

# BACKSTAGE

THE ACTOR'S RESOURCE

## BREAKOUT TALENTS

BY SIMI HORWITZ

shorwitz@backstage.com

# Five Fringers to Count On

## Debbie Troché

Debbie Troché says *She's Not Well* has all the edgy, satiric elements that have defined her previous work with writer-director Ted Baus, though she hopes that "our sketch-comedy sensibility has grown to include characters that are more fully realized, with arcs and highs and lows."

The solo show tells the story of a has-been star who wants to get back into the public eye after losing everything due to her addiction to cold medication. "It's a social commentary on fame and how the pursuit of fame becomes an addiction," says Troché, who grew up in Queens, N.Y. "It's very broad comedy, but the comedy has to be rooted in something real. I play six characters: three men and three women. The big challenge is keeping the characters separate. It's also fast-paced, and my goal is to run the piece as opposed to having the piece run me."

Troché and Baus' previous work has elicited both praise and controversy. Their sketch-comedy show *Tandems* was shut down in New Jersey on charges of obscenity; it also won a Back Stage Bistro Award and a Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs Award. Their last play, *Tempting Fate*, a comedy that set *Oedipus Rex* in Hollywood, suggests that incest can be a useful tool in a showbiz career. More interested in creating quality work than career steppingstones, however, Troché is happy to produce her own shows "by putting two nickels together."

Remaining performances: Thu., Aug. 23, 7 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 24, 11:15 p.m.; and Sat., Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at the New School for Drama, 151 Bank St., NYC. Info: [www.shesnotwell.com](http://www.shesnotwell.com).



Debbie Troché in  
*She's Not Well*