

Q&A

Tina Fey claims she doesn't get groupies. Annemarie Conte is happy to be her first.

Leaving *Saturday Night Live* must be a scary prospect, since so many cast members fade into obscurity while just a lucky few have success in the afterlife. But Tina Fey shouldn't have any problem staying on top. Even while she was co-head writer on SNL and rocking the show's "Weekend Update," Tina, 36, was carving out a new career for herself with the genius 2004 movie *Mean Girls*. Now she's got the sitcom *30 Rock*, which she created, writes and stars in—practically guaranteeing she won't go the way of Cheri Oteri. Then again, not everyone appreciates her sophisticated sense of humor. "My 1-year-old, Alice, finds her father [SNL composer Jeff Richmond] really funny," Tina says. "He'll walk up to her, sweet-faced, like he's going to hug her, then go, 'Boo!' And she cracks up." Hey, you can't always be the funniest person in the room.

Does moving on from SNL feel like high school graduation?

It does. I still know people there, and like with high school, in a couple years I probably won't know anybody. And it felt like high school in the way that you can't hang out there forever, which isn't to say I won't go back someday in a *Welcome Back, Kotter* situation and write there again. But in terms of being in the cast, it's time to move on. You have to let somebody else have a turn.

Are you going to miss the opportunity to air your political opinions?

I'm going to miss the immediacy of seeing something in the news and then speaking directly to a live TV camera. And getting to say whatever I want. I'll definitely miss that.

Anything going on you wish you could talk about on "Weekend Update"?

This new Congress may be very interesting. Or it may be excruciatingly boring, you never know. The nice thing is, when there's a slow news week, that won't affect me.

Have you ever searched for yourself on YouTube? It's like the new Googling.

I did to see if they put my show's promos on

there. I don't Google myself, because you always find something horrible and mean.

When I YouTube'd you, I found an episode of *The Tonight Show* where you held up a QVC T-shirt so your brother [who works for QVC] could win \$10,000 for getting the company the most exposure. Did he get the dough?

I guess there were rumblings that people thought it was unfair and that technically, I didn't wear it. My brother was like, "The flyer for the contest says to get the shirt seen. It doesn't say you have to wear it." It caused a lot of drama. QVC ended up giving him a separate prize with some money.

I read that your full name is Elizabeth Stamatina Fey. Where does your middle name come from?

It's Greek. It was my great-grandmother's name, on my mom's side.

Both my bosses, Brandon and Brekke, go by their middle name.

I always have, too.

Why is it in comedy that a guy who's funny but not cute can get dates, but guys will only date a female comedian

if she's cute?

Well, I think it's more important to men that you be cute. Men are more visual. Also, they probably go into it thinking they're already funny enough for both of you. I think regular men in regular relationships are three-dimensional. But the guys who'd go for someone just because she's cute, they don't factor that in.

Why are there so many big, ugly men in improv? It's slim pickings for women who want to date a guy in comedy.

There are some big, meaty gentlemen in the world of improvisation, yes. But they still get groupies. There are no comedy groupies for women as such.

So sexy-smart-funny women like you and Amy Poehler don't get groupies?

I've watched so many guys fall in love with Amy from afar. She is beautiful, funny and cool. But I've seen a lot of goofy-looking motherfuckers get girls because they're funny. And I've seen some good-looking ladies sit on the bench. By the time I left Chicago, my husband and I were together, so I didn't come into the New York scene trying to find love. That would've been the worst—dating some idiot comedy writer.

You've made *Maxim's* "100 Sexiest Women" list in the past, but recently they put you on their "10 Women We Wouldn't Sleep With" list, along with Peggy Hill. What changed?

Maxim might have a problem that I'm not 19 and covered in salad dressing. But if I'm on a list with Peggy Hill, I'm in good company. **Sorry to be the one to break this to you.** You realize I'd never have known otherwise.



The best of Tina, YouTubed

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Tina Fey is wearing a Ralph Lauren shirt and Silver jeans.