

HOLLYWOOD SPOTLIGHT\*

# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO TED LASSO



**WE SPILL  
THE TEA ON  
SEASON 3!**

**THEY'RE  
BACK!**



**The Stars Share  
What's Next**

**Best Episodes &  
Funniest Moments**

**Behind-the-Scenes  
Secrets**

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**BELIEVE**

**Will There Be  
a Season 4?**



Of the show's success benefiting from the cast's chemistry, Jason Sudeikis (second from left, with Brendan Hunt, Brett Goldstein and Nick Mohammed) told MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, "It's a lot more fun and a lot easier when you have love and respect and empathy for one another."



HOLLYWOOD SPOTLIGHT

# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO TED LASSO

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*Ted Lasso* has lines that will give you all the feels, from laughter to tears—and most of the classics come from the coach himself.



# GAME TIME

How an optimistic, misplaced soccer coach and his team of misfits won our hearts.

## IT'S A CLASSIC FISH-OUT-OF-WATER

scenario: American football coach Ted Lasso moves to England (a place he knows little about—he also despises tea) to coach soccer (a sport he knows little about—he's aghast that games can end in a tie) in the midst of marital problems. Separated from his wife and son, the plucky coach vows to make the best of his new situation.

Yes, the new owner, Rebecca Welton, may be intentionally sabotaging the team to get back at her cheating ex-husband, former owner Rupert Mannion. Ted will try to win her over with chats—and boxes of biscuits. Sure, the players on Ted's AFC Richmond team—especially veteran Roy Kent—openly disrespect their underqualified manager, and the club's loyal fans call him a “wanker.” But nonetheless, our

mustachioed hero perseveres—and ultimately starts to win over some of his skeptics, even if they roll their eyes at his optimistic aphorisms. (An example: “I do love a locker room. It smells like potential.”)

When *Ted Lasso* premiered on Aug. 14, 2020, on the then-fledgling streaming service Apple TV+, the sports comedy (starring and co-created by *Saturday Night Live* alum Jason Sudeikis) was well reviewed but underhyped. Then something special happened: One fan told another to watch, who told another...and *Ted Lasso* soon became the go-to comfort show of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

*GQ*'s Zach Baron wrote that Ted's “folksy, relentless positivity” resonated in a time of deep uncertainty. “It was in the teeth of widespread

quarantine orders. People were inside watching stuff,” explained Baron. “Here was a guy who confronted hardship, who suffered heartbreak, who couldn't go home. And who somehow found his way through all that.”

Two seasons, 11 Emmys and thousands of Halloween costumes later, *Ted Lasso* is a cultural phenomenon. Ahead of the show's eagerly anticipated (and possibly final) season, which premieres March 15, we offer you the definitive guide to the amazing origins, colorful characters and quotable quips of Apple TV+'s most successful show ever.

To borrow a phrase from our favorite philosophical football coach, readers will feel like they “fell out of the lucky tree and hit every branch on the way down, ended up in a pool of cash and Sour Patch Kids.” ●



"It's called *Ted Lasso* but it's not a show, it's not a character: It's a vibe, and the show trickles down as spillover from that vibe," Jason Sudeikis told *The Guardian*.

**"He is quite like Ted in lots of ways. He has a sort of burning optimism, but also a vulnerability, about him that I really admire."**

Marcus Mumford to GQ about his friend Jason Sudeikis

# ALL THE SECRETS OF SEASON

Why the third—and perhaps final—season of *Ted Lasso* will be worth the (long!) wait. *By Matt Sullivan*

**REFEREE, BLOW THE WHISTLE** and pull out the yellow card! There's been a delay in the restart of play for *Ted Lasso*.

The second season of the Apple TV+ hit came to an end on Oct. 21, 2021. After opening up about the trauma of his father's suicide to Dr. Sharon Fieldstone (Sarah Niles), Ted (Jason Sudeikis) suffered a setback when Nate Shelley (Nick Mohammed) snitched about the head coach's panic attacks to reporter Trent Crimm (James Lance) of *The Independent*. Although Ted won back his team's confidence and AFC Richmond was promoted to the Premier League after playing to a draw in their final game, the coach lost a friend in Nate. The kit man turned assistant coach went from underdog to antagonist

as he angrily resigned, ripped up Ted's beloved "Believe" sign in the locker room—and took a coaching job with West Ham United, the club owned by Rupert Mannion (Anthony Head), the vengeful ex-husband of AFC Richmond owner Rebecca Welton (Hannah Waddingham).

Since then, fans have been waiting...and waiting. But finally, the new season premieres on March 15! So, what took so long? The writers' room for the show's third season first opened up in September 2021, with co-creators Jason Sudeikis, Brendan Hunt and Joe Kelly taking over showrunning duties from Bill Lawrence. The cast arrived in London in January 2022. But then Sudeikis decided that the scripts needed major rewrites, wanting to create the perfect







In a shot from the third season trailer for the series, former co-workers-turned-new-rivals Nathan Shelley (Nick Mohammed) and Ted Lasso (Jason Sudeikas) face off as troublemaker Rupert Mannion (Anthony Head) looks on.

ending for the show's third and likely final season (see sidebar, page 11). "But those rewrites took a while," reported Puck's Matt Belloni. "Episode 1 didn't begin filming until March [2022], and then...stops and starts, script changes on the fly, [shooting] days not made, character arcs shifted."

## "The team is dealing with the reality of going back to the Premier League, where we're minnows again."

Brendan Hunt to *The Hollywood Reporter* about what happens in Season 3

Weeks were added to the schedule after Sudeikis decided to do an April 2022 location shoot in Amsterdam, where he'd once lived. The show's plans to film at Stamford Bridge, home of the Chelsea Football Club, were met with delays when the team's owner, Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich, was forced to sell the team after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A plan to shoot in the U.S. (more on that later!) and the time-consuming task of digitally adding soccer stadiums in postproduction would call for even more extra time. According to Belloni's Puck article—"What the Hell Is Happening With *Ted*

*Lasso*?"—budgets for Season 3 had ballooned by 20% to 30%.

Accepting *Ted Lasso*'s second consecutive Emmy for Best Comedy in September 2022, Sudeikis used his speech to tell the audience, "We'll see you for Season 3—at some point." Not exactly the most reassuring words, but good things come to those who wait: Season 3 wrapped filming in November 2022, and the premiere was finally announced in February 2023, which gave postproduction enough time to meet the deadline for Emmy nominations by airing on Apple TV+ before May 31.

Despite the time lapse between seasons, the on-screen action of Season 3 will pick up just two months after the events of Season 2. It will begin with the start of the next football season—and include two battles between AFC Richmond and West Ham United, now coached by Nate. "We've never



The show's crew donned *Ted Lasso* costumes complete with mustaches while filming in London on Halloween (right).





"If seeing is believing, I believe we've been seen," Ted says to Coach Beard in the new season trailer, noting the signs Jamie (Phil Dunster), Dani (Cristo Fernández) and the rest of the team have made and hung up.

gone from the start of a season before," co-creator Hunt, who also plays Coach Beard, told TVLine. "And just by dint of how the schedule works in the English Premier League, we play West Ham twice, home and away, because that's how it goes."

While the off-screen delays are understandably frustrating for fans, there's a method to the madness. "Jason is so very generous as a producer and creator," *Ted Lasso* editor A.J.



## Is It Really the End?

Will there be a Season 4 of *Ted Lasso*?

Co-creator and star Jason Sudeikis has repeatedly insisted that he always had a three-season vision for *Ted Lasso's* story. And in June 2022, Brett Goldstein seemed to confirm that Season 3 would be the show's last. "We are writing it like that," the actor/producer told *The Sunday Times*. "It was planned as three [seasons]." But Hannah Waddingham

held out hope that the show will go on. "Even if we left it at this, Jason has pointed out that that's just where we leave [the characters] for now... and that's how I'm going to have to think about it, otherwise I'm going to be a terrible mess," she said during an appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* So perhaps Ted's "goodbye" is really a "see you later"?



HANNAH WADDINGHAM & JIMMY KIMMEL



**“It’s entirely up to Jason. We’ve been writing this as if it’s the end, but it might not be. But I really don’t know.”**

*Brett Goldstein to Decider on the show’s future*

Catoline told *The Hollywood Reporter’s* Behind the Screen podcast. “He gives all of the characters a storyline. I think that’s why [the episodes] are so full.... There [are] so many storylines; he wants every character to have an arc.”

There’s certainly a lot of playing field to cover in the third season. Even Ted’s journalist “fremesis,” Trent Crimm, gets a story arc. The end of the second season found Trent being fired from *The Independent* after telling Ted that Nate was his source on the panic attack story. “Trent Crimm is independent,”

said Catoline. “Where is Trent Crimm gonna go? Surely he has a purpose at Richmond.”

And what will become of the relationship between retired player Roy Kent (Brett Goldstein) and model turned public relations exec Keeley Jones (Juno Temple)? The couple’s status seemed uncertain after Keeley encouraged Roy to go on a six-week vacation without her as she concentrated on her new PR firm. “I hope that Keeley finds happiness and that she finds it completely with herself,” Temple said at an Emmys event.

Then there’s AFC Richmond owner Rebecca, who’s dealing



Left: Ellie Taylor, who plays Sassy, returns. Above: Juno Temple (left) shot scenes with newcomer Jodi Balfour.



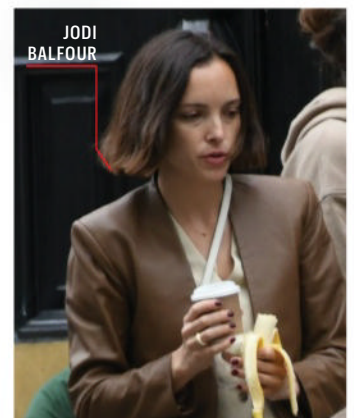
with a renewed rivalry with her ex-husband, Rupert, who’s now the owner of West Ham. “When we see Rebecca again, she’s a boss-ass bitch,” Waddingham told *Deadline*. “She’s fully there because she wants to be and there’s a change in her that I think was much needed. She’s leading that group of players and wants the best for them.”

But what about Rebecca’s personal life—might she re-

# WHO'S NEW

It was Ted Lasso who once said, "Boy, I love meeting people's moms. It's like reading an instruction manual as to why they're nuts." And on Season 3 we'll meet Ted's mother, who'll be played by Becky Ann Baker. The 69-year-old actress previously honed her maternal instincts playing Jean Weir (mom to Lindsay and Sam) on *Freaks & Geeks* (1999–2000) and Loreen Horvath (Hannah's mother) on *Girls* (2012–2017).

*The Crown's* Jodi Balfour (who played Jackie Kennedy) joins the cast as a charming venture capitalist named Jack. While Trent Crimm (James Lance) and Dr. Sharon Fieldstone (Sarah Niles) have expanded roles this season, the show's editor Melissa McCoy also revealed in an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter's* Behind the Screen podcast that there's "new blood" on the AFC Richmond team, which "invigorates what's happening in the locker room."



Brendan Hunt (right) posted an Instagram photo with Sudeikis as they flew back to London in January 2022. Left: Sudeikis was all smiles on the set in October.



spark her secretive romance with much-younger player Sam Obisanya (Toheeb Jimoh), who spurned an offer to play for a Nigerian billionaire's new African football club in order to return to his ex's team? Teases Waddingham, "It's delicious chaos as usual. That's life, right? You never have everything sorted."

And then there's Nate. Could the unlikely villain possibly be

redeemed after his shocking heel turn? "Obviously, we're at a point at the beginning of Season 3 where there's going to be a lot of people who don't like Nate," Mohammed told *Fatherly*. "That was the trick with Season 2, taking a character everyone loved and making you hate him! All I can say is that it won't be more of the same. Nate will change again in Season 3." (Make Nate "The Great" again!)

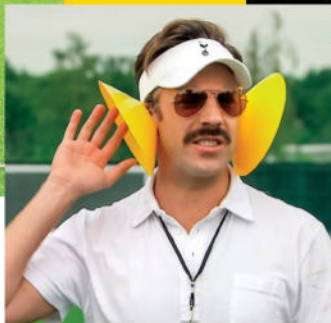
But, of course, all roads lead back to our titular hero, who'll continue his healing process with Dr. Fieldstone, who returns in Season 3. Tweets from the set by Mohammed and Jeremy Swift (who plays Leslie Higgins) hint that some scenes will take place in Ted's home state of Kansas. Perhaps a reunion with his son, Henry (Gus Turner), will bring our ever-optimistic hero the closure he seeks with his own daddy issues. As another famous character from Kansas put it, "There's no place like home." •

# HOW IT ALL BEGAN

A video game, an ad campaign and a famous ex-fiancée helped create a TV phenomenon. *By Matt Sullivan*



Some of the lines from the two *Ted Lasso* shorts for NBC ended up being reused in the first season of the series.



**“WAS TED LASSO A SATURDAY *Night Live* skit?”** is a question asked so often on Google, it’s become an auto-fill option. While the answer is no, it’s an understandable assumption to make, given that creator/star Jason Sudeikis was on *SNL* from 2005 to 2013, and sketches from the variety show

have been spun off into films like *Wayne’s World*.

The character did, indeed, have its roots in sketch comedy. In 2001, Sudeikis and *Ted Lasso* co-creator Brendan Hunt (who plays Coach Beard)

were performing in the improv comedy troupe Boom Chicago in Amsterdam. There, Hunt, a die-hard Chicago Bears football fan who had once scoffed at soccer, fell in love with the culture surrounding the sport. To encourage this, Sudeikis bought a PlayStation so that he and Hunt could play the soccer video game FIFA in their small theater’s dressing room.

Sudeikis would play as the coach of the David Beckham-led Manchester United squad



**“Ted’s world view isn’t a delusion, it’s a choice. What rattles everyone—the show’s characters and us watching at home—is the realization that we have that choice, too.”**

*Executive producer Brendan Hunt (right, with Jason Sudeikis) to The Daily Beast*

against Hunt’s Arsenal team. These gaming sessions prompted a brainstorm between Sudeikis, Hunt and their buddy Joe Kelly: No American had ever coached a major soccer team in Europe. What if an NFL coach gave it a whirl? A character was born.

It would be more than a decade before this character would get called in. After paying \$250 million for the broadcast rights to the English Premier League in 2012, NBC Sports commissioned Sudeikis (who’d

recently left *SNL*) and Hunt to write a mockumentary-style comedy ad campaign. The premise was a clueless American football coach named Ted Lasso took the reins of a Premier League team—despite not knowing anything about soccer.

But when NBC pitched the idea of a Ted Lasso short film to their Premier League partners, they were met with boos rather than cheers. Soccer is like a religion in Europe—no laughing matter. Fortunately,

Tottenham Hotspur—the last Premier League team that NBC approached—got the joke. It was American ignorance of soccer that was the punch line, and the NBC short was a chance to both laugh at that ignorance while remedying it. “The hesitancy that was felt by clubs before we actually shot the first one essentially went away as soon as they saw it,” Hunt told the *Los Angeles Times*.

The first NBC Sports short, “An American Coach in



*Ted Lasso* co-creators Joe Kelly, Hunt and Sudeikis. Right: Bill Lawrence helmed *Cougar Town*, *Scrubs* and *Spin City*.



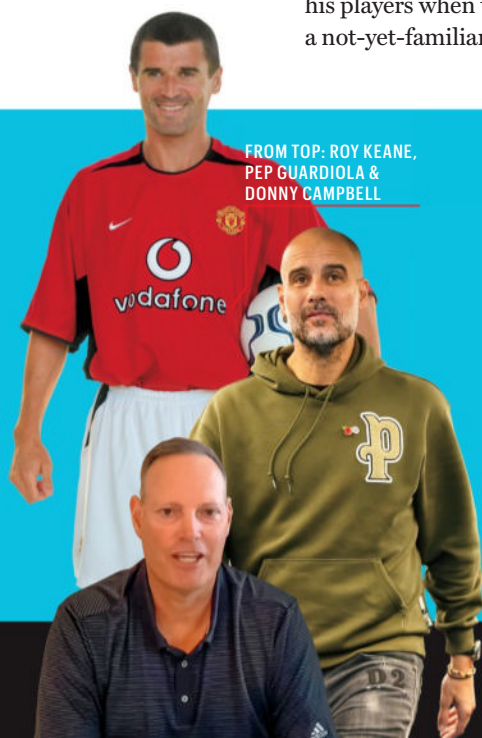
London,” was released in 2013. The 4-minute, 41-second spot featured Ted, an eager but ignorant American football coach, being named Tottenham’s new manager. He is confused by the differences between “our” and “their” football. Ted tells reporters that any team that he coaches will play hard for “all four quarters” (instead of two halves). He’s aghast when he learns that games can end in a tie and mistakenly thinks that a missed kick that sails over the crossbar is worth three points, like a field goal in football. But Ted is willing to learn. In an act of solidarity, he spends an entire day not using his hands—even at the urinal. Ever the optimist, Ted thinks that he’s won over his players when they give him a not-yet-familiar nickname:

“Wanker.” Alas, the short ends with Ted getting fired, and asking if there was a third kind of football he should be looking into. “We just thought that it would be funny if he wasn’t cynical or angry about [being fired]. That he just loved the experience and he loved London and he loved soccer, and he brought that experience home with him,” Sudeikis told *Entertainment Weekly*.

The ad was a viral smash and NBC ordered another in 2014. That video, “The Return of Coach Lasso,” found Ted parlaying his brief coaching career into an on-camera gig as a Premier League commentator for NBC Sports. Although Ted loves this (he says that fellow commentator Arlo White’s voice “sounds like Elle Macpherson

farting into Miles Davis’ trumpet”), he drives anchor Rebecca Lowe crazy with his rookie mistakes. Ted is once again fired—but his spirit isn’t dimmed. To even his own surprise, he remains in London, buying a Mini Cooper (which he nicknames “Mini Bradley Cooper”) and continuing his soccer education by coaching a youth girls’ team called the St. Catherine’s Fighting Owls. The skit ends with Ted answering his buzzing phone—before gleefully informing the camera that he’s been offered another Premier League head coaching job at Leicester, which he mispronounces as “Lie-chester” only to be informed that it’s actually pronounced “Lester.”

The 6-minute, 5-second video was another big hit—and



FROM TOP: ROY KEANE, PEP GUARDIOLA & DONNY CAMPBELL

## Real-Life Influences

Jason Sudeikis drew inspiration from his life and the world of soccer.

Jason Sudeikis has cited his late father, Dan, as one of the inspirations for the character of Ted Lasso. “That’s where the mustache comes from and him being real loquacious,” he told the *Today* show. “And then [there’s] my high school basketball coach Donny Campbell, a fellow from a small town in Kansas who spoke in these little aphorisms, like ‘Sudeikis, you look more nervous than a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.’” Real-life Premier League managers like Liverpool’s Jürgen

Klopp and Manchester City’s Pep Guardiola also informed the character. “Man, when I heard about [Klopp] taking his squad to go to karaoke, I was like, ‘Helloooo, story idea,’” Sudeikis told *Sports Illustrated*. The fictional AFC Richmond Greyhounds were inspired by Crystal Palace, also a London-based team with red-and-blue uniforms. And Manchester United’s legendary player Roy Keane impacted the creation of a fictional icon with the same initials: AFC Richmond veteran Roy Kent.



a eureka moment for Sudeikis and Hunt. “After doing the second video, it really unlocked elements of the character that we found very, very fun to write and view the world through,” Sudeikis told *Sports Illustrated*.

Although Ted’s time with NBC Sports was done, Sudeikis and Hunt didn’t feel done with the character. It was Sudeikis’ then-fiancée, actress/director Olivia Wilde, who suggested pursuing a TV show. The couple talked it out at the dinner table: “OK, but why would he take this job? Why would a guy at this age take this job to leave?” Sudeikis recalled to *GQ*. “Maybe he’s having marital strife. Maybe things aren’t good at home, so he needs space.” The character—now the former college coach of the Wichita State Shockers—became deeper and darker than the buffoonish Ted of the NBC Sports spots but maintained his optimistic attitude and penchant for pop culture references and earnest aphorisms.

“Olivia gave it a big push,” Hunt told the *Los Angeles*

*Times*. “Olivia was like, ‘Jason, you are doing this show. You’re going to London, you’re going to make this with your friends, and that’s all there is to it.’ But it just really couldn’t happen until Jason crossed paths with Bill Lawrence. Bill Lawrence got us over the finish line.”

Lawrence, who created the long-running sitcom *Scrubs*, initially pursued Sudeikis to star in a show that he’d written—only to have the actor pitch him on the idea of teaming up to do *Ted Lasso* together. Lawrence saw the potential in the character and came on board.

Convincing the networks and streaming services, however, wasn’t as easy. “Jason was very loud and bombastic [in the NBC promos] and they’re kind of sketch-based and funny,” Lawrence told *Gold Derby*. Many execs “couldn’t disconnect” the Ted Lasso they saw in the promos when being pitched a quieter, empathetic and emotional version of the character, he said.

However, the trio eventually found a believer in the new streaming service Apple TV+. One caveat: They gave Sudeikis, Hunt and Lawrence only four months to write the show. “Suddenly, we were concurrently writing all 10 episodes while we were trying to staff it and cast it in a country [the U.K.] that’s generally gray, rainy and cold,” said Lawrence. “It was tough—but it was fun.”

But as Ted himself once put it, “Takin’ on a challenge is a lot like ridin’ a horse. If you’re comfortable while you’re doing it, you’re probably doing it wrong.” When *Ted Lasso* premiered on Aug. 14, 2020, it marked the happy ending to an unlikely underdog story—and the beginning of another. ●



Hunt was previously nominated for an Emmy award in 2015 for co-writing the *Key & Peele Super Bowl Special*.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 6.5 Hours** that Ted was employed as manager of Tottenham Hotspur before being fired. “I don’t know how that translates to British time,” said Ted.
- 28 Number** on Ted’s framed Tottenham Hotspur jersey with his nickname “Wanker” on it.
- 92% Website** Rotten Tomatoes Critics’ Score for Season 1 of *Ted Lasso*.
- 98% Rotten Tomatoes Critics’ Score** for Season 2 of *Ted Lasso*.
- \$250,000 TO \$300,000** Amount per episode that Jason Sudeikis made for starring in, writing and producing Seasons 1 and 2 of the show.
- \$1 MILLION** Amount per episode that Sudeikis made for starring, writing and producing on Season 3.
- \$50,000 TO \$75,000** Amount per episode that supporting cast members Hannah Waddingham, Juno Temple and Brett Goldstein earned for starring on the first two seasons.
- \$125,000 TO \$150,000** Amount per episode that Waddingham, Temple and Goldstein made for starring on Season 3.
- 600%** Increase in viewership between the first episode of Season 1 and the first episode of Season 2.
- 40** Emmy nominations received for Seasons 1 and 2.
- 11** Emmy wins, including back-to-back wins for Outstanding Comedy Series and Outstanding Lead Actor (Sudeikis).



JASON SUDEIKIS & OLIVIA WILDE



*Ted Lasso* has been hailed as TV's nicest show. These actors (some familiar faces, some not) are the people who have given the Apple TV+ series its warm, beating heart.

# MEET



From left: Jeremy Swift, Phil Dunster, Brett Goldstein, Hannah Waddingham, Jason Sudeikis, Juno Temple, Nick Mohammed and Brendan Hunt at the Emmys in 2021

# THE CAST

# THE UNLIKELY HERO

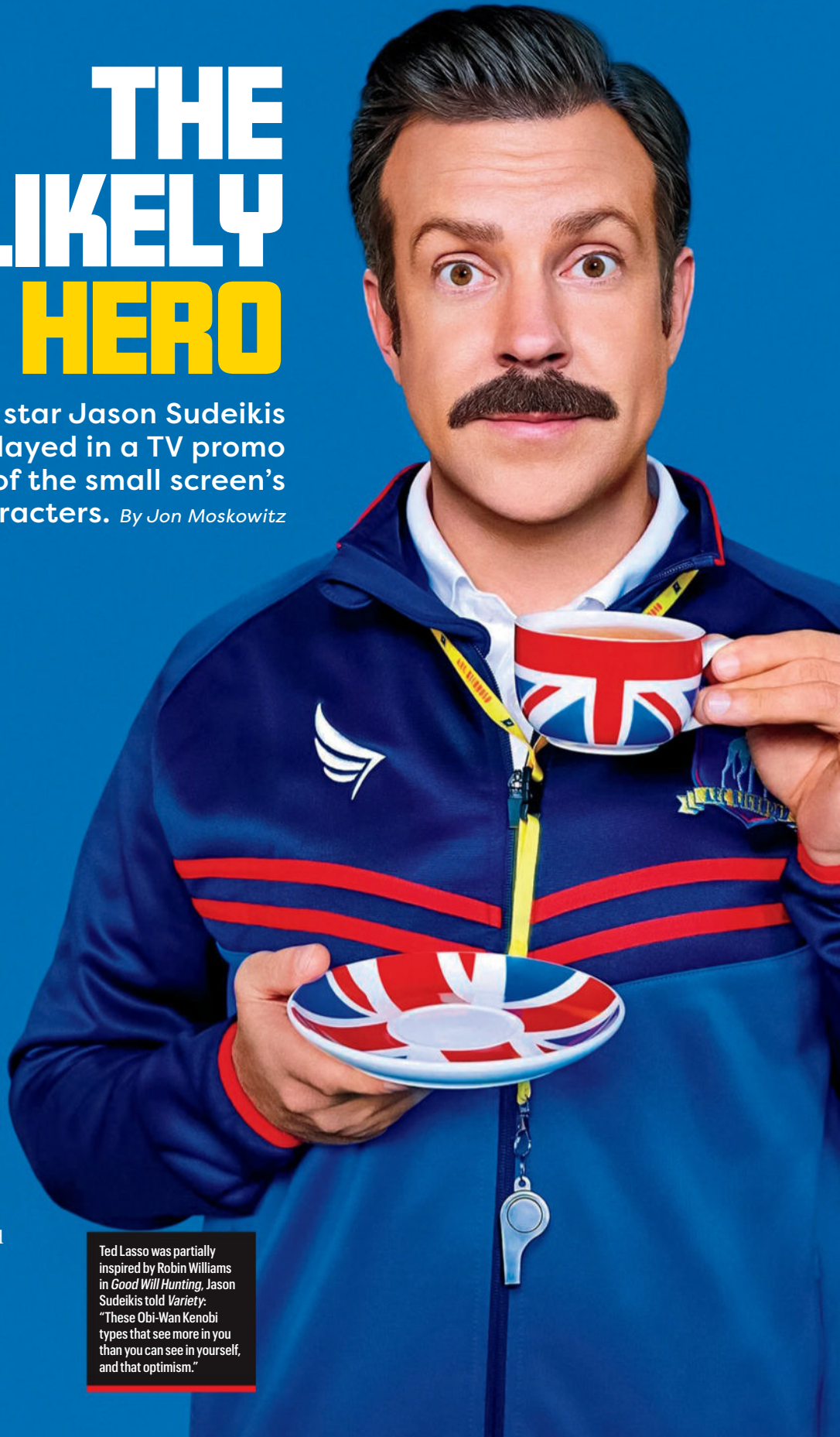
How a role *SNL* star Jason Sudeikis created and played in a TV promo became one of the small screen's most-loved characters. *By Jon Moskowitz*

## SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE ALUM

Bill Hader had a great bit he used to do on talk shows: impressions of his fellow *SNL* cast members. His version of Jason Sudeikis was always chewing gum and saying, "Hey, buddy!" It's the kind of good-natured, regular-guy affability that will be instantly recognizable to fans of *Ted Lasso*. But Hader's impression doesn't completely sum up what his former castmate has to offer. Even before creating the hit Apple TV+ show, Sudeikis had distinguished himself as both a brilliant comedian and a highly capable dramatic actor.

Raised in Kansas, Sudeikis came up through the Chicago improv scene, but he first caught the public's attention as an *SNL* cast member from 2005 to 2013. In addition to playing politicians such as Joe Biden and Mitt Romney, he introduced characters like Judge Marshall T. Boudreaux of "Maine Justice," the walking man dancer from "What Up With That?" and sportscaster Pete Twinkle, who somehow always found himself

Ted Lasso was partially inspired by Robin Williams in *Good Will Hunting*, Jason Sudeikis told *Variety*: "These Obi-Wan Kenobi types that see more in you than you can see in yourself, and that optimism."



promoting feminine hygiene products. Sudeikis, who'd joined the long-running NBC show as a writer in 2003, also regularly appeared on "Weekend Update" as the devil, bragging about his latest diabolical achievements in a cheerful Midwestern drawl.

After leaving *SNL* in 2013, Sudeikis starred in films that showed his range: from a put-upon accountant in *Horrible Bosses* (2011) to a would-be drug trafficker in the cult hit *We're the Millers* (2013), a recovering sex addict in the rom-com *Sleeping With Other People* (2015) and a rage-fueled alcoholic in the sci-fi dramedy *Colossal* (2016).

In 2013, NBC Sports hired Sudeikis to help promote its coverage of Premier League Football, and Ted Lasso made his screen debut. Initially, Ted was a lot less nuanced. "He's a little bit more dim," Sudeikis told Collider in 2020. "[The ad is] edited at a more brisk pace. There's no pathos necessarily."

If the concept was going to sustain a series, the character had to be fleshed out. Ted "really is the best version of myself," Sudeikis told *Entertainment Weekly*. "He's like me after two beers on an empty



Clockwise from top: Sudeikis with Horatio Sanz and Andy Samberg on *SNL*; *We're the Millers*; Sudeikis said he had to prepare his daughter, Daisy, for his new look when he shaved off his Ted mustache.

stomach on a bright sunny day, just like, 'With all of us together, what can't we do?'"

In the Collider interview, Sudeikis referenced series like *The Larry Sanders Show* and Ricky Gervais' *The Office*. "I love a great number of those shows, but I just felt like it'd be nice to play someone [different]... Someone who doesn't swear. A show that doesn't use snark as a currency. It was an exercise in trying to prove to myself that

it's possible to be a good person and still be interesting."

Sudeikis continued, "Pair ignorance with curiosity and I think that brings with it a great deal of humility and empathy. And that's who Ted is. He's as ignorant as anyone that might be in charge of something, but he doesn't think he has it all figured out. He has heroes and he has friends. He wants people to think highly of him, the same way he thinks of them."

## 5 FAST FACTS

- 1 Jason Sudeikis has no sense of smell. This condition is called anosmia, and the star of *Ted Lasso* has had it since childhood.
- 2 Sudeikis comes from TV comedy royalty: his uncle is actor George Wendt, aka Norm from *Cheers* (who cameoed in a photo in Season 2).
- 3 He had a secret cameo in the Season 1 finale of *The Mandalorian* in December 2019, playing a Stormtrooper who punched Baby Yoda before being killed by nurse droid IG-11 (voiced by director Taika Waititi).

- 4 Sudeikis was a good enough basketball player to get a sports scholarship to Fort Scott Community College in Kansas. Unfortunately, he was not as good a student and got kicked off the team for failing his classes.
- 5 The Emmy winner has an active side hustle as a voice actor. In addition to voicing Red in the *Angry Birds* movies, he's voiced characters on *The Cleveland Show*, *Son of Zorn* and *Hit-Monkey*.



SUDEIKIS WITH HIS UNCLE GEORGE WENDT



# THE FOUL-MOUTHED FORMER PLAYER WHO'LL MELT YOUR HEART

Roy Kent is played by a sweet-tempered, film-obsessed workaholic from London. *By Jon Moskowitz*

#### IF YOU ONLY KNOW BRETT

Goldstein from his role as footballer turned coach Roy Kent, you could be forgiven for thinking he's a tough guy. A man of few words, most of them expletives. An intimidating figure the moment he walks onto any movie or TV set.

In fact, the British star might just be the nicest guy in show business.

Spend a few minutes on YouTube looking at interviews he's given and you'll see that the Emmy award-winner is a sweet, funny, self-effacing softie—about as far from Roy as can be imagined.

For a start, let's get that “man of few words” thing out of the way. As the author of numerous screenplays, several Edinburgh Fringe one-man shows, and countless stand-up comedy sets, Goldstein is hardly introverted.

He's also hosted several seasons of *Films to Be Buried*

Salon.com declared Brett Goldstein's character, Roy Kent, 2021's Sexiest Man (We Wish Were Actually) Alive.



Goldstein played a cocky personal trainer who gave David Hasselhoff some life coaching on *Hoff the Record*.



*Love and Thunder*, Goldstein has kept busy executive producing the sci-fi AMC anthology series *Soulmates*, co-creating the series *Shrinking* for Apple TV+, and continuing to record new episodes of *Films to Be Buried With*. He's also signed a multiyear development deal with Warner Bros. Television, is always booking new stand-up gigs, and never stops writing.

"I'm a workaholic. And the reason is that there is a limited amount of time and I've got so many things I need to get done," he told *The Sunday Times*. "I do what I love, so why wouldn't I work? It's better than going to dinner parties."

With a podcast that allows him to talk for hours about cinema with his favorite directors, actors and fellow comedians.

Goldstein grew up a studious film and comedy nerd. "[My parents] were cinema fans," he told *Fast Company* in 2022, "but I became so obsessive that it put them off." He was raised in London and attended the Sevenoaks School, one of the oldest private schools in the U.K.

After graduating from the University of Warwick, where he earned a degree in film studies, Goldstein briefly moved to New York City to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He returned to the U.K. with enough material for several Edinburgh shows and started accumulating acting credits, including roles in *Derek* and *Hoff the Record*. He wrote and starred in the low-budget superhero comedy *SuperBob* in 2015, which led to co-writing the *Catherine Tate's Nan* specials for BBC One.

Goldstein was hired by the *Ted Lasso* team as a writer in 2020, before much of the show had been cast. Though he felt an immediate affinity for the Roy Kent character, he kept the idea of playing the role to himself.

As he told *Vulture* in 2020: "I didn't want to say anything because I thought, 'No one's thinking of me for this role.'

And I didn't want to embarrass anyone and make it awkward."

Luckily for all of us, one night he worked up the courage to film five of Roy's scenes. He sent the tape to the producers with a note: "I've been thinking I could play Roy...but if this is embarrassing, you can pretend you never got this email, and I will never ask you about it."

Two seasons (and two Emmy wins) later, and Goldstein hasn't slowed down. In addition to joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe as Hercules in *Thor:*

## 5 FAST FACTS

- 1 Brett Goldstein's parents had no idea he was cast in a Marvel movie: "I didn't tell anyone because Marvel put a chip in my neck that said, 'If you talk about this, you're dead,'" he joked to *Variety* in 2022. His mom kept texting him as she watched the movie. "I'm like, 'Just watch the film!' It gets to the end bit, where it shows Russell Crowe...my mom texts me 'Russell Crowe's in it again, he's very funny! I go, 'F--king look up at the screen!'"
- 2 He spent a year in Spain in his early 20s, managing a strip club that his father had bought during "a midlife crisis." The experience gave him material for the 2011 one-man show *Brett Goldstein Grew Up in a Strip Club*.
- 3 He lists his proudest achievement as *Lone Island*, a 12-episode spoof of dating shows he

recorded from his apartment during the COVID lockdown in 2020 (look for it on YouTube).

4 He drops F-bombs just as much in real life as Roy Kent does. "I swear all the time, I really struggle with it," he told Mr. Porter in 2021.

5 Goldstein comes from a Jewish family and was bar mitzvahed at the Wimbledon Synagogue in London.



# A HARD-SHELLED BOSS WITH A SOFT CENTER

Musical theater star Hannah Waddingham has been catapulted into the A-list thanks to her nuanced performance as Richmond boss Rebecca Welton. *By Dimitri Ehrlich*

## PERFORMING IS IN HANNAH

Waddingham's genes. She grew up in a family of artists (her mother, grandmother and grandfather were all opera singers) and she was certain from a young age that she was going to sing, act and dance. "It's in your blood, it's in your bones; it's a vocation," the London native told *The Zoe Report*. "I don't remember ever not wanting to sing or act—I remember the opposite. Finding out some people's parents worked in offices, I was like, 'What do you mean? Doesn't everyone sing and dance for a living?'"

In addition to her operatic pedigree, she studied tap, modern, ballet and jazz dance from the age of 3, so Waddingham was well prepared for a life in musical theater. From 2006 to 2007, she starred as the Lady of the Lake in the West End production of *Spamalot*, and then on Broadway in 2008. As a theater actress, she went on to work with icons including Andrew Lloyd Webber and Trevor Nunn.

"I would like to pause things because I'm not ready to say goodbye to her," Hannah Waddingham told *Deadline* about Season 3 and her character, Rebecca.





"Her Lady of the Lake remains one of the funniest live performances I've ever seen," Brett Goldstein told CinemaBlend about Waddingham's performance in *Spamalot* (right, with Tim Curry).



Waddingham's career was going gangbusters on the stage—and yet she was having a hard time transitioning into film or television. Finally, after appearing in the hit U.K. TV comedy *Benidorm*, she was cast in a little-known show called *Game of Thrones*, as Septa Unella. And then an opportunity came along that changed her life: She was cast in the role of *Ted Lasso*'s boss, Rebecca

Welton. In 2021, she won her first Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series. (Her background as a singer certainly helped when she belted out a memorable rendition of "Let It Go" at the AFC Richmond karaoke party in Season 1.)

"I didn't want to just play ball-busters or bimbos," she told *Rose & Ivy* in 2021. "I am 6 foot 2 with blond hair and boobs. *Ted Lasso* affords me the luxury of all those ranges of emotions, regardless of what you look like. I got to tap into all of the insecurities, the joys and the angers that we all have."

Waddingham, who's had a supporting role on *Sex Education* since 2019 and appeared in *Hocus Pocus 2*, is set to star in the British miniseries *Tom Jones* and has a role in the big-screen adaptation of *The Fall Guy* alongside Ryan Gosling—but there's one project that's at the top of her wish list. "I want to do a musical film," the triple threat told *Rose & Ivy*. "I am so ready, I am literally like a greyhound waiting to get out on that effing track."

WADDINGHAM & HER DAUGHTER, KITTY

## 5 FAST FACTS

- 1 Despite never having formal singing lessons, Hannah Waddingham has a four-octave vocal range, which she claims to have learned from watching her mother perform.
- 2 If Waddingham could work with anyone, it would be Viola Davis—though she says she's afraid she'd be too starstruck to get a word out.
- 3 When *The Wizard of Oz* debuted on the West End, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice wrote a new song for the musical called "Red Shoes Blues." Waddingham, in her role as

- the Wicked Witch of the West, was the first person to perform the song.
- 4 She didn't think she would land the role of Septa Unella on HBO's *Game of Thrones* because she was eight-and-a-half-months pregnant with her daughter, Kitty, at the time of her audition.
- 5 She keeps her Emmy in Kitty's bedroom to remind her daughter that "her mummy will only ever be away when it's for a really, blooming good reason."



# AN ADORABLE RAY OF LIGHT

Best known for her dark roles, Juno Temple has proven to be a comedic powerhouse as footballer girlfriend turned PR queen Keeley Jones.

By Dimitri Ehrlich

## JUNO TEMPLE'S PARENTS—FILM

director Julien Temple and producer Amanda Temple—were concerned when, at the age of 14, she announced that she wanted to follow them into show business and become an actress. Hoping to save their daughter from the disappointments of endless auditions, they handed her an ad for an open audition and told her to go ahead, and see how many other girls showed up to compete.

The movie Temple auditioned for turned out to be the 2006 Judi Dench/Cate Blanchett psychological thriller *Notes on a Scandal*, and she landed the role of Blanchett's daughter. The teen's second audition was for 2007's Academy Award-nominated drama *Atonement*, opposite Keira Knightley—and she got that role, too. Temple continued to earn critical praise for several more supporting

"I think people can learn a lot from her that it's easier to love people than it is to hate, because she's a real lover," Juno Temple told *The Wrap* of Keeley.

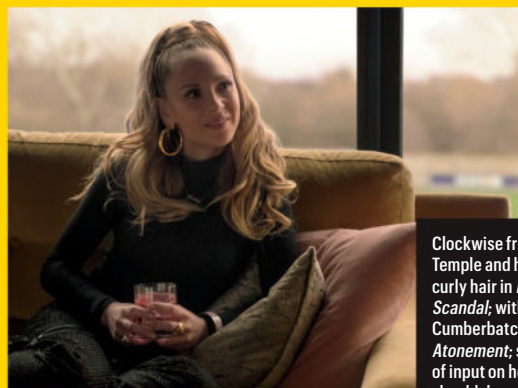


roles and in 2013, she received the BAFTA Rising Star award. Since then, she's gone on to appear in more than 30 films, acting opposite Angelina Jolie in *Maleficent* and beside Johnny Depp in the 2015 Whitey Bulger crime drama, *Black Mass*.

Of course, all that was before her friend Jason Sudeikis asked her to read a script for a new show he was developing for Apple TV+. Temple told Deadline that she thought the *Saturday Night Live* alum had "texted the wrong person by accident" about the role of footballer girlfriend Keeley Jones.

"I was like, 'Oh, no. He's going to think I'm funny. This'll be a disaster.' I kept waiting for him to text again and say, 'S--t, I meant this for someone else.' But that never came," she added. "Then I read the pilot, and I thought it was just such a genius idea."

As fans of *Ted Lasso* know, it turned out Temple has a natural gift for comedy; her exuberance and intelligence shine through in every scene. But she admitted to Awards Watch that she was initially "terrified" about playing Keeley.

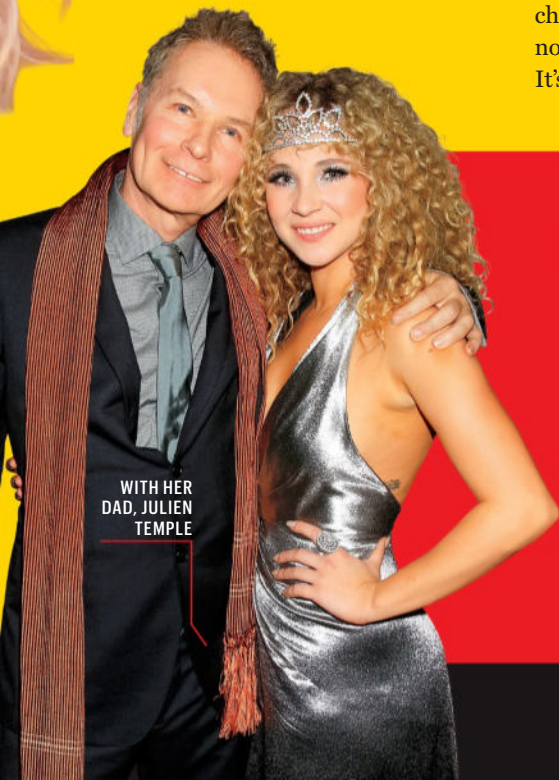


Clockwise from top: Temple and her naturally curly hair in *Notes on a Scandal*; with Benedict Cumberbatch in *Atonement*; she had a lot of input on how Keeley should dress.

"I've been known for taking the overly dramatic roles, like the more drama, the better," Temple said. "Jason was so patient with me during the filming of Season 1 because I was like, 'I'm not a comedy actress. I don't know how to do that. I don't know how to make a breakup funny.... I just know how to do it from the heart.' And he was like, 'And that's what matters. And that's what's going to make it funny, you know?'"... I think that's kind of Keeley's charm is that a lot of the time it's not actually necessarily comedy. It's just her, it's just the way she

is, the way she sees the world, there's a real kind of element of it that tickles you innately. And I love that about her."

But Temple hasn't abandoned her flair for drama. After wrapping filming on *Ted Lasso* at the end of 2022, she headed to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, to star in Season 5 of *Fargo*. "I'm nervous as hell. Because it's a super different character for me. It's going to be a different accent," she told the Awards Circuit podcast, insisting she will always opt for the unexpected: "I think it's important to do things that scare you."



WITH HER DAD, JULIEN TEMPLE

## 5 FAST FACTS

- 1 Juno Temple shares her name with a summit in the Grand Canyon. That's no coincidence: Her parents visited the spot when her mom was pregnant.
- 2 Her father, who directed the 1979 Sex Pistols documentary *The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle*, as well as music videos for The Rolling Stones and The Kinks, also directed her in the role of Emma Southey in the 2000 film *Pandaemonium*.
- 3 She has appeared in music videos for Kid Harpoon's "Milkmaid" and Plushgun's "Just Impolite."
- 4 Her aunt Nina Temple is a British politician who was the last secretary of the British Communist Party.
- 5 She's cheeky, in more ways than one. Temple once picked up her boyfriend from the airport wearing nothing but underwear, heels and a raincoat.



# THE UNDERSTATED SIDEKICK

The impact of Brendan Hunt on *Ted Lasso* goes beyond his character Coach Beard's reach. *By Erin Crabtree*

**TED LASSO INTRODUCED FANS** to a fresh crop of comedic pros, including the show's co-creator Brendan Hunt, who stars as the titular character's right-hand man, Coach Beard.

Long before his Emmy-nominated turn on the Apple TV+ series, Hunt earned his chops in improv, studying with The Second City in Chicago and joining the Boom Chicago troupe in Amsterdam. The actor knew his future co-star Jason Sudeikis from the improv scene in Chicago, but the two did not become close friends until the *Saturday Night Live* alum followed in Hunt's footsteps by pursuing comedy in Amsterdam.

The Chicago native became a soccer fan while living in the Netherlands and soon encouraged Sudeikis to take an interest in the sport. "I've been soccer-translating for Jason for

a long-ass time," Hunt told *The Daily Beast* in 2021. "Because once I got into soccer, it was over. I was nuts. It was crazy and I became a missionary."

Hunt's efforts to teach Sudeikis about soccer influenced their characters' on-screen dynamic, with the assistant coach acting as a quiet supporter of his fish-out-of-water friend.

Though few details have been provided about Coach Beard's existence outside of AFC Richmond, his portrayal speculated that, at some point, his "life went astray" and "Ted, an old friend, came back and saved" him. "Beard has been through the transformations, we'll call them, of the 'Lasso way' and what it can do for you. So he's representing Ted because he knows that what Ted is doing can work for you and can make your life better."

Brendan Hunt is so soccer-crazy that he co-hosted a podcast, *After the Whistle*, during the World Cup tournament.





"I was like, 'Oh, we can start on a redemption arc.'" Nick Mohammed told *ET* of Season 3, Episode 1, and I was like, 'Oh, here we go...this isn't going to help.'"

**IF THERE WAS GOING TO BE A villain on *Ted Lasso*, viewers would not have initially suspected Nick Mohammed's Nathan Shelley.**

The actor is known for his comedy characters in the U.K. and has earned acclaim for his lovably annoying alter ego Mr. Swallow. At first glance, Mohammed's role on *Ted Lasso* resembled his previous work, and he originally turned down the part of the downtrodden kit man because of its similarities to *Intelligence*, the British sitcom he created and starred in at the time.

However, Mohammed learned from Jason Sudeikis during Season 1 that Nate's arc would be more complicated than that of a typical wallflower. "From a story point of view, I knew where it was all going," the Emmy nominee told *Vulture* in 2021.

While the Leeds, England, native found Nate's burgeoning darkness in Season 2 to be a welcome challenge, he struggled with the material at times.

"Nate's journey in Season 1 was definitely far more in my comfort zone, especially in terms of characters I've played in the past—usually more of the shy one," he explained, noting that it was "strange" to lash out at his co-stars, to whom he frequently apologized.

The comedian also had to deal with fan backlash to the nasty shift in his character.

"There was a time when some of the other cast members were a bit concerned for my welfare," he told *TheWrap* in 2022, quipping that he feared he would be "attacked" if he wore a West Ham shirt the team gifted him.

Despite the "strong outpouring of hate on social media," Mohammed quickly clarified, "Thankfully it was all directed toward the character."

# THE VICTIM TURNED VILLAIN

Nick Mohammed has been given a meaty arc as his character, Nate Shelley, has turned on Ted. *By Erin Crabtree*



# KEY PLAYERS

*Ted Lasso* is a team effort for its talented cast. *By Erin Crabtree*



He's set to release a new album, *Songs of Escape and Endless Night*, in February.

## HIS REAL LIFE INSPIRED HIS CHARACTER

**LESLIE HIGGINS CERTAINLY HAS HIS** bumbling moments, but actor Jeremy Swift knows what he's doing. He's been in the business for decades and notably starred on *Downton Abbey* as Septimus Spratt prior to *Ted Lasso*. While Swift often disappears into his roles, his character on the Apple TV+ series—who has evolved from a yes man to a valued member of the AFC Richmond staff—has been inspired by his own life on several occasions. Co-creator Bill Lawrence cast Swift's wife, Mary Roscoe, as his on-screen spouse after she auditioned for another part, while Jason Sudeikis made Higgins a bass player after Swift mentioned his musical talent to his co-star.

## HIS FOOTBALL DREAMS WERE DASHED

**FOR PHIL DUNSTER, THE IDEA OF BEING A** professional athlete was once not so far-fetched. Although he was interested in theater as a child, he aspired to be a rugby player until he realized he “couldn’t hack it with the bigger boys,” he told *The New York Times* in 2021. Dunster subsequently leaned in to acting, and his rugby training came in handy for Jamie Tartt, AFC Richmond’s cocky star player who embarks on a journey of personal growth. “All of these people in Jamie’s life are now saying, ‘It’s OK to be scared or to be vulnerable, and to say sorry,’” he explained. “In fact, it makes you a better player and member of the team.”

Some fans have campaigned for him to take over the role of Marvel’s Wolverine from Hugh Jackman.

**“[Jamie’s] trying to become the man he always thought he could be. And that is a never-finished project.”**

*Phil Dunster to Awards Daily*



## AN ACTIVIST ON-SCREEN AND OFF

### TOHEEB JIMOH WAS DESTINED TO PLAY SAM

Obisanya, AFC Richmond's young midfielder with an old soul and a big heart. The actor was born in the U.K. but spent his early years living in Nigeria before returning to England at age 7. In his youth, he juggled soccer and theater until he was forced to choose between the two. Acting took precedence, but he does all of his own stunts on *Ted Lasso*. "I get to tell jokes and play football for six months while people pay me," Jimoh told *GQ* in 2021. "It's a win-win." He was also proud when his character took a stand against environmental destruction in Nigeria. "It's something that's really close to my heart," he told *Essence*. "I really believe that athletes and artists, or anybody who's public-facing who can speak up for their community, should do that. And they have a responsibility to do that."



He's starring in the upcoming Amazon Prime thriller *The Power* alongside Toni Collette.

## A FORMER PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAYER



Next up, he voices Wheeljack in *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts*, which is out June 9.

### CRISTO FERNÁNDEZ USED THE

motto "Fútbol is life" long before his Richmond striker Dani Rojas introduced it as his catchphrase. The Mexican-born actor played soccer in the Liga Premier de México as a teenager until a knee injury ended his pro career. Fernández's parents stressed the importance of an education, so he began taking film classes and saved money to move to the U.K. to continue his studies. However, "there was no role for a Mexican" in London, he told *NBC News* in 2021, so he created independent projects, which got him noticed by the *Ted Lasso* creators. Dani's infectious energy has since made him a fan favorite and Fernández a breakout star.

# STRONG SUPPORT

There are no weak links and no small parts on this show. *By Erin Crabtree*



"When I read the ending for Trent, I was so excited for him," James Lance told *TheWrap* about his character's fateful decision in Season 2.



## HE'S GOT SKILLS

**LIKE MANY OF HIS CO-STARS, KOLA BOKINNI PLAYED** soccer for years before signing on to portray an AFC Richmond team member on *Ted Lasso*. "I read, 'Can play football and act.' And I was just like, 'Wait, hold on a second. Someone's made this up. Someone's just trying to trick me,'" he told *Entertainment Tonight* in 2021. "Football was my life before acting." His character, Isaac McAdoo, has since been elevated to captain, adopting a "strong but caring" leadership approach.

## TWO WORDS: TRENT CRIMM

**JAMES LANCE—WHO APPEARED IN A STRING OF** British comedy series before *Ted Lasso*—knew he had to play sports journalist Trent Crimm as soon as he heard his unique name, which he is known for announcing more frequently than necessary. While his character was initially sent in to sabotage Ted, the two struck up an unlikely friendship that led to Trent putting his career on the line for his pal, a choice Lance admired despite some blowback from fans about the ethics of the situation. He's set to have a larger role in Season 3.



## OUR FAVORITE MOTHER-DAUGHTER COMBO

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**ELLIE TAYLOR CONFESSED DURING A 2021 EPISODE OF THE WHITE Wine Question Time** podcast that she was “a bit pissed off” when she got an opportunity to read for Rebecca’s best friend, Sassy Collins, because she didn’t think the long trek to the audition would be worth the seemingly inevitable rejection. However, the comedian (below left) earned the part and shared the screen with newcomer Kiki May (below right) as Sassy’s sharp-tongued daughter, Nora. Taylor remained cautious, though, not telling anyone about her role on the show until she knew it was good. In 2022, she competed on *Strictly Come Dancing*, the U.K. version of *Dancing With the Stars*, getting knocked out in the 10th week.



## FRESH-FACED NEWCOMER

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**BILLY HARRIS PURSUED THEATER WORK BEFORE** booking his first television job: *Ted Lasso*. The project marked his first time on a set, but he quickly adapted to the unfamiliar environment. Harris brought a newcomer’s energy to his character, Colin Hughes, who oftentimes comes across as a bumbling member of the AFC Richmond team. However, Colin has experienced major growth since his introduction, leaving behind the bullying he once instigated on behalf of teammate Jamie Tartt and attempting to discover his own self-worth.

## A ROLE TAILOR-MADE FOR HIM

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**ACCORDING TO JASON SUDEIKIS, ANTHONY HEAD** was one of only two actors who did not have to audition for the show. Instead, the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* alum was offered the role of Rupert Mannion, Rebecca’s vindictive ex-husband who loses AFC Richmond to her in their divorce. Even Head struggles to watch some of his character’s more ruthless moments. “Occasionally, I’ll see something and have no recollection of shooting it,” he told Subjectify Media in 2021. “Like, ‘Wow, I don’t even know who I am, who that is, I’m not looking at me.’”





## THE DOCTOR WITH HIDDEN DEPTHS

### SARAH NILES HAD HER FAIR SHARE

of acting experience before landing her role as psychologist Dr. Sharon Fieldstone on Season 2 of *Ted Lasso*. She made her mark on the theater world and appeared in series such as *Catastrophe* and *I May Destroy You*. Niles told Collider in 2022 that she expected her character to be “a lot funnier.” Instead, she tackled some heavy material as the doc helped the AFC Richmond crew, and especially Ted, navigate their mental health struggles. The Emmy nominee is returning in Season 3.

## A FAMILIAR FACE

### PUB OWNER MAE BRINGS A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

to her interactions with her patrons, including Ted. As a die-hard Richmond fan, she’s opinionated—but she also knows how to dole out much-needed wisdom to the coach. “He knows she’s there,” actress Annette Badland told *60 Minutes* in 2022 of Mae’s impact on Ted’s arc. The actress, for her part, appeared in beloved series *Doctor Who* and *Outlander* as well as British faves *EastEnders* and *Midsomer Murders* before joining the ensemble of *Ted Lasso*.





## WILL WE SEE MORE OF WILL?

**CHARLIE HISCOCK BEGAN HIS ACTING** career at the age of 9. He took a break from the industry to focus on his education and reentered the field after he turned 18. Hiscock initially auditioned for a different role on the show, but the casting department felt he was a better fit for Will, the

kit man (aka equipment manager) who replaces Nathan Shelley after he is promoted to assistant coach, and becomes a target of Nate’s bullying. “I definitely want to see more of his aspirations and fleshing him out a bit more as a human being,” Hiscock told *Hollywood Life* about Season 3.

## SHE TAUGHT TED A VALUABLE LESSON

**AS COACH LASSO ADJUSTED TO RICHMOND IN** Season 1, a character known as Soccer Girl—portrayed by Shannon Hayes—taught him about the sport and the community. While Ted’s scenes with the teenage player may not seem pivotal, she makes an impact on him. “It shows him digesting how pervasive the love of the sport is and then as it goes forward, the other beats, it’s just showing what a good man he is,” *Scrubs* alum Zach Braff, who was nominated for an Emmy for directing Season 1’s second episode, explained to *Awards Daily* in 2021.



## INSPIRED BY JASON SUDEIKIS' FRIEND

**TED LASSO CO-CREATORS JASON SUDEIKIS, BRENDAN** Hunt and Joe Kelly used their friend Saskia Maas—one of the owners of Boom Chicago, the troupe the three comedians were in while living in Amsterdam—as inspiration for the character of AFC Richmond player Jan Maas. The writers molded Jan out of the honest-to-a-fault nature of the Dutch that they’d witnessed in the Netherlands. Jan has become known for his laugh-out-loud, unintentionally rude one-liners, which are made even better by actor David Elsendoorn’s deliciously dry delivery. •



There are two kinds of people:  
Those who love *Ted Lasso* and those  
who haven't seen it yet! Take a look  
back at the best moments from every  
episode of Seasons 1 and 2.

# PITCH P



Leslie Higgins and the coaching team have a bonding moment in Season 2 after Ted Lasso opens up about his panic attacks.

# PERFECT

By Patty Adams Martinez

## PILOT

RELEASED 08.14.2020

**J**ust what the doctor ordered: an infectiously optimistic and feel-good comedy premiering five months into a global pandemic, when we all needed a pick-me-up. “Because it’s such a dumpster-fire time in the world, [co-creator] Jason [Sudeikis] really wanted to do a show that was hopeful,” *Ted Lasso* co-creator Bill Lawrence told *Sports Illustrated*.

And hopeful it is. Ted Lasso, an American college football coach from Kansas, played by Sudeikis, with no knowledge of, or experience in, the “other football”—aka soccer—gets hired to manage AFC Richmond, a mediocre team in the English Premier League.

Rebecca Welton (played beautifully by Emmy-winning actress Hannah Waddingham) wins ownership of the club in her messy divorce from womanizing multimillionaire Rupert Mannion (Anthony Head), and her first order of business is to fire the



current manager in favor of a coach who won a national championship, in another country, in another sport.

We soon learn Rebecca has some nefarious reasons for hiring Ted and has recruited

(well, bribed) director of communications Leslie Higgins (Jeremy Swift) to help implement her plan to get back at her ex-husband. “I wanted people to immediately see the inner turmoil and inner upset,”

Hannah Waddingham said she drew on her own experience in a past controlling, abusive relationship to play Rebecca.





"Not everyone is as they seem," Nick Mohammed (far left) told *Entertainment Weekly* about the pilot episode. Right: Ted puts tape over a topless pic of Keeley (Juno Temple).



Left: Jeremy Swift reveals hidden depths as Higgins. Right: Toheeb Jimoh and Brett Goldstein's characters couldn't be more different in temperament.



Waddingham told the *Los Angeles Times* about showing Rebecca's vulnerability in addition to her strength.

"We somehow became a hit. It's truly shocking to me because it's built around two things Americans hate: soccer and kindness," joked Sudeikis during his 2021 *Saturday Night Live* monologue. Calling the phenomenon a hit is a massive understatement. Season 1—which has a Rotten Tomatoes rating of 92% fresh by critics and an audience score of 95%—received 20 Primetime and Creative Arts Emmy nominations in its freshman year and is credited with putting (then-year-old) Apple TV+ on the map.

**AWW MOMENT** As Ted surveys the locker room, he comes upon the cubby of star athlete Jamie Tartt (Phil Dunster). It's filled

with trendy cologne, spotless sneakers, a body-hair trimmer—and Page 3 newspaper pinup pictures of his girlfriend, Keeley Jones (Juno Temple). Instead of ogling, Ted grabs black tape to politely cover up a topless image of Keeley. Always a gentleman! **TED TALK** While giving a tour of the facilities, Rebecca explains that during the Great War, the Greyhounds' stadium was a makeshift hospital and that locals still claim to see fallen soldiers on the pitch. "Do you believe in ghosts, Ted?" she asks. "I do, but more importantly, I think they need to believe in themselves," Ted earnestly replies.

**DÉJÀ VU** After his U.S. college football team, the Wichita State Shockers, won the championship, Ted's victory dance went viral. But TV viewers have seen those

signature Sudeikis moves before, as Vance, the red tracksuit-wearing scene-stealer on the *Saturday Night Live* sketch "What Up With That?" Sudeikis mastered the running man and the Charleston at the age of 15 and has been using them to make people laugh ever since. Ooh-wee!

"Trust me, man, there's nothing I've done on *SNL* that people have enjoyed more, spoken to me more about, than that dancing on 'What Up With That?'" Jason Sudeikis told *EW*.



# BISCUITS

RELEASED 08.14.2020

**T**ed has not exactly been welcomed into the football league. His boss wants him to fail, fans are sure he will, and his players won't stop calling him "wanker" both to his face and anonymously through the team's new suggestion box. But Ted is undeterred in this episode directed by *Scrubs* alum Zach Braff. "[Ted's] the sort of person we should aspire to, but most people, including myself, struggle with being like that on a daily basis," Brett Goldstein, an executive producer and writer who also plays Roy Kent, told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Ted tries to institute a daily "Biscuits With the Boss" meeting that Rebecca tries to refuse while knowing Ted will not relent. When he's looking for a way to get through to Jamie, the owner slyly suggests asking the striker's girlfriend, Keeley, all the while plotting to get paparazzi to take photos that make it look like Keeley and Ted are having an affair.

Roy, the team captain who's a tad past his prime, fights back against the barrage of grandpa jokes from Jamie, the hotshot on loan from Manchester City. Sweet Nigerian player Sam



"Juno was much funnier than what we'd written for Keeley," Goldstein told *Marie Claire* of how the actress (right) shaped Keeley.



Obisanya (Toheeb Jimoh) is missing his family and his game is suffering, so Ted declares he needs to do something to "Ni-cheer-ia" him up.

"Ted organizes some really nice things to stop [Sam] from feeling homesick," Nick Mohammed, who plays Nate, told *Entertainment Weekly*. "I think it typifies how kind Ted is and how everyone he interacts with comes away being positively energized."

**LOL MOMENT** With no context at all Keeley asks, "Would you rather be a lion or a panda?" Ted's answer? "Gotta go panda." "Are you mad?" Rebecca retorts. "Pandas are fat and lazy and have piss-stained fur. Lions are powerful and majestic and rule the jungle." Ted then turns to Jamie, who replies: "Coach, I'm me. Why would I wanna be

anything else?" Ted responds, "I'm not sure you realize how psychologically healthy that actually is."

**TED TALK** When Sam is bested by Jamie on the field—so badly that Jamie quips, "Someone send flowers because this is where Sam died!"—Ted pulls Sam aside for a pep talk. "You know what the happiest animal on Earth is?" the coach asks. "It's a goldfish. You know why? It's got a 10-second memory. Be a goldfish, Sam."

**REAL-LIFE COMMENTATORS** Soccer fans will recognize Arlo White and Chris Powell, the play-by-play commentators at the Richmond matches. White is a veteran sports broadcaster who appeared in a 2014 NBC Sports promo with Sudeikis as Ted Lasso years before the show's inception. And Powell is a former player who coaches at Tottenham Hotspur's Academy and for England's national team.



Jimoh (left) told *TV Insider* that his character and Nate start in a similar place but "decide to go on a different path."



ARLO WHITE & CHRIS POWELL



# EPISODE 2





There's always a box of biscuits in Rebecca's office in later episodes. "I like the fact that it looks like Ted's already visited the room that morning. It's just a constant, it's her emotional crutch," Waddingham told [cheatsheet.com](http://cheatsheet.com).

## Biscuits With the Boss

Get the official recipe!

Ted Lasso's homemade biscuits are his way of breaking the ice with his new boss, and while Rebecca Welton melted for them, the actress playing her wasn't quite as enthusiastic. "They taste like they possibly could have been a nice biscuit at some point, but had been left out in the air for weeks," she told *Collider Ladies Night*. Waddingham later admitted that the recipe was adjusted for Season 2 and the new biscuits were "a little bit more buttery."

While bakeries across the U.S., including Milk Bar in Los Angeles and New York City, have whipped up their own versions of the shortbread cookie bars, even offering them in the little pink cardboard box, we've got the official recipe, courtesy of Apple TV+.

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon coarse salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- ¾ cup powdered sugar

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Heat oven to 300 F.
- 2 Sift flour and salt together into a bowl and set aside.
- 3 In another bowl, beat butter on high speed until fluffy, approximately 3 to 5 minutes.



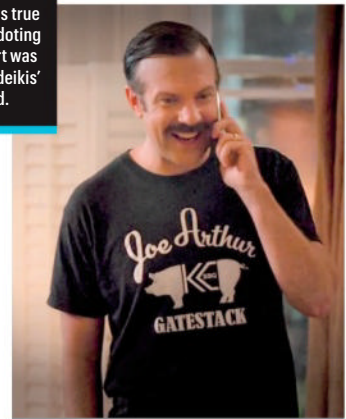
- 4 Gradually add sugar, and continue beating until pale and fluffy.
- 5 Add flour all at once and mix until combined.
- 6 Butter a square pan.
- 7 Pat shortbread into pan no more than ½-inch thick.
- 8 Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
- 9 Cut into squares or bars.
- 10 Bake until golden and make sure the middle is firm, approximately 45 to 60 minutes.
- 11 Cool completely. Recut them, if necessary, and serve.

# TRENT CRIMM: THE INDEPENDENT

RELEASED 08.14.2020



Clockwise from left: Trent Crimm (James Lance) shows his true colors; Roy is a doting uncle; the T-shirt was designed by Sudeikis' childhood friend.



**A**fter Keeley and Ted warn Rebecca about the misleading photos *The Sun* is about to print of them, Rebecca says she will put a stop to it by promising the owner's other publication, *The Independent*, an interview with Ted, to be conducted by Trent Crimm (James Lance).

Trent accompanies Ted and Roy to visit a school, where Roy shows he is surprisingly great with kids, and then Ted and Trent sit down for a one-on-one over an excruciatingly spicy Indian meal at a restaurant recommended by Ollie (Jimmy Akingbola), the limo driver from the pilot episode.

"Trent comes from a combative, adversarial, one-upmanship, superiority complex, stiff-upper-lip society where you can't show how or what you feel, but that isn't who Trent really is," Lance told Teddington Nub News. "So, when Ted says to him, 'I don't really care about the winning or losing, it's about these boys being the best versions of themselves on and off the pitch'—that blows the doors off of Trent's heart."

In the end, the piece ends up being rather sympathetic. Even though Trent feels Ted will fail, he admits, "I won't gloat when it happens. Because I can't help but root for him."

**AWW MOMENT** Roy's softer side emerges as he reads *A Wrinkle in Time* to his niece, Phoebe (Elodie Blomfield). That's when he realizes the reason Ted gave him the book: He needs to be the leader the team needs.

**TED TALK** Ted always has a compliment at the ready, which often takes Rebecca aback, like when he says, "Boss, I tell ya, I'd hate to see you and Michelle Obama arm wrestle, but I wouldn't be able to take my eyes off it, either."

**HOMETOWN LOVE** Kansas City "is tattooed onto my heart and soul and I am proud to be from there," Sudeikis told Kansas City's KSHB 41 News, and that's why there are so many KC Easter eggs throughout the show. Richmond's colors are the same as the University of Kansas Jayhawks. In the pilot, he wore a shirt reading "Joe Arthur Gatestack" as a nod to the city's four best barbecue joints (Joe's KC, Arthur Bryant's, Gates and Jack Stack).

HANNAH WADDINGHAM & MICHELLE OBAMA



EPISODE 3



"I think *Ted Lasso* has this really interesting way of showing the beautiful sides of humanity," Temple told *Gotham*.

## FOR THE CHILDREN RELEASED 08.21.2020

**R**oy and Jamie continue to fight through this episode as Ted likens them to the Sharks and the Jets from *West Side Story*. "You think they could solve their problems over a dance-off in a gymnasium?" he asks Brendan Hunt's Coach Beard with a chuckle.

Phil Dunster, who plays Jamie, told *People* that his cocky ingenue's relationship with Brett Goldstein's seasoned player is like a "puppy trying to play with the big dog. The big dog keeps swatting it down, but that's how the puppy learns."

Ted sees the children's charity event Rebecca is hosting as an excuse to "parent trap" Roy and Jamie into coming to a place of mutual respect (which somewhat works).

It's the first time since her divorce from Rupert that Rebecca is hosting the gala solo—or so she thought. He shows up unexpectedly, acting

as the auctioneer and taking a dig at Rebecca, telling her "good for you getting back out there looking like that." Anthony Head, who plays Rupert, told Subjectify Media that the billionaire no longer loves her, "therefore he will be very happy to destroy her."

Dates with the players are auctioned off to raise money for underprivileged kids. While Jamie brought Keeley as his date, he invited another plus-one, Bex (Keeley Hazell), in order to start a bidding war. To get back at him, Keeley also bids on Roy, who is annoyed to be "a prop" in their fight.

After a ladies' room chat with Rebecca, where she finds out about Jamie's other date, Keeley breaks up with him, then snags two bottles of champagne to guzzle down with Rebecca on their rickshaw ride home. Meanwhile, Rebecca's playboy ex leaves with Bex.

### GIRL POWER MOMENT

Super-supportive Keeley spies Rebecca looking uncomfortable on the red carpet and gives her a friendly wink before joining the paparazzi and yelling out, "Look at her, she's f--kin' fit!" taking Rebecca from terrified to total ease in seconds.

**TED TALK** Ted tells foes Roy and Jamie, "Now, listen. You two knuckleheads have split our locker room in half. And when it comes to locker rooms, I like 'em just like my mother's bathing suits: I only wanna see 'em in one piece, you hear?"

### BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

When pop icon Robbie Williams "cancels" his performance (thanks to Rupert), Ted pulls real-life busker Cam Cole onto the stage at the benefit. Cole capitalized on the exposure by releasing an album in 2021 and touring the U.S. for the first time in 2022.

Left: Goldstein and Dunster worked together in 2012 on a play, *Love Remains*, that Goldstein wrote. Right: Brendan Hunt told *Deadline* that viewers will see more of Rebecca's origin story with Rupert (Anthony Head, right) in Season 3.





Andrea Anders, who plays Ted's wife, Michelle, was spotted on the set in London in June 2022 as they filmed Season 3.



## TAN LINES RELEASED 08.28.2020

**T**wenty-four hours after his breakup with Keeley, Jamie already has a new fling. “What am I supposed to do, shower by myself?” he asks Keeley as she stops by his house to remind him of his promo obligations for the day.

“I see [Jamie] as someone who is really struggling to be emotionally vulnerable,” Dunster told *Town & Country* about his character.

Rebecca, who recognizes that Keeley has become a confidante, asks her to work for the club. Their “friendship is cemented through their shared miserable experiences with men,” wrote Gary Catig of *Adventures in Poor Taste*.

When Ted's wife, Michelle (Andrea Anders), and son, Henry (Gus Turner), come to visit, we see them share

helicopter-spin hugs and plenty of laughs—but there are tears, too. Michelle confesses to Ted, “Every day I wake up hoping I feel the way I felt in the beginning. But maybe that's just what marriage is, right? I'll keep trying, you know I will.”

Someone who is not trying—at least at being a team player—is Jamie, who refuses to pass the ball to Sam during a match. Ted benches Jamie to teach him a lesson and then gives the team a speech about change during halftime. While it's partly for them, it's also a pep talk for himself to let Michelle go.

Without Jamie on the pitch, Roy passes the ball to Sam, who scores, and Richmond wins. “It's like a slow-motion building collapsing, but in reverse: You

expect the physics to make everything fall apart, but on *Ted Lasso* things tend to magically move into all the right places,” noted Vulture critic Kathryn VanArendonk.

### HAND ME A TISSUE MOMENT

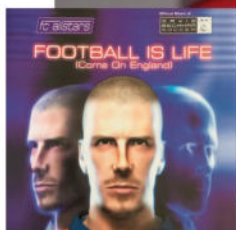
Ted took the Richmond gig to give his wife space, but he still wanted to fight for their marriage. “I promised myself I would never quit anything in my life,” Ted tells Michelle. She responds: “But you're not quitting Ted, you're just letting me go.”

**TED TALK** We already know Ted hates tea (“absolute garbage water”), so it's no surprise the Midwesterner has a problem with its often-accompanied scones. “Tastes like a muffin, except it sucks all the spit out of your mouth,” he tells son Henry.

**SPARKS FLY** When one relationship ends, another begins. Just as Ted and Michelle are reminiscing about meeting at school when they were the only two people in a parking lot, Roy sneaks up on Keeley—in an empty parking lot at night—to apologize for yelling at her at the gala. It's a poignant moment, hinting at more to come between them.



“Ted has a lot of conflict around being away from his young son, Henry (Gus Turner), as would most parents,” Screen Speck noted.



Dani's catchphrase was used in a 1998 song that later had some success in Japan and Indonesia.

**S**till struggling with the idea of divorce, Ted takes off his wedding ring. His emotions are running high, and he's fed up with Jamie, who says he's sitting out of practice because he's "hurt."

In stark contrast to Jamie, Dani Rojas (Cristo Fernández) is introduced. He's just as talented on the field, but he's already a team player on day one, passing the ball, scoring a goal, and giving teammates chest bumps. "He's in a state of 24/7 extreme happiness," Fernández told NBC News.

After originally laughing off the team's plan to reverse the "treatment room curse," Jamie opens up about how he vowed to become so tough his dad could never call him "soft" again. Jamie's walls start to come down, but it's a short-lived victory for Ted when Rebecca secretly gets Jamie recalled to Manchester City.

But as Emily Hannemann from TV Insider wrote, even

when Rebecca's "working against the ray of human sunshine that is Coach Lasso, it's also hard not to root for what she's ultimately trying to accomplish."

**FOOTBALL IS LIFE** Dani's catchphrase "Fútbol is life!" can actually be attributed to a song written by Robert Davies and Richard Forster in 1998. "Football Is Life (Come on England)" never became a World Cup anthem, but it was included in the 2002 David Beckham Soccer video game.

**TED TALK** The lesson in Ted's chat about burying himself in work is that words matter. "I don't love the word bury.... It's just got a negative connotation to it, don't it? What's another word I could say? Oh, everyone loves a good bath, right? Just a nice, warm bath. That's what I'll say. I'm going to bathe myself in my work."

**AN UNEXPECTED EARWORM** Just when we thought we'd heard the last of "Baby Shark,"

here comes "Jamie Tartt, doo, doo, doo." "I've seen some videos—parents sent me on Twitter—of their children doing it," Dunster told E! Online. "I'm partially like, that's so cool. But I'm mostly just thinking, 'Oh, you poor parents, you have to listen to that over and over again.'"



PHIL DUNSTER & BABY SHARK

# MAKE REBECCA GREAT AGAIN

RELEASED 09.11.2020



Above, right: Roy is taking things slowly with Keeley. Left: "I get to say very brilliantly written, gorgeous little sound bites," Ellie Taylor (Sassy) told *The One Show*.

**T**he away game in Liverpool against Everton, a team Richmond hasn't beaten in 60 years, is a crescendo of feels. Ted's wife is insisting he needs to sign the divorce papers, while Rebecca is spending her anniversary weekend as a divorced woman. But her mood is lifted when she gets a surprise visit from her childhood bestie Flo "Sassy" Collins (Ellie Taylor).

Ted encourages Nate to give the pregame speech. "Nate's journey takes a turn," Nick Mohammed, who plays Nate, told *ew.com*. "It's essentially a journey in developing confidence."

His tough love works as Richmond beats Everton. After a karaoke celebration where Coach Beard does a bizarre version of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance," Keeley walks back to the hotel with Roy, where they share a kiss—but Roy abruptly says goodbye, leaving Keeley worried she has bad breath.

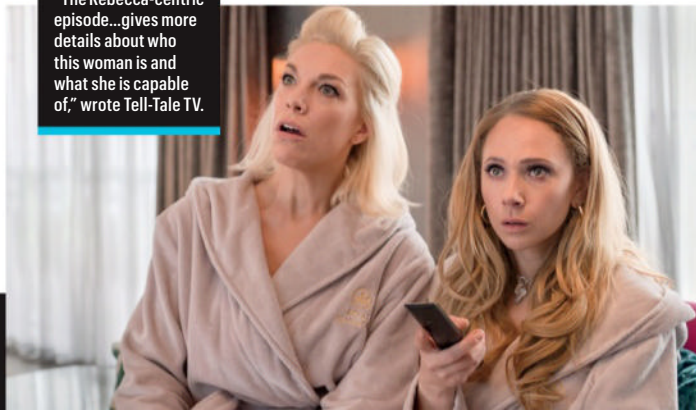
**ABOUT-TED TALK** Sassy is immediately smitten with Ted, asking Rebecca, "So what's Marlboro Man's story, then? 'Cause I kinda wanna grab him by the ears and ride that little mustache like a Jet Ski."

**KARAOKE BLISS** Seeing musical star Waddingham sing "Let It Go" at karaoke is a highlight, but it almost didn't happen. Disney initially turned down the show's request to use the song. The backup was "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor, but it wouldn't have been as cute seeing Roy mouth those lyrics.

**HEARTBREAKING MOMENT** Ted's anxiety attacks had been hinted at in earlier scenes, but

his struggle was on full display in this powerful episode. When the room begins to spin, Ted's breathing quickens and everything seems to turn to slow motion. Collider.com's Mariana Delgado noted it was "the first time I saw the depiction of a panic attack so realistically portrayed on television—or any form of media." After being there for Rebecca, she was finally there for Ted. He later signs his divorce papers with "Strange" by Celeste playing: "Isn't it strange / How people can change / From strangers to friends / Friends into lovers / And strangers again?"

"The Rebecca-centric episode...gives more details about who this woman is and what she is capable of," wrote Tell-Tale TV.



# EPISODE 7



Nate tells the Diamond Dogs he "always used to dream about sitting down with a bunch of mates, talking about the complex dynamics between men and women."

## THE DIAMOND DOGS

RELEASED 09.18.2020

**A**fter being silent for the long ride home from Liverpool, Ted spills the beans: He signed his divorce papers and hooked up with Sassy! Cut to the formation of the Diamond Dogs with Higgins, Nate and Beard. Co-creator Bill Lawrence told *Variety* that in conceptualizing the show, he thought: "These guys should talk way too honest and openly about their feelings so that you don't have the toxic masculinity."

When Keeley and Roy get into a tussle with paparazzi on their first date, it's revealed Rebecca hired the photographer to take the photos of Keeley and Ted. Keeley gives her friend an ultimatum: "Tell Ted or I will."

**TED TALK** In this fan-favorite moment, Ted makes a not-so-

friendly wager with Rupert over a game of darts. If Rupert wins, he can pick the lineup for the last two games of the season. If Ted wins, Rupert can't go anywhere near the owner's box.

While lining up to take his shot, Ted says people have underestimated him his whole life, and seeing the Walt Whitman quote "Be curious, not judgmental" made him realize why. "All them fellas that used to belittle me, not a single one of them were curious.... 'Cause if they were curious, they would've asked questions.... 'Have you played a lot of darts, Ted?' To which I would've answered, 'Yes, sir. Every Sunday afternoon at a sports bar with my father, from age 10 till I was 16, when he passed away.'" With that final shot, Ted wins! Barbecue sauce!



**THE REAL KEELEY** Temple told *Entertainment Tonight* that her character was inspired by Sudeikis' ex-girlfriend, British model-actress Keeley Hazell, whom he met while filming *Horrible Bosses 2*, and who also plays Rupert's much younger fiancée, Bex.

**BOWIE BOND** The Diamond Dogs got their name from the David Bowie song—but this isn't the first time Sudeikis has added a Bowie tune to one of his projects. He sang "Space Oddity" on *The Last Man on Earth* in 2016 and joined The Darkness on Queen and Bowie's "Under Pressure" at Thundergong! in Kansas City in 2022, which raised nearly \$600,000 for charity.



Rupert digs the knife a little deeper into Rebecca's heart when he tells her he's engaged to Bex (Keeley Hazell, far left) and has bought his fiancée a stake in AFC Richmond. Luckily Ted is there to save the day!



# ALL APOLOGIES

RELEASED 09.25.2020

**A**s the episode opens, Rebecca has a lot to make amends for. In order to get Leslie Higgins to come back to work, she tells him she's sorry for making him an accomplice in her attempt to use Ted to take down the Greyhounds. At Keeley's prompting, she also comes clean to Ted.

"When [Rebecca] confesses to Ted and he forgives her, and they hug, I was there when they did the first rehearsal of it," Brett Goldstein told *Entertainment*



From top: Swift released a single, "Wonderland," in October 2022; in case you were wondering, Goldstein is 42 years old.



*Weekly*. "I had a tear, we all did, it was f--king amazing."

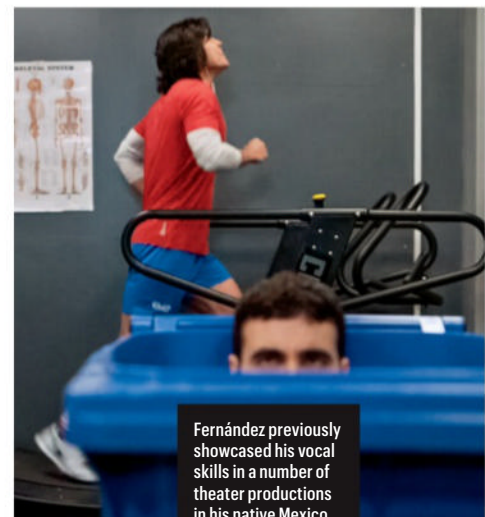
Roy is going through his own journey. "Roy's been in a very, very, very dark place for a while, because he knows he's on his way out," Goldstein told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Luckily, he has Keeley for support. "It's been a really special relationship to create on camera because I think it's quite an inspirational one," Temple explained in the same interview. The moral of the story: Honesty and apologies create stronger relationships. **JAZZMAN** After Higgins quit, Jason Sudeikis thought it would be funny to see him grow a

Vandyke beard, which actor Jeremy Swift was into. "I said, 'Ooh, I play jazz on the double bass,'" he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "And he thought I meant in an amateur way. I said, 'No, I think I'm quite good.'" He should be. After all, he's the son of two music teachers and previously released an album in 2017. **NAME THAT TUNE** Easter egg alert: Dani sings the *Ted Lasso* theme song in Spanish when he's on the treadmill. Though he hasn't had a chance to show them off very much so far, Fernández has real singing chops: Check out his impressive duet with actress and writer Kelsie McDonald

on YouTube singing "When the Sun Goes Down" from the musical *In the Heights*.

**TED TALK** In forgiving Rebecca for trying to sabotage him and Richmond, Ted is very empathetic. "Divorce is hard," he says. "It doesn't matter if you're the one leaving or if... you're the one who got left. It makes folks do crazy things. Hell, I'm coaching soccer for heaven's sake. In London. I mean, that's nuts."



Fernández previously showcased his vocal skills in a number of theater productions in his native Mexico.

9  
EPISODE





Goldstein met Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch on *Sesame Street* in 2022. Later, he baked cookies with Tamir and talked about the word of the day, which was an F-word: fairness.

## Brett Goldstein ♥ The Muppets

The two-time Emmy winner's heroes aren't Ronaldo and Messi, but Kermit and Miss Piggy.

When coach Ted Lasso sees team captain Roy Kent taking an ice bath in Episode 9 of Season 1 (see opposite page), and compares him to “a brunette Oscar the Grouch,” it’s more than just a typical Lasso-ism. The show’s writers were acknowledging Brett Goldstein’s worst-kept secret: he loves the Muppets more than Swifties love Taylor.

How much does Goldstein love the Muppets? So much that he wants to be buried with the DVD of *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. So much that he memorized that entire movie and performed a six-minute version live in 2017. So much that when he finally got a chance to meet them on *Sesame Street* and shoot scenes with Oscar the Grouch and Cookie Monster, he described it to *Fast Company* as, “The best f--king day of my life. I’m not even joking... Muppets are actual magic.”

So pure is his appreciation of Jim Henson’s iconic characters that Goldstein was given the honor of interviewing Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo and Robin (right) for *Entertainment Weekly* on the 30th anniversary of the release of *The Muppet Christmas Carol*—which he described in his introduction as “objectively the greatest film of all time.”

Watching the 20-minute interview, you can see how starstruck the actor is by his famous guests. He pitches them a new adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* with Miss

Piggy as Elizabeth Bennet and Goldstein himself as heartthrob Mr. Darcy.

Like Ted Lasso watching Michelle Obama arm wrestle with Rebecca: That is something we would not be able to take our eyes off. — *Jon Moskowitz*





## A Real-Life Friendship

It was love and mutual admiration at first sight for Hannah Waddingham and Juno Temple.

Given the roles they play in *Ted Lasso*—one character starts out as a powerful, emotionally reserved boss and the other a whimsical, model turned PR consultant—it might not seem likely that Hannah Waddingham and Juno Temple would become besties off-screen. But the Apple TV+ hit's leading ladies have become as close in real life as their characters are in the show. In fact, they consider each other family.

The pair first bumped into each other in a ladies' room shortly before the first table read for the pilot episode of *Ted Lasso*. "It was the most strange thing," Waddingham told *Variety*. "It was just completely natural and effortless... and it's been like that ever since, both on-screen and off."

"It's not fake. It's real," Temple explained to *The Hollywood Reporter*. "I love her so much. It's so important to put out into the world that girlfriends are the most important people in your life. Ultimately, they keep the world spinning."

Despite the 15-year age difference between the two actresses, their real-life chemistry is so strong that it positively vibrates on-screen. "It was palpable and recognizable on camera between Juno and Hannah from the start," the show's co-creator Bill Lawrence told *Variety*. "Part of that friendship was created by the performers themselves."

"She feels like this extraordinary fairy godmother that came into my world and has just really, really guided me through moments and been there from the minute I met her," Temple told *Awards Daily*. "That's been very special."

"If I had known Juno before I had my daughter, I would have a hundred percent called her Juno," Waddingham added. "For many reasons." —Dimitri Ehrlich



The pair have some powerful moments in Season 3. "We finished a scene the other day and Juno went, 'My whole body is shaking.' I said, 'That's because this is real, and it's because into Keeley and Rebecca,'" Waddingham told *THR*.

# THE HOPE THAT KILLS YOU

RELEASED 10.02.2020

**T**ed makes the tough decision to bench an underperforming Roy for the all-important Manchester City match, which could see AFC Richmond relegated if they lose.

Midgame, Roy is called off the bench, but after chasing down Jamie he ends up lying on the field with a knee injury that will likely end his career. The fans chant his name as Sam helps him up, in a moment that echoes back to when Roy gave Sam an assist in Episode 5. “Sam has become a leader of the team, one of the stars in Jamie’s absence, and he’s scoring more goals, and he’s using his newfound confidence to inspire people like Ted did with him,” Toheeb Jimoh told TV Insider.

When the news comes in that Crystal Palace beat Norwich and all Richmond needs to stave off relegation is a tie, Sam passes the ball to Dani for a tie goal. The stadium goes wild! But as they’re celebrating, Jamie passes the ball for Man City, allowing a teammate to score a goal, beating Richmond 2-1.

After the devastating loss, Ted offers his resignation but Rebecca explains how they can get promoted back into the Premier League. Ted declares they will, and they will “win the whole f--king thing,” which is a line from the classic 1989 baseball movie *Major League*.

**IMPROVISED OUCH** While leaving Rebecca’s office, Sudeikis decided to add an unscripted jump under the door frame, which made the final cut. “I jumped up and then, boom! I cracked my head,” he explained on *The Drew Barrymore Show*. “I stand up. I think I’m fine. But



In a poignant scene, Keeley’s loving support enables Roy to admit he’s not OK as he leans his head on her shoulder.

then a pool of blood just starts dripping down. They had to glue my head shut.”

**TED TALK** Prior to their match, Ted asks the team, “Do you believe in miracles?” This line is an homage to sportscaster Al Michaels’ commentary during the 1980 Olympic hockey finals, where the United States scored an upset win over the Soviet Union.

**FORESHADOWING MOMENT** Up until now, Nate has been

the nice guy who gets walked over. But when he encounters a new kit man in the dressing room, Nate thinks he’s been fired and quickly turns hostile. Then when Ted presents him with his new coach’s whistle and says it’s “never been blown,” Nate takes it as an opportunity to make a crude joke about the sex life of Colin (Billy Harris). It’s a foretelling glimpse into Nate the Great’s dark metamorphosis. ●



“You shrew, you did this, didn’t you?” Nate snipes at Rebecca when he thinks he’s been fired. Right: Sudeikis’ accident, but not the injury, made it into the episode.



# EPISODE 10

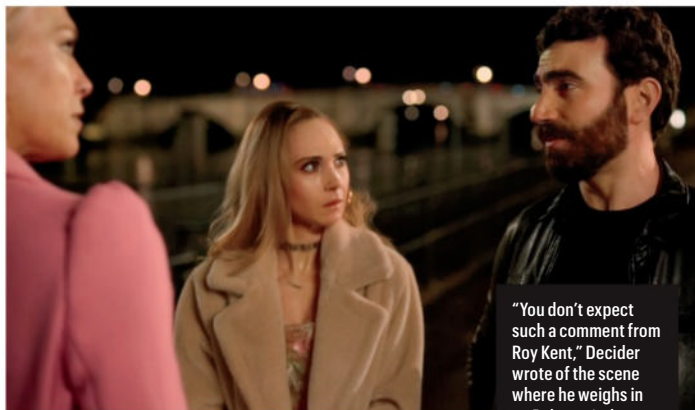
# GOODBYE EARL

RELEASED 07.23.2021

**"B**elieve," indeed! *Ted Lasso's* second season opener scored a record audience for Apple TV+. And those viewers were watching in horror as Dani Rojas accidentally kills AFC Richmond's mascot, Earl the greyhound, with a penalty kick. Later in the episode, Roy Kent and Keeley Jones go on a double date with Rebecca Welton and her new boyfriend, John Wingsnight (Patrick Baladi), and sports psychologist Sharon Fieldstone (Sarah Niles) arrives to help Dani through his case of the yips.

"I think I was just very excited to play another side of Dani and just show that other aspect and vulnerability that he can have," Cristo Fernández told CinemaBlend. "We started to see how his mental health was gonna be treated and how he is gonna defeat this, overcome this, and I was just very, very excited for that."

**TED TALK** Speaking to reporters about Earl's demise, Ted recalls his childhood grief over a dog that bit him but ended up becoming a beloved pet. "The things in your life that can make you cry just knowing they existed can then



"You don't expect such a comment from Roy Kent," Decider wrote of the scene where he weighs in on Rebecca's date.

become the same things that make you cry knowing that they're now gone," he says.

"Those things come into our lives to help us get from one place to a better one."

**THE SOFTER SIDE OF ROY** After the double date, Roy tells Rebecca that her new man is just fine. "Most people are fine," he adds. "It's not about him. It's about why the f--k you think he deserves you. You deserve someone who makes you feel like you've been struck by f--king lightning. Don't you dare settle for fine."

**THE YIPS ARE REAL** In a 2003 article in the journal *Sports Medicine*, researchers defined the yips as a continuum—with

the psychologic disorder of choking on one side and the neurologic disorder of dystonia, a condition causing involuntary muscle spasms, on the other. The same week this episode debuted, U.S. gymnast Simone Biles suffered from what she called "the twisties" at the Tokyo Olympics, which led her to withdraw from the women's all-around competition. "My mind & body are simply not in sync," she explained on Instagram at the time.

"The yips are not a superstition," Dr. Sharon tells Ted and Beard about Dani's struggle. "They are a mental condition, one that can be fixed with discipline, not denial."



SIMONE BILES

By Dan Clarendon

# EPISODE 1



“What I loved seeing from being in it and working with Jason, is that he’s such a good actor even when he’s not playing the comedy,” Sarah Niles (Dr. Sharon) told TV Insider.

## LAVENDER RELEASED 07.30.2021

**A**s Dr. Sharon joins Richmond full time and Roy gets a new job as a sports commentator, Ted brings Jamie back to the team—much to the frustration of Sam and other teammates the hotshot striker had bullied. Talking to *Entertainment Tonight*, Phil Dunster observed that his character Jamie is in the midst of a quarter-life crisis. “Seeing him with his tail between his legs in [the] start of Season 2, we see the beginning of that evolution of, maybe that’s not enough, maybe [it’s time to] step away from this toxic masculinity,” he said. “I think that he is coming to terms with this different perception that people have of him, which, it’s probably the first time he’s really ever listened to what anybody else thinks.”

**TED TALK** When Dr. Sharon says she avoids sugar, Ted shares his realization about his love for video games: “It’s just something in my life that I really enjoy. But then I pretend that preventing myself from having ’em is somehow making my life better. But in reality, all I’m doing is depriving myself of something that makes me happy, instead

of attempting to adjust my relationship to it.”

**PRINCE OF TIDES** Sharon’s favorite book, Pat Conroy’s *The Prince of Tides*, doesn’t seem like an arbitrary pick from the *Ted Lasso* writers. In that 1986 novel (and its 1991 Oscar-nominated film adaptation), a football coach who uses humor to mask his pain strikes up a transformative relationship with a psychiatrist who is battling her own demons.

**INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM** Production designer Paul Cripps told *Below the Line* that the *Ted Lasso* set—and that “Believe” sign—have real-world inspirations. “I did base it on several Premier

League dressing rooms, one of the main ones being Leicester City,” he said. “They have slogans in the locker room and all that stuff. It’s a very lowly club, but two years ago, they won the Premier League.” If you want to hear Ted Lasso’s choices for locker room jams, Apple Music has an eclectic 78-song playlist. The artists range from The Blues Brothers to Biz Maarkie to Jay-Z. As Ted explains, “My musical taste is a lot like the dirty clothes in my bedroom: all over the place.”



Roy’s TV gig sees him reunited with George Cartrick (Bill Fellows, second from right), whom Rebecca fired as coach in the pilot.

# DO THE RIGHT-EST THING

RELEASED 08.06.2021

In this installment, Sam leads other players in a protest against Dubai Air, one of AFC Richmond's sponsors, after his father tells him that the airline's parent company, Cerithium Oil, has wreaked havoc on the environment in Nigeria and turned it into a "hellish, fiery swamp." Dubai Air calls for Sam to be sacked, but Rebecca calls their bluff.

Meanwhile, Jamie makes amends with his teammates by standing in solidarity with the protest. Ashley Nicole Black, the writer of this episode, told TVLine she and the other *Ted Lasso* scribes "talked a lot about what it is like to be a young person who has something to say, to have a platform at such a young age when you're still figuring things out."

It was also important to show that Sam has a good father, Black said. "I don't see that represented on TV all the time, but I want to," she added. "I love representing an affectionate Black dad, because that's my reality."

**TED TALK** After a morning run-in with Rebecca and her goddaughter, Nora (Kiki May), at AFC Richmond HQ, Ted cites a catchphrase from John Wooden, the legendary college basketball coach. "What do you say we do what the man



Jamie choosing to stand with Sam in his protest is a "huge" moment for the former foes, Jimoh told *Town & Country*.



says and make today our masterpiece, yeah?" he says.

**FICTITIOUS SPONSOR, REAL PROBLEMS** Dubai Air and Cerithium Oil are made-up entities, but Sam's storyline in this episode has real-life parallels, as NPR pointed out. In January 2021, a court ordered Shell to compensate Nigerian farmers for damages from oil spills. (In fact, the word "Cerithium" refers to a genus of sea snails with a

conical shell.) "I just feel super privileged to be able to tell that story and share that, especially when it comes to Nigerians because that's my community, that's my home," Toheeb Jimoh shared with *Complex*. "I'm glad that I have the chance to stand up and hopefully help them to feel seen."

**REAL-LIFE SPONSOR, NEW MERCH** Another AFC Richmond sponsor, however, is very much an actual company: In March 2022, Nike announced that it would be the new kit supplier for the team, with the Nike swoosh replacing the logo for the fictional Verani Sports on the players' uniforms. Additionally, the Ted Lasso x Nike Collection of tees, crewnecks and hoodies will be released in the spring for fans.



Rebecca "wants to be the best version of herself," for her goddaughter, Nora, Waddingham told *The AV Club*.

# Jamie Tartt's 5 Best Moments

He's no joke on the pitch, but sometimes he says things that are laugh-out-loud funny.

Jamie Tartt is so gloriously un-self-aware of his self-admiration it's almost impressive. As his character evolves and we get a glimpse of how brutal his father is toward him, audiences can't help but feel empathy for his lot, and affection for his authenticity. While Jamie's football skills are beyond question, his logic is often a bit wide of the goal. Here are five of our favorite examples.

**1** In a postmortem interview after Jamie is booted from the reality show *Lust Conquers All*, he says, "The second that I found out that George Harrison died, I realized that I had to stop waiting for life to begin." When the interviewer points out that the former Beatle died 20 years ago, and Jamie would have been a young child at the time, he replies, "Yes, but I only just found out."

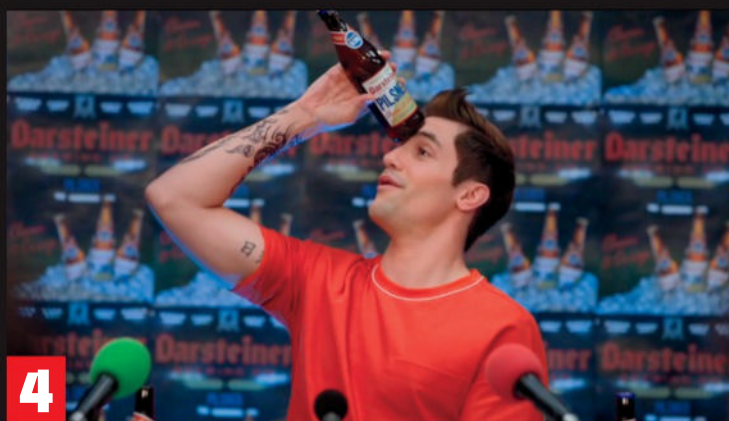
**2** In an attempt to get back into the team's good graces, Jamie tells Ted he's going to gift everyone PlayStation 5s. Ted says that would amount to a materialistic attempt to buy their affection, and Jamie responds: "What better thing to spend money on than love?"

**3** After Jamie confesses to Keeley—at the wake for Rebecca's father—that he still loves her, Roy confronts Jamie only to find himself completely disarmed by Jamie's earnest non sequitur: "I ain't used to being around dead people. It did something to me, emotionally, you know?"

**4** When Jamie is doing a press conference for his new role as brand ambassador of Darsteiner beer, he holds a bottle of the brew on his head, calling himself a "brennicorn" and wants to make sure the cameras get a good shot of a tattoo on his arm. "Wait, wait, wait!" he shouts. "Get my tats. Get that one. It's very important to me. Chinese for 'arm.'"

**5** As he joins Ted at the local pub and tells him he wants to come back to Richmond, Jamie asks barkeeper Mae to get the guys at the end of the bar to stop staring at him. "Oy, you three, f--k off," she barks. Jamie is impressed. "Old people are so wise," he says. "They're like tall Yodas."

—Dimitri Ehrlich



# CAROL OF THE BELLS

RELEASED 08.13.2021



"We were just completely cracking up," Juno Temple told Awards Daily of filming Phoebe's bad breath scene.



In this bonus episode—one of two that the writers added when Apple TV+ ordered additional Season 2 installments—Higgins hosts a Christmas dinner for Richmond players separated from their families; Roy and Keeley help his niece, Phoebe, find a solution to her bad breath; and Rebecca gives a lonely Ted a reason to get out of the house and to do some good. “The only ‘villain’ in this episode is depression, which really is a powerful villain in real life,” Joe Kelly, the episode’s writer, explained to the *Los Angeles Times*. “The idea that Rebecca swoops in and

helps defeat that for Ted for a moment is so sweet, especially after everything that happened between them in Season 1.”

**GETTING ANIMATED** The episode features a special stop-motion opening title sequence inspired by the classic Rankin/Bass Christmas TV specials, like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Animation director Jed Hathaway told *Good Day Sacramento* that the sequence took three months to produce, including five days of shooting.

**HOMETOWN HERO** The hometowns Higgins mentions in his toast are actually those of the actors themselves. “I know you’d prefer to have been with [family back home], but it was truly an honor to have you with us to share our traditions and help make a few new ones,” Higgins says in the touching episode, raising his glass. “To the family we’re born with, and to the family we make along the way.”

**TED TALK** When Ted finds out that Rebecca is planning to attend a holiday party at Elton John’s home, he exclaims, “Hold me closer tiny Dancer, Prancer and Vixen!”



Apple TV+ also released a hilarious holiday-themed stop-motion short titled *The Missing Christmas Mustache*.





It "is not merely a holiday episode, but a meta-holiday episode: an episode about holiday movies, and about one movie very much in particular," *The New York Times* wrote.

## Is the Christmas Episode Just a Remake of *Love Actually*?

*Ted Lasso* writers borrowed several plotlines from the beloved 2003 film.

"Carol of the Bells" references other yuletide tales: Keeley has the leg lamp from *A Christmas Story*, Ted watches *It's a Wonderful Life* on TV, and Jamie puts an egotistical spin on Tiny Tim's famous line from *A Christmas Carol*. But viewers noticed multiple parallels between the episode and another London-set Christmas story: the 2003 film *Love Actually*.

For example, Phoebe shows up at her bully Bernard's house with her arms full of placards, delivering messages to the tune of "Silent Night"—just as Andrew Lincoln's character (right) does in *Love Actually*. (Fans might also remember that *Love Actually* also includes a "horrid" kid named Bernard, who's Emma Thompson and Alan Rickman's son in the movie.)

Also, Phoebe, Keeley and Roy have to go door to door to find Bernard, like Hugh Grant's character does to find his lady love in the movie. And both Rebecca and Bill Nighy's *Love Actually* character skip Christmas parties at Elton John's place to spend time with their friends instead.





"When I did finally step out [onto the field] and there was the crowd chanting—aw, man, it was really f--king great," Goldstein told ew.com.

## RAINBOW RELEASED 08.20.2021

**T**ed gets Roy to give Isaac (Kola Bokinni) some pointers on being the team captain, opening the door for Roy to join Richmond's coaching staff. ("Shut up, just shut up...you had me at coach," Roy tells Ted in a *Jerry Maguire* homage—one of many cinematic references in this episode.)

Meanwhile, Rebecca makes an exciting new connection on the dating app Bantr, and Keeley shows Nate how to be more assertive as he tries to reserve a decent table for his parents' anniversary dinner.

The moment in which Nate spits on a restroom mirror as he builds up his self-confidence is based on something one of Jason Sudeikis' friends does in

real life, Nick Mohammed, who plays Nate, told E! News. "It was quite gross to do," the actor added.

"I think it is meant to make people feel a bit unnerved."

### KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

*Ted Lasso* executive producer Bill Lawrence suggested that Higgins' wife, Julie, be played by actor Jeremy Swift's real-life wife, Mary Roscoe. "I was trying to play it cool, like, 'Oh yeah, whatever, catch you later,'" Swift told *Vulture*. "But inside I was like, 'Oh my God, this is amazing!' That's how it happened."

**TED TALK** In a halftime speech, Ted tells the team he believes in "rom-communism": "If all those attractive people with their amazing apartments and interesting jobs—usually in

some creative field—can go through some lighthearted struggles and still end up happy, then so can we....

Believing in rom-communism is all about believing that everything's gonna work out in the end."

### ROM-COM REFERENCES

In addition to Roy's *Jerry Maguire* line, the episode pays homage to *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *The Princess Bride*, *You've Got Mail* and *Notting Hill*.

There are also several tips of the hat to 1989's *When Harry Met Sally...*, with an older couple at the match talking about how they met, and Ted using the line "I'll have what he's having" at the kebab restaurant. He also paraphrases Billy Crystal's speech at the end of the film: "When you realize you wanna spend the rest of your life coaching with somebody, you want the rest of your life to begin ASAP."



# EPISODE 5



Swift met wife Mary Roscoe when they worked on a play together. They have two kids and became grandparents in 2019.



Harriet Walter (left) was nominated for an Emmy for her portrayal of Rebecca's mom in this episode.

**R**ichmond's coaches get Jamie to bring back his aggressive side on the pitch, Rebecca finds out her Bantr match is Sam, Beard ignores Higgins' advice about his girlfriend, Jane (Phoebe Walsh), and Ted suffers a panic attack midgame and seeks help from Dr. Sharon in this jam-packed episode.

Hannah Waddingham pointed out to *Entertainment Tonight* how Rebecca senses Ted's distress from afar. "She can see it brewing in him when she's up in the stands. She can see the way his back is moving,

that something is wrong. She can see the speed of how he's leaving, the pace of his feet, that something's wrong," she said. "And I love the fact that we then find her in his office, we then find her finding his coat on the floor of the locker room. She's consumed as if she's having a panic attack herself"

**FORESHADOWING ALERT** The actress also noted the hints about Sam and Rebecca's bond earlier in the series, like when he asked her to join the team's treatment room cleansing ritual. "I hope that people...let their brains go, 'Do we want

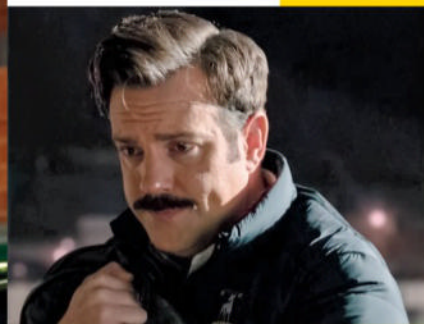
this? Don't we want this? I guess we do, or no, we don't. Do we? Does she want that?" she said of the coupling.

**TED TALK** After getting a lunch invitation from Rebecca's mom (played by *Sense and Sensibility* and *Succession* actress Harriet Walter), Ted says, "Boy, I love meeting people's moms. It's like reading an instruction manual as to why they're nuts."

**A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION** Amid online conspiracy theories that Roy Kent is a CGI character, Brett Goldstein tweeted a video of himself in September 2021—disguised in an iOS Memoji—saying, "I am a completely real, normal, human man who just happens to live in a VFX house and does normal human basic things like rendering and buffering and transferring data." In an appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* two weeks later, he joked, "When I found out I was CGI, it was quite disconcerting because I've seen a lot of sci-fi films and I started to be like, 'I mean, maybe I am.' They'd implant memories to make me think I wasn't, right?" The actor then drank a glass of chocolate milk to prove that he is "a real boy."



From left: Goldstein addressed the CGI rumors; Higgins gave Beard relationship advice; Ted's struggle is heartbreaking.

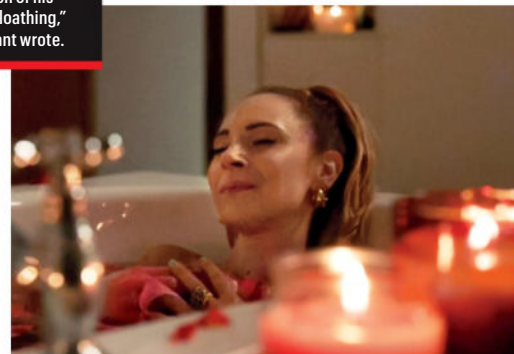


# HEADSPACE

RELEASED 09.03.2021



Nate lashing out at Will (above) "feels like a redirection of his own self-loathing," ScreenRant wrote.



# EPISODE 7

**S**elf-proclaimed "Wonder Kid" Nate is belittled by his father in this episode and takes a turn to the dark side, bullying others—like Colin and Will—as he was once bullied. Meanwhile, Roy realizes Keeley still needs a little alone time, and Ted and Dr. Sharon begin his therapy sessions—after a couple of false starts.

Sarah Niles submitted the "Headspace" episode for Emmy consideration for her Outstanding Supporting Actress nomination, according to Gold Derby. "[Dr. Sharon is] so still to me," the actress previously told the site of her character. "I'm a bit of a goofball. I'm always wanting to goof around. To channel that kind of energy and that focus helped me to carry on with the story. It was wonderful to see how throughout the season she started to shift and change. You get to see her vulnerabilities. She's pulled up so many walls in the same way that Ted has walls."

## BANTA MEETS BUMBLE

In October 2022, Bumble announced that it would be

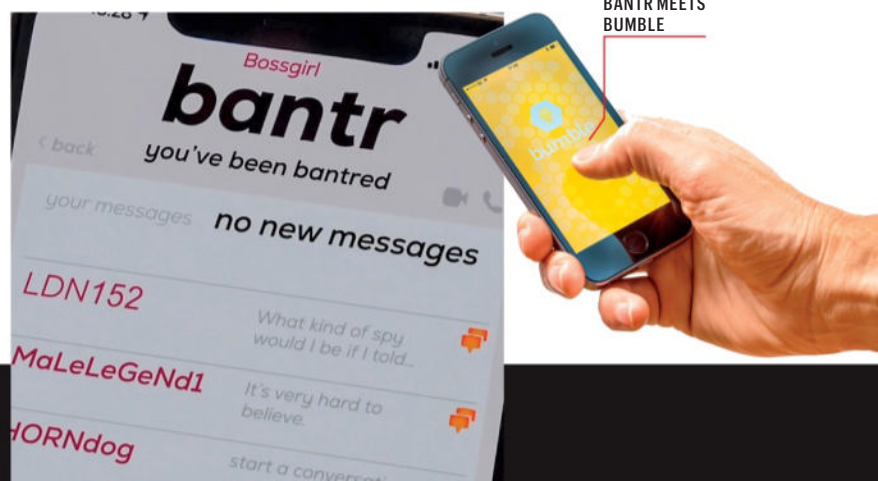
hosting a weekly Bantr Live speed-dating event for the rest of the year, in celebration of *Ted Lasso* and its fictional dating app. For Bantr Live, Bumble invited users to sign on every Thursday night and connect with local singles in text-only (no pics!), three-minute conversations.

"It's a fun way to encourage people to connect with their matches on a deeper level where they can gauge compatibility on shared interests and personality rather than focusing on the physical," said Lucille McCart, Bumble's APAC communications director.

**APOLOGY AUDIO** Apple Music made the "Roy Is Sorry for Not Understanding Keeley"

playlist a reality, giving users access to a five-hour lineup of songs. "Expertly packed with the soul-warming sounds of Sade, Maxwell and Lianne La Havas, these tracks are sure to tug at the heartstrings—just like Coach Lasso," Apple Music says in the playlist description. It's perfect for listening to while you're soaking in a candlelit, rose petal-infused, bubble bath.

**TED TALK** After Ted apologizes for deriding Doc's profession and storming out of their session, the psychologist says that him doing both "fight" and "flight" showed impressive range. "Yeah, well, watch your back, Glenn Close," Ted quips.



BANTR MEETS BUMBLE



"It was all TV magic," Kola Bokinni told *Inside the Film Room*, revealing that he didn't actually cut Jimoh's hair.



## MAN CITY RELEASED 09.10.2021

In this 45-minute episode, Ted comes to Dr. Sharon's aid after she's hit by a car while biking; Rebecca and Sam try and fail to keep their relationship platonic; Roy gets called into his niece Phoebe's school because she's been swearing; and Jamie's brutal father harangues him over AFC Richmond's loss to Manchester City.

"[Episode] 208 is, I think, our longest-ever episode and there's just so much happening in it," *Ted Lasso* co-creator Brendan Hunt, who plays Coach Beard, told *Vulture*. "The first cut of Episode 8 was like 54 minutes or something. That's crazy long. When something's that long, you're looking to cut scenes, basically. But watching that was like, 'Oh, no. There's a lot of good s--t in

this episode. I'm not quite sure what we're going to do."

**SHEAR GENIUS** Fans learn in this episode that Isaac is an artist with hair clippers. "I came up with the construct that Isaac only thinks of one thought at a time—he only has space for one thought at a time," Bokinni told *Entertainment Tonight*. "If he's cutting your hair, or if he's Santa Claus, or if he is doing whatever, he's doing that. And he's giving you 100% concentration in that department."

**GRAB A TISSUE, PART 1** To the tune of George Harrison's 1970 song "Beware of Darkness," Roy wraps a tearful Jamie in a massive hug after the Richmond player punches his abusive father (Kieran O'Brien) amid a tense and uncomfortable locker room

face-off. Dunster observed to *ET* that the heartbreaking scene marks a "brilliant combination" of Jamie letting go of his past and embracing his "new family...his new life."

Fans reacted strongly to the scene, with one tweeting, "I thought that was a silly little football show but it's 1 a.m. and I'm crying goodbye." Another wrote, "This scene destroyed me for real."

**GRAB A TISSUE, PART 2** In the very next scene, Ted movingly reveals his childhood trauma to Dr. Sharon. "My father killed himself when I was 16," he says as tears spill down his cheeks. "That happened to me and, uh, to my mom. And look, I don't know if that's where maybe some of my issues stem from." ("No, it definitely is," Doc replies.)



"I really hope that there are more young men coming to terms with the fact that...it's OK to feel things and to talk about how they feel," Dunster told *ET*. "That's not weak. It's brave and strong and good."



# BEARD AFTER HOURS

RELEASED 09.17.2021



Hunt once did a theater show where he hula-hooped through the whole thing—for more than 90 minutes straight!



Kevin “KG” Garry). Later, Beard goes home with a woman (Charlotte Spencer) from the club... only to have a surprising run-in with her brawny boyfriend. “The balance of how much to reveal with Beard is always the thing, because what’s fun about him is the mystery of him,” actor and Hula-Hooper extraordinaire

Hunt told *The Hollywood Reporter*. “We didn’t give too much information. We just showed what we think is a not-atypical night out for him, which is why he just rolled with it.”

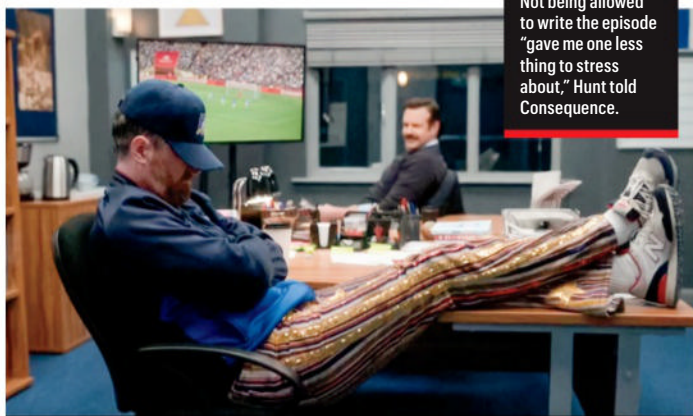
**TED TALK** Ted isn’t worried when Beard is late for work after the assistant coach’s big night out. “Beard’s like the

mailman, you know?” Ted says. “He always delivers, and he looks great in shorts.”

**OUT OF THE PUB** Hunt told TVLine that the actors who play Baz, Jeremy and Paul were excited that their characters got more screen time. “Once I knew that the scripts for Episode 9 had gone out, I remember seeing them on set and they were playing it very cool, very close to the vest,” Hunt said. “I’m like, ‘Hey guys, good to see you again. I don’t know if you saw the script for Episode 9, but...’ And all three of them were like, ‘Yeahhhh!’”

**HULA PARTY** Hunt said he loves dancing—and Hula-Hooping—but was exhausted from all the running Beard does in the episode. “So by the time we got to the dancing [to the tune of Martin Solveig and Dragonette’s ‘Hello’], I was old and broken,” he added. “I look at that scene with a bit of regret, because I’m not actually doing my best dancing there.” Goldstein told the *Los Angeles Times* that if he could co-write the episode again, he’d add even more dancing. “I will never tire of watching Brendan Hunt dance,” he said. “It is pure, joyous wonder.”

**T**he second Season 2 bonus episode draws inspiration from Martin Scorsese’s 1985 black comedy thriller *After Hours* as it follows Coach Beard on an all-nighter as he dons “magic trousers” and goes out on the town, hitting a club with Crown & Anchor regulars Baz, Jeremy and Paul (Adam Colborne, Bronson Webb and



Not being allowed to write the episode “gave me one less thing to stress about,” Hunt told *Consequence*.

# EPISODE 9

# The Wit and Wisdom of Coach Beard

**Ted Lasso's** inscrutable offsider has more layers than an onion.

Coach Beard is a man of few words, but he's far more than just Ted Lasso's sidekick, and when he does open his mouth, it's usually to utter a gem of a one-liner. A mystery hiding under a baseball cap, the fact that Beard seems unknowable only makes him more fascinating. He's by turns taciturn, oracular and hilarious.

Here are a few of our favorite one-liners from Coach Beard, divided into the three topics that matter to him most: love, having a good time and Ted. —Dimitri Ehrlich



Beard is often seen with a book in his hands, including *Inverting the Pyramid*, which is about soccer tactics.

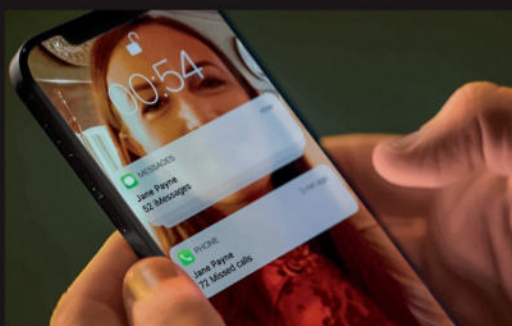


## On Alcohol, Drugs and Cutting Loose

"I've been to Vegas many times. One night is good, two nights is perfect, three is too many."

"Who wants an overpriced beer—OK, who wants an overpriced beer that I'm paying for? Find us a place, and feel free to strut."

"There was one game this season where I was accidentally on mushrooms."



## On Love, Women and Relationships

"Reason is powerless in the expression of love."

"I dated a professor at Oxford, and I listened more than I talked."

"In all my happiest memories, I'm single. That troubles me."



## On Ted and the Meaning of Life

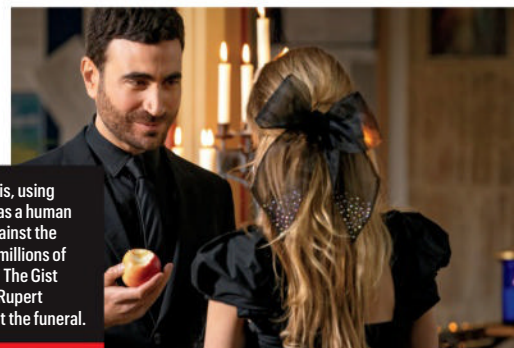
"Ted is a man, just a man. And as for the fragility of life, I'm so glad someone finally asked. Because yeah, I got a few thoughts."

"If indeed this is all a simulation—which everything in my experience suggests that it is—then all we can do is tip our caps to the rascal pulling the strings."

"You know, we used to believe that trees competed with each other for light. Suzanne Simard's field work challenged that perception, and we now realize that the forest is a socialist community. Trees work in harmony to share the sunlight."

# NO WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL

RELEASED 09.24.2021



"Here he is, using his baby as a human shield against the wrath of millions of viewers," The Gist wrote of Rupert (below) at the funeral.

After Rebecca's father dies, the team shows up in full force for the funeral, even if doing so means wearing suits and leaving their sneakers at home. (Jamie tells Dani dress shoes are made for sheep, Muggles and t--ts.) After the service, Rebecca breaks up with Sam—who warns her that he's "only going to get more wonderful"—while Jamie surprises Keeley with a confession that he still loves her.

The episode earned Emmy nominations in the writing, editing and contemporary hairstyling categories, while M.J. Delaney won an Emmy for directing the episode. "There are so many people that I should thank, but it's really boring when non-famous people do this," she quipped in her acceptance speech. "So I will just say, I can't think of a more fun bunch of people to go to work with every day."

**MAKING ARRANGEMENTS** As Roy and Keeley prepare for the funeral, they tell each other about their final wishes—in case, as Keeley says, Roy gets hit by a bus that very day. Keeley says she'd want her body to fertilize a fruit tree. But Roy says he'd want Keeley to make the bus driver pay. "Avenge me!" he growls.



## TED (AND REBECCA) TALK

In heartbreaking, intercut conversations, Rebecca tells her mom about walking in on her dad and his mistress, while Ted talks to Dr. Sharon about his dad's suicide. Coincidentally, both events happened on the same Friday the 13th in 1991. "It's why I've always hated him," Rebecca says of her dad's infidelity. "And I still hate him."

**RICKROLLED** In a Twitter video, Rick Astley said he was "completely blown away

watching Rebecca sing his song "Never Gonna Give You Up" at the funeral. "I have to say to Hannah Waddingham—Emmy Award-winning Hannah Waddingham—you did an amazing, incredible job," he added. "It was so emotional, so moving, so incredible."

As The Gist pointed out, the show "asks that we listen to this song with a different set of ears than the ones we've been using since Rickrolling went from being A Thing, to Hilarious, to just there."



Sassy and Keeley try to guess who Rebecca is shagging. Sassy: "Is he tall?" Rebecca: "Yes." Keeley: "Is it Sam?"



# MIDNIGHT TRAIN TO ROYSTON

RELEASED 10.01.2021

**W**hen billionaire Edwin Akufo (Sam Richardson) tries to poach Sam for a dream team of African players, Rebecca isn't sure whether to let him go. Akufo pulls out all the stops, even creating a pop-up Nigerian restaurant and populating a gallery with actors (and Banksy!) to woo Sam.

Meanwhile, Roy spends three hours hanging out with Phoebe's teacher, Ms. Bowen (Ruth Bradley), and neglects to tell her that he has a girlfriend.

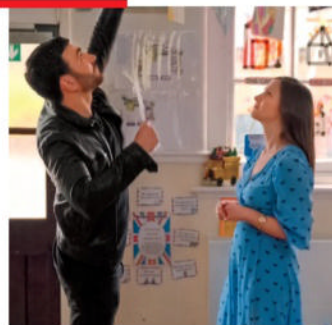
He then helps Keeley through a *Vanity Fair* photo shoot that includes an awkward few minutes where the pair stare into each other's eyes. It comes after Keeley confesses that Nate kissed her and Jamie still loves her, and Roy tells her about Phoebe's teacher. "That was a really tense moment," a fan of the show wrote on Reddit, while another suggested it was "the most uncomfortable exchange in two seasons of the show."

After a fun evening with the departing Dr. Sharon, Ted gets a text from Trent Crimm telling him that a story about his midgame panic attack will be in the morning paper—and that Nate was the one who leaked the story.

**CRINGE WATCH** Keeley gives Nate a makeover, but he mistakes her friendliness for something more and kisses her. "It's gross what Nate does, to a degree," Mohammed said on the *Half Hour With* YouTube series. "He's really



Fans hope that Roy and Keeley will stay together in Season 3 despite Roy's flirtation with Ms. Bowen (below right).



inappropriate.... I can see why he misinterprets it, and I can almost empathize and sympathize with him, but I can't condone the action.... He's really messed up by that point."

**TED TALK** When Rebecca speaks to Ted about her conflicting feelings regarding Sam's possible Richmond exit, Ted says, "You listen to your gut, OK? And on your way down to your gut, check in with your heart. Between those two things, they'll let you know what's what."

**PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM** *Veep* actor Richardson—who was nominated for an Emmy for his work on *Ted Lasso*—also collaborated with Sudeikis on the comedy films *We're the*

*Millers* and *Horrible Bosses 2* and the TV shows *Son of Zorn* and *Detroiters*. (In another Hollywood connection, Richardson co-created *Detroiters*, a Comedy Central series, with three others, including *Ted Lasso* executive producer Joe Kelly.)



Sam Richardson (left) told *Variety* that the character of Sam Obisanya was actually based on him.

# EPISODE 11



"I hope that Keeley finds happiness and that she finds it completely with herself," Temple told *The Hollywood Reporter* of Season 3.

## INVERTING THE PYRAMID OF SUCCESS

RELEASED 10.08.2021

As Keeley finds she's getting financing for her own PR firm, she and Rebecca learn of another business move: Rupert, Rebecca's ex-husband, has purchased West Ham United. Keeley has a ton of work on her plate, so she begs off when Roy proposes a six-week holiday. On the pitch, Dani seals the deal on Richmond's return to the Premier League, but Nate's in no mood to celebrate. He finally airs his frustrations with Ted before leaving the team to join West Ham's coaching staff. Sam, on the other hand, decides to stay with Richmond.

Mohammed told the *Los Angeles Times* he "talked for ages" with Sudeikis, who also co-wrote this episode, about the Nate-Ted confrontation. "The whole season, there's no other scene between Ted and Nate; they're in scenes together with other people but it's never a two-hander. And that's really important," he said. "On the day, it was a very quiet set, but with lots of support. We only did three takes, and we didn't really break for anything because it was quite intense and everyone wanted to keep that feeling going. It felt good when it was over—a real sense of relief. I really feel desperately unhappy for Ted and Nate."

**TED TALK** "To quote the great UCLA college basketball coach John Obi-Wan Gandalf, 'It is our choices, gentlemen, that show what we truly are, far more than our ability,'" Ted tells the team as he apologizes for keeping his midgame panic attack a secret. (Ted was actually quoting *Harry Potter* wizard Albus Dumbledore.)

### THE END OF ROY AND KEELEY?

Juno Temple told PopSugar that she's not sure whether the couple will make it. "It's one of those *Sliding Doors* situations. It's not one way or the other way, or any which way," she

said. "I definitely know they would have a spectacular future together. I believe they'd be great parents, and they'd be great growing old together, and maybe that will be their journey...but I don't know!"

**THE EYES HAVE IT** Season 2 ends the way it begins—with a close-up of Nate's eyes—but with one major difference. Mohammed revealed on Twitter that the moment the light fades from Nate's eyes was addressed in the script. "In the final shot, the light in Nate's eyes has supposedly 'gone out,'" he wrote.



Anthony Head came up with the line he whispered into Nate's ear: "You're welcome." Mohammed told the *LA Times* it was "just so patronizing, so smug and self-important."





“Even within Nate’s story, there’s some hope,” Mohammed told *Fatherly*, adding that the show has “a lot of hope within it.”



## What Will Happen to Nate?

**Is Nate the Great’s evil turn complete, or can he be redeemed in Season 3?**


Any good script requires characters to undergo change in some way, and there are few more dramatic transformations than Nate’s. When we last see Richmond’s assistant coach at the end of Season 2, he has gone from being shy and earnest to a villainous traitor, filled with volcanic rage and a desire for power. It’s a metamorphosis that nobody could have seen coming at the beginning of Season 1—except, of course, the show’s co-creator Jason Sudeikis, who told Nick Mohammed from the outset that this was the plan for Nate’s character arc.

“All I can say is expect more of a roller coaster and there’s some brilliant and lovely twists and turns along the way,” Mohammed told *Us Weekly*. “I think he’s got all the makings to be a villain because like almost all villain origin stories, they come from a place of neglect, insecurity. Nate has got bagfuls of that.”

Heightening the tension, in their final interaction at the end of Season 2, Nate curses Ted out, but rather than respond, Ted stands there and takes it in silence. Anger is one thing. Betrayal is another. Audiences are left to guess at what is behind Nate’s ruthlessness—though we have a few clues. “We know already that his relationship with his dad is quite toxic and that he doesn’t really have a support network,” said Mohammed. “Perhaps if Nate did have that support, he wouldn’t be making so many bad decisions.”

*Ted Lasso* producer Kip Kroeger told *Deadline* that Season 3 is delving “deeper into the [characters’] backstories,” so we may learn more about the extent of Nate’s emotional damage. But it’s safe to say that the unresolved conflict between him and Ted will also be at the heart of the new episodes. •

—Dimitri Ehrlich

A group of men in blue and white soccer tracksuits are celebrating on a field. The man in the center, Ted Lasso, is wearing a blue cap, sunglasses, and has his arms raised in a 'V' shape with a wide, open-mouthed smile. He is surrounded by other men in similar tracksuits who are also cheering and raising their hands. The background shows a stadium setting with red seats and a blue banner at the top.

Delve into every facet of the hit series, from the unforgettable soundtrack to the real-life locations, and secrets of the hair and wardrobe department. Plus, we break down *Ted Lasso's* best—and worst—couples.

# FADEEE

A New Language for Dating

**bantr**

A New Language for Dating

**bantr**



While this shot features real people in the background, most of the crowd in stadium scenes is added in digitally.

# PODIVE

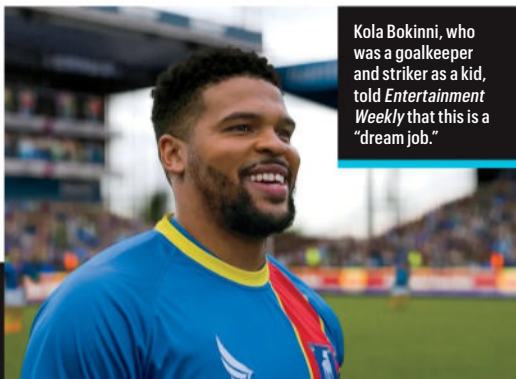
PHIL DUNSTER &  
BRETT GOLDSTEIN

# CAN TED LASSO'S TEAM ACTUALLY PLAY



# SOCCER?

The stars of the Richmond Greyhounds know their way around the football pitch. *By Jon Moskowitz*



Kola Bokinni, who was a goalkeeper and striker as a kid, told *Entertainment Weekly* that this is a "dream job."

**AFC RICHMOND MAY BE A** fictional football club, but the creators of *Ted Lasso* knew that it had to seem real. The challenge was finding actors who not only had chemistry in front of the camera, but could actually play the game and function as a team. The show's success is a testament to how well the casting department succeeded at this task.

"It was vital that all the team really could play football," casting director Theo Park told *IndieWire* in 2021. "They had to do normal scenes acting, and then they had to show us their football skills on tape as well."

Luckily, real Premier League players come from around the world, so the *Ted Lasso* team was able to cast a wide net. Cristo Fernández, who actually



Cristo Fernández (left) played the game professionally, but Moe Jeudy-Lamour (right) told CBC News, “There was never any soccer in my journey.”



**“Would I say I’m supremely talented at soccer/football? Yes, I would.”**

Toheeb Jimoh (top right, with David Elsendoorn) told Yahoo! Entertainment

played professional football in his native Mexico, was a perfect fit for irrepressible Richmond ace Dani Rojas, and South London native Kola Bokinni was able to use his semiprofessional soccer experience to embody team captain Isaac McAdoo.

But even those actors who haven’t played professionally have spent a good amount of time on the pitch. Phil Dunster (Jamie Tartt) and Toheeb Jimoh (Sam Obisanya) never went pro, but they grew up playing the game. So did Brett Goldstein (Roy Kent), who told *People* that he has a “football hooligan” dad who “always wanted me to be a footballer.” Meanwhile, Moe Jeudy-Lamour (Thierry Zoreaux) played gridiron for a Canadian Junior Football League team.

Talking with Whistle in 2022, Bokinni revealed how shooting a game scene can actually be harder than playing it: “Everything in football is spontaneous. It’s not rehearsed.... In *Ted Lasso*, every single scene we’re on the football field is basically choreographed. If that messes



up, you have to start again. In a way, it’s a little more difficult than playing a full match.”

“We spent a lot of time training to make sure we get it right,” Dunster told the AV Club in 2021. “We have a dedicated sports choreography team for the show. We had a dedicated football director on Season 2 who has worked a lot with shooting football. It takes a lot of time and good editors, which luckily we have, to make me look like Jamie Tartt.”

But there was one moment during Season 2 when Dunster revealed his impressive natural ability. In Episode 6, when the coaches flip Jamie the bird and he shoots a free kick from midfield, the actor admitted that he tried hard to pull off the difficult shot, rather than rely on CGI to add the ball in later.

“I basically had like four or five attempts at trying to kick it like Cristiano Ronaldo. And it was horrible. It didn’t work,” Dunster recalled. “And then one of the guys was like, ‘Just kick it

how you would kick it.’ And I did it and it happened to go in and I was like, ‘Oh, the cameras are rolling. OK, great.’ That looked great. I didn’t see the first five.”

Brendan Hunt (Coach Beard) posted the moment on Twitter, telling ESPN, “Not a lot of guys can do that, especially someone who does not have to do that because he’s just an actor. But he’s not just an actor. He’s also a damn fine footballer, and it was one of the coolest moments of the season.” Hunt added that “everyone was losing their f--king s--t” but Dunster insisted, “There was nobody on the field more surprised than me.”

So does the cast ever find time to play the game for fun? Yes, according to Hannah Waddingham (Rebecca Welton), who told *Variety*: “They are so good. They had a tournament recently that I took my daughter to. It was supposed to be friendly—it wasn’t so friendly. They got really competitive, and I was really shocked at how amazing they are.” ●

# THE BEST RUNNING BITS



## LITTLE SOLDIERS

Ted's son, Henry (Gus Turner), sends him some green Army men to "keep him safe," and they help him through key moments, such as signing his divorce papers. Ted (Jason Sudeikis) shares the toys with his colleagues—including Jamie Tartt (Phil Dunster), Rebecca Welton (Hannah Waddingham), Sam Obisanya (Toheeb Jimoh) and Dr. Sharon Fieldstone (Sarah Niles)—to show he cares about them.

What would Ted Lasso be without his hatred of tea and confusion over the rules of soccer? *By Erin Crabtree*

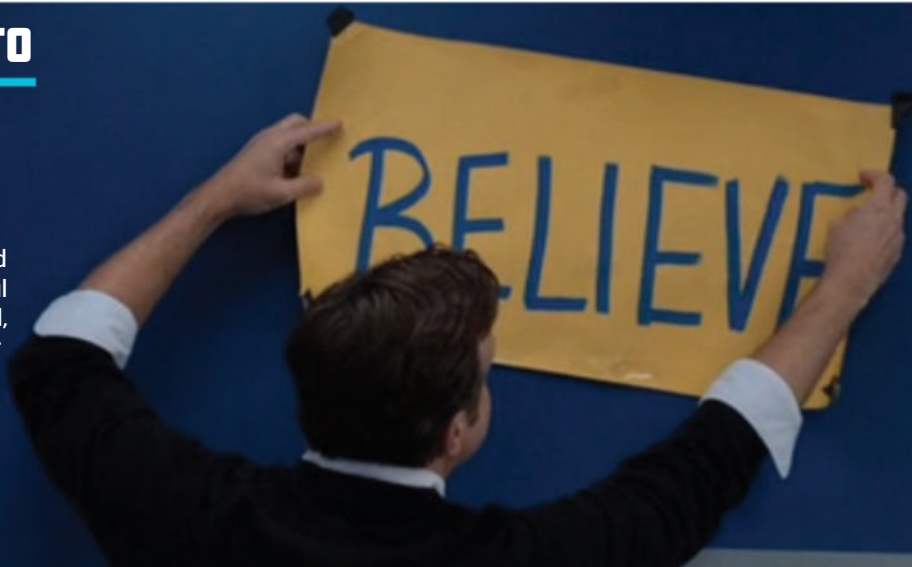


## COACH'S CALL

Each AFC Richmond coach has a different approach to whistles. Ted tells overeager Nathan Shelley (Nick Mohammed, left) in the Season 1 finale, "For the love of Meghan Markle, do not blow that whistle again," while Roy Kent (Brett Goldstein) refuses to use one at all and instead loudly yells, "Whistle!"

## TEAM MOTTO

Ted memorably places a "Believe" sign in the Richmond locker room to motivate the team shortly after he starts as coach. The players eventually find the sign to be a meaningful reminder of their potential, but Nate rips it up in anger in the Season 2 finale.





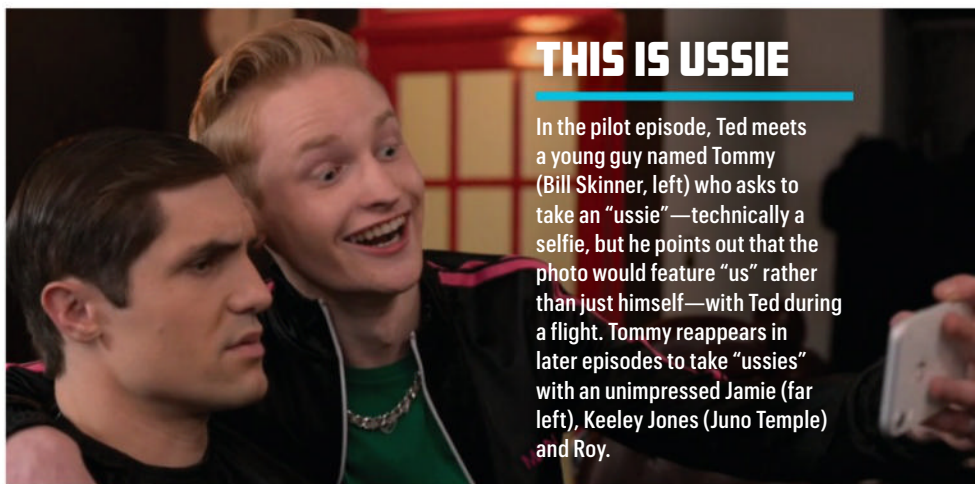


## BUBBLE, BUBBLE

Ted has no tolerance for sparkling water, as evidenced by the many times he has accidentally spit it in people's faces because he couldn't handle the bubbles. The coach explains that prior to living in England, he thought still water was "still water," as in "it was water and it continues to remain to be water."

## MUSICAL OFFICES

Leslie Higgins (Jeremy Swift, seated at right) has finally found his place among the AFC Richmond staff, but his makeshift offices continue to pop up everywhere. Whether he is holed up in the cleaning closet (convenient in case of a spill!) or sitting on Ted's floor, he makes the best of his situation and maintains his positive attitude.



## THIS IS USSIE

In the pilot episode, Ted meets a young guy named Tommy (Bill Skinner, left) who asks to take an "ussie"—technically a selfie, but he points out that the photo would feature "us" rather than just himself—with Ted during a flight. Tommy reappears in later episodes to take "ussies" with an unimpressed Jamie (far left), Keeley Jones (Juno Temple) and Roy.



## STARTING OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT

The main reason Rebecca hires Ted is due to his lack of knowledge about soccer, but even after she ditches her plot to sabotage the team, the former college football coach frequently voices his confusion about the rules (he's not a fan of ties) and terminology (gaffer, pitch, offside, etc.) surrounding the sport.



## TEA HATER

Ted seems to love everything...except tea. He has described the beloved British beverage as "hot brown water" and "pigeon sweat," and no matter how many times he tries it, he cannot develop a taste for it. His dislike for the drink is even mentioned in the FIFA 23 video game. ●

# RELATIONSHIP GOALS

We're breaking down the show's romantic duos, from the good, to the bad, to the ugly. *By Jon Moskowitz*

THE GOOD

## ROY AND KEELEY

From the start, we just knew Roy Kent (Brett Goldstein) and Keeley Jones (Juno Temple) were going to get together. Keeley and Jamie Tartt (Phil Dunster) are cute, in a sort of Posh-and-Becks way, but it is in her interactions with Roy—especially that parking lot scene in Episode 3 of Season 1—that Keeley's fierce intelligence really starts to show itself. She chips away at Roy's hard-man act and gives him the perspective to show his more tender side, and he gives her the support to grow into her best self.

Season 2 ended on an uncertain note concerning these two: Will Keeley's new career leave any space for their relationship? But it's a nice gender twist on an age-old romantic dilemma. The show's co-creator Bill Lawrence told *The Hollywood Reporter* that the couple have a rocky road ahead of them in Season 3. "I think it's really important for us that even though it's been idealized a little bit, everything regardless of which way it's going to go has bumps and speed bumps," he said. "The happiest couples in my life are still couples that had amazing splits, issues and had to overcome something. Other couples that were disastrous just fell apart. I can't tell you which it's going to be."





## TED AND REBECCA

While not romantic (by the end of Season 2, anyway), Ted Lasso (Jason Sudeikis) and Rebecca Welton's (Hannah Waddingham) relationship is arguably the most important in the entire show, with Sudeikis telling *Gold Derby* that the pair are "soul mates." Ted's stubborn positivity has helped Rebecca evolve from a scheming, resentful ex-wife to the caring, engaged leader of the entire Richmond organization. She has more than once rescued Ted from the anxiety that lurks behind his hopeful facade. "It's social conditioning [that] a lead woman and the lead man are going to end up together," Waddingham told *People*. "Far deeper is the beauty of sometimes a platonic relationship, where you will be the last one at the person's bedside, even if you haven't slept with them. There may be more longevity in that."



## HIGGINS AND JULIE

Easily the most stable, long-lasting and mutually supportive relationship in the show, Leslie Higgins (Jeremy Swift) and his wife, Julie (Mary Roscoe), have been married for nearly 30 years and raised five children. They actually seem to still take delight in each other's presence, with Higgins setting The Rolling Stones' "She's a Rainbow" as Julie's ringtone in his phone. That puts their relationship squarely in the "good" category. The fact that Swift and Roscoe are a real-life married couple only makes their characters' connection seem that much more special.



## SAM AND REBECCA

Though it would trigger alarms in HR departments around the world, there is something so sweet about the surprise romance between Rebecca and Sam Obisanya (Toheeb Jimoh) that we can overlook the employer/employee power dynamic and huge difference in their ages. It's lovely to see Rebecca get her groove back, and Sam's quiet confidence is hella sexy. Even when Rebecca puts things on pause, you can tell Sam isn't worried. He knows they have a good thing going.

"We do get into Sam's love life a little bit this season and it will be very interesting for people to see how that all unfolds and where it goes," Jimoh told *Deadline* about Season 3. "You'll see what his relationship with Rebecca is like and what it turns into. It will be really interesting, no matter what side of the fence you're on, whether you're a TedBecca fan or SamBecca fan. There's going to be a really interesting resolution for all the characters."

## SASSY AND TED

We're not sure if they actually qualify as a couple, or more of a hookup, but there's undeniable chemistry between Ted and Rebecca's BFF, Flo "Sassy" Collins (Ellie Taylor). Maybe it's not so strange: Ted is perpetually optimistic, and, in her way, so is Sassy, who's a child psychologist.

Or, for another perspective, Rebecca's mom (Harriet Walter) noted that "Florence does like wounded birds, doesn't she?" Their relationship seems like a good thing, but with Sassy back in Season 3, it remains to be seen whether they have a future together, or merely some happy memories to look back on.



# THE BAD



## JAMIE AND KEELEY

Some might disagree with putting this relationship in the “bad” column. After all, Jamie’s transformation from arrogant prima donna to slightly-less-arrogant team player was largely due to Keeley’s influence. But let’s not forget how shallow they were as a couple. A hot young football star and a hot young internet-famous model? That’s a match made in media heaven. Keeley eventually dumps Jamie when she realizes he’s just in it for the image. He comes to realize what he lost upon his return to Richmond in Season 2. Jamie’s personal growth culminates in him confessing his love for Keeley and admitting, “I finally think I’m becoming the best version of myself, the kind of man that you always knew that I could be.”

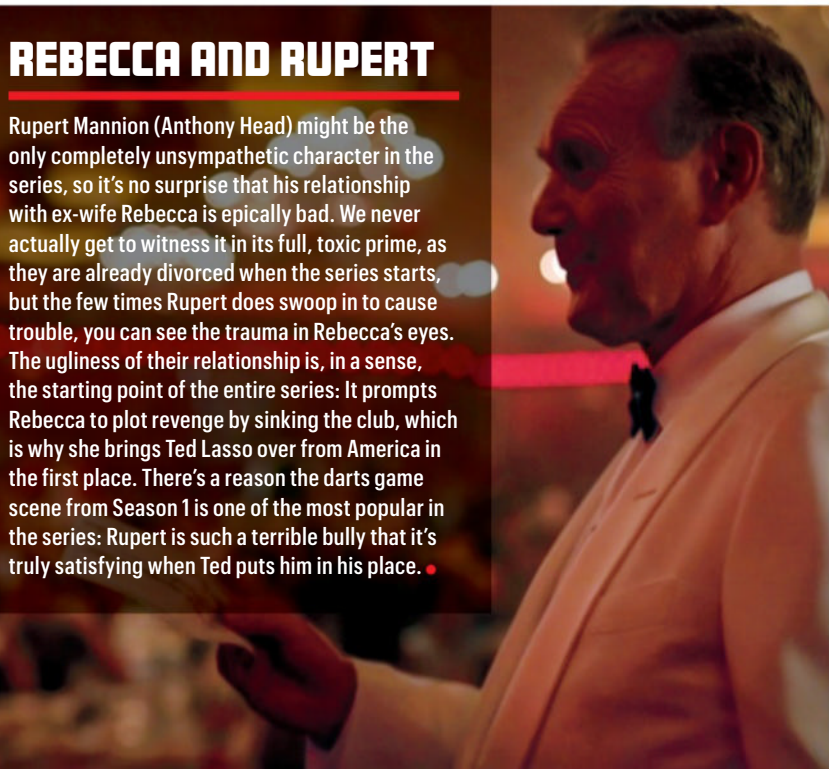
## BEARD AND JANE

Most fans seem to dislike this pairing, and it’s not hard to see why. We know Coach Beard (Brendan Hunt), and we love him, but from what we’ve seen and heard of Jane Payne (Phoebe Walsh, who is also the show’s executive story editor), she is a bit of a tyrant (remember when he slept in the office because she threw his keys in the river?). So when they keep breaking up and getting back together, naturally we side with Beard. A good relationship shouldn’t involve so many games. Then again, they did meet while playing chess.... Higgins tries to advise Beard after their latest reconciliation, asking, “You’re a great man. Does Jane make you greater?” After a long pause, Beard envelops him in a hug.



## REBECCA AND RUPERT

Rupert Mannion (Anthony Head) might be the only completely unsympathetic character in the series, so it’s no surprise that his relationship with ex-wife Rebecca is epically bad. We never actually get to witness it in its full, toxic prime, as they are already divorced when the series starts, but the few times Rupert does swoop in to cause trouble, you can see the trauma in Rebecca’s eyes. The ugliness of their relationship is, in a sense, the starting point of the entire series: It prompts Rebecca to plot revenge by sinking the club, which is why she brings Ted Lasso over from America in the first place. There’s a reason the darts game scene from Season 1 is one of the most popular in the series: Rupert is such a terrible bully that it’s truly satisfying when Ted puts him in his place. ●



# THE UGLY



## RICHMOND'S HOME GROUND

Serious fans of English soccer will recognize that the fictional Nelson Road, home of Ted Lasso's AFC Richmond Greyhounds, is actually Selhurst Park, home of the real-world Premier League club Crystal Palace in South London. "The first burden for anybody who's made a sports movie or TV show is that it's really easy to make one that looks fake," the show's co-creator Bill Lawrence told the *New York Post*. "The football aspects of it needed to look real. We were lucky enough to use real venues."

# WHERE IS TED LASSO FILMED?

The show's producers were adamant that it be shot in the U.K. Here are some of the best-known locations.

By Dimitri Ehrlich



## THE TRAINING GROUND

AFC Richmond's training ground is the home of a real squad: Hayes & Yeading United Football Club. Their home ground, Beaconsfield Road, is conveniently close to West London Studios, where *Ted Lasso's* interior scenes are shot, and Heathrow Airport, to which actors like Jason Sudeikis fly in and out. "We didn't want to do a version where we film it all here in the States and then we go shoot for two weeks in London. I'm not a good enough actor. It's nice to be living the actual experience for me. It allowed us to have a very fun, diverse, pretty much all Brit crew and diverse cast," Sudeikis told the *Express*.



## THE BENCH

The scene where Keeley, Roy and his niece, Phoebe, sit on a bench and drink hot chocolate was shot in the incredibly English-sounding Twickenham Rowing Club on Eel Pie Island. The location is just across from the Barmy Arms Pub, in a charming area of shops and walking paths along the Thames. The actual bench, however, was a prop, added for the show.



## TED'S NEIGHBORHOOD

That unbearably cute street where Ted lives is called Paved Court. His flat is just steps away from The Prince's Head pub (see below), where Ted and Coach Beard often meet up for a beer. One of the shops on Paved Court is even cashing in on the success of the show by selling AFC Richmond gear.



## THE PARK

Richmond Green is the 12-acre park that Ted walks through and where he encounters a girl skillfully dribbling a ball past him. The park is actually owned by King Charles' Crown Estate and leased to the London borough of Richmond Upon Thames. It was the site of jousting tournaments in the Middle Ages and nowadays hosts cricket matches.

## THE PUB

Many episodes feature scenes shot at The Crown & Anchor, a real pub that's actually called The Prince's Head in Richmond, just a six-minute walk from Richmond Station. At 300 years old, it's a timeless place for a pint, and like many English pubs, is entirely family-friendly: It even has baby-changing facilities. Companies including Brit Movie Tours offer walking tours of Richmond, where fans can visit The Crown & Anchor, the site of Roy and Keeley's first date, and take a selfie by Ted's front door (the real door, numbered 11a, is temporarily replaced for filming by one with the number 9½).



# THE MUSIC SETS THE MOOD

From the theme song to the original score to the wide-ranging tune choices, a lot of thought has been put into each selection for *Ted Lasso's* soundtrack.

By Dimitri Ehrlich



"The theme song came together in a 24-hour period," Marcus Mumford (second from left) told *USA Today*.



Left: Music supervisor Tony Von Pervieux pushed for Rebecca to sing "Never Gonna Give You Up." Below: "She's a Rainbow" downloads went up 1,977% after this episode dropped.



**MUSIC CAN MAKE OR BREAK** a TV show. In the case of *Ted Lasso*, the songs that play in the background—thoughtful, surprising, emotional—deserve a starring credit. Starting with the theme song: The anthem that opens every episode of *Ted Lasso* sounds big enough to fill Wembley Stadium, but it began rather humbly, when Jason Sudeikis left Marcus Mumford of the U.K. band Mumford & Sons what the singer described as "the world's longest voice note." Sudeikis had met and become friendly with Mumford when the band played on *Saturday Night Live* in 2012, but Mumford very nearly missed out on the gig, as he told *USA*

*Today*: "[Jason] left me a very long message on my U.S. phone, which I don't keep on when I'm in the U.K. So I actually missed it and it had been in my phone for a couple of months, and he thought I was just ghosting him. So when I finally picked it up, I called him and was like, 'So sorry, man, but I'd love to talk more about your TV show.'" The two did finally connect, and together with composer Tom Howe, Mumford crafted the rousing rocker that begins each episode.

Thanks to its cooler-than-cool music supervision team, the series is almost as thrilling to listen to as to watch, and much of the credit for that goes to *Cougar Town* actress





George Harrison's lyrics warned against corrupting influences in this emotional scene with Jamie and Roy.

(and wife of *Ted Lasso* co-creator Bill Lawrence) Christa Miller. Working with Tony Von Pervieux, she's part of the reason the show has such a driving, authentic soundtrack, including songs by the Sex Pistols, Lizzo and Blur. Miller's proudest placement in the series for far? Australian songwriter RY X's "Only," a gorgeously ethereal acoustic ballad that can be heard over the show's end credits, immediately after we see Ted (Sudeikis) lying on Dr.

Sharon's (Sarah Niles) couch in Season 2, Episode 6, as he finally admits he needs help. "The right placement can really change an artist's life and having a part in that trajectory is thrilling," Miller told *Variety*.

Sometimes the songs add layers of meaning to the action, such as when Roy (Brett Goldstein) hugs Jamie (Phil Dunster) after Jamie's father (Kieran O'Brien) humiliates him, in Season 2, Episode 8, and George Harrison's "Beware of Darkness" plays behind him.

The Rolling Stones' classic psychedelic pop song "She's a Rainbow" is another good example of the way music is thoughtfully woven into the show's narrative, giving the script another layer of meaning. In Season 2, Episode 5, titled "Rainbow," Higgins (Jeremy Swift) tells Rebecca (Hannah Waddingham) that The Stones'

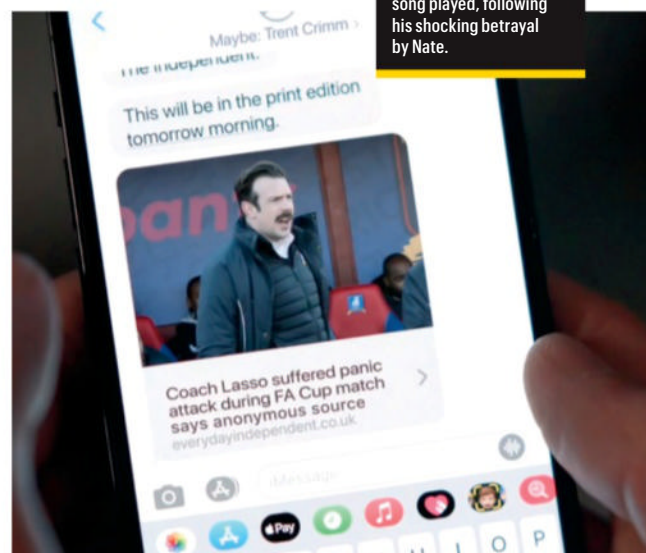
song was playing when he met his wife (Mary Roscoe) and explains how the tune gave him the courage to be himself. Fans will note that in an earlier episode it was also the ringtone Higgins has for his wife.

In some scenes, music is used in ways that seem so highly improbable, it's a wonder anyone would have thought of it or had the courage to suggest it. Case in point: In Season 2, Episode 10, Rebecca leads the entire church in a rousing chorus of the Rick Astley hit "Never Gonna Give You Up" at her father's funeral. And yet the coming-out-of-nowhere Rickroll works.

*Ted Lasso* is a show with many buried chestnuts that connect the script and the music in subtle ways. One example, Ted uses the phrase "karma police" in passing in the Season 2 premiere, and then 11 episodes later, the Radiohead song is played after Ted is betrayed by Nate (Nick Mohammed) in the penultimate episode of the season.

It's this kind of attention that keeps viewers watching—and listening—so intently. ●

"The karma police are making good on showing what I get when I mess with them," Ted said several episodes before the Radiohead song played, following his shocking betrayal by Nate.



CHRISTA MILLER

**"Jason has an incredible knowledge of music in terms of different bands, and he knows what he wants."**

Composer Tom Howe to *Elements of Madness*

# SITTING

The fashion and beauty on the show are about more than just making the characters look good. *By Erin Crabtree*

# PRETTY



While Rebecca struggles with her self-confidence, her wardrobe is powerful with bold colors and structured pieces.

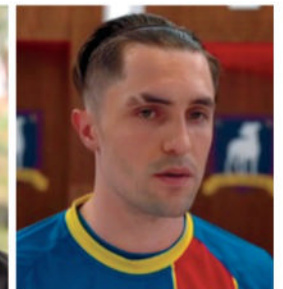
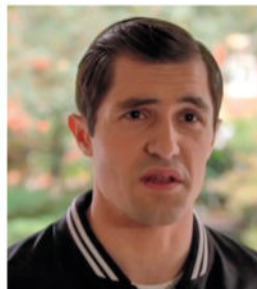


**EVERY ELEMENT OF THE** production of *Ted Lasso* is approached with as much heartfelt consideration as the show exudes in its storylines. The cast's wardrobe and hair and makeup are no exception.

Costume designer Jacky Levy revealed that each character's look begins with co-creator Jason Sudeikis' input. "I always like to check in because sometimes he'll say, 'Oh, I'll

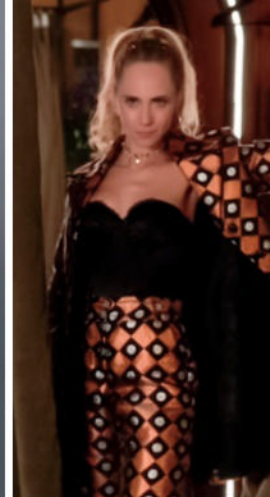
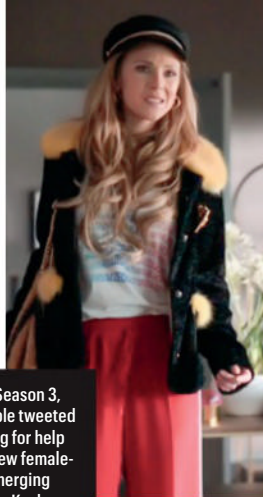
just leave it to you,' and then sometimes he'll say very specific things of how he sees that character," she told Subjectify Media in 2022. The characters' closets often echo their individual personalities—Roy Kent's (Brett Goldstein) all-black ensembles, for one, show the juxtaposition of his carefree attitude toward fashion and his desire to be perceived as a tough guy—and are influenced

Roy opts for black and "dark heather charcoal," while Jamie's changing hairstyles (right) include a Beckham-style headband.





Ahead of Season 3, Juno Temple tweeted fans asking for help “finding new female-owned, emerging brands” for Keeley.



by the actors’ opinions on what their alter egos would wear.

Hair and makeup designer Nicky Austin incorporates Easter eggs for fans, telling Subjectify Media in 2022 that there is “usually thought and meaning” in the beauty decisions of the characters. For instance, Keeley Jones’ (Juno Temple) “RKJ” hairpin in Season 2 was a nod to her and boyfriend Roy’s initials, which Austin included as a show of support from Keeley to Roy during the rocky period following his retirement. Similarly, every time Jamie Tartt (Phil Dunster) “goes through an emotional struggle,” Austin reflects the changes via his hair.

Levy and Austin have taken inspiration from celebrities while fine-tuning the looks on the show. Keeley’s hair and makeup bear similarities to mid-aughts WAGS (footballer wives and girlfriends) such as Victoria

Beckham and also incorporate Temple’s own love of a clip-on ponytail. Meanwhile, football vice-chair Karren Brady was a muse for Rebecca Welton’s (Hannah Waddingham) attire, which shifted from professional to slightly sexier as she veered from all business to embracing her new single life.

“Hannah’s spoken openly about how much she cares about Rebecca as a character and as a symbol to other women and middle-aged women,” Austin told *Us Weekly*. “Juno as well. It’s so important to her that we put a lot into the look. A lot of it isn’t really her. And it’s really important to her that young girls know that. That she wears her extensions, she wears false lashes, that she has false nails, that she doesn’t wake up in the morning looking like Keeley Jones. That’s really important to her.”

**“[Keeley’s] clothes have become a little bit more sophisticated—not in a sensible way.”**

*Costume designer Jacky Levy to Vanity Fair*

When it comes to Rebecca’s body-hugging fashion, Levy admits that she takes in the outfits to fit Waddingham’s small waist and sometimes makes skirts specifically for her. Temple has worn some of her own jewelry and clothing on the show and said in a 2021 interview that she’d like to take home “a good amount” of Keeley’s “fashion fabulous” wardrobe.

As for the players on the AFC Richmond team, Austin takes special measures to ensure their on-field looks are realistic, explaining, “We always sweat them and shine them and mess their hair up a little bit.” ●

## Going Gray

**Nate’s gone to the dark side; his hair’s done the opposite.**

Nathan Shelley has undergone one of the most shocking transformations on *Ted Lasso*. Hair and makeup designer Nicky Austin credited Jason Sudeikis with the idea to age Nate’s hair as the stress of his darkness weighed on him. Austin made the character look younger in Season 1 by dyeing his hair black

to remove the natural flecks of gray in Nick Mohammed’s locks. Then, in Season 2, she dyed it again and slowly painted the gray back in. “In the end, he is obviously very white, but it was just a gradual process we did over the course of filming, every two episodes a bit more,” she told Subjectify Media in 2022.



Nick Mohammed revealed on Twitter that at the end of Season 2, he wore a gray wig.



We're commemorating the coach's best zingers and the hidden gems that only true *Ted Lasso* aficionados will catch. And we aren't the only ones who love the show—it has plenty of celebrity devotees, too!

# FOR THE SUP



The Richmond pub featured on the show is capitalizing on its connection by displaying cool *Ted Lasso* memorabilia.

# DERBYFANS

# A-LISTER ATTENTION

Celebrities are just as obsessed with *Ted Lasso* as we are. *By Erin Crabtree*



## ROB McELHENNEY AND RYAN REYNOLDS

After Leslie Higgins pondered in an episode of *Ted Lasso* whether the actors bought Wrexham AFC as a “joke,” Reynolds (right) and McElhenney (left) demanded in a 2021 letter that the show send them “2 LARGE boxes of Ted Lasso’s biscuits” to avoid legal action, and Ted happily complied.



## DREW BARRYMORE

The actress freaked out when she discovered that she was name-dropped in Ted’s Season 2 speech about “rom-communism.” Barrymore posted an Instagram video of her reaction as she screamed, “I’m in *Ted Lasso*! Oh, my God!... Optimism wins!”



## DIANE SAWYER

Ted confessed during a Season 2 episode that he would be interested in going on a date with the journalist if she asked him out, after which she tweeted, “Dear @TedLasso—I’m in. Your move.”



## MALALA YOUSAFZAI

The activist thanked the cast—whom she asked to share stories of individuals who inspired them for her newsletter in 2021—for “making us laugh, cry and, hopefully, treat each other well and believe in ourselves.”



## RICK ASTLEY

The “massive fan” of *Ted Lasso* became emotional after the show used his hit “Never Gonna Give You Up” in a Season 2 episode. “Thank you very much for including that song in your beautiful show, and I’m blown away,” he said in a Twitter video. Hannah Waddingham, who sang the song on the show, replied, “DM’d you. Not going to embarrassingly fangirl in public!!”



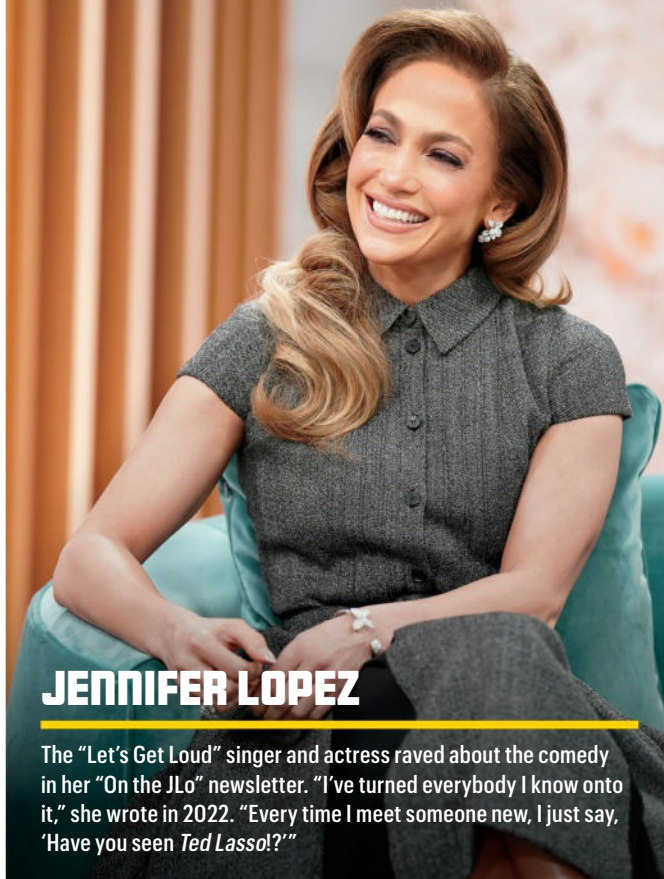
## REBA McENTIRE

The country singer got a kick out of hearing Roy Kent mention her name at a will-call window in Season 2. She tweeted a pic of herself as “Red Lasso,” and wrote, “I believe you’re holding a ticket for...” Brett Goldstein apologized via Twitter, writing, “Sorry Reba, I think I took your ticket.” The show’s official account then wrote, “Buy me a dancin’ dress and call me Fancy! You’re welcome at the Dog Track anytime, Reba. We’ll leave your tickets under ‘Roy Kent.’”



## BRENÉ BROWN

The author pretended to keep her cool when she was name-dropped in Season 2. “I really don’t understand why y’all think I would be so excited about the *Ted Lasso* shoutout,” she quipped in a Twitter video while wearing full AFC Richmond gear.



## JENNIFER LOPEZ

The “Let’s Get Loud” singer and actress raved about the comedy in her “On the JLo” newsletter. “I’ve turned everybody I know onto it,” she wrote in 2022. “Every time I meet someone new, I just say, ‘Have you seen *Ted Lasso*!’”



## LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

Ted and Coach Beard showed their love for *Hamilton* in Season 2 by subtly riffing on the musical’s song “Right Hand Man.” Miranda appreciated the joke, quoting Dani Rojas in his Twitter response: “Football is LIIIIIIIIIFE.”

## DOLLY PARTON

The show’s official Twitter account revealed in 2021 that Ted Lasso often asks himself “What would Dolly Parton do?” when it comes to small talk. The country icon replied, “You’re too sweet, @TedLasso! I heard you left some @AFCRichmond tickets at will call under my name?”



# THE 10 BIGGEST EASTER EGGS

These subtle references are just one reason why each episode requires repeat viewing. *By Erin Crabtree*

THE ORIGINAL  
SAM & REBECCA



## CHEERS TO YOU

*Ted Lasso* makes frequent allusions to another iconic sitcom: *Cheers*. Sam Obisanya (Toheeb Jimoh) and Rebecca Welton (Hannah Waddingham) share first names with will-they-or-won't-they *Cheers* pair Sam Malone (Ted Danson) and Rebecca Howe (Kirstie Alley). Jason Sudeikis' uncle is George Wendt, who starred on the NBC comedy as Norm Peterson, and in Season 2 of *Ted Lasso*, fans spotted a signed photo of Wendt (above) in a kebab shop. Plus, when Rebecca and company yelled "Ted!" as the coach entered her office, that was a nod to the *Cheers* staff shouting "Norm!" every time Wendt's character arrived at the bar.

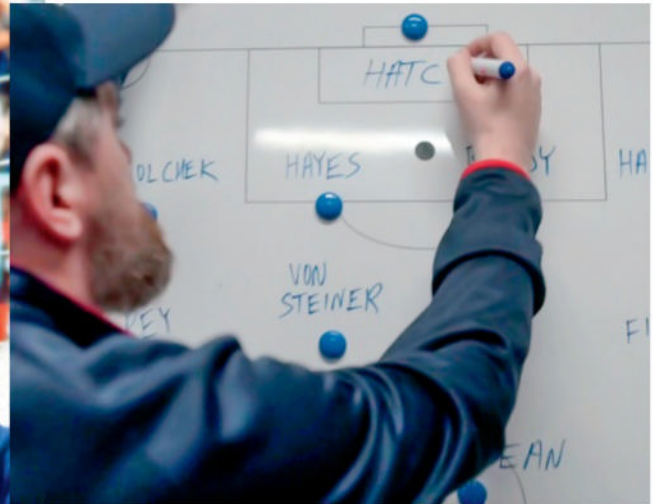


## MUM'S THE WORD

Marcus Mumford's autographed photo also appeared in the kebab shop in Season 2. The Mumford & Sons frontman is a longtime friend of Sudeikis, whom he met when his band guested on *Saturday Night Live* in 2012. The comedian later starred in Mumford & Sons' 2013 music video for "Hopeless Wanderer." As for Mumford's connection to *Ted Lasso*, Sudeikis turned to the musician to write the show's theme song and score the series.







## VICTORY IS THEIRS

Sports movie fans got a treat in Season 1 when Beard wrote names on a whiteboard while strategizing against an opposing team. The monikers referred to characters from the 1981 film *Victory*, in which Allied prisoners of war played a soccer match against a German team. Beard notably wrote "Hatch" on the board, referring to Sylvester Stallone's character, Capt. Robert Hatch, in the film (left). The rest of the names belonged to other members of the Allied and German teams.



## PUT 'ER THERE

Season 2 introduced Edwin Akufo (Sam Richardson), a billionaire from Africa who tried to recruit Sam for his soccer team. Edwin refused to shake hands with the AFC Richmond crew, instead informing them that he had someone who did that for him—a staff member named Francis (Edwin De La Renta). Since *Ted Lasso* is known for its impeccable attention to detail, Francis was at one point hilariously seen practicing his handshake on a skeleton in the background of a scene with Edwin and Sam.

## NAME-CHECKS

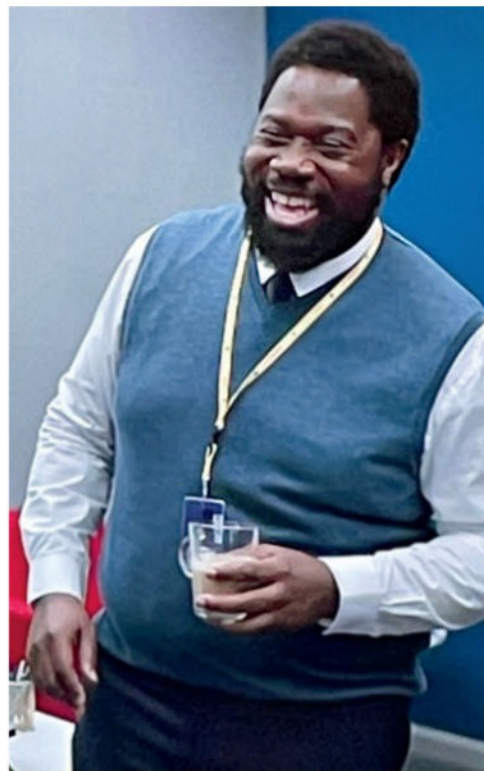
Sudeikis named many of the characters on *Ted Lasso* after important people in his life. The actor has given shout-outs to his childhood art teacher Ms. Scanlon, who is Ted's former art teacher, and his high school forensics coach Ms. Shipley, who is Ted's upstairs neighbor whom he talks to through the ceiling of his flat. In Season 2, Roy Kent blamed his use of paper plane tickets on his "old school" travel agent, Kathy, which was a nod to Sudeikis' travel-agent mother, Kathy Sudeikis (below).





## A BURNING MAN

For Brendan Hunt, art imitated life in Season 2 as his character, Coach Beard, was revealed to be a Burner. Beard had a large print from Burning Man hanging in his flat, and the “Beard After Hours” episode (see page 62) seemingly paid homage to the festival when the coach attended a rave and wore glittery printed pants. Hunt is also a Burner, and in 2014, he wrote a one-man play titled *Absolutely Filthy*, which was based on his experience “dancing alone at Burning Man” during a dust storm.



## LOL

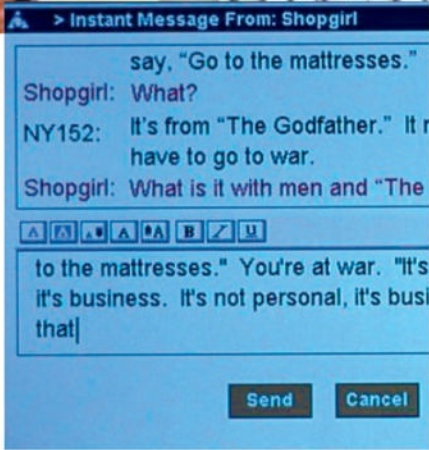
In Season 2, Leslie Higgins (Jeremy Swift) and Rebecca mentioned a co-worker nicknamed Laughing Liam for his obnoxious cackle, which they imitated while explaining why Higgins could not move his office near Liam’s. Later in the season, Ted greeted his colleagues and joked with Liam that he should tell his mother “happy birthday” and inform her that whatever gift he ends up getting for her is from both him and Ted. Liam (Obi Opara) responded with the same over-the-top laugh that Higgins and Rebecca previously mimicked.



## A VERY WINGS CHRISTMAS

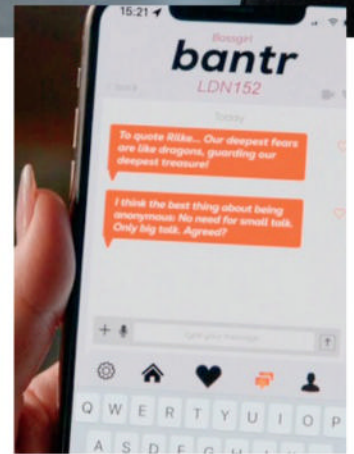
The Season 2 Christmas episode featured a beautiful tracking shot of Higgins, his family and members of the AFC Richmond team sitting down at a long table for dinner. Sudeikis made that stylistic choice, and was inspired by a similar scene in the 1927 silent film *Wings* (left). “It was only difficult to get because the team loves being together, so when you put them all around the table for a scene, it’s hard to get them to pay attention,” the episode’s director, Declan Lowney, told the *Los Angeles Times*.





## YOU'VE GOT BANTR

Ted is not the only rom-communist in the AFC Richmond universe. In Season 2, Rebecca and Sam showed their love for Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan's 1998 romantic comedy *You've Got Mail* with their usernames on the dating app Bantr, on which they anonymously flirted before realizing they were talking to each other. Rebecca tweaked Ryan's character Kathleen Kelly's screen name "Shopgirl" to "Bossgirl," while Sam modified Hanks' character Joe Fox's username "NY152" to "LDN152," swapping out Joe's hometown of New York City for Sam's location in London.



## AN INSPIRATIONAL TIRADE

While Ted always seems to know just the right thing to say, sometimes he steals his wisdom. In Season 1, he borrowed former Philadelphia 76ers player Allen Iverson's 2002 rant about "practice" to make a point to Jamie Tartt (Phil Dunster) about the importance of supporting his teammates. The moment was a rare display of emotion and anger for Ted, and Sudeikis chose to include the nod to Iverson (below right) because the basketball star was similarly affected during his speech, having recently lost his best friend. "The reference by no means ever played to me as funny," Sudeikis told IndieWire. "Maybe somebody would say the moment is clever, but it was repurposing what I feel was a protest song by Allen Iverson in that moment and turning it into an opera, charged with more emotion." •



# STELLAR SUBSTITUTIONS

Already binged *Ted Lasso*? Try these titles. *By Matt Sullivan*

## SAVE OUR SQUAD WITH DAVID BECKHAM (Disney+)

Mend it like Beckham! Soccer superstar David Beckham (right) goes back to his working-class roots to help the Westward Boys, a struggling youth squad in the Echo Premier League, where he got his start. This family-friendly docuseries is intense and inspiring. Beckham is charming, but the kids steal the show. The most *Ted Lasso*-esque line goes to defender Gio, who notes that the word “impossible” includes the words, “I’m possible.”



## WELCOME TO WREXHAM (Hulu)

This fish-out-of-water docuseries features Hollywood hotshots Ryan Reynolds (far left) and Rob McElhenney (left) buying the Wrexham Dragons in hopes of turning the lower-tier Welsh soccer club's fortunes around—while simultaneously making a wildly entertaining show about the process. There was even a real-life *Ted Lasso* crossover with the show when Higgins (Jeremy Swift) called the pair's intentions into question on a Season 2 episode. Turn to page 86 to find out what happened next.



## SCHITT'S CREEK (Hulu)

A once-wealthy family—video store mogul Johnny Rose (Eugene Levy), his soap opera actress wife, Moira (Catherine O'Hara), and their spoiled children, David (Dan Levy) and Alexis (Annie Murphy)—must downsize their lives by starting over in the small town of Schitt's Creek. Like *Ted Lasso*, the series combined themes of relocation and reinvention with quirky characters, sharp punch lines and sweet moments that made it an ideal comfort show during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.



## SUNDERLAND 'TIL I DIE (Netflix)

This devoted docuseries focuses on the faithful fans of English football club Sunderland, who remain hopeful about the squad after a disappointing relegation to a lower-tier league. Like *Ted Lasso*, it's both devastating and delightful as it explores the joys and frustrations of football fandom.



## BULL DURHAM (Prime Video)

*Ted Lasso's* love triangle between Roy (Brett Goldstein), Jamie (Phil Dunster) and Keeley (Juno Temple) was obviously informed by the 1988 minor league baseball rom-com, in which veteran catcher Lawrence "Crash" Davis (Kevin Costner) finds himself falling for groupie Annie Savoy (Susan Sarandon) who's already involved with a young, talented but hotheaded pitcher named Ebbv Calvin "Nuke" LaLoosh (Tim Robbins). Spoiler alert: The old guy gets the girl here, too!



## MAJOR LEAGUE (Paramount+)

Talk about a double play: The classic 1989 baseball comedy is an undeniable influence on *Ted Lasso*. Both feature wealthy female owners hiring an underqualified (and mustachioed) manager in an attempt to sabotage an already-struggling sports team for their own personal reasons. The end of Season 1 even found Ted echoing *Major League's* Jake Taylor (Tom Berenger, above right)—and cursing!—by saying the way for the team to prove themselves was to “win the whole f--king thing.” ●

# THE ULTIMATE TED LASSO

# QUIZ

How well do you know the show and its characters?

**1 What country is Dani from?**

- a Spain
- b Argentina
- c Brazil
- d Mexico

**2 What song does Rebecca sing at karaoke?**

- a "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?"
- b "I Will Survive"
- c "Let It Go"
- d "You've Got a Friend in Me"

**3 How many sons does Higgins have?**

- a 5
- b 4
- c 6
- d 11

**4 What's on the sign that Ted tapes up in the locker room?**

- a Winners Are Grinners
- b Believe
- c No Hot Brown Water
- d Be Curious, Not Judgmental

**5 What childhood nickname did Sassy give Rebecca?**

- a Smelly
- b Stringbean
- c Stinky
- d Pinky

**6 What is Isaac's favorite candy to eat?**

- a Sour Patch Kids
- b Twizzlers
- c Snickers
- d Rolos

**7 What did Roy's grandfather give him the last time he saw him?**

- a Football boots
- b Money
- c A blanket
- d A puppy



**8 Who is Higgins named after?**

- a His mom
- b His dad
- c Queen Elizabeth
- d David Bowie

**9 What type of car does Colin drive (badly)?**

- a Porsche
- b Lamborghini
- c Mini Cooper
- d Aston Martin

**10 What U.S. state is Ted (and Jason Sudeikis) from?**

- a Oklahoma
- b Missouri
- c Nebraska
- d Kansas

**11 What breed of dog is the AFC Richmond mascot?**

- a Bulldog
- b Greyhound
- c Shih Tzu
- d Great Dane

**12 Which real-life football legend inspired the character of Roy?**

- a David Beckham
- b Pelé
- c Roy Keane
- d Diego Maradona

**13 What is the name of Ted's alter ego?**

- a Led Tasso
- b Fred Lasso
- c Ted Losso
- d Muriel

**14 Which player did Rebecca's goddaughter, Nora, have a crush on?**

- a Jamie Tartt
- b Richard Montlaur
- c Thierry Zoreaux
- d Sam Obisanya

**15 Which dating app did Sam and Rebecca meet on?**

- a eHarmony
- b Bumble
- c Bantr
- d Tinder

**16 What is the name of the pub that Ted often goes to?**

- a The Cat & Fiddle
- b The Crown & Anchor
- c The Rose & Crown
- d The Fox & Hounds

**17 Which character says, "It's the hope that kills you?"**

- a Mae
- b Keeley
- c Rebecca
- d Nate

**18 What song is Sam Obisanya's crowd chant based on?**

- a "Baby Shark" by Pinkfong
- b "She's a Rainbow" by The Rolling Stones
- c "Give It Up" by KC and the Sunshine Band
- d "Seven Nation Army" by The White Stripes

**19 Who does Coach Beard introduce himself as in "Beard After Hours"?**

- a Daniel Day Lewis
- b Doctor Strange
- c Professor Declan Patrick Aloysius MacManus
- d Lord Farquaad

**20 What movie is Roy's line "You had me at coach" inspired by?**

- a Jerry Maguire
- b Love Actually
- c When Harry Met Sally...
- d We're the Millers

**"Our goal is to go out like Willie Nelson—on a high!"**

*Ted Lasso*

Here are some more words to live by from Ted: "As the man says, you gotta follow your bliss, right?"

ANSWERS 1. D; 2. C; 3. A; 4. B; 5. C; 6. D; 7. C; 8. A; 9. B; 10. D; 11. B; 12. C; 13. A; 14. D; 15. C; 16. B; 17. A; 18. D; 19. C; 20. A

# QUOTABLE QUOTES

*Ted Lasso* has lines that will give you all the feels, from laughter to tears—and most of the classics come from the coach himself.

**“Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse, isn’t it? If you’re comfortable while you’re doing it, you’re probably doing it wrong.”** —*Ted Lasso*

“There’s two buttons I never like to hit: that’s panic and snooze.”

—*Ted Lasso*

**“Be a goldfish.”**

—*Ted Lasso*

**“You beating yourself up is like Woody Allen playing the clarinet. I don’t want to hear it.”** —*Ted Lasso*

**“I always thought tea was going to taste like hot brown water. And do you know what? I was right.”** —*Ted Lasso*

“If the internet has taught us anything, it’s that sometimes it’s easier to speak our minds anonymously.”

—*Ted Lasso*

**“I think that you might be so sure that you’re one in a million, that sometimes you forget that out there you’re just one in 11.”**

—*Ted Lasso to Jamie Tartt*

**“Football is life!”**

—*Dani Rojas*



**“I promise you there is something worse out there than being sad, and that’s being alone and sad. Ain’t no one in this room alone.”** —*Ted Lasso*

**“It’s just a group of people who care, Roy. Not unlike folks at a hip-hop concert whose hands are not in the air.”**

—*Ted Lasso to Roy Kent*

**“If the Lasso way is wrong, it’s hard to imagine being right.”** —*Trent Crimm*

**“Every disadvantage has its advantage.”**

—*Rebecca Welton*

**“I don’t drink coffee. My mother always says I was born caffeinated.”**

—*Dani Rojas*

**“I never know how to react when a grown man beatboxes in front of me.”** —*Keeley Jones*

**“I do love a locker room. It smells like potential.”**

—*Ted Lasso*



HOLLYWOOD SPOTLIGHT  
**THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO  
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"Sports are great metaphors for family...for parenting, and mentoring, and fathers and sons, and all that fun stuff that we all deal with," Jason Sudeikis told *Men's Health* of the show's wide-ranging themes.

While they may not have had faith in their American coach in the beginning, the AFC Richmond team ultimately came to truly "Believe" in him.



BELIEVE

**"The success of *Ted Lasso* speaks to how starved we are to see people look out for each other. The show tapped into this need for decency."**

*Brett Goldstein, who plays Roy Kent*