

[music plays]

Hey y'all, I just wanted to share a short message here at the top.

If you've been subscribed to the podcast for a while, then you know I try to publish a new episode every 2 weeks. When I first started, this seemed like a totally achievable schedule.

Turns out, real life doesn't agree.

I want to make sure that the quality of In Defense of Fandom doesn't drop, just because I'm trying to push too fast to get out each new episode.

So, this particular one won't be as long as the others. And I'll be using the next few weeks to really get caught up and try to put together a show-stopping finish.

Thanks for sticking with me on this weird little road trip. Now - on to the episode!

[music fades]

Alana King

my entire Thursday night, like I watched the episode, film a reaction and review and then I would like edit for a while, and then post it on YouTube that same night, like try to get it out pretty quickly.

Pretty much all through college. This was what I did when I wasn't in class, like I would get out of class, and I would do my homework. And then I would immediately start working on these.

The voice you just heard is Alana King!

If you were in the SPN Family and on YouTube during the late aughts, then you probably saw at least one of her videos. Although Alana's YouTube channel didn't originally focus on Supernatural.

Alana King

At that point, I had been making videos on my YouTube channel, kind of just about books. Like I was super into reading. I worked in an independent bookstore. So I was making videos about books. But then after I went to the convention, I started kind of shifting gears a little bit and I would start making videos about Supernatural.

That's when her online video-making *really* took off.

Alana King

I would make reaction videos, I would do them the night the episodes aired. And I would make like convention vlogs and videos when I went. And those were like, I feel like the two main things, but then I would make other videos to like I would make videos about Supernatural books, like I made videos about Lynn's books, and I would do unboxings of like, Supernatural merchandise and review the merchandise. So it was like all kinds of whatever I could really think of. I would do like my favorite episodes or like just like videos about the show. And I that's kind of how I really got into the community that way.

Having spent just over a year in fandom spaces, Alana is a name I came across again and again. She was one of the earlier vloggers who really reported on Supernatural conventions, merchandise, and reviewed each episode. Her videos were ubiquitous.

that's where I want to focus for this mini-episode today: A quick detour to video production.

It wasn't originally on my route that I mapped at the beginning of this journey, but I would be remiss to skip it altogether.

After all, it was a YouTube video that got me watching Supernatural in the first place!

But trying to nail down video into a single category is a bit tricky. I mean, for starters, I don't have a TikTok. I'm a millennial, so maybe that's why I've been too lazy to sign up. That, and I've seen how addictive the never-ending scroll can be for Twitter. Not sure I need to up my social media consumption right now....

But I do know there's a thriving world on Supernatural TikTok that I'm just not a part of. Like, I know Rupert Gayes, aka one of the Jen's, has managed to use TikTok to help promote her fan fiction. [For those who don't remember, she was the first interview from the second episode.] And I've seen a few of the videos that inevitably make it to Instagram or Twitter.

And I **know** there's an argument to be made for creativity here. Making short music videos and goofy inside jokes about the show abound on TikTok. And there's the trend of making meta videos and splicing in another creator's content. I know it's super interactive and collaborative!

It's just *sigh* I'm an old ok? There was an Instagram reel a while back that went: Am I on TikTok? Heck no, I wait till the best videos make it onto Instagram reels and watch it there like a proper Millennial.

And, yeah, that's me.

But I do want to share some of the ways that creating videos has changed people's lives, like Alana.

Alana King

honestly watching Supernatural kind of hammered home for me the fact that I wanted to work in television, because it had impacted me so much. And I had heard so many stories from like the cast at conventions about how awesome it was to like work on that set and work on the show.

Like so many in SPN Family, Alana was inspired by Supernatural. She'd already been interested in filmmaking, but watching the show and hearing the cast talk about the film process really inspired her to follow through on those dreams.

And so, she went to school for just that.

Alana King

I went to school for film and television. Like, that was what I started in school. I graduated in 2020, which was thrilling.

Obviously, trying to enter the workforce in spring of 2020 was... a less than ideal experience. COVID impacted every aspect of life, and television production wasn't immune.

Alana found a job working on video, but not television. Still, she didn't give up.

Alana King

I knew I wanted to end up in TV. Supernatural kind of pushed me there. And so when I was out here, and I was doing the online video editing, it was always in the back of my head that like okay, I'd like to make the transition over to TV. And They were looking for an a new post production assistant. And post production is like what I have always been drawn to. So I was like, I feel like I definitely want to work in post. And I so I sent in my resume and stuff. And it was Walker.

Walker, Texas Ranger - for those of you not in the know - is a remake of the Chuck Norris television show. The titular character is played by none other than Jared Padalecki, aka Sam Winchester.

It wasn't that Alana had been gunning for a job in a show that shares many cast and crew with the original Supernatural group, but when the opportunity came up, she certainly wasn't gonna say no. Even if it was a scary leap.

Alana King

You know, even though I knew I wanted to make the jump to television, I was comfortable doing my other job. And I was like, Okay, I know, I want this. But I'm really scared. And so I talked to my friend Lynn about it. And she was like, change is scary, even when we want it. So just remember that, like, it's a good thing. It can still be scary.

So while it was an intimidating leap to finally start working in her focus area of post production, she immediately said yes to the job.

And for those of you who caught the name Lynn, yes that is referring to Lynn Zubernis, the author of Fangasm and several other Supernatural books, that I have spoken with for this podcast.

So anyways, even though it's what Alana went to school for, it's still been a learning experience because there are so many aspects to post production.

Alana King

And there's so many different parts to it. Like there's obviously like editing the show. It goes through so many rounds of edits, so many. And then, you know, after you finally lock an episode, which is where you've got your picture locked, then you got to move on to all the audio, and the music and the ADR and the sound. And it's like there's so much there. And then you've got the VFX and like the special effects, there's so many things. So many steps that we take as a team to get the episode from the clips that they shoot, like the actual footage to a finished product.

So while it's been a long learning curve to assist on all the post-filming steps to produce season three of Walker, it's been worth every second for Alana.

Alana King

I'm super grateful for it. Like I'm super grateful for everything that that it has brought to my life and I just don't think I'll ever be able to like articulately put into words how much it has meant to me, and how much it has changed my life for the better.

[short music sting]

As a kid, my favorite movie, and ok. It's still my favorite movie, was Ghostbusters. And I watched every single second of the directors commentary on the movie, learning about practical effects, and challenges, and different aspects of the filming.

And I know more than my fair share of friends who have seen ALL the behind the scenes materials of the Lord of the Rings. But I don't personally know anyone who took that passion and translated it into a career in television or film.

I tend to hang out with a lot of science nerds, who might've become biologists because they loved Fern Gully or Jurassic Park as a kid, but generally didn't actually end up making the shows like the ones that inspired them. But still! I think it's so cool that Alana attending a Supernatural convention helped her build community and explore her creative passions, eventually scoring a career in making television.

[music here]

Alana's not the only one making videos about Supernatural -- there are so many other great folks out there, It'd be a mistake not to mention at least a couple more.

For example, Gayle, better known as Gayled_it on Twitter, has been attending SPN conventions and recording panels for at least 5 years and then uploading those videos on YouTube.

This helps make conventions at least partially accessible for those who can't afford to go. And actually, it was thanks to Gayle that I had that recorded introduction of Jensen and Jared at the Kansas City convention at the very beginning of the first episode in this series. She was kind enough to let me use her audio, which I think really helps that episode pull you into the convention experience.

And of course there are so many videos on YouTube that offer analysis of the show from many different perspectives. I personally love the video essays by Bob Wess, but there are plenty of great creators out there to check out.

If you're a videophile -- is that what you call it -- be sure to check out all the great content the SPN family has made over the years on YouTube. And ok fine, on TikTok too, if you're into that.

Thanks for coming with me on this short detour to talk video before we ramble on.

[music break/start]

So far on this road trip, all our stops have felt like the colorfully-themed motel rooms created by Jerry Wanek. They've each explored at depth the creative fields of the SPN Family and how those creative aims have been supported by community and collaboration.

But I think it's time we get off this main road and travel one a little less well-paved. Fandom isn't a newly resurfaced road after all. If you've spend ANY time on twitter, then I know you've seen some of the potholes of fandom.

So up next? We're going darkside.

What are some of the complaints we hear about Supernatural fandom? Both within the SPN family and from those who definitely aren't fans.

Chris Scott

I had to hear about fandom drama, or being upset about something, like I found out about supernatural, the stuff with Castiel and all that... without, without realizing that the show was still even on the air!

We'll hear about problems within fandom and judge, whether these complaints hold water and which have no valid basis?

I know it's about to get a bit.... Bumpy, but I think this detour is necessary to truly fully cover the fandom experience.

[music]

Editorial support was provided by Dr. Anna Funk.

Music is from Pixabay while I give Chris Scott more time to compose for the next episode.

Audio production help from Sean Ellis Hussey.

Cover art was designed by Liz.

Thanks to Renee, Meg, Rupert Gayes, Dani, and Marissa for supporting the show through ko-fi.

In Defense of Fandom was made possible through an unhealthy obsession, and your support via ko-fi. If you're not already supporting the show and you'd like to, you can find a link in the show notes to our ko-fi. Your support is deeply appreciated.