



# COMMON CHARGES

an improvised webseries about **BIG** personalities living in small spaces

created by Alison Whitney and Jonathan Zipper

SEASON ONE NOW STREAMING ON

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## Welcome to The Breaston

### The Specs

*Common Charges* follows the tenants of The Breaston, an upscale New York apartment building, as they sound off on the building's policies and politics. So, what happens behind closed doors? During the first season, comprised of 7 episodes, the residents tell all directly from the building's common room.

### The Hardware



### The Residents

**Blake and Leighton:** Everyone's favorite gay power couple, and owners of the penthouse apartment.

**Geoff ("Gizz") and Wendy:** Do either of these two have a job? These two unlikely buddies moved in together shortly after graduating college.

**James and Sasha:** Though they both got more than they bargained for in this "arrangement," James has certainly met his match in his feisty mail-order bride Sasha.

**Andrew and Michelle:** The newest apartment owners in the building, Andrew and Michelle are newlyweds. They're incredibly happy... as far as Andrew is concerned.

**Krista and Dan:** Charter school co-workers turned lovers. These two still don't know where they stand, nor are they willing to address it even though someone is *always* sleeping on the couch.

**Mario, the Super:** "Super" is never a word you'd use to describe Mario. This lovable loner enjoys his job, mainly because he never actually does it. He prides himself on his compost.

### A Note from the Developers

"We became fast friends at NYU Tisch School of the Arts (translation: expensive acting school). We decided to make this web series as a tribute to all of our years spent as apartment dwellers in New York City, highlighting stories we had collected, overheard, and imagined. Using the confessional TV format and our comedy/improv skills, *Common Charges* brings together an ensemble cast to shine light on this unique way of living. This is a story for anyone who has ever wondered what their neighbors are saying about them behind their back! *You know who you are...*"

—Alison Whitney & Jonathan Zipper

### The Handy Men

**Tim Franklin, Editor** has edited for a variety of projects including three broadcast television programs for CBS Sports Network and the award-winning documentary short, *Morning Mary Lou*.

**John Fallon, Director** helmed the dramatic short *In the Dark* and the comedic web series *My New Roommate*. As an editor, he has worked on commercials and promos for clients such as Bravo, MTV, VH1, and The Oxygen Network.

Should you need to contact the main office, The Breaston staff can be reached at:



**Alison Whitney**  
alison.whitney15@gmail.com  
www.alisonwhitney.com



**Jonathan Zipper**  
jonathanzipper@gmail.com  
www.jonathanzipper.com



# LIC woman co-creates web series on living in New York City apartments

**BY ANGY ALTAMIRANO**

[aaltamirano@queenscourier.com](mailto:aaltamirano@queenscourier.com)  
@aaltamirano28

One new web series is opening the doors to what it is like to be a tenant in a New York City apartment building.

"Common Charges," co-created by actors Alison Whitney from Long Island City and Jonathan Zipper of Manhattan, is a series that follows six couples living in a fictional building called The Breaston.

In approximately five-minute confessional-style episodes, the series shows the reactions each pair has to the building's policies, rules, problems and neighbors.

"It was a unique story we needed to tell, with plenty of 'only in New York' experiences to draw from," Whitney said.

The tenants include a gay couple, a man and his mail-order bride, newlyweds, "unlikely besties," an on-again, off-again couple and the building's superintendent, according to creators, who also star in the series.

"In New York City you have all sorts of people coming together and living together," said Whitney, who has lived in a Long Island City condominium for eight years.

Both Whitney and Zipper said they

used their own experiences of living in apartment buildings to create "Common Charges" and relate to viewers.

"New York City is so densely populated and everyone lies on top of one another," said Zipper, who grew up living in apartments his whole life and believes it has been an integral part of who he has grown up to be. "Everyone's bound to form an opinion on everyone and everything in the building."

All seven episodes of the series, described as "an improvised comedy about big personalities living in small spaces," were filmed in May at a hotel in Manhattan.

"For us, we really want people to connect with the concept and feel a little bit, 'Yeah, I've been there,'" Zipper said.

The series will premiere at the 9th Annual Independent Television and Film Festival (ITVFest) in Vermont later this month and then be shown at the Miami Web Fest in October. It has also been selected for the ATL Web Fest in Atlanta.

The creators said they are currently working on a plan to have an official release of the episodes.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/CommonChargesTV](http://www.facebook.com/CommonChargesTV).



Photos courtesy of "Common Charges"  
Alison Whitney



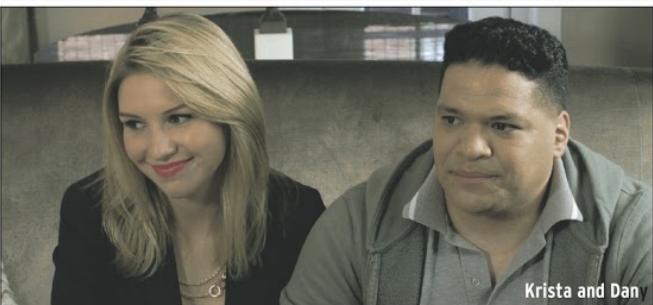
Jonathan Zipper



Geoff and Wen



Andrew and Michelle



Krista and Dan



Mario - The Super

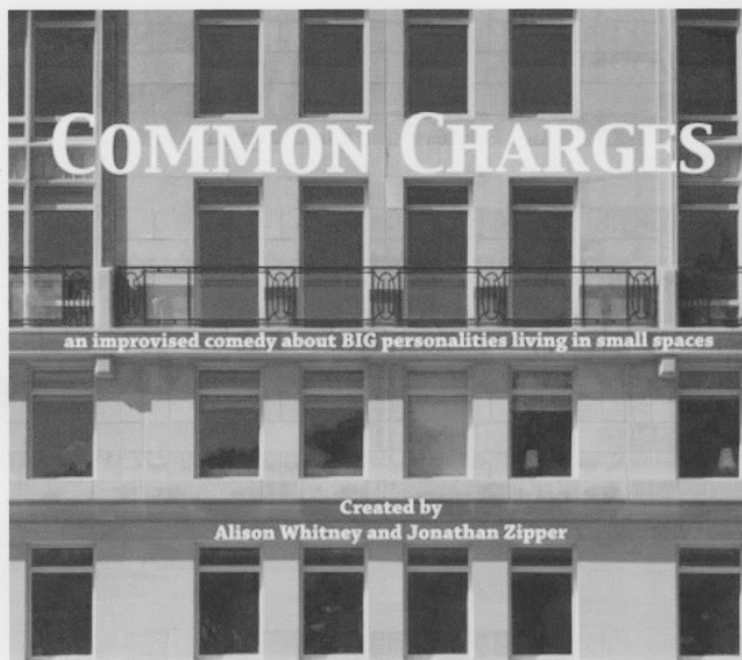
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## Urban dwellers sound-off in new comedy web series 'Common Charges'

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new web series 'Common Charges'  
*Common Charges*

Neighbors from hell?! At one point, we've all experienced living above, below or next to people who are...well...weird/annoying/loud/crazy/etc...or maybe that neighbor is YOU.

If any of this sounds familiar, then you'll love the new comedy web series "Common Charges," which follows 6 pairings of urban dwellers living in a New York City apartment building. The improv based series recently made its world premiere at the renowned ITVFest (Independent Television and Film Festival) and head to the Miami Web Fest this weekend and then on to the ATL WebFest in Atlanta later in October.



The project is the brainchild of the creative producing team Alison Whitney and Jonathan Zipper, who also star in the series. They brought in John Fallon to direct and Tim Franklin to edit the first season which is comprised of 7 episodes.

We recently caught up with Alison Whitney and Jonathan Zipper to find out more about "Common Charges."

***Tell us about your new web series "Common Charges".***

**Jonathan Zipper:** "Common Charges" is a story about resident life at The Breaston, an upscale New York City apartment building. Season one follows five pairings of diverse residents: newlyweds, a gay couple, an older man with his younger mail-order bride, a "bro" and his female roommate, and a pair of co-workers turned lovers. They all sound off on the building's policies and politics (and each other, of course) in confessionals filmed in The Breaston's common room. During the season, viewers also meet the building's superintendent.

***We heard it's based on your real lives -- is that true?***

**Alison Whitney:** Yes, it is totally true that it is based on our real lives. We both have lived in NYC apartments for many, many, years and have been gathering stories the whole time. We even drafted some of the notices from the management directly from notices I received in my condo. I always think that the best, most successful, projects are founded in some level of truth!

**JZ:** Truth in comedy... and wine. But mostly comedy.

***And, will anyone from your real life recognize themselves – or did you change their character to protect the 'innocent'?***

**AW:** If you lived in a building with either one of us, we may be using a *portion* of your life! Don't worry, we didn't use your names, but thanks for the inspiration! The yelling, cooking, bribing, cheating, decorating, you did; really gave us a lot of mileage! So, be nice to your neighbors.

**JZ:** Should I call the lawyers now or later?! While the inspiration for the series does come from our lives as tenants of New York apartment buildings, the characters are 100% fictional. However, they're all centered on specific city archetypes. And as an ensemble comedy heavily based in improv, the actors each bring their unique perspectives (and New York experiences) to the characters too. It wouldn't surprise either of us if many people watch and think, "We have someone like that in our building too!"

***What's been the best part of creating this new web series? And, what's been the hardest part?***

**AW:** The best part of creating a web series has got to be watching it all come together. It started with an exchange of stories between friends, and has turned into a full blown collaboration. We love how the actors and director brought their experiences to set to create these characters and tell the story of life in NYC in such a unique way. It's really surprising to see how your hard work can turn into something bigger than you ever dreamed.

**JZ:** How often do we all wish work could also constitute play time with one of our best buds? That's what this project is, but it's definitely an example of "work hard, play hard."

**AW:** The hardest part is that it all comes down on you. As co-creators we had to deal with many a hiccup along the way with production. You have to be willing to improvise and compromise on that end a lot. We are both actors, so wearing all these different hats has been new to us. We are now navigating the waters of distribution and funding for the first time. We feel a great deal of gratitude to everyone who helped us on the project and we want to make sure that it ends up getting the excitement and attention it deserves.

***Now that you're both based in Los Angeles, will you be creating an LA version?***

**JZ:** Well, we do live in an apartment in Los Angeles, and the experience is... well... let's say, *different?* The need for a car is a game changer! While the show has a very "only in New York" feel, a lot of themes it explores are universal to the construct of apartment living in a large city. Then again, why couldn't a show like "Common Charges" be to the comedy genre what the "CSI" and "Real Housewives" franchises are to drama and reality, respectively?

**AW:** The show has something for everyone. Just like NYC is so diverse in people, interests, professions, sexual orientation, race, nationality, we really wanted to represent that with the tenants we chose to cover. We worked really hard to be true to the variety you get living in New York City, and how that lends itself to comedic moments when living in shared spaces.

***We know you're currently on the festival circuit with the series, but when can audiences everywhere expect to see it?***

**AW:** Yes- the festival circuit is where the series will live for now. The trailer is available on Vimeo, but while seeking distribution for season one, the episodes are temporarily on lock-down. Get excited because we hope to be at a festival in a city near you, very soon! We are on target to release in 2015.

***Anything else you'd like to share with our readers?***

**JZ:** We really wanted to pull from the types of comedy we enjoy as both viewers and performers, so the series is influenced by other shows that focus on humor in everyday life: "The

Office," "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "Modern Family" to name a few.

**AW:** It also pays homage to the confessional style reality TV shows we all have the guilty pleasure of watching. The episodes are fun, move quickly, and include pop culture references.

***And lastly, where can fans keep up with "Common Charges"?***

**JZ:** To keep up with residents of The Breaston, follow us on Twitter ([@CommonCharges](https://twitter.com/CommonCharges)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/CommonChargesTV](https://facebook.com/CommonChargesTV)).

Our most supportive fans may even gain access to a private sneak preview screener!

***Thanks, Alison and Jonathan -- there's certainly no shortage of laughs or future material here!***



**Jenna Mundo**

Hollywood Celebrity Examiner



**For Immediate Release**

## **Tenants Take-On the Rules in New Comedy Web Series “COMMON CHARGES” Premiering at ITVFest 2014**

***Also Screens as ‘Official Selection’ at Miami Web Fest in October***

LOS ANGELES (September 12, 2014) – Urban dwellers test the limits of their community in the new comedy web series, COMMON CHARGES. The improv based series will make its world premiere at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual ITVFest (the Independent Television and Film Festival) in Dover, Vermont from September 26-28, 2014. Then, it will head as an ‘Official Selection’ to Florida for the Miami Web Fest from October 2-5, 2014 and Atlanta for the ATL WebFest on October 24-26, 2014.

New York City apartment buildings have rules -- lots of rules. COMMON CHARGES follows tenants of The Breaston as they sound-off on the building’s policies, politics and problems. The original fictional project comes from the creator/producer team Alison Whitney and Jonathan Zipper, who also star in the confessional style episodes. The 6 pairings of apartment dwellers include: everyone’s favorite gay couple (Kelly Miller and Joseph Lymous), two unlikely besties (Melissa Navia and Robert King), a guy’s guy and his mail order bride (Kevin Cragg and Yuri Cho), the newlyweds (Jonathan Zipper and Julia Tokarz), the on-again off-again couple (Alison Whitney and Brian Luna) and the Building Super: Mario (Mercer Crenshaw).

Director John Fallon and Editor Tim Franklin were enlisted to work on the entire first season comprised of 7 episodes. Based on their own real-life experiences, Whitney and Zipper are thrilled to unveil the improvised comedy about big personalities living in small spaces. "New York City is so densely populated and everyone lives on top of one another. Everyone's bound to form an opinion on everyone and everything in the building," said Zipper. "It was a unique story we needed to tell, with PLENTY of 'only in New York' experiences to draw from," added Whitney.

These New York natives met while attending NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts where they studied theater at the famed Stella Adler Studio. Since graduating, Whitney and Zipper made the move to Los Angeles and have been building solid resumes on both coasts.

Whitney recently wrapped a comedic role opposite Bryan Greenberg in the indie film “A Year and Change.” Her on-screen credits also include a guest starring role on Cinemax’s “A Girl’s Guide to Depravity,” the lead role in the Discovery ID pilot, “The Secret Lives of Stepford Wives,” and starring roles in the films “Hooking Up” with Corey Feldman and Bronson Pinchot, “Polycarp” with Charles Durning, and “Bacterium.” Whitney is also a member of the acclaimed Old Vic New Voices Theatre Company headed by Kevin Spacey.

Zipper has also been busy, delivering a variety of comedic characters on stage and screen. He has appeared on MTV’s “Human Giant,” the indie series “My New Roommate,” and in the New York stage production of “The Yellow Brick Monologues.” Zipper continues to hone his long-form improvisational technique at the renowned Upright Citizens Brigade; and both Zipper and Whitney are currently keeping their comedy skills sharp studying at the famed improv school, The Groundlings, in Los Angeles.

**For more about “COMMON CHARGES” visit:  
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[Twitter.com/commoncharges](https://twitter.com/commoncharges)**