

## Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness & Ilana Glazer

JVN: Hey. Hey curious people. I'm Jonathan Van Ness, and welcome back to another episode of Getting Curious. You guys, I hope you are a loving Queer Eye season 9, slay. Sidebar, you guys. I hope you're loving our new intro and outro that we do for our episodes. I'm going to give the outros yet another little revision, uh, upper bleph, if you will, where instead of like recapping the most interesting things that I learned, it's gonna be more about like, what did I learn in the episode that I'm gonna apply in my life moving forward. So I just also want to say love you guys. Thank you for sticking with us on our evolution, and our evolution isn't over. We're gonna continue evolving into 2025, learning how to be better podcasters, entertainers, building community, so we just want to say that we love you, we thank you, and we are growing together. Um, so getting into just setting the stage for what we're curious about for this episode, how are we going to find levity in such a heavy time? It has been a hell of a year. I've also been on tour this whole year and most of last year with my show Fun and Slutty. I've gotten a laugh with people all over the country, all over the world, and it's been such a healing experience for me. Comedy consistently allows me to like, express myself and find purpose through my pain. I also think it's where I'm the most myself. And I think of all the comedians that I've interviewed and just become friends with over my life. Whether that was Margaret Cho or Alok or Travis Olabanza or Ayo Edebiri or um uh Beth Stelling, Jabooki Young White, Jarebgte our pain into purpose or our pain into joy. We are all about like transmutation and just taking our experiences and making people laugh. Oh, Nico Carney, honey, there's just so many people like, and if I didn't name you, I am obsessed with you. I just, I just think comedians are so amazing. And so really that's what I want to find out today with Ilana Glazer is, who's our guest who I'm obsessed with. How do you transmute your pain into joy? How are you gonna heal in 2025? How are you like, how do you view the world and also her second special, as we found out, a sophomore special, Human Magic is coming to Hulu Friday, December 20th, literally this week, so please watch it, share it, shout it from the rooftops. We are so excited for Ilana and now let's get to our guest bio. Ilana Glazer is a comedian, actress, writer and producer celebrated for her sharp humor and fearless storytelling. She rose to prominence as the co-creator and star of Broad City, a critically acclaimed sitcom that began as a web series and became a cultural phenomenon for its hilarious and authentic portrayal of millennial life in New York City. Glazer's comedic voice blends irreverence and deep social awareness, often spotlighting issues like feminism, equality, and identity. Beyond Broad City, she has expanded her repertoire with stand-up specials and acting roles in films such as False Positive, The After Party, and Babes. Her newest special, Human Magic, is streaming on Hulu on Friday, December 20th. And also, can I just say, Broad City defining comedy of our generation. Today we are asking Ilana. How will Ilana Glazer help you find the funny when everything sucks in the world and the clurb? Ah ah ah ah, Ilana, welcome to Getting Curious. How are you?

ILANA GLAZER: I'm uh delighted to be talking to you today, Jonathan.

JVN: I mean, this is the thing, even though we're, I think we're both in New York today, aren't we?

ILANA GLAZER: I'm always in New York, my goodness.

JVN: But aren't you in Brooklyn? And I'm in Manhattan today in my closet, which we might as well be in like different time zones when you're in Brooklyn.

ILANA GLAZER: One hundred percent.

JVN: It's so far. It's like, who has time to get on a train and go 45 minutes or like not this girl and not you because you have a new special. It's your newest special December 20th, um, Human Magic. I'm obsessed with the title or like, and congratulations. Wait, I feel like I should know this from my what number is this?

ILANA GLAZER: 2, number 2, which is I love number 2.

JVN: That's also called a sophomore special, my comedy agent told me –

ILANA GLAZER: Yes! Ok, thank you. Right, like a sophomore album, understood, understood.

JVN: Yeah. You know what it smells like for me, um, Human Magic?

ILANA GLAZER: What?

JVN: Grammy nominee. It's smelling, do you smell that? It smells like Grammy nomination.

ILANA GLAZER: I'm getting a whiff, I have to be honest. I'm getting a whiff. Um, thank you, Jonathan. That's so sweet and damn if there's a person to manifest positive things into the world. It is you, my love.

JVN: Um, sidebar, not to go so all over the place at the very top. However –

ILANA GLAZER: I fucking love it, I love it.

JVN: We do this thing on our Ask JVN like pod, which is like, Chris and I, who you just met our senior producer on the pod, we like just do this like little like thing on Wednesdays where we just talk about like TikTok roundups and like sex and all these other things too, but we are very delighted by the in the clurb. Just like, just in the clurbness of the Q4 of 2024 –

ILANA GLAZER: Yeah. Yes, yes.

JVN: With all the sadness, with all the strike, we needed a silver lining that wasn't a playbook that was. Like, actually white savior complex, as I think about it.

ILANA GLAZER: Right, right.

JVN: So then we needed like a new silver lining and thank you for providing that for us in 2024.

ILANA GLAZER: That was God, that was the people, you know what I mean? That was like the people rising up to transcend themselves to be like, you know what we need right now to laugh at these two knuckleheads and And also to like laugh at ourselves. It was such a sweet moment in culture because there's so little, they're so, um, we so rarely like connect on one thing. Our attention is being like, specifically fractured by a few men in charge of the algorithm. And it was so it felt really like um people powered that one. And it was celebratory and touched my heart.

JVN: It touched a nation, probably a universe. I, it did. Also another thing that just came up on SGVN the other day as we were talking about, uh, sexual toys, uh, you know, toys that

bring us pleasure, and it gave us a really happy reminder of melting the strap on and I think season. What season was that season 2 or was it 1 or 3?

ILANA GLAZER: Two, it was, it was 204 knockoffs. That's right, season two. Because

JVN: I just couldn't, I went with a friend of mine recently to buy them a butt plug for the and it was \$190.

ILANA GLAZER: \$190?!

JVN: I didn't know that butt plugs were running us. So high cost these days and that I understood the the upsetness from that episode.

ILANA GLAZER: The supply chain is fucking us in more ways than one, you know –

JVN: It really is!

ILANA GLAZER: Wait, Jonathan, was it just silicone?

JVN: I don't know. I think it was like glass and like hand blown and it wasn't upscale, gorgeous.

ILANA GLAZER: Ok, \$190 makes sense for a glass hand blown butt plug.

JVN: But still, like, I felt like that was high, it was high end. It's, I mean, it's, it was gorgeous and also who wants microplastics and their mucosal membrane? Not this girl –

ILANA GLAZER: Yeah. Not me, not me.

JVN: Ok, wait, so we're going to get into this later too, but I just like have to ask because like natural flow. 3.5 years in, like, because like the closest thing that I can, like cause I can't –

ILANA GLAZER: Jonathan, can I just say something?

JVN: Yeah.

ILANA GLAZER: You're a really special baby and I love you. You're so sweet. What a sweet little babe baby angel baby. Yeah, you're cracking me up.

JVN: Oh my God, thank you.

ILANA GLAZER: Because of natural flow. I'm dying.

JVN: No, I just, but we'll go back. We're gonna go back.

ILANA GLAZER: I just stopped the natural flow. My apologies.

JVN: No, no no. First of all –

ILANA GLAZER: Cut it Chris!

JVN: No, this is a shame free zone. We never apologize. A lot of you. There's no space for apology here because you're, you're a fucking perfect angel baby who I've been obsessed with since literally like 2014 or 2015 and like you're the fucking angel baby, ok anyway. So, like the closest, I don't do this because I try to one up. I think it's a part of my neurodivergence of my ADHD that I try to like relate, you know –

ILANA GLAZER: Yes, yes.

JVN: So the closest thing that I can put having a baby too, I think is kind of like, or the anxiety around like, oh my God, I'm gonna have this baby, is like when I started hair school and I remember like the night before hair school feeling like, oh my God, like what if I love it? What if I don't like it? What if I'm good at it? What if I'm bad at it? Like, I just like had all these thoughts. But then when I got there for the first day, I was like, oh my God. I'm so meant to be here, and I love this eye shadow, and I love these round brushes, and like, I'm swimming. Now that it's been 3.5 years, are you like, is it harder than you thought it would be, less hard, like different, even better, like motherhood? What how, what is it?

ILANA GLAZER: This is what you can, I, I think, um, I like explicitly say, but you can also like feel in my sophomore special Human Magic that I, it is better than I expected. It is better. I mean, I mean, also, it's like, you know, you know your heart's gonna explode and you're going to be so happy, but I think I feel more myself than I understood that I would. I, um, I, I really feel properly, appropriately organized, accurately organized as this person's parent. I, I just like know myself more deeply and like can feel that I'm walking on the path toward. Continual self. Knowing because I'm this person's parent. Like, it's fucking incredible. It's fucking incredible. And it's also like, ok, like stand up, you know, stand up, stand up has still got to be stand up, you know, so like I say, I say as much, but I'm not like going deep like in this way that I am um, in this conversation, but it's like, you know, I felt like in in approaching this hour, and as I started like just trying shit out and then seeing what connected these bits like this joy is really what connected at all. And, um, you know, it's kind of like my top line of like, I'm, I'm shocked by the joy. I am shocked. My body is shocked and it was for like the first couple of years, like really like, you know, excited and, and like, not even, you know, either like not hungry or eating so fucking much, you know, like as I'm breastfeeding and fucking starving and it's like just the intensity, you know, and the hunger and thirst for life like. There's just not a lot of space where we sit in wonder and awe of our creation and I'm not even talking about like you don't have to be pregnant of a kid and give birth to it in a particular way like, you know, it's humanity that we have like been systematically distracted from marveling at in order to be on a fucking hamster wheel to get 8 guys all of the money in the fucking world –

JVN: Mmm!

ILANA GLAZER: You know what I mean? I, I mean, I am so fucking sick. Of this motherfucking script where we're just being distracted and trans people are the scapegoat and, and Black people are the scapegoat and women's bodies like they can't choose for themselves. And it's like, get the fuck out of here, even with all that muck and all that nonsense, I'm still in awe of humanity and the human spirit. I am still in awe of human magic, really.

JVN: OK, now I understand the title. I love it so much I can't stand. Sidebar. It's giving me duality. No, but it's it's also giving me duality –

ILANA GLAZER: Awe,

JVN: My second, like my little second show, which I didn't do a special out of, but like it was like, um, what was that one? It was Imaginary Livingroom Olympian, that whole –

ILANA GLAZER: Your gymnastics is incredible, incredible. Thank you. How I, I did some cartwheels the other day I thought of you.

JVN: That's why I actually, I kind of stopped doing it before stand up because my hips and my knees and my ankles –

ILANA GLAZER: Yes.

JVN: Like I almost like fucked my shit up like 10 times and I was like, you know. I think I showed that I know how to do gymnastics routines before and do 10 minutes in a in a leotard and then a quick change into a different outfit.

ILANA GLAZER: Yeah, 100%.

JVN: I did it. I'm just going to do stand up in one outfit now and not necessarily gymnastics, but I might bring it back on summer Olympic years.

ILANA GLAZER: Hysterical, hysterical.

JVN: I, I have to see how I have to see how I –

ILANA GLAZER: Celebratory!

JVN: It's also hard. It's like it's it really like you're like trained so hard. I don't think people appreciate like how hard I had to train to like make my 6 ft tall 36 year old body do that shit.

ILANA GLAZER: Well, this is what I was thinking of you for. I was like, they're 6 ft tall. They're, you know, like, that's a lot of meat to move.

JVN: It is, I think, I, I think I said this on the pod a million times, and if I tell you guys the same stories a million times, I'm sorry, but my high school gymnastics teacher told me once that she never saw someone with less natural ability learn to tumble. She said that I got over on sheer determination –

ILANA GLAZER: Oh!

JVN: Because my body was like not the like I didn't have the right body type. I was like deathly afraid of going backwards and stuff –

ILANA GLAZER: Ouch!

JVN: But I just like fucking willed it. I was like, I will be Shannon Miller. I will be Dominique Dawes. I will be on Team USA.

ILANA GLAZER: That's a, that's a type of compliment they gave you.

JVN: Yeah, you know, it's Midwest. It's like a thing. It happens back there. Does motherhood impact your comedy in the sense that before you were a mom, you're like, I don't have to fucking, there's no baby that's ever gonna see this in like 30 years, or now what you do stand up or you're like, wait, there's like they're gonna cause like I talk so much about like how I have this like deep shameful attraction to Mitt Romney that defies my comprehension, but I'm like deeply physically attracted to him, and that's what a lot of my comedy is about –

ILANA GLAZER: Wow, wow.

JVN: Is it a problem? I've had to, you know, hold paddles –

ILANA GLAZER: It's a thing. I don't excuse me, what did you just say? I missed, I spoke over paddles.

JVN: No, the EMDR paddles –

ILANA GLAZER: Hilarious.

JVN: ILke I've like literally I'm like I'm thinking about electroshock even though I think it's not good anymore, we shouldn't be doing it, but I'm like, why are we –

ILANA GLAZER: I was thinking about pleasurable toys when you said paddle. So, ok.

JVN: I was thinking like EMDR

ILANA GLAZER: I thought you were doing like sort of like getting paddled by somebody in a Mitt Romney mask to like get through your obsession or whatever.

JVN: Ooo! No, that's only gonna deepen it. That's like that's not gonna get us, that's not gonna process it.

ILANA GLAZER: I think one moves through. I think one moves through. You should try it anyway, um, no, I, I, I think, um, I. Just like I am with my husband, I want to respect my child. I don't just give away shit that of theirs, you know, like this, this actually this example of like, Daddy is my best friend, like that's not about my kid. That's my experience of being like, ok, ok yeah, he's your best friend. Um, you know, I'm, I'm not, um, trying to speak for my husband at the center of the story or speak for my child at the center of the story. I mean, it's added to the way I think about it, but I actually maybe I'm fucking nuts, but I I actually really believe in everything I do and believe that uh it is good for people to see. I, I have been told by mothers and daughters that they watch Broad City together. We got butt plugs, we got whatever the fuck you wanna say is progressive. I mean nothing is really progressive. Basic human rights are not really progressive, you know, I don't, I smoking weed like that's just been criminalized for the framework, the authoritarian framework we were discussing earlier on. Now, you know, this is not radical, that everybody should have access to basic human rights, not radical, believing that everybody should be safe and loved, it's not radical. So like, I, I just don't see anything I do as blue or, you know, I understand if I, if I wanted to do a corporate stand up event, just a gig like, ok, I have to shape it to be appropriate for the context, but like, I really believe in everything I do because I know that it comes from a place of health and continually aspiring for more health and security, you know.

JVN: That resonates so hard and even in like even in my question, and I have to like check this like all the time in myself, like, the way that the patriarchy and the way that just like shame creeps it, like even in like in my own stand up, like, currently I have this thing in my in my upcoming special about um this other Republican, and I'm really worried of like all things that like that's gonna be the thing that cancels me, but then I was like, girl, you've already been canceled 67,000 times, like just be you, just like do it, just, but I, I just, I constantly check like the internalized homophobia, the internalized shame, like things that I have are on like my own stand up where I'm like, well, you just said resonated so deep. It's like, I do believe in what I do –

ILANA GLAZER: Right, right.

JVN: And it is coming from a place of good and it is coming from a place of like, switching not only my perspective, but other people. So it's like, stand behind a honey, stand on business.

ILANA GLAZER: And also you're able to reflect and change, you know, it's not like you're like, well, it's from a good place, like so is um white nationalism, they, you know, believe that they're doing something to protect some values, or or not even not the people at the top, but the people at the bottom who are believing and enabling it, you know, it's like, so to be able to take in information, reflect and change is also a big part of this. Um, but I also want to say you said I have to check myself. Uh, you're also talking in the context of reality, like we do live in a patriarchy, we do live in a rape culture. So it's not like you're talking out of nowhere and we should just be like, we're free, we're free, we're not free. So that's why you're bringing that context up, you know.

JVN: Post-election, like sometimes. It always happens after I smoke, but like sometimes like 20 minutes after I smoke, I'll be like, oh my God, I just had the thought that like it's gonna heal the nation. Like this is gonna be the thing that like, I like, oh my God, I have to like talk to like the Christians from the Midwest because like that's who I am and that's where I'm from. I mean, I don't really like, but like I just I get it there like, I get that culture, I get that way of thinking like. So like I just, I gotta talk to those people because it's someone who like looks like a 17th century Italian Jesus, that these people really look up to like, I feel like I could like cut through and I went to like a Christian sports camp growing up. I feel like I could like I can I can cut through.

ILANA GLAZER: Wow.

JVN: But then I'm like, but then I have this other side of me that thinks like if I kind of Responded to or clawed back at every, or or just even like challenged every transphobic or homophobic or like terrible thing that someone said about me personally, or about trans people broadly, like, all I would do would be making content about like talking about what other people's views, like, so basically I'm just trying to voice, I'm a little exhausted, and after this election I'm just like there were some bright spots, like, yeah, North Carolina, like their governor and breaking their supermajority in their state house, like, I think your work every election cycle, Lana is so good and I'm so inspired by it, Sister District, like there were, there were like some, you know, some celebrations that we can get into there, but I'm also just like, fuck, there's all these 20 year old fucking white girls and men. I don't think there's very many nonbinary Trump voters now that I think about it, so I'll just leave those ones right out. I really just, I haven't seen the returns on the non-binary people, and I really feel like we, I just really feel like we were probably like up there with like some really good returns. Like I feel like other than like, yeah, because like, because you know why people that don't believe in non-binary people are Republican voters, so I really do feel like non-binary people. I bet you we were like 100%, but I bet we were so binary. I bet this election was the most binary thing that we've ever done because I feel like we probably did really good. But are you, but how's your fucking heart? Are you pissed? Are you feeling hopeful? Are you feeling like fucking nuanced and we'll get through, or are you like uhh, like what?!

ILANA GLAZER: what? Ok, we're in tributary two of three, correct? I'm gonna keep us like I'm gonna keep tabs. Ok. So first thing I wanna say is, um, it is really important for us as white people to go home and talk to white people. It is so important. It is so important because even if we're queer, and even if you look like a 17th century Italian Jesus, like we're

still presenting to white people who may hate us as one of them, so that barrier is gone. And, and we have to spend that um, that the privilege of that bodily safety that way. I think that is really important for us to like know, cause I'm remembering a fucking video of you in Texas speaking to people, speaking from the heart and giving an incredibly inspiring magical speech about progress and connecting our humanity among our varying identities. So, your hunch to this is just, you know, what I believe. I don't fucking know, but your hunch that that is what you need to do, I think is true in a particular way. Um, and you know, the, the idea of being blazed and feeling you could heal the world, that imagination, that, that fantasy, that dream is the tip of the spear that moves us forward to be able to go out and do the hard thing of talking to white supremacists who hate us and who hate groups that they deem subhuman um and who cut off their own nose to spite their damn face because when they vote against access to healthcare, then they can't get access to healthcare. When they vote against abortion, then their sisters are bleeding out in the fucking parking lot. So it's really and it's so traumatic and painful and horrible and sad. So that is why our like bodily, the, the privilege of our bodily safety can afford us to take on some of that sadness and that harshness. But to the point of, and also my point about your video of you in Texas, I'm like, you're really fucking good at it. You're really fucking good at it, you know, your hot slut videos like that works, that hot slut energy can work in this way. But to the point of haters and videos, I agree you should not be creating discourse in that way. I think you should stay on hot slut shit. I think that you should continue to rise as the star that you are because that is really important not only for representation but when you do do the work of um onnecting Americans, um, even, even if they're not convinced in that moment that fucking kneading, like kneading dough or massaging and not out, that's not necessarily, you're not gonna get it the first time, but that leaves an impression. I think that is all really important and comes at a really challenging. balance, like kind of an unscripted balance that we haven't seen at this scale yet of living your life, getting your peace, and doing that work. And that's my focus right now. That's what I'm sorting out. Do I have hope and what do I think is going to happen? I think that, right, I know that, uh, a, an anti-democracy government with a like thick written outline of an authoritarian framework is moving into our government. I'm scared, I'm upset, but I'm like starting with me and my peace and living my own life. As my act of humanity that transcends government shit. And I'm making my way outward at the pace at which I can toward, you know, um, my activism work and my art as activism. Um, I really have, you know, it's a kind of fun. It's not like a let go and and spiral into, um, you know, a blackout type of fun that, you know, but it like, not that I think that's fun anymore, but I'm just saying like what I used to think is fun. I, I don't like, don't think it's fun anymore. I actually think like all of this is kind of fun and balancing these, um, these little like, you know, little planets of their own to be my own freaking universe, like that's what feels good and fun and interesting to me now. So that's kind of like, that's what I'm thinking about it.

JVN: How do you consume your news? Like, where does Ilana get her news from?

ILANA GLAZER: Democracy now.

JVN: Qe, so we, so ok, I like that was getting in there it's good.

ILANA GLAZER: Like, I'm, I can't, I can't read billionaire owned news anymore to watch the New York Times slide into billionaire owned news where they're like, did you see Rupert Murdoch wore sneakers to his wedding? I'm like, I, I don't, I can't, this is no longer the news



for me. So that, so I limit it to Democracy Now, small like people powered, small dollar back donation news. And um –

JVN: Oh that's such good feedback. That's so good, Ilana.

ILANA GLAZER: And I don't agree with it all, all the time and sometimes I'm like, oh please don't be highlighting this third party candidate in this very tight presidential race. Like I, I don't agree with that all the time, but it's just, um, not part of that billionaire class system. And then AOC, AOC's Instagram is incredibly informative –

JVN: Oh I love her.

ILANA GLAZER: Incredibly informative. I just, how about you?

JVN: I'm like a very Apple News girl and I feel like I just read so much news on Apple News, but from like all sorts of different places like, but they're all built in it's, you know, whether that's like New York Times, Wall Street Journal –

ILANA GLAZER: Wow.

JVN: Or like, but they have like, but they also have like a lot of like how do you say like a Here's her that like one is really like that, but then there's like Fox News, but then there's like Al Jazeera, like I'm I do BBC BBC World, I do like I really, I try to get like a very wide ass smattering, but tell me.

ILANA GLAZER: I would say AOC is like my main because she is so proficient and incredible at creating content that I can understand that, you know, working people and millennials and Gen Z can understand. But I also, um, you know, uh, elected officials who I trust like, uh, Andy Kim –

JVN: Love! He's so cute.

ILANA GLAZER: The, uh, senator from New Jersey. Oh, I love him. Maxwell Frost, the youngest congressman who's in Florida.

JVN: Love him.

ILANA GLAZER: Um, you know, Maisie Harrino from, um, Hawaii and Tommy Duckworth, like, uh, from politicians on the ground who I trust. I, I also, I, I guess I didn't even consider it news, but it is that.

JVN: Totally. I mean, it's like journalism. has changed so much in the last like 30 years that like, we're all journalists now. We all have a camera that's on us at all times.

ILANA GLAZER: Exactly, exactly.

JVN: Um, the reason that I brought that up is because it's like there's just we're going to get in. I want to get into your style and comedy and why everyone needs to watch Human Magic, but I also just like so love your take on life and how you approach politics and activism, and I like only have this hour, so I want to get it while we're here.

ILANA GLAZER: Yeah, get what you want. This is your space.

JVN: Yes, um.

ILANA GLAZER: Oh my god.

JVN: but there's so much hem hawing on like, was it that we were to, was it that like the, the leftist group that was what I was reading this morning was this Newsweek opinion piece about like, it's the groups, it's the leftist groups and that's what messed up the, that's what cost Harris the election, it's, which to me made me think like that. Your sunrise movements, your NCTEs, you're just like anyone who's like a leftist, leftist like progressive group. Um, and I just was like, fuck.

ILANA GLAZER: It cost the election?

JVN: Yeah, so that's what cost Democrats the election because they put their positions on things like, you know, trans inclusion or trans rights or abortion or you name it, they put it out of touch with with what most Americans think, which to me sets up this real crux cause like I really do come from a cornfield of like 30,000 people on the Mississippi River and our, our hometown Quincy, I mean, I say cornfield kind of cuntily, but it's the biggest town within like 3 hours any which way of it and so it's really small rural America and I always think about this episode that we did on the podcast about um environmentalism and linking environmentalism with spirituality –

ILANA GLAZER: Ooo.

JVN: Because this woman, this scientist, like she basically was like, She was just like, I'm a climate change scientist, and I also see that 80% of people identify with some religion. So once I know what that person's religion is, I'm gonna get them hooked up with someone in their faith work –

ILANA GLAZER: Beautiful, beautiful.

JVN: That like gets them into like into climate change. But when you said 80%, I was like, fuck, 80% of Americans and most of that is Christian, and most of that is like people who are, you know, a lot of these are like the people that voted for Trump and etc. So it's like. When so many people are reading these, reading the news in a way that is like really just like blame-based easy way out, it's what it reminded what you said at the top but like real love is the balanced meal. It's like explaining that, but it reminds you of like love and blame or just it's easier for people to blame people than it is to think of something nuanced and like have to learn and sit with something that's uncomfortable. No one wants that as an answer because it's uncomfortable and it doesn't sell, it doesn't sell the way that like. This person's a cunt or you know what I mean?

ILANA GLAZER: Well, I have to say I believe that that Newsweek article is a different version of this person's a cunt and the blame game, is that what you're saying?

JVN: Yes!

ILANA GLAZER: Yes, yes, agreed, because that that's reading to me as quiet little girl. Don't say you don't, don't point out the troubles here. Just get in line and do the thing that we're saying and it's like. Um, the left groups are who organize voters, disenfranchised voters, which is the majority of the people who voted are disenfranchised voters. We saw that the minority of, you know, of the minority of white male voters voted for Kamala Harris. Um, that is so annoying, and that sounds, you know, just like mainstream discourse that makes it easier to blame. Females and Black people, by the way, that's who the leftist groups are, mostly black women, Black women and women of color. So that is, first and foremost, what is happening is racism and misogyny, um, and white supremacy in that group, like if you had

just followed the establishment, everything would have been ok. Don't think so. The only way we've gotten this much progress is because of the abolition movement because we all know how we all deep down, even if books are banned, know how this country started, which is enslaving people who were kidnapped to build the country for no money. So I'm annoyed at that fucking Newsweek headline because it's just racist and misogynist built on, you know, um, calling abolitionists terrorists.

JVN: I mean, ultimately, I mean, ultimately the, the, the big takeaway from this article too is that like Democrats were talking about, I'm quoting here, sex changes on incarcerated people or like, you know, when really Democrats need to be talking about like kitchen table topics and like things that connect with like, you know, average –

ILANA GLAZER: But they, they were, they were not talking about sex changes. They were all acting as conserva –

JVN: I know, Republicans were!

ILANA GLAZER: But, and Democrats were acting conservative. Democrats were were hoping, hoping that they could. I mean, I wanna say pass as conservative, but they, they fucking are like they were, um, you know, they were, they were fronting as Republicans, as moderate Democrats. They were fronting as, as Republicans who just happened to be named Democrats. They were not talking about trans rights. They were not talking Kama Harris, thank you God was talking so much about women's right to abortion. And, and I also want to say that. I like will not criticize Kamala Harris. What she did and what she achieved in the 107 days that she had was, oh, I'm getting emotional, was remarkable, was remarkable. And the real and true danger that she faces as a Black woman to run the campaign that she did and how successful she was in that short amount of time was. Miraculous, nothing short of miraculous. Also, uh, Trump, Trump's popular vote was the lowest of his popular votes in all three elections. After all the votes were counted, the popular vote was only split by 2 million people. And Uh, our president-elect gained 3 million voters, which is, is, um, you know, 3 million voters, that's significant, but the Democrats lost 8 million voters. The Democrats lost 8 million voters since 2020. And I believe that a big part of this is, was the, uh, people are feeling dehumanized here in the United States. People are feeling dehumanized. And what I think the trouble is, is not individual uh activist groups who are literally knocking on doors day in and day out to make sure everybody's got their votes. It's not groups led by Black women and women of color and people of color to make sure that their communities are exercising their right to vote. I think the problem is the system that has billionaire, a billionaire class running our government. Democrats are big money Democrats. They are, uh, they are corporate Democrats. They're a corporate entity that billionaires can buy into and people are feeling disenfranchised by that. I think that the answer is following a working class small dollar backed elected official, and a group of elected officials who know what working Americans need, who feel the actual pain of working several jobs, of being ground to a fucking nub while trying to not only survive, but, you know, God, God forbid thrive a little bit. I think that that is the system that will lead us to a more equal, safer society. And that's what I'm starting to focus on is those elected officials who I can support.

JVN: When we interviewed Melinda Gates on the podcast like in 2019, she had just come out. I can't remember like what study or project it was, get it together, I think it was what, get it together, Jonathan, but I'm going to make the point now. She was saying how like in

developing countries, the biggest link in like upward economic mobility for women in developing countries with access to family planning and birth control and access to abortion.

ILANA GLAZER: Right.

JVN: So we've now taken The number one driver of of upward economic mobility for women was just family planning, like the ability, like, so when people say that they're voting for the economy, it's like abortion is the economy in so many ways. Like, it's not about, it's not about like, oh, women are just using this as birth control, like which is like what a lot of Christian white nationalists, like these types of people that they, it shouldn't be birth control, and they should have thought of that. They need to like sit with their consequences. It's murdering babies. It's not that hard. Well, actually it is really, really hard, and your moral idea shouldn't be imposed onto other people because you think that. It it's, it's just so much more nuanced and these like black and white things that people try to put it as, and I think we do need to do better, and I just could not agree more about AOC being such a a cause like look at me, this is me trying to like make a point which I can't do the way the AOC does –

ILANA GLAZER: Neither can I –

JVN: But it's like abortion is the economy, like abortion is people's ability to like plan their future. It's not about people like treat –

ILANA GLAZER: Like, I had my baby at 34. I wish I had my baby at 22, so that I would get 12 more years with this person in the same life, you know, God willing. I wish, but I couldn't do that and have you know, uh, be the self-actualized person that I am. That's why I waited until 34. I would have loved to do it even at 27, you know what I mean? But there's no system for that in place. Like we are, um, and, and abortion isn't even political. It's just medical care, and it was thought of as to be politicized, uh, in more recent years, and like the late 70s by when the Republicans made a deal with evangelical Christians to like use their face. It, it, they don't fucking care. They don't care about those babies. Nobody's taking care of those babies. There's no net to hold those babies. They're just uh. You know, keeping poor people and poor women and girls poor. It it's absurd and cruel and um the most anti-Jesus like thing. I can imagine.

JVN: So do you think it's about, I always ask this to like my political people. So do you think it's about like us really fighting with people who are diametrically opposed to queer rights, women's rights, um, anti-racism, like your white nationalist type people, or is it about reaching out to people who just like, don't even read the news and don't even know that they should be involved in voting and don't even know that like midterms. Or like every two years and you know I'm saying is –

ILANA GLAZER: Yeah, I think the latter. I think that actually the minority, so again, you know, out of the 68 versus 70 million or whatever, like pretty much half the country voted for Kamala Harris of the people who voted. It was a difference of 2 million votes, but the fewest people voted in a long time, the lowest voter turnout. People have good, people generally have good instincts and have common sense. I think we need to reach out to those people. There are extreme people who are very vulnerable for many reasons, not because they're stupid, but because they're poor and uh systematically kept from having access to books and different kinds of people and different kinds of leaders, women leaders, Black leaders, brown leaders, immigrant leaders, trans leaders like You know, these people are vulnerable for many, many reasons, uh, that are out of their hands, but there are plenty of people who

are fucking cool, smart and interesting. Plugged into the culture, but like are so grossed out by the political system, which I fucking get. I, you know, I have um I'm interested in it cause I'm just interested in the way things work, but I also have enough. I, I've been traumatized, you know, in my life through many, in many different ways as a, as a woman, um, you know, surviving different things, but I, I have, I think little enough trauma that I have enough currency left in my spirit to spend on being um involved in politics and being able to get into that fight. So I think, you know, if for those who have that currency left to spend who are interested, who I think are like starting to gather and understand and look at each other and see whose eyes they're meeting in this fight, you know, we gotta get together and I do think we have to talk to people who will accept our message which in yours in my case, Jonathan is probably white people who aren't like fuck you, if that is clear, but are like. You know, sad and, and grossed out, but if they just knew like you've seen in generator collective's work, like if you just get a cheat sheet and you just know the dates and you just get a reminder again and again, like just make a plan, just make a plan to vote. It's, it's not that easy. Take 10 minutes today to do carve that time out to make a plan to vote and here's who you should vote for if they just get the cheat sheet, I, I think um. You know, God willing, we have elections in 2 and 4 years. I have a lot of faith that we can get a pro-democracy government back and, and actually one that is um uh, focused on, um, working Americans as opposed to serving billionaires, even more than we have before.

JVN: Ok, here's my vision board. You do a Broad City reunion movie. One, then, so that then like many other successful projects, then bag is unlockable like Brownstone Brooklyn paid for, nor mortgage, like the pipes can totally burst like so that she's unbuyable, you know what I'm saying like she no just can buy her then, but then it's like probably like what 2036 by then. 24, 28, 32, 2036 by then when 3 in 2030, you probably like along with your burgeoning entertainment career, actress, fucking writer, comedian, Senator Ianna Glazer, ok, who by that time is probably becomes a junior senator too, none other than AOC who probably was the senior senator of New York by then, then in 2036, literally. Really just perfect because of your term, is it like you at AOC to become like the first double woman like president VP you know that you have like a history of like being like a powerful bitch on your own and with another woman, ok, like it's like literally like broad city for the for the world and it would just, I that's that's my vision board, that's my mood board back to Human Magic, final tributary. What can people expect without spoilers? What was your approach to Human Magic versus your previous comedy? And also like how in my stand up, like, I know what I'm gonna say, but I don't do, but like I also like, I sometimes say improv is like the best and then it just like makes it better. What role does improv play in your stand up? And I'm sorry, that was 5 questions in one.

ILANA GLAZER: It was 3. I'm holding on my fingers. Ok, what can people expect when they tune into my sophomore stand-up special Human Magic, December 20th on Hulu, they can expect. A polished, hilarious hour of stand up from me about my life in the past couple of years. Um, my approach, your second question, my approach to the stand up was, uh, more focused on beauty than my first special. I think the special is just gorgeous. It just looks gorgeous and I love it. And I, I, you know, I have always, not always, but um I think out of insecurity and not feeling beautiful myself, I've, uh, cast aside the quality of beauty as something that is indulgent, whereas now I'm, especially since I've had the privilege of having a, a safe and supported pregnancy, birth, and, uh, early parenting experience. I am centering beauty. That is fucking everything. Beauty is God, beauty is love, beauty is humanity. It is why we're here to create and appreciate beauty. It is like, it's so fun to focus

on it and it's motivating. It's naturally motivating. There's a natural lift to it. So I really love that about Human Magic. It's just gorgeous and it's just, it's really fucking funny. Improv plays a very small role in the special. I mean, my goodness, I, I really was focused on. Polishing this material, being um like uh like, uh, I, I was a drummer when I was, uh, a kid and a teenager and like rudiments, you know, practicing paradiddle, para, paradiddle like drop, drop, drop this like weird, uh, is that, I forget what the, um, but it like sounds like when you like drop both sticks like just slightly different time and I practice my rudiments and practice my rudiments and that was really how I approached this special and um my, uh, my agent, Mike Berkowitz, and Grace Goldstein and Emily Gross, who's no longer WME, my manager, Suzie Fox and my star tour manager, Madeleine Kim and I and my husband, David, were so helpful in creating a tour that was the most sustainable to me. My husband, but I was like, I have to go on tour, but it's gonna be weekends and, you know, that's when we really like melt into a puddle. And just like kind of process what the fuck is going on and like reenter our humanity. And David was like, what if you just do like weekdays, like not the weekends. And I was like, by Jove, you got it. Like I had never thought of like other days before, but there's such a, you know, there's such a script in this life and it's, it's been a way to organize like so many distract so, so many um. So many factors is to just be like, you know what, you're doing it on the weekends, you go Friday, Saturday, don't, you know, doubles and a single on Sunday, and I just like, I don't wanna do double shows and I want to, I wanna go home on the weekends, so. I did 52 shows in 48 cities over the course of a year rather than jamming it into 3 months. And boy, oh boy, did that allow me to have the most beautiful experience seeing these beautiful faces across the country in all different pockets in the South, in the Midwest, on the West Coast, in the Northwest, in the Northeast, like to see all these different people and be happy to be there because of this health focused tour we planned. Um, and it took a fucking village, you know, it took a lot of people, um, you know, this tour was able to breathe and I was able to breathe in creating, you know, the notes for the last two shows and also like the emotional processing of performing for all these people and um I felt like I really Took the most pleasure in this tour and in making this hour than I ever have in standup before. It was transformative for me.

JVN: I cannot wait to see it. It's, I cannot wait to see it. Um, and ok, so here I was thinking about this about you in the shower this morning. You have had like your career has just been Amazing, like, and it continues to ascend and be amazing. And I was thinking, what's the biggest difference for you between like TV, movies, stand up?

ILANA GLAZER: Stand up is like, is so special in how analog it is. You feel when you were up there, that this is what people have been doing for thousands of years. It is a fucking privilege that I do not take for granted. The immediacy, the whole process, and how, how like gloopy and amorphous it is from like just fucking around and trying shit out and seeing what does come up through improv, um, versus recording it and listening to my recordings and writing it out and then editing that, and then going back out with that new script that I wrote. And then, you know, like, it is, it is so. It is so deeply human and ancient, literally ancient, like that is what I feel when I'm doing stand up in a way that um thrills me.

JVN: Yeah, I love stand up so much. It literally, it is, I think whenever I think about it, it's like where I feel the most myself is because it's like you, and I love working with other people in creative spaces, obviously, but it's like in stand up, I feel like it's like. It's a little bit different when you just don't have to necessarily like in the moment you don't have notes from anyone else. You don't have to like pitch something to someone else. You just get to like do

it, and it's kind of fun, at least for me, like, letting my neurodivergence go and just like make something on your own, which I just think is like really fun and I can't wait to see Human Magic. It's just so good. Um, December 20th you guys who get it together. Um, I wanna thank you for coming and Getting Curious. We love you so much we can't stand it.

ILANA GLAZER: I got it and I really adore you, Jonathan. What a gift you are. Thank you for the gift of your time and attention.

JVN: The pleasure is all mine. I love you so much. I cannot literally stand it. I remember the first time I met you in real life, it was at Big Little Lies premiere and I sprained my foot that day and I had like a sheer dress on and you were with Abby, and I almost shut my pants and um just from sheer delight, and I also remember where I was and when I was when I found out that Broad City was ending and my PTSD still isn't over it, and I was in a boardroom in CAA pitching over the top and this agent was like, oh yeah, that's gonna be their last season, and I was like, don't tell me that when they're the middle of an important day. I can't handle that right now, but you just mean so much to me and you mean so much to so many people, and I just, I love you so much and I'm so excited for you. Um, I just love you so much and thank you so much for coming on. Y'all, what an episode. I am so head over heels but crazy in love with Ilana Glazer, which I feel like is also an Ilana Glazer quote. Um, and honey, I think we did figure out how we're going to stay healing, stay positive, and find our joy in 2025, which is basically by accepting our feelings and turning them into art., I'm obsessed with the one. I just thought that was so much fun. She almost made me want to be a parent again until I remember that I already have 5 cats and 3 dogs. Uh, but this is what we, this is my takeaways, here's what I want to implement. First of all, There is this cultural idea that like hearing about other people's kids is just like a chore, and it's like not a celebrated thing, and I just think we need to like change that paradigm. I've got so much joy and like just loving connection from that conversation with Ilana and celebrating parenthood, and even if you're not a parent, I just, for some reason what's coming up for me is this, in this ever binary world. It seems that in adulthood there's this other part of um this divide of like those who have kids and those who do not have kids. And I think that there's a lot of commentary around that and I think that if we can all like celebrate each other's journeys without necessarily having to like compare it to yours or be jealous of it or whatever, just like celebrate everybody's journey for what it is or or for what it's doing. And to me it's like just kind of like accepting each other. I think that's really important for us to do cause I just want to be more supportive to the other parents and or not to the other parents, but I just want to be more supportive to the parents of humans in my lives and understand what's going on with them and uh just like I want them to understand what's going on for people that, you know, don't have kids. So it's that, uh, that's what I, I definitely want to play that. I definitely also um Another thing that I took away that I think that we need to apply is I was really moved by what Ilana said about her touring schedule, and so often in corporate America and just in our professional lives, it's like people are like, well this is how you do it. Having the bravery to be like, well what if we tried it like this, like trying to make something work for you, I think is really beautiful and cool, and I think it's like a uh for me personally, a path that I need, I I want to explore more. I think the final thing I would say is I want to prioritize being proud of what I do, and Ilana was like, I am proud of what I do. Yes, I just, uh, just summing 2024 up into a nutshell and something that I want to work on in 2025. I had a very rude awakening this year that somewhere in the last six years of my life, a lot of my self-worth got tied up in the validation that I got from the external world. Whether that was through social media, whether that was through the success of Queer Eye, whether that was whatever it

was, it was like this external validation. And the reason I learned that is because once I got unceremoniously criticized by the world and had like, you know, I've had a lot of little pileons, but 2024 I had like, and the end of 2023, I had lots of pileons, and I realized that my worth is all that I had this like idea of self-worth that was unfortunately tied up in external validation, and it wasn't in it so what I can take away that's really grateful from 2024 is. Is that it did allow me to get in a more authentic and better place with myself and learning how to like, continue to love and accept myself. But it also made me realize that I want to be proud of what I do, and I have been proud of what I do, but I think when you hear so many negative messages about yourself, it's somewhere along the line. I kind of lost that. And so I wanna like regain that. I want to be proud of the work that I do, which I am, um, and I just love Ilana and I'm so glad that she came on, and I love her. I love her anyway, but I'm just so glad that she shared her energy with us, and her, just her, just her energy and her experience. I respect her so much as a person and a comedian and an actress, and I love her. I will see you next week on Getting Curious, which will be a surprise. Yeah, what is Chris just wanted to pop in at the very end just to say, hey. We, we love, we're like. I need the girls can also, if you're still listening, if you listen to this part of the episode, will you please go on the comments in one of our like Instagram posts and be like, oh my God, I heard the part in your episode when Chris just popped on to the very end and just wanted us to come on and say hey.

CHRIS MCCLURE: Hey girl.

JVN: Can our hey girly, Ask JVN girlies just start, Hey girl, so it needs to be like a waving emoji, some sort of like girl waving emoji is like needs to be like a rallying cry for like the girls who know, like for the come hang with us girls.

CHRIS MCCLURE: Totally. I love our Easter eggs. And also another thing that I learned is that Taylor's Easter eggs work for her, so we're going to Easter egg. We got an Easter egg up in here.

CHRIS MCCLURE: They do. They do work. We love Easter eggs.

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JVN: We'll see you next time on Getting Curious. You've been listening to Getting Curious with me, Jonathan Van Ness. You can learn more about this week's guest and their area of expertise in the episode description and follow us on Instagram @CuriouswithJVN. You can catch us here every Wednesday and make sure to tune in every Monday for episodes of Pretty Curious which we love. It's our podcast on all things beauty, get into it! Still can't get enough and you want to get a little spicy with us? You can subscribe to Extra Curious on Apple Podcasts for commercial free listening. And our subscription only show, Ask JVN where we're talking sex, relationships, or really just whatever is on my mind that week. Our theme music is Freak by Quinn. Thank you so much to her for letting us use it. Our editor and engineer is Nathanael McClure. Getting Curious is produced by me, Chris McClure with production support from Julie Carrillo, Anne Currie and Chad Hall.



