

Celebrity Interview: Reality TV Producer SallyAnn Salsano Opens Up About New Show 'Hear Me, Love Me, See Me'



Interview by [Lori](#)

[Bizzoco](#). Written by [Jessica Gomez](#).

If you're a fan of [reality TV](#), then you are probably a fan of [SallyAnn Salsano](#), the television producer behind popular series like *Jersey Shore*, *Party Down South*, and *Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party*. Lucky for you, we have the behind-the-scenes scoop on her latest show *Hear Me, Love Me, See Me*, straight from Salsano herself! In our exclusive [celebrity interview](#), Salsano opens up about the new TLC series, which premiered Saturday, March 3rd, and also reveals

why she believes [The Bachelor](#) franchise has such staying power.

Celebrity Interview with Reality TV Producer SallyAnn Salsano

The 495 Productions executive tells us that she loves the concept of *Hear Me, Love Me, See Me*, a unique dating show where women who are looking for love meet three different men and get to know them through live streaming. Think about it: “You date someone for a long time. Then, you meet their friends and family. Then, you learn about their job,” Salsano explains. “It takes so long to get to the bottom of all of that.” The idea behind the new TLC show is that people don’t need to spend months and years getting to know one another before they decide the person isn’t right for them.

Related Link: [Celebrity Interview: ‘Ex Isle’ Executive Producer SallyAnn Salsano Talks Reality TV](#)

On each episode of *Hear Me, Love Me, See Me*, a woman dates three different men *without* meeting them. Each guy wears a camera and shows off their daily life – you see their friends and family, their hobbies, and so much more. It’s interactive because the audience gets to play along as well. By the end of the episode, the woman often picks someone she usually wouldn’t have dated. Salsano says that the show concept received great feedback when she shopped it around to the networks.

With this type of dating process, from the very beginning, the women can see what their relationship will potentially look like. As our founder and executive editor, Lori Bizzoco explains, “Everyone has a checklist and a type – which is what makes this show work in a different way from others. Here, women are forced to look beyond their must-haves and truly

consider the man they're dating."

There are three episodes filmed so far with tentative plans for more, depending on the viewers' response. There is also a possibility to take the show outside of the United States and even reverse the roles with men looking for love. What a twist!

In addition, to *Hear Me, Love Me, See Me*, Salsano is working on *Jersey Shore: Family Vacation*, a reunion show that she first mentioned to us over a year ago. Fans can expect to see exactly what they've been missing: the entertaining dynamic of the cast, finally together again on television. Of course, until the premiere date – Thursday, April 5th on MTV – Salsano couldn't reveal much, but she guarantees it will be fun to watch. It's also "100 percent of what producers were looking for" – which says a lot!

Related Link: ['Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party' Producer SallyAnn Salsano Talks About Her Hit Reality TV Shows & Possible 'Jersey Shore' Revival](#)

As if that's not enough, *Winter Break: Hunter Mountain* premieres on Friday, March 16th on MTV2. It's not a typical relationship show, the television producer explains. "It's like *Jersey Shore* on ice. The dating, the hook-ups, the sex, the make-ups – the drama on this show is ridiculous," she shares in our celebrity interview. "What goes on between that cast – the intermingling – I've never seen that before. It's such a fun, twisted turn of events." Thanks to that introduction, we can't wait to watch!

Salsano first got her start working on *The Bachelor*. With the dramatic finale of season 22, we had to ask for her thoughts on the popularity of the franchise. After so many seasons, she believes that the people on the show have become more normal, more real. "It's candy. Everyone can relate to it," she explains. "Everyone's been that girl; everyone's dated that

guy, and everyone's had their heart broken. It's like a version of Fantasy Football for women."

With a plethora of shows and ideas in her back pocket, we cannot wait to see what Salsano will be working on next!

Don't miss the next third installment of Hear Me, Love Me, See Me on TLC, airing on Saturday, March 17th at 10 p.m. EST.

Celebrity Interview: 'Love Blows' Creators SallyAnn Salsano & Patti Stanger Discuss Reality TV & Modern Dating





Interview by [Lori](#)

[Bizzoco](#). Written by [Marissa Donovan](#).

Television producer [SallyAnn Salsano](#) and famous matchmaker Patti Stanger have teamed up to create a new [reality TV](#) show on WE tv called *Love Blows*, which follows the drama of a Chicago family's matchmaking business. In our exclusive [celebrity interview](#), Salsano and Stanger chat about their show, previous television projects, and today's dating world.

Read and listen to this celebrity interview from the masterminds behind the matchmaking reality TV show *Love Blows*!

<http://cupidspulse.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Sally-Ann-Salsano-and-Patti-Stanger-Interview-for-Love-Blows.mp3>

SallyAnn, we last spoke about *Martha and Snoop's Potluck Dinner*, so I have to start off with saying congratulations because that's a tremendous success and your first Emmy

nomination! How does that make you feel?

Salsano: I'm super proud of that. They are such power houses, superstars, and household names worldwide. Working with them – there's almost nothing they won't do. They are super dedicated 24/7 and on set with you morning, noon, and night. And creatively, it's really fun. We really had a great time.

Related Link: ['Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party' Producer SallyAnn Salsano Talks About Her Hit Reality TV Shows & Possible 'Jersey Shore' Revival](#)

You've said that there are a lot of commonalties between them, even though people may view them as so different. Do you think that played a role in the show's success?

Salsano: There's all this hullabaloo now in our world about different people and people being against each other. If the country was more like this show, we'd be in a better place. If you like someone, nothing brings you together more than a good meal and good conversation. Just get together and have a good time! It doesn't matter where you're from, where you're raised, or what you're like. At the end of the day, we all like to eat, laugh, and have fun. That's basically what this show's about.

Absolutely – great point. Patti, last month, you were on *Hollywood Medium* with Tyler Henry, and you shared that your adoptive mother was really good at giving you advice. What was that experience like?

Stanger: It's not so much what he says and how he says it. It's more like, when you're in the room, there's a strong energy. You *feel* the presence of your loved one. He's a guy that brings in the energy of your loved ones, and you feel loved. My mom died a really horrible death of lung cancer, and at the end, she was in a lot of pain. So knowing that she was okay was important to me. And then my biological mother showed up – that was all really nice. I never met her, but I felt

a presence. You can't tell that though the television though.

Related Link: [Celebrity Interview: 'Hollywood Medium' Star Tyler Henry on His New Memoir & Career: "This is Fundamentally What I'm Meant To Do"](#)

Now, let's talk about *Love Blows*. This is just an amazing collaboration. Who came up with the idea?

Salsano: Patti!

Stanger: I came up with the idea. I wanted SallyAnn involved because she did *Jersey Shore*, and I envisioned this show to be in the same style. I just thought she was the perfect powerhouse to go into Chicago and turn it upside down. Chicago didn't have it's own reality TV show, which was really important.

These are people I work with – I'm like the head affiliate for matchmakers around the world. I'm the one generating leads, giving them advice, and training them. So Lisa used to fix me up – we were like sisters. One day, she told me the story about her husband who cheated on her with her best friend – and she stills works with both of them! Their kids are now training to take over the business. I was like, "Oh my god, this is a reality TV show."

I originally sold the show in a different format to Bravo, but when I left Bravo, I took it back. SallyAnn reformatted it and came up with a better concept than what I had. It was just going to be a pilot at first, but of course, given the powerhouse that she is, she made it go straight to series. We're super excited. It's going to connect to viewers like *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* and *Vanderpump Rules*. It's a show you can keep watching for two hours straight.

So you knew Lisa before you started developing the show?

Stanger: She's someone I work with on a regular basis. All

matchmakers work with me; we all work with each other. What's great about this show is that you're going to see this unveiling of the industry. You're going to see behind the scenes of matchmaking, which is a real business that you cannot major in at college. The only place you can get certification is through my old assistant who owns the Matchmakers Institute in New York. You train with matchmakers. You shadow them, like other matchmakers have shadowed me. It's cool because it's always handed down generation after generation – the way Lisa plans on handing it down to her daughter Annie.

A lot of crazy things happen in these episodes, a lot of cliff-hanger drama. And I'm appearing in a lot of episodes, which is fun.

SallyAnn, you've produced a lot of shows about love and relationships. What do you think makes this one different?

Salsano: It's actually real. There's something about a family dynamic that you can't change. If you combine the young and beautiful people on *Vanderpump Rules* with the drama of *Flipping Out* and the family dynamic of *Cake Boss*, then you get *Love Blows* – this show has it all. And it's all coming from a place of helping other people find love.

Mixing Patti's star power and expertise with their family dynamic is a recipe for success. Still, there's a lot of disastrous moments behind the scenes too. It's the stuff that reality shows are made of – and it's completely authentic.

Related Link: [Celebrity Video Interview: 'Millionaire Matchmaker' Star Patti Stanger on How a Relationship and Love Changed Her: "I'm Much More Relaxed"](#)

Shifting gears, let's talk about digital matchmaking versus traditional matchmaking. Do you think singles are ready to get back to true matchmaking – where a matchmaker (instead of a

website or app) sets them up on a date?

Stanger: Personal attention will never be defeated by an app. Ever! With a matchmaker, you have someone selecting potential partners for you and talking to you on a daily basis...versus an app that has no information! You don't even know how tall they are, how many kids they have, if they're divorced. That's why matchmaking is older than prostitution – it's as old as time.

Do you think the show could help bring back the matchmaking industry?

Stanger: I wanted to make it a major in college – where you could actually major in it and open your own business. The industry is really going to change in the next 10 years. We've already passed the two billion dollar mark – internationally, not just in the United States.

We've never been able to use FaceTime matchmaking because people want to hide their looks, their voices, their age, their height, and their weight. So that's the next frontier: Will you FaceTime with somebody? Will you show them who you are in broad daylight without makeup on and your hair up?

That's brilliant! Getting back to the show, Patti, we'd love to know a bit more about your role on-camera.

Stanger: You see a little bit of a softer side of me. I come in to help Annie, and I have to shut Lisa down because Lisa's more of a screamer than I am in this particular season. On top of it, I go on three dates.

I'm still going to lose my cool because I'm Patti, but I'm not in charge, so it's a different side of me. It's hard because I'm used to calling the shots. I'm more like the therapist that comes in to fix the problems in the family.

Related Link: [Celebrity Interview: 'Ex Isle' Executive](#)

[Producer SallyAnn Salsano Talks Reality TV](#)

I have a couple additional questions for you, SallyAnn. The last time we spoke, I asked you if there would be a reunion for the *Jersey Shore* cast...and then *Reunion Road Trip* happened!

Salsano: That had nothing to do with me. Oh my god, I would kill to do one – with the entire cast and have them talk about the past.

As you probably know, Ronnie Ortiz-Magro and Pauly D have both been on the show *Famously Single*. Have you watched it?

Salsano: Of course. I watch this show and everything those cast members do. We have a group text going, and we always support each other. They're like my children. They call me "Mom." It makes me feel 900 years old, but it is what it is! There's something different when you know somebody before anyone else did. I think you just kind of have a different bond with them and different insight into who they are.

Any final words about *Love Blows*?

Salsano: Just watch it!

Stanger: You need to watch it live. We have this expression on WE tv: "Live or Die." You're going to get tips about what to do if you want to open your own business, if you're dating someone and it's not working out, if you want to get back in the game after a divorce. People date on Saturdays or Sundays, so they need to tune in on Friday night! They need to have these tips in their arsenal. We can basically be your dating coaches.

Check out the buzz for yourself by watching the premiere of Love Blows on WE tv TONIGHT at 10/9c!

'Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party' Producer SallyAnn Salsano Talks About Her Hit Reality TV Shows & Possible 'Jersey Shore' Revival



Interview by [Lori](#)

[Bizzoco](#). Written by [Delaney Gilbride](#).

The queen of reality TV, [SallyAnn Salsano](#), has taken VH1 by storm and is back and better than ever! The self-made American

television producer is the CEO and president of 495 Productions, which launched in 2006 and has been a success ever since. Salsano has produced a number of widely-loved television shows, including MTV's [Jersey Shore](#) with its equally successful spin-off *Snooki & JWoww*. The entrepreneur has also produced popular reality TV series such as *Friendzone*, *Party Down South*, *Blue Collar Millionaires*, and the new VH1 show that everyone has been raving about, *Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party*.

Celebrity Interview with Reality TV Producer SallyAnn Salsano

In our recent [celebrity interview](#), Salsano opens up about the idea behind her latest project. She had collaborated with VH1 in the hopes of creating a new, unique show that viewers would fall in love with – and boy, did they! When speaking about the birth of *Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party*, Salsano says the new president at VH1 asked her what kind of show she had been dying to create. She answered the question with an immediate response: “I would love to do a crazy, energetic celebrity cooking show,” which everyone at VH1 jumped right on board with. When going back and forth about who they wanted to co-star in the show, Salsano tells us she asked the room, “Why are we even discussing other people? I think Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg would be the best show ever.”

Related Link: [Celebrity Interview: ‘Ex Isle’ Executive Producer SallyAnn Salsano Talks Reality TV](#)

After discussing the idea with the world-renowned chef, 495 Productions reached out to the rapper, but when they called him, he had already known about the show through Stewart. “They really are friends,” says Salsano. “It’s such an honor working with them.” Salsano relates the mega-stars to those on another one of her shows, CNBC’s *Blue Collar*

Millionaires, by expressing how they started out just like every other aspiring blue collar worker: as entrepreneurs. “Even now, at this stage of their careers, they don’t take it for granted,” she adds.

Feeling inspired by the reality TV stars of her many shows, Salsano shares an important piece of career advice, saying, “You don’t have to be a rapper or an NBA star to make it big. You just have to have an interest in something, dedicate yourself to it, and be good at it. And sometimes, loving your job, regardless of what it is, is enough.”

Martha & Snoop’s Potluck Dinner Party is the number one rated non-sports cable program in its time period with over three million viewers after only the second episode was released. Plus, it’s already been renewed for a second season. Salsano believes that the reason why the reality TV show is such a hit is because the duo makes the show extremely fun-loving and humorous for people of all ages.

She adds that the show has an underlying message of, “Come on, everyone – knock it off. We can all get along.” The renowned rapper and famous chef continue to cross generations and demographics with their [celebrity relationship](#). People may wonder how they can be friends, but as Salsano explains, “When you look at who they really are as people, you come to realize that they have the same interests and the same sense of humor.” It doesn’t get any simpler than that.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: Stay True to Yourself](#)

It’s no surprise that the reality TV producer loves working on the show. “If Snoop and Martha are on set, I’m on set,” she reveals. “It’s a fun day.” The stars actually have a lot of leeway when it comes to what they want to make in the kitchen. While Stewart makes, well, anything and everything she puts her mind to, Snoop is more of a “home cook” and uses recipes passed down by his mother. As Salsano shares, “He claims his

mother always used to tell him, 'You know what girls like? A man that cooks.' And from then on, he has been making his signature dishes, like fried shrimp and catfish, for his family and friends." Great [relationship advice](#) from Mamma Snoop!

SallyAnn Salsano Teases Future Bravo Reality TV Show & *Jersey Shore* Revival

Salsano also talked about her future projects in our celebrity interview. "There's still so much I want to do," she shares. The producer teased us with the notion that her first Bravo show will be coming out in the spring, but she's not able to tell us much more than that she's extremely excited to share it with everyone when the time comes. She also revealed that she's constantly thinking about reviving her past reality TV shows, including *Friendzone*, which is still one of her "favorite shows of all time."

Related Link: [Celebrity Break-Up: 'Famously Single' Stars Ronnie Magro & Malika Haqq Have Split](#)

Of the continued success of the *Jersey Shore* stars, Salsano says, "I love it. I get excited for them, watch everything they do, and root them on. I feel like I have a different kind of love for them – I feel like I've known them from birth." She also wants people to know that the stars of the hit MTV show are more than how they're presented on camera. People don't truly see "what great kids they are and what great families they're from."

Given her love for the reality TV stars, we had to ask if she ever thinks about doing a *Jersey Shore* revival. Without skipping a beat, she exclaims, "Like every day! Every show runs its course, but you never know." We've got our fingers

crossed!

Be sure to tune in to Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party on Monday, March 6 on VH1 at 10pm ET. You can keep up with Salsano's many projects on Twitter [@sallyannsalsano](https://twitter.com/sallyannsalsano)!

Celebrity Interview: 'Ex Isle' Executive Producer SallyAnn Salsano Talks Reality TV



By Katie Gray

Queen of reality TV and seasoned executive producer, SallyAnn Salsano, is known for producing hit reality TV shows like *Jersey Shore* and *Party Down South*. She is also the founder and president of 495 Productions. In our [celebrity interview](#), Salsano talks about her new series that premiered on Jan. 8, *Ex Isle*, which is a groundbreaking series where five on-again, off-again couples endure extensive therapy in order to break free from those toxic relationships and love. The show is centered around the expert relationship advice from therapist, Dr. Ish Major, who counsels the couples through their time on the island.

Reality TV Producer Talks Relationships and Love

While *Ex Isle* revolves around exes and toxic relationships, the executive producer is actually happily married. In our celebrity interview, Salsano says that she believes that “balance is key.” When you’re a busy EP on a few successful shows, your schedule can get pretty tight. Salsano has to travel a lot for work, but she thinks that it is actually beneficial. “Some space is healthy and can strengthen many relationships,” she says. “I think the key to a good relationship is to be honest about who you are and upfront about your lifestyle.” Her dating advice is to “enjoy the time you spend together and be present.”

Celebrity Interview: Executive Producer Talks Reality TV

Getting over an ex is not easy, which is where the idea of *Ex Isle* came about. “I think we have all been there or lived it,” Salsano says. “It’s one of the most relatable shows I have been a part of.” Salsano wishes that watching the show will help people realize that they are not alone. “We’ve all stayed

in relationships too long for one reason or another. If you are not in one, it's likely one of your friends are," the executive producer shares. Viewers who fall into this common category get perspective while watching the show and their relationships can grow from it.

The reality TV guru says, "Imagine trying to get over someone by getting under someone else. Now add in that person you're trying to get over right there watching it all unfold, AWKWARD." That is essentially what *Ex Isle* is all about. The show deals with both sides; people diving into their temptations of old comfortable relationships and the flip side of being curious about new relationships and being pulled in that direction. The show proves to be especially beneficial to couples who are constantly on-again and off-again. "You aren't in a relationship, but you're so emotionally closed off that you can't meet anyone new," Salsano says. "The sad part is most people don't realize it and they waste a ton of time." *Ex Isle* is sure to open up new doors for people so that they can grow.

Related Link: ['The Ex and The Why' Producer SallyAnn Salsano Says Everyone Has Been in "Some Kind of Screwed Up Relationship"](#)

As an executive producer for reality TV, Salsano knows that people are curious how real the show is and wonder, "What if nothing happens?" However, the people on the show are what ultimately determine the success of the series. If the audience likes watching them then it will be a success. "Casting is key and an interesting process that we never rush or take lightly," Salsano reveals. The reality shows Salsano has worked on often involve many emotions and relationship dynamics. "Just like life, it always manages to get done," the producer says. "I am filming what they are actually doing and feeling, as it's happening." While working in close boundaries, cast and crew members often get emotionally attached as they get to know one another – it is inevitable.

As Salsano says, “It’s hard not to develop relationships with people.” This is especially true in the workplace, because you become sort of like family. “I’ve been so lucky to work with so many amazing people and networks I love,” she says.

Related Link: [Jersey Shore Creator SallyAnn Salsano Dishes about Love in Italy and Her New Weight Loss Show, “Love Handles”](#)

Salsano’s famous show *Party Down South* is coming to an end soon. She explains, “If it were up to us I would have kept the party going forever. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to create this show and introduce the world to both casts.” She noted, “It was life changing for us all (but the party will always be going on with this group).” Her exciting future projects include: another season of *Blue Collar Millionaires* that is coming up on CNBC, producing several *True Life* episodes on MTV and a new show on Lifetime called *The Mother/Daughter Experiment: Celebrity Edition* which will premiere March 10.

Be sure to tune in to *Ex Isle* on We TV on Friday’s at 11/10c. You can keep up with Salsano’s many projects on Twitter [@sallyannsalsano](#)!

‘The Ex and The Why’ Producer SallyAnn Salsano Says Everyone Has Been in “Some

Kind of Screwed Up Relationship”



Interview by [Lori](#)

[Bizzoco](#). Written by Liz Kim.

Nothing has changed the history of television programming quite like reality shows, and one woman who has dominated in this area is SallyAnn Salsano. Her creative instincts and love for TV led her to create 495 Productions (named after the expressway where she grew up in Long Island), which was responsible for the pop-culture phenomenon *Jersey Shore*. Her repertoire, which stretches back to 1998, goes far beyond guidos and spray tans though. She's also produced hit shows for ABC, VH1, Paramount, and FOX, to name a few.

Related Link: [‘Jersey Shore’ Creator SallyAnn Salsano Dishes About Love in Italy](#)

Despite all of her years in the business, she's still surprised at which shows make it big. "Personally, I miss strict dating shows like *Change of Heart* and competition-elimination shows," she shares. "I think all shows just go through phases and everything has its day, but it's on a rotation. People always ask us what's next in terms of reality television, and I tell them that it's not up to the producer or the network; it's up to the audience."

With that thought in mind, MTV is broadcasting a different kind of dating show *The Ex and The Why*, premiering tonight. It answers the question: *What if you could revisit the person who broke your heart and gain some closure?* The twist is that the exes have no idea why they're there. "There are those scenes when the exes' jaws are on the ground, and they are in shock and disbelief." Whatever the subject, Salsano says that the secret to a reality show's success is ultimately its relatability and *The Ex and The Why* touches on a subject sure to make anybody who has ever had a break-up take notice.

Salsano feels that the need for closure is unique to the younger generation. In some cases, the couples on the show have been separated for years, and yet, one of them still can't move on. "We've all been dumped or have dumped somebody, but for whatever reason, teenagers and people in their early 20s always want to know why." She credits this to how easy it is to "stalk" your ex on Facebook and other social media. "They need answers," she says. "I'm 40, so if it's not working for me, I don't need closure. The closure is, 'I kind of don't want to be with you anymore!'"

Related Link: [Four Telltale Signs He's Not The One](#)

The producer adds that many of the people who seek out their exes have reinvented themselves in hopes that the changes will allow them a second chance at love. Some just want to see if they could be together again, and unfortunately, some walk away knowing that their exes have no interest in making a

relationship work. It's these very real moments that keep viewers glued to the screen. "I feel that, when you decide to produce a show, it has to be about something you've done or you've dealt with. I feel like we all get caught up in relationship shows because everyone is in or has been in some kind of screwed up relationship, and that's just normal."

This desire to alter one's image or lifestyle after a breakup is common, Salsano says. "I've been in relationships where, once it was over, I think, 'You know what? It might have been me.' I have my own hangups, my own stuff going on, and now, I feel like if he saw me, he would think differently about me."

Some of the people on *The Ex* and *The Why* who want to get back together admit that they've cheated in the past and confess to other mistakes. "But they want to show how much they've changed, that they're not the person they once were, and that they want another chance. Some of the exes are too scarred to want to try again, but others are moved that this person is admitting to their mistakes on television and professing their love to the world."

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Salsano says she tends to keep her past in the past. "I keep in touch with one of my exes, and it was one of those cases where we were really young and it didn't work," she explains. "Do I have a desire to go back and make it work? No. Are we completely friends now? Yes."

Although she is currently in a happy relationship, she says that her boyfriend isn't somebody who she could have seen herself with. The trick to making a relationship work is to find somebody during the right phase in your life. "I am not home a lot when I'm filming, so I needed to find someone who only knows me in that way," she says. "In previous relationships, I was making the transition from being on the

road once in awhile to being home once in a while. It was tough. The guy I'm dating now understands this. He has his things going on, and I have my things."

No matter how understanding you are of each other's schedules, quality time is still key. "We make each other a priority and make sure we see each other, and if that means I have to fly across the country to have dinner, I do that."

Related Link: [10 Ways to Make Long Distance Love Work](#)

After working on so many reality shows and watching a lot of relationships crash and burn, it's easy for Salsano to be jaded and doubtful about love. But she still believes in putting yourself out there and taking a risk. "Don't hold back," she encourages. "If you're looking for love and you want to know what could've happened, well, you have to ask! You can't sit in your house and talk to your friends about it because they can only listen for so long. And you can only stalk someone on Facebook for so long. At some point, you have to get up the guts to go out there and make it happen."

Be sure to tune in tonight to The Ex and The Why on MTV at 6/5c. You can keep up with Salsano's many projects on Twitter @sallyannsalsano!

Jersey Shore Creator SallyAnn Salsano Dishes about Love in Italy and Her New Weight Loss

Show, “Love Handles”



By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

When it comes to the topic of love, ABC's *The Bachelor*, MTV's *Disaster Date*, and *Shot of Love with Tila Tequila* certainly have that in common. But, finding your amore isn't the only thing that bonds these shows together. They've also had the fortune of being produced by SallyAnn Salsano, a 37-year-old, fist-pumping dynamo, who is best known for creating the pop culture phenomenon, *Jersey Shore*.

SallyAnn's newest reality television endeavor, *Love Handles* airs on Lifetime Television this weekend. The show is an hour-long docu-series featuring a dual transformation of overweight couples as they attempt to save their lives and relationships by confronting what lies at the core of the emotional, dietary and physical issues deeply affecting their

well-being. Think *Biggest Loser* meets *Dr. Phil*. Whether it's a couple who gained weight together and are trying to get the spice back in their love life, or the woman who feels overly self-conscious because her man is thinner than her.

We had the chance to catch up with SallyAnn and she gave us the scoop on what we can expect to see this season:

What can you tell us about *Love Handles*? What makes the show different from other shows of its type?

It's about couples who feel like they're stuck, and we show their transformation. I mean, you have to go to work, raise your kids, go to the gym, cook for yourself, and deal with your life. That's the situation most people are in when they have to lose weight. Some people are granted the opportunity to shut down their life and dedicate themselves to losing weight, but in *Love Handles* people have to fend for themselves and just do it.

The other thing about *Love Handles* is that it's not just about losing the weight. It's a show about therapy, and what's really going on inside. It gives you a rare look at couples that are in complete, raw therapy sessions. For most of these people, they have never been to individual therapy, so forget about couple's therapy. For the first time, they talk about what's bothering them, not only about themselves, but about the person they love the most. So sometimes they're just like, "Well, I don't know if I love this guy. I don't know if I could see myself with him." You should see their partner's reactions; it looks like their eyeballs pop right out of their heads because it's the first time they've ever heard that.

What are the relationships like on the show? Is everyone married?

They're all in different stages. Some of them are in a relationship, but will not get married until they lose weight. Others won't get married to their partner because

they don't want a fat bride or groom. Some of the contestants are engaged, but can't buy the wedding dress because they're overweight. There are also newlyweds who are in the first year of marriage and gained 80 pounds. Some couples have been married for ten years and gained hundreds of pounds along the way and lost the intimacy they once had with each other. Every couple has their own unique story. Or, it could be that he's skinny and she's fat -it's all stuff everyone deals with and it's not only women who are self-conscious about their weight, it is men too. So you put that together – two people who are not feeling good about themselves – and the word toxic doesn't even do it justice. They're in a position where they don't even love themselves. They need to figure out what's going on inside before they can figure out if they want to be with this other person.

How does *Love Handles* parallel your own life?

Well, I'm 37, in a relationship, and I'm really happy. But, I was in a previous relationship for seven years. We had a great time, a great house, and all the bullshit. He loved me, I loved him. But, I just wasn't happy. I was so overweight, and I think that I blamed my unhappiness on anything but that. It wasn't until I got my stuff together and lost the weight that I realized I had to move on. I threw out everything I owned and gutted my house. I did a drastic, crazy person clean out, and started over. I've never been happier. I won't say that the relationship was bad, because it wasn't bad at all. It was really me and that's kind of where *Love Handles* came from.

I think a lot of girls want to get married and have a family. And, they're looking for one guy who says yes. It doesn't even have to be the right person. For me, it's not the first person you find to say, "yes." It's the person you want to grow old with, rich or poor, the person you want next to you.

What is it about love that makes these shows so popular?

Well, I think everyone is on the endless search for love. I think even if you find someone, and you get married, you're always wondering if this is the greatest love of your life. Is this what love is supposed to feel like? I think it's all anyone ever wants. Everyone equates love with happiness.

Every girl, every guy, every adult, even if you're married or single, it doesn't matter. You watch these shows, and you fantasize right along with them. Everyone wants a fairy tale.

Before we go, we need to ask some Jersey Shore "LOVE" questions! First, will we see a good love story in Italy?

Well, there are people falling in and out of love in Italy. I would say that it's hot and cold in that house. I love this season. Every season I do the same thing. I come back, and I'm like, "What if nothing happens? What if nothing goes on?"

Let me tell you something. I got all the way to Italy, and I was like, "Are you guys kidding me?" I was sitting there and would not leave the control room for 20 hours a day. That's when you know it's good. This particular season is interesting, because they were away. They didn't have all the comforts of home, and all the interactions with their friends and family that they usually do, so there was a bit more conflict than you've seen before.

What's the status of Sammi and Ronnie this season? Can you give us a little hint?

Well, the status depends on what episode (chuckle)! You're going to see a little bit of the Sammi and Ron you knew before, and then the Sammi and Ron who takes a turn. It's really interesting. I think they finally come into their own. Sometimes, I think you grow up when you're apart.

Whether it is the crazy, fist-pumping nights out at Karma, the quacking duck phone or Snooki's ridiculous antics that have you hooked, everyone loves to watch the drama. Jersey Shore Season 4 will premiere August 4th t at 10pm ET/PT on MTV.

And, don't forget to tune into Love Handles on Lifetime Television August 6th at 7pm and August 7th at 3PM &4PM.

Cupid's Pulse sends a thankful fist-pump to Sally Ann for taking the time to talk with us.