

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).

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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