

# LEGALLY BLONDE



*The Musical™*

## **Dramaturgy Packet** *Legally Blonde: The Musical*

Cedar Grove High School 2021 Spring Musical

Music and Lyrics: Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin

Book: Heather Hach

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown

And the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

Packet Compiled by Jackie Leibowitz

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Photos from the Original Broadway Production



Photos from the Original Broadway Production (continued)



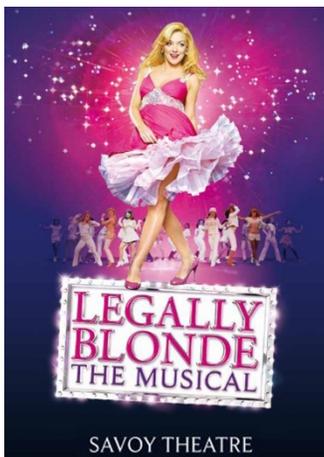
## Background on the Musical

- The original Broadway production opened on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Palace Theater.<sup>1</sup>
  - It ran for 30 previews and 595 performances.
  - They had their out of town tryout at the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco from January 23<sup>rd</sup>-February 25<sup>th</sup> 2007.<sup>2</sup>
  - Prior to the out-of-town tryout, the show had multiple readings and two official workshops dating all the way back to 2005 in order to get the songs and structure down early so that there wouldn't be major changes later on.<sup>3</sup>
  - It had a budget of roughly \$15 million.
- It opened to mixed reviews, especially from infamous *New York Times* critic Ben Brantley:
  - “*This high-energy, empty-calories and expensive-looking hymn to the glories of girlishness, based on the 2001 film of the same title, approximates the experience of eating a jumbo box of Gummi Bears in one sitting. This may be common fare for the show’s apparent target audience — female ’tweens and teenagers who still believe in Barbie. But unless you’re used to such a diet, you wind up feeling jittery, glazed and determined to swear off sweets for at least a month.*”<sup>4</sup>
- On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, they achieved the milestone of surpassing \$1 million in ticket sales.
- The show was nominated for 7 Tony Awards at the 2007 Awards show, but didn't win any. Nominations included:
  - Best Book of a Musical – Heather Hach
  - Best Original Score – Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin
  - Best Actress in A Musical – Laura Bell Bundy (Elle Woods)
  - Best Featured Actor in A Musical – Christian Borle (Emmett Forrest)
  - Best Featured Actress in A Musical – Orfeh (Paulette Buonofuonte)
  - Best Choreography – Choreographed by Jerry Mitchell
  - Best Costume Design of a Musical – Costume Design by Gregg Barnes
    - It was widely suspected that they would get a nomination for Best Musical, but *Curtains* edged them out for the fourth slot that year, surprising many in the industry.
    - 2007 had several other heavy-hitters including *Grey Gardens*, *Mary Poppins*, and the winner, *Spring Awakening*.



- They were also nominated for 10 Drama Desk Awards and one Outer Critics Circle Award (for Orfeh as Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical), but did not win any.

- A professionally filmed version of the musical aired on MTV on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007.<sup>5</sup>
  - It was hosted by the stars of the reality show *The Hills* and featured behind-the-scenes featurettes during commercials.
  - It was filmed over 3 consecutive performances, including a regular performance, one without an audience (for closeups), and one with an audience of 15 to 25-year-olds dressed in pink in order to draw in a younger crowd.
- The first national tour was launched on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008, featuring many of the Broadway show's original ensemble members and a few of the runners-up from the MTV reality show.
  - At one point, both the actress playing Elle and her understudy were out of the show with injuries, so in an emergency decision, Laura Bell Bundy was brought in for six weeks to fill in and she got a chance to bookend the role she'd created:
    - "I believe that show changed me on many levels, and I think Elle had a really good impact on me in terms of me being a positive human being and me believing in myself as a woman, and me believing in myself in general and seeing the best in others. I learned a lot about my own vulnerability at that time in my life, but also as an actress. It was an interesting couple of years. It was a dramatic couple of years in a way, but also really exciting. I felt like I went from being a girl to being a woman when I did that show. I learned a lot."
- The West End production started previews at London's Savoy Theatre on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and officially opened January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
  - This production starred Sheridan Smith, who was handpicked by Jerry Mitchell.
  - It won three Laurence Olivier Awards in 2011:
    - Best Musical
    - Best Actress in a Musical for Sheridan Smith (Elle Woods)
    - Best Performance in a Supporting Role in a Musical for Jill Halfpenny (Paulette Buonofuonte)
  - It played until April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012, finally closing after 974 performances. (Roughly a year longer than the Broadway production.)
- It was released by Music Theatre International (MTI) for licensing in 2011.<sup>6</sup>
  - It's become a popular title, having productions at professional and amateur theaters throughout the world in regional, community, and educational theatre.



## The Creative Team

### Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin (Music and Lyrics):



Nell Benjamin: born June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1967

Laurence O'Keefe: born January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1965

- They've been married since 2001 and have worked together and separately on many projects.<sup>7</sup>
  - They have a daughter named Persephone.
- Both of them ACTUALLY went to Harvard!<sup>8</sup>
  - They met there during auditions for the improv group "On Thin Ice".
  - O'Keefe studied anthropology, wrote humor for the *Harvard Lampoon*, and sang with the Harvard Krokodiloes. He graduated in 1991.
    - He got his start in musical theatre through Harvard's *Hasty Pudding Theatricals*, performing in their drag burlesques.
  - O'Keefe also studied composition and film scoring at Berklee College of Music and holds a masters in composition for film and television from the University of Southern California.
  - Benjamin graduated with her degree in English in 1993 and holds a master's degree in Women's Studies from the University of Dublin.
- Some of the shows they've written for the stage include:
  - *Bat Boy: The Musical* (O'Keefe – Music & Lyrics)
  - *The Mice* (part of the musical *3hree*)
  - *Cam Jansen and the Curse of the Emerald Elephant*
  - *Sarah, Plain and Tall*
  - *The Explorers Club* (Benjamin – Playwright)
  - *Heathers: The Musical* (O'Keefe – co-wrote with Kevin Murphy)
  - *Mean Girls: The Musical* (Benjamin – Lyrics)
  - *Dave* (Benjamin – Lyrics & co-wrote book with Thomas Meehan)
  - *Because of Winn Dixie* (Benjamin – Book & Lyrics)

- They have written many songs and pieces for movies, television, and concerts, including:
  - *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central
  - *Johnny and the Sprites* on Playhouse Disney
  - *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* on UK's ITV
  - *Defiance* on SyFy,
  - *Julie's Greenroom* on Netflix.
  - And the song "This Is The Show" for the season finale of *Best Time Ever with Neil Patrick Harris* on NBC.
- Benjamin received a second Tony nomination for her lyrics for *Mean Girls*.
  - Her play *The Explorers Club* won the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Play, the Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award, and an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant.
  - She also has won an Ed Kleban Award and a Jonathan Larson Award for her writing.
- O'Keefe won the 2001 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical as composer for *Bat Boy*.
  - He was also nominated for a Drama Desk for Outstanding Music for *Heathers*.
  - He won two Richard Rodgers Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
  - He also won both an Ed Kleban Award and a Jonathan Larson Award, though in a different year than his wife.



## Heather Hach (Book):



Born January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1953

- She is mainly known for her screenwriting credits, such as 2003's *Freaky Friday* and 2012's *What to Expect When You're Expecting*.<sup>9</sup>
- She is Graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder, School of Journalism.
- In Colorado, she was part of the improvisational comedy groups *Impulse Theater* and *Reaction Slacks*.
- She worked at *The New York Times Denver Bureau* as a research assistant and *Sports and Fitness Publishing* in Boulder, Colorado as a magazine editor.
- Worked on the TV shows "Caroline in the City" and "Dilbert."
- She won the Walt Disney Screenwriting Fellowship in 1999 which led to *Freaky Friday*.
- Hach married animator/visual effects artist Jason Hearne in 2003.
  - Together they have a daughter named Harper and son named Drake.
  - She was married previously and her divorce at age 25 caused her to move from Denver to Los Angeles, where she got the job writing *Freaky Friday* that changed her life.<sup>10</sup>
  - Her life parallels Elle's journey quite a bit and made her all the more of a perfect choice to write the book for *Legally Blonde*.
    - Her daughter was born 6 months before they opened on Broadway, so she was also balancing a newborn with her writing responsibilities.
- She also co-wrote the YA novel *Freaky Monday* with Mary Rodgers, which was released by HarperCollins in 2009.
- Most recently, she signed with A3 Artists Agency for representation.<sup>11</sup>
- Hach is attached to pen Sony's adaptation of Allison Winn Scotch's Broadway Books novel *Time of My Life*.

## Jerry Mitchell (Director and Choreographer)



Born January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1960

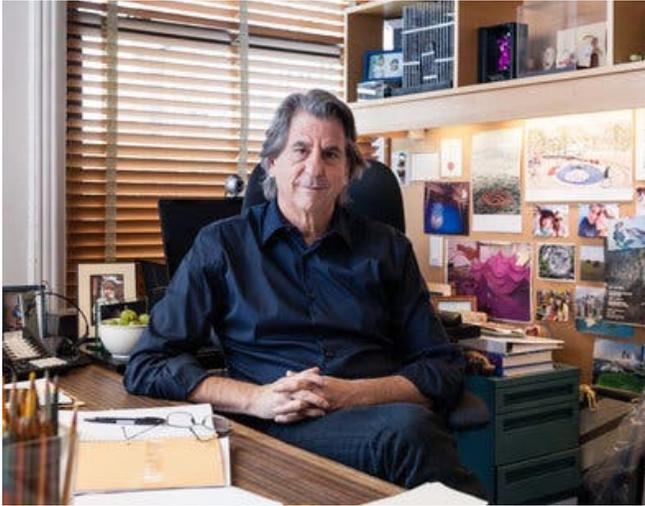
- He's originally from Paw Paw, Michigan.<sup>12</sup>
- He spent a year at Webster University in St. Louis, but didn't finish. In 2005, he was awarded an honorary degree.
- Before moving to choreography and directing, he was a Broadway actor and dancer, making his debut in the ensemble of *Barnum*.
  - He was also in other shows such as *A Chorus Line*, *Brigadoon* (1980 revival), *Woman of the Year*, *On Your Toes*, and *The Will Rogers Follies*.
  - After dancing in the ensemble and swinging, he started to assist choreographers and officially earn the title of Associate Choreographer.
- Some of his Broadway choreography and directing credits include:
  - *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (1999 Revival) – choreographer debut
  - *The Rocky Horror Show* (2000 Revival)
  - *The Full Monty*
  - *Hairspray*
  - *Gypsy* (2003 revival)
  - *Never Gonna Dance*
  - *La Cage aux Folles* (2004 revival)
  - *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*
  - *Catch Me If You Can*
  - *Kinky Boots*
  - *On Your Feet!*
  - *Pretty Woman: The Musical*
  - (and more!)
- *Legally Blonde* was his directorial debut.
- He's been nominated for Tony Awards 8 times, and won twice: for choreography for *La Cage Aux Folles* in 2005 and again for *Kinky Boots* in 2013.
  - He's also been nominated for 7 Drama Desk awards (winning once for *La Cage Aux Folles*) and 4 Laurence Olivier awards.

- He created the fundraiser *Broadway Bares* for Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS and is still involved with the annual gala to this day.
- In addition to his theatrical work, Mitchell has choreographed for films such as *Camp, In & Out* and *Drop Dead Gorgeous*.
  - He garnered an Emmy Award nomination for his work on *The Drew Carey Show*.
- In January 2020, he became engaged to dancer Ricky Schroeder after 8 years of dating.<sup>13</sup>



Becky Gulsvig performing at the 2009 Tony Awards to promote the tour.

**Design Team:**



David Rockwell (Scenic Design)



Gregg Barnes (Costumes)





Kenneth Posner and Paul Miller (Lighting Design)

Acme Sound Partners (Sound Design)

David Brian Brown (Hair Design)

Justen M. Brosnan (Make-Up Design)

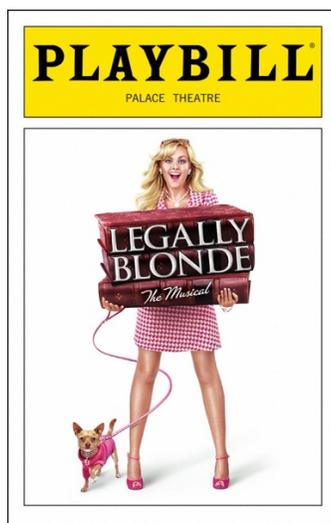
### The Original Broadway Cast

Actor	Role
Laura Bell Bundy	Elle Woods
Richard H. Blake	Warner Huntington III
Christian Borle	Emmett Forrest
Orfeh	Paulette Buonofuonte
Michael Rupert	Professor Callahan
Kate Shindle	Vivienne Kensington
Nikki Snelson	Brooke Wyndam/Shandi
Annaleigh Ashford	Margot
Leslie Kritzer	Serena
DeQuina Moore	Pilar
April Berry	Kristine/Ensemble
Paul Canaan	Ensemble
Beth Curry	Gabby/Ensemble
Amber Efé	Judge/Ensemble/Store Manager
Gaelen Gilliland	Mom/Whitney/Ensemble
Jason Gillman	Ensemble
Becky Gulsvig	Leilani/Ensemble
Rod Harrelson	Ensemble

Manuel Herrera	Sundee Padamadan/Nikos/Ensemble
Natalie Joy Johnson	Veronica/Enid/Ensemble
Andy Karl	Grandmaster Chad/Dewey/Kyle the UPS guy/Ensemble
Nick Kenkel	Ensemble
Michelle Kittrell	Cece/Ensemble
Kevin Pariseau	Dad/Winthrop/Ensemble
Matthew Risch	Carlos/Ensemble
Jason Patrick Sands	Ensemble
Noah Weisberg	Aaron Shultz/Guard/Ensemble
Kate Wetherhead	Chutney/Kate/Ensemble
Chico	Bruiser
Chloe	Rufus

**Swings:** Lindsay Nicole Chambers, Tracy Jai Edwards, Rod Harrelson, and Rusty Mowery

**Understudies:** Annaleigh Ashford (Elle Woods), Beth Curry (Brooke Wyndam/Shandi), Tracy Jai Edwards (Vivienne/Serena), Amber Efé (Paulette), Gaalen Gilliland (Paulette/ Vivienne/Enid), Jason Gillman (Warner Huntington III), Becky Gulsvig (Elle Woods), Andy Karl (Emmett Forrest/Professor Callahan), Michelle Kittrell (Brooke Wyndam/Shandi), Kevin Pariseau (Professor Callahan), Matthew Risch (Warner Huntington III) and Noah Weisberg (Emmett Forrest)



OPENING NIGHT: APRIL 29, 2017

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 and Marty Topp

In Association with MGM ON STAGE

Presented by  
**LEGALLY BLONDE**  
*The Musical*

LAURENCE O'KEEFE • NELL BENJAMIN • HEATHER HACH  
 BASED UPON THE NOVEL BY AMANDA BROWN  
 AND THE METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER MOTION PICTURE

Music by  
**LAURA BELL BUNDY**  
 CHRISTIAN BUBLE (LYRICS)  
 RICHARD H. BLAKE, KATE SHINDLE, NIKKI SHELSON  
 and MICHAEL RUPERT

Directed by  
 KRISTIN GARDER and MARK ISAACSON

Produced by  
 DAVID ROCKWELL, GREG BARNES, KEN PIONEER & PAUL MULLER, ACME SOUND PARTNERS

Executive Producers  
 TELY & COMPANY, DAVID BRIAN BROWN, MAAC BRUN, DENIS JONES

Producers  
 SMITH THEATERSMITH, INC., WILLIAM BERLIND, BONNIE L. BECKER, MARIAMZEE BROWN

Associate Producers  
 BARLOW-HARTMAN, TMS THE MARKETING GROUP, PKC PRODUCTIONS, THE GARDNER-KRUMHOLTZ GROUP

Music Supervisor  
 JAMES SAMPLNER

Costume Designer  
 CHRISTOPHER JARROLD

Hair and Makeup Designer  
 LAURENCE O'KEEFE & JAMES CAMPBELL

Production Designer  
 MICHAEL KELLER

Booked and Presented by  
**JERRY MITCHELL**

Annaleigh Ashford  
 Laura Bell Bundy  
 Beth Curry  
 Ofah  
 Richard H. Blake  
 Christian Buble  
 Charlie Lee Hulse  
 Michael Ruper  
 Kate Shindle  
 Nikki Snelson

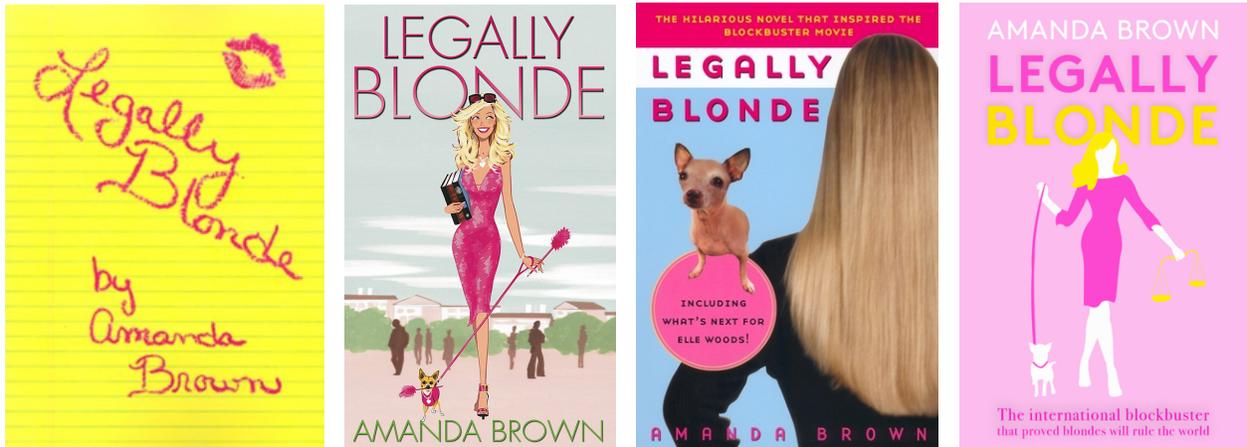
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Annaleigh Ashford  
 April Berry  
 Paul Canan  
 Lindsay Nicole Chambers  
 Beth Curry  
 Tracy Jai Edwards  
 Amber Efé  
 Gaalen Gilliland  
 Jason Gillman  
 Becky Gulsvig  
 Rod Harrelson  
 Manuel Herrera  
 Natalie Joy Johnson  
 Andy Karl  
 Nick Kenkel  
 Michelle Kittrell  
 Leslie Kritzer  
 DeQuana Moxee  
 Rusty Mowery  
 Kevin Pariseau  
 Matthew Risch  
 Jason Patrick Sands  
 Noah Weisberg  
 Kate Wetherhead

Images from the *Legally Blonde* Playbill 14

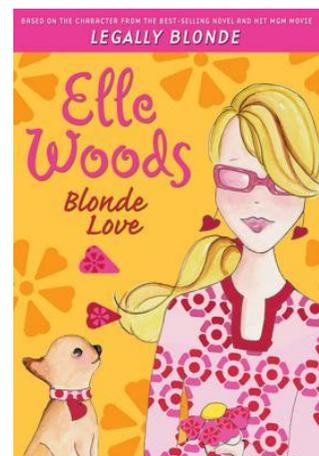
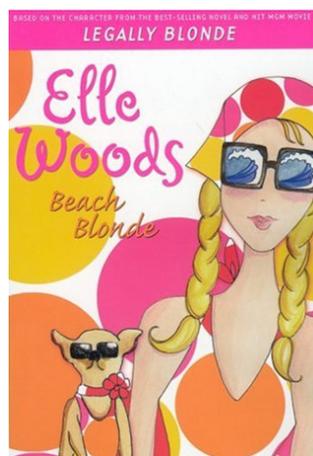
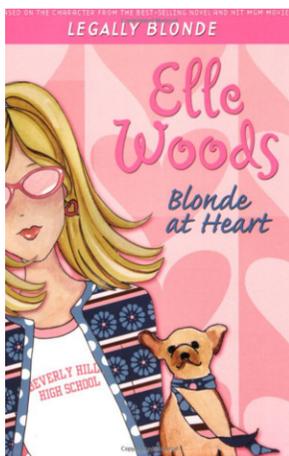
## The Book



Several covers for the novel version of *Legally Blonde*

- Based on the novel by Amanda Brown<sup>15</sup>
- It was inspired by her real-life experience at Stanford Law School.
  - While in Law School, she used to write letters home to her friends and family explaining what her life was like there and they were so entertained that they all asked for more of them.
  - She eventually dropped out and decided to become a writer when she saw how popular her letters were.
- Originally, the book was a tough sell, but Brown printed her manuscript on pink paper and got an agent's attention when it was in a "slush pile".
  - *Slush pile*- A pile of unsolicited manuscripts that agents and publishers receive and go through as time allows, where they sometimes find items of interest.
- The rights for the movie were shopped around at the same time as the book, and the screenplay caught the eye of producer Marc Platt who immediately knew he wanted to make it into a film.
- The book was actually published only a month before the movie was released: July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 while the movie released July 13<sup>th</sup>. It was self-published originally and then got a full commercial release in 2003 due to the popularity of the film.
- There are many differences between the book and the movie/musical:
  - The setting is at Stanford Law School, with Elle going to USC for undergrad.
  - Elle's major in undergrad wasn't fashion merchandising, it was sociopolitical jewelry design. (A major she created herself by "merging technical classes at the architecture school with sociological research on ornamentation and feminist critiques of beauty myths")
  - Elle isn't as serious a student – she doesn't do her reading and reads magazines or does her nails during class instead. The way she speaks makes her seem more scatterbrained.
    - She even gets evicted from her student housing because she violates the "no pets" policy and has to get an apartment off campus.
  - Bruiser is named Underdog, Vivian Kensington is named Sarah Knottingham, and Paulette is a French woman named Josette who she isn't as close with.
  - She talks about many of her professors and all their different classes, but the criminal defense lawyer looking for interns is actually an alumnus of the school, a lawyer named Christopher Miles.

- Callahan doesn't exist and no one in power sexually assaults her.
  - Emmett doesn't exist at all; there is no love interest except Elle pining to get Warner back.
  - Elle doesn't dress as a Playboy bunny, she shows up to a Halloween party in all black with a spiked dog collar. No one purposely embarrasses her, but they do gossip about her and call her "Barbie" very often.
  - Since Elle is still in California, she's able to go back and visit Margot and Serena.
  - Elle finds a friend at law school named Eugenia. She also becomes friends with Brooke, even having Brooke stay with her before the trial (since she's out on bail.)
  - Brooke's (whose last name is Vandermark, not Wyndam) alibi isn't that she was getting liposuction, she was at a Shoppers Stoppers Anonymous meeting and she didn't want to break the anonymity of the people in the group since they're her only support system.
  - Brooke is also not in the same sorority, she was from a competing one (Kappa Alpha Theta). Chutney was in Kappa Kappa Gamma and all of them went to USC together.
    - Also, Brooke is a year younger than Chutney, not the same age.
  - Elle calls that Chutney is the murderer as soon as she interviews for the internship. She also earns the job by explaining Brooke's life before the murder. Her inside information and way of humanizing Brooke get her the job, and give the reader more backstory.
  - There is a "Secret Angel" who sends Elle poems along with notes from all the law classes to help her pass her exams since this version of Elle isn't as serious about her studies – she finds out later in the book that it's a fellow student named Larry.
  - Elle does try to start a "Blonde Legal Defense Fund" to combat the "anti-blonde discrimination" she experiences as well as act as an actual law firm run by and for blondes, but both the students and professors ridicule her about it.
  - Elle doesn't really want to be a lawyer and eventually decides that she wants to make a legal themed jewelry line.
  - In general, the book characters are a lot more conniving and cutthroat. They're always trying to sabotage each other instead of working together to get through law school.
- There is also a spinoff of a few other *Legally Blonde* Young Adult prequel stories about Elle in high school, written by Natalie Standiford:
    - *Blonde at Heart*, published April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006
    - *Beach Blonde*, published June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006
    - *Vote Blonde*, published August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006
    - *Blonde Love*, published December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006



## The Movie



- Producers at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer decided to make this story into a motion picture starring Reese Witherspoon.
- It was released nationally on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001<sup>16</sup>
- It was Australian director Robert Luketic's first ever full-length film.
- Screenwriters Karen McCullah Lutz and Kristin Smith had a huge job ahead of them adapting the book to screen because they wanted to give Elle more depth.
  - There are many major changes between the book and film. They added the love story with Emmett so that it wasn't all about Warner, but in doing this, they had to make sure they balanced the romance with Elle finding her passion.
- Other actresses who auditioned for Elle are: Charlize Theron, Gwyneth Paltrow, Alicia Silverstone, Katherine Heigl, Milla Jovovich, Jennifer Love Hewitt, and Christina Applegate.
  - Applegate was offered the role, but turned it down because she didn't want to be stereotyped as a "dumb blonde" after her years playing Kelly Bundy on *Married With Children*. Director Robert Luketic pushed for Reese Witherspoon.
- The film originally ended at the courthouse right after Elle won the case, with her and Luke Wilson's character, Emmett, sharing a grand kiss on the steps. It then cut to Elle with Vivian starting their own Blonde Legal Defense Club at Harvard Law School.
  - Test audiences wanted Elle to get her revenge on Warner and they wanted to see where she would wind up after, so the post-trial scene with Warner and the Graduation sequence were added in later.
    - Both Reese Witherspoon and Matt Davis (Warner) were in London filming other movies by the time they wanted to make this change, so they filmed their parts over in London.
    - Holland Taylor (Professor Stromwell) was flown over there to shoot her scene along with them and the "audience" shots of all the other graduates were re-created in Los Angeles and edited together.
    - Witherspoon and Luke Wilson had cut their hair for other movie roles right after they wrapped, so they had to wear wigs in the additional scenes!
- Witherspoon did her research on the role: she went to dinner with real sorority girls and got to know them beyond their façade:

- *“I went to dinner with them. It’s sort of like an anthropological study. You learn what they eat, how they behave, how they take care of their young, that sort of thing. Seriously, though, I’ve learned that people don’t know what their worst characteristics are. It’s inherent to our nature that we don’t know what, in ourselves, is abhorrent to other people. So it’s really easy to infiltrate people’s lives. They showed all sides of themselves. Sometimes I’m shocked, like, I can’t believe they just said that to me!”<sup>17</sup>*
- She also attended law school for a day and spent time in Beverly Hills watching how women from Southern California act, like watching them shop and eat at restaurants to really nail their mannerisms.
- Witherspoon had just given birth to her daughter right before filming, so she was a new mom in addition to shooting these high-energy scenes as Elle.
- Witherspoon got to keep all 60 costumes she wore in the movie!
- The hair department did tons of tests to get her hair JUST the right shade of blonde since they felt that was an incredibly important part of her character.
- The sequel, *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde*, was released in 2003.
  - This movie focuses on Elle going to Washington, D.C. to join the staff of a Congresswoman in order to pass a bill to ban animal testing and free Bruiser’s mom.
  - Witherspoon was actually pregnant while they were filming!
    - She also had to wear a wig for this movie because she had cut her hair short for *Sweet Home Alabama*.
  - Barbie released a commemorative Elle doll in honor of the film.
- There is a direct-to-video spinoff called *Legally Blondes* that was released in 2009.
  - This film starred Becky and Milly Rosso as Elle’s twin cousins from England who must defend themselves when their school’s reigning forces turn on the girls and try to frame them for a crime.
  - While no original cast members returned for this movie, it was produced by Witherspoon.
- A third theatrical installment starring Witherspoon has been confirmed for release in May 2022.<sup>18</sup>
  - The script for the third movie will be penned by Mindy Kaling.



## Harvard Law School



# HARVARD LAW SCHOOL



- While the original setting of the book was actually Stanford (where author Amanda Green attended and based her experience for the story), the movie and musical are famously set at the prestigious Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- The rate of acceptance at Harvard Law is currently 15.6%
  - With Elle getting a 175 on her LSATs (179 in the film), that would put her in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile since the top possible score is 180.
- Founded in 1817, it is the oldest continuously operating law school in the United States.<sup>19</sup>
  - Each incoming class has roughly 560 students, divided approximately into 7 groups of 80 who take most of their classes together. Approximately 1,990 students attend the school each year.
- It is also home to the largest academic law library in the world, housing more than 2 million volumes.
- The first African American graduate was in 1869 (George Lewis Ruffin), but women were not accepted into the school until 1950.
  - The incoming class would not reach 50% women until 2014.
  - Among the nine women who enrolled at HLS in 1956 was Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who would go on to become an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1993 and stay until her death in 2020.
- Harvard Law's faculty each year includes more than 100 full-time professors and clinical professors.
  - It also includes a rotation of more than 40 visiting professors, and over 150 lecturers on law, professors of practice, clinical instructors, and professors emeriti.
- Their curriculum features more than 400 courses and seminars each year.
- The current tuition for the 2021-22 school year is \$67,720, but with room and board and all the extras added in, it comes to about \$104,200 (Multiplied by 3 years of the program to get the degree!)

## The Greek Chorus



- While an exact year is unknown, the Greek Chorus originated in Greek dramas sometime around 6 BCE.
- The word “chorus” comes from the Greek verb *choreuo*.
- According to Encyclopedia Britannica, it’s officially defined as:
  - “The chorus in Classical Greek drama was a group of actors who described and commented upon the main action of a play with song, dance, and recitation. Greek tragedy had its beginnings in choral performances, in which a group of 50 men danced and sang dithyrambs—lyric hymns in praise of the god Dionysus.”<sup>20</sup>
  - They were there to provide background and summarize information to the audience to help them understand what was going on in the performance. They commented on themes, expressed what the main characters couldn’t say (like secrets, thoughts, and fears) and provided other characters with information and insights.
- Over time, the number in the chorus changed to 12 (likely by Aeschylus) and back up to 15 (by Sophocles). For comedies, it was 24, and eventually it was phased out when music came into the picture. However, they still had a very specific role to play:
  - “The distinction between the passivity of the chorus and the activity of the actors is central to the artistry of the Greek tragedies. While the tragic protagonists act out their defiance of the limits subscribed by the gods for man, the chorus expresses the fears, hopes, and judgment of the polity, the average citizens. Their judgment is the verdict of history.”
- Eventually, they started to fade out of popularity and the convention changed:
  - “As the importance of the actors increased, the choral odes became fewer in number and tended to have less importance in the plot, until at last they became mere decorative interludes separating the acts. During the Renaissance the role of the chorus was revised. In the drama of Elizabethan England, for instance, the name chorus designated a single person, often the speaker of the prologue and epilogue.”
- Because the chorus were meant to represent a collective character, it was common for them to wear masks.
  - This was done both in an effort to unify the chorus into one being and to keep their anonymity in case they were to play more than one role in a show.
  - This also was a way to project over-exaggerated facial emotions since the amphitheaters were so large.



- The definition of “chorus” has changed in recent years due to the rise in popularity of revues, musical comedies, and eventually, the American Musical.
  - It wasn’t until the 1920s that the chorus integrated fully into musicals in a way that helped move the story forward. A full “book” musical (with a story where the music was used as extension of the scenes) wouldn’t exist until *Oklahoma!* in 1943.
- Legend has it that a member of the chorus, Thespis, stepped out of the group for the first time to speak lines on his own with the chorus leader.
  - This is why we call theatre actors *thespians!*
- Other than *Legally Blonde*, some contemporary uses of the Greek chorus are:
  - The Muses in the Disney’s animated feature *Hercules*.
  - The storytellers in the musical *Once on this Island*.
  - The Fates in the musical *Hadestown*.
- In the case of *Legally Blonde*, the Greek chorus were added in order to keep the sorority girls involved in the show and have someone around that Elle could relate to.
  - In the movie, Margot and Serena are only in the beginning and end with a small phone call in the middle. This was a convention used to keep them involved throughout the show for all the important moments.
  - “Greek chorus” was also a play on words since they’re sorority girls.



## Sorority 101: The Greek System



- Delta Nu is a real sorority at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and at Harding University, a private college, in Searcy, Arkansas. <sup>21</sup>
  - It has existed since 1971.
  - From the Dickinson College website: *“The sisterhood of Delta Nu was founded on October 8, 1971 at Dickinson College. Prior to this date, the sisterhood was the Delta chapter of the national sorority Chi Omega. Our chapter wanted to offer bids to women of minority status, however our national organization did not permit us to do so.”*
  - *“We vigorously fought to change these discriminatory policies. Chi Omega refused to alter their policies, so, we as the Delta chapter decided to return our national charter and form a local sorority. To represent this change, we kept the name ‘Delta,’ and ‘Nu’ was added to mark the formation of a new sorority—thus Delta Nu was born. We adopted new symbols and ideals. And most importantly, we were finally free to determine members of our sisterhood—regardless of race or religion.”*
  - *“We are a group of women that encourages each of its members to express and further develop their unique talents. Our lasting traditions and individuality make us the Sorority of Delta Nu.”*



Delta Nu sisters at Dickinson in 1972 and today!



- In the book, the sorority was Delta Gamma, a real national sorority going back to 1873.
- Fraternities and sororities, or Greek-letter organizations, are social or honorary organizations at colleges and universities.<sup>22</sup>
  - The first fraternity in North America to incorporate most of the elements of modern fraternities was Phi Beta Kappa, founded at the College of William and Mary in 1775.
- Sororities (originally termed "women's fraternities") began to develop in 1851 with the formation of the Adelphean Society Alpha Delta Pi, though fraternity-like organizations for women didn't take their current form until the establishment of Pi Beta Phi in 1867 and Kappa Alpha Theta in 1870.
  - The term "sorority" was used by a professor of Latin at Syracuse University, Dr. Frank Smalley, who felt the word "fraternity" was inappropriate for a group of ladies. The word comes from Latin *soror*, meaning "sister," "cousin, daughter of a father's brother," or "female friend."
  - The first organization to use the term "sorority" was Gamma Phi Beta, established in 1874.
- Today, both social and multicultural sororities are present on more than 650 college campuses across the United States and Canada.
  - The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) serves as the "umbrella organization" for 26 (inter)national sororities. Founded in 1902, the NPC is one of the oldest and largest women's membership organizations, representing more than 4 million women at 655 college/university campuses and 4,500 local alumnae chapters in the U.S. and Canada.
- Aside from the traditional fraternities and sororities with single-gendered membership, there are also many honorary Greek organizations that use GPAs and services performed outside of school to determine membership, such as Alpha Phi Omega (the National Service fraternity) and Alpha Psi Omega (the National Theatre Honor Society).
  - Many of these groups are co-ed.

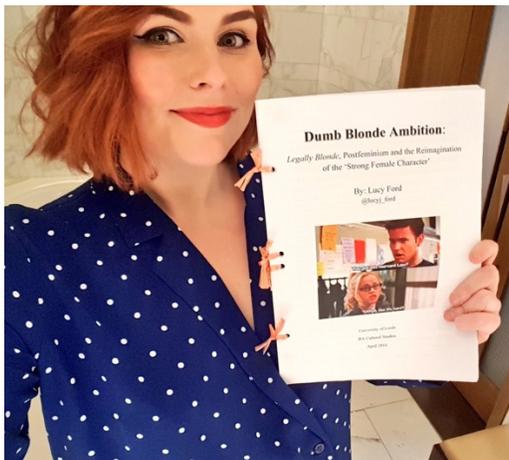
<b>Α</b> Alpha (al-fah)	<b>Β</b> Beta (bay-tah)	<b>Γ</b> Gamma (gam-ah)	<b>Δ</b> Delta (del-ta)	<b>Ε</b> Epsilon (ep-si-lon)	<b>Ζ</b> Zeta (zay-tah)	<b>Η</b> Eta (ay-tah)	<b>Θ</b> Theta (thay-tah)	<b>Ι</b> Iota (eye-o-tah)	<b>Κ</b> Kappa (cap-pah)	<b>Λ</b> Lambda (lamb-dah)	<b>Μ</b> Mu (mew)
<b>Ν</b> Nu (new)	<b>Ξ</b> Xi (zie)	<b>Ο</b> Omicron (om-e-cron)	<b>Π</b> Pi (pie)	<b>Ρ</b> Rho (roe)	<b>Σ</b> Sigma (sig-mah)	<b>Τ</b> Tau (taw)	<b>Υ</b> Upsilon (up-si-lon)	<b>Φ</b> Phi (fie)	<b>Χ</b> Chi (kie)	<b>Ψ</b> Psi (sigh)	<b>Ω</b> Omega (oh-may-gah)



## The Color Pink: Feminism in Legally Blonde



- Since its premiere, the film *Legally Blonde* has become a prime example of contemporary feminism in film since it's challenged the norms of the "dumb blonde" stereotype.
- In a now viral interview, reporter Lucy Ford gave Reese Witherspoon a dissertation she wrote in college on *Legally Blonde* called "Dumb Blonde Ambition: *Legally Blonde*, Postfeminism, and the Reimagining of the 'Strong Female Character'".<sup>23</sup>
  - She was lucky enough to get the interview with Witherspoon, Oprah, and Mindy Kaling for the film *A Wrinkle in Time*, so she got permission from her editor and took a moment to tell Witherspoon what a fan she was from the movie and handed her a copy to keep. Witherspoon was very touched by the sentiment.
  - It was 15,000 words long and she even made sure the hard copy was scented!
  - She watched the film 800 times to write it.



- Many have thought Elle Woods is a character that was feminist before her time:
  - “Elle derives her strength from what many would deem her traditionally feminine character traits and pursuits, not in spite of them, like her undergraduate study of fashion and her focus on loyalty and cooperation rather than competition. While some fall for the trap of associating masculinity with strength and intelligence and femininity with conservatism and vapidness, Elle’s fans have always seen her for who she really is: a feminist ahead of her time.” - Journalist Delia Harrington <sup>24</sup>
  - She may be mocked for her fashion merchandising major early on, but it’s exactly that kind of knowledge that eventually saves the day in court when she whips out her scientific reasoning for Chutney’s alibi being bogus.
  - When you compare Elle – a student with a 4.0 average, 179 on her LSATs, President of her sorority, and with a ton of extracurriculars and volunteer work to boot – to Warner, you understand why she was admitted to Harvard Law over a waitlisted Warner. She might not be the typical candidate, but she’s worthwhile.
  - While on the outside it can be mistaken that she’s the rich, vapid, shallow Valley Girl people see on the outside, she proves to the world (and herself) that she’s worth more. Warner wanting a “Jackie” more than a “Marilyn” becomes irrelevant when Elle proves that not only can she be both, but she can be it with someone better.
- When the film *Legally Blonde* was released in 2001, it was just as third wave feminism (or “girlie feminism” as it’s sometimes called) was making its way into popularity, so many white, suburban women were starting to tackle feminism in their own way around this time.
  - While this movement left out many women of color and trans women, it was an important stepping stone to the fourth wave of feminism we’re in today.
  - This differed from the previous second wave of feminism that told women they needed to look as natural and un-altered as possible. Third wave feminism encourages women to look however they want to look and they shouldn’t be judged for it.
- Reese Witherspoon has said that *Legally Blonde* is the number one movie fans will talk to her about because it strikes a different chord.
  - She also has stated that many women have come up to her and said that she inspired them to become lawyers!



- In 2001, producer Hal Luftig saw the movie of *Legally Blonde* with his partner (now husband) who happens to be a psychologist and they started talking about the feminist identity of the piece:
  - “We got into a conversation about this phenomenon that happens to young women called dumbing themselves down. I was like, what is that; I’ve never heard of that. He explained that girls develop faster than boys. Sorry, guys, if you’re listening; but it’s true. What happens is, somewhere around 12, 13, 14, they go from being A students to B students to C students. The reason is, they discover boys; and it’s not cool, in some places, to be the smartest girl in a class. I was like, wait, you’re kidding me – that really happens; and he said, oh, absolutely. It’s one of the reasons that all-girls’ schools became popular at some point. They thought if they removed the male element from the equation, these girls could excel. Having just seen *Legally Blonde*, the film, got me thinking. Wow – here’s a girl who’s smart enough, if you think about it, to get into Harvard Law. Why does she do it? To chase the jerky guy. I thought, now that’s a story we’ve got to tell.”
  - This was enough of a jumping off point that they decided they wanted to adapt it into a musical, so along with friends and fellow producers, Kristin Caskey and Mike Isaacson, they reached out to someone they thought would be perfect to head the team, Jerry Mitchell. From there, they auditioned writers and other collaborators until they could have the first of many readings.
- Looking at it today, many of the important pillars of feminism in the story still hold up.
  - Elle is ALL about women supporting women no matter what. She questions why Vivienne wouldn’t automatically act this way as well because sisterhood is inherent in her nature.
  - Elle could be considered an early whistleblower in the Time’s Up movement. When her professor tries to hit on her, she immediately stands up for herself and gets out of the situation. While it didn’t have the same name at the time, it was a part of what would later become a bigger movement against sexual harassment in the workplace, especially from powerful figures.
  - While many jokes are made about how Enid is a lesbian who’s over the top in her fight for social justice, Elle never puts her down. She counts her as a friend and involves her every step of the way in court.
    - The line in the movie where Enid suggests trying to get the word “semester” changed to “ovester” is actually a real thing that happened when Amanda Brown was in school.



## Phi Beta Bruiser: Dogs on Stage



Left: Laura Bell Bundy as Elle with “Bruiser” during her entrance to Harvard  
Center: Several of the dogs of *Legally Blonde* – China, Frankie, Roxie, and Nellie  
Right: Annaleigh Ashford as Margot during the “Lassie” sequence in “Omigod You Guys”

- When *Legally Blonde* was being developed as a stage musical, one of the first people producer Mike Isaacson reached out to was famed animal trainer of stage and screen, Bill Berloni.<sup>25</sup>
  - They knew that there would be a large part for a Chihuahua and a small part for an English Bulldog and they wanted to get him involved as early as possible.
- Bill Berloni accidentally found his career as an animal trainer when he was interning at Goodspeed Opera House in 1976 and was offered his Equity Card in exchange for training a dog to be in their out-of-town tryout of a new musical, *Annie*.
  - Over the years he’s trained all kind of animals for Broadway and regional shows, movies, commercials and more: dogs, cats, pigs, rats, bunnies, lambs, exotic birds...even a goose!
    - (He even had a pair of llamas present as his wedding!)
  - In 2011, he was awarded a Tony Honor for Excellence in Theatre. This was a shock to him because usually you have to be in one of the theatre unions to be eligible for the Tony Awards and there is no union for animal trainers. But he was granted one of their “special” Tony awards for all of his incredible work.
  - He is currently taking on his biggest challenge yet, training a dog to be the lead in a show he’s been trying to develop for years: A musical adaptation of *Because of Winn-Dixie*.
    - They had their official Pre-Broadway tryout at Goodspeed Musicals in Connecticut from June 28<sup>th</sup> – September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.<sup>26</sup>
    - Before that, there was also a production at Delaware Theatre Company in 2015.
    - Berloni had been searching for a dog to play Winn-Dixie for years, and eventually found Bowdie for the leading role, a pup best known for his role as “Nana” in *Peter Pan Live!* on NBC.

- He's said about this show: "With over 120 cues, it took three trainers, two off-stage, one onstage, including the actress who was playing Opal, the lead, to make it look like this dog was acting completely independently as a character"<sup>27</sup>
  - From 13 cues in *Annie* to 121 cues in *Winn-Dixie*, he's had his fair share of challenges!
- He lives on a large farm in Connecticut he calls "The Home that Sandy Built" and also has an attached animal sanctuary called "Little Arfin' Acres" where all of his animals come to live out their "retirement" after their acting days are over.



Left: Bill Berloni backstage with the *Legally Blonde* dogs

Right: Laura Bell Bundy in rehearsals with Chico in front, Bill Berloni and one of his assistants behind

- For the *Legally Blonde* dogs, this was the first show in history where a dog would have "lines", so they knew they needed an energetic pup who looked right and wasn't afraid to strut around in front of an audience.<sup>28</sup>
  - The first dog Berloni found was a rescue named Chico at a shelter in Newark, NJ who was abused and would bite, so the staff was even afraid of him. Berloni knew that if he didn't take Chico, he would have been euthanized. So he took him to rehabilitate him, not expecting Chico to be the show dog. But when director Jerry Mitchell met Chico for an early press event, Chico immediately took to him and Mitchell said "that's our Bruiser!" and the rest is history.
  - Berloni also had to find an English Bulldog to play Rufus and found Chloe (and her understudy, Zizi) from a shelter in Stonington, where the dogs had been left after Connecticut Animal Control had rescued them from a locked crate at an abandoned farm in Mansfield.<sup>29</sup>
  - He also was tasked with finding understudies for both dogs:
    - He wound up with Boo Boo (who had a heart condition and almost died the night before the San Francisco tryout...Berloni performed doggie CPR and saved his life!) as Brusier and Zizi as Rufus.
    - The understudy dogs didn't go on as often onstage, so in turn they were used for the understudy rehearsals and would go on when the understudies went on because they were more comfortable together.<sup>30</sup>

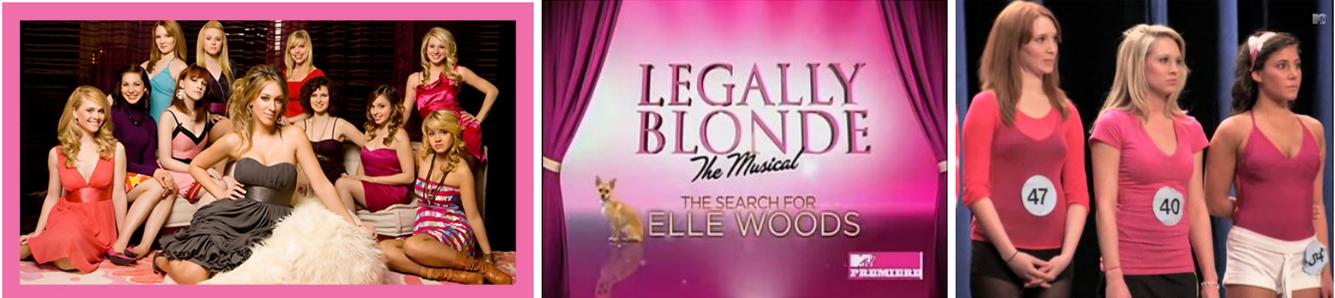
- Over the years Berloni has trained many dogs to play Bruiser, Rufus, and their understudies and he continues to this day since it's a popular title and everybody wants the best animal trainer in the biz!



Above: Bill Berloni with Chico and Boo Boo  
 Below: Laura Bell Bundy and Orfeh with their respective dogs



## “But I don’t speak MTV”: The Reality Show



- After the success of the airing of the musical on MTV in 2007, the team decided to run a reality show to find Laura Bell Bundy’s replacement to play Elle.<sup>31</sup>
  - This was in part because they were having trouble finding a name for the role.
    - Producer Amanda Lipitz said they were bringing in celebrities to see the show and consider it, but when they saw how demanding the role was, they didn’t think they could handle it.
    - Laura Bell Bundy decided to leave on her own after doing the show for a little over a year on Broadway, though in reality she’d been playing Elle since the first official reading in 2005. (Her contract on the Broadway production was for 6 months at a time and she decided not to renew after July 2008.)
  - Since they were about to hold a series of open calls anyway, Lipitz suggested the reality show in order to draw more attention to the show and boost sales.
    - This was on the tails of the success of the recent *Grease* reality show, “*Grease: You’re the One That I Want!*”, but with the addition of the girls living together to create a bit more tension and make it a bit more “MTV”.
- *Legally Blonde: The Musical: The Search for Elle Woods* premiered on MTV on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 and released weekly until the finale on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- The show was hosted by Haylie Duff and featured many prominent Broadway figures as judges and mentors:
  - Judges:
    - Bernie Telsey, head of Telsey Casting
    - Heather Hach, book writer of *Legally Blonde*
    - Paul Canaan, ensemble member of *Legally Blonde*
  - Mentors:
    - Jerry Mitchell, director and choreographer of *Legally Blonde*
    - Seth Rudetsky, musical director and vocal coach
    - Denis Jones, Associate Choreographer of *Legally Blonde*
    - Marc Bruni, Associate Director of *Legally Blonde*
  - Several stars of the show also made cameos to either give advice or help in the challenges.



- Thousands of girls across the country auditioned to be Elle, with the top 50 making the pilot episode, then cut down to 15.<sup>32</sup>
  - Open calls were held in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Orlando, and Nashville.
    - Some ringers with professional and Broadway credits were brought into the mix as well so it wasn't all made up of college girls who were green to professional theatre.
    - They wanted both viable stage stars and reality TV-friendly personas, so candidates went through interviews, personality tests, and psychological evaluations to see if they were right for the show.
  - In the pilot, 5 more were cut leading to 10 girls remaining for the 8-episode series which had an elimination each week. (Week 4 involved a double elimination.)
  - The judges had the full say of who was cut each week, not an audience, as the show was pre-taped in the winter months and aired in the summer.
    - This is very different from other reality shows to find a new Broadway lead, like *Grease: You're the One That I Want!* that aired live and had the audience call in and vote on their favorites to move them forward.
    - Contractually, Director/Choreographer Jerry Mitchell was promised the final say: "The agreement was that I got to choose the girl; MTV wouldn't choose. There was a percentage of contestants that they got to keep and that we got to keep every time there was an elimination. So if it comes down to two people—a person they like because they were good TV and a person I liked because they were a good contestant—I would get to choose who won."
      - However, Mitchell was under contract with *Step It Up and Dance* on Bravo, so the time he was allowed on screen was limited. This is why cast member Paul Canaan was chosen as the 3<sup>rd</sup> judge.
      - Instead, Mitchell did a few private work sessions with the girls off-screen to get a bit more of a chance to know them.
  - Some drama was added from the MTV side with members of the team, like Denis Jones who had to wear an earpiece and repeat lines of dialogue that producers wanted him to say. The girls and the Broadway creatives were not fans of that.
- All of the competing girls lived in a loft at the Empire Hotel for the extent of their time on the show. They had no access to phones, newspapers, social media, etc. for the duration of their time there.

- They were told to pack two months of clothes just in case and bring every pink item of clothing they owned.
- The producers had Pottery Barn Teen come in to decorate the loft in the style of Elle because they did such a great job decorating Elle's "dorm room" on the Broadway set.



- Every week they performed challenges that ranged from songs, dance combinations, scene work, and stamina to make sure they could handle the triple-threat role that is Elle Woods 8 times a week.
  - The challenges escalated in difficulty over the weeks of competition both to really test the endurance of the contestants and to keep the audience engaged and coming back week after week.
    - The most difficult challenge was certainly the finale where the top two girls had a hybrid dress rehearsal/put in rehearsal of three fully realized musical numbers ("Omigod You Guys", "What You Want", and "Positive") on stage at the Palace Theater with the actual cast, orchestra, and crew.
      - MTV's legal department had to work with all the different unions in order to make it happen.
  - Each challenge on the show would result in a winner who would get some kind of prize that related back to the show: A date with Richard H. Blake who played Warner, a spa trip with Orfeh who played Paulette, a yoga lesson with Kate Shindle who played Vivian, and several others.
- Winner Bailey Hanks took over the role of Elle on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 (right after the finale aired) until the show closed on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008.<sup>33</sup>
  - Hanks was also given the opportunity to record a single of her singing the Act 1 finale, "So Much Better" through Ghostlight records.
  - Runner up Autumn Hurlbert was rewarded with the opportunity to be Hanks' understudy and performed in the ensemble of the show (replacing Becky Gulsvig who left to join the tour), though she never got the chance to go on as Elle.
  - Second and third runners up Rhiannon Hansen and Lauren Zakrin joined the national tour. Hansen played Margot and Zakrin performed in the ensemble as well serving as understudy to Becky Gulsvig as Elle Woods.



Some of the contestants reunited for a concert at Feinstein's/54 Below in July 2018 to mark 10 years since the show!

- Many of the contestants from the show have gone on to have great careers in the entertainment industry performing on Broadway, in movies, and TV shows.
  - The most well-known is likely Celina Carvajal, who now just goes by Lena Hall. She won a Tony Award in 2014 for playing Yitzhak in the Broadway revival of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.
    - However, she was one of the “ringers”, having had the most Broadway credits (four) going into the reality show. She made her Broadway debut back in 1999 in *Cats* and had frequently auditioned for other roles in *Legally Blonde*.
  - Ironically, the winner, Bailey Hanks, is no longer in the industry. She’s now a hairdresser and a mom residing in South Carolina with her daughter, Elle.



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—New York Magazine



## Glossary

Definitions of terms used in the libretto – found in various locations online.

### Pg. 1

*“Dear Elle honey, **Mazel Tov!** Future’s taking off...”*

**Mazel Tov** – A Yiddish phrase expressing congratulations or wishing someone good luck.

--

“Four **carats** of **Princess Cut** – are you psyched or what?

**Carat** – a unit of mass equal to 200 mg (0.00705 oz) or 0.00643 troy oz, and is used for measuring gemstones and pearls.

**Princess Cut** – (technical name 'square modified brilliant') is a diamond cut shape often used in engagement rings. The name dates back to the 1960s, while the princess cut as it now exists was created by Betazel Ambar and Israel Itzkowitz in 1980. It is a hybrid of shape and cutting style that produces more sparkle than traditional square or rectangular diamonds

### Pg. 4

*“She’s trapped in the **old valley mill?!!**”*

**Old Valley Mill** – A reference to the TV show *Lassie*, where the dog had to constantly alert the humans to any trouble in the area. Ironically, the “Timmy in a Well” trope isn’t even real because even though Timmy got into a lot of trouble on the show that Lassie had to save him from, he never actually fell in a well.

### Pg. 6

*“But the thing is, you can’t use a **half-loop stitch on china silk**. It’ll pucker.”*

**Half loop stitch** – This isn’t a real sewing stitch, she was just tricking the salesgirl who tried to dupe her into paying full price for an older dress.

**China silk** – This is real! It’s a type of fabric that has a soft and supple hand and a lustrous sheen.

### Pg. 10

*“A big **White House** back east, all of the amenities. Three kids at least, just like the **Kennedys**.”*

**The Kennedys** – An American political family that has long been prominent in American politics, public service, entertainment, and business. But the specific Kennedys he is referring to are President John F. Kennedy, his wife Jackie, and their children Caroline, JFK Jr., and Patrick. However, youngest son Patrick died as an infant and Jackie also suffered a miscarriage and stillborn birth, so it wasn’t as idyllic as it’s made out to be.

## Pg. 11

*"I'm going to Harvard Law School and my brother's at Yale Law- so's his new wife, and she's a **Vanderbilt** for Chrissake."*

**Vanderbilt** – An American family of Dutch origin who gained prominence during the Gilded Age. At one point they were the wealthiest family in America. Vanderbilt University was named in honor of the patriarch of the family, shipping and rail magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt.

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*"Warner, I'm from Malibu! I'm not exactly trailer-trash here! **Richard Simmons** is our neighbor!"*

**Richard Simmons** – An American fitness instructor, actor, and video producer, known for his eccentric, flamboyant, and energetic personality. He has promoted weight-loss programs, most prominently through his *Sweatin' to the Oldies* line of aerobics videos.

## Pg. 12

*"I'm gonna need somebody serious. **Less of a Marilyn, more of a Jackie**. Serious, somebody classy and not too tacky"*

**Marilyn Monroe** – (born Norma Jean Baker) Was an American actress, model, and singer. Famous for playing comedic "blonde bombshell" characters, she became one of the most popular sex symbols of the 1950s and early 1960s and was emblematic of the era's sexual revolution. She died at age 36 of an overdose. It's been alleged that she had a well-known affair with President John F. Kennedy sometime in 1962, but to this day it can't be officially proven except for stories. Also, Monroe famously sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" at an event celebrating his birthday at Madison Square Garden less than three months before her death.

**Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis** – Was an American socialite, writer, and photographer who became First Lady of the United States as the wife of President John F. Kennedy. The public took a particular interest in her due to her devotion to historical preservation of the White House, her fashion sense, and her devotion to her children. She's known as a fashion icon to this day.

## Pg. 14

*"We brought you new magazines. We've got **Town and Country** and your favorite, the one they named after you, **Elle Magazine**."*

**Town and Country Magazine** – Formerly the *Home Journal* and *The National Press*, is a monthly American lifestyle magazine founded by poet and essayist Nathaniel Parker Willis and *New York Evening Mirror* newspaper editor George Pope Morris in 1846. The name changed to *Town & Country* in 1901. It is the oldest continually published general interest magazine in the United States.

**Elle Magazine** – A worldwide lifestyle magazine of French origin that focuses on fashion, beauty, health and entertainment. It was founded in 1945 by H  l  ne Gordon-Lazareff and her husband, the writer Pierre Lazareff. The title means "she" or "her" in French.

In reality, author Amanda Brown named the character of Elle after the magazine.

**Pg. 16**

*"First you'll need an **LSAT** score of more than **174**, so no more parties for you."*

**LSAT** – Also known as the Law School Admission Test, is a half-day standardized test administered several times each year at designated testing centers throughout the world to prospective law students. It is designed to assess reading comprehension as well as logical and verbal reasoning proficiency. It started in 1948 and consists of five 35-minute sections for a total of 2 hours and 55 minutes, plus breaks. Scores can fall anywhere in the range of 120 to 180, with the average being 150.

Elle's score would put her in the top 1% of test takers. Harvard is a top-tier Law school, so their applicants mostly have scores in the 170+ range in addition to a GPA of about 3.75.

**Pg. 18**

*"How about a nice **Birkin Bag**?"*

**Birkin Bag** – A line of tote bags by the French luxury goods maker Herm  s. They are handmade from leather and are named after the English actress and singer Jane Birkin. Introduced in the 1980s, the bag quickly became a symbol of wealth and exclusivity due to its high price and assumed long waiting lists. Birkins are a popular item with handbag collectors, and were once seen as the rarest handbag in the world. In 2020, prices started at \$11,000 for regular leather and have reached up to \$380,000 depending on what materials are used to make them and how rare they are.



Pg. 22

*“Gentlemen, get a hold of yourselves! This is Harvard Law not ‘Match dot com”*”

**Match.com** – An online dating service serving over 50 countries in twelve languages. It was launched in 1995 and is still active today.



Pg. 23-24

*“We all flew here on JetBlue!”*

**JetBlue Airways** – A major American low-cost airline, and the seventh largest airline in North America by passengers carried. Founded as NewAir in 1998, it launched officially as JetBlue in 2000. Today they have a fleet of 273 planes travelling to 104 different destinations.

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*“And now some legal jargon: **Exhibit A!** Time for my **cross!** I **object!** May I **approach?**”*

**Exhibit** – A document or object introduced as evidence during a trial.

**Cross examination** – The examination of a witness who has already testified in order to check or discredit the witness's testimony, knowledge, or credibility – compared to direct examination.

**Objection** – A formal protest raised during a trial, deposition, or other procedure indicating that the objecting attorney wishes the judge to disallow either the testimony of a given witness or other evidence that would violate the rules of evidence or other procedural law.

**Approach the Bench** – To move towards the bench in order to have a conversation with the judge and opposing counsel off the record and/or out of the jury's earshot. An attorney or juror must request to approach the bench, i.e. "Your honor, may I approach the bench?"

Pg. 26

*“Hello, I'm Emmett Forrest. Class of **aight seven**. Represent.”*

**Aught** – The aughts is a way of referring to the decade 2000 to 2009 in American English. This means he graduated in the class of 2007.

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*“I won a **Fulbright** and a **Rhodes**. I write financial software codes...”*

**Fulbright** – One of several United States Cultural Exchange Programs with the goal to improve intercultural relations, cultural diplomacy, and intercultural competence between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. Via the program, competitively-selected American citizens including students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists and artists may receive scholarships or grants to study, conduct research, teach, or exercise their talents abroad. And vice versa with people from overseas coming to the US.

**Rhodes** – An international postgraduate award for students to study at the University of Oxford. Established in 1903, it is the oldest graduate scholarship in the world. It is named after founder Cecil John Rhodes. Although initially restricted to male applicants from countries that are today within the British Commonwealth, Germany and the United States, the scholarship is open today to applicants from all backgrounds and from across the globe. Since its creation, controversy has surrounded its former exclusion of women, historical failure to select Black Africans, and Cecil Rhodes's standing as a British imperialist.

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*“In my country, my word was law. But then I flee because of stupid **coup d'etat**.”*

**Coup d'etat** – The removal and seizure of a government and its powers. Typically, it is an illegal, unconstitutional seizure of power by a political faction, the military, or a dictator. Many scholars consider a coup successful when the usurpers seize and hold power for at least seven days.

**Pg. 27**

*“I did the **peace corps** overseas inoculating refugees in family clinics that I built myself from mud and trees. I fought to clean up their lagoons and save their **rare endangered loons** and led a protest march against insensitive cartoons”*

**Peace Corps** – Formed in 1961, it is an independent agency and volunteer program run by the United States Government providing international social and economic development assistance around the world. Volunteers are American citizens, typically with a college degree, who work abroad for a period of two years after three months of training. They work with governments, schools, non-profit organizations, non-government organizations, and entrepreneurs in education, youth development, community health, business, information technology, agriculture, and the environment. More than 240,000 Americans have joined the Peace Corps and served in 142 countries.

**Rare endangered loons** – An endangered type of bird.



*“So I'm a Gemini with a double Capricorn moon and I have a Bachelors degree from UCLA where I was Sig Ep Sweetheart, president of Delta Nu Sorority and founded the charity Shop for a Cause.”*

**Gemini** – Latin for "twins", this is the third astrological sign in the zodiac, originating from the constellation of Gemini. Under the tropical zodiac, the sun transits this sign between about May 20<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Double Capricorn moon** – Moon signs are said to help define our emotional development, or express the unconscious side of our personality. It explains why we do what we do. They can be a much more accurate description of what a person is like if their regular astrological sign doesn't fit their personality. It is calculated based on birth date and time of birth.

**UCLA** – The University of California, Los Angeles is a public land-grant research university in Los Angeles, California, established in 1919. It is the second-oldest (after UC Berkeley) of the 10-campus University of California system. The current acceptance rate is 12% and the graduation rate is 91%.



In the movie, they use the fictitious CULA instead since they didn't have permission to use UCLA.

**Sig Ep Sweetheart** – Sigma Phi Epsilon ( $\Sigma\Phi E$ ), commonly known as SigEp, is a social college fraternity for male college students in the United States. It was founded on November 1, 1901, at Richmond College (now the University of Richmond). It was founded on three principles: Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love. It's one of the largest social fraternities in the United States in terms of current undergraduate membership.

Being elected a fraternity "Sweetheart" means being the female face of the fraternity, voted on by the men in that fraternity. The Sweetheart spends a lot of time helping with events and projects, and usually once a week she is invited to a dinner at the house with all of the men wearing shirts and ties and staying on their best behavior. Usually the sweetheart is a sorority girl, and she is treated with absolute dignity and respect. However it is not a beauty contest; she must have good moral character, have excellent grades, and be able to speak in front of a crowd.

Typically, a weeklong contest is held in order to crown a house sweetheart. (Judged by the entire fraternity, it usually consists of raising money for charity, decorating sheets to hang on houses, an essay contest, public speaking contest, and social interaction with members.) Once crowned sweetheart, she rules for the entire year and typically becomes very close with the brothers.

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*“Oh! And just last week at **Fred Segal**, I talked Beyoncé out of buying a truly heinous cable-knit tube top.”*

**Fred Segal** – A clothing and accessories retail store founded in West Hollywood, California. Founded in 1961, its flagship store is on Sunset Boulevard in Malibu.

### Pg. 31

*“-you have the **right to remain silent**. Anything you say will be used against you.”*

This is a reference to the **Miranda Rights** – In the United States, the Miranda warning is a type of notification customarily given by police to criminal suspects in police custody advising them of their right to silence; that is, their right to refuse to answer questions or provide information to law enforcement or other officials. The purpose of such notification is to preserve the admissibility of their statements made during custodial interrogation in later criminal proceedings. The language used in a Miranda warning is derived from the 1966 U.S. Supreme Court case *Miranda v. Arizona*.

It usually is something along the lines of: “You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used against you in court. You have the right to talk to a lawyer for advice before we ask you any questions. You have the right to have a lawyer with you during questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for you before any questioning if you wish. If you decide to answer questions now without a lawyer present, you have the right to stop answering at any time.”

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*“There is that joke you're bound to hear: **A lawyer is a shark**.”*

**A lawyer is a shark** – The idea of the shark as someone who preys upon others developed around the thirteenth century. By 1600, when King James was translating the Bible and Shakespeare was polishing off “*Macbeth*,” people were using “shark” to describe all sorts of scoundrels and villains. (Though pickpockets and scam artists were also considered sharks.) The idea of the shark lawyer stems from the idea that lawyers are brutal, ruthless killers, willing to drag someone down whenever they smell blood in the water.

### Pg. 32

*“Grandma's broke; she'll have some hack from **legal aid!**”*

**Legal Aid** – The provision of assistance to people who are unable to afford legal representation and access to the court system. Legal aid is regarded as central in providing access to justice by ensuring equality before the law, the right to counsel and the right to a fair trial.

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*“Look for the blood in the water. Read your **Thomas Hobbes.**”*

**Thomas Hobbes** – Was an English philosopher, considered to be one of the founders of modern political philosophy. Hobbes is best known for his 1651 book Leviathan, in which he expounds an influential formulation of social contract theory. In addition to political philosophy, Hobbes contributed to a diverse array of other fields, including history, jurisprudence, geometry, the physics of gases, theology, ethics, and philosophy in general.

**Pg. 36**

*“Aren't there **girls going wild** somewhere without you?”*

**Girls Gone Wild** – An adult entertainment franchise created by Joe Francis in 1997. It was known for its early use of direct-response marketing techniques, including its late-night infomercials. The videos typically involve camera crews at party locations engaging young college-aged women who expose their bodies or act "wild", especially during Spring break. They filed for bankruptcy in 2013 and in 2014 were sold to the company “Bang Bros”.

**Pg. 36**

*“Honey, this is a tragedy and every tragedy needs a **Greek Chorus.**”*

**Greek Chorus** – A group of actors who described and commented upon the main action of a play with song, dance, and recitation. Please see above in the “Greek Chorus” section on page 19.

**Pg. 43**

*“Welcome to the Hair Affair. You're with Paulette so **you're in good hands.** I'm sorta like **Allstate**, but for hair.”*

**Allstate** – An American insurance company, headquartered in Northfield Township, Illinois, near Northbrook since 1967. Founded in 1931 as part of Sears, Roebuck and Co., it was spun off in 1993. Its current advertising campaign, in use since 2004, asks, "Are you in good hands?"



**Pg. 44**

*“So I swore I’d get married in Ireland, in a wedding like **Lord of the Rings**.”*

**Lord of the Rings** – An epic high fantasy novel by the English author and scholar J.R.R. Tolkien. Set in Middle-earth, the world at some distant time in the past, the story began as a sequel to Tolkien's 1937 children's book *The Hobbit*, but eventually developed into a much larger work. Written in stages between 1937 and 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling books ever written, with over 150 million copies sold. It has been adapted many times over the years into other mediums, the most successful being Peter Jackson's 2001-2003 live-action movie trilogy.

**Pg. 45**

*“All that’s left is this... weird **Enya** song.”*

**Enya** – Full name Enya Patricia Brennan, known professionally as Enya, is an Irish singer, songwriter, record producer, and musician. She is Ireland's best-selling solo artist and second-best-selling artist behind U2, with a discography that has sold 26.5 million certified albums in the United States and an estimated 75 million records worldwide, making her one of the best-selling music artists of all time.



**Pg. 48**

*“You do know that Whitney's father is next in line to be the **Speaker of the House**?”*

**Speaker of the House** – The speaker of the United States House of Representatives, commonly known as the Speaker of the House, is the presiding officer of the United States House of Representatives. The office was established in 1789 by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. This office is the second in the line of succession to the Presidency, right behind the Vice President and ahead of the president *pro tempore* of the Senate.

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*“Apparently his summer house is three houses down from **Justice Souter.**”*

**Justice Souter** – David Hackett Souter (born September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1939) is a retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He served from October 1990 to his retirement in June 2009.

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*Elle enters the party dressed as a **Playboy bunny.** She is the only one in a costume.*

**Playboy bunny** – A waitress at a Playboy Club. They wore a "bunny suit" costume inspired by the tuxedo-wearing Playboy rabbit mascot. This costume consisted of a strapless corset teddy, bunny ears, black sheer-to-waist pantyhose, a bow tie, a collar, cuffs and a fluffy cottontail.



**Pg. 49**

*“Whoa. Check out **Miss October.**”*

**Miss October** – This is a reference to Playboy magazine’s “Playmate of the Month”. A Playmate is a female model featured in the centerfold/gatefold of Playboy magazine. The pictorial includes nude photographs and a centerfold poster, along with a pictorial biography and the "Playmate Data Sheet", which lists her birthdate, measurements, turn-ons, and turn-offs. Every Playmate of the Month is awarded a prize of \$25,000 and the opportunity to be chosen for Playmate of the Year, which comes with more prizes and opportunities. The very first one in 1953 was Marilyn Monroe, and she was billed as "Sweetheart of the Month".

**Pg. 51**

*“Even if **you keep going... and going... and going...**”*

**Energizer bunny** – This is a reference to the marketing icon and mascot of Energizer batteries in North America. It is a pink mechanical toy rabbit wearing sunglasses and blue and black striped flip-flops that beats a bass drum bearing the Energizer logo. The idea is that the batteries last so long that they “just keep going...and going...and going...”

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*"Because I am **Gloria Steinem** undercover, circa 1963, researching for her feminist manifesto 'I Was a Playboy Bunny.' Are you actually calling Gloria Steinem a SKANK?"*

**Gloria Steinem** – Is an American feminist journalist and social political activist who became nationally recognized as a leader and a spokeswoman for the American feminist movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s. She was a columnist for *New York* magazine, and a co-founder of *Ms.* magazine. As of May 2018, Steinem was traveling internationally as an organizer and lecturer, and was a media spokeswoman on issues of equality. In 1963 she went undercover for *Show* magazine as one of the "Playboy bunny" cocktail waitresses. The article was called "A Bunny's Tale."

Looking back, she actually regrets it: "Since hostile people still call me a former Playboy Bunny, even at 82, I probably shouldn't have done that in my youth, even to write an exposé... if I hadn't done that, I might have judged other people by such empty symbols, too."



**Pg. 52**

*"Whoa, Elle... **What's up, Doc?**"*

**What's up, Doc?** – This is a reference to Looney Toon Bugs Bunny's iconic phrase. The first time Bugs uses the phrase is in the cartoon *A Wild Hare* in 1941. The rabbit walks up to Elmer Fudd who is hunting for him with a large gun and casually asks, "What's up, Doc?"

**Pg. 53**

*"I grew up in the **Roxbury** slums. With my mom and a series of bums."*

**Roxbury** – A neighborhood within the city of Boston, Massachusetts. Although it's not as bad as it was in the late 1990s, it's still one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Boston.

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*“So forgive me for not weeping at your **tale**”*

**Tale** – This is a double meaning referencing both Elle’s story and the tail on her bunny costume.

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*“Well excuse me, just because you've got some kind of **chip on your shoulder**...”*

**Chip on your shoulder** – An expression referring to the act of holding a grudge or grievance that readily provokes disputation. It can also mean a person thinking too much of oneself or feeling entitled. This phrase originated in the USA in the 1800s. It refers to a practice where people who were looking for a physical fight would place a chip of wood on their shoulders, challenging others to knock it off.

While it’s not typically considered a good attribute, this song subverts the meaning to be more of a positive outlook on being held back and working harder to rise to the top.

## Pg. 55

*“Hello... Kitty...”*

**Hello Kitty** – A reference to the fictional character produced by the Japanese company Sanrio, created by Yuko Shimizu and currently designed by Yuko Yamaguchi. Sanrio depicts Hello Kitty as a young female gijinka of a Japanese Bobtail cat with a red bow and no mouth.



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*“You drink a lot of **Red Bull**, don't you?”*

**Red Bull** – A popular energy drink introduced in 1987. Red Bull has the highest market share of any energy drink in the world, with 7.5 billion cans sold in a year.



*“Tis a gift to be simple, ‘Tis a gift to be free...mmmmmmmm”*

**Simple Gifts** – A Shaker song written and composed in 1848, generally attributed to Elder Joseph Brackett from Alfred Shaker Village. It reached general popularity in 1944 when Aaron Copland used its melody for the score of Martha Graham's ballet *Appalachian Spring*.

Simple Gifts

Joseph Brackett, Jr., 1848



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*“Define **Malum prohibitum**.”*

**Malum prohibitum** – Literal translation: "wrong [as or because] prohibited", is a Latin phrase used in law to refer to conduct that constitutes an unlawful act only by virtue of statute.

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*“Therefore **Malum in se**”*

**Malum in se** – A Latin phrase meaning wrong or evil in itself. The phrase is used to refer to conduct assessed as sinful or inherently wrong by nature, independent of regulations governing the conduct.

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*“-Is an action that's evil in itself! Assault, murder, **white shoes after Labor Day**...”*

**Wearing white after Labor Day** – While there is no “official” rule about this or official historical reason, the best guess is that it had to do with snobbery in the late 1800s and early 1900s. As more and more people became millionaires after the Civil War, it was difficult to tell the difference between respectable “old money” families and those who only had “vulgar new money”. By the 1880s, in order to tell who was acceptable and who wasn’t, the women who were already “in” felt it necessary to create dozens of fashion rules that everyone in the know had to follow. White was considered proper for weddings and resort wear, not dinner parties in the fall. When Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894, society eventually adopted it as the natural endpoint for summer fashion. By the 1950s, women’s magazines made it clear to middle class America: White clothing was dug out on Memorial Day and put back into storage after Labor Day.

**“Glo-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-ria! In Excelsis Deo...”**

**Gloria in Excelsis Deo** – Latin Translation: "Glory to God in the Highest", is a Christian hymn known also as the *Greater Doxology* (as distinguished from the "Minor Doxology" or Gloria Patri) and the *Angelic Hymn/Hymn of the Angels*. The name is often abbreviated to *Gloria in Excelsis* or simply *Gloria*. The *Gloria* has been and still is sung to a wide variety of melodies. Modern scholars have catalogued well over two hundred of them used in the medieval church. It has been popularized in the Christmas Carol, “Angels We Have Heard on High”.

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Traditional French carol

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, And the moun-tains  
 in re-ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains. **Refrain** Glo - - -  
 - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo -  
 - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
 Why your joyous strains prolong?  
 What the gladsome tidings be  
 Which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
 Him Whose birth the angels sing;  
 Come, adore on bended knee,  
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

**“Bye Warner! Merry Christmas! Enjoy Vail!”**

**Vail, Colorado** – A small town at the base of Vail Mountain, home of the massive Vail Ski Resort. Set within White River National Forest, the town is a gateway for winter sports such as skiing and snowboarding. It’s also a summertime destination for golfing, hiking and cultural festivals. Gore Creek, popular for fly fishing, runs directly through the town center.

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**“Okay, focus, Elle, focus! The case of ‘Russell v. Sullivan’”**

**Russell v. Sullivan** – Was a case in the Court of Appeals of Texas, Houston (14th District). From February 24, 2005. The court Opinion states: “Sullivan is an unmarried woman. Russell is an unmarried man. Neither has been married previously. Sullivan wanted to conceive a child. Russell agreed to provide his sperm so that Sullivan could be artificially inseminated. Russell and Sullivan signed a ‘Co-Parenting Agreement’. However, before the child’s birth, a disagreement arose between Russell and Sullivan, and Russell filed an ‘Original Petition to Adjudicate Parentage, Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship and Breach of Contract’ in the trial court.”

The full Opinion can be found here: <https://www.leagle.com/decision/20051068157sw3d91111025>

**Pg. 60**

*"I don't know if you've noticed before, but each time Warner walks in the door, your **IQ goes down to 40**, maybe less."*

**IQ Scores** – Standing for intelligence quotient (IQ), it is a total score derived from a set of standardized tests or subtests designed to assess human intelligence. An IQ above 130 is considered very gifted, 121-130 is considered gifted, the range of 111-120 is considered above average intelligence, 90-110 is considered average intelligence, 80-89 is considered below average intelligence, and 70-79 is considered cognitively impaired. Anything lower than that is considered extremely low.

**Pg. 61**

*"Grab that book and let's do this, instead of **doodling hearts all through this**."*

**Doodling hearts** – This is both a way for Elle to prove she's going to get down to the business of studying and a reference back to the original book character Elle and author Amanda Brown who would doodle in class to pass the time instead of pay attention.

**Pg. 62**

*"..And by Mr. Huntington's standard, all masturbatory emissions where the sperm was clearly not seeking an egg could be called **reckless abandonment**."*

**Reckless abandonment** – When a person willfully and voluntarily physically abandons such child with the intention of severing all parental or custodial duties and responsibilities to such child.

**Pg. 63**

*"I'm one step ahead of you." ELLE whips out a **pink resume**.*

**Pink resume** – This is a tactic that Amanda Brown used when she was trying to get the original *Legally Blonde* manuscript published. The pink paper helped it get pulled from the slush pile.

**Pg. 66**

*"I don't think you understand that the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes your 10-year relationship with Ms. Buonofuonte as a **Common Law marriage**, which entitles her to **equitable division of property**."*

**Common Law marriage** – A marriage is where the couple lives together for a period of time and holds themselves out to friends, family and the community as "being married," but without ever going through a formal ceremony or getting a marriage license. Also known as non-ceremonial marriage, *sui iuris marriage*, informal marriage, or marriage by habit and repute, it is a legal framework where a couple

may be considered married without having formally registered their relation as a civil or religious marriage. The amount of time varies by state and is only available in a small amount of states.

**Equitable division of property** – A judicial division of property rights and obligations between spouses during divorce. It may be done by agreement, through a property settlement, or by judicial decree.

**Pg. 67**

*“This is why we all study and slog: to help the **underdog!** I so identify!”*

**Underdog** – A competitor thought to have little chance of winning a fight or contest. This also happens to be the name of Elle’s dog in the book of *Legally Blonde*.

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*“Emmett, I’m making you my **co-counsel** on the Wyndham trial. Prove yourself here and the term **“associate”** isn’t far off.”*

**Co-counsel** – An attorney who assists in or shares the responsibility of representing a client.

**Associate** – An associate attorney is a lawyer and an employee of a law firm who does not hold an ownership interest as a partner.

**Pg. 73**

*“If Brooke took a **plea**, I’d have her out in 3 to 4...”*

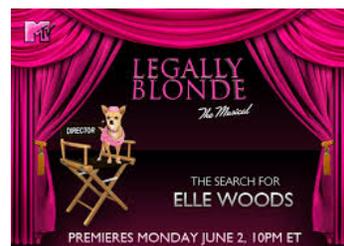
**Plea bargain** – An arrangement between prosecutor and defendant whereby the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for a more lenient sentence or an agreement to drop other charges.

**Pg. 75**

*“Brooke has trouble trusting me. I’m her only chance to win, but I don’t speak **MTV**”*

**MTV** – An acronym for Music Television, it is an American cable channel that launched on August 1, 1981.

Both the professionally filmed musical and the reality series to find the next Elle aired on MTV.



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*"Tell it that I am the key. It's a plea or the **chair**"*

**Electric chair** – Execution by electrocution, performed using an electric chair, is a method of execution originating (and almost exclusively employed) in the United States in which the condemned person is strapped to a specially built wooden chair and electrocuted through electrodes fastened on the head and leg. It is a punishment for those on Death Row.

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*"See when I talk to her I get neither plea nor plan nor **alibi**"*

**Alibi** – A statement by a person, who is a possible perpetrator of a crime, of where they were at the time an alleged offence was committed, which is somewhere other than where the crime took place.

**Pg. 80**

*"**LIPOSUCTION!** MINIMALLY INVASIVE, OUTPATIENT LIPO, BUT LIPO!"*

**Liposuction** – A surgical procedure that uses a suction technique to remove fat from specific areas of the body, such as the abdomen, hips, thighs, buttocks, arms or neck. Liposuction also shapes (contours) these areas. Other names for liposuction include lipoplasty and body contouring.

**Pg. 81**

*"Exercise gives you **endorphins**, and endorphins make you happy. Happy people just don't kill!"*

**Endorphins** – Chemicals produced by the body to relieve stress and pain.

**Pg. 82**

*"This isn't a **Lifetime Original Movie**, Elle. I'm not interested in nobility right now, I'm more interested in saving Brooke's life."*

**Lifetime Original Movie** – A made-for-television movie exclusive to the Lifetime Channel. They tend to feature programming that is geared toward women or features women in lead roles.

**Pg. 85**

*"Feel all those **halogens** warming your skin."*

**Halogen lights** – A type of incandescent lamp which uses a halogen gas in order to increase both light output and rated life. They are known for moderately high efficiency, quality of light, and high rated life compared to regular incandescent lamps.

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*“The new fragrance from **Chanel**.”*

**Chanel** – A French luxury fashion house that was founded by Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel in 1910. It focuses on women's high fashion and ready-to-wear clothes, luxury goods and accessories. The company is currently owned by Alain Wertheimer and Gérard Wertheimer, grandsons of Pierre Wertheimer, who was an early business partner of Coco Chanel. There are currently 310 locations worldwide. Chanel is well known for the perfume Chanel No. 5, the first perfume launched by Coco Chanel in 1921. The scent formula for the fragrance was compounded by French-Russian chemist and perfumer Ernest Beaux. The design of its bottle has been an important part of the product's allure. Coco Chanel was the first face of the fragrance, appearing in the advertisement published by Harper's Bazaar in 1937.



**Pg. 86**

*“‘Subtext’ By **Calvin Klein**.”*

**Calvin Klein** – An American fashion house established in 1968. It specializes in leather, lifestyle accessories, home furnishings, perfumery, jewelry, watches, and ready-to-wear. The company has substantial market share in retail and commercial lines as well as haute couture garments. The company was founded by designer Calvin Klein and his childhood friend, Barry K. Schwartz. They also have various lines of perfumes and colognes, including Obsession, CK Be, and Eternity.



**Pg. 88**

*“This is no gift, it's **payment in kind**. Cause you saw beyond all the blonde to my mind”*

**Payment in kind** – The use of a good or service as payment instead of cash.

**Pg. 91**

*“But I haven't had any **Jager!**”*

**Jager** – Short for Jägermeister, is a digestif made with 56 herbs and spices. Developed in 1934 by Wilhelm and Curt Mast in Germany, it has an alcohol by volume of 35% (70 proof). The recipe has not changed since its creation and the dark brown liqueur continues to be served in its signature green glass bottle.

**Pg. 92**

*“Go **Bruins!** / Alright! / **Bruin Power!**”*

**Bruins** – The mascot for the UCLA sports teams. Joe Bruin was created for the UCLA sports team in 1924, when students chose to change the name of the team from "Cubs" to "Grizzlies". In 1926 the name was changed again to "Bruins". UCLA used to use live bears as mascots, which entertained the home crowd at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The bears were given various names, but "Joe Bruin" endured over time. Costumed student mascots have represented Joe Bruin since the mid-1960s.



**Pg. 95**

*“Nowadays I do dye jobs and curls, but here's how we did it in the **Laker Girls!**”*

**Laker Girls** – An all-female National Basketball Association Cheerleading squad that supports the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team in home matches. They also perform at many other events and venues. Jerry Buss commissioned the Laker Girls in 1979 after he had purchased the Lakers. He believed a basketball game should be entertaining, and he was a big fan of college basketball. Cheerleaders were not common in the NBA at the time. The Laker Girls are a semi-professional squad and members hold regular day jobs ranging from professional dancers to waitresses to university professors. The squad typically performs about 30 routines over the course of the season.

**Pg. 102**

*"I'm not about to celebrate. Every trait could indicate the totally straight **expatriate**. This guy's not gay, I say not gay."*

**Expatriate** – (n.) A person residing in a country other than their native country.

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*"Well is it relevant to assume that a man who wears perfume is automatically radically **fey**?"*

**Fey** – (adj.) Giving an impression of vague unworldliness.

**Pg. 103**

*"Look at that condescending smirk. Seen it on every guy at work. That is a **metro hetero jerk**. That guy's not gay, I say no way.."*

**Metrosexual** – A heterosexual male given to enhancing his personal appearance by fastidious grooming, beauty treatments, and fashionable clothes. It's a portmanteau of "metropolitan" and "heterosexual", coined in 1994 describing a man (especially one living in an urban, post-industrial, capitalist culture) who is especially meticulous about his grooming and appearance, typically spending a significant amount of time and money on shopping as part of this.

**Pg. 118**

*As Kyle twirls Paulette, the stage erupts into a **Riverdance**.*

**Riverdance** – Also known as Irish Dance, is a group of traditional dance forms originating from Ireland, encompassing dancing both solo and in groups, and dancing for social, competitive, and performance purposes. In its current form, it was developed from various influences such as Native Irish Dance, French quadrilles, and English country dancing. It was taught by "travelling dance masters" across Ireland in the 17th-18th century, and separate dance forms developed according to regional practice and differing purposes. Irish dance became a significant part of Irish culture, particularly for Irish nationalist movements. From the early 20th century, a number of organizations promoted and codified the various forms of dance, creating competitive structures and standardized styles. The actual name "Riverdance" belongs to a group that performs Irish dance as a stage show and has done so since 1995. The name of the stage show has become synonymous with the type of Irish dance they perform.

**Pg. 120**

*"Ohmygod, it's so **Apprentice!**"*

**The Apprentice** – An American reality television program that judges the business skills of a group of contestants. It has run in various formats across fifteen seasons since January 2004 on NBC, with the most recent season having run in 2017. It was famously hosted by Donald Trump, whose catch phrase was "You're Fired!"

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*“Actually, she can represent Brooke, your Honor. **Rule 3:03 of the Supreme Judicial Court** states that a law student - Ms. Elle Woods - may represent a defendant in criminal proceedings.”*

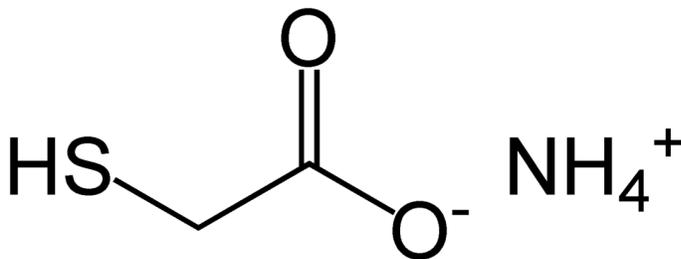
**SJC Rule 3:03** – This is a real law statute that permits eligible students in their next to last year of law school to appear in civil proceedings and permits eligible students in their final year of law school to appear in civil & criminal proceedings on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or indigent parties under the general supervision of a member of the bar of the Commonwealth. However, this does require advance notice and paperwork that proves these facts and must be filed 7-10 days before they can proceed.

### Pg. 125

*“Exactly! Water deactivates the perm's **ammonium thioglycolate** and completely ruins it. It's the cardinal rule of perm maintenance.”*

**Ammonium thioglycolate** – Also known as perm salt, is the salt of thioglycolic acid and ammonia. It has the formula  $\text{HSCH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{NH}_4$  and has use in perming hair. A solution containing ammonium thioglycolate contains a lot of free ammonia, which swells hair, rendering it permeable.

A perm can get wet shortly after it is completed, but it cannot be washed. Water is in fact essential for a perm as it reactivates the curls. The perm reconstructs the hair from straight to curly. The water will make the hair go back to its natural form, which after a perm is curly.



### Pg. 128

*“William Shakespeare wrote: **‘To thine own self be true. And it must follow as the night, the day. Thou cans't not then be false to any man.’**”*

**“To thine own self be true”** – This is a famous quote from Act 1, Scene III of *Hamlet*, spoken by Polonius. The full quote is:

*“This above all: to thine own self be true  
And it must follow, as the night the day  
Thou canst not then be false to any man/Farewell, my blessing season this in thee!”*

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