

= New City , New Drama =

" New City , New Drama " is the pilot episode of The Hills , the first spin @-@ off of Laguna Beach : The Real Orange County . It originally aired on MTV on May 31 , 2006 . In the episode , Lauren Conrad and Heidi Montag move into an apartment in Los Angeles . Conrad befriends fellow Teen Vogue intern Whitney Port , while Montag bonds with their neighbor Audrina Patridge . Conrad is later scolded after Montag and her companions arrive uninvited to a corporate event .

" New City , New Drama " was produced by Tony DiSanto , Adam DiVello , Liz Gateley , Colin Nash , and Andrew Perry . The episode received generally favorable reviews from critics , who appreciated its plotline and production . According to Nielsen ratings , it was watched by 2 @.@ 9 million viewers . The episode was released on DVD on February 13 , 2007 , packaged with the remainder of the first season .

= = Plot = =

Lauren and her housemate Heidi move into their shared apartment in Los Angeles . Shortly after arriving , Lauren 's interview for an internship with Teen Vogue is unexpectedly changed to an earlier time . While Lauren meets with the magazine 's West Coast editor Lisa Love , Heidi befriends their neighbor Audrina . That evening , the women , Heidi 's boyfriend Jordan Eubanks , and his roommate Brian Drolet eat dinner at the sushi restaurant Geisha House .

The following morning , Lauren and Heidi meet with the administrators at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising . While Lauren impresses her superiors , they question if Heidi is prepared for college . Upon returning home , Blaine Zuckerman calls Lauren on behalf of Teen Vogue and offers her an internship with the magazine . On her first day , she befriends another intern Whitney , and the two begin preparing for the launch party of Teen Vogue 's " Hollywood " edition .

As Lauren and Whitney learn that they will be working during the party , Heidi wants to attend the event , which Lauren is unwilling to risk her internship for . Nonetheless , as Heidi , Audrina , Jordan , and Brian arrive unexpectedly that evening , Lauren and Whitney allow the group in . Blaine and Lisa scold Lauren for an argument between Heidi and Jordan , in addition to allowing the group to sit in a reserved seating area . Lisa tells her that they will " discuss this on Monday " .

= = Production = =

After the first two seasons of Laguna Beach : The Real Orange County enjoyed continued ratings success , MTV approved production of the spin @-@ off series The Hills in 2005 . Like its predecessor , the reality television program was filmed in a narrative format more commonly seen in soap operas . Conrad , who served as the parent series ' first season narrator , became the focal point of the show as she moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the fashion industry .

The pilot episode introduced three additional primary cast members . Montag , who was previously featured on Laguna Beach in a limited capacity , became Conrad 's housemate by the time production had begun on the first season of The Hills . On the series , it was depicted as if Montag had befriended Patridge by her own doing , though Patridge claimed that a producer offered her a position on the series to become friends with Conrad and Montag . Port was introduced to the series as Conrad 's co @-@ intern at Teen Vogue .

" New City , New Drama " was produced by Tony DiSanto , Adam DiVello , Liz Gateley , Colin Nash , and Andrew Perry . The latter four individuals had previously served as producers for Laguna Beach . DiVello and Gateley served as the series ' executive producers until its conclusion in July 2010 .

= = Reception and release = =

" New City , New Drama " was met with generally favorable reviews from critics , who appreciated its plotline and production . Kelly West from Television Blend noted that The Hills commented that

MTV " [ keeps ] things simple " , noting the similarities it shares with Laguna Beach , but given the network 's success with reality programming since the 1990s , opined that the series was " sure to be as much of a hit " as its predecessor . Writing for The New York Times , Virginia Heffernan enjoyed watching " charmed " work experiences and the " hammy deadbeat " Montag , further stating that she saw the program as being more fictional than reality . Kara Medalis of the Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette said that she missed Kristin Cavallari from Laguna Beach , but enjoyed Montag as " the new troublemaker in [ Conrad 's ] life " .

In its original broadcast in the United States on May 31 , 2006 , " New City , New Drama " was watched by 2 @.@ 9 million viewers . The remainder of the season maintained a steady viewership of about two million viewers for each weekly episode , and was subsequently picked up for a second season . In the country , the first season was released as a two @-@ disc DVD set on February 13 , 2007 .