

# Looking Back

Jenna Fischer's thoughts on 9 seasons of *The Office*

Every office needs a "Pam" to keep things running smoothly. Just imagine the state of Dunder Mifflin without her ... Yikes! We shudder at the thought.

As we prepare to bid farewell to our pals at *The Office*, we caught up with Jenna Fischer to talk about her experience playing Pam (Beesly) Halpert on the hit NBC comedy. We quickly found out that she's as charming and witty off camera as she is on camera. Read on ...

## What is your favorite joke or moment from the show?

There are so many. I love that Jim and Pam wrote "Hot Dog Fingers" on their insurance form in Season Two. I love when Michael goes on an angry tirade about how he burned his foot on his George Forman grill. I love when Dwight and Kelly look up Mike Tibbits on their computer. On an emotional level, one of my favorite moments is when Jim comes back from New York and asks Pam on a date.

## Who was your favorite guest star?

We've worked with so many great people over the years — James Spader, Kathy Bates, Will Ferrell. They were all so great. But we've also had some very, very, funny folks who are lesser known. Two of my favorites were Andrew Daly, who played Ben Franklin in Season Three, and Brett Gelman, who played the magician in Season Eight. Those guys made me laugh a lot. In both cases I had a hard time getting through the scenes.

## You get to write one more episode — what happens?

I've always wanted to have an episode where Jim and Pam and Dwight and Angela go on a double date. I'm not sure what happens, but I imagine it would be pretty fun.

## What was the most difficult scene to shoot?

The last one.

## Any plans to steal any props from the set?

I took all of Pam's jewelry—the stuff I wore every day. Her wedding ring, necklace, earrings,



Jenna Fischer as Pam Halpert in "Couples Discount" Episode 916. Below: John Krasinski as Jim Halpert, Jenna Fischer as Pam Halpert in "Work Bus" Episode 904.

watch. I took her purse. I took her candy dish. But what I'd really like is the watercolor she did of Dunder Mifflin that Michael hangs on the wall. I'll have to find a way to get that I think.

## If you could hire one Dunder Mifflin employee who would it be and why?

Believe it or not, Dwight. He's loyal, dependable, and a hard worker. And any of the stuff that might seem annoying at first would become charming over time.

## What Scranton landmarks are on your sightseeing list?

I wish we had time to do the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour that Michael talks about in Season One.

## Did you ever actually read those issues of *electric city* we saw on the set?

Many times! We would read them all the time! Especially Stanley. I feel like he was always in the kitchen reading one of those.

## Now what?

Well, I'm in New York now. I'm doing a new Neil LaBute play called *Reasons to be Happy*. Our first preview for an audience is the same night as *The Office* finale. Crazy, huh? And, after that, I'm just gonna be a Mom for a while.

Jenna Fischer will be among the cast members to appear at *The Office Wrap Party* on May 4 in Scranton. For more details, see page 39.



Jenna Fischer stars as office administrator Pam Beesley-Halpert on NBC's Emmy Award-winning comedy *The Office*.

In 2007, Fischer earned her first Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her critically acclaimed work on *The Office*.

On the big screen, she can be seen in Michael Weithorn's *A Little Help* opposite Chris O'Donnell and Rob Benedict. Fischer also recently starred opposite Topher Grace in Lee Kirk's film *The Giant Mechanical Man*, which she also produced. She was last seen in the Farrelly Brothers' *Hall Pass* with Christina Applegate, Owen Wilson and Jason Sudeikis. She also starred opposite Michael Douglas, Susan Sarandon, Danny DeVito, and Mary Louise Parker in Brian Koppelman's *Solitary Man*. Other film credits include *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story* with John C. Reilly and the Dreamworks hit figure skating comedy, *Blades Of Glory*, with Jon Heder, Will Ferrell, and Amy Poehler.

In 2004 she was awarded the Screen Actors Guild Emerging Actor Award at the St. Louis Film Festival.

\*Source: NBC

# Blog What You Know

Jennie “The Tanster” Tan knows *The Office*

If you're a fan of *The Office*, then you probably already know Jennie Tan (AKA “the Tanster”). Tan's blog, OfficeTally, averages 20,000 page views a day, and has been viewed more than 76 million times. The fansite features everything you need to know to stay up-to-date on everything — and everyone — at *The Office*. (Check it out at [www.officetally.com](http://www.officetally.com)).

We recently caught up with the most famous *Office* blogger to talk about, what else, all things *Office*:

## When you started OfficeTally, did you ever imagine it would grow as large as it has?

No! It's honestly surpassed my wildest dreams. When I started it back in 2006, I was lucky to get 100 page views a day. Now I average about 20,000. OfficeTally has been viewed over 76 million times over the years, which is quite astounding to me. I am super happy to have played a role in the show's fan experience.

## What's been the best part of being the most famous Office blogger?

I've had some amazing experiences because of OfficeTally — visiting *The Office* set multiple times, getting a cameo appearance in Season 5's Company Picnic, moderating a writers panel at Paley Center in Los Angeles, and attending 2007's Office Convention here in Scranton — which was like a rock star experience! But I think the best part has been meeting *The Office*'s amazing fan base — some of the nicest, most creative, and most funny people I've ever met!

## What is your favorite moment from The Office? What is your favorite catchphrase?

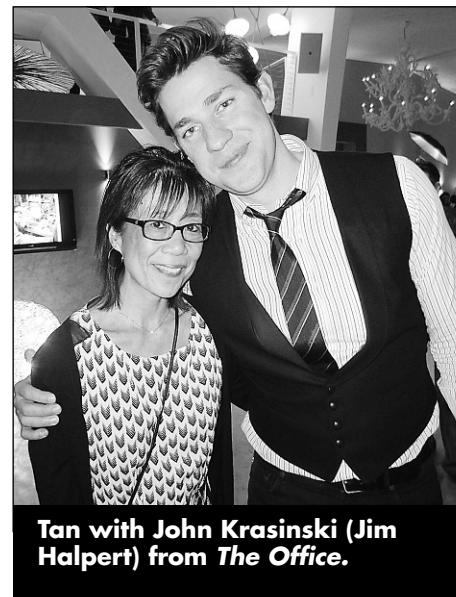
So many favorite moments, so many favorite lines! I can tell you, though, that my favorite overarching theme is “everybody pitches in to help or have fun” — so like Traveling Salesmen, Cafe Disco, The Sting, and from this season, The Whale. Favorite catchphrase? — there can't be any other than “that's what she said”!



## Have you ever worked in an office similar to Dunder Mifflin?

Kind of, only in that in my real office, I work in a tiny little cubicle, and we are required to take a yearly sexual harassment training class! It would be cool if someone came in to sing us *Sweeney Todd*, though.

## You're a Principal Information Designer (when you're not blogging,



## of course). Do you think Dunder Mifflin could have benefited from having someone like you as part of the staff? Why or why not?

My day job is as a Principal Information Designer at Intuit, makers of TurboTax, Quicken, and QuickBooks. (An “information designer” is a fancy term for a technical writer). Maybe Dunder Mifflin could have put me in charge of their monthly newsletter.

## On May 16, how do you plan to watch the finale? Will you host a big party and bid farewell to the Dunder Mifflin crew together, or will you enjoy a quiet night in front of the T.V.?

While many of my friends insist I throw a party, that's going to be one of the biggest “work nights” for OfficeTally. I'll probably do what I always do every Thursday night — sit excitedly in front of my computer starting at around 6 p.m. (PT), waiting for East Coast comments to come in for moderation. Then once the show airs on the West coast, I'll manually transcribe quotes from the episode. Maybe I'll have a viewing party on Friday or that weekend!

## After The Office comes to a close, will there be another show you plan to watch faithfully? Can we expect another fantastic blog from the Tanster?

Oh my goodness. I think after *The Office* ends, I will cry every day for two weeks, and then take a long vacation far away from my computer. Then I figure out my next online project. Got any ideas? :)

## Is there anything you'd like to say to the people who brought The Office into our living rooms on Thursday nights?

Blogging about *The Office* for the past seven or so years has been an honor and a pleasure. To everyone who has ever worked on *The Office* — cast, writers, producers, and staff — thank you for creating one of the most amazing comedies ever aired on TV. You will be missed more than you'll ever know.

## What are some tips to creating a successful fansite?

Work your butt off in delivering the best content you can. Be a true fan of whatever you're blogging about, because your passion will inspire others. And get in as early as you can. That's what she said.

— julie imel

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