

THE GIRLS ARE BACK

“WHAT I KNOW NOW” Jane Fonda & Lily Tomlin

What happens when your husband comes out to you — and reveals he’s in love with your frenemy’s husband? Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda find out in the Netflix comedy, *Grace and Frankie*.

Jane and Lily open up about their loved ones, past regrets, and share that despite their physical changes, their work ethic has remained the same. Here is the latest they offer on a long list with many insights into getting older, and the wisdom that goes hand in hand with aging.

Still Workin' 9 to 5

Jane Fonda: My knees are different now. I mean that I actually have different knees — and a fake hip. When Lily and I last worked together, on 9 to 5 in 1980, I would teach a class at the Workout [Fonda's Beverly Hills aerobics studio] at 5 in the morning before going to the set. I'm 77. My body couldn't do that now. But I have a better brain, a better outlook on life and a greater sense of well-being.

Lily Tomlin: I've changed quite a lot but, OK, not completely. I was a perfectionist then. I thought that I looked too thin. And I still worry about photographs. Even now I'll say to the person behind the camera: "You sure you've got the shot?"



Growing Bolder

Jane: I hope with our series, *Grace and Frankie*, we dispel the traditional view of aging: You are born, you peak at midlife, then you decline into age. That's an arc. But for most people, life is more of an upward evolution. Research suggests that older people feel happier, and less hostile, and that life gets easier.

Lily: In my 30s, I started doing a character named Sister Boogie Woman [a blues-singing preacher], who was 77. As I got closer to that age, I thought, "Gee, I never thought this day would come." But you know what? I'm 75, and it's not bad.



Careers That Keep Giving

Lily: Everything I've experienced has gone into my material. My comedy is part of my life. I'll never say, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is my last performance." Maybe my last for the day, sure, but not my last "last."

Jane: Retirement? No. It's a foreign concept to me. I might not be able to continue acting at some point, but, then I can write or produce. There are any number of things I could do. I get so much from work, and I continually try to improve. One of the good things about getting older is that when you come to a standstill, you say to yourself either "I'll stay here" or "I have to change something." I've needed to shake things up — and did.



Hail To The Chief

Lily: When I received the Kennedy Center Honor last year, it was nice; it was fun. I guess I'm supposed to say something like, "Oh, it was the ultimate moment of my career," but I didn't feel that way. It was just a happening, and I loved being part of it. Tom Hanks was sitting on one side of me, and Sting — clapping

like a 3-year-old with his fingers spread — sat on the other side. I tried to change seats with Tom to see what the president was texting. The only thing I could see was, during [ballerina] Patricia McBride's presentation, the word "transcendent."

To Have And To Hold

Lily: My partner, Jane Wagner, and I married kind of impulsively, a year ago after being together 43 years. I needed a ring. I went into the jewelry box and found one made out of denim with a stone in it, and another little expandable ring with beads on it. We used them, but now they are back in the jewelry box. Relationships aren't always easy. Ours is still sweet, but it gets bumpy and hilly now and then, and that's just reality. I cannot fathom life without her.

Jane: I'm with a man who has Parkinson's, and that can be very hard. I'm energetic — I move fast, and he can't. But Richard [Perry, a former record producer] is a kind and wonderful man. It never occurred to me in 70 years that kindness was important in a relationship. Fascination, sex appeal, intelligence, yes. Why aren't we taught that kindness matters?

Those Infamous Photos

Jane on the still-to-this-day controversial incident where pictures of her sitting on the anti-aircraft battery during her 1972 visit to Hanoi were released.

Jane: I'm not someone who dwells on regrets, but it was a terrible mistake sitting on the anti-aircraft [gun in Vietnam]. It was wrong. I will say that the context is something people don't understand. There was no bombing at the time; there were no planes overhead; it was not an active gun. But it was still wrong.

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