

## ***We Are New York*** **Television That Makes a Difference**

***We Are New York*** is a new half-hour TV show premiering on Channel 25 in 2009. The nine-episode series captures the spirit and stories of New Yorkers who have come from all over the world to make the Big Apple their home. The show is intended to help immigrants improve their English skills while learning how to make their way in New York City.

The fictionalized, yet true-to-life, stories demonstrate how New Yorkers can work together to solve problems and create better lives for themselves. Each episode takes on an important issue from everyday life and features a different cast in a new NYC neighborhood. The show's characters demonstrate how viewers can access vital City services and other resources. The characters defy stereotypes and reveal the beauty and strengths of immigrant New Yorkers.

***We Are New York*** is innovative television that can make a difference in people's lives. The language level and speed of the dialogue, along with English subtitles, make the show uniquely accessible to the 1.7 million New Yorkers with limited English skills. The characters model authentic and effective communication in important contexts, helping viewers improve their English skills.

### ***We Are New York Episode Guide***

#### **Health-related episodes for use during the 2009 NYC Health Literacy Fellowship**

***New Life Café:*** Rosa is about to open a Dominican café. But when her lab tests come back and the doctor tells her the bad news, her dreams are over. Or are they? A heart-warming drama about family, friendship, and coming to terms with diabetes.

***No Smoking:*** Sasha, the champion Winter Swimmer of Brighton Beach, has to make a choice—quit cigarettes or miss this year's big Winter Swim. With the help of his wife, his best friend, his doctor and 311, the champion learns that quitting smoking may be the greatest, but hardest won, victory of them all.  
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***Asthma: The Soap Opera:*** Mario – the star of a groovy 70s soap opera – storms off the set. The script says his baby has asthma, but Mario doesn't know what to do to help. The director soothes his ruffled feathers: "The story is not about asthma – it's a *love story*." Mario demands changes to the script so he can be the hero father he was meant to be. A campy comedic melodrama – on and off the set.

#### **Additional health-related episodes: use during the Health Literacy Fellowship is optional.**

***Stop Domestic Violence:*** Erica's husband is abusing her. She has no papers. Who can help her? Where can she go? A multi-ethnic theater group puts on a play about a difficult subject that affects people of every walk of life. Together, the actors discover surprising twists and turns to the story as they find the answers.

***The Hospital:*** Can art heal the sick? A nurse encourages a patient to start drawing again. The patient has a dramatic recovery and inspires the hospital workers to make their own art. It turns out, many of the workers are artists. Clayton in housekeeping is an abstract painter. Halina in food services is a photographer. But, an art gallery in a hospital?