



COMEDY

**SUPER FRIENDS**  
Brownstein and  
Armisen  
in Portland

## 'Portlandia' Goes Weirder Than Ever

In Season Three, Carrie Brownstein and Fred Armisen take their love-hate relationship with America's hipster capital to new heights

**P**ORTLANDIA IS A SCARY PLACE: A land of zucchini milk, mustache waxers, artisanal knot-tiers, picklers, DJs, and art dealers who provide coffee shops with those bad paintings of saxophones. This is the boho world Carrie Brownstein and Fred Armisen skewer on *Portlandia*, their comedy hit on IFC, now heading into its third season – and it's a world they know from the inside. "People used to go to Olympia, Washington – these little music scenes – and think, 'I'm gonna feel so welcome,'" Brownstein says. "Then you get there, and it seems like an exclusive club where you don't know the code. I feel like I spent a lot of time trying to be validated by record-store clerks."

The show only gets weirder and funnier this season, with guests ranging from Patton Oswalt to Martina Navratilova. A couple of aging Nineties hipsters long for the glory days of MTV: "People used to just really rock the shit out of that vote!" A dinner party degenerates into an argument over *Breaking Bad* spoilers. (Spoiler alert: They end up ruining plot twists

from *The Wire*, *The Sopranos* and *Boy Meets World*: "Was that before or after Corey marries Topanga?") "We always think of the seasons as albums," Brownstein says. "So we've been saying, 'For the third album, we can push it further!' Of course, it's probably really scary for our network to hear us talking this way."

Brownstein and Armisen were already famous before *Portlandia* – he was on *Saturday Night Live*, and she played guitar for Sleater-Kinney and now for Wild Flag – and both paid their dues in punk bands. "Fred's an avid fan and musician from the Chicago hardcore scene," Brownstein says. "That's the lens through which he sees the world, just like me."

Like the Firesign Theatre taking down their fellow hippies in the 1960s, *Portlandia* works because its creators belong to the subculture they're satirizing. "Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, I've always known these characters," Brownstein says. "I guess it's rare to see them on television. I feel like it's become a tool for explaining lifestyles to parents and confused relatives."

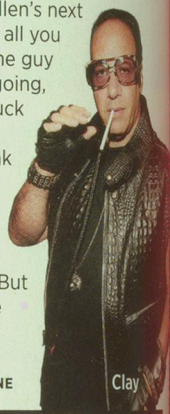
ROB SHEFFIELD

## The Diceman Returneth

How Andrew "Dice" Clay landed a role in Woody Allen's next movie

Until recently, Andrew "Dice" Clay thought he was washed-up. "My career was in the fucking toilet," says the foul-mouthed comic – who sold out Madison Square Garden twice in 1990. Then he landed a 2011 guest arc on *Entourage* – and like that, the Diceman was back in the game. Showtime just aired his comeback special, and he'll appear in Woody Allen's next movie. "If all you know is the guy onstage going, 'Honey, suck my dick,' you'd think I was some sort of animal," he says. "But the movie is a heavy drama."

ANDY GREENE



## Rock Doc: Ginger Baker

Ginger Baker has always been one of rock's great wild men. And in the killer new doc *Beware of Mr. Baker*, RS contributor Jay Bulger takes you right into the volatile 73-year-old drummer's lair. When Bulger suggests Cream gave birth to metal, Baker screams, "It should have been aborted!" And when the filmmaker tells Baker he's going to interview Eric Clapton and Jack Bruce, the drummer breaks his nose with his cane. Says Bulger, "I think he did it because he was sad to see me go."



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