

Cindy Chupack



<https://cindychupack.net/>

[Wikipedia](#)

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[Writer and director Cindy Chupack talks motherhood, romance and finding her voice](#)

<https://www.medill.northwestern.edu/about-us/awards/hall-of-achievement/cindy-chupack.html> - Cindy Chupack (BSJ87) was inducted into the Medill Hall of Achievement in 2020.

Chupack has won two Emmys and three Golden Globes as a TV writer/producer whose credits include “Sex and the City,” “Better Things,” “Divorce,” “Modern Family,” “Everybody Loves Raymond” and most recently, Showtime’s darkly comic hour, “I’m Dying Up Here.” In 2018, she directed her first episode of television for “I’m Dying Up

Here" and her first feature, OTHERHOOD, starring Angela Bassett, Patricia Arquette and Felicity Huffman.

Chupack has written about dating and relationships for many magazines, has been published in The New York Times' Modern Love column and is the author of two comic memoirs: "The Between Boyfriends Book: A Collection of Cautiously Hopeful Essays" and "The Longest Date: Life as a Wife".

Chupack grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Right after graduating from Medill, she moved to New York City to work in advertising. She sold her first humorous essay to a women's magazine in 1990, and the piece was spotted by a TV producer who encouraged her to pursue comedy writing, which she's been doing ever since.

<https://www.northwestern.edu/magazine/northwestern/spring2004/features/coverstory/index.htm>

Cindy Chupack '87  
Telling Women's Stories

She's the friend whose stories of dating, marriage and divorce might make you laugh until you cry or cry until you laugh. As an award-winning writer, producer and director, Cindy Chupack has been elevating women's voices, on- and off-screen, for more than 30 years.

In Hollywood, she's known for her creative mind, collaborative spirit and exceptional leadership skills. Chupack made a name for herself as a writer on iconic TV series such as Sex and the City, Everybody Loves Raymond and Modern Family. She is also the author of two bestselling memoirs, and her comic essays have appeared in publications including The New York Times and Glamour. In addition to her writing, she has been featured on the storytelling radio program The Moth and NPR broadcasts. Chupack also directed Otherhood, a 2019 feature film.

As a child growing up in Tulsa, Okla., Chupack says her third-grade teacher, Virginia Davis, identified her as a writer. “I loved that I had a title, not just a talent,” she says.

Chupack thought journalism would be her calling and set her sights on Northwestern’s Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. During her undergraduate years, she gravitated toward poetry, first-person essays and feature writing and learned to trust her instincts as a writer.

“I realized I wasn’t a hard-news journalist,” she says. “I wanted to put more of ‘me’ in the stories. ”

During her Medill journalism residency as a reporter at a Binghamton, N.Y., newspaper, Chupack began corresponding with her former undergraduate suitemates. “I wrote really funny letters,” she says. “Later, whenever I got stuck trying to write, I just went back to ‘How would I tell this story to my friends at Northwestern?’ I guess this is my version of ‘visualize the audience in their underpants.’ Visualize the audience as friends who love you, accept you, support you and want to hear your stories.”

After graduation, Chupack worked in advertising and published a comic essay in the now-defunct magazine New York Woman. The piece caught the attention of a television producer, who encouraged her to pursue sitcom writing. Since then, Chupack has received many accolades, including a Primetime Emmy Award and three Golden Globe Awards, as well as a spot in Medill’s [Hall of Achievement](#) in 2020.

“Cindy was way ahead of the curve in the shift toward storytelling that was more inclusive and focused more on women’s stories,” says Nina Tassler, former chairwoman of CBS Entertainment and co-founder of PatMa Productions. “She has found ways of making sure that whatever was going on with her characters, it was grounded, honest and authentic.”

A champion of women in Los Angeles, Chupack is a member of Northwestern's [Council of One Hundred](#), a professional network of women and nonbinary alumni that provides networking and mentoring opportunities for students and recent graduates. Over the years, she has taught classes on memoir writing, directing and television writing.

“I hope to inspire women and all sorts of people who come after me, who maybe didn’t see a place in this industry for themselves, to trust their instincts and their value as a storyteller and put out their stories,” Chupack says. “The industry is finally learning the value of diverse stories, which means more people can recognize themselves on TV and feel validated.”

— Kari Forsee '02