

= The Hills ( TV series ) =

The Hills was an American reality television series that aired for six seasons on MTV from May 31 , 2006 , until July 13 , 2010 . Developed as a spin @-@ off of Laguna Beach : The Real Orange County , the series aired six seasons and focused on the personal and professional lives of several young women residing in Los Angeles , California . Its premise was conceived by Adam DiVello , while Liz Gateley and Sean Travis served as executive producers .

The series originally focused on Lauren Conrad , who appeared in its predecessor , as she pursued a career in the fashion industry . It additionally placed emphasis on her housemate Heidi Montag and their friends Audrina Patridge and Whitney Port . Conrad 's friend Lo Bosworth and Montag 's boyfriend Spencer Pratt developed major positions as part of the supporting cast in the second season , while his sister Stephanie Pratt was added in the third . Port left the series at the conclusion of the fourth season , moving to New York City and starring in her own spin @-@ off , The City , which aired for two seasons .

Looking to pursue other career opportunities , Conrad left the series halfway through the fifth season , and was subsequently replaced by fellow Laguna Beach : The Real Orange County cast member Kristin Cavallari . Bosworth and Stephanie Pratt joined Cavallari and Patridge as primary cast members in the sixth and final season , while Montag and her husband Pratt were removed from the series after displaying erratic behavior . Conrad briefly returned to the series during an alternate ending for its finale .

The Hills received moderately favorable reviews from critics , and has been recognized as a " guilty pleasure " by several media outlets . However , 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 produced several spin @-@ offs , as well as distributed all seasons to DVD .

In June 2016 , it was announced that The Hills would return for a reunion special , entitled The Hills : That Was Then , This Is Now . Lauren Conrad will star in the special , and it is scheduled to air on MTV on August 2 , 2016 .

= = 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 .

= = Series synopsis = =

= = = Overview and casting = = =

The Hills chronicles the lives of several young women living in Los Angeles , California . Every installment commences with a voice @-@ over narrative from series leads Lauren Conrad ( seasons 1 ? 5 ) or Kristin Cavallari ( seasons 5 ? 6 ) , foreshadowing the theme of the episode . Each season concludes with a finale , typically involving a major event such as a progressing relationship or a personnel departure . Most installments revolve around the women 's everyday lives , with the intention of balancing coverage of their personal and professional endeavors .

Throughout its run , the series was led by three ( season 5 ) and four ( seasons 1 ? 4 , 6 ) primary cast members , who were credited by their first names . Its original main cast members were Conrad

, Heidi Montag , Audrina Patridge , and Whitney Port . Upon the conclusion of the fourth season , Port moved to New York City after receiving employment with Diane von Fürstenberg and was commissioned to star in the spin @-@ off The City .

During this time , Conrad wished to leave the series to pursue other career opportunities , though she filmed ten episodes in the following season to close her storylines . After departing halfway through the fifth season , she was replaced by Cavallari , a fellow former Laguna Beach : The Real Orange County cast member . The sixth and final season saw Conrad 's friends Lo Bosworth and Stephanie Pratt , who were respectively featured as supporting roles since the second and third seasons , become primary cast members . Halfway through the season , Montag left the series after the cast looked to disassociate themselves from her uncharacteristic antics .

The aforementioned women 's storylines were largely developed by a number of supporting cast members . Spencer Pratt , originally credited as " Heidi 's boyfriend " and later " Heidi 's husband " , was added in the second season . Also that season , Brody Jenner was introduced as " Spencer 's friend " . After establishing a friendship with Conrad , he became known as " Lauren 's friend " . Jenner was later credited as " Kristin 's ex @-@ boyfriend " when Cavallari assumed Conrad 's position in the fifth season .

In the third season , Frankie Delgado was established as " Brody 's friend " . His title was adjusted as " Lauren 's friend " the following season , and was eventually reverted to " Brody 's friend " during the fifth season . Since the third season , Justin " Justin @-@ Bobby " Brescia was recognized as " Audrina 's ex " , " Audrina 's boyfriend " , or " Audrina 's ex @-@ boyfriend " Holly Montag , credited as " Heidi 's sister " , was added to the series in the fourth season .

In the fifth season , Stacie Hall was introduced to the series as " bartender " when working at The Dime , and later became " the bartender " after the conflict between herself , Montag , and Pratt came to fruition . After the conflict settled , Hall remained on the series as " Kristin 's friend " .

= = = Timeline of cast members = = =

= = = Storylines = = =

In its series premiere , The Hills first introduced Lauren Conrad , who moved from Laguna Beach , California to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the fashion industry . She and her housemate Heidi Montag originally planned to attend the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising , though the latter left the college after receiving employment with Bolthouse Productions . Montag befriended their neighbor Audrina Patridge , while Conrad bonded with her fellow Teen Vogue intern Whitney Port . The remainder of the first season highlighted romantic relationships , including Montag 's and Patridge 's brief relationships with Jordan Eubanks and Brian Drolet respectively . The season concluded with Conrad 's rejection of a summertime internship in Paris to reunite with her former boyfriend Jason Wahler . Consequentially , Port was offered and accepted the position in Conrad 's place .

By the beginning of the second season , Conrad and Wahler had ended their relationship , while Montag began dating Spencer Pratt . Montag increasingly spent more time with Pratt and neglected her friendship with Conrad , which placed a strain on the pair 's friendship . Consequentially , Conrad strengthened her relationship with her friend Lo Bosworth and took a romantic interest in Pratt 's friend Brody Jenner . Montag and Pratt moved into an apartment together in the season finale , at which point Patridge became Conrad 's new housemate .

In the third season , Conrad ended her friendship with Montag after suspecting that she and Pratt fabricated rumors of a sex tape involving herself and Wahler . The ensuing feud between the women became a central focus of the series , and was carried through each subsequent season in which Conrad appeared . Montag and Pratt became engaged , while Patridge resumed a turbulent romantic relationship with her friend Justin " Justin Bobby " Brescia . After Conrad established companionships with Jenner and his friend Frankie Delgado , Pratt severed ties with both men .

In light of the building feud , Spencer 's sister Stephanie Pratt initially took a disliking to Conrad .

However , she later apologized to Conrad for an earlier confrontation , and the pair became friends . Their relationship put a burden on Pratt 's relationship with her brother and Montag , who reacted by beginning to alienate her . Conrad and Port eventually left their positions at Teen Vogue after receiving employment from Kelly Cutrone 's PR firm People 's Revolution . By the end of the season , Conrad and Patridge had moved out of their apartment and purchased a home , with new housemate Bosworth becoming a distancing factor between the former two .

The fourth season saw Patridge reconcile with Bosworth and repair her relationship with Conrad before moving into a separate residence . Holly Montag moved from her hometown of Crested Butte , Colorado into her sister and Pratt 's apartment , which created tension between the sisters and Pratt . Montag was later fired from her job with Bolthouse after becoming drunk during a company event . While vacationing in Mexico , an intoxicated Montag and Pratt elope . In the season finale , Conrad and Montag appear to have reconciled , though Conrad 's suspicions regarding the rumors continued to inhibit a reconciliation . Port eventually relocated to New York City to accept a position with Diane von Fürstenberg .

As the fifth season began , Spencer Pratt developed a flirtatious bond with a local bartender Stacie Hall , to the dismay of Montag . Per Montag 's request to salvage their relationship , Pratt agreed to attend couples ' therapy . As they became re @-@ engaged and decided to officially marry , Conrad initially declined an invitation to the wedding . In an attempt to change her mind , Pratt called Conrad and apologized for spreading the rumors . After much additional deliberation , Conrad made her final appearance on the series during the mid @-@ season finale , where she attended the nuptials and reconciled with Montag .

Kristin Cavallari caught the bouquet at the wedding , and assumed the series ' lead beginning in the second half of the season . She began a casual relationship with Brescia , at which point Patridge severed ties with him . Afterwards , the women developed a feud that continued through the remainder of the season . Meanwhile , Montag and Pratt purchased a new house and clashed over the decision to begin a family ; Montag wished to have children , while Pratt opposed the thought .

Before filming for the sixth season commenced , Montag garnered significant criticism after undergoing ten cosmetic surgery procedures in one day . In the premiere , she traveled to her hometown Crested Butte to unveil the results to her family . After unexpectedly receiving much disapproval , she and her husband Pratt alienated themselves from their relatives . Having later displayed additional instances of erratic and unusual behavior , their respective sisters decided to exclude them from their lives . Having dated several years prior , Cavallari and Jenner become flirtatious once more , though the former was taken aback after the latter started seeing another woman .

Meanwhile , Stephanie Pratt struggled to begin dating after being arrested for driving under the influence , but later became involved in a relationship . Patridge became involved in a brief relationship with singer Ryan Cabrera and settled as friends with Brescia , while Bosworth moved in with her boyfriend Scott .

During the final episode of the series , Cavallari decides to move to Europe . In the final scene , Jenner is shown to be watching the limousine bringing Cavallari to the airport travel down her street . With the camera on Jenner , the Hollywood Hills backdrop is pulled away , while the camera pans back to reveal that the entire scene was filmed on a backlot . In reality , the vehicle had not driven off and Cavallari stepped out of the vehicle to hug Jenner .

An alternate ending to the series was broadcast in August 2013 . The scene depicts Jenner returning to his apartment after seeing Cavallari 's limousine off to Europe . Conrad is revealed to be sitting on his couch , and comforts him that " it 's hard to say goodbye " to a " friend of [ his ] " , before the camera focuses on a smiling Conrad .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The Hills was moderately well received among critics . The series ' first season holds a score of 52 out of 100 on Metacritic , indicating " mixed or average reviews " , based on eight reviews . Robert Abele of LA Weekly complimented the program for being " insanely watchable " , while Variety 's Brian Lowry criticized the storylines as being " as old as they come " . The second season garnered more favorable feedback , with Virginia Heffernan of The New York Times opining that Conrad " now registers as charm " . After the falling @-@ out between Conrad and Montag in the third season , Heffernan also commented that The Hills " is more convincing than Friends and just about any other comedy about female relationships because ? as anyone who has ever been a young woman knows ? undying friendships die " .

The decision to replace the departing Conrad with Cavallari halfway through the fifth season was met with a mixed response . Tim Stack of Entertainment Weekly expressed interest in the route the series would take , writing that the latter would " be fully prepared to stir things up " . After the premiere of the first episode under her lead , a writer from PopSugar criticized Cavallari 's " sassy , bad @-@ girl attitude " for lacking originality and preferred Conrad for " [ keeping ] it real " . In contrast , Amy Kaufman from Los Angeles Times opined that Cavallari was more intriguing than Conrad , whose storylines she felt had been overshadowed as the series progressed .

The original series finale during the sixth season garnered a generally negative critical response . Emily Exton from Entertainment Weekly described it as " probably a bit confusing " for the series ' earlier viewers , in light of the casting adjustments in later seasons . A writer for Gawker criticized that " as the camera zooms out into the South California nothingness , nothing has changed , and neither audience nor cast is for the better " . However , a writer from People was more positive , feeling that the conclusion was a " surprise twist " .

Similarly , critics were ambivalent towards the alternate finale . Jenna Mullins from E ! praised Conrad 's return as being " shocking and glorious at the same time " , and felt that " clearly [ viewers ] should all prefer the ending with Lauren Conrad " . Kaitlin Reilly from Bustle described the suggestion of another love triangle involving Conrad and Cavallari to " [ feel ] vaguely like the ending to a horror movie " in that " it 's starting again " , but nonetheless appreciated the ending as " a wink to loyal fans " . Billy Niles from Zap2It noted that there was " no winking nod to a soundstage " , and opined that " nothing that freaking awesome happened " . Sonya Sorich of the Ledger @-@ Enquirer preferred the original conclusion , commenting that the revised clip was not as " startling " as the first . Lindsey Weber from Vulture suggested that the footage felt like a " total soap opera " in that it seemingly acknowledged that portions of the series were fabricated .

During its run , The Hills received several accolades from media outlets . It was recognized at number 82 on Entertainment Weekly 's list of the 100 New TV Classics . The series has been labeled as a guilty pleasure by writers for The Huffington Post , MSN , and BuzzSugar .

= = = Scripting allegations = = =

The Hills was often criticized for appearing to fabricate much of its storyline . In one instance , the president of entertainment for MTV , Brian Graden , commented that the series benefits from the media coverage it receives in between seasons , which he described as a " six @-@ month commercial for the show that doesn 't give away the narrative in full . " He elaborated that MTV wants " viewers to watch Lauren and the girls as the characters we know instead of in a show about being the stars of The Hills " ; the sex tape rumors were consequently presented like a personal conflict between the women , and was intentionally not addressed as a highly publicized controversy .

In 2008 , Patridge noted that a producer offered her a position on the series to become friends with Conrad and Montag . She later appeared on an episode of Chelsea Lately , where Chelsea Handler suggested the program was improvised . When pressed further , Patridge replied , " We 're put in situations where however we 'd react and that 's what comes up [ on TV ] " , and additionally stated that the series was unscripted . In 2008 , Montag and Pratt acknowledged that their Mexican elopement was " entirely symbolic " , while their civil ceremony was filmed after office hours without a county court judge present . Additionally , the Associated Press noted that neither person had filed

for a marriage record at the time . An additional source of suspicion arose during the fifth season , where Conrad was shown to be moving out of her house the day prior to Montag and Pratt 's nuptials . However , Conrad and Bosworth had actually left the property several months prior in January , leading to speculation that addressing the wedding as " the next day " was pre @-@ planned .

After leaving The Hills , Conrad appeared on The View in June 2009 , where she was asked how she felt about her apology from Pratt involving the sex tape rumors . She replied , " To be perfectly honest , I wasn 't on the other line of that call [ ... ] I didn 't even know about it until [ afterwards ] , so no , I didn 't get an apology , he 's lying " . At Montag and Pratt 's wedding , it was depicted on the series as if Conrad and Cavallari were displeased with each other 's presence , though the latter commented that they gave each other " a big hug , and that 's it " . She also stated that when she joined The Hills , " It 's work ! And drama sells . I think that 's why they 're bringing me in , because I know what works " .

In February 2011 , Cavallari told Access Hollywood that the cast followed a " schedule " of events to be filmed on a given day , adding , " We only filmed The Hills three days a week , and we did three different scenes each day and a change of clothes to film a specific scene [ ... ] They were pushing it as far as they could go without an actual script ... They give you a schedule like , ' You have lunch with Heidi [ Montag ] at 3 to talk about the party coming up ' or whatever the situation may be " . She had earlier commented that she felt viewers " need to understand it 's all entertainment " and she " would never put [ her ] close friends or a real relationship on a show " .

Cavallari later told Ryan Seacrest that her relationships with Jenner and Brescia were fabricated , and make a point of saying that it was very difficult for her to pretend to be romantically interested in the unattractive and unlikable Brescia . In October 2012 , in an interview with Allure , Conrad stated that while " the story told wasn 't a dishonest one , the way [ the producers ] did it sometimes was " . She elaborated that scenes would be reenacted if cameras were not present for a significant occurrence between cast members , and commented that her relationship with Jenner was " pretty brief " and " definitely [ edited ] to drag it out " . In July 2013 , when discussing the filming of several alternate finale endings , MTV acknowledged that " maybe the term ' reality TV ' didn 't perfectly apply to The Hills " .

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

The first season of The Hills maintained a steady viewership of about two million viewers for each weekly episode . During the third season , the series achieved its most @-@ viewed episode , " Paris Changes Everything " , on March 17 , 2008 ; it had attracted 4 @.@ 8 million viewers in its original airing . However , the fourth season premiere experienced a 25 @-@ percent ratings decline , attracting 2 @.@ 6 million viewers , compared to the 3 @.@ 8 million viewers of the third season finale . The second half of the fifth season , also Cavallari 's first episode as the lead , premiered to 2 @.@ 1 million viewers , suffering a 30 @-@ percent drop from the premiere of the first half . The series finale in July 2010 aired to three million viewers , becoming the peak viewership of the season .

= = Broadcast history = =

The Hills ' first season commenced airing on May 31 , 2006 . The series continued to air on Wednesday evenings until its conclusion on August 2 , 2006 , at which point it had aired ten episodes . The second season was expanded to twelve episodes and premiered on January 15 , 2007 , in its new timeslot on Mondays . The finale aired on April 2 , 2007 . The third season began airing on August 13 , 2007 , where it remained in the timeslot of the previous season . It is the longest season in the series ' history , having broadcast twenty @-@ eight episodes by its finale on May 12 , 2008 . The fourth season premiered on August 18 , 2008 , during the Monday schedule . It consisted of twenty episodes , and concluded on December 22 , 2008 .

Airing of the fifth season was divided into two sections , Part I under Conrad 's lead , and Part II

after Cavallari was confirmed to join the series . Part I premiered on April 6 , 2009 in the same timeslot , and concluded after ten episodes on May 31 , 2009 . Part II premiered on September 29 , 2009 and continued to air on Tuesday evenings . The season aired a total of twenty episodes , split into two equal halves , before finishing on December 1 , 2009 . The sixth season also aired on Tuesdays and premiered on April 27 , 2010 . Twelve episodes later , the series ended its run after a total of 102 episodes on July 13 , 2010 . In July 2012 , MTV aired a month @-@ long morning marathon of The Hills , titled " Retro Mania " . The following year , the marathon was renamed " RetroMTV Brunch " , and culminated with the airing of an alternate series finale in August 2013 .

= = = The City = = =

Beginning in 2008 , cast member Whitney Port starred in her own spin @-@ off series The City . The program premiered on December 28 , 2009 , four weeks after the fifth season finale of The Hills . When she appeared on the original series ' earlier seasons , she limited the exposure of her personal life , commenting that focusing on her career would make people " take [ her ] seriously " .

However , during production of The City , Port wanted to feature her private life to emphasize that " [ her ] head is still screwed on straight " . During the first half of the debut season , the program highlighted her transition to New York City after receiving employment from Diane von Fürstenberg . However , Port later left her position and returned to People 's Revolution with Kelly Cutrone .

The series underwent several casting adjustments for the second half of the first season . Port and Olivia Palermo remained , and the program saw the addition of Port 's friend Roxy Olin and Palermo 's co @-@ worker Erin Kaplan . The revamped cast remained for the second season , which premiered after the sixth season of The Hills on April 27 , 2010 . The season documented the deterioration of Port and Olin 's friendship , which culminated with the latter moving out of their shared apartment . The season concluded on July 13 , 2010 , the same evening as the series finale of The Hills .

In October 2010 , Port confirmed that The City would not be renewed by MTV .

= = = Other spin @-@ offs = = =

Aside from The City , The Hills spawned two additional related series and one proposed program . Cutrone received her own spin @-@ off program Kell on Earth , which premiered on February 1 , 2010 on Bravo . It chronicled the daily operations at People 's Revolution as well as her private life , and was canceled after airing one season .

That September , Conrad filmed a pilot episode for a program that would have focused on her professional endeavors , though MTV passed on the project after Conrad preferred not to feature her personal life . Patridge was commissioned the VH1 program Audrina in 2011 , which focused on herself and her family . However , the series was canceled after its debut season due to underwhelming ratings .

= = Distribution = =

The Hills episodes aired regularly on MTV in the United States . Most 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 . The series , in addition to Laguna Beach : The Real Orange County , were premiered in syndication in fall 2009 .

Since its debut , Paramount Pictures has released all six seasons of The Hills onto DVD , across seven installments . The first , second , fourth , and sixth seasons ' sets each have three discs , while that of the third season includes four . The fifth season 's release was divided into Part I and Part II , and are packaged with two discs apiece .