



## The Osbournes: Fully Reloaded

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By Joe Rhodes

It's been four bleeping years since America's favorite f-bomb-flinging family, The Osbournes, were last together on tv. Since then, spoiled siblings Jack and Kelly, in their mid-teens when "The Osbournes" debuted in 2002, have been in and out of rehab and launched show business careers of their own. Sharon, the foul-mouthed mother-manager, has become a reality show fixture and Ozzy, beleaguered patriarch and former Prince of Darkness, has been re-branded as an affable, oblivious oaf, muttering his way through cell phone commercials, generally confused by all the fuss his family seems to cause.

And now, older, wiser and considerably less chemically-dependent, they've launched "Osbournes:Reloaded," a sort of mutant variety/reality/game show that, even after filming six episodes (the first airing March 31 on Fox) in front of screaming studio audiences, they still can't quite explain.

Fox is promoting "Reloaded" as a variety show, but it's considerably weirder than that. There are musical numbers and film parodies, pranks played on audience members and filmed segments where The Osbournes try their hand at "regular" jobs (such as supermarket clerks) or spend time with other Osbourne families scattered across America. Some of the segments are scripted, but a lot of them are not.

We sat down with all four Osbournes (older sister Aimee, who didn't appear in "The Osbournes" isn't in "Reloaded" either) at Ozzy and Sharon's hilltop estate outside of Los Angeles to talk about the new show and how the attentio, that came from "The Osbournes" affected all of their lives.

TVG: It's taken a couple of years for you all to agree on a show you'd like to do together. Why this show and why now?

SHARON: We've all been so busy with our own projects. Kelly has done theater, radio everything. Jacks been doing his (extreme sports) show and Ozzy worked for two years on his last album and then he went on tour. So it couldn't have worked before this.

KELLY: We just wanted a format that allowed us to be ourselves. Because we've tried things where they try to edit us and script us into something we're not and when we do that, it's terrible.

SHARON: We knew we wanted to do something with a lot of audience interaction and we didn't want it to be celebrity driven. We didn't want it to be one of those shows where it's like, "let's ring up our a-list friends and ask them to do us a favor."

KELLY: Because we know how difficult we are when we're all together, let alone having to work with celebrities and their entourages. That would have been a nightmare. And people at home wouldn't be able to relate to it.

TVG: Were any of you leery of doing a variety show?

OZZY –I was extremely nervous. When they said the word "variety" it scared the shit out of me. It took me a while to sit with it. Because I'm first and foremost a rock and roller. I didn't want to become a tv host.

SHARON: All of them left the show at one point or another. I'm the only one who didn't. Jack must have fired himself 10 times.

TVG: Why is that?

JACK: I think a lot of it was the uncertainty, we weren't really sure what we were getting involved in. And I feel like for the last five years, I've been trying to do my own thing, very independent from my family. So I had a lot of fear of getting involved with that again. And what comes with it. What I'm doing now – the adventure sport world – is kind of niche. I can go to the mall and be relatively unnoticed. What my dad and mom and sister do is very mainstream, very center-stage limelight and that's not what I really like.

KELLY: There were a lot of ideas being thrown around and we didn't know if any

of them would work. One of their ideas was to put us on a desert island, like the Osbournes do Survivor.

SHARON: We'd have all starved to death.

TVG: When you look back at the success of "The Osbournes" it brought a lot of attention to the family, lots of fame and fortune, but it wasn't all positive. When you look back on the pros and cons of opening up your lives like that, was it worth it?

SHARON: I go back and forth on that. So many people say, "Do you think your kids would have had the problems they had if they hadn't done the show?" But when my son was in rehab at 17, he was in there with a rabbi's son, a doctor's son, a lawyer's son. He was the only in there who'd been on a tv show. I don't think you can blame their problems on the show.

KELLY: My parents are not the reason I did what I did. Neither was the show. I couldn't live life on life's terms. And that was my fault and my problem. Never anyone else's. It was me.

JACK – We were 15 and 16 when the show started and I remember not putting two and two together that what was being filmed was gonna be on tv. It's not like the show made us think, we're gonna be massively famous and go do loads of drugs.

TVG: But the amount of scrutiny couldn't have been helpful .

JACK: It's a funny thing, being 23 now, I don't think I could realistically make fun of a 15 or 16 year old. There were all these journalists and comedians and radio show guys ripping the shit out us,

16 year old kids. It's really kind of sick when you think about it.

KELLY: I remember these radio hosts, Kevin and Bean, talking about how fat and ugly I am. I was on the bus on the way to school when I heard that. It's like, 'How do you say that?' There were people on website putting up my phone number and telling me to call me up and tell me I should stop eating so many donuts and I'm an ugly fat bitch. Come on. I was 16 years old. At that age, you can't think, well, I have a loving family and all these great opportunities. You learn to appreciate more as you get older. But it's hard when you're 16.

TVG: Ozzy, it also changed your image a lot. Did you expect that to happen?

OZZY: It's like going to bed one person and waking up to a completely different world. Before "The Osbournes" people perceived me as living in some Bavarian castle, hanging upside down from the fucking rafters. And then they realized I was a real person. I'm sure I gained some fans, but I probably lost some, too. I let them see the way I live and I don't know whether it was a good thing or a bad thing. I can't change it now.

TVG: One of the participants in VH1's "Charm School" has accused Sharon of attacking her after she made some disparaging remarks about Ozzy and she may be filing a lawsuit. Don't you have to be more careful about your behavior now that you've become as much a celebrity as your husband?

SHARON: Of course. I have to remind myself that if you're somewhat of a tv personality, you're on the side to be sued, where if somebody else does what I do, they'd just say, 'Oh, she's pain in the ass.' I forget sometimes.

OZZY: People must know what will get Sharon crazy is talking about her family. They know that'll get a fucking reaction.

SHARON: It's my Achilles Heel.

KELLY: I think is the Achilles Heel for all of us. We're all so protective of each other. If someone says something about my brother, my mother, my father, my sister, I don't feel people have the right to talk about them that way. It just takes it to another level that's unnecessary.

JACK: Although, I am a big fan of 'Yo Mama' jokes.

TVG: Why do you think so many people care? People do seem fascinated by all of you.

SHARON: it's just about being yourself. And that's why people relate to us. We are in very privileged position in life. But we still, in a way, act like normal people. I read this thing about Richard Pryor the other day and he said that art is being able to be yourself.

JACK: Wait, you're comparing "The Osbournes" to art?

SHARON: Oh, shut up, Jack.

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