

= The City (2008 TV series) =

The City is an American reality television series that originally aired on MTV from December 29 , 2008 , until July 13 , 2010 . Developed as the spin @-@ off of The Hills , the series aired two seasons and focused on the personal and professional lives of several young women residing in New York City , New York . Its premise was conceived by Adam DiVello , while Liz Gateley and Sean Travis served as executive producers .

The series originally focused on Whitney Port , who appeared in its predecessor , as she began employment with Diane von Fürstenberg . It additionally placed emphasis on her workplace rival Olivia Palermo , Port 's boyfriend Jay Lyon , his roommate Adam Senn , and her friend Erin Lucas . The latter three were replaced by Port 's roommate Roxy Olin and Palermo 's enemy Erin Kaplan for the second half of the first season .

The City received generally mixed reviews from critics , and proved less successful than The Hills . Like its predecessor , the series was often criticized for tending towards a narrative format more commonly seen in scripted genres including soap operas , and appearing to fabricate much of its storyline . The show has distributed all seasons to DVD .

= = Conception = =

In 2004 , the reality television series Laguna Beach : The Real Orange County premiered on MTV . The program was created by Liz Gateley and documented the lives of several students attending Laguna Beach High School as they completed secondary education . The series proved among the network 's most successful programming , though the entire original cast left after the second season and were replaced by another group of teenagers for the following season . Television producer Adam DiVello developed the spin @-@ off program The Hills to follow one of its predecessor 's original cast members Lauren Conrad as she moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the fashion industry . After The Hills itself became similarly successful , DiVello developed The City upon the conclusion of the parent series ' fourth season , which saw one of its primary cast members Whitney Port move to New York City to begin employment with Diane von Fürstenberg .

= = Series synopsis = =

= = = Overview and casting = = =

The City chronicles the lives of several young women living in New York City , New York . Every installment commences with a voice @-@ over narrative from series lead Whitney Port , foreshadowing the theme of the episode . Each season concludes with a finale , typically involving a major event such as a progressing relationship or the departure of a cast member . Most installments revolve around the women 's everyday lives , with the intention of balancing coverage of their personal and professional endeavors . The City : Live After Show was occasionally aired following the broadcast of an episode ; the program followed the The After Show format used by other MTV programs , including The Hills , where Jessi Cruickshank and Dan Levy served as hosts while the audience commented on the episode .

Throughout its run , the series was led by four (season 2) and five (season 1) primary cast members , who were credited by their first names . Its original main cast members were Port , Erin Lucas , Jay Lyon , Olivia Palermo , and Adam Senn . Lucas , Lyon , and Senn were replaced by Erin Kaplan and Roxy Olin beginning in the second half of the first season . The aforementioned women 's storylines were largely developed by a number of supporting cast members . Alexandra Crandell was credited as " Adam 's girlfriend " , while Samantha Swetra was labeled " Whitney 's friend " . Kelly Cutrone was featured the owner of the PR firm People 's Revolution and the employer of Port and Olin , while Joe Zee was credited as Palermo 's boss at Elle .

=== Storylines ===

In its series premiere , The City first introduces Whitney Port , who moved from Los Angeles , California to New York City , New York to begin employment for fashion designer Diane von Fürstenberg . She reunited with her friend Erin Lucas and love interest Jay Lyon , and befriended co @-@ worker Olivia Palermo against her companions ' advice . Port became irritated the feelings Lyon had for his ex @-@ girlfriend Danielle and his unwillingness to commit to a relationship , and eventually severed ties with him . Lyon 's distaste for his housemate Adam Senn 's girlfriend Allie Crandell ultimately ruined their friendship , while Senn and Crandell 's relationship was strained by rumors of his alleged infidelity . Lucas ' long @-@ distance boyfriend Duncan Davies , who lived in Toronto , Canada , broke up with Lucas after discovering that she had become friendly with her ex @-@ boyfriend JR . Meanwhile , the companionship between Port and Palermo dissolved after growing tensions in the workplace .

Prior to production of the second half of the season , Lucas , Lyon , and Senn departed from the series . Port also left her position at Diane von Fürstenberg and resumed working at her previous employer Kelly Cutrone 's PR firm People 's Revolution . As the season resumed , Port 's friend Roxy Olin was introduced as a new main cast member , and was hired at People 's Revolution . Palermo had left Diane von Fürstenberg for a position with Elle , where she clashed with co @-@ worker and new main cast member Erin Kaplan . With Cutrone 's guidance , Port begins designing a fashion line , while Kaplan becomes increasingly displeased with Palermo 's under @-@ performance . Port also began dating friend Freddie Fackelmayer , but was dismayed to learn that he had a girlfriend . By the season finale , Port had presented the " Whitney Eve " lookbook to Bergdorf Goodman , and decided to further publicize her collection through a fashion show at Bryant Park .

In the beginning of the second season , Joe Zee attempted to salvage the relationship between Palermo and Kaplan by reassigning the former to work on Elle.com. However , the strategy proved unsuccessful as the women continue to clash with one another . Meanwhile , Olin begins a flirtatious friendship with photographer Zach Hyman . Cutrone cautions Port that Olin 's lack of professionalism and inexperience in the industry may damage Port 's reputation . However , Olin 's under @-@ performance ultimately strained their friendship , and culminated in Olin moving into an apartment with their friend Samantha Swetra . The season finale sees Palermo promoted as the new face of Elle.com after a successful business trip to Japan , while Port contemplates leaving People 's Revolution after she and Cutrone clash over the development of her fashion line .

== Reception ==

=== Critical response ===

The City received generally mixed reviews from critics . Melissa Camacho of Common Sense Media criticized the program for featuring a near @-@ identical plotline to its predecessor The Hills , where Lauren Conrad was similarly shown to pursue a career in the fashion industry while addressing difficulties among her friends . Ginia Bellefante from The New York Times suggested that the series was purposely produced sub @-@ par to its parent series , commenting that it " is not the advertisement for New York that The Hills , with its dreamily shot opening @-@ credit sequence , is for Los Angeles " . An editor from The Village Voice questioned if Port was interesting enough to lead her own spin @-@ off series , describing her personality as featuring " unavoidable , inexorable ordinariness " .

=== Scripting allegations ===

The City was often criticized for appearing to fabricate much of its storyline . In one instance , Diane von Fürstenberg workers were reportedly angered that Port " doesn 't really work " and was " hardly

ever in the office " , elaborating that series producers would inhibit normal work operations by not allowing employees to move items in their offices . Freddie Fackelmayer , Port 's former love interest , commented that the network " never asked the cast to say or do anything " , though the editing that followed portrayed him as a " womanizing jerk " .

An additional source of suspicion arose in the second half of the first season , where Palermo allegedly purchased counterfeit accessories on Canal Street for a work assignment ; the non @-@ discreet nature of the transaction led to speculation that the scene was staged for the segment . In 2009 , Palermo commented that she was " disappointed " by the " villainous " manner in which she was portrayed on the program . She added that she was " super friendly " with Port at work , whereas the series depicted a more strained relationship . In 2012 , she added that her character was " not [her] at all " , further opining that her time on television was " ridiculous " .

= = = U.S. television ratings = = =

The series opening of *The City* premiered to 1 @. @ 6 million viewers , significantly less than the 2 @. @ 6 million viewers attracted by the fourth season finale of *The Hills* . The second half of the season premiered with 2 million viewers , a 43 % increase from its debut . The remainder of the season maintained an average 1 @. @ 9 million viewers , with the finale peaking at 2 @. @ 3 million . Upon the conclusion of the second season in July 2010 , rumors were widespread that *The City* would be cancelled . In October 2010 , Port commented that " it doesn 't really look like we 're doing it anymore " , with MTV later adding that the series would not be renewed for a third season .

= = Broadcast history and distribution = =

The City 's first season commenced airing on December 29 , 2008 , one week after the fourth season finale of *The Hills* . The series continued to air on Monday evenings until its midseason finale on March 16 , 2009 , at which point it had aired thirteen episodes . Rather than ordering an official second season , MTV included an additional ten episodes to the first season . The extension premiered on September 29 , 2009 , where it was moved to the Tuesday night timeslot , and concluded on December 1 , 2009 . The second season premiered on April 27 , 2010 , after the sixth season premiere of *The Hills* . Both programs held the Tuesday evening timeslot ; both concluded after twelve episodes on July 13 , 2010 .

The City episodes aired regularly on MTV in the United States . All episodes are approximately thirty minutes , and were broadcast in standard definition . The series ' episodes are also available for download at the iTunes Store . Episodes were previously available for viewing through the official MTV website , though they have since become unavailable since the series ' conclusion . Since its debut , Paramount Pictures has released both seasons of *The City* onto DVD , to regions 1 , 2 , and 4 . Each product includes all episodes of the respective season , in addition to deleted scenes and interviews of series personnel .