

"BREAKING BAD"

OVERVIEW

What I aim to tell is nothing less than the authoritative story of our nation's most famous and controversial substance: the drug. What are these popular chemicals? Who are the villains that produce them? Who are the heroes that volunteer to consume them? Who are the soldiers tasked with arresting an equal number of these heroes and villains?

Our window into this world? None other than Walter White, a disgusting man who has been bald since birth and is furious because he's a high school teacher. In his free time, he tries to drown his horrible students' cars at a local gas station—a task at which he always fails, to his mounting anger. On top of all this, Walter is battling a secret, crippling addiction to pub trivia.

But everything is about to change for Walter. On his 50th birthday, he is visited by a mythical teenager known as the Pink Jester, who reveals Walt's special gift: He can make drugs, the popular chemicals, at will. The Jester soon tempts him into becoming a villain, and the two team up with one mission: to make enough drugs to put everyone in the world to sleep. Standing in their way is a whole stable of enemies:

- Walt's brother, Hank, a soldier who works for the war
- Hank's formidable spouse, Lady T.H.E.F.T.
- The devious Dr. Guss, who tries to foil Walt and the Jester by giving them cancer
- Dr. Guss' bald henchman, Mike Trout
- Walt's own family?

Woe of woes, it's true: Even his own family turns on him. So, our villain really is up against it, but he's not going down easy. With the wind at his back and the Pink Jester at his side, Walter White is finally Feeling Good...and *Breaking Bad**.

* ALT titles under consideration include: *Mixed Up*, *The Risky Life*, *Dad Don't Quit*, and *The Walter White Hour*.

EPISODE STRUCTURE

Each season will comprise 90 self-contained, standalone episodes that can be seen in any order. To help viewers feel comfortable starting anywhere, each episode will adhere rigidly to the following six-part structure:

1. The Lab. Each episode starts with Walt and the Jester creating a new drug and agreeing to put everyone to sleep with it. They Google the drug and learn that it is illegal. Walter mutters to himself that he'll probably never get arrested.

2. Saul's Pub. Walter heads to Thirsty Saul's Pub for drinks and a night of trivia. Under his alter ego, "Hollywood," Walt plays on his own trivia team and gets every single question wrong. The scene ends after Walt is forcibly removed from the bar for shouting out answers he's supposed to write down.

3. Dr. Guss' Lair. The devious Dr. Guss finds out about the new drug Walt has created and is livid. He resolves to stop them by giving them cancer.

4. Walter's House: Hank the soldier visits for dinner, mentions that he has heard about a new drug, and expresses his vague hope of arresting the villain who made it. Walt screams at Hank that he'll probably never arrest the villain.

5. The Ambush: At the climax of the episode, Dr. Guss corners Walt and the Jester and tries to give them cancer. They escape, but Dr. Guss manages to confiscate the drugs, and Walt's son is tragically killed in the fighting. Hank arrives on the scene moments too late and unleashes a mournful screech.

6. Back At The Lab: Walt and the Jester return to

the lab having learned some kind of lesson.

SETTING

In my vision, *Breaking Bad* will be a show that takes place both nowhere and everywhere—the essential idea is that the characters live in this nomadic city that wanders where it pleases, never stopping in the same place two nights in a row. To achieve this effect, we will **actually construct the entire town**, complete with houses and parks, then lash it to the back of an enormous truck bed, 1/2 mile across by 1 mile long. **This truck will always be in motion** for each day of shooting, driving all around the U.S., down into Mexico, and ultimately across the sea to Africa. I know this is a big ask, but I feel it is essential to the show's tone.

CHARACTERS

Walter White

The bald, angry teacher. In the show universe, teachers are people who have tried to drown cars and must write on chalkboards for the rest of their lives as punishment. Walt spends every day standing in front of a roomful of sleeping children writing chalkboard equations estimating how much sulfuric acid he would need to dissolve a Honda Accord. When the Pink Jester finally visits and offers to make him a villain, Walt says, "Finally."

Wardrobe: Graphic tees, black pork pie hat
Catchphrase: "I'll probably never get arrested."

Other facts:

- Back in college, Walt had an idea for a mobile swimming pool that could drown cars, but someone else patented it first.
- He's the only one in the world who knows how mirrors work instead of just pretending to understand.

The Pink Jester

The teen of legend. The profane spellcaster. Together with the Badger and the Thin Man, he is one of a central trio of figures in a mythology that we will slowly build out over the course of the series. In the first episode, the Pink Jester visits Walter White and becomes his accomplice and confidante. Only Walt can see the Jester, but Dr. Guss also knows he exists.

Wardrobe: Brass knuckles, expensive sneakers, flowing pink robe
Catchphrase: "Pinkredible!"

Other facts:

- Instead of legs, the Pink Jester has wheels with
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large rubber tires in the style of Michael Schumacher's Formula One speedsters.

-His facial expression is constantly one of having just won a race.

Walter White (son)

Walter White's son is also called Walter White and is to be portrayed by the same actor as the older Walter. Due to his father's recklessness, the young Walter dies in every single episode, but is always alive at the start of the next episode. Whenever he talks, it's clear that he has made peace with the fact that his father does not care if he lives.

Wardrobe: Same as Walter White

Catchphrase: Same as Walter White

Other facts:

-The child smiles more than the older Walter. In fact, he is always smiling.

-When they are in the same room, the two Walters can speak to each other, but they never look at each other.

Walter Wife

Strong and independent. The sovereign woman. When she married Walter, she chose to keep her surname and only adopt Walter's first name, a source of resentment for Walter White. Her hair is part of her skin (she has acute sensation in her hair). At some point in every episode, Walter Wife announces that she is pregnant.

Wardrobe: Tuxedo

Catchphrase: "Not again."

Other facts:

-Walter Wife operates a successful Chris Christie Twitter parody account.

-She is secretly in love with Walter White.

Hank

Walter's brother, a soldier who works for the war. His name is meant to evoke both tanks and hawks. In the world of the show, Hank (rather than the moon) is the reason for tides. Other characters frequently mention the fact that Hank causes tides, although this is never explored in detail, so that the question of how and why Hank causes tides remains open for us to ponder. However, we know it has nothing to do with his size—Hank is exactly the size and shape of a normal man.

Wardrobe: Full-body hawk costume w/ golden feathers
Catchphrase: "Hank's here."

Other facts:

—He is bald.

—He is a **big** fan favorite. We're going to pull out all the stops to make Hank the most popular character on the show. He will be the only face shown in billboards and TV spots, and he will be the one standing at the front of the cast in photos for DVD box sets.

Lady T.H.E.F.T.

Hank's formidable spouse. Lady T.H.E.F.T. (full name an acronym to be revealed letter by letter throughout the series) is a criminal mastermind who makes a living by robbing small-business owners while in disguise, then extorting protection money. She is obsessed with stealing Walter White's trademark pork pie hat.

Wardrobe: Purple dress, balaclava, burlap sack w/ MasterCard symbol
Catchphrase: "Have to have it."

Other facts:

—When Lady T.H.E.F.T. noticed that the entire town

is on the back of a giant truck, she said to Hank that this was a very good thing.

-She is often seen using whatever drug Walt and the Jester make in that episode.

Dr. Guss

Walt and the Jester's arch-nemesis. Dr. Guss runs a hospice for aging chickens he tries to keep alive as long as possible. When they die, he sells the bodies. In his spare time, Dr. Guss battles Walter and the Pink Jester and tries to stop them by giving them cancer.

Wardrobe: Medical scrubs, goggles, oversized stethoscope he never uses

Catchphrase: "I'm going to give you cancer, Walter White."

Other facts:

-Dr. Guss plays chess.

-A dog lives in his house, but he does not own the dog.

Thirsty Saul

The easygoing owner and bartender of Saul's Pub, Walt's favorite trivia spot. He's known around town for his very easy trivia questions, such as "Name the opposite of north" and "Snap, Crackle, and [blank]," all of which Walter immediately answers by screaming gibberish. After 20 minutes of this, Saul is forced to heave Walter out onto the curb while all the customers applaud.

Wardrobe: Army jacket, camo pants, sunglasses

Catchphrase: "Come have a beer at Saul's."

Other facts:

-Saul is extremely wise.

-Saul is extremely strong.

Mike Trout

Dr. Guss' goon. He is a calm, bald teacher. In this way, Mike is Walt's foil.

Wardrobe: Normal clothes

Catchphrase: None

GENERAL NOTES ABOUT THE SERIES

- All shots are from the POV of Walter White.
- Whenever Walt looks in a mirror (i.e., more or less every scene), we are able to see that he is holding a camera, but that it's a different camera from the one that serves as our viewpoint.
- The boom mic should be visible in every shot.
- There will be **no divorce** in *Breaking Bad*. Married characters may fight, but by the end of the episode it should be obvious that they're more in love than ever.
- Breaking Bad* is set in the year 2626.
- Swearing (i.e., profanity) will be depicted in every episode of *Breaking Bad*. I'm sorry if this is a deal-breaker, but there's no other way for Walt to react to getting trivia questions wrong.
- For reasons I won't go into, the actor Bob Odenkirk cannot be allowed on *Breaking Bad*.
- Every principal cast member is black.
- None of the background extras are black.
- This show will be canceled after one season.