



# The Adventures of Electra Elf

by Rahul Chadha

SETTLED IN A BOOTH OF KELLOGG’S DINER AND BUTTRESSED BY AN EGG CREAM, NICK ZEDD LETS SLIP THE KEY CONCEPT BEHIND *The Adventures of Electra Elf*, his show on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT). “The idea was to satirize the downfall of the American empire under the insane leadership of the Bush cabal,” he says with a sly smile. Some might consider that a strange statement, since the show revolves around the exploits of a tights-wearing super heroine aided by a talking Chihuahua sidekick who together battle drunken frat boys and corrupt politicians. (Okay, so maybe it’s not that far removed from what one imagines might go on in White House basement parties).

But since the show first aired in 2004 it has developed a cult following, likely aided by the fact that Zedd, who directs the shows, and his co-producer, Reverend Jen, are long established figures of the Lower East Side cinema and art scene. It was, in fact, on the set of an underground film that the pair first met. Both had been cast in roles in a Lloyd Kaufman film, who himself is best known as the auteur behind the cultish Troma Films. Zedd was drawn to the aura of innocence that Jen projected, which contradicted with the content and approach of several short- and feature-length films he had directed since the late ‘70s. “Part of what appealed to me about Reverend Jen is that I thought she had a universal appeal that sort of crossed all genres and boundaries,” says Zedd.

Like any groundbreaking show, *Electra Elf* defies easy description. “It’s a superhero comedy, action-adventure, satire,” Zedd says before trailing off. Zedd and Jen started production on the show in 2003, but the first episode didn’t make the airwaves until 2004. The duo were able to draw on a large talent pool of performers who had attended Jen’s open mic event, hosted at the Lower East Side art venue Cake. Once finished, Zedd and Jen sent tapes to various film festivals—the New York Underground, Coney Island and Chicago ones among them—but found no outlets for *Electra Elf*. “I think it’s because *Electra Elf* is too clean for them,” says Zedd. “But that was part of the plan, to give public access some-

thing clean to air. I tried really hard not to break any of the rules.”

It may have also been tough for Zedd to overcome his reputation as an avant-garde filmmaker. The Maryland native is widely credited as one of the creators of Transgressive Cinema, a school of filmmaking that arose from the Lower East Side art scene in the ‘80s, and was characterized by low-budget aesthetics that rejected the established doctrines of filmmaking. Zedd, however, seems to have moved beyond the controversial content of his older films; in fact he seems almost consumed by the prospect of the amount of exposure that *The Adventures of Electra Elf* presents him with. “I realized that if we could make these short stories, and do them as a regular series, we could reach a much wider audience,” he explains.

Reverend Saint Jen, who also plays Electra Elf and her alter ego, journalist Jen Swallows, largely pens the show. On the surface, episodes of *Electra Elf* revolve around the nefarious plots of super-villains that Swallows ends up uncovering in her role as dogged journalist for Art Star Scene (ASS) Magazine. But Zedd admits that his and Jen’s goal is to develop the most ludicrous adversaries for Electra Elf that their fertile imaginations can spit out. The rogues gallery has included such personalities as Maggot Master, Bi Polar Bear, Super Ulcer and Captain SUV, each with more ridiculous super powers than the last.

However, the villain in any given *Electra Elf* episode can stand as a



(Top) Reverend Jen as Electra Elf and director Nick Zedd, co-producers of *The Adventures of Electra Elf*, a weekly show on BCAT where spandex clad superheroes go toe to toe with super villains. (Bottom) Spandex clad superhero Fluffer, the Flying Chihuahua.



metaphor any number of things. They may represent a deranged individual who really exists. They often represent the economic factors Zedd views as responsible for class repression. They represent greed. Episodes are laced with allegorical elements that function as a critique of various social, political and economical movements—the forces of gentrification in New York City, or the negative aspects of the global economy.

The good news is that *Electra Elf* gets to triumph over these villains in the show, although not without some difficulty. Like the everyman epitomized by James Thurber’s Walter Mitty character, *Electra Elf* gets pushed around her fair share. “In every episode, *Electra Elf* gets captured or tortured,” says Zedd. “She’s kind of like a metaphor for all of us, I guess.”

**The Adventures of Electra Elf can be seen in Brooklyn on BCAT on Monday/Tuesday at 12:30am on Time Warner Cable channel 35, Cablevision channel 68, and streaming live online at [www.bcat.tv/bcat](http://www.bcat.tv/bcat).**

# SUNDAY - March 5

TW	CV	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am	12:30am	1:00-9:00am	
34	67	The Christian Family	Hour of Deliverance	Bible Faith Telecast	Spiritual Guidance	La Verdades Hara Libres	Manines' Temple Moments	Moments of Grace	We Speak to Nations	Special	Expressions of Faith	Burning Bush Ministries	Agape Speaks	Community Events	Theillah	Walking in the Spirit	The Prophetic Word	The Universe of Yahweh	Voice of Bethel	Faith Will Light The Way	Soul Seekers for Christ	Jerusalem Hour	Karbore	Bethany Hour	Hope Connection	Your Shall Know the Truth	First Baptist Church	Voice of Truth	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am	12:30am	1:00-9:00am
35	68	Strong Tower Faith Temple	Ever Increasing Gospel	Something Different	Crossroads	Islam	Rock of Holiness	Voice of Deliverance	Jesus Is Lord	Gideon Flavor	Special	Kingdom Life Christian Center	Eokamkar Presents	Revelation of Israel	The Word of Salvation	Spirit Anointing the Word	Maitreya	Nehemiah Christian Outreach	Manna Church	Word of Hope	Faith Now	Pentecost of Fire	Tomorrow's Word	La Chemin du Salut	Jah Gospel	Inspirational Vybcs	Full Effect	Full Faith Ministries	The Gospel Showcase	This Is Your Bible	La Voix de L'Eglise du Christ	Special	Community Calendar		
56	69	Sunday School Television	Emmanuel God with Us	Beyond Today	Revelations	Mas Que Vencedores	Cavalry Praise & Worship Ctr	Arise & Shine	Lion of the Tribe of Judah	Todos es Posible para Dios	Special	Can We Talk	The Word	Prayer & Praise	Understanding the Spirit You Are	Progressive Pentacostalism	Christian Issues	Truth According to the Bible	Triumphantly Yours	Hurting Hearts	Power of God's Words	Pleasant Grove Tabernacle	The Way of God	Heure De L'Alliance	Occupy Until He Comes	Special	Special	Be My Guest	Grace & Truth Ministries	Gospel On The Move	How to Study the Bible	Libertad en Cristo	Special	Community Calendar	
57	70	Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar																	Community Calendar

# MONDAY - March 6

TW	CV	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am	12:30am	1:00-9:00am
34	67	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Seniors Care & Lifestyles	Self-Awareness Who's Truth	Albanian Culture	Special	Success Bound	Special	Combite Creole	Konesanse ee Pouvwa	Mexico en la Piel	Special	Thinking Minds	Community Calendar	Black Arts & Culture USA	Undercover TV	The Reality Report	The Beverly Show	Special	Gallerie Des Arts	Caribbean Body Talk	Special	Caribbean Classroom	Straight Up!	What's the 411	Soca Tempo	GX TV	Community Talk	Channel Zero	Special	Community Calendar		
35	68	Race & Reason	Revealing the Truth	Lifetalk	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Panama Canal Commission	El Pensamiento Positivo	Rendezvous avec La Verite	Estercita Figueroa	Musica de todos los Tiempos	Community Calendar	Gente Y Cultura	La Nueva Ola	La Comunidad Es Tu Cultura	El Taino Show	Tu Y Yo	El Show de William Guzman	Diamante	Salsa En La Calle Live	TV Exclusivo	Voice of Kham	Snackonart	Hardfire	John Fudala Adventures	The Gary Null Show	Mad Ciphaz	The Adventures of Electra Elf	Community Calendar		
56	69	Classic Arts Showcase	Region 6	BCAT's Brooklyn Review	BCAT's Reporter Roundtable	Education and Perspectives	Health Center	HealthWatch	CMS & You	BCAT Sports Talk	Local Perspective	Brooklyn 45 with Sam Taitt	Special	Special	Community Calendar	Special	Region 6	Manhattan Neighborhood Network Interconnect	Education and Perspectives	Health Center	Neighborhood Beat: Bay Ridge	CMS & You	BCAT Sports Talk	Local Perspective	Brooklyn 45 with Sam Taitt	The Spew	Brooklyn vs. Bush	Classic Arts Showcase	Community Calendar					
57	70	Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar																Community Calendar

# TUESDAY - March 7

TW	CV	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am	12:30am	1:00-9:00am	
34	67	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	The Beverly Copley Report	Community Health Update	John Baxter	Special	The Barry Z. Show	Special	Ardzagang	Youth and Family Empowerment	Special	Jaron Eames Show	Jazzy Jazz Festival	Jim Duckworth and Friends	Community Calendar	Solutions	African Scholar Warrior	The Beverly Copley Report	Special	John Baxter	Special	The Barry Z. Show	1001 Ways to Cope with Stress	Ardzagang	Youth & Family Empowerment	Special	Jaron Eames Show	Jazzy Jazz Festival	Jim Duckworth and Friends	Gospel Xchange	Camera Man Presents	Community Calendar		
35	68	Italian Americans Mid-Life Crisis	The Lina del Tinto Show	Sahaja Yoga	Cram It	Mindlight	Words of Peace	First Alternative	Special	Special	New Flavors Videos	The Rock	Starlink TV	Welcome Aboard	Special	Community Calendar	Italian Americans Mid-Life Crisis	The Lina del Tinto Show	Sahaja Yoga	Cram It	Mindlight	Words of Peace	First Alternative	Special	Verba Lynette Presents	T.A.K. Musik	Nowadays Cancellations Videos	Jaygeonh Presents	Welcome Aboard	Freddy & Jabba Jew Football Picks	This or That	Clicktrax	Community Calendar		
56	69	Classic Arts Showcase	That's Brooklyn	BC Presents	Kingsborough Focus	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Community Calendar	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Community Calendar
57	70	Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar																	Community Calendar

# WEDNESDAY - March 8

TW	CV	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am	12:30am	1:00-9:00am	
34	67	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	The Phyllis Tallafiero Show	Special	OTV	Special	African Music Unlimited	TeleKreyol Plus	C.A.C.E. International	Special	People's Advocacy Group	Paper Tiger Television	Beulah Land	Community Calendar	The Inner Beat	Roc Belushi Show	The Phyllis Tallafiero Show	Dyke TV	OTV	Schneider In Action	Tourisakal	African Music Unlimited	TeleKreyol Plus	C.A.C.E. International	L'Encroarts	People's Advocacy Group	Paper Tiger Television	Beulah Land	Goddesses	POX TV	Community Calendar			
35	68	A Cable of Jewish Life	The Jewish Entertainment Hour	Judaism	Disabled Hotline	The Rising Stars	A Road Awakening	Imani's Corner	Israel Update	The Last Hour	NYC Underground	On the Money with NEDPA	Greenvision	Special	JoJo's Caribbean Showcase	Community Calendar	A Cable of Jewish Life	The Jewish Entertainment Hour	Judaism	Disabled Hotline	The Rising Stars	Special	Imani's Corner	Israel Update	The Last Hour	Reach Out	On the Money with NEDPA	Greenvision	Abu A.Q. Abu Show	The Rare Groove Revolution	Demented Mindz	Preston Lopez Show	Community Calendar		
56	69	Classic Arts Showcase	BCAT's Brooklyn Review	BCAT's Reporter Roundtable	Everything Brooklyn	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	HealthWatch	BCAT Sports Talk	BCAT Presents	Special	Classic Arts Showcase	Community Calendar	Classic Arts Showcase	BCAT's Brooklyn Review	BCAT's Reporter Roundtable	Everything Brooklyn	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Community Calendar
57	70	Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar																	Community Calendar

# THURSDAY - March 9

TW	CV	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am	12:30am	1:00-9:00am	
34	67	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Shocking & Awful	Lawline	Special	Creating Black Wealth	On the Cutting Edge	Tele Nago	Haiti Culture	Special	Xin Tang Ren	Qing Liu	Colorful World	Science & Health	Community Calendar	Green Gourmet	The Frankie Show	American Family Association	Lawline	Special	Special	On the Cutting Edge	Tele Nago	Haiti Culture	Falun Gong	Xin Tang Ren	Qing Liu	NTDTV	Special	Tripwave	Graffiti NYC	Community Calendar		
35	68	Special	Career Talk Live	On the Move with Thomascene	Rent Wars News	Black Men Screaming	Adopting Teens & Tweens	Community	Songs of Freedom	Discovering Yourself	Everyday People Everyday Voices	The Bernice Brooks Show	Radio Concrete Show	Mic-nificent Entertainment	Community Calendar	Special	Career Talk Live	On the Move with Thomascene	Rent Wars News	Black Men Screaming	Adopting Teens & Tweens	Community	Songs of Freedom	Discovering Yourself	Everyday People Everyday Voices	The Bernice Brooks Show	The Ron Alexander Variety Show	Bel Vision	Hardy Boys: Urban Reality TV	All-Star TV	Community Calendar				
56	69	Classic Arts Showcase	Transit Transit News Magazine	Brooklyn Bred	BCAT's Brooklyn Review	BCAT's Reporter Roundtable	Special	BCAT's Brooklyn Elected Officials	Assembly Update	Brooklyn Beat with Senator Carl Kruger	Legal Report w/ Sen. Marty Golden	Report From The State Senate	Inside Congress	Community Calendar	Special	Special	Special	Transit Transit News Magazine	Brooklyn Bred	BCAT's Brooklyn Review	BCAT's Reporter Roundtable	Neighborhood Beat: Williamsburg/Greenpoint	Brooklyn Elected Officials	Assembly Update	Brooklyn Beat w/ Senator Carl Kruger	Legislative Report with Sen. Golden	Report From The State Senate	Inside Congress	Classic Arts Showcase	Classic Arts Showcase	Community Calendar				
57	70	Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar																	Community Calendar

# FRIDAY - March 10

TW	CV	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am	12:30am	1:00-9:00am	
34	67	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Yakety Yak with Jushi	Special	Special	H2O-TV	Special	The What TV Show	Spirit	Next Level	Special	The Neighborhood	Education	Animals Who Need Homes Now	Community Calendar	Mind, Body & Soul Connection	Coup D'oeil	Macaya Ecran	Culture Creole	Companion Animal Network	NYC Horse & Rider	Globetrotter Jim Haggins	Alexandra's Psychic Eye	Della Peppo Village	Hey Harmonica Man	Special	Bike TV	Street Knowledge	Whats Up TV	NY Rocks	Urban Varieti	See Extended Listing Below		
35	68	Special	Special	Special	A Chat with Glendora	Special	Grind Hard TV	BS Plus	Special	Special	Special	Starlight Magazine from HarlemUSA	Total Package of NY	Chris Music Concepts	Unaligned Artists	Community Calendar	Bucktown USA TV	A&B Video Shows	Special	37 Deep TV	Caribbean Basement	Johnny Gold Players	Ghettonomics	Exotic Videos	Flex-in-Brooklyn	Bless Me Video	Flashbacks	Video Explosion	Blaster Vision	Lebroz James Show	Entertainment Vibes	Concrete TV	See Extended Listing Below		
56	69	Classic Arts Showcase	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Community Calendar	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Community Calendar
57	70	Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar																	Community Calendar

TW	CV	1:00am	1:30am	2:00am	2:30am	3:00am	3:30am	4:00-9:00am
34	67	G. Fn. Entertainment	SNS	Future Stars	Trench Time TV	Special	Hellrazor	Community Calendar
35	68	Neal Alpert	MCPS	Mark After Dark	Harlem/Brooklyn Street	Mindwipe	Nasty Video	Community Calendar
56	69	Community Calendar		Community Calendar		Community Calendar		Community Calendar
57	70	Community Calendar		Community Calendar		Community Calendar		Community Calendar

**TW** TIME WARNER CABLE  
Channels 34, 35, 56, 57

**CV** CABLEVISION  
Channels 67, 68, 69, 70

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# SATURDAY - March 11

TW	CV	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am	12:30am	1:00-9:00am	
34	67	Special	Special	Smart Kids	Special	Access Kids Power	Myself and Others	Ghou! A Go-Go	Special	Groundwork for Youth	L.Y.F.E. S.U.X.	Urban Expressions	Neva Ran Neva Will	Special	Alternative Medicine	Special	Dave's Crib	Love of the Craft	Natural Healing	Caribbean Images	El Show De Max	Dominican Community	Riconito Pannemo En Nueva York	Sabor Mexicano	Adelitas Mexicanos	Ritmo Tropical	Latin Reggae	Frency TV	Dancehall NYC	Hit Record Nightlife Video	Laser Vision Theatre	IFTV	The Hambone Show	Community Calendar	
35	68	Grados Wing Chun	We Got Game	Visitation Hawks	Camp Friendship Basketball	Le Journal Sportif	Special	Wedding Memories	Stylz TV	M/S Video Pro	Heal Ministering Health	Kitty Corner	Special	EVVY: Cultural Interchange	Lucy's Hair	Independa	Eliopia TV USA On the Move	Keeping It Real with Shannon	Rehoboth for You	Caribbean Vibe	Ina Dillon Show	CTV: Caribbean Television	The Saffa Selverlight Show	Special	Island Session	A1TV Caribbean Show	World Dance 2	Latin Jazz Alive & Kickin'	Tropical Reflection	Whats Going On	IFTV	Soundwave TV	Community Calendar		
56	69	Basketball Rhythms	Jacobexer Show	Special	Special	BCAT Sports Talk	On the Mat	The Supreme Master Ching Hai	Brooklyn Cyclones Dugout Show	HealthWatch	Be Good To You	Specialized Fitness	Jarville Show	Falun Dafa Around the World	Baj-aerobics	Healthvox	Cooking & More with Esther	Too Sweet Video	Haiti Kreyol/Haiti Senou	Da Bomb	Successful Teaching Practices in Action	BCAT Sports Talk	Get Connected	Zoom In	BCAT's Brooklyn Review	BCAT Reporter Roundtable	Messages with Lion	Cabane Creole	Thirty & Over	Gillis & Barry Show	ZYNC TV	Special	WTF 2000 Nightport	Community Calendar	
57	70	Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar				Community Calendar																	Community Calendar