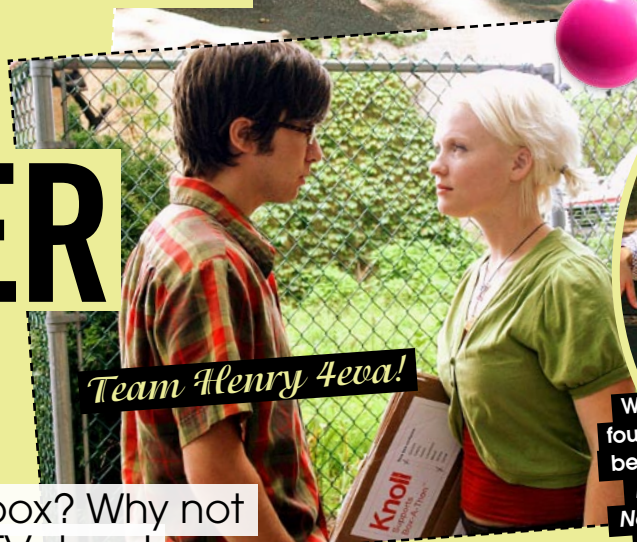


How to:

MAKE A TV SHOW FOR UNDER \$200



On the set of *We Need Girlfriends in NY!*



Team Henry 4eva!



Breaking News!

We were over the moon when we found out DARREN STAR (mastermind behind the awesomeness of *Beverly Hills 90210*) is going to make *We Need Girlfriends* into a real TV show for CBS in the States! Go team!!

Nothing on the box? Why not make your own TV show!

If you're so over everyone's attempt to make shows about the life you lead, don't sit through one more lame effort at teen-speak: create your own TV show! With technology becoming cheaper and more accessible by the cybersecond, there's nothing stopping you and your crew from making a web series - a series made for the internet. We flew to New York to suss how our fave web serial, *We Need Girlfriends*, did just that!

CRASH COURSE: WNG

We Need Girlfriends is about three college graduates (Tom, Rod and Henry) who - you guessed it! - are looking for luv. Created by three BFFs from film school, Steven Tsapelas (writer), Brian Amyot (director) and Angel Acevedo (camera guy), it has an audience of around 700,000 per ep! Not bad for a DIY effort!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Write It The idea for WNG came from Steven's criticisms of the show *Entourage*. "We liked it but we were like, 'Who are these guys? We don't know these guys!'" he laughs. "We wanted to do a show about guys like us!" **Develop It** Okay, you DON'T have oodles of cash, access to Adam

Brody or a multi-billion dollar camera. WNG shot their no-budget show in the director's tiny apartment. "We wanted the show to be about people we know, and they don't live in giant apartments or drive fancy cars," explains director Brian. Try to plan your show around places you can access - like your school or local hangs.

Plan It "Before we shot one frame of film, we had our first four scripts written and we knew what would happen with the rest of the series," says Brian. (So make sure someone on your team is on the anal side and start getting some Excel spreadsheets happening ASAP!)

Shoot It So you have a script that smacks of authenticity, and you've got the okay to film the first episode in your local cafe with your uncle's camera. What are the secrets to keeping your hard working crew satisfied? "If you keep people fed, they're happy," advises Brian. "Food was actually our biggest

expense!" Also WNG shot with a skeleton crew of five or six. A small crew = more manageable.

RANDOM EXPERT TIPS!

1. RAISE THE STAKES

If you feel your good idea isn't great yet, try raising the stakes for your characters. "In episode two, the guys go to a party and wind up having to take their shirts off," explains Brian. "That's embarrassing for them... but we raised the stakes by making Tom's ex-GF at the party with another guy." Always ask yourself: how can you make life even MORE difficult for your characters!

2. GET YOUR FANS INVOLVED

WNG created MySpace pages for their three main characters, which assured the series was an online success. "People loved that - it makes the show feel real, it makes them feel a part of it and makes them want to come back," says Steve.

Watch at weneedgirlfriends.tv/



Chilling out behind the scenes.