

# comedy's new king

From viral hitmaker to award-winning leading man, Berkeley's **Andy Samberg** continues to cement his place as a Hollywood heavyweight. **By LeeAnne Jones**

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The first time Andy Samberg hosted a major awards show, the 2009 MTV Movie Awards, he was beamed from the USS *Enterprise* into Justin Timberlake's limo—naked. Four years later, in his opening monologue at the Film Independent Spirit Awards, he unleashed a giddy, expletive-laden tirade against Hollywood.

It's really anyone's guess what kind of envelope-pushing antics the Berkeley native will employ when he hosts the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards this month—but it's bound to be memorable. And the gig is a nice feather in the cap for a comedian whose star has been steadily on the rise.

Samberg got his big break in 2005, when *Saturday Night Live* scooped up The Lonely Island, the comedy troupe he formed with fellow Berkeley High classmates Akiva Schaffer and Jorma Taccone. As a writer and performer with *SNL* for seven seasons, most memorably with pop culture-skewering music videos, Samberg earned six Emmy nominations and one win (for the song "Dick in a Box" with Timberlake).

In a 2007 *Diablo* profile, Samberg said, "The movies that Adam Sandler did that came out during my junior high and high school years were pivotal for me in letting me know I can do comedy." Fittingly, since 2012, Samberg has been on a post-*SNL* trajectory similar to that of his comedy hero: big-budget comedies (*That's My Boy*), indie charmers (*Celeste and Jesse Forever*), animation voiceovers (*Hotel Transylvania*), and a handful of cameos. Soon though, we predict he'll manage to eclipse Sandler.

In 2013, Samberg returned to television as lovably goofy detective Jake Peralta on the cop comedy *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*—and he even brought in Sandler for a guest role. The show earned a Golden Globe Award, as did Samberg for best comedic actor in a TV series. Also scoring major awards attention last year was the song "Everything Is Awesome," from *The LEGO® Movie*, which received Grammy and Oscar nominations. (The Lonely Island rapped on the song.) This past summer, Samberg had another critical hit, starring in HBO's over-the-top tennis mockumentary, *7 Days in Hell*, which was written and produced by Samberg's long-time friend (and Alamo native) Murray Miller.

The year ahead looks to be even bigger. In addition to the release of *Hotel Transylvania 2* on September 25 and the return of *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* on September 27, Samberg will appear with The Lonely Island in the summer movie *Conner4real*, a riff on pop-concert films about boy bands, coproduced by Judd Apatow. And of course, there's the Emmys.

Will he sing? Will he bring friends? Will he wear a colorful tuxedo? Will he be censored? Tune in on September 20 to find out.

*To celebrate the fall TV season, we connect all of the East Bay's small-screen stars to Samberg. Turn the page.*



## Samberg's Key Dates

### June 1996:

Graduates from Berkeley High, having been voted class clown.

### December 17, 2005:

Creates viral sensation with "Lazy Sunday" video on *Saturday Night Live*.

### September 16, 2007:

Wins Emmy Award for outstanding original music and lyrics for song "Dick in a Box."

### September 21, 2013:

Childhood icon Adam Sandler attends Samberg's wedding to musician Joanna Newsom.

### January 12, 2014:

Wins Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series—Comedy or Musical at the 71st Golden Globe Awards.

### September 20, 2015:

Will host the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards.

### June 3, 2016:

Will star in *Conner4real*, a movie with Berkeley pals Akiva Schaffer and Jorma Taccone.

# six degrees of Samberg

While Andy Samberg isn't the only East Bay-bred star of the small screen, we can make the case that all roles lead to him—faster than Kevin Bacon.



## Degrees

# 2



### Dwayne Johnson

The Hayward native plays retired athlete Spencer Strasmore on HBO's *Ballers*, which wrapped up its first season at the end of August. Catch up on HBO Now.

### Rebecca Romijn

The Berkeley High grad stars as Eve Baird in *The Librarians*, about an ancient organization that protects treasured artifacts. It returns to TNT for a second season this fall.



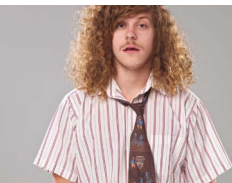
### Will Forte

Acalanes High grad Forte is the Emmy-nominated writer and star of post-apocalyptic comedy *The Last Man on Earth*. Its second season begins September 27 on Fox.



### Connection

Samberg costars on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* with Terry Crews, who was in *Get Smart* with **Dwayne Johnson**.



### Connection

Samberg appeared in *Friends with Benefits* with Woody Harrelson, who was in *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me* with **Rebecca Romijn**.

### Connection

Samberg appeared on *Saturday Night Live* with **Will Forte** from 2005 to 2012.

### Chelsea Peretti

Peretti plays admin assistant Gina Linetti on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, but she met Samberg at Oakland's Chabot Elementary and graduated from College Preparatory School.

### Blake Anderson

Anderson is the co-creator and eccentric star of *Workaholics*—and a Clayton Valley High alum. The sixth season of the Comedy Central show is set to air in 2016.

## Degree

# 1

### Connection

Samberg costars with **Chelsea Peretti** on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, which returns September 27 on Fox.

### Connection

Samberg and **Blake Anderson** both made cameos in *Neighbors*.

### Connection

Samberg was in *Grown Ups 2* with Salma Hayek, who was in *Mi Vida Loca* with **Maurice Bernard**.

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## Degrees

# 3



### Connection

Samberg voiced a character for *SpongeBob SquarePants*, as did John Goodman, who was in *Bringing Out the Dead* with Patricia Arquette, who is in *CSI: Cyber* with **Charley Koontz**.

### Connection

Samberg starred in *Celeste and Jesse Forever* with Rashida Jones, who was in *Parks and Recreation* with guest star J.K. Simmons, who was in *Oz* with **Rita Moreno**.



### Rita Moreno

The East Bay's EGOT winner (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony) guest starred as Jane's "glam-ma" on *Jane the Virgin*. She hopes to make another appearance in season two, which begins October 12 on The CW.

### Connection

Samberg starred in *Grown Ups 2* with Chris Rock, who was in *Top Five* with **Gabrielle Union**.

### Connection

Samberg was in *I Love You, Man* with Jason Segel, who was in *How I Met Your Mother* with **Lyndsy Fonseca**.

### Gabrielle Union

Union, a graduate of Pleasanton's Foothill High, stars as a broadcast journalist looking for love on *Being Mary Jane*. Season three returns to BET in early 2016.

### Lyndsy Fonseca

Moraga-raised Fonseca plays waitress and aspiring actress Angie Martinelli on *Captain America* spin-off *Agent Carter*. Season two returns to ABC in early 2016.

### Connection

Samberg voiced a character in *Space Chimps*, as did Stanley Tucci, who was in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay* with **Mahershala Ali**.

### Mahershala Ali

This Hayward-raised Saint Mary's College grad plays White House Chief of Staff Remy Danton on *House of Cards*. It returns for a fourth season on Netflix in early 2016.



## Degrees

# 4



### Connection

Samberg was in an SNL short with Natalie Portman, who was in *Garden State* with Jim Parsons, who is in *The Big Bang Theory* with Sara Gilbert, who was in *Bad Teacher* with **Kat Foster**.

### Kat Foster

Foster, a College Preparatory School grad, stars as Kelli, one half of the young married couple in *Your Family or Mine*. As of press time, renewal for a second season on TBS was uncertain.

## Degrees

# 5



### Connection

Samberg was in *I Love You, Man* with Jason Segel, who was in *How I Met Your Mother* with Lyndsy Fonseca, who was in *Agent Carter* with Chad Michael Murray, who was in *One Tree Hill* with Sophia Bush, who is in *Chicago P.D.* with **Markie Post**.

### Connection

Samberg starred in *I Love You, Man* with Paul Rudd, who was in *How Do You Know* with Owen Wilson, who was in *Zoolander* with Andy Dick, who competed on *Dancing with the Stars* with **Zendaya**.

### Zendaya

Oakland-raised Zendaya stars as a high school student training to be a spy in the sitcom *K.C. Undercover*. Look for season two in early 2016 on the Disney Channel.

