

[JacksonLReilly@gmail.com](mailto:JacksonLReilly@gmail.com)

[Ella.g.talmdage@gmail.com](mailto:Ella.g.talmdage@gmail.com)

## A WORD FROM THE WRITERS

Talking about sex is awkward.

Meeting the parents is already awkward as hell. Unfortunately for me, my family's chosen profession is sex psychology.

The first time I brought my current boyfriend home, my grandfather thought Paediatric Penile Trauma was a good choice of dinner conversation. Though I refuse to elaborate on that night, my lineage has given me a front-row seat into the world of sex academia, which is just as wonderfully bizarre as it sounds. My undergraduate background in psychology has driven me to take classes in human sexuality and intimate relationships, and I can say with absolute certainty – none of it prepares you for the lawless wasteland that is Gen-Z hookup culture.

It does, however, make me qualified to share *Testing Positive* with you.

Enjoy,  
Ella

## THE GIST

What happens when you give research funding, confidential information, and anatomical models of genitalia to a group of presumptuous and alacritous psych undergrads?

Well... We're not totally sure. But Dr. Lionel Mack seems to think it's a great idea.

At Harden University, the sexual health of the active student body is in the hands of a disgraced sex researcher (yes, you read that right) and a group of overzealous undergrads who barely understand their own love lives.

Dr. Mack hits his personal rock bottom when he takes a job at H.U., his hometown's underfunded, backwater safety school, and gets stuck leading a research lab full of hormonal psych students. But when a mysterious STI explodes across campus like a new-age plague, Mack sees his shot at redemption. Can his chaotic team of research assistants contain the epidemic (and their own romantic disasters) before the administration shuts them down for good?

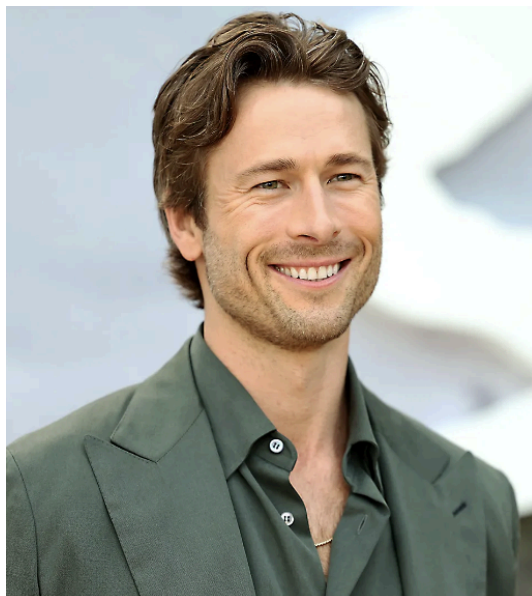
As he goes head-to-head with an old nemesis—now Dean of the program—and battles a dying professional reputation, smooth-talking Dr. Mack partners with razor-sharp biochemist Dr. Brandi Miller. Together, they lead the “sex squad” in a last-ditch mission to solve the outbreak before they're all fired for insubordination.

Taking place at Harden University in the fictitious city of Dixon, PA, *Testing Positive* explores themes of sexual stigma and education, the disconnects of both purity culture and modern hookup culture, redemption, and found family. This show is witty, irreverent, and full of self-aware absurdist humor. It's *Sex Education* meets *Community*—a 30-minute comedy about academia, ambition, and lube.

## FACULTY

### DR. LIONEL MACK (40s)

Once the golden boy of sex research, Dr. Lionel Mack had it all – a media darling with bestselling books, TED Talks, and a reputation for pushing boundaries. But his meteoric rise was followed by a similarly legendary crash after an IRB scandal revealed he had broken protocol during a clinical trial, knowingly giving an actual treatment to a placebo patient out of a misguided sense of heroism.



What started out as a desire to help people slowly curdled into hubris, impatience, and a habit of cutting corners in the name of progress. Once award-winning, he's now slumming it at Harden, the rinky-dink safety school in his hometown and the only place that will offer him a job. Mack is a big fish in a dried-up pond, stuck teaching oversexed teens under the tyrannical administration of an old colleague-turned-nemesis. But when a mysterious STI outbreak explodes across campus, he sees his once-in-a-lifetime shot at redemption.

### DR. BRANDI MILLER (40s)



A cool and collected biochemistry professor at Harden with discipline and no patience for nonsense – especially not a field like “sex psychology”. Miller plays by the rules – not because she lacks passion, but because she knows exactly what happens to women in STEM who don’t. Initially, she wants nothing to do with Mack’s circus of a lab, but her itch for renown pulls her in. And though she’d never admit it, she just might grow to care about this ridiculous team. Against her better judgment, she’s forced to re-engage with the messier side of science—and maybe even rediscover why she got into it in the first place. Sassy and brilliant, her banter with Mack keeps him honest.

TODD WINSTEAD (40s)

Harden's cutthroat Dean of Arts and Sciences. Winstead and Mack have a shared past – once colleagues, now rivals. He blames Mack for an earlier career setback and will do anything to get back at Mack once and for all. Beneath a genteel Southern charm lies a conservative obsession with reputation. Ironic, considering he's sleeping with his assistant. He is ruthless, polished, and performative. When Mack comes to him with news of an outbreak, Winstead's harboured resentment towards him means he cares more about Mack's insubordination than the implication of a health crisis.



## STUDENTS

### ELIZABETH “LIZ” NEUMANN (20-21)

A precocious and ambitious bookworm who is pushing her soccer scholarship to its limits. Liz is sharp and blunt, questioning Mack about his motives for digging into the outbreak. Having already lost one psych professor this semester (don't worry, he was ancient), Liz throws herself into Mack's lab like it's her one shot at greatness — because to her, *it is*.

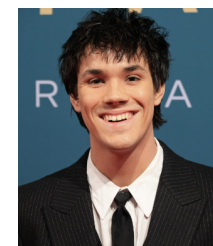


### CUB HARRISON (18-19)

Your average student, Cub, joins Mack's lab because he needs the credit — that and Liz is there. But once he gets his hands dirty, he finds he has a natural aptitude for the work, and it's actually kind of fun? What he doesn't realize is that the professor is his biological father... and neither has a clue.

### SEBASTIAN SIMMONS (18-19)

Our insufferable playboy with zero game, he doesn't know how far up his own ass his head is. He joins Dr. Mack's sex lab as a ploy to ingratiate himself with the ladies. When he's not hanging out around the lab, he's doing shrooms and mansplaining Kierkegaard in the hopes of getting laid for the first time.



### THE TWINS:



### ADA HOFFMAN (22):

Ada is here for a good time, not a long time. And her twin sister, Agnes is even wilder. The pair are long-legged blonde German dream girls. Unhinged, brilliant, and always operating at a level of intensity that makes others deeply uncomfortable. Ada is the impulse control between the two... and that's not saying much.

### AGNES HOFFMANN (22):

Agnes is the instigator and Ada's other half. If there's a fire in the lab, metaphorical or otherwise, Agnes is usually at the center of it. She keeps a knife in her shoe "for balance", whatever that means. The girls are never without each other and often speak in sync or finish each other's sentences. And toying with Sebastian is their new favorite pastime.

## SEASON ONE

Season One follows Mack's first semester at Harden University. Throughout the season, his selfish intent lightens and morphs into something more noble.

### Episode 1: "Testing Positive"

During his first week at Harden U, Dr. Mack stumbles upon a strange new illness sweeping the campus, he must assemble his team to learn more while staying out of Winstead's firing range. He forges a new partnership with biochemistry professor Brandi Miller, luring her with potential prestige. When Winstead cracks down on his newly formed sex squad, Mack blackmails Winstead into letting them pursue the STI.

### Episode 2: "Big Balls"

Miller and Mack's search for ground zero pivots when the soccer team starts testing positive, causing Liz's athletic scholarship to collide with her work for Dr. Mack. Meanwhile, Winstead and his assistant try to locate the voice recorder that Mack is blackmailing them with.

### Episode 3: "While the Cock's Away"

While Mack is away at a conference, the students are charged with not burning the place down. The lab assistants' mission is derailed by Sebastian's incessant fussing over a pick-up gone poorly the previous night. Ada and Agnes take matters into their own hands to give the kid some "tough love" and teach him all about women, giving us a deeper look into the students' lives. The kids manage not to set fire to the whole place, but not without giving Winstead an opportunity for sabotage.

### Episode 4: "Public Fair"

The team identifies a pattern: the outbreak seems to be mutating in a way consistent with a drug-resistant strain of chlamydia. As media interest begins to grow, Mack sees an opportunity to go public – much to Liz's dismay. Meanwhile, Cub's growing chemistry with Liz causes awkward tension in the lab. In an effort to impress her, he volunteers to be the first test subject for a new diagnostic method... with uncomfortable results.

### Episode 5: “The Pull-Out Method”

Mack and Miller, while waiting on funding for the outbreak efforts, fiddle with early research for Mack’s passion project: developing the first male oral contraceptive, an effort that is, to Miller’s surprise, oddly personal for Mack. Meanwhile, Dean Winstead launches a smear campaign to discredit the lab’s legitimacy, and Liz’s academic life starts to buckle under the pressure of dual responsibilities.

### Episode 6: “Dude, You’re Leaking.”

Winstead bribes an IT worker to scan Mack’s lab computers for the blackmail against him. But chaos erupts when the search causes confidential student and patient data to be leaked to the entire campus. Students panic, lawsuits are threatened, and Mack is accused of negligence. Under scrutiny from the board, he pins the blame on a “technical malfunction” to buy time. The students turn on each other in a paranoia-fueled witch hunt — until Liz notices a pattern in the lab’s server access logs.

### Episode 7: “Daddy Issues”

Mack is officially placed on academic probation and barred from all campus facilities. Miller tries to resign, but Mack convinces her to finish what they started. The students, now de facto lab leaders, struggle to keep momentum while navigating personal fractures: Liz and Cub finally acknowledge their feelings, but Cub, digging into old campus records, makes a shocking discovery about Mack — or rather, his biological father.

### Episode 8: “Watergate”

The board moves to fire Mack permanently. In a desperate final attempt, the students rally to defend the lab’s work—and Mack’s role in it. Meanwhile, Cub confronts Mack with the truth about his parentage. Just as Winstead celebrates his apparent victory, the leaked data reveals his own incriminating voice memos. With Mack’s reputation shifting and funding secured, the lab is reinstated—barely. When an old colleague offers Mack a second shot at fame with a book deal and tour, he’s left with a choice: will he return to the spotlight or stay with the team that just saved him?



## SEASON TWO

In Season Two, we will see Mack stay in town while trying to stay afloat, taking the opportunity to write a book while still trying to secretly help the campus in its epidemic. Dr. Miller takes over the “sex squad” and assembles them away from the watchful eye of the new administration. Cub and Liz begin to explore their new relationship, which is regularly interrupted by Mack and Cub’s new connection as father and son. Eventually, Mack is able to make an appeal towards the board and his job is reinstated with more liberal guidelines to work on the contraceptive with Miller.

## SUBSEQUENT SEASONS

In the new school year we see that the epidemic has actually increased applications towards Harden University in psychology and other STEM majors. New faculty will be added to reduce the workload, and Mack will assume a more prominent role as Professor. The group will be able to put a noticeable stop to the epidemic, but their work will be popular enough that they will get research grants and offers from other schools. Students will graduate, and the teachers will continue their work as partners at a prestigious research institute.