



ANN DOWD'S VERY GOOD YEAR

Back to stealing scenes on TNT's *Good Behavior* (Sundays, 10 p.m.), the 61-year-old actress reflects on her memorable (not to mention Emmy-winning) 2017.

BY KELLY CONNOLLY

The internet really enjoyed your shout-out to Hulu ("Hooo Looo") in your Emmy acceptance speech for *The Handmaid's Tale*.

It made me laugh when I heard. I was like, "What do you mean? Didn't I say the name right?" I still don't get it, quite, but it's sweet.

You were actually nominated for two Emmys this year, the other for guest actress on *The Leftovers*.

How did you find out you'd be returning, seeing as your character died in season 1?

Damon [Lindelof, the co-creator] sent a cast email about season 3, and I was included. And he's conscientious. So I wrote, "Just wondering, was that intentional?" And he said, "Yes, probably one episode, probably Australia." I don't ask questions beyond that. I was thrilled. [The role of Patti] turned into one of those phenomenal personal and artistic

experiences, one of the best of my entire life.

Patti, *Handmaid's Tale*'s Aunt Lydia, and *Good Behavior*'s FBI agent Lashever are forceful personalities. Is that a persona you're drawn to?

I can't tell you how much. I just feel comfortable exploring them. I'm a little surprised by it. People say, "Do you have to go home and shower after you have a day on the set of *Handmaid's*?" And I say, "Absolutely not! Happy to get to know her."

Have you seen a change in roles for women?

Yeah. Isn't it great? There are stories to tell that are phenomenal, and women can tell them and act in them and produce them. And we can support one another wholeheartedly. We're not competing for two spots here. The world is opening up. Let's all get in there.

SPOILER ALERT

DON'T READ UNTIL YOU'VE WATCHED *STRANGER THINGS 2*



Stranger Things' Sister Act

Meet **Linnea Berthelsen**, the 24-year-old Danish actress cast as Eleven's (Millie Bobby Brown) long-lost sibling in the newest season of Netflix's sci-fi series. BY TIM STACK

IT'S A GIRL! *STRANGER THINGS 2* viewers were shocked to learn in episode 7 that telekinetic teen Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) has a "sister" named Kali (Linnea Berthelsen). They're not blood-related, but the pair were both kept captive at Hawkins lab as children until they were separated and Kali managed to escape. The duo reunite in Chicago after Eleven goes in search of her sibling. Kali, who has powers of her own and leads a gang bent on revenge against the lab employees, bears a similar branding to Eleven on her wrist: the number 8. "When we started season 2, we wanted to explore whether Eleven had siblings," says Matt Duffer, who, along with his brother Ross, created the Netflix series (which dropped its second season Oct. 27). "That led to

the creation of that character and the casting of Linnea."

But in true *Stranger Things* form, there were some twists along the way. Namely, that sibling was originally supposed to be an older brother. Explains Matt: "We were looking for guys, and we were just not happy with what we were getting. They were really great performances but nothing we were super excited about. So then we decided to open the age up a little bit and see some females. Then we started to get really excited about the idea of it being a sister as opposed to a brother." Berthelsen, 24, who's originally from Copenhagen and has only a handful of obscure credits on her résumé, had actually *just* begun to watch season 1 before her audition. "Like, literally days later, I got

DOWD: TNT; STRANGER THINGS: NETFLIX; MARVEL'S RUNAWAYS: PAUL SARRIS/HULU



the [audition],” she says. “So my boyfriend and I watched it all back-to-back.”

To prepare for the role, Berthelsen immersed herself in American pop culture from the '80s. “I watched all the movies they used for season 1. And I went back to read *Carrie*. I took a lot from *Star Wars*, which I’m a huge fan of.” The Duffers say the goal of Kali’s introduction was to expose Eleven to more malevolent forces. “We talked a lot about *Empire Strikes Back*,” says Matt. “We talked about Luke going to Dagobah and meeting Yoda. Eleven being pulled to the dark side was an interesting idea.”

The Duffers still aren’t sure how or when we’ll be seeing Kali and her gang again. (They’re last seen fleeing the police as Eleven heads back to Hawkins.) “I love Kali and I know there’s so much more to explore, and I know Matt and Ross feel the same way,” says Berthelsen. In fact, she trusts the Duffers so much she was willing to shave half her head to play the role. “I said [to the hair designer], ‘You can go crazy, I don’t care,’” recalls the actress. Jokes Matt, “After Eleven, people will do whatever we tell them to with their hair.”

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Linnea
Berthelsen
and Millie
Bobby
Brown

Marvel’s Runaways

DATE Debuts Nov. 21 | TIME Streaming | NETWORK Hulu

REVIEW BY Darren Franich @DarrenFranich

IN SOME ZIP CODES cosmic malevolence is just a matter of keeping up with the Joneses. So we watch as Brentwood’s most prominent parents—a CEO, an entrepreneur, a lawyer, a mom who runs her own religion—assemble to perform a ritual of human sacrifice. But maybe that’s just a trendy new cleanse?

The pitch on *Marvel’s Runaways* is “teen drama with superpowers.” Two years after a friend’s mysterious death, nerdy Alex (Rhenzy Feliz) seeks to reunite his disparate childhood circle. To quote *The Breakfast Club*, there’s a brain, an athlete, a basket case, and a princess. No criminal—in this stratosphere, “criminal” is getting a 1590 on the SATs—but Gert (Ariela Barer) attacks the patriarchy the way Judd Nelson attacked principals. Meanwhile, Gert’s stepsister Molly (Allegra Acosta) is going through the onset of puberty and superstrength, so that’s two awkward things not to talk about with Mom and Dad.

Upon the pals’ reunion, they discover their parents are up to something. It’s supernatural, tantalizing—and, in the first four episodes, a belabored mystery. *Runaways* was a comic by Brian K. Vaughan and Adrian Alphona, but even describing their basic concept feels like a season-long spoiler. This adaptation comes from Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage, the duo behind *The O.C.* and *Gossip Girl*. Like those shows, *Runaways* stealth-missiles fascinating adults into high school drama. I especially like Brittany Ishibashi as Tina, the perfectionist CEO with a magic staff, arm-twisting her husband into date night, and Ryan Sands as Geoffrey, a street criminal “reformed” into universe-denting evil. The kids are all right, but the parental subplots suggest a deeper vein of dark comedy. The opening titles linger on gorgeous homes, tall gates, huge yards. To get a house like that? You’d have to be a supervillain. **B+**



↑ Allegra Acosta, Ariela Barer, Lyrica Okano, Rhenzy Feliz, Gregg Sulkin, and Virginia Gardner