

# PORTER *powered by* NET-A-PORTER *Edit*

**BUSY PHILIPPS TALKS TO NET-A-PORTER'S WEEKLY DIGITAL MAGAZINE, PORTEREDIT, ABOUT HER DREAM TO BE THE FIRST FEMALE HOST OF *THE TONIGHT SHOW*, HOW STYLISTS USED TO MAKE HER FEEL LIKE A "BURDEN" ON SET, AND HER SURPRISING REVELATION ABOUT *DAWSON'S CREEK***



\*Please link directly to PorterEdit via [www.net-a-porter.com/porter/article-6466dd503c14c0b9](http://www.net-a-porter.com/porter/article-6466dd503c14c0b9)

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She starred in cult shows *Freaks and Geeks*, *Dawson's Creek* and *Cougar Town*, but actress, author and social media phenomenon Busy Philipps says her true calling is to be a late-night TV host, as she tells NET-A-PORTER's weekly digital magazine, **PorterEdit**, that acting has never been easy for her: *"Acting is exhausting and heartbreaking and I truly think it doesn't get easier for anyone. For years, I feel like I tried to fit into something that I thought I was supposed to be in order to procure work as an actress. I have many friends at all different levels of accolades and fame and none of them have an easy road. It's always a f\*\*\*ing struggle, you always feel like you're beating your head against a wall."*

Philipps' upcoming new show on the E! channel will make her one of only a handful of women with a late-night spot on mainstream US TV, but the mother-of-two (she has daughters Birdie, seven, and Cricket, five, with screenwriter husband Marc Silverstein) reveals that she was initially gunning for someone else's show, instead of her own: *"I turned to Marc and said, 'I know what I'm supposed to do. I'm supposed to be a woman in late-night TV.' Well, I actually said, 'I'm supposed to be the first woman host of The Tonight Show', but Marc was like, 'Jimmy Fallon already has that job; maybe you're just supposed to have a talk show.'"*

The 39-year-old also makes the surprising divulgence that she preferred her former shows *Freaks and Geeks* and *Cougar Town* to beloved teen drama *Dawson's Creek* – because she never watched it: *"Freaks and Geeks I think is ultimately the classic. And then probably Cougar Town. I never watched Dawson's Creek. I didn't watch it before I was on the show and I barely watched it after I was on the show, so I don't have the same connection that other people have to it."*

Philipps also dashes any hopes of a *Dawson's Creek* comeback, as she explains how a retail clerk recently withheld her change until Philipps would agree to say there would be a show reunion: "I said, 'OK, yeah sure. It's not going to happen, but, yeah, go on then.'" But while the actress might not have as strong of an affinity to *Dawson's* as she does for her other roles, the show did give her a lasting friendship with former castmate Michelle Williams: "It's so interesting that [our] friendship became basically mythological after that show. We had very few scenes together; Jen and Audrey were unlikely friends. But in the last season, sometimes they would give us scenes together, just to make us happy."

Modeling '90s-inspired T-shirts, jeans and lingerie in **PorterEdit**'s shoot, Philipps is the picture of ease and confidence. But the actress explains she hasn't always felt that way when having her photo taken: "Back in the late '90s and early 2000s when I would show up for photo shoots, all they would have pulled was sample-sized clothing that I didn't fit into and I would feel like a burden to the stylist and embarrassed. [Photo shoots] weren't ever a place where I felt supported, or like people wanted to take a great picture of me that looked like me. I always felt like they wanted me to look like Tara Reid."

For **PorterEdit**'s shoot, Philipps was photographed by Matthew Sprout and styled by Catherine Newell-Hanson in the season's stripped-back off-duty pieces and '90s-inspired lingerie by Balenciaga, Saint Laurent, The Row, Helmut Lang, Rag & Bone, Totême, Hanro and more. All items can be purchased straight from the magazine's pages via the NET-A-PORTER app, available on Android as well as iPhone and iPad, and through [www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com).

In an accompanying mini film shot exclusively for **PorterEdit** ([www.net-a-porter.com/porter/article-6466dd503c14c0b9](http://www.net-a-porter.com/porter/article-6466dd503c14c0b9)), Philipps, who is a self-confessed skincare obsessive, shares the health and beauty mantras she swears by – and reveals a time when things went very wrong...

### **Interview highlights:**

#### **Busy Philipps on her dream to be the first female host of *The Tonight Show*:**

"I was in Palm Springs for my manager's fiftieth birthday and I just turned to Marc [Silverstein, her husband] and said, 'I know what I'm supposed to do. I'm supposed to be a woman in late-night TV.' Well, I actually said, 'I'm supposed to be the first woman host of *The Tonight Show*', but Marc was like, 'Jimmy Fallon already has that job; maybe you're just supposed to have a talk show.'"

#### **On how she used to feel like a "burden" on photoshoots because of her appearance:**

"Back in the late '90s and early 2000s when I would show up for photo shoots, all they would have pulled was sample-sized clothing that I didn't fit into and I would feel like a burden to the stylist and embarrassed. [Photo shoots] weren't ever a place where I felt supported, or like people wanted to take a great picture of me that looked like me. I always felt like they wanted me to look like Tara Reid."

#### **On why she doesn't want to continue acting:**

"Acting is exhausting and heartbreaking and I truly think it doesn't get easier for anyone. For years, I feel like I tried to fit into something that I thought I was supposed to be in order to procure work as an actress. I have many friends at all different levels of accolades and fame and none of them have an easy road. It's always a f\*\*\*ing struggle, you always feel like you're beating your head against a wall."

**On how social media has helped her find her voice:**

*"In the last year and a half, I've felt so much more freedom. With Instagram, I get to create content for myself and entertain in a way that I've never been able or allowed to do."*

**On how she regrets not writing more material for herself earlier on:**

*"I come from a long line of writers and I've always been interested in writing, but when I started off in this business, there wasn't as much of an opportunity to be a multi-hyphenate. I wish I had had the foresight to create stuff for myself earlier, but it just didn't occur to me that that was going to be an opportunity."*

**On recently experiencing sexism while on set:**

*"I had a crazy situation on a set not that long ago with an actor. It was just mind-boggling and the way everyone handled it was so ridiculous; no one did anything. It's that guy code. My husband and I talk about it because he's such a feminist and such a strong dude and I've asked him, 'If you were working with a group of dudes and they were objectifying a woman, would you say something?' He said he would, but I just don't know."*

**On her favorite show that she's starred in - and why she didn't watch *Dawson's Creek*:**

*"Freaks and Geeks I think is ultimately the classic. And then probably Cougar Town. I never watched Dawson's Creek. I didn't watch it before I was on the show and I barely watched it after I was on the show, so I don't have the same connection that other people have to it."*

**On her long-lasting friendship with *Dawson's Creek* alumni Michelle Williams:**

*"It's so interesting that [our] friendship became basically mythological after that show. We had very few scenes together; Jen and Audrey were unlikely friends. But in the last season, sometimes they would give us scenes together, just to make us happy."*

**On how a retail clerk recently withheld her change until Philipps would agree to say there would be a *Dawson's Creek* reunion:**

*"I said, 'OK, yeah sure. It's not going to happen, but, yeah, go on then.'"*

**On how she fell in love very quickly with her husband, screenwriter Marc Silverstein:**

*"I had my heart broken really badly in my twenties. When I met Marc, we got along so well, I knew instantly that we were going to be together. I'm never skeptical when people get engaged or married really quickly because I feel like sometimes that thing just happens. Marc and I waited two years, but I probably would have married him immediately."*

**On why she doesn't want to live up to the 'cool girl' image anymore:**

*"For so long, I wanted to be perceived as a cool girl. A girl who could take it and hang with the guys, and that usually meant being objectified, occasionally being bullied and having to be the one who is able to laugh off the joke at my own expense. I hit a point maybe four or five years ago after the birth of Cricks where I was like, 'f\*\*\* this, I'm not doing it anymore.'"*

**On how she knew she wanted to star in *Cougar Town* from the very first moment:**

*"I went into my agency a week after giving birth [to first daughter Birdie, now 7] and said, 'OK, pilot season is coming up, I want you to send me pilots for half-hour single camera [shows] that have an established star attached, and are probably going to get picked up, where my character can be number two or number three on the call sheet. They sent me the script for Cougar Town with Courteney Cox and I said, 'Oh, this is what I'm doing.' Marc said, 'Calm down, you haven't even auditioned yet', but I was like, 'Details!'"*

To see the full interview, read PorterEdit at [www.net-a-porter.com/porter/article-6466dd503c14c0b9](http://www.net-a-porter.com/porter/article-6466dd503c14c0b9) or download the NET-A-PORTER app for iPhone, iPad and Android.

**Photo captions:**



Busy Philipps wears shirt Totême and necklace Loren Stewart. Photographed by Matthew Sprout for **PorterEdit**, [NET-A-PORTER.COM](http://NET-A-PORTER.COM). All items can be purchased straight from the magazine pages via [www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com).



Busy Philipps wears T-shirt Rag & Bone and briefs Yasmine Eslami. Photographed by Matthew Sprout for **PorterEdit**, [NET-A-PORTER.COM](http://NET-A-PORTER.COM). All items can be purchased straight from the magazine pages via [www.net-a-porter.com](http://www.net-a-porter.com).

**About PorterEdit:** **PorterEdit**, published in four languages, 52 weeks a year, is NET-A-PORTER's unrivaled weekly luxury-fashion digital magazine. With its high-caliber editorial polish, PorterEdit is a sleek fusion of stunning fashion, beauty, travel and interview content in a uniquely shoppable, digital format.