Annotated Bibliography

Nussbaum, Emily. “Jenji Kohan’s Hot Provocations.” The New Yorker, 28 Aug. 2017,

[www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/09/04/jenji-kohans-hot-provocations](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/09/04/jenji-kohans-hot-provocations).

Nussbaum’s article discusses the hot takes and flaring opinions of Jenji Kohan while providing a steady background of her history in the film industry. On slide twelve I explore the personality of Jenji Kohan in depth which is represented by the way she deals with backlash, haters, and critics. The article describes situations where she grew tough skin in which she was shaped and molded into the film writer she is today. Her rough entrance on *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and evolution through *Weeds* and *Orange is the New Black* described by colleague Devon Sheppard. The curse words and language in the quotes that fill the article represent her careless and free personality as she always desires to be the head honcho in charge. Another aspect of this article I refer to on slide three. The details of her childhood and well renowned family are mentioned and their involvement as well in the show business. Her determination to not settle for anything less than spectacular was motivated by all the people that told her she could not, such as heckles from her twin brothers and an ex-boyfriend that expressed that she had a greater chance of getting elected to Congress. The star who Jenji Kohan was attempting to emulate was Tracy Ullman as she started her own family. She admired her balance between being a good wife and mother while always remaining smart, civilized, and funny. On slide eight I gathered some of her trends based on this article that describes her dark, strange, comedy through *Weeds* and *Orange Is the New Black* especially.

Nicholson, Rebecca. “OITNB’s Jenji Kohan: ‘I’d Be Far Richer If I’d Stayed on Friends.’” The Guardian, 2 Aug. 2019, [www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/jul/30/orange-is-the-new-black-jenji-kohan-friends-interview](http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/jul/30/orange-is-the-new-black-jenji-kohan-friends-interview).

A trend that I discuss on slide eight is Jenji Kohan’s love for binge-watching and how that translated into her work. This online magazine article written by Nicholson was released just as the last season of *Orange is The New Black* was beginning. The show had a total of seven seasons (slide four) and she worked on the show for about six years of her life and it soon began to consume her. Jenji recounts how she gets unhealthy and involved in binge-watching television shows and she hopes to create that same setting for her viewers to become invested. The quote from slide nine comes straight out of this article, “I chose to be a writer for a reason. I don’t particularly want to be in front of the camera, so to speak” – but she is funny, dry-witted, and very frank. So much so that she ends our conversation with a wistful: “I hope I didn’t say stupid things that will bite me in the ass later.” I included this quote to represent a few things about her. This is a common trend for her to not take very many interviews or talk to the public so I struggled a little bit in providing and finding some of the best interview moments and quotes from her. It also represents that her contribution to the women in the industry is done powerfully through her actions, not always her words. Her ability to be a part of the creating and writing process of many shows starring women as the main character represents her advocacy to spotlight and tell the variety of stories that women can relate to to inspire them through their struggles or give them confidence in their image.

Locker, Melissa. “The Women of GLOW Are Changing Television, One Body Slam at a Time.” ELLE, 23 June 2017, [www.elle.com/culture/movies-tv/news/a46183/glow-netflix-jenji-kohan](http://www.elle.com/culture/movies-tv/news/a46183/glow-netflix-jenji-kohan).

Locker’s article expressed the impact of women behind the scenes on television sets, specifically focusing on the *GLOW*. The story of the glorious ladies of female wrestling is inspiring and this article allowed me to grasp and connect the dots between Jenji’s shows as this is her most recent one. It added to her streak of starring females and their diverse stories. These trends are represented on slide 8 as I discuss and analyze her lead women roles. Her establishment in her previous big shows is what led her to be an executive producer for *GLOW* because of her experience and knowledge of this field and empowering women and their unique stories. Another trend that I discuss is her commitment to solely television shows and no movies and this is because of her passion for binge-watching because she believes that it brings people together uniquely and invitingly. The timeline on slide four represents this progression and her involvement in a variety of behind-the-scenes positions she plays for these shows. This article also discusses the increasing involvement of women in behind-the-scenes roles for these shows which represent a significant progression in history. A major quote in the article states that this is a show about how strong women are and what they are capable of which is expanded as I talk about how unique her shows are to be as inclusive as possible to ultimately empower women as they watch television series.

“The Revenge of Jenji Kohan.” Columbia Magazine, 2016, magazine.columbia.edu/article/revenge-jenji-kohan.

The fast facts and information on slide two are summed up by this article published by Jenji’s alma mater, Columbia University. Adjectives listed to describe her include a smart, funny, obsessive, subversive rare bird. I explain how she defies all odds despite her whole family being in the industry. She was motivated by her doubters including her family, friends, and ex-boyfriends. She is fearless in her writing and that is what has gotten her to where she is today because of her risk-taking and lack of caring about what people think about her unique style. I state on slide eleven that she is driven by vengeance and that comes from this article that describes the wobbly journey that eventually got her to where she is today. She was suspended from school and was always there to pick a fight. The number of quotes and sayings from Kohan that do not include a curse word is very minimal, she simply does not care about how she is perceived because she has a determined mission. She was one of the first-ever showrunners to sign a deal with Netflix back in 2013 when *Weeds* was airing, which signifies great progress for women in the industry. The initial success led to Netflix offering the opportunities for thirteen seasons of *Orange Is the New Black* upfront. Netflix has given Kohan her greatest success because of the creative freedom that they have offered her throughout the years which signifies how much they truly trust her as a producer.

“Jenji Kohan.” *IMDb*, 5 July 2021, [www.imdb.com/name/nm0463176/bio?ref\_=nm\_ov\_bio\_sm](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0463176/bio?ref_=nm_ov_bio_sm).

On slide nine I discuss Kohan’s Nine Emmy Award nominations, winning one as supervising producer of the comedy series *Tracey Takes On..*.This article provided Jenji Kohan’s basic biography information that was provided as well as some statistics. The site provides a variety of photos of Jenji over the years where her personality is represented by her hair colors which are mostly either pink or blue. Her clothing allows her to express herself as she is authentically herself always. She has won one primetime Emmy as discussed but she has six other awards and thirty-two nominations over the years. I have not seen any of her shows myself so this site provided various trailers and clips that I watched to get a synapse of what the shows were all about and their main premise to give me a visual to be able to accurately describe them. She was married to Christopher Noxon from 1997 to 2019 and they had three children, one daughter Eliza Noxon, son Oscar Noxon and their third and oldest son, Charlie Noxon was tragically killed in a New Year's Eve skiing accident at the age of twenty. It is said that Charlie was skiing alone with no witnesses around him and hit a sign on an intermediate-level trail in Park City Mountain Resort in Utah. He was soon pronounced dead in an air ambulance before he even reached the hospital. The story and cause of death are still under investigation because of skeptical details such as that he was wearing a helmet and had a lot of experience skiing in his life.

Montpelier, Rachel, et al. “Jenji Kohan Recounts Sexism She Faced While Building Her Writing Career.” Women and Hollywood, 2017, womenandhollywood.com/jenji-kohan-recounts-sexism-she-faced-while-building-her-writing-career-8276025ab4fd.

I discuss this article on slide nine as it becomes clear that Jenji is not afraid to speak her mind which has carried her along through her career and her advocacy for women for their stories to be told and heard. Here she exemplifies that she is not afraid to call people out if she needs to, which is exactly what she has done to make a change in the industry. She talks freely and openly about the various sexist interactions and comments that she has received and encountered through her time in the industry as a TV writer and showrunner. To start her career on *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,* she gained the nickname “White Devil Jew Bitch” from her fellow writers. She is very involved in her religion as a Jew and it has become a prominent stigmatism that is associated with her in the writer's room. This has led to a lot of discrimination that she has faced against both her religion and gender through her time in the industry. This created a toxic mess for her entrance into the industry and this is when she knew she had to break free and begin being the one in charge to fight the haters and backlash in the behind-the-scenes work. But the harsh entrance on *Bell-Air* was only a foreshadowing of the next twelve years in the industry before she made it. She states that during these years that she has had her “tit grabbed” and her name taken off a script that she wrote. The sexism that she faced is what inspired her to develop into the best writer of her ability to eventually be able to write her show.

*TIME.Com*, 23 Apr. 2014, time.com/collection-post/70867/jenji-kohan-2014-time-100.

On slide two I discuss Jenji’s feature of being named one of the top 100 most influential people in 2014. This is because of a variety of factors that are highlighted in this article of why she was nominated and chosen. One of those reasons is her ability to create unforgettable characters through her television shows. She has great character development skills that create personable and realistic storylines that empower women through both struggles and victories. Jenji is described to be a force of nature and that is where her influence is derived from. Her powerful personality to create dramas that are composed with cometic wit and relief is what makes her shows enjoyable for viewers to watch. This article dives into a topic that is not always highlighted by people in the film industry which is her business skills and mind. This is because of her deal to be one of the first creators to sign with Netflix which is how she made it big. This is described to be her bold early disruption and influence in the industry. This strategic move allowed her to be committed and determined to produce the best work in a long-lasting contract which allowed her to be in a great business position. The reason she is so influential is because of her hard-working determination, viewers from all around the world have been touched and affected by the impactful stories that she tells. Another reason why she was chosen for this spotlight is because of the diversity and inclusion she incorporates to educate America. She represents women of color and various sexual orientations that have never been captured on television. She creates rich and authentic backgrounds for characters that face many relatable struggles of the viewers and always concludes in a fashion that displays that we are all flawed humans and that is perfectly okay.

Valente, Joanna. “17 Things To Know About Jenji Kohan, Hollywood Showrunner Extraordinaire.” *Kveller*, 26 June 2018, [www.kveller.com/17-things-to-know-about-jenji-kohan-hollywood-showrunner-extraordinaire](http://www.kveller.com/17-things-to-know-about-jenji-kohan-hollywood-showrunner-extraordinaire).

For slide seven I go in-depth on the concept that Jenji Kohan is unapologetically herself. This is why she is adored by so many because of the blunt authenticity side of her. Because of these attributes, she just had to be a showrunner and in charge of the creation of her three shows. She owns the iconic Hayworth Theater in Los Angeles and she uses it as her office and is where *Orange Is the New Black* was created. On slide five I quote that she has been a featured writer on many popular television shows. The *Sex in the City* episode she wrote was a spicy one called “The Power of Female Sex” and also produced multiple episodes of Gilmore Girls. When she wrote for The *Fresh Prince of Bell-Air* she was one of two girls that were writers which can explain the discrimination that she faced. This fast fact article truly encompasses the variety of elements that she has concurred and completed over the years. She wears many different hats and has hectic personal stories that have molded her to be the writer that she is after these experiences that have pushed and motivated her. Because of these various facts, she belongs in the category of an extraordinaire and is unlike any other creator, producer, or writer out there. She is uniquely herself and her co-workers and film producers say the same after working with her. These are trends that are discussed on slide eight because they are repeat patterns that are found in all of her works.

Kamp, David. “All About Jenji Kohan, Orange Is the New Black’s Creator.” *Vanity Fair*, 13 May 2015, [www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2015/05/jenji-kohan-orange-is-the-new-black-secrets](http://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2015/05/jenji-kohan-orange-is-the-new-black-secrets).

Her vintage cat eyeglasses that I have featured in my presentation slides as well as her wild rainbow hair colors are displayed and discussed in this article by Vanity. I found this article interesting because it distinguishes what she looks for in her roles as a showrunner. She actively seeks out particular looks that do not conform to the similarities and non-diverse image that every other television show has broadcasted over the past few decades. Here I make the connection that her personality and funky features do translate into her work and she uses them to her advantage which allows her to stand out. Something that she was inspired by at a young age was the television series *The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd.* She got to make her childhood dreams come full circle as she stars character Blaire Brown in her series *Orange Is the New Black* later down the road. This captivates how big Jenji dreams and how drastically she has reached her goals. Despite checking many of her dreams off of her list, that does not stop Jenji. She is not done yet and continues to amaze her fans and please those in the industry around her. Jenji is very open about her past and this vulnerability translates into her work as well. She is not censored and all of the facts in this article give insight and more details into her life journey that is inspiring. Overall this article captivates an overview of Jenji’s life story and interesting facts that articulates her character development that I explain on slide two.

Manly, Lorne. “Jenji Kohan, Creator of ‘Orange Is the New Black.’” *The New York Times*, 26 Dec. 2013, [www.nytimes.com/2013/12/29/arts/television/jenji-kohan-creator-of-orange-is-the-new-black.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/29/arts/television/jenji-kohan-creator-of-orange-is-the-new-black.html).

The *New York Times* article encompasses the difference-maker Jenji has been that I discuss throughout the last few slides through her contribution as well as her reaction to critics. This article describes her influence as a revolution in the way that we watch television. Her empowerment has created this new concept of binge-watching and a whole season being available on Netflix at a given time which was a new idea whenever *Orange Is the New Black* was beginning. She had a slow emergence into the industry as *Weeds* served as her first entrance on Showtime but the pace and platform soon then adapted to Netflix after the eight whole seasons of *Weeds.* The evolution of weekly time slots being replaced by Netflix is partially due to Jenji’s contribution and commitment to the series that she passionately advocated for as the article explains. The entire season being released all at once caused the ripple effect that is now our most common method of viewing television shows on streaming devices. This was also measured by her success as *Orange Is the New Black* was the most-watched original series after releasing its first seasons. The article provides her balance between comedy and drama for relief for her audience because her stories are normally very heavy and sometimes dark. Especially the multiracial women that she features in jail that I discuss on slide eleven is the reason why she is a revolutionary in her era.