

“ARE YOU THERE, CHELSEA” IS PURE HOLLYWOOD



“Are You There, Chelsea” starts tonight on NBC as part of its new lineup of mid-season shows; it is based on the bestselling book, *Are You There, Vodka? It’s Me, Chelsea*.

Catholic League president Bill Donohue gives Christians a heads-up:

NBC describes the Chelsea character, which is based on the life of author Chelsea Handler, as a “sexually dynamic advanced drinker”; the show opens with Chelsea in jail for drunk driving. *USA Today* says, “Almost every joke that’s not about Chelsea’s desire to drink is about her desire to have sex.” While she may be a drunken slut, Chelsea does not smoke. That would violate one of Hollywood’s taboos.

The real-life Chelsea Handler is in the show, and although she is Jewish, she plays a Christian. Her character is described by various reviewers as the “judgy, super-Christian sister” [of Chelsea]; a “born-again Christian” who is “supposed to be a bit of a stiff”; and an “uptight born-again Christian.” Another woman plays Chelsea’s “goofy virgin roommate”; she is also described as “a reliably funny gangly naif.” In other words, Chelsea is the role model for the middle-schoolers who will watch the show. It starts at 8:30 p.m. ET.

There is no word on whether the Chelsea character will mimic everything about Chelsea Handler’s life. “I had an abortion when I was 16,” she told the *New York Times*. “Because that’s what I should have done. Otherwise I would now have a 20-year-old kid.” Yup.

What is particularly interesting about the show is that the Christian character does not appear in the book upon which the script is written; it was made up entirely by NBC. But, of course, Hollywood can't pass up an opportunity to stick it to Christians, even if they have to innovate.

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