

00:00:00	Music	Transition	Gentle, trilling music with a steady drumbeat plays under the dialogue.
00:00:01	Promo	Promo	Speaker: <i>Bullseye with Jesse Thorn</i> is a production of MaximumFun.org and is distributed by NPR.
00:00:13	Music	Transition	[Music fades out.] “Huddle Formation” from the album <i>Thunder, Lightning, Strike</i> by The Go! Team. A fast, upbeat, peppy song. Music plays as Jesse speaks, then fades out.
00:00:20	Jesse Thorn	Host	It’s <i>Bullseye</i> . I’m Jesse Thorn. D’Arcy Carden’s had a wild few years. Maybe a decade ago, she was doing improv a lot. She’d get smaller parts on TV shows like <i>Inside Amy Schumer</i> or <i>Veep</i> or <i>Broad City</i> . The last of those was created by her pal, Abbi Jacobson. She also worked as a nanny. Her boss for that job, by the way, was Bill Hader. In 2016, she got the part that would change her life: the all-knowing, all-seeing, unfailingly cheerful assistant on <i>The Good Place</i> .
00:00:51	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:00:52	Clip	Clip	Janet (<i>The Good Place</i>): Here we are! Just press that button and it’s goodbye, Janet!
			Chidi: [Groans worriedly.]
			Janet: Chidi, I can see that you’re worried. And I just wanna assure you, I am not human, and I cannot feel pain.
			Chidi: Ah, thank you. That helps.
			Janet: However, I should warn you—I am programed with a failsafe measure. As you approach the kill switch, I will begin to beg for my life. It’s just there in case of an accidental shutdown, but it will seem <u>very real</u> .
00:01:21	Sound Effect	Transition	Eleanor: Cool! So, who’s doing this? Me or you? Music swells and fades.
00:01:22	Jesse	Host	<i>The Good Place</i> was a success. Millions of viewers, 14 Emmy nominations, including one for D’Arcy. And alongside <i>The Good Place</i> , D’Arcy started appearing on another critically acclaimed hit TV show, <i>Barry</i> —created by and starring her former boss, Bill Hader. That show just wrapped up its third season on HBO. Pretty soon, you’ll be able to see D’Arcy Carden in <i>A League of Their Own</i> . It’s a TV series based on the movie of the same name. And as in the movie, the show tells the story of the Rockford Peaches: an all-women professional baseball team in World War II.
			The show reunites Carden with her longtime improv collaborator, Abbi Jacobson, who co-created and stars in the show. To someone who hasn’t seen her before, D’Arcy Carden’s rise might sound like serendipity. The right people, the right connections, the right audition, that kind of thing. But all you have to do is see D’Arcy onscreen once. She’s funny. She’s compelling. She’s smart. As you’re about to hear, she’s got range.

			This clip comes from <i>A League of Their Own</i> . D’Arcy plays Greta on the show. Greta plays first base on the Peaches. When the show begins, it is clear that the Rockford Peaches face a tough season filled with long bus rides, difficult trades, and all the other trappings of being a wartime baseball team in a fledgling league. In this scene, Greta and her teammate, Carson—played by Abbi Jacobson—are talking about the season ahead.
00:02:45	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:02:46	Clip	Clip	Greta (<i>A League of Their Own</i>): Okay. I was thinking about it. Maybe Lupe’s trying to get traded and that’s why she’s getting in with [inaudible].
			Carson: You really think she would do that? The team’s finally doing so well!
			Greta: She just wants to get to the championships. I get that. Everybody’s looking out for number one. Except for you.
			Carson: I just—I see how good we could be. And I just want us to get there in time. That’s it.
			Greta: You should tell them what Beth said and let them know what’s on the line. It’ll help.
			Carson: No. I don’t want them in their heads. I want them to think about tomorrow’s game only. One at bat at a time. Okay?
			Greta: Goodness gracious!
			Carson: And hopefully Jess’s Lady Luck will be on our side.
			Greta: I don’t believe in luck.
			Carson: Why not?
			Greta: Well, I don’t know if it’s God or Lady Luck, but they gave people like us a pretty raw deal. So, they can kick rocks. You know?
00:03:33	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:03:34	Jesse	Host	D’Arcy Carden, welcome to <i>Bullseye</i> . It’s great to have you on the show.
00:03:37	D’Arcy Carden	Guest	[Laughs in delight.] Hi!
00:03:38	Jesse	Host	I’m such a fan of your work. Can I ask you—
00:03:41	D’Arcy	Guest	[Earnestly.] <u>Anything</u> .
00:03:42	Jesse	Host	Oh, wow!
			[They laugh.]
00:03:43	D’Arcy	Guest	Hold on, hold on, hold on.
00:03:44	Jesse	Host	Holy cow!
00:03:45	D’Arcy	Guest	Hold on, hold on. Back up, back up. [Chuckles.]
00:03:47	Jesse	Host	[Laughs.] I was just gonna ask if I could ask you the clichéd question, whether you had to practice baseball to be on a baseball show?

00:03:53	D'Arcy	Guest	[Laughs.] Okay, if that's the question, I meant to say, yes. You can ask that. Did we have to practice? [Jesse confirms.]
00:04:02	Jesse	Host	We did. Yeah. We practiced a lot. Were there varieties of levels of—'cause you know, there's plenty of women who play adult baseball, but there's also plenty of women who've played—you know, softball through college.
00:04:11	D'Arcy	Guest	Right. Right. There was a wide variety of sort of skill level. From like never having picked up a bat before to like—you know, maybe I would say—maybe Abbi Jacobson and Kelly McCormack and I had played the most. You know? Through high school—through high school and then sort of beyond that was like—what do they call them? I was about to say pickup games, but it's not really that. It's like when you're on a—when you like work in an office or you're on a show—
00:04:37	Jesse	Host	A beer league softball? [D'Arcy confirms.]
00:04:40	D'Arcy	Guest	Like slow pitch? Exactly. Yeah. So, I would do those whenever I could. But that—what does that mean? Like, maybe once to ten times a year, depending on the year. Yeah. So, anyway, we practiced a <u>lot</u> . We—I got cast in this role like about four or five months before we started shooting. Abbi, Chanté Adams, we were the first three to be a part of this show for quite a while. So, the three of us practiced a lot. And then, like Melanie Field joined and Kate Berlant and like slowly people started getting cast. And they would just—we were doing these—was it like seven to nine AM?—you wanna know the schedule? I'll tell you. Seven to nine AM, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, we would practice—yeah.
00:05:17	Jesse	Host	Thank you. I'm writing this down. Thank you.
00:05:18	D'Arcy	Guest	Please. Yeah. And this is years ago. [Chuckles.] So, go back in time. And we would practice baseball with—we had a coach, Justine Siegal. And she would bring other coaches and other baseball players. And we had like a real—people really got good at baseball. It was kind of—you know, Abbi and I, I think, came in hot. Like, we came in like, you know, cocky like, "Oh, we played baseball." And then everybody got great. [Chuckles.] So, it was fun to watch people learn how to play baseball and all of us get better. And one thing I learned is when you play a sport as a kid, you basically just do what all the dads tell you to do. [Jesse agrees.] And they don't really know what the hell they're talking about. So, it was very interesting to have played softball for my lifetime and then finally get coached by people who like are actual, legit coaches. And they were like, "So, everything you're doing is actually wrong." But I was like the daddies taught me! You know? [They laugh.]

So, it was fun to like learn technically how to sort of like improve my game. It was really cool. It was cool to like gel together as a team before we—you know, read a page together. Like, usually on a show, you meet either like in a table read or onset or—you know, you sort of have to like fake chemistry. Like, you might be meeting somebody that's supposed to be playing your best friend or your wife or whatever the day of shooting. But with this, we really got to like—we were a team, and the acting was like an afterthought. When we got on set, we were like, "Oh, right, right, right, right. We're doing a show! We're not actually a baseball team."

But it was really—it was great. It was great. We all got like really into baseball. [Whispering.] We got really into it.

00:07:05 Jesse Host

There was a period when there were a lot of baseball movies, and most of them starred Kevin Costner and Tom Selleck. And—100%. And maybe Charlie Sheen.

00:07:12 D'Arcy Guest

00:07:14 Jesse Host

Yeah, and like both Kevin Costner and Tom Selleck had been like borderline prospect baseball players. Like, nearly professional baseball players.

00:07:24 D'Arcy Guest

Like in their real lives?

[Jesse confirms.]

00:07:25 Jesse Host

Oh, cool.

And like knew how to play baseball. And then everyone else who has ever been in a baseball movie doesn't know like where their arm should go when they throw.

[They laugh and D'Arcy agrees.]

And like the thing about making a television series is—look, the playing of baseball is not the most significant part of this show. It's about the people.

[D'Arcy agrees.]

00:07:59 D'Arcy Guest

But you know there's gonna be some baseball throughout the entire run of the show. It's a lot of chances to be caught on camera throwing in a weird, awkward way.

Yeah. Yeah. I know. It's funny, you know, growing up watching *League of Their Own* as a kid, I remember thinking like, "They're so good at baseball!" You know, as a little sporty kid that also was a theatre kid, it was sort of like, "Wait! You can do both? Like, you can be a sporty actor?" Like, this was very eye-opening for me in many ways. And you know, now—having sort of absorbed—absorbed—observed and absorbed. I truly did mean both. Like, taking in as much information as I can about the shooting of the movie, I've learned that a lot of them had never played baseball before. They—you know, they did some baseball camps and stuff, but like I believe Geena Davis was cast—you know, replacing this actor or that actor. It was cast really last-minute and had really never played before.

But growing up, I was like, "Now that's an athlete!"

[Jesse laughs.]

			Like, I remember being like, “[Censored] damn, she’s good at baseball!” So, you know, I’m sure with—you know, an adult’s baseball eye, you can see all the little mistakes. But as a kid, I was like, “She’s a superhero.”
00:09:00	Jesse	Host	You were also working alongside—I mean, for one thing, the cast is completely packed full of amazing people. Like, there’s like 20 great television actors on the show.
			[D’Arcy agrees.]
			But one of the other stars of the show and the co-creator of the show is Abbi Jacobson, who you have worked with forever and a day.
			[D’Arcy confirms.]
00:09:31	D’Arcy	Guest	What was it like to be on a team with her? I mean, this is like a pretend team, but still has a lot of the same—
00:09:33	Jesse	Host	Totally. What’s the difference, in a way?
00:09:37	D’Arcy	Guest	Yeah, relative to like improvising with her or writing something with—writing a sketch with her or something.
			Yeah. It’s funny, like it just felt very correct. It felt very—it’s like what we’ve always done. This is just a sort of bigger version of it, a different—you know—weirder pretend version of it, but it’s exactly—like, I think one of the things that I love about acting is being on a team. You know? It’s like why I got into improv. Like, the magical thing about—you know, being in a play or whatever is like the team aspect of it, the cast. So, Abbi and I—as soon as we met back 15 years ago when we were doing improv together, we were like already on a team together. So, this just was like every step of our friendship and relationship and like career together has been on a team, in a way.
00:10:19	Jesse	Host	Even more still to get into with D’Arcy Carden. Stay with us. We’ll be back in just a minute. It’s <i>Bullseye</i> , from MaximumFun.org and NPR.
00:10:28	Music	Transition	Chiming synth with a steady beat.
00:10:33	Jesse	Host	It’s <i>Bullseye</i> . I’m Jesse Thorn. If you’re just joining us, my guest is D’Arcy Carden. She played Janet on the hit sitcom <i>The Good Place</i> . On HBO’s <i>Barry</i> , she plays the aspiring actor turned assistant turned showrunner, Natalie Greer. And soon, you will be able to see her in <i>A League of Their Own</i> , the TV series based on the 1992 film of the same name debuts August 12 th on Amazon Prime. Let’s get back into our conversation.
			I enjoyed watching you on <i>A League of Their Own</i> in part because the two roles for which you had been best known previously—your work on <i>Barry</i> and <i>The Good Place</i> —in both of those, you are—in one case, you’re a literal kind of digital assistant. I guess it’s not literal; I just said “literal” imprecisely.
00:11:24	D’Arcy	Guest	Well, but I know what you mean.
00:11:25	Jesse	Host	You are a god/the universe-created equivalent of a digital assistant.
00:11:30	D’Arcy	Guest	Hell yeah.
00:11:31	Jesse	Host	And on <i>Barry</i> , you are a brownnosing acting student turned personal assistant.

[They laugh.]

00:11:38	D'Arcy	Guest	Turned showrunner!
00:11:39	Jesse	Host	And so, like, you have risen to prominence on wings of obsequiousness. And this is very—it's very different to be a sassy broad!
00:11:48	D'Arcy	Guest	Ain't it!? I know. And you know, there was a moment like towards the end of <i>The Good Place</i> —one of the last episodes. We were filming and Ted—the king—Danson and I had like a little break. And we went and got coffee and sat down and chatted. And he asked what I was gonna do next. And <i>League of Their Own</i> hadn't come my way yet, so I didn't know. And he was like, "The advice I will give you is do something as different from Janet as humanly possible. Because, you know. I mean, a long—well, four years running TV show, one that people watched, there's also something about Janet like—I think of her as sort of like a Mickey Mouse type character. Like, I'm wearing the same clothes every episode. I kind of have some like catch phrases. Like it's very—it's a whole thing.
			And I think, yeah, the next role I could like lean into that and like, "This is what I do." Or I could go far away from it. And I really appreciated that advice. And you know, whatever Ted Danson tells me to do, I'll say, "Okay! Good idea!" So, that's what I did with this. And when it came my way, you know, I don't think I would've cast me in the role of Greta, if that makes sense. Like, if I had the whole—if I could've cast me in any role on <i>League of Their Own</i> , I wouldn't have thought to cast me as Greta, is what I'm saying. And that's part of why I said yes.
00:13:02	Jesse	Host	I mean, it's in part due, I'm sure, to the fact that one of the bosses of the show is somebody that's known you 15, 20 years.
00:13:09	D'Arcy	Guest	And that made it easier for me, too. 'Cause I was like well, she knows what I'm capable of, and I trust her. And maybe she can see better than I can. You know? It's hard to kind of know what you are. And somebody that knows you so well, you kind of have to just put your faith in them.
00:13:26	Jesse	Host	One of the things they say about going into auditions is that it's not necessarily that you're making the perfect choices as an actor. It's that you are making choices. Right? Because they will know whether they're the right choices or not. Like, they'll know if you're right or not. You're just trying to show them something. And if you don't show them enough, well then you're not anything.
			[D'Arcy agrees.]
			But [chuckles] I can only imagine going in to audition for <i>The Good Place</i> for this part of Janet, who is in the show kind of the pop-up, artificial intelligence, assistant of the universe. That, A) they didn't even—they hadn't really decided what it was. And B) it's not anything.
			[Jesse laughs and D'Arcy confirms.]
00:14:20	D'Arcy	Guest	So, they're like—
00:14:22	Jesse	Host	So, they're like, "So, whatcha got?" [Laughs.] Yeah. Yeah! So, how—what choice do you—how did you even—? Like, the night before, when you're looking at the sides they gave you or whatever, what did you decide?

00:14:31	D'Arcy	Guest	<p>That's such a good question. And it's true. Like, I mean, auditions are insane. And this one felt even more insane. I also knew that they were dummy sides, meaning like this wasn't even really what the show was. Not that I knew anything about the show, because there was nothing about the show out there. It was all such a secret. But I knew that like the sides were—it could've been in a different language. Like, it just—not to say it didn't make sense, but it had nothing to do with anything. And what—I guess I should have explained it. Sides are the little bit of a script you would have for an audition. And dummy sides would mean it's like a fake scene. Okay?</p> <p>So, I do think with this audition, there was something special about it, which was like I knew I wasn't gonna get the role. Like, with 100% certainty, I knew I wasn't gonna get the role. But I was such a Mike Schur fan, and I had never met him before or auditioned him before. So, I thought like, why don't you just show him the best version of you? You know, try to make this guy laugh and just remember you enough to like maybe give you a small role in season three or something like that.</p> <p>So, I kind of was like, you know, not to say that Janet is D'Arcy or D'Arcy is Janet or whatever, but just sort of like some things you really do have to just show what you have. Like, what [chuckles] is inherently special about just you. Because otherwise, what are you trying to do? I don't know what the motivation or, you know, backstory for this character is. So, let me just like—let me just see if I can, you know, be the best version of me.</p>
00:16:07	Jesse	Host	<p>You were an immediate standout on <i>The Good Place</i>, on a show with some—you know, Ted Danson, one of the ten greatest television actors of all time, and Kristen Bell is so brilliant and was already very famous. At least for me, but I think for a lot of people, you were an immediate standout. And I think that [chuckles] one of the questions that I wondered as I was watching it is the same as the question I just asked you about auditioning, only for the show. Which is: what choices can you make when part of your character is that it is a, you know, universal blank.</p>
00:16:51	D'Arcy	Guest	Right. Well, [chuckles] first of all, sir, thank you so much.
00:16:56	Jesse	Host	<p>I speak on behalf of all of America's dorks.</p> <p>[D'Arcy cackles.]</p>
00:17:03	D'Arcy	Guest	Who developed instant crushes on you. Yeah.
00:17:04	Jesse	Host	I appreciate that so much. Thank you.
00:17:05	D'Arcy	Guest	Of all genders and sexualities, I wanna be clear.
00:17:08	Jesse	Host	Yeah, yeah. Thank you so much.
00:17:10	D'Arcy	Guest	What held us together was our dorkdom.
			<p>[Laughs.] That's it. I struggled a ton in the first season. And I think the thing got me through it was Mike Schur and some of the writers that I really leaned on—Jen Statsky and Joe Mande and Megan Amram and a few of them that I was like, you know, "I'm doing this wrong!" Or like, "What is this?!" Or, "Was that right?" And you know, the thing that I remember from even just like shooting the pilot was Mike Schur sort of saying like, "React less." You know? Like, don't have—when you say this, and she says that, you don't have <u>any</u> judgement or opinion on what she says.</p>

00:17:49	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:17:50	Clip	Clip	<p>Chidi: Maybe it's not actually like <u>all</u> that bad. Let's just get some information first. We'll ask Janet. Hey, Janet?</p> <p>[A pleasant beep like an elevator arriving.]</p> <p>Janet: Hi, there!</p> <p>[Eleanor groans in surprise.]</p> <p>Janet: How can I help you?</p> <p>Eleanor: What the fork? Who are you?</p> <p>Janet: I'm Janet. I'm the informational assistant here in <i>The Good Place</i>.</p> <p>Chidi: She's like this walking database. You can ask her about the creation of the universe or history or—</p> <p>Eleanor: Oh. There was a guy who lived in Avondale, Arizona around 2002. His name was Kevin Peltonic. Is he gay?</p> <p>Janet: No.</p> <p>Eleanor: <u>Really?</u> Huh. I guess he just didn't wanna have sex with me.</p> <p>Janet: [Pleasantly.] That's correct.</p> <p>Eleanor: Well, that's fine. I wasn't that into him anyway.</p> <p>Janet: Yes, you were.</p> <p>Chidi: Okay, Janet. I have a question.</p> <p>Janet: Okay.</p> <p>Chidi: What is the bad place like?</p> <p>Janet: Oh, sorry. That is the one topic I'm not allowed to tell you about. I can only play you a brief audio clip of what is happening there right now.</p>
00:18:40	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:18:41	D'Arcy	Guest	<p>And that was—kind of went against everything I had been taught as an actor. So, that was a struggle and felt confusing. And it was only like—I mean, honestly, after the first season. 'Cause this wasn't a pilot that we, you know, waited a year before we heard if we're gonna do a show. It was like—it was already—a season was greenlit. So, I didn't have like a moment to sort of watch the pilot and figure out if that worked or whatever. It was like, "Let's just go." So, I do feel like Mike and I really created Janet together. And I say that giving the writers like full—they did it. They fricking did it. But they really like let me figure it out with them, I guess.</p>

00:19:25 Jesse Host You got cast on *Barry* like almost simultaneously.

[D'Arcy confirms.]

00:19:34 D'Arcy Guest I remember seeing you in the first scene of *Barry* and thinking, "How can she—why is she allowed to be on both of these shows?" [Laughing.] Totally. A lot of people thought that. A lot of people thought that.

00:19:38 Jesse Host Like, I was happy to see you. You're great in everything.

[D'Arcy thanks him.]

00:19:41 D'Arcy Guest But I was like what—how is—?

00:19:42 Jesse Host "That's not legal." Yeah.

00:19:46 D'Arcy Guest [Chuckles.] Yeah. These are medium-big parts on two different shows!

[Laughs.] Yeah, it was really lucky. It was like I was auditioning for both of them at the same time. So, you know, I think I was being called back for *Good Place* as I was originally auditioning for *Barry*. And that's just the way like a pilot season would go. And you know, let me remind you, I was booking nothing before these. So, this wasn't like—you know. I wasn't supposed to get anything.

[Chuckles.]

00:20:06 Jesse Host You had been in television commercials and *Broad City* that your friend put you in.

00:20:10 D'Arcy Guest Right. Exactly. I wasn't booking. I wasn't booking, babe.

00:20:13 Jesse Host Plays. Plays in the Bay Area.

00:20:15 D'Arcy Guest Yeah, exactly. You know. You were there. No, you weren't. What if I find out that you had been in the audience for all those...

00:20:22 Jesse Host You were probably in some production at the Shotgun Players I went to.

00:20:26 D'Arcy Guest God. T'would that I could. My parents had season tickets. Anyway.

00:20:30 Jesse Host That's pretty edgy.

00:20:31 D'Arcy Guest Yeah. I lucked out with Bill Hader and Alec Berg being friendly with Mike Schur and Morgan Sackett—all the big men. They all like got along and were buds. So, they sort of went above everything else. And I think, you know, the HBO and the NBC Universal of it all didn't really get involved. They just—I mean, I'm not saying it was easy. And I'm sure my manager was like pulling his hair out trying to make schedules work, but they made it work and it was really good of them. Meaning like I'm like grateful. Very grateful. 'Cause it could've just been like, "Oh, this isn't gonna work or this is too much of a headache." And instead, they were like, you know—Mike was like, "Yeah. It'll work. Yeah. That's fine."

And it was like the second AD would like print up my schedule on *Good Place* for *Barry* and give it to me. It was really a team effort and very sweet. And I just—you know, made it my mission to like not make a headache for anybody and just like come prepared and be early and don't—you know, complain if you're tired and if you shot late last night, just like fricking do it and shut up. And I did! I did it and I shut up.

00:21:33 Jesse Host I think *Barry* is a wonderful show. I really enjoyed watching it. I also find it deeply kind of stomach churning.

00:21:40 D'Arcy Guest That sounds right.

00:21:41	Jesse	Host	And I was thinking about why. And it's not because—you know, Hader's character is struggling with questions of life and death and post-traumatic stress and stuff like that. I think the number one thing is just how pathetic and sad the actors—the fictional actors on the show are. Like—
00:22:03	D'Arcy	Guest	It's so real.
00:22:04	Jesse	Host	And because it never goes to like <i>Waiting for Guffman</i> silliness, it hits pretty hard that they're <u>so</u> sad.
00:22:12	D'Arcy	Guest	Yeah, I'm with you. The acting class, but also like Henry's character, Mr. Cousineau. I think this is from season one, where he's like auditioning for a commercial. That scene destrooos me. And whatever you think about Gene Cousineau and like his, you know, pompous like god complex or whatever, you see him waiting in line for that audition and saying like the one line. And Henry's brilliant. And it just destroys me. Like, could cry. Could cry watching that.
00:22:39	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:22:40	Clip	Clip	Gene Cousineau (Barry): Hey, Sherry? Sherry: Gene Cousineau. Always good to see you. Jean: Thank you. It's what I do. I'm gonna give you two options today. Jean M. Cousineau, reading for Man in Back of Line. Self-managed. [Beat.] We're <u>waiting</u> here! [Beat.] Hey. <u>We're</u> waiting here. [Beat.] Uh, would you like to see anything else? Sherry: Nope. That was great. I think we got it. Jean: Oh. Wonderful. Thanks.
00:23:13	Sound Effect	Transition	Music swells and fades.
00:23:14	D'Arcy	Guest	You know, the acting class—everything was written, but Bill and Alec and the writers really like let us sort of—I don't know. I don't know how to explain it. Because we didn't improvise it. It wasn't like—it wasn't like there was no script. But they let us sort of lean into our thing. So, each of these pathetic characters are not sooo far away from who we are. There's a shade of each of us in our characters. Which is sad. But it's—you know, they wanted to hear our like worst, horrible [censored] stories and like lean into the sort of pathetic-ness of being a struggling actor in New York and LA, and in LA specifically. And you know, there's a lot of feeling pathetic as a struggling actor—as an actor. [Chuckles.] Guess what? Being an actor is pathetic.
00:24:03	Jesse	Host	Being like 18 months removed from that when you were doing it, it must have felt like a personal inditement.
00:24:10	D'Arcy	Guest	[Laughing.] Totally, totally. Yeah. It was not—I mean, I really—there was—
00:24:14	Jesse	Host	'Cause like, Hader's writing it! This guy's been successful for 15 years!
00:24:19	D'Arcy	Guest	Yeah. There was a moment like—
00:24:21	Jesse	Host	Megan Mullally found him in her backyard and made him a star.

00:24:24	D'Arcy	Guest	<p>She sure did. [In a nasally Megan Mullally impression.] Lorne! Lorne, I got someone for you. Wait, how would she say it? She'd be like Lorne. Lorne. Lorne. Hey.</p> <p>[Jesse giggles.]</p> <p>Lorrne. I have someone.</p> <p>I love Megan Mullally so much. Yeah, every once in a while, you know, I'm just like having fun doing <i>Barry</i>. It's great. I'm hanging out with my friends, hanging out with Bill. It's so fun, it's so great. And then every once in a while I go ding! And I'm like wait, is he making fun of us? [Laughs.] Are we making fun of ourselves? Is this pathetic? But you know, like early on in <i>Barry</i>, like when we shot the pilot, I was Natalie. I was like getting Henry's chair for him and like, "What would you like in your coffee?" And he had to tell me to like chill out. He had to be like, "You don't need to do this." You know. We were doing like a rehearsal, and I like went and closed the door and like asked people to sort of quiet down. And he's like, "That's actually not your job. Don't do that."</p> <p>And I had to sort of like, oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, okay. Okay. Okay. Like, this is not—I'm not babysitting. I'm not like someone's personal assistant, which —</p>
00:25:21	Jesse	Host	<p>And that <u>has</u> to be coming from you, because one of television's greatest stars of all time, Henry Winkler, is a small, modest man. [Laughs.] Like, he's a little sweetheart.</p> <p>[D'Arcy agrees.]</p>
00:25:36	D'Arcy	Guest	<p>And he is not demanding that of others.</p>
00:25:37	Jesse	Host	<p>No. No, no. Exactly! Yes. For sure. Yes. I see. Yeah.</p>
00:25:40	D'Arcy	Guest	<p>Like, explicitly or implicitly.</p> <p>He definitely was not like, "Get me a coffee." No, no, no, no, no, no. <u>No</u>.</p>
00:25:42	Jesse	Host	<p>He was getting—he was probably bringing people coffee.</p>
00:25:45	D'Arcy	Guest	<p>Exactly. Yeah. Yeah. I was trying to out-Henry Henry Winkler.</p>
00:25:48	Jesse	Host	<p>The sweetest man on earth.</p>
00:25:49	D'Arcy	Guest	<p>I love him. I love him so much. I love him so much it hurts.</p>
00:25:53	Jesse	Host	<p>I think <i>Barry</i> also is a specific inditement of Los Angeles in a particular way.</p> <p>[D'Arcy agrees.]</p> <p>Like, I think when you are taking an acting class, often there is this collective fiction that the reason you are all taking the acting class is because you are all about to dedicate your life to Ibsen. You know?</p> <p>[D'Arcy agrees with a chuckle.]</p>
00:26:24	D'Arcy	Guest	<p>Like, everyone is in this thing together of "we're all doing—" Bertolt Brecht. Yeah. Exactly. Yeah.</p>
00:26:25	Jesse	Host	<p>Yeah. Exactly. And in Los Angeles, there is certainly theatre and there's classical theatre and so forth, but like if you're in an acting class in Los Angeles, you're learning how to do a good job</p>

auditioning for a soup commercial. Like, what are the things that they want in a soup mom?

[D'Arcy agrees.]

00:26:48 D'Arcy Guest
00:26:49 Jesse Host

And that—
It's so specific to here.
And it's so sad.

[D'Arcy agrees.]

00:27:13 D'Arcy Guest

Because it like—on the one hand, the pretense is sad of the other thing and the practicality is practical of the Los Angeles thing. But also, it's like everyone just wants with all their heart to be an artist and at the end of the day, it's a class on how to do voiceovers and talk a little faster without changing your intonation.
Exactly. Totally. Totally. Yeah. And I—you know, like to that point, like Sarah Goldberg doing the scene from *Magnolia* in the pilot and like *True Romance*. You know?

[Jesse murmurs a pained “uh-huh”.]

It's like—it's sooo funny. It's sooo funny and so specific to LA. And you know, like sort of unapologetically. And I love it. I love it so much. Oh my god, we had so much fun. This just—I just [censored] love casts. [Laughs.] I love actors! We just fell in love with each other. We were obsessed with each other. We rehearsed it like a play. We had so much time. I mean, the funny thing about the acting class in season one in particular is we're not in it very much, but we spent a lot of time together and a lot of time on set. And they really let us improvise and—you know, a one-minute scene, they let us go for eight minutes. Like, they really—I don't know why and I'm glad they did. And I'm sure it helped in a way and I'm sure the crew was rolling their eyes [chuckling], but it was like some—

I think the best version of a TV show is when it kind of feels like you're—you kind of forget that it's gonna be on TV. And you kind of feel like you're at summer camp. And not to bring it back to *League of Their Own*, but that definitely is what *League of Their Own* felt like. But you know, *Barry*—when we shot it to when it was on—it was so far away. And *League* is like that too. You know, we shot it so long ago. You almost forget that people are ever gonna watch it. And the best feeling is when you just feel like you're—you know—playing with your friends. What a joke; what a silly career. But I feel so lucky! [Playfully choking up.] It feels like getting to camp with my friends!

00:28:57 Jesse Host

It's another part, as well, where part of it was the fact that Hader knew you so well, because you had worked for his family as a nanny. I don't know if you were still—I don't know what the timeline there is.

00:29:11 D'Arcy Guest

Pretty close. [Chuckles.] But not—I mean, not—I wasn't—I mean, whatever. I think I got cast in the spring, and in the fall before that—so, not even a year before that, I was still their nanny.

00:29:26 Jesse Host

I've known Hader a tiny bit for a long time. He supported this show at the very beginning of podcasting, and I like sent him an email, “Are you the guy who just started on *Saturday Night Live*?” Don't

00:29:50	D'Arcy	Guest	think there's anyone who I've ever had on this show where I like look into their eyes and see more brain gears turning.
00:29:51	Jesse	Host	Mm-hm. This kid's smart. He knows more about film and television than anyone I've ever met except maybe Elvis Mitchell. But he also is an extraordinary impressionist, which is a gift that only belongs to very weird people.
			[They chuckle.]
			You know? It is a combination of the loneliness of the child magician and the like sensitiveness of, you know, a closeted gay boy or something. You know? Like, having to like look at everyone around you really intensely.
00:30:23	D'Arcy	Guest	Quietly. Take them in.
00:30:25	Jesse	Host	He's terrifying on <i>Barry</i> , often.
			[D'Arcy agrees.]
			And while I've generally found him to be a sweet guy, I'm also terrified of him in real life.
00:30:34	D'Arcy	Guest	Because of his just—I get it. I get it. Yeah.
00:30:36	Jesse	Host	He's just so—such an American original, let's say. [Laughs.]
00:30:39	D'Arcy	Guest	Yeah, he's so extraordinary. Yes, I know. I know what you mean.
00:30:41	Jesse	Host	Yeah, he's really something else that I have a hard time imagining him <u>having</u> a house, much less working in his house. Like, that prospect I find completely overwhelming.
00:30:55	D'Arcy	Guest	Yeah, I get that. I think, you know, it's probably lucky that I worked for him for so long, so sort of like intimately. What a weird word. But like in his—you know, in his—in his life, you know?
00:31:05	Jesse	Host	Intimately! Yeah.
00:31:06	D'Arcy	Guest	And I would've been—yeah, I could see myself going onto his set being a fan of him, being terrified of him. Luckily, you know, I'm not. [Laughs.] At this point, he feels like—you know, a family member. And it's been—you know, it's been such an incredible thing to watch this for him, this <i>Barry</i> thing. Because you know, knowing him for so long and knowing him for so well, it's almost like a fluke that he's funny. Do you know what I mean? It's almost a fluke that he is a genius impressionist. He was made to be a director and a writer and like a serious actor. And he happens to be a genius comedian.
			But he's such a good director. I love the episodes when he's directing. It's—he's incredible at it. And yeah, it's fun to sort of—I mean, he obviously was so successful before <i>Barry</i> , but it's fun to watch him sort of—I don't know, meet his destiny or something like that. It all like makes sense to me. And uh, I don't know. Love the dude. So much.
00:32:12	Jesse	Host	We'll wrap up with D'Arcy Carden after a quick break. When we return, the moment you waited for will have finally arrived. D'Arcy Carden and I will discuss our legendary joint TV appearance on IFC's <i>Comedy Bang! Bang!</i> . Twin titans of the acting arts! The electricity is already filling the air. It's <i>Bullseye</i> , from MaximumFun.org and NPR.
00:32:36	Promo	Clip	Music: Cheerful, bouncy synth.

Speaker: Hey there! Quick favor to ask. Will you help us out by taking a five-minute survey at MaximumFun.org/survey? As you

know, most of the support for Max Fun comes directly from folks like you. But many of our shows and our network also rely on limited advertising for some revenue. This survey helps us attract advertisers that are a good fit for the audiences of our shows. And it helps many of our hosts secure a bit of extra income. It should only take a few minutes to complete, and you'll get a discount at Max Fun Store when you do. That's MaximumFun.org/survey. Thanks!

00:33:16	Music	Transition	[Music fades out.]
00:33:21	Jesse	Host	Chiming synth with a steady beat. It's <i>Bullseye</i> . I'm Jesse Thorn. My guest is D'Arcy Carden. She's the star of <i>The Good Place</i> , <i>Barry</i> , and the upcoming show, <i>A League of Their Own</i> . Let's get back into our conversation.
			I have to ask you a little bit about your childhood in the Bay Area.
			[D'Arcy affirms.]
00:33:40	D'Arcy	Guest	Your father was an alternative newspaper publisher.
00:33:41	Jesse	Host	Hell yeah. And I found this out when someone tweeted at me that he was the publisher of <i>BAM</i> , which was a music listings and articles that would be at a coffeeshop.
00:33:54	D'Arcy	Guest	Yeah. Or like a record store or whatever. Yeah.
00:33:56	Jesse	Host	Yeah. And look, we can talk about that. But I'm much more interested in him being the publisher of something called <i>Micro Times</i> .
00:34:03	D'Arcy	Guest	Yeah! Are you really? Keep going.
00:34:04	Jesse	Host	Yeah. The first thought I had— <i>Micro Times</i> was like where you would buy your computer parts out of. And it had some articles too. And the first thought I had was just at your house, was there ever like dinner table conversation—somebody talking [censored] about <i>Computer Currents</i> ? The rival computer-based...
00:34:27	D'Arcy	Guest	Like, yes, there was.
			[Jesse laughs.]
			'Cause also, my dad's like really competitive. You know what I mean? Yeah. It's so funny. I mean, I almost—not to say I forgot about <i>Micro Times</i> , 'cause of course I didn't, but <i>BAM</i> is like our legacy. <i>BAM</i> is like the thing we are—me and my siblings are so sort of like proud of and it's fun to talk about, and we—you know, music is our—music is our god in our family. And I kind of forget that, you know, <i>Micro Times</i> — <i>Micro Times</i> was a bigger magazine. <i>Micro Times</i> was like a huge magazine. [Whispering.] <i>Micro Times</i> .
			What a cute little name. Yeah, and we did have like—we did have sort of like computer-y things early. And I think I like found out about the internet early. [Laughs.] But I mean, it wasn't as interesting to me as music. So, I didn't fully grasp it of course. But I'm saying this from a privileged place, meaning like my family is good. [Chuckles.] I'm not talking about money or anything like that; I'm talking about like not everybody has this lucky thing where like I had a really cool childhood and I really love my family. [Laughs.] And you know, my dad's job being a magazine—I don't know. Editor, founder. Like

having these—a bunch of magazines, it was just like a really cool way to grow up.

And his office was in Oakland. And everybody that worked for him, it was like this big, cool family. And it just was a fricking cool way to grow up. And we got to go to concerts, and we got to like be obsessed with music and it just—I'm very—I am very grateful for it, and I was at the time, too. I was like, "Damn, this is cool."

00:36:01 Jesse Host
00:36:04 D'Arcy Guest

What did you get to go see?

Well, just about everything. Is that—? That's where the bragging comes in. It was like—my parents would take us to the shows, which was cool. So, if something was coming through the Bay Area, which as you know, everything did, 'cause we had some really—we have and had some really great venues there. [Whispers.] I got to see it all. It was so great. It was so cool.

And it turned me into an adult that is obsessed with seeing music live. It's like my—it really is my obsession, and it's actually unhealthy. Because I get like sick to my stomach if I miss something. Like, I've been in a situation many times where I'm seeing a show and I know this person or band is playing again tomorrow night, and I'm already like sick with "I gotta come back again". Or like, I'm not enjoying it because I know—I'm thinking about how do I get tickets for tomorrow; it's too much. It's the one thing that I like—you know—really go nuts on.

00:36:52 Jesse Host

How did it change your life to work alongside Jesse Thorn on an episode of *Comedy Bang! Bang!* one time, playing assistant to his egghead writer?

00:37:05 D'Arcy Guest

It absolutely [using a cartoonishly sophisticated voice] changed my life.

That is where we met. What would you say that was? Like eight years ago?

00:37:13 Jesse Host

Yeah. I'm trying to think. 'Cause it's my last acting credit, so...

[D'Arcy laughs.]

00:37:17 D'Arcy Guest

Yeah, I think that [inaudible].

That was your last acting credit? No, that was—I mean, that was exciting! It was—you know, things were going really—I mean, okay, I know you asked that as a joke, but things were going really well for me in New York in a way. Again, not with money and not with like—I wasn't on *SNL*. I wasn't on—you know, I wasn't on *The Daily Show* or whatever. But things were going well. I was like moving my way up and things were happening. And then I moved to LA, and it was like it stopped for a minute where I thought it was gonna be like, "I'm here, baby!" And it stopped. And you know, even like the UCBLA wasn't quite working for me or I wasn't working for it or something.

It wasn't like an easy transition. And then—yeah. Like, Scott Aukerman and I think through Neil Campbell gave me and you a day of work on *Comedy Bang! Bang!*. And days like that and days on *Funny or Die* shoots, like that was—[chuckles] you know, the pat on the back from God saying like, "You're on the right track even though it doesn't quite feel like it. So, that day, even though I know

we're sort of hehehe about it, it was like—it meant a lot to me in my career. Like, okay, this is—I'm on the right track. Something's coming. This is not for nothing. You know. Even though it's like one little day of work, half a day of work over—you know, over many months. It's—what a weird little job.

But that is where I met you! And I've been—you know, I met you that day and you've been doing nothing but good things since. So, it's been fun to watch your career.

00:38:42 Jesse Host

You were on that show, and somebody was like, "Oh yeah, that's like a cool UCB lady." And you did it, and you were so immediately good.

[They laugh.]

Just right from the very beginning, I was like, "Ooooh, that's what it is to be good at this!"

00:38:58 D'Arcy Guest

[Laughing.] Oh my god, that's so nice. You were great! You were great.

00:39:01 Jesse Host

It's very true. That wasn't me looking for a compliment. I did fine. You were amazing.

[D'Arcy thanks him.]

Well, D'Arcy Carden, thank you for taking all this time to be on *Bullseye*. It was great to talk to you.

00:39:09 D'Arcy Guest

Thank you for having me! What an honor and what a thrill, and I've enjoyed every [fumbles the word "minute"]. Oop! Lemme try that again. But don't cut it out.

[They chuckle.]

What an honor and what a thrill, and I've enjoyed every minute of it! [With sudden intensity, through gritted teeth.] Don't cut that out.

00:39:23 Jesse Host

[Laughs.]

D'Arcy Carden. My guest, former co-star, and one of the funniest people in the biz. "Co-star" is strong. Like we said earlier, *A League of Their Own* debuts August 12th on Amazon Prime. It's a great baseball show. Nothing better to watch during the summertime. Go check it out. Oh, and here's a special treat. Yes, that's right. It's D'Arcy Carden as assistant and me, Jesse Thorn, as egghead writer in Scott Aukerman's *Comedy Bang! Bang!*. Scott is walking and talking as the host of a comedy show.

00:39:56 Sound Effect Transition

Music swells and fades.

00:39:57 Clip Clip

Music: Dramatic, orchestral music.

Assistant: Mr. Aukerman, I need final approval on a prop.

Scott: Eh, needs less red. More orange. What do I always say? If it's red, the joke is dead. But if it's orange—

Assistant: The joke is soarin'-ge!

Scott: Where are we on scripts?!

Egghead Writer: I have the Pythagorean Gangnam Style.

Writer: The Real Housewives of Ingmar Bergman.

Egghead Writer: YouTube commenter who uses an Oxford comma incorrectly?

Scott: Okay! Stop! Could you Ivy League jerks be any more intellectually snobbish?!

00:40:21 Sound Effect Transition

Music swells and fades.

00:40:22 Jesse Host

Incredible. Still makes my hair stand on end, all these years later.

00:40:27 Music Transition

Jazzy piano with a steady beat.

00:40:30 Jesse Host

That's the end of another episode of *Bullseye*. *Bullseye* is created from the homes me and the staff of Maximum Fun, in and around greater Los Angeles, California. Here at my house, there is one mango growing on my tiny mango tree, and I swear to god, if any of you mess with that mango, you won't know what hit you.

Our show is produced by speaking into microphones. Our senior producer is Kevin Ferguson. Our producers are Jesus Ambrosio and Richard Robey. Our production fellow at Maximum Fun is Tabatha Myers. We get booking help from Mara Davis. Our interstitial music is by Dan Wally, also known as DJW. Our theme music is by The Go! Team. Thanks to The Go! Team and their label, Memphis Industries. The track's called "Huddle Formation". Go! Team, they're great.

You can find *Bullseye* on YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. Find us there, follow us. If you wanna share an interview real quick, YouTube's a great place to do it. Everybody knows how to watch YouTube. I think that's about it. Just remember: all great radio hosts have a signature signoff.

00:41:31 Promo Promo

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

[Music fades out.]