

American Music Awards 2 ▾

ARTIST OF THE YEAR
KENDRICK LAMAR

21/2 ▲

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR
CHAPPELL ROAN

7/1 ▲

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
KENDRICK LAMAR (GNX)

K

12/1 ▲

GOLDDERBY



MAKE YOUR PREDICTIONS

LOG IN | REGISTER

Danielle Pinnock on playing Alberta in CBS' 'Ghosts,' representation, and what's next for the hit comedy



Randee Dawn • TV • May 12, 2025 12:00PM



For the last four years, [Danielle Pinnock](#) has been a ghost — and she couldn't be happier. As one of the large, spirited cast of CBS's [Ghosts](#), Pinnock plays former Prohibition-era jazz singer Alberta, who died on New Year's Eve 1928 after accidentally drinking poisoned moonshine. But in Pinnock's hands,



Alberta's living her very best afterlife as the show wraps up its fourth season and looks forward to the now-guaranteed two seasons more ahead.



Part of Pinnock's joy in the role, as she tells Gold Derby, comes from the way Alberta is written. "A lot of times what happens when you see any actor of color playing on broadcast television, we almost become decorations on a Christmas tree where we're just fun to look at, but no one really cares about our storylines," she says.



Not so with series creators and showrunners **Joe Port** and **Joe Wiseman** (aka "The Joes," as Pinnock calls them). That's very true with Alberta, who in the last couple of seasons has had her murder solved (about 100 years after the fact) and more recently reconnected (in a sense) with one of her descendants — a great-grandniece, Alicia (**Ashley D. Kelley**), with whom she bonds over music.

"When I think about my ancestors, we put them in such a high regard, not realizing that they can also be a hot mess, too," she says. "I love the comedic aspect of that."

Pinnock grew up in New Jersey, and has been performing in theater since she was in elementary school; while attending Temple University she met *Abbott Elementary* creator and star **Quinta Brunson**. Over the years Pinnock has appeared on series including *Young Sheldon*, *This Is Us* and *Scandal*, but has also cocreated and starred in the Webby Award-winning digital sketch series *Hashtag Booked* (with **LaNisa Renee Frederick**). Meanwhile, playing Alberta has garnered her some award attention — including an NAACP Image Award this

past February.

"The thing that I feel makes Alberta stand out is her authenticity," says Pinnock. "She has some of the best one-liners on the show. ... Alberta is so authentically herself, but she does struggle with being vulnerable. The fear of possibly losing her street cred, the fear of not knowing what a healthy love looks like, because Alberta is used to these dopamine hits kind of relationships with murderers and gangsters. She did make a lot of poor decisions in her life."

One reason *Ghosts* may hold together so well with its ensemble casts of ghosts (and the owners of Woodstone Manor, only one of whom can hear and see them) is that early on the show was being shot in the middle of the pandemic, and the cast had to bond quickly. These days they're also a bit isolated as a group, shooting in Toronto and knocking out the still-broadcast-standard of 22 episodes each season. That may be why now, says Pinnock, they're really hitting their stride.

"**Rebecca [Wisocky]**, who plays Hetty] always says when we're working on a scene, 'We really need to find the musicality,'" says Pinnock. "I feel right now, not only do we have that musicality, we're singing, we're soaring."

Pinnock is rightly proud of the representation of BIPOC actors and crew on the show, but suggests that the recent dialing back of DEI initiatives due to the new administration in Washington has her concerned.

"We had a really great run in the pandemic, where people actually cared to hear our voices, where Black producers were getting deals and actors were able to be seen in roles that they may not necessarily have been seen in," she says. "I worry with what representation will look like in the next few years. That being said, we are a resilient people. ... I will always create, regardless of who is in office. I will always make sure that my friends and my community, the people that have brought me to this place that I will find them work. My mother taught me that."

But that's the future for the actors in *this* world. Pinnock is focusing hard on making sure Alberta's post-living life is worth, well, living. So what can she expect in the coming seasons?

"Well, she may or may not be in a relationship. I'm very curious to see what that looks like for her," says Pinnock, who notes that more layers of afterlife may get explored. "I'm very interested in what those other worlds look like. ... I would love to get some different combinations in there – and just see what sparks."

SIGN UP for [Gold Derby's free newsletter with latest predictions](#)

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment *

Name *

Email *

Website

Post Comment

More News from GoldDerby

Emmy Experts Slugfest: New Episodes Weekly



It's a great week to be a fan of *Hacks* and *The Studio*. *Awards Magnet* hosts **Christopher Rosen** and **Joyce Eng** are here to discuss the comedies' big episodes this week and how/if they affect their Emmy prospects. Click the photo above to watch

the video.

Watch Our Chats with 2025 Emmy Contenders



Watch our chats with Helen Mirren (1923 and *MobLand*) and many more 2025 Emmy contenders...

- Javier Bardem (*Monsters*)
- Patrick Ball (*The Pitt*)
- Kristen Bell (*Nobody Wants This*)
- Adam Brody (*Nobody Wants This*)
- Nicholas Alexander Chavez (*Monsters*)
- Nicola Coughlan (*Bridgerton*)
- Ted Danson (*A Man on the Inside*)
- Taylor Dearden (*The Pitt*)
- Brett Goldstein (*Shrinking*)
- Stephen Graham, Owen Cooper (*Adolescence*)
- Sarah Catherine Hook (*The White Lotus*)
- Cooper Koch (*Monsters*)
- Jack Lowden (*Slow Horses*)
- Diego Luna (*La Maquina*)
- Patti LuPone (*Agatha All Along*)
- James Marsden (*Paradise*)
- Margo Martindale (*The Sticky*)
- Rose McIver (*Ghosts*)
- Cristin Milioti (*The Penguin*)
- Olivia Munn (Your Friends and Neighbors)
- Sarah Polly (The Studio)
- Natalie Portman (*Lady in the Lake*)




- [Peter Sarsgaard](#) (*Presumed Innocent*)
- [Jason Segel](#) (*Shrinking*)
- [Rufus Sewell](#) (*The Diplomat*)
- [Michael Urie](#) (*Shrinking*)
- [Jessica Williams](#) (*Shrinking*)
- [Michelle Williams](#) (*Dying for Sex*)

Our Users' Best Prediction Scores

TV Shows




Awards

ACM Awards 2025

	Username	Accuracy %	Points Won
1.	 Jackedano	84.62	6705
2.	 Thesmartone	76.92	6095
3.	 Pedrohdtl	76.92	5612

[See more](#) ►

Tony Awards Nominations 2025

	Username	Accuracy %	Points Won
1.	 Michael_Gris...	84.71	36442
2.	 Ryan_Fernand	83.53	47615
3.	 Brian_kess	83.53	25284

[See more](#) ►

[See All TV Shows Leaderboards](#) ►




[Make or update my predictions](#) ►

Our Users' Best Prediction Scores

TV Shows




Awards

ACM Awards 2025

	Username	Accuracy %	Points Won
1.	 Jackedano	84.62	6705
2.	 Thesmartone	76.92	6095
3.	 Pedrohdtl	76.92	5612

[See more](#) ►

Tony Awards Nominations 2025

	Username	Accuracy %	Points Won
1.	 Michael_Gris...	84.71	36442
2.	 Ryan_Fernand	83.53	47615
3.	 Brian_kess	83.53	25284
See more ►			
See All TV Shows Leaderboards ►			
Make or update my predictions ►			

Forums

Edit Name on KLM Flight Reservation -
Official Support Line



Started by [Ronstad](#)
53 mins ago

How to Change Your Name When Booking
united Airlines First Class -Talk to an Exp



Started by [experty](#)
52 mins ago

KLM Flight Name Change Booking -Fast
Resolution



Started by [Ronstad](#)
52 mins ago

How to Switch Ticket of KLM Flight Ticket -
Help Line



Started by [Ronstad](#)
52 mins ago

How Can I Get My KLM Ticket Name
Changed? Customer Care Assistance



Started by [Ronstad](#)
51 mins ago

Oscars Playback

Take a trip back to the Academy Awards ceremonies of the recent past with Gold Derby's **Oscars Playback** series. Hosts **Joyce Eng** and **Christopher Rosen** recap every Oscar ceremony of the 1990s and 2000s. Joyce and Chris tackle the highs and lows of each show and see how the winners aged. It's a wonderful night for Oscar, whenever you watch!

[About Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [California Privacy Rights](#)
| [AdChoices](#) | [EU Privacy Preferences](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Your Privacy Choices](#) | [Accessibility](#)

GOLD DERBY IS A PART OF PENSKE MEDIA CORPORATION. © 2025 GOLD DERBY MEDIA, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

DEADLINE MEDIA