



THE
Hollywood
REPORTER



WHO YOU CALLIN' A SIDEKICK?

At *THR*'s annual photo shoot with TV's supporting-actor contenders in comedy and drama, you learn the embarrassing shows hiding on their DVRs and who brought their cut-off ponytail in a bag to an audition

BY STACEY WILSON HUNT PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOE PUGLIESE

The supporting-actor Emmy contenders were photographed April 29 at Milk Studios in Hollywood.

1. Kumail Nanjiani

Silicon Valley (HBO)

➔ **FIRST HOLLYWOOD CRUSH**

"Cindy Crawford. She was every straight dude's first crush for, like, 10 years. That Diet Pepsi commercial changed my life."

2. Nikolaj Coster-Waldau

Game of Thrones (HBO)

➔ **IDEAL THRONES CAMEO**

"The Queen of England."

3. Molly Parker

House of Cards (Netflix)

➔ **FIRST HOLLYWOOD CRUSH**

"Jack Nicholson. My dad and I watched all his films together. After my first movie, I asked my dad what he thought. He said, 'You could have used your eyebrows more — like Jack.' I think he was on to something."

4. Ben Mendelsohn

Bloodline (Netflix)

➔ **TOUGHEST SCENE**

"In episode 12, there's a huge scene with the whole family — a lot of strong feelings and banging of hands on tables. That was bad. It was a tough day at the office."

5. Wendi McLendon-Covey

The Goldbergs (ABC)

➔ **SCARIEST SHOW MOMENT**

"Roller-skating on *Goldbergs* with a roomful of kids who had clearly lied on their résumés about being able to roller-skate. That was a little dangerous."

6. Michael McKean

Better Call Saul (AMC)

➔ **WEIRDEST AUDITION**

"I went in for a character who had a ponytail. I'd just cut mine off and couldn't throw it away for sentimental reasons, so I brought it in a bag to show that I was able to grow one."

7. Melissa Rauch

The Big Bang Theory (CBS)

➔ **MOST EMBARRASSING**

THING ON HER DVR "[TLC's] *Sex Sent Me to the ER*. My parents visited, and I asked them what their favorite shows were. They said, 'Have you seen *Sex Sent Me to the ER*?' I was mortified that my parents watch this — it made me want to be adopted."

8. Steve Rannazzisi

The League (FX)

➔ **MOST EMBARRASSING**

THING ON HIS DVR "*The Real Housewives of New Jersey* reunion from two years ago. It was that good."

9. Timothy Simons

Veep (HBO)

➔ **FIRST HOLLYWOOD CRUSH**

"A girl in the original *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*; she worked in the Foot Clan hideout. She seemed very dangerous."

10. Alfre Woodard

State of Affairs (NBC)

➔ **BIG BREAK**

"Auditioning for musical theory at Carnegie Mellon. I had one minute to wow them with my acting and two minutes to dance. I don't dance, so it was me humming 'Exodus' and running around and flinging myself on the floor. I didn't get in. I know I'm not really famous today because no one ever ratted me out."

11. Tituss Burgess

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt

(Netflix)

➔ **HOW HIS CHARACTER**

WOULD ACCEPT AN EMMY

"He would walk up before his name was called, wearing some dress Sarah Jessica Parker wore on *Sex and the City*."

12. Craig T. Nelson

Parenthood (NBC)

➔ **ON THE UPCOMING**

COACH REBOOT "We just wanted to bring back a three-camera show, a half-hour where people can get together and laugh. Maybe that works; maybe we're beyond it."

13. Jussie Smollett

Empire (Fox)

➔ **FAVORITE SCENE**

"The white-party scene with Taraji [P. Henson] and Naomi Campbell fighting. Taraji says every horrible thing you can think of, including, 'you and your Benjamin Button eggs.'"

14. Amy Brenneman

The Leftovers (HBO)

➔ **HUMBLE BEGINNINGS**

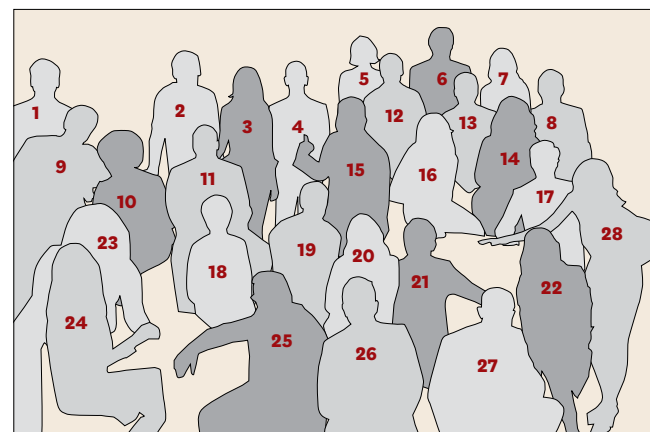
"My early jobs were for commercials where you had to say, 'This is why I like the Whopper,' or, 'When I have heavy-flow days ...' I wanted to do Shakespeare, and there I was, talking about my menstrual cycle. But I made a very good living."

15. Guillermo Diaz

Scandal (ABC)

➔ **WHAT'S ALWAYS IN HIS**

TRAILER "Diet Coke and my DVD collection of *I Love Lucy*."



16. Annaleigh Ashford

Masters of Sex (Showtime)

➔ **FIRST TV CRUSH** "I loved Sam Malone on *Cheers*. Ted Danson was so funny, charming and really turned his life around. Diane, what were you thinking?"

17. Andre Holland

The Knick (Cinemax)

➔ **MOST EMBARRASSING**

THING ON HIS DVR "Last year's college football semifinals, in which my team, Alabama, lost. I replay it every now and again, hoping it ends differently."

18. Maura Tierney

The Affair (Showtime)

➔ **FIRST TV CRUSH**

"I was madly in love with Paul Michael Glaser, and I got to stay up later to watch *Starsky & Hutch* because I loved him."

19. Ike Barinholtz

The Mindy Project (Fox)

➔ **WHAT HE'D SAY IF HE WON**

AN EMMY "I think I already have. Isn't that what this shoot is for? Was I misinformed?"

20. Chelsea Peretti

Brooklyn Nine-Nine (Fox)

➔ **FIRST HOLLYWOOD CRUSH**

"Fred Savage on *The Wonder Years*. He had that scratchy voice and those big, brown doe eyes. He was a real catch."

21. Charlie Day

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (FX)

➔ **TOUGHEST EPISODE**

"We did one all in one shot, and then *Birdman* stole our thunder."

22. Amanda Peet

Togetherness (HBO)

➔ **WORST AUDITION**

"A hair commercial when I was 22. I had to pretend to be washing my hair and that the shampoo was releasing butterflies and rainbows. I just couldn't do it."

23. Danielle Brooks

Orange Is the New Black (Netflix)

➔ **CRAZIEST SCENE**

"There was one I shot with [actress] Lorraine Toussaint: My character, Taystee, says, 'I'm not taking your mess anymore.' Lorraine decides to kiss me and shake up the scene. It really threw me off!"

24. Judith Light

Transparent (Amazon)

➔ **LANDING THE GIG**

"I had a 45-minute Skype call with [show creator] Jill Soloway. I never read a scene; I never auditioned. It was just like a conversation with a friend about issues and life."

25. Josh Gad

The Comedians (FX)

➔ **TOUGHEST SCENE**

"[Co-star] Billy [Crystal] and I play fake versions of ourselves, and in one scene we said some mean things to each other. After, I said: 'You know that was fake Josh Gad saying those things. Real Josh Gad loves real Billy Crystal.'"

26. Matt Czuchy

The Good Wife (CBS)

➔ **WORST AUDITION**

"My first audition [for *Good Wife*] was horrible. I won't get into it, but thankfully they believed in me enough to give me another shot."

27. Theo Rossi

Sons of Anarchy (FX)

➔ **HOW HIS CHARACTER**

WOULD ACCEPT AN EMMY

"Juice wouldn't make it to the show because he'd be on the run. But he would take the Emmy and to try sell it."

28. Kathryn Hahn

Happyish (Showtime)

➔ **WORST AUDITION**

"It was for a Coen brothers movie, and I brought a box of props. That was a horrible call."

Additional reporting by Michael O'Connell and Kate Stanhope



From left: Day, Barinholtz, Nanjiani and Simons tested the *THR* selfie stick; *Empire*'s Smollett (right, with *Orange*'s Brooks) tabbed Janet Jackson and Mariah Carey as dream guest stars for his show. Photographed by Jessica Chou.

SET DESIGN BY WARD ROBINSON; AT WOODEN LADDER; ON-SET STYLING BY CAROL MCCOLLIN; ON-SET GROOMING BY SHAN AT DEW BEAUTY AGENCY; LAUREN LANCASTER AND TRACY MOYER AT ART DEPARTMENT; L.A. LEAH RIAL FOR ORB; HAIR CARE AND KEVIN ALICORN AT EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT; GAREN TOLIN FOR REDKEN; HAIR CARE AND URBAN DECAY COSMETICS AT EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT; MCLENDON-COVEY HAIR BY CREGGIEON; BOWMAN AT TRACEY MATTINGLY; NANJIANI GROOMING BY ANNA BENEFOR; DAVINES AT EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT; PARKER HAIR BY STEVEN MASON FOR RINE FURBER AT EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT; MAKEUP BY COLEEN CAMPBELL-CALDWELL FOR ARMANI COSMETICS AT EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT; PLET MAKEUP BY SABRINA BEDRANI AT TRACEY MATTINGLY; ON SIMONS: TOMMY HILF; JACKET, PANTS, TIE AND POCKET SQUARE; PROOBS: BROTHERS SHIRT; ALLEN EDMONDS SHOES; ON TERNE: Y. RODARTE; DRESS FROM NEIMAN MARCUS; L.K. BENNETT; LONDON SHOES; Doves by DORON PALOMA; EARRINGS, JACK VARTANIAN RINGS; EFFY; JEWELRY; DANA REBECCA DESIGNS.