



a family affair



seven years after **the osbournes**
reinvented reality television,
they are trying their hand at a variety
show. yes, really. by dan crane.
photographed by sasha eisenman

stylists: lauren kolodny and nina lenders for artmix beauty. hair: selissa gonzalez. makeup: john...
atkinson using m.a.c cosmetics. on kelly: blazer and scarf by hanki y. top by shapewear. skirt by
urban outfitters. stylist's own hat. necklace by marc by marc jacobs. her own ring. on jack: jacket
and t-shirt by urban outfitters. jeans by earnest.com, his own necklace and belt.



For those with childhood memories of hours spent lying on shag carpets,

eyes glazed, watching iconic '70s duos Donny and Marie or Sonny and Cher belting out saccharine duets and making tragic stabs at comedy, the news that the Osbournes are helping to revive the variety genre may awaken cozy feelings of nostalgia. Alternately, bearing in mind that perhaps no family in recent memory better defines dysfunction, it may instead portend the ultimate demise of American culture.

Fortunately, siblings Jack and Kelly promise that their family's new vehicle, *The Osbournes: Loud and Dangerous*, set to be released in January on Fox, will be nothing like the gauzy-lensed variety shows of days gone by. Produced by Freemantle Media—the evil geniuses behind *American Idol* and *America's Got Talent*—*Loud and Dangerous* will be a semi-scripted potpourri of pre-taped hidden camera sketches, live audience participation challenges, performances, and guest appearances.

Though they've already shot a fair number of bits, it's not entirely clear to Jack and Kelly what the show will be, exactly. "Things change daily," says Jack, 23, sitting at a picnic table outside the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, sporting a pair of black Wayfarers. "One minute we're doing this, one minute we're doing that. We're still trying to find the show, what it is. It's not like anything like this has ever been done."

Mom (Sharon) first came up with the idea and then Freemantle offered it up to each of the networks, which, according to Kelly, all wanted it. Once they made the decision to go with Fox, Kelly started to wonder what she was getting herself into. "I am scared about it," says the all-black-clad 24 year old, repeatedly sweeping a shock of ebony-dyed hair from her right eye. "Because it's either something that's

going to be absolutely fantastic and groundbreaking like *The Osbournes* was—or shit."

Speaking of "shit"—as anyone who watched the Osbourne's reality show (which ran from 2002–05 on MTV) recalls—the family's relentless cursing, and subsequent bleeping, nearly became a character unto itself. Both Jack and Kelly still regularly punctuate sentences with the F word, so how is this going to go over on network television?

Thus far, Kelly says she's "absolutely shocked" that they've been allowed to speak, shall we say, freely. "I think the only things we can't say are 'motherfucker' and 'cunt,' but I wouldn't say either of those, anyway."

"Motherfucker is a no bueno," concurs Jack.

As far as bleeping goes, there are a few other rules as well: "You can't use two words together," explains Kelly. "If you said *tit-fuck*, you can't use that together. But you can say *tit*, and *fuck*, separately. It's really strange."

These are important details to consider when one is targeting an all-ages audience.

Kelly: "It is going to be a family show, but it's going to be one of those things..."

Jack: "Edgier."

Kelly: "Where they're like, 'Ack. I can't believe they actually have that on TV!'"

Jack: "It's going to piss some people off."

Picture, for example, Ozzy Osbourne operating a ventriloquist's doll fashioned in his own likeness, acting out a perverted, obscenity-laced version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears (or "Fucking Goldilocks the Whore" as Kelly describes it) to young schoolchildren. One imagines such a thing may well indeed generate a lot of viewer ire, or at the very least, confound diehard Ozzy fans. "You'd never think in a million years that my dad would be doing the ventriloquist thing," she says, adding, "I think Slash might be doing one with him as well."

The show (which, at press time is involved in a labor dispute with the WGA over writer contracts) hasn't been the easiest format for the family to master—its recovering acid-, cocaine-, pill-, and alcohol-enthusiast patriarch in particular. "He's never been, in a sense, scripted," says Kelly of Ozzy. "So it's taking him a little more getting used to than Jack or I."





Other comedic bits in the works include: "Osbourne's meet the Osbourne's," where the rock 'n' roll clan roams the country bonding with families with whom they share a surname; live televised weddings; and Kelly and Ozzy in disguise working at a grocery store—which apparently didn't go very well. "He [Ozzy] was the guy who bagged the groceries and I had to do the till," says Kelly. "And then he left. He said, 'I can't be fuckin' doin' this,' and just walked out."

"It's not all smooth," quips Jack.

While Dad may still mumble unintelligibly, at least he's sober now, as is Jack. And Kelly? "I would by no means say that I'm in a program. I still drink. Jack is very much into his program, AA, so is my father.... But I'd never say never because the next thing you'll cut to three days later and see me absolutely shit-faced walking out of a pub."

Though it's been nearly three years since the family has worked together on television, things may be a little easier now that the kids, who had their awkward teenage years exposed to millions of people around the world, have grown up a bit.

"There's less teen angst. Way less," says Jack.

"There's less drama," Kelly agrees. "We're adults now and we do our own thing."

Less drama, maybe, but just as much inter-sibling humor, which producers say may become an element of the show.

"You know what Jack got me for my birthday this year?" asks Kelly. "Twenty-four dollars, a condom that said JAM OUT WITH YOUR CLAM OUT, and a fucking Hannah Montana card!"

"It was \$23 and four quarters," Jack clarifies. "You know, just in case you needed change for parking."

Moments later, as they're wrapping up to leave, Jack realizes that he doesn't actually have any money to retrieve his \$270,000 Aston Martin DBS from the parking lot.

"Hey, can I have some money for parking?" Jack laughs.

"No problem," chirps Kelly, whipping \$20 out of her bag.

"Thanks mom..." he replies in a mock sheepish voice.

It's nearly reminiscent of a comedy routine one might have once seen on...*Donny & Marie*.