

VSGUIDE WEEKLY

Round #1 (The VPN)

WELCOME to the first edition of VSGuide Weekly! Where we allow you (the reader) to step into interviewers shoes, giving you the chance to ask questions and have them answered by the showrunners and producers of your favorite VPN shows!

In this very first VSG Weekly scoop, we decided to cover The VPN lineup, starting from Sunday all the way through the week! First up in our scoop was “**Easy**,” a freshmen drama/comedy about the secrets and scandals of high school life; created by Tom East!

1. Is it a difficult task to blend comedy into drama and vice versa?

Tom East: I'm going to say yes and no. Sometimes it's easy, like in the pilot which hit both of them spot on but then other episodes will have more dramatic plots (wait until you see 1x09, written by RJ Alden Lackie) which is more about the drama than the comedy. There has to be a balance, sometimes the show will be funny and other times it's dramatic.

2. What are the biggest influences for the show, whether its from film/tv or any other mediums?

Tom East: The biggest influences for the show? Trashy teen drama shows like Awkward. and Gossip Girl. Also some trashy fan fiction that I've read over the years.

3. Can we expect a cliffhanger in the finale?

Tom East: There's a lot of resolution in the finale but the final moment does have a surprise for the readers. It's not a cruel one though and I think it'll be something that readers will be very happy about. It introduces a new dynamic for Season Two.

4. Favourite character(s) to write for?

Tom East: Chess is an awful lot of fun to write but honestly, I think Drew is my favorite. He's a pessimist, he's an asshole and somehow he has three guys drooling over him. He's got a dry sense of humor and he's just a lot of fun for me to write.

5. Do you already know who Drew will end up with in the long run? Is it one of the three, established love interests, or someone who has yet to be introduced?

Tom East: Yep, I know who he ends up with. I'm not going to say if it's one of the current three or someone who has yet to be introduced but there will be new love interests introduced over the next couple of seasons because I don't want to keep

recycling the same ship drama over and over. There needs to be some new blood to keep things exciting. By the first episode the last season though, you'll know who is endgame and who isn't.

6. I know there are multiple gay male characters on the show, but are there any gay women? If not, would you be open to introducing a few lesbian characters? Maybe even trans and/or bisexual women?

Tom East: Right now there are no gay women in the show. I toyed with making Chess bisexual but honestly, we were running thin on straight characters which is why she's straight. However, I think it's fair to say that if Chess was to ever have feelings for a girl, she'd totally go for it. Love is love after all.

Don't fear though, I do have plans for a major lesbian character who will play a big part in Drew and Chess' college careers. She's still a couple of seasons off yet but rest assured that I have thought ahead and there will be at least one major lesbian character (plus any love interests she might have).

As for trans characters, it has crossed my mind before and I'm sure that at some point during the series' run, one will be introduced but right now I don't know enough to write anything more than a stereotype and I don't want to do that. I try to make my characters as realistic as possible, not just cardboard cutouts so that's my priority. I definitely think there'll be trans characters in the show before the end though. Definitely.

7. Are any characters from Easy inspired by people from your life?

Tom East: This is mostly a no. Drew gets his sarcasm, pessimism and general assholery from me but that's about as far as it goes. I don't know any Chess' or Kian's or even Brandon's.

8. How many seasons could you see Easy running for?

Tom East: I have a six season plan for Easy. I'm looking to go over a hundred episodes within those six seasons though so expect for future seasons to be longer than twelve episodes!

9. Where did the idea for Easy come from?

Tom East: It came after speeding through season two of *Awkward*. and reading some particularly bad fan fiction where the main character was so so bland and had multiple love interests with really terrible personalities and it was just full of stereotypes and clichés. I was like "I can do this better and more realistically" - so I did.

Plus I wanted to write a virtual series that would really push the boundaries, hence the blow-jobs in the pilot, the questionable incest-y threesome in episode two, Viv's cougar tendencies, the porn star... I just want to see how far I can go!