

Eve

Beautiful female rapper Eve is starring in her own sitcom. The show allows her to reveal a side not usually associated with the hard-core rapper image that made her famous.

"The part that people know the least about her comes across most in this show: There's a seriously girly-girl side to her," says co-star Jason George.

He cites her fondness for frilly slippers, little dogs and movies such as "The Sound of Music" to explain the flip side of a woman who described herself as "a pit bull in a skirt" in one of her early raps.

Eve plays fashion designer Shelly Williams, the central character on UPN's "Eve" -- about a group of friends struggling with modern attitudes about romance. Now in its second season, the series airs Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m..

When Eve first signed on to star in the series, "Eve" was titled "The Opposite Sex." She acknowledges being uncomfortable when the network decided to name it after her. "What if it fails and my name was on it?" she recalls thinking at the time.

The network eased her doubts, explaining the importance of letting audiences know it was her show and that viewers wouldn't find it confusing to have the title name not match the name of the main character. (Classic examples cited were "The Cosby Show," starring Bill Cosby as Dr. Cliff Huxtable, and "The Bob Newhart Show," in which Newhart played Dr. Robert Hartley.)

Eve is 'The Total Package

Written by Westside ID611

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Eve, of course, is used to name changes. She was born Eve Jeffers 26 years ago in Philadelphia, and when she first started rapping, she was known as Eve of Destruction.

Then "I looked at myself as an artist and decided I didn't want any title," she explains. "I just wanted to be myself." So she settled on just one name, Eve, "the name my mother gave me."

After breaking into hip-hop as a protege of gangsta rap pioneer Dr. Dre and then the Ruff Ryders collective headed by ruffian DMX, Eve released three successful solo albums: "Let There Be Eve," "Scorpion" -- which featured the 2001 Grammy-winning single "Let Me Blow Ya Mind," recorded with Gwen Stefani -- and "Eve-olution."

This spring, she'll be cutting a new album and relaunching her fashion line, Fetish.

Eve's feature film experience has included Vin Diesel's action thriller "XXX" and the comedies "Barbershop" and "Barbershop 2." Currently she has a supporting role in Kevin Bacon's critically acclaimed "The Woodsman," which she believes "will open the doors for me" to other dramatic roles.

After it was retitled "Eve," the sitcom naturally shifted its focus a little, but at its heart, the show remains the dilemma of six friends -- three female, three male -- trying to make sense of their love lives and better understand the opposite sex.

Ali Landry plays Rita Lefleur and Natalie Desselle-Reid is Janie Ekins, who are Shelly's girlfriends and co-workers in their Miami-based fashion business, DivaStyle.

The male trio is composed of J.T. Hunter (George), a physical therapist and Shelly's ex-beau, and his boys, trendy club manager Brink (Sean Maguire) and Nick Delaney (Brian Hooks), an accountant obsessed with the search for a perfect woman.

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There's a great deal of laughter and chat on the stage at Sunset Gower Studios as the three women rehearse a scene for an upcoming episode.

"We talk too much," Eve confesses, noting that, like a bunch of kids misbehaving in class, they often need to be told to focus and stop their extracurricular fun.

Such on-set levity wasn't always the case for Eve.

"The first year was hell. It was torture. It was like I was being punished. I felt like I was in detention," she says.

She found the five-day work week very different from making music in a recording studio where she could "set my own schedules and be able to be late, as late as I want."

Last season, she admits there were moments when, "I just wanted to leave because there was so much to learn, it's just a different world ... It's hard to play funny, there are certain beats you have to learn."

But it's been easier this second season. She's still working on her tardiness, but she's come to like the stability.

"It feels like "Wow," this is home. I love my cast, I love my crew ... it's exciting. I'm having fun."

[Source](#)