

TV

# Showtime Orders Comedy Series 'Work in Progress' From Abby McEnany, Lilly Wachowski

McEnany stars in the eight-episode comedy as “a 45-year-old self-identified fat, queer dyke”

Reid Nakamura | May 30, 2019 @ 12:14 PM  
Last Updated: May 30, 2019 @ 12:30 PM



Showtime has given an eight-episode order to the series “Work in Progress” from Abby McEnany, Tim Mason and “Sense8” co-creator Lilly Wachowski.

MOST SHARED



McEnany co-created the comedy with Mason, and stars in the "funny and uniquely human" series as "a 45-year-old self-identified fat, queer dyke from Chicago whose misfortune and despair unexpectedly lead her to a vibrantly transformative relationship."

ADVERTISING



The pilot debuted earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival, where it was an official selection of the Indie Episodic program. Theo Germaine and Karin Anglin co-star alongside Celeste Pechous, with Julia Sweeney appearing as herself.

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With the Showtime order, Wachowski will co-write the rest of the first season and executive produce with McEnany and Mason, who directed the pilot. Lawrence Mattis, Ashley Berns and Josh Adler of Circle of Confusion also serve as executive producers, with Tony Hernandez of JAX Media joining as EP as well.

"We adored the pilot of 'Work in Progress' at Sundance and were so thrilled that Abby and Tim and Lilly wanted to work with us to expand it into a Showtime comedy series," said Gary Levine, co-president of entertainment for Showtime Networks. "Abby is as distinctive as she is appealing. She will make you laugh, she might make you cry, but she will definitely make you fall in love with her!"

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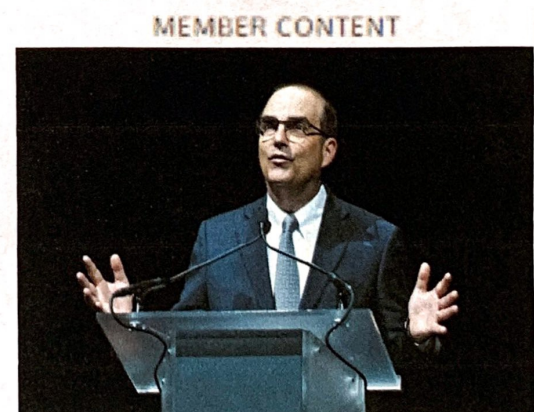
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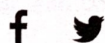
12:00pm PT by Rick Porter

## Lilly Wachowski-Produced Comedy Ordered to Series at Showtime



Courtesy of Christa Holka; Jana Giocoppo; Chris Popio

From left: Lilly Wachowski, Abby McEnany, Tim Mason



'Work in Progress,' from co-creator and star Abby McEnany, comes to the premium cable network after the pilot debuted at Sundance.

Showtime has given a series order to a comedy called *Work in Progress*, which it picked up following a Sundance debut and counts Lilly Wachowski among its executive producers.

The pilot from creators Abby McEnany and Tim Mason was an official selection of Sundance's indie episodic program in 2019. Showtime acquired the rights at the festival and will turn it into an eight-episode series. Wachowski (the *Matrix* trilogy, *Sense8*) will co-write the first season and executive produce with McEnany and Mason.

"We adored the pilot of *Work in Progress* at Sundance and were so thrilled that Abby and Tim and Lilly wanted to work with us



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make you laugh, she might make you cry, but she will definitely make you fall in love with her!"

Per Showtime's logline, *Work in Progress* stars Chicago improv veteran McEnany as a fat, queer woman whose misfortune and despair unexpectedly lead her to a vibrantly transformative relationship. Theo Germaine, Karin Anglin and Celeste Pechous also star, and Julia Sweeney (*Shrill*, *Saturday Night Live*) plays herself in a key role.

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['It's Not About Jimmy Keene' and 'Work in Progress': TV Reviews | Sundance 2019](#)

Along with McEnany, Mason and Wachowski, Lawrence Mattis, Ashley Berns and Josh Adler of *Circle of Confusion* and Tony Hernandez of JAX Media also serve as executive producers.

*Work in Progress* doesn't have a premiere date yet. It joins a lineup of Showtime originals that includes the recently renewed [Black Monday](#) and [Billions](#); [Shameless](#); [The Chi](#); [Kidding](#); [Ray Donovan](#); [The Affair](#); and [Homeland](#) (the latter two entering their final seasons), along with the upcoming [City on a Hill](#), [The L Word: Generation Q](#) and the limited series [The Loudest Voice](#).

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Showtime has a new comedy in store. The network just announced they've ordered a new TV show called *Work in Progress*.

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[Showtime](#) has ordered eight episodes of *Work in Progress*.

You can read more info below:

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## LOS ANGELES – May 30, 2019

– SHOWTIME has ordered an eight-episode season of the new half-hour comedy series *WORK IN PROGRESS*, created by Abby McEnany and Tim Mason. McEnany stars in the series, expected to premiere later this year. Mason directed the pilot. Lilly Wachowski (*The Matrix*, *Sense8*) will co-write the first season and executive produce with McEnany and Mason. SHOWTIME acquired the project after its premiere at this year's Sundance Film Festival, where it was an official selection of the Indie Episodic program. The announcement was made today by Gary Levine and Jana Winograde, Presidents of Entertainment, Showtime Networks Inc.

A funny and uniquely human comedy, *WORK IN PROGRESS* features McEnany as a 45-year-old self-identified fat, queer dyke from Chicago whose misfortune and despair unexpectedly lead her to a vibrantly transformative relationship. Chicago-based performers Theo Germaine and Karin Anglin co-star alongside Celeste Pechous, with Julia Sweeney (*Saturday Night Live*, *Shrill*) appearing in a crucial role as herself.

“We adored the pilot of *WORK IN PROGRESS* at Sundance and were so thrilled that Abby and Tim and Lilly wanted to work with us to expand it into a SHOWTIME comedy series,” said Levine. “Abby is as distinctive as she is appealing. She will make you laugh, she might make you cry, but she will definitely make you fall in love with her!”

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the foundation for the series. Mason is a filmmaker, writer and accomplished commercial director whose short *No Other Way To Say It* was named Best Narrative Short at Slamdance 2017 and Best Comedic Short of 2017 by Vimeo.

Wachowski's writing and directing work, often with sibling Lana Wachowski, span film and television with projects that include *The Matrix* franchise, *Sense 8*, *V for Vendetta*, *Jupiter Ascending*, *Cloud Atlas*, *Speed Racer* and *Bound*.

*WORK IN PROGRESS* is executive produced by Abby McEnany and Tim Mason. Lilly Wachowski, Lawrence Mattis, Ashley Berns and Josh Adler of Circle of Confusion also serve as executive producers, with Tony Hernandez of JAX Media joining as executive producer."

[What do you think?](#) Are you a fan of Showtime's comedies? Will you check out *Work in Progress*?

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MOVIES AND TV ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE COMEDY

# Chicago improviser Abby McEnany to produce, star in Showtime comedy series

‘The Matrix’ filmmaker Lilly Wachowski will co-write the show, ‘Work in Progress,’ about a woman the star calls ‘a fat, queer dyke.’

By Darel Jevens | May 30, 2019, 2:36pm CDT



Tim Mason, Abby McEnany and Julia Sweeney of “Work in Progress” attend the Sundance Film Festival in January 2019. | Sonia Recchia/Getty Images

A veteran of Chicago’s improv scene will star as a character she calls a “fat, queer dyke” in a Showtime series she created, the cable outlet announced Thursday.



With an assist from “The Matrix” filmmaker Lilly Wachowski and fellow Chicago improv alum Tim Mason, Abby McEnany will make eight episodes of “Work in Progress,” a half-hour comedy expected to premiere later this year.

In what Showtime calls a “funny and uniquely human comedy,” McEnany will play a woman in her 40s “whose misfortune and despair unexpectedly lead her to a vibrantly transformative relationship.” The supporting cast includes “Saturday Night Live” alum Julia Sweeney.

“Abby is as distinctive as she is appealing,” Showtime exec Gary Levine said in a statement. “She will make you laugh, she might make you cry, but she will definitely make you fall in love with her!”

Showtime picked up the series after a pilot was screened in January at the Sundance Film Festival. Mason, who directed the pilot, and Wachowski are credited as executive producers and writers on the series.



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