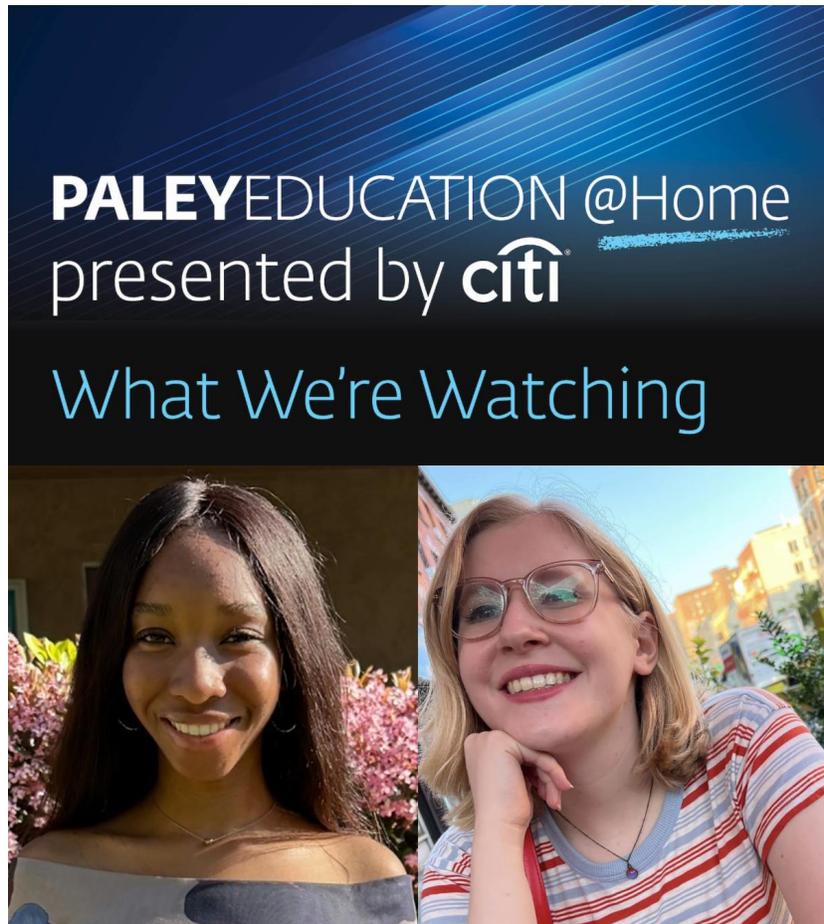


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THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA



Greetings from The Paley Center for Media's Education Department!

Peter Roth Interns Takeover!

For the next month, What We're Watching is being taken over by college students that are part of the Peter Roth Internship program @Paley!

For this week we hear from Osewanne Uwadiae, a rising senior at Chapman University, and Sophie Ostrove, a rising senior at New York University. Enjoy this unique perspective from the next generation of television and media professionals.

As always, if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out to us at eduny@paleycenter.org.

Happy viewing,
Rebekah Fisk, Director of Education
Carlos Pareja, Manager of Education



What We're Watching: Favorite NYC Characters

We are the Digital Storytelling Team of the Peter Roth Internship here at The Paley Center for Media. Our cohort comes from locations across the country, representing a variety of backgrounds and experiences. This summer, we have all come together here at the Paley Center—a staple of NYC and media culture—to explore and develop our passion for television. Here we reflect on our favorite characters from New York City and why they resonate with us.

This Week's Recommendations for Younger Viewers

Jessie (2011)

Recommended for Grades 3+

Available on Disney+

Nice to meet you all! My name is Osewanne Uwadiae! I am a rising senior at Chapman University pursuing a major in Screenwriting and a minor in Law, Justice, and Social Control. With this, I aim to continue my love for storytelling and specifically focus on narratives that highlight and uplift the voices of African communities.

Born and raised in Sacramento, California, my siblings and I shared a different upbringing than the stories we grew up listening to from our parents. Immigrating from Nigeria, my parents always had a plethora of tales to tell us about back home and their experiences of coming to the United States at such a young age. I credit their stories as the reason I began my own writing journey. By pulling from my lived and learned experiences, I create scripts that are unique to me but relatable to a vast audience.

Growing up watching Disney Channel and rewatching these shows as a young adult, a character in a show that has resonated with me is Zuri played by Skai Jackson on *Jessie*. For those who are not familiar with the show, *Jessie* is about a small-town woman who has big city dreams of becoming an actress. When Jessie Prescott moves to New York City, she is fully intent on pursuing her acting career. However, her agenda is disrupted when an 11-year-old girl asks Jessie to be her and her siblings' nanny.

Originally from Uganda, Zuri is an eccentric black girl who does not take no for an answer and has mischievous ways of getting what she wants. Zuri's character is especially unique because it is rare to see a young woman of color play a lead character in a show and have such an integral role in the overall series.

In my favorite episode "Are You Cooler Than a 5th Grader?" Zuri learns the value of hard work by selling lemonade to buy the dolls she wants and steps out of her privileged bubble to obtain something without the swipe of a card. A lesson well learned!

I encourage everyone to watch or rewatch this show if you are looking for good laughs, a great ensemble cast, and to learn more about the beautiful city of NYC! If you are interested in learning more about the actress who played Zuri in the show, Skai Jackson has a book out now that documents her advice, journey, and experiences as a multi-talented actress, activist, and author. Also linked is a behind the scenes interview from the show!

Additional Resources

[On set interview with Skai Jackson](#)

[Reach for the Skai: How to Inspire, Empower, and Clapback by Skai Jackson](#)



This Week's Recommendations for Older Viewers

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt (2015)

Recommended for Grades 9+
Available on Netflix

Hi! I'm Sophie, a rising senior at NYU Tisch studying Film and TV with a focus on writing for comedy and TV—and what city has better TV and comedy than New York? I was practically raised on sitcoms and grew up an hour outside New York in a small town in New Jersey, so it's really no wonder that I decided to pursue comedy writing.

There are so many iconic NYC comedies (*The Jeffersons!* *Seinfeld!* *Brooklyn Nine-Nine!*) but one of my recent favorites is *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* on Netflix. The series follows Kimmy, an optimistic young woman who moves to New York after being rescued from an underground bunker where she's been trapped for the past fifteen years. She finds a fresh start in the city, where she can figure out who she wants to be. Luckily, she also finds new, eccentric friends in New York who help her learn to navigate the world through their own absurd and hilarious experiences and worldviews.

I love this show because it is undeniably weird, unique, and funny, while remaining incredibly upbeat and optimistic, just like Kimmy herself. Kimmy teaches us to be resilient, embrace our individuality, stand up for ourselves, take chances, and never lose hope. Kimmy can be a great role model, and these are such important messages, all delivered in a deeply entertaining package.

Additional Resources

[Netflix's Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: A Conversation with the Stars at Paley Front Row](#)

Enjoy,
Ose and Sophie

Photos—*Jessie*: Disney+; *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*: Netflix

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