

Rhythm & Glue

Premise:

Life is full of conundrums. The biggest one facing our world, and affecting every human on the planet, is climate change. It's the time and place to collaborate to efficiently solve these challenges together. But, it's not always easy or clear to know how to do that. Depending on where you live, the actual adaptation methods vary, so the most important thing we can do is to set some common goals and share teamwork strategies for how to achieve them. With the global transition to urbanization, it is projected that by 2050 over six billion people will be living in cities. Rhythm and Glue demonstrates a fictional transition to sustainable living in a big city, modeling community building, public health, civic engagement and to provide a hilarious example of what a resilient urban culture can be.

Rhythm and Glue is engaging because it's funny, relatable and interactive with its audience. Through transmedia elements, viewers share their stories about show topics, such as transportation, what works for or frustrates them. Some of these stories will be thoughtfully incorporated into the show creating a real national dialog about sustainability. The highly successful Sabido methodology to pro-social drama is applied to this project. Hit shows have been produced using this technique for thirty years. This established sociological protocol reliably produces audience engagement creating an enthusiastic and active audience.

Breakdowns for the primary characters



Sarah and Jessica exploring Los Angeles together on bicycles.

Sarah (mid 20's) is a computer programmer who feels all of her emotions through music. Even typing her fingers on her keyboard and the wheels clicking around on her bicycle provide a soothing rhythm to her. Sarah is quiet and reluctant to change, she wants consistency. In subsequent seasons, through professional development she develops a specialty in computer automation, conflict resolution training

initiated by her conflict with Jose helps her develop stronger interpersonal skills, both skills combined help her grow into a good manager despite her ambivalence to becoming one.

Jessica (mid 20's) loves to fix things. She does medical work to fix people and in her spare time she's perpetually taking old scraps and making new, beautiful things out of them. She is particularly good at loudly expressing frustration with something but then laughs her way through solving it. When she looks back at situations that she thought were problems, she only mentions the good things that she learned from the experience. She's sunny even when things don't work. After becoming increasingly concerned about public health through her experiences with Sarah's asthma and various patients at her medical practice in later seasons she earns a Masters in Public Health and begins working at the State Health Department.



Jose and Daniel join Sarah and Jessica at their apartment to drink and play music in the evenings. Music Party Scene in Ep.9

Jose (mid 20's) Graduate Student. He has an infectious sense of humor and loves to cooking and growing food. Having grown-up on his parents almond farm, he studied economics as an undergrad to try to find a practical skill. He is now doing his Masters degree at UCLA in the Sustainability program, trying to figure out how to combine some sort of practical economics with his love of food and being outdoors. In season one, he's so overwhelmed by his school and work responsibilities that he deflects his remaining energy into video games, tanking his relationship with Sarah. In Season Three, as an apology to Sarah he builds her a community garden, so she can spend more time outside while she's home. It works and they move on to organize a CSA delivery program in their neighborhood.

Daniel (mid 20's) Electrician and physical laborer. Energetic, he likes to tinker and build machines and is skilled at modifying electrical and mechanical things. He's perpetually moving, and good at getting the things around him moving too. His electrical work and building skills leads to tinkering with renewable energy in their homes in Season Two: Energy, which later leads him to start a company installing solar panels.



Andy, Josh and Matt playing beer pong in their apartment courtyard.
Roger scolds them for the noise and cutter.

Andy, Josh and Matt are casual friends living in another apartment in Sarah and Jessica's complex. They are a little like the coffee-drinking/break-room aliens from *Men in Black*, only they drink beer, not coffee. They are frequently playing drinking or other games (beer-pong, croquet, barbecuing competitions, etc.) in the courtyard of the apartment complex.

Roger (67) Retired. The grumpy, misanthropic neighbor in the apartment complex, he provides both conflict and comic relief. He finds disappointment in what everyone else is doing. Roger belongs to the 1950's American dream. He followed the rules he was taught to succeed but the world changed and he's trapped between an ideal that no longer exists and a reality that he doesn't know how to be a part of. Roger likes old cars, sports, and listening to the radio. Conflict arises between him and many of the neighbors. As a caricature of the climate-denier position, he's very loud with his opinions, frequently spouting inaccurate information that is sometimes believed by Josh or Matt.

Elizabeth '**Liz**' (mid 20's) Medical assistant. A work friend of Jessica's. She's slight, untidy and disorganized. She wears thick dark-rimmed glasses (that are cute) and old comfortable sneakers. She's the kind of petite where it doesn't matter how sloppy she looks, somehow it's still cute. She's very empathetic to her patients, but maybe not so patient with Stephanie. Her initially antagonistic stance towards promoting social activism eventually proves a useful resource to Jessica. As a reservoir of information., she helps Jessica navigate the hurdles to participation in sustainability topics.

Stephanie (30) Medical Assistant. Another work friend of Jessica's, she is the counterpoint to Liz. She's kind, happy, and overtly materialistic. Tall and a little pudgy, she overcompensates for being self-conscious about her weight by dressing up too much. She likes dancing, drinking, and shoes more than the planet. Conflicts arise between Stephanie and Liz about values disagreements about consumerism and social activism.

First Season Arc

A Story: Jessica Transportation-Biking/Daniel

Jessica wants to add a new electronic dimension to her artwork by learning how to solder. When she misses an opportunity to learn to solder, through an art museum workshop, as a result of city traffic, she gets really frustrated. Sarah, already an avid bicyclist, helps her figure out the nuances of biking in a big city. Jessica sees the warmth that Sarah and Jose have together, and is appalled by her apparent dating options. She pines for the kind of relationship that Sarah and Jose share, full of shared interests. Roger, their misanthropic neighbor, is jealous of his cat Mini's affection for Jessica and Sarah. Roger perpetually heckles boisterous Andy, Matt and Josh as they play in the quad. Bicycling leads to Jessica to romance with Daniel. She is pleasantly surprised to find Daniel as a collaborator with a complementary skill set. They both like making things with their hands, and Daniel is able to add the electricity to her art that she was hoping to learn, while she adds purpose and color to his tinkering. Roger gets annoyed by the accumulating bicycles parked in shared areas as he repeatedly trips over them. When biking Jessica gets hit by a car, she's afraid to get back onto a bicycle. Jessica spends so much time stuck in traffic that she's practically living in her car. A comedic navigation error with a GPS leads her back to a bike path that she has fond memories of with Daniel. She hesitantly regains her confidence biking, ultimately becoming an advocate for improved bicycle parking in her community by asking for more bike parking at their apartment complex.

B Story: Sarah's work stress/Asthma/Jose

Sarah and Jose share a love of cooking and music. Jose cooks for Sarah, who in turn helps him prepare for the catering that supplements his student income. Sarah's rosy relationship with Jose deteriorates as her stress increases due to work and asthma. Her boss makes a series of ill-conceived choices; selling vaporware, switching databases, hiring a Chief Security Officer who comically locks down everything in the office. Sarah's chronic asthma is exacerbated by Roger's cigarette smoke blowing into her bedroom window. The coffee machine at Sarah's office breaks repeatedly, and she just can't seem to get a break or even for a cup of coffee. Jose himself is overwhelmed by his work driving for Uber, catering and school assignments. Jose, seeking relaxation from his many commitments, gets pulled into the video games that Josh, Andy and Matt are playing downstairs. The video games divert his attention away from Sarah and their relationship suffers. Andy provides empathy and a restful space for Sarah when she's stressed. The finale is a Naked New Years party full of wild party games and tons of alcohol. At the party, Sarah and Jessica leave drunk to go running and Sarah has a major asthma attack, but her inhaler is lost. Jessica helps her home narrowly saving her life by sharing her inhaler with her friend. Jose is yet again distracted by video games and not there for Sarah when she needs him, they break-up. Jessica consoles Sarah. Season One ends with a circuit overload at the New Years party causing a power outage. Jessica and Daniel comically open up the wall together to repair the damage, leading us into the Season Two topic: Energy.

Arc of the Series

Season One: Transportation

Jessica learns bike in a city. Sarah, already an avid bicyclists, teaches her all of the skills that she needs through the transition. Sarah and Jose begin the story dating but conflicts arise between them . Jessica starts the season single, meets Daniel when he stops to help her with her bicycle and they begin casually dating. Jose is in school studying agriculture, and goofing off a lot on the side. At a New Years party Sarah and Jessica go for a run and Sarah has a scary asthma attack. Jessica saves her life by sharing her inhaler.

Season Two: Energy

Sarah and Jose break-up. Sarah pours herself into her work and learns machine automation. Daniel tries to impress Jessica. Daniel and Jessica construct electric artwork together which leads them to tinkering with renewable energy in their homes. A comedy of errors ensues, such as problems with costs, permitting etc. There are many group discussions about appliance energy efficiency, engineering and efficient power generation. Jessica fails at biking to work and relapses to using her car, later overcoming it becoming an advocate for urban biking. While in school Jose learns about climate change affecting food supply and moves from *Concerned* to *Alarmed*, *he finally takes school seriously*. Daniel starts off *Disengaged* with renewable energy but thinks the tinkering is fun, he gets discouraged by repeated failures. As he gains experience, and gets plenty of encouragement from Jessica, he gradually becomes more confident and advocates for renewable energy.

Season Three: Food

Jose finishes school and gets a job. Jose builds a community garden to win back Sarah's affection. Sarah and Jose work together to organize an automated CSA delivery with local farms. Jessica sees further public health benefits from improved nutrition, lower air pollution, increased exercise, and fewer insect vectors. She gets frustrated that she can't do more to improve public health from her current job and goes back to school. Daniel goes back to school too, to study business. They see less and less of each other and gradually drift apart. Jessica starts flirting with a new classmate. Jessica and Daniel break-up.

Season Four: Water

Watering the garden and increasing city drought/watering restrictions bring up water conservation and find growing efficiency issues for Sarah, Jose and Jessica. This leads to a larger conversation of municipal water supply being fragmented and the importance of managing it as a society. Jessica is now dating her classmate. They like each other, but they don't have enough interests to stay together. Jessica begins work in public health. Because of Sarah's success with machine automation she gets prompted. She gradually gains confidence as a manager. Jessica's art gets recognition. At the gallery opening, Daniel comes and they reunite.

Season Five: Waste

Jessica is offered a residency for her work with recycled objects at the dump. As a result of the residency, she becomes sensitive to the amount of waste in society. Sarah/Jose and Jessica/Daniel are all happy couples, they team-up constructively to figure out the engineering challenges. As a result of the project, Sarah and Jessica learn a lot about city planning. Daniel starts a company installing solar panels. Jessica needs help with civics because she's overwhelmed from the art residency, public health clinic and biking, city planning and compost projects. Daniel is too busy with his new business to help her so she commiserated about it with Sarah, who steps up to the challenge. With Jessica's encouragement, Sarah runs for local office.