

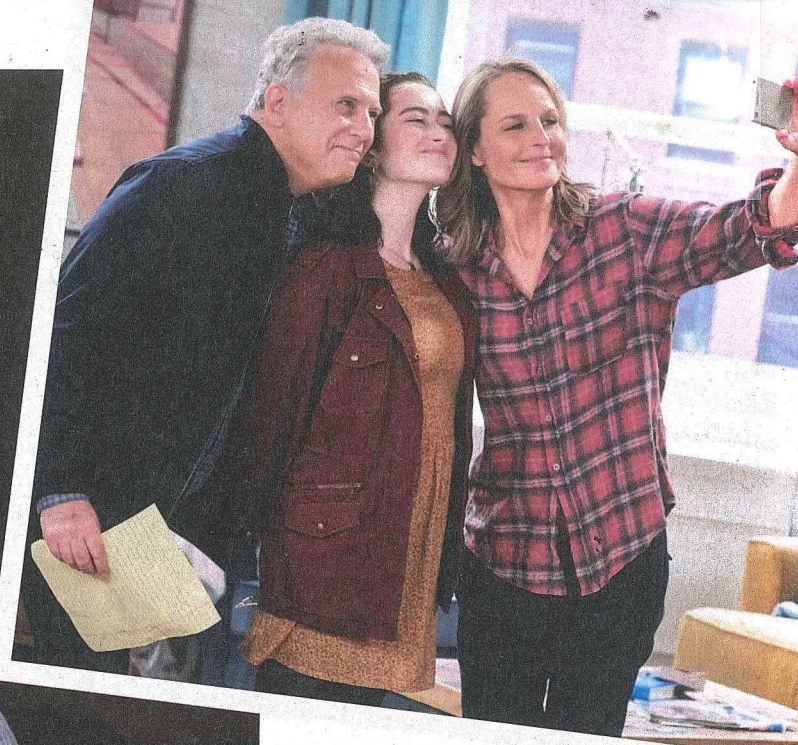
double
talk

PAUL REISER
& HELEN HUNT

Mad About You Returns!

THE HIT COMEDY SERIES IS BACK
AFTER 20 YEARS—AND ITS BELOVED STARS
HAVEN'T MISSED A BEAT **By AILI NAHAS**

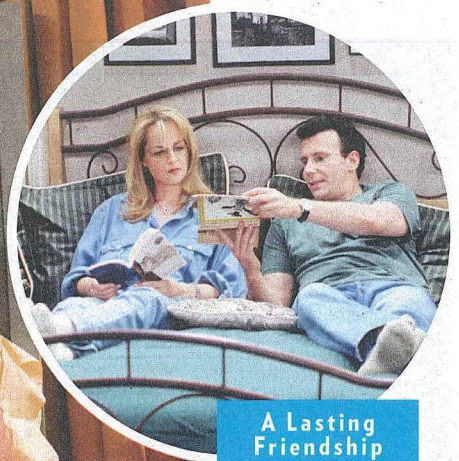
Together Again
“I haven’t felt that kind of adrenaline in a while,” says Hunt of working with Reiser and Abby Quinn. The series is available exclusively to Spectrum video and cable subscribers beginning Nov. 20.



It's been two decades since Paul Reiser and Helen Hunt bid farewell to their hit sitcom *Mad About You*, but in coming together again for the reboot, premiering Nov. 20 on Spectrum on Demand, they've slipped right back into familiar territory—with a few adjustments. “We used to have a ritual postshow where we’d gather for pizza and beer,” says Reiser with a laugh. “But now we’re too tired. Push me to my car, and I’ll see you Monday!” As the oft-bickering but always in love Paul and Jamie Buchman, Reiser, 63, and Hunt, 56, were Emmy darlings throughout *Mad About You*’s run from September 1992 to May 1999. Now, while seated on the couch of their on-screen living room, the pair (who also executive-produce the show) open up about family, their indelible bond and bringing a beloved series back to life.

How does it feel being back on-set after all these years?

REISER All of it feels surreal. But the minute we assembled the cast and did the first table reading, it really took no transition at all. We knew our characters, we knew our dynamics, and we were all so fond of each other. **In this age of reboots, any hesitations**



A Lasting Friendship
 “Working with Paul is very comforting,” says Hunt (with Reiser in 2019 and, inset, in 1996). “Getting to make something with someone who shares your sensibility and your taste is such a luxury.”

about bringing the show back?

REISER We had so many reservations about doing it, but then we said bare minimum it would be fun to play together again. That was the real draw.

HUNT For a while a reunion show was like a joke. It was 100 percent never going to be something we’d entertain. And then somebody figured out that this would be the moment when their [onscreen] daughter would leave home, and we looked at each other and thought, “That might be fun.” And I watched *Will & Grace* [the reboot], and the four of them are just so good.

What has your relationship been like offscreen?

HUNT For the better part of two decades we had lunch every few months. I’d hear what he was working on or how his kids were, and vice versa.

REISER It was like being with your best friend.

“The show is about people, then and now. That doesn’t go out of fashion”

— PAUL REISER

We’d hit the ground running. And I’ll tell you something people might not know about Helen Hunt: [She likes] Chinese chicken salad without the chicken.

Your onscreen daughter

Mabel (played by Abby Quinn) goes off to college.

What’s been your personal experience with that?

REISER Last year my younger son [Leon, 19; he also has 24-year-old Ezra with wife Paula Ravets] went off to college. I had heard that cliché about empty nest, but I didn’t get it. I watched him walk away and then got in the car and cried. All the preparation doesn’t matter. It’s like losing a limb—you still feel it.

HUNT [Going away to college] is a terrible system. It really is! I have poured the most important parts of myself into raising [my daughter Makena, 15, with ex Matthew Carnahan], who is getting ready to leave the nest, so to write about that is a very emotional thing for me.

How has the show changed?

REISER I look at stills from episodes then, and we were babies! The first time around we were trying to define ourselves, but now we’re coming back with confidence. It’s fun to dig deeper.

Why does *Mad About You* still resonate?

REISER Our message was always that marriage is the hardest and the noblest and the most challenging, but you’ve got to put in the work. I’ve had so many people tell me, “That’s a fight we have too,” or that they got married to our theme song. It is really heartwarming to see that our show was so embraced by so many people.

HUNT It’s such a luxury [to have a show like this]. And Paul and I are so like-minded. Working with him is the most fun—and I think that’s a pretty rare thing. ●

Legends Onscreen

“We have great guest stars,” says Hunt (in 1996, with Reiser and Carroll O’Connor and Carol Burnett, who played her parents). Burnett returns in the reboot.

