a clip from *Friends* of Phoebe. And I think she's mocking Monica or Rachel.

One of them are complaining about a relationship problem. And Phoebe tells a story about like fighting someone on the street for food.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: And it's this, "Oh wait no that's not the same. 'Cause that's a real problem and you have fake problems."

Sydnee and Rileigh: [laugh]

Teylor: And what I realized in that moment is *Friends* had one character that is accurate to a lot of New Yorkers' experiences, and that's Phoebe.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: Like, [as Phoebe] "I've gone through some wild stuff. I have seen things that no one should see. I have kind of a funny... Like I'm kind of like cool about it 'cause it just happens every day."

And they just kind of always played Phoebe off as a laugh. I'm like, that's the real New Yorker. Phoebe's the real one. [laughs]

I think the world of *Broad City* has a lot of Phoebes.

Rileigh: I can see that.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. That makes a lot of sense. I do like that assertion too, about Phoebe. I know this is not about *Friends* but I think that's an interesting perspective.

Teylor: No I mean that's... Like they never— I wish they'd leaned into that more, where like, no she's the one that's actually lived in New York and dealt with the city and everybody else is just like somebody with a trust fund. I don't know.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. And she drives a taxi for some reason and she works in a massage parlor but also she plays weird songs in a coffee shop. Yeah, no that... Yeah.

Teylor: That's far more accurate to most people I know. It's like everybody's got three jobs. One of them is maybe profitable. You know, you've got a side hustle, you've seen... Yeah. You experience things that you can only tell as a joke, because if you told them straight it would be upsetting.

Rileigh: That makes sense.

Sydnee: Except for the apartment. She also had a very nice apartment.

Rileigh: It's true.

Teylor: Yeah, well, you know... But who knows how she got there?

Sydnee: [laughs] Not as nice as Monica and Rachel's, but still nice.

Teylor: But I do feel like it is very accurate to... Like a lot of the situations that they [laughs]... I don't know why, of all the episodes, the one where Abbi has to go and get a package?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: That episode... [dissolves into laughter]

Sydnee: I watched that one.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: 'Cause all of my packages, if I don't get them they go to Maspeth.

I still don't exactly know how to Maspeth [laughs] and I've tried to look and I'm like, "That package is gone. It's in Maspeth. That's shorthand for it's not coming back."

Rileigh: [laughs]

Teylor: "Your... Oh, your boyfriend? He's in Maspeth. He's not coming back." [laughs]

Sydnee: Now have you ever... You've never been there?

Teylor: No, no. It's a real place. Like I don't actually think it's that hard to get to, but it is hard enough that I'm like, "No, that package belongs to Maspeth."

Sydnee: Is it on an island? Like other than the one you live on?

Teylor: I mean, I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Teylor: Yeah, I gotta look. I mean I'm on an island so I don't know. What... What isn't...?

Sydnee: Well, is it on the same island as you is what I-

Teylor: It's on a different island.

Sydnee: Is it in a different borough?

Teylor: Jesus.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Teylor: You're asking me questions I don't know how to answer.

Sydnee: I did recognize that from the other end of it because I'm sure it's more stressful for you trying to receive your packages and worrying that they will get, you know, lost or you won't get 'em or whatever.

But it is also, on my end, when we send you packages it is stressful even just, "Okay, I've gotta make sure it gets there right at this time so that Teylor can get it." 'Cause there is that worry. What if you're not there?

Teylor: For clarification it is just in Queens, but it is significantly far away from me.

Sydnee: Wow.

Rileigh: There you go.

Teylor: And I-

Sydnee: I wonder-

Teylor: I don't... I just... That, when Abbi goes to the weird, like North Brother Island or whatever she's supposed to go to. I know that feeling.

Like there's a lot of like... As great as public transportation is in New York, there's also just like great gaps in it where it's like there's no way to get there.

Sydnee and Rileigh: [laugh]

Teylor: Like if this... There's just not... Like you just live in a black hole of New York City. There's not a train that goes there directly, you have to take a train to a bus, to another train and that's how you get there.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Teylor: Like I live off of two trains right now and they both have been down for like a week. And it's just like, there's no... I don't leave and no one can come here.

I'm safe but I'm also lonely.

Sydnee: Really?

Teylor: It happens.

Sydnee: How ...? Well, when will they be back up?

Teylor: Eventually. I don't know. I have to walk all the way to the subway to see if the sign is still there that says, "This isn't working." [through laughter] I don't know.

Sydnee: There's gotta be an online thing!

Teylor: There was a great... This is, you know, I don't... I am older than the girls that are, the ages they're representing in the show.

But for most of my life I lived off the L train. And it was like the, I don't know, like the hipster train. It goes to Williamsburg and then you know beyond that like Bushwick, those are like the I'm using quote-y fingers, "cool areas" to live for a lot of the early 2000s.

And there was this website that emerged that was called "Is the L Train Effed?" and that's all it did. It just told you whether or not the L train was effed or not.

And it was so useful! That was like when I was working in the city and living here. Like I would just get up and look, and like, "Do I need to walk to work across the Williamsburg bridge or can I take the train?" Just go to the website, "Okay, I gotta walk today." [laughs]

Sydnee: There must be a mass transit app that tells you that, right?

Teylor: Yeah, but you can't trust those. You trust those, you show up the train's still broken.

Sydnee: Okay [laughs]

Teylor: Like as big as... Like, "Oh, New York City baby!", I think *Broad City* accurately represents the amount of like, "What is going on?" that is New York City. [laughs]

Rileigh: Can I say—

Sydnee: That was a very good episode, the inclusion of Rachel Dratch.

Rileigh: Yes.

Teylor: Oh, yes.

Sydnee: When she... The moment when [laughs] she dumps out the "Guess how many are in this jar full of candy", so that she can recount them, so that she can accurately... And then add however many Ilana had eaten and all that. [laughs]

That moment really got me.

Rileigh: That is exactly what I was going to say. I was going to say that Rachel Dratch being in that episode was just perfect.

Because it was what, Fred Armisen, was in like the first episode?

Teylor: Yep.

Rileigh: Or second? Like one of the very first ones I turned on, I was like-

Teylor: As the little baby man.

Rileigh: Yeah, yeah.

Teylor: Yeah they have—

Sydnee: [inaudible]

Teylor: They have a lot of celebrity appearances throughout it. A lot of comedians, which I really enjoy.

Rileigh: Can I ask, did I miss this or does it say their ages when it starts? I assumed they were like early to mid-20s, but I didn't know if it actually said.

Teylor: So, I believe that they were born in `88, so they were a little younger than me. And this was 2014 to 2019. So this—

Rileigh: Like they started at 26.

Teylor: I'm the one that went to art school. You guys are both... okay good. Yeah 26? That sounds good.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Teylor: Do a math! I'll draw a picture while you do a math.

Rileigh: Hey, I can't do a math. [laughs]

Teylor: [laughs] You can already do a math.

Rileigh: It's the whole reason I am where I am right now. I can't do a math. [laughs]

Teylor: Yeah, but none of us did math.

Sydnee: I mean there's a lot of math in science but I'm not... I can't do this today.

Teylor and Rileigh: [laugh]

Sydnee: [laughs] I actually just can't do that one today. Sorry!

Teylor: That's alright. Well I... okay so 20, yeah, like mid-20s, that makes sense.

Rileigh: Okay. That's what I guessed.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Teylor: And that was the age that I was watching it at, and it felt very accurate.

I mean, and little details like... I forget what season I was watching but there's one where like... Oh God, there's just so much.

I mean [laughs] when they go... They go to like a sample sale, at like a popup and it's just like a madhouse.

And like I've walked through so many of those in like Soho where it's just like this beautiful, void gallery space that some unknown label just pops up in and everything...

It's still more expensive than you should pay but you're under the opinion, you're fed the idea, that this is like so much cheaper 'cause its designer. And there's only one article of each clothing and no sizes and it's just like the free-for-all?

It feels like you've lived in New York for a significant time to understand what that weird experience is, of walking in and everybody's manic and it's like, "I gotta get into this energy."

Like somebody steals Abbi's shirt "cause they're like, "Oh it's a designer!" I was like, "No, I just took that shirt off to put on a different shirt!"

Sydnee and Rileigh: [laugh]

Sydnee: I would find that too stressful, I couldn't handle that.

Rileigh: I...

Teylor: Yeah, I... Or there's one where one of them gets air conditioner juice in their eye. Drip, New York City drip in their eye and gets a horrible eye infection?

Sydnee and Rileigh: [laughing uncomfortably]

Teylor: Like there's a legitimate fear, because especially in the summer when everybody is running their air conditioners, like there's just drip—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Teylor: ... from the buildings above you. And you just hope it's not full of... whatever.

Sydnee: Legionella.

Teylor: New York City juice, bleach... Yes. Exactly, legionella. That's exactly what I was thinking of. [laughs]

Rileigh: It feels like those pictures they would show, or drawings I guess they would show us, in like history class in high school. Like back in the many, many centuries ago and people would not have, you know, like plumbing or running water and they would just throw their buckets of waste out their balconies, like onto the dirty streets below.

That sounds like what you're saying. Just like walking by, you don't wanna catch any of the things that might be falling from places above.

Sydnee: [laughs] Or like, you know, the Woodstock '99 documentary.

Rileigh: [sighs] Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] Have you not seen that yet, Tey?

Teylor: I mean, I've not. And I don't think you're selling it if a significant part of it is about a contagious like, fecal diseases?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: No, it is.

Teylor: Don't... Yeah, see I don't... I don't wanna watch that.

Sydnee: See-

Rileigh: It was people that were there playing in the mud 'cause it was in a, you know, camp festival grounds.

Sydnee: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Rileigh: So it was all grass but-

Teylor: No. No. I-

Rileigh: ... it was in the mud that was around-

Teylor: ... I can finish this—

Rileigh: ... the... Uh-huh.

Teylor: I can finish this sentence—

Rileigh: ... facilities.

Teylor: ... in my head. I don't wanna know what that mud was.

Sydnee: The plumbing was inadequate.

Teylor: [grossed out noises]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Teylor: I... I got there. I don't need to hear details.

Rileigh: That documentary is wild.

Sydnee: Somebody got trench mouth! [laughs] Trench mouth! [laughs] Anyway.

Rileigh: Anyways. Um...

Sydnee: You should really watch that documentary though.

Teylor: [skeptically] Okay. Well, Broad City...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah. No, but I know I know what you mean.

Not that I've lived it and understand it but in the way that like, I feel like I can appreciate a show more when it doesn't make it seem like living somewhere like New York or any city or any other country is like this like perfect...

I mean that's like what *Friends* does. I know I keep coming back to that, but it's like, "Look how great living in New York would be. They're so happy and pretty."

And you know, "They're just living these great lives with jobs and big apartments and like nothing goes wrong that's really that bad."

I feel like I can always appreciate a show more when it's like, "Well nowhere is perfect to live. Everywhere has some of its own problems and this place has some unique problems." Teylor: Yeah. Well and that's like...

I think that, you know, the kind of person, especially the kind of young person that would move to New York and like work a, you know, underpaying horrible job and live in, frankly, some of the places I've lived.

And I think that...

I mean, they live in pretty nice apartments. I will say that. They do kind of fall into the sitcom like, "These are nice apartments." They each have a roommate.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: And they are pretty normal-sized apartments, but they're still nice.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: I think they're believable, if they were slightly more responsible than me. I was somehow less. I have lived... Sydnee you've seen [laughs]... Like, I have lived in worse places than that.

Sydnee: Well... perhaps. [laughs]

Teylor: But you know... You really gotta be a little bit detached from reality to think like, "I'm gonna make it. I'm gonna... This is all fine. I'm gonna get there."

And like, that's... I think what I love about the characters is like, I can look back and laugh at it now in myself.

And even then, like, to be in those moments, you're kind of self-aware enough to be like, "This is... I don't think a person's supposed to live like this. I don't think anyone's supposed to do this."

Like you're aware of it. But it's just like... It's not the myth, the myth of New York City that's so romantic.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: I have no space for that anymore in my life. I kind of hate that. I love the truth of New York City.

I love that it's gross and most people that are trying to make it here are a little bit detached from reality and a little manic and a little...

I don't know. I call myself, like, a little crazy, and I think that's fine. I'm talking about myself. But like, that's okay to be like just... You're a little... A little removed from reality.

That is a more accurate representation of most people I know here. And I think that's maybe partially needed to stick it out and pursue something bigger than yourself.

But I think that's just—

Sydnee: Well-

Teylor: I like that.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I think that's nice in general and I especially think it's nice, especially... I mean this wasn't that long ago, but every year culturally of the last decade or so feels like we've grown 50 years. [laughs]

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Compared— You know what I mean? Compared to previous decades.

But to see two women characters presented that way is nice because it really is... That was still a little early to get... break away from the idea that your leading ladies in a TV show have to be, well, ladies. [laughs] Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: In the sense that, you know, they can't be like gross or kind of have character flaws or personality issues that would make them unlikeable at times.

Which again, doesn't mean the characters are unlikeable. It's just that male characters have always sort of been given that benefit.

Teylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like, they can sometimes be jerks. They can sometimes be insensitive. They can sometimes be... I don't know, make dumb choices.

But it's okay, they're redeemable and here are all their good qualities and it's okay.

And often women characters aren't given that kind of, like, as soon as they do something that's reprehensible they become repre- they're the bad person, you know?

And it's nice to see well-rounded female characters leading a show like that.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: I agree. And it's not in a way... 'Cause I do hate the trend of like girl comedic movies having like a gross-out section to be like, "Look it's—"

Sydnee: Yes.

Teylor: "... it's gross women being gross." That is not the case with *Broad City*. There are some gross segments but you get that like...

And I mean I think that comes from the benefit of like, Abbi and Ilana being real people who did live this life.

Like they were young people in New York trying to make it. That is where the web series came from, that's where the show came from. Like there're gross moments because we're all gross sometimes.

Sydnee: Yes.

Teylor: It doesn't matter what your gender is, everybody's gross sometimes. [laughs]

And it is... It feels validating because it's just, it's definitely a thing that either they experienced or friend experienced.

I mean, I think this actually is a bit from one of their original web comics one, where like one of them is dating somebody purely because they have a washer-dryer in their apartment.

All: [laugh]

Teylor: Like there's just so many like... [laughing] Like, yeah, I know what that's like.

Like, "This relationship's going nowhere... But... but they've got a washerdryer and I don't wash my clothes so that seems like a good thing to have in my life." [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I can understand that. I went out on a second date with a guy because he made really good burgers.

Teylor: Fine.

Rileigh: There you go.

Sydnee: Yeah. No, I know what you're saying. And I agree.

I get really frustrated when I see like, "We're trying to make this thing that is... It's like what guys do but it's with women and so women will like it but we're going to use all the same jokes and humor and everything.

"It's just like guys but they're girls. But you can like 'em 'cause they're like guys."

And I hate that sort of trope 'cause it completely ignores the fact that we can all be funny and interesting and do things that people will like and laugh at and that doesn't have to look like... you know.

I don't know. I don't wanna... I don't wanna throw shade at any specific sort of like, "classic guy movie", but I feel like there's this kind of *Animal House*-on genre. You know what I mean?

Teylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And that's great and it's funny. But we can have movies that are funny that don't look that way. And it's the same with TV shows. Like, girls can do things that are funny but don't look exactly like guys and it's okay.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: Yeah. Well and that's 'cause I think a lot of those movies are still formulaic in every other way. They just include the gross out humor, so it's like, "This is revolutionary."

Sydnee: Yes.

Teylor: I feel like *Broad City* was revolutionary in that it's just... you're forced to know these women in intimate ways that I think a lot of people are still uncomfortable with women being vulnerable.

As much as we accept female vulnerability in so many ways that we wish they wouldn't, it's like these are ways, "No, no, no. That's bad. Don't... don't show a woman doing that.

It's like, "Nope you have to accept all 360 of both of these characters."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Yeah.

I also appreciate, as a young woman in my 20s, with other friends that are young women in their 20s, the way they interact with each other feels a lot more realistic than a lot of other shows that try to show like, young cool female relationships and friendships.

Where they're like, you know, helping each other get ready and talking about boys. Like that's just not... That's not what actual real complex friendships are like.

And I am gross in front of my friends or weird in front of my friends.

Teylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: And like, talk about very personal vulnerable things with my friends that we don't like to acknowledge that women are very open and vulnerable with each other and very honest with each other about all sorts of maybe uncomfortable things.

But I appreciated watching their friendship. It felt a lot more authentic. It feels like they're actually— I'm sure they are actually friends and you can tell they are actually friends.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Yeah, no. I think... That's a really good point, because for all the conversation on *Friends* where you have women talking about men—

Teylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: 'Cause there are lots of them.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And talking about their romantic lives and men.

Rileigh: Like all of them.

Sydnee: Yeah and it's nice to see that that's not like— I mean it, like occasionally, but that's not always a focus.

Because in my adult life... I mean obviously I'm married, but I do not have conversations with my female friends about romance or relationships or any of that. None of us do.

We talk about a million other things. We don't talk about our relationships.

And that doesn't mean they're not important. It's just like, we have all this other stuff we want to talk about.

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Their lives are the focus of the show.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: And maybe relationships that might enter into that are like a subplot in something else that might happen. But it doesn't become like, the focus.

Which I think is true for most people, that doesn't become the focus of your life when you happen to be in a relationship or getting out of one or whatever. It just is like something else that's a part of it.

And I feel like a lot of times— We're going to just keep hating on *Friends* that's fine. But like that's what it is. Like their lives become about the person they're dating.

And then they have to date another one because that's how their character evolves, is dating a new person. This is not that.

Sydnee: That's very true.

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Hmm.

Teylor: Well and I think that... Yeah I mean that's... It's... It is about the friendship... The show is about the friendship between these two women and how imperfect it is, how imperfect they both are.

And even to the point where you might question like, I don't think they're good influences on each other. [laughs] Like, I don't think they are.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: But it doesn't matter. Like I— You know I feel like, in today— Especially the hyper-wellness time of today of like, "Do what's right for you." Like, "That's a toxic person."

Like that's... Most relationships are like, yeah there's... You know, maybe they...

When they give the speeches to each other, like what they should do with their lives, as a viewer you're thinking, "That's a bad idea. This person is giving you bad advice."

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: And that's part of the humor, but it's also part of their friendship because that's what we all went through. Or maybe that's what I went through. I don't know.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Like, you know, you need friends that build you up and gas you up and believe in you no matter how absolutely wrong you are.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: And I like that it's that and it's not like...

There's no moment where there's like... I need to step out of the narrative and be like, "Are these people really good friends to each other? Are they really helping each other?"

Like it doesn't matter. They love each other and that's the base point of the show. And that's not going to change. You know?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: That's guaranteed. There's not going to be like a dramatic questioning of that relationship, however sometimes codependent and destructive they are to each other. [laughs] Which they are!

And I love that. Like, "Our friendship is not going to be questioned. It's the basis of the show."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: We don't get a lot... Yeah I mean I think it's... For me, I mean that's how like... I mean, Haley and I are still good friends to this day, because we were both kind of at a period where it's like we just need to figure out the...

I feel like it's like the parameter of your identity.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Like, how far do you go in each direction to figure yourself out? And sometimes you go too far and like, "Oops. Nope. Not there. I don't go there." You know?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Like you need someone that's there with you. That isn't going to judge you. Just kind of lets you do that while they do the same thing and that's what I think a healthy friendship really is.

It's not judging whether or not this person is a good or a bad influence in your life. It's just someone that just copilots your [laughs] adventures.

Sydnee: Well and it's... I think that's kind of cool, because... this is just my personal opinion. I'm not saying this is like great advice for everyone.

But I think that you will find a lot of people who are like, pleasant and generally like well-informed about life and probably give good advice and are very practical and pragmatic, and who you might have things in common with.

But finding somebody that you genuinely enjoy and care about and they reciprocate those emotions and will be there for you? That's kind of rare. And I think that there is such huge value in that. And it... Like you said, in kind of a hyper-wellness culture, that is not the value.

And I think that's, personally, I think we're placing the priority in the wrong place. There are lots of places you can go for advice. [laughs] There are lots of pla- There are lots of books you can read and people, experts, you can talk to to help you make good life decisions.

Having somebody that like, cares about you and that you care about, that's, you know, that's not easy to find. You can't buy that.

Teylor: And I've had those moments with like, with friends that I really love, where I realize like, "Hey, you're... You're kind of the bad guy in this situation. But you know what? I do not care 'cause I'm with you and I've got your back."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: And I don't know... I mean... And you know, that neither of you have seen to the end, but I don't think this is really a spoiler. Like, the show ends with...

They're still friends but Abbi's gone off to seek a art... Like a... Like a stay... What is it where you get to go someplace and make art and they pay you to do it? Sydnee: Like a...

Rileigh: A residence?

Teylor: Yes, that's the word.

Sydnee: Okay.

Teylor: So Abbi's left the city, and they're in separate places, but they're still friends. So it's like they both evolved. They both grew, but without demanding growth from each other.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Teylor: Which once again I think that's what a real... I think it, as goofy and as silly as the show is, I think it honestly does represent what those years were for me.

Where it's just... You just need someone that's just... Yeah, just there. They put up with your antics. You put up with theirs. You take care of each other but in this very nonjudgmental way.

And then because you gave each other that space, you get to where you need to go.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Well, I'm really glad that you suggested this.

Rileigh: Me too.

Sydnee: Because I really enjoyed what I've watched so far. And I'm just going to keep watching it. So don't... I'm glad you didn't tell me anything else.

Teylor: No.

Sydnee: I was gonna say, "Don't tell me too much 'cause I do wanna..." I know usually we spoil everything.

Teylor: Well I-

Rileigh: I'm gonna keep watching it too.

Teylor: Well that's like, the relationships... Like there's so much... I... It's one of those where literally every episode is just full of things that I could like... That are accurate and I could relate to.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: But I mean overall, I just adore it.

I love that also it ended. I think that... Like the fact that they had the awareness to say, "It's gonna end when we can't really relate to this anymore."

I mean, hey we stopped doing a show when it didn't feel like a thing we could do anymore. I get that.

Rileigh: We did that. Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. We evolved.

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Right there.

Teylor: Well-

Sydnee: No, I-

Teylor: Thank you both for checkin' it out.

Rileigh: Of course.

Sydnee: Yeah, thank you.

Rileigh: I really enjoyed it.

Sydnee: Yeah, absolutely. I'm glad that you sug— I should have watched it before, so I'm glad that you suggested it.

Uh, Rileigh, what's next?

Rileigh: Yes. Um, so I know it's not quite spooky season yet...

Teylor: Yes it is!

Rileigh: But it is... I mean it always is in our hearts, really, it's a state of mind not a state of time.

But I've started back-to-school season, which I think just ultimately just feels like fall, get out the candles, make it cold, let's stop with the summer stuff. That's the kind of mood I'm in.

So I just recently watched the new *Scream* movie that came out this year, 'cause that's one of my favorite original horror series and they rebooted it.

Just called *Scream*. I thought it... I looked it up to make sure I was telling you the right thing. It's just *Scream* but 2022.

Sydnee: Alright.

Rileigh: So, I thought we could check that out and talk about it, kind of kick off a little bit of the fall season.

Sydnee: I'm ready. We got some pumpkin.

Rileigh: Oh good, there you go.

Teylor: Nice.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, we'll watch *Scream*. In the meantime, everybody, you should check out *Broad City*. It was... Where did I find it? Where is it?

Teylor: Uh, Hulu has it all.

Sydnee: Hulu. Okay.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I was gonna say, I just typed it into Apple TV and found it and I forgot what app it was on. Yes. It's excellent. Check it out on Hulu.

You should go to Maximum Fun and check out all the great podcasts that you can listen to there. I was gonna say watch, but you can't watch podcasts—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... so don't do that.

Rileigh: [disappointed] Oh...

Sydnee: Phew. Okay, gonna make it. Um-

Teylor: Just watch the little bar move across the end.

Sydnee: There you go. [laughs]

Teylor: It's fine.

Sydnee: I mean you could.

Rileigh: You can close your eyes and listen to us talk and think about you know...

Teylor: Imagine our faces.

Rileigh: Thank you.

Teylor: Based on our voices.

Rileigh: There you go.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] [sarcastic] That's not weird or anything.

Teylor: [sarcastic] Nope.

Rileigh: [sarcastic] No.

Sydnee: Cooper listens to Sawbones to go to sleep now, anyway. So...

Rileigh: Oh my gosh.

Sydnee: I know. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs] There's just-

Sydnee: How cute.

Rileigh: So she can hear you talk.

Teylor: That's actually adorable.

Sydnee: Yeah, so she can-

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I know. She wants to hear Mommy talk while she's falling asleep.

Teylor: Well, she gets to hear Mommy talk about disturbing things. That's the best of both worlds.

Rileigh: That's true. There's blood.

Sydnee: Yeah. Blood and Mommy.

Rileigh: Yup.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Teylor: Yikes. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uhh, you can tweet at us, @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. And thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

Rileigh: This has been your cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Rileigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Teylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering.

Sydnee and Teylor: [sort of in unison] And I... am too.

[outro, theme song plays]

Rileigh: You did it, Syd, you made it.

Teylor: Good job.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Good job.

Sydnee: Thank you. We did it through our first three places... Tristate...

Teylor: Three places! Tristate!

Rileigh: Tri State recording.

Sydnee: Tri State recording.

Teylor: New York, DC, Huntington! Woo!

Rileigh: Well, two states and a district.

Sydnee: Oh yeah.

Teylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Teylor: Two states and a district!

[ad starts]

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