

"GENIUS" The Untold Story Of Albert Einstein





APR 8 **SATURDAY** ONPPV



All times Eastern/Central.

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FAVORITES

- 4 News & Views
- 5 Rants & Raves
- 8 Streaming
- 10 Hype
- 11 3 Questions With ...
- 13 Sports
- 14 What's New
- 26 Returning Favorites
- 28 On Demand Premieres

RESOURCES

- 6 Remote Help
- 31 Best Bets
- 40 Premium Profiler
- 42 Program Listings
- 162 Movies & Sports Listings

On The Cover: The Son: Credit: James Minchin/AMC Prison Break: © 2017 FOX Broadcasting Co Credit: Brendan Meadows FOX. Better Call Saul: © 2016 AMC Network Entertainment LLC. and Sony Pictures Television Inc. Credit: Michael K. Short/AMC/Sony Pictures Television. Jack Nickdaus: Credit: David Cammon/Allsport/ Detty Inneges



New To Streaming

Hulu gives Margaret Atwood's dystopian chiller *The Handmaid's Tale* a series adaptation starring *Mad Men*'s Elisabeth Moss. Plus, Amazon profiles *Playboy* boss Hugh Hefner in a deep-dive docuseries.





Coming Next Month

We sit down with Robert De Niro and Barry Levinson to discuss HBO's *The Wizard of Lies*, which delves into the human toll of the Bernie Madoff scandal.



Editor's Note

An Amazing Month

I'm in no way a diehard sports junkie. I'll follow my favorite teams, but that's it. If my team isn't on, I'm not watching the competition. My husband is all-in, all the time. He's a sports and news kind of guy, so April is my time to actually enjoy TV with him versus watching in separate rooms, as March Madness is behind us (I'm writing this too early to report if I won the



company pool, but most likely not) and baseball's just beginning. I'm thrilled at the new TV options this month brings us, and I know you will be, too.

Inside this issue, we explore several amazing stories of real people who have changed your life, whether you realize it or not. Do you know who Henrietta Lacks was? Or what HeLa cells are ("He" for Henrietta, "La" for Lacks)? You need to. See page 21. Ron Howard promises us that we will "come away smarter" after watching his 10-episode anthology series *Genius*, which is based on

the life of Albert Einstein. He also assures us that it won't "feel like homework." Lori Acken talked with him and the cast, and visited the Prague set — read more on page 16.

It's been 30 years since *Remington Steele* ended, but Pierce Brosnan finally returns to TV in the sweeping family saga *The Son* (page 14), which is based on the best-selling and Pulitzer Prize-nominated novel. Plus, *Prison Break* (page 18) returns for a nine-episode limited series, Lifetime introduces the daringly entertaining *Mary Kills People* (page 20), and IFC gets our laughs with *Brockmire* (page 23).

It's an awesome month of TV — enjoy it!



Barb Oates, Editor in Chief

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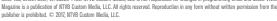
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Meet THE CREW



BARB

First on my list to DVR:
The Son on AMC

Completely amazed by the importance of the HeLa cell line thanks

to: HBO's The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks



i FFF

First on my list to
DVR: Genius on National
Geographic

First on my list to stream: The Handmaid's

Tale on Hulu



OPI

First on my list to
DVR: Genius on National
Geographic

Fun fact from the Genius set: Einstein wore

fuzzy purple slippers. And sometimes his wife Elsa's shoes.



RYAN

First on my list to DVR: Brockmire on IFC

Hank Azaria's best
Simpsons voice: Comic
Book Guy



KELLIE

First on my list to DVR: Great News on NBC. I was a major 30 Rock fan.

Local news dream job: I'd want to fly in the station helicopter and deliver live traffic

reports.

4

O O WOW

I Random Rants & Raves

■ Who Did You Like Better: Joan Or Bette?

It's hands down Bette Davis! While Joan Crawford will best be known for the wonderful Mildred Pierce and the awful Trog, Bette Davis has a myriad of top-notch films that would be cherished in anyone's movie collection. From Jezebel, to The Virgin Queen, to The Little Foxes and All About Eve (to name a few), Bette's acting talents never cease to amaze. Even in darker films such as Dead Ringer and Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte, Bette shines. As you can probably tell, she's one of my favorites. – Dan

Thanks for writing. I'm sending you the cool press book we got from FX on the series "FEUD: Bette and Joan"!

Who thinks Pierce Brosnan got better looking with age? Watch "The Son" on AMC and then answer.

Email us at letters@ntvbmedia.com

Love For Tom Selleck

I am almost 80 years old and love your guide. First question is, has Tom Selleck ever won any kind of awards for his performances? He deserves many, especially for his *Jesse Stone* series. Second, why don't *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago P.D.* and the other *Chicago* series get more notice? They're the best on TV. – Phyllis

Phyllis, Tom has been nominated numerous times and has won a Golden Globe and an Emmy Award for his role on "Magnum, P.I." In 1986 he was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He's won other awards as well, like TV Land's Hero Award in 2009 and the Western Heritage



Awards' Bronze Wrangler multiple times for TV movies "Monte Walsh" (2003), "Crossfire Trail" (2001) and "Last Stand at Saber River" (1997). He's won nothing yet for "Jesse Stone" (although he was nominated for an Emmy Award and Satellite Award for his portrayal). As for Dick Wolf's "Chicago" series, we agree that these are fantastic shows and last month featured a prominent story around his newest series, "Chicago Justice."

What's With The Loud Music?

Why are all programs playing loud music while actors are talking? A very favorite show for us is *Code Black*. We cannot hear what the actors are saying because the loud music overwhelms the voices. *Blue Bloods* also uses loud music, which covers voices.

- Lorna & Bob

From "Code Black's" showrunner: "We mix the show really well, but also very specifically. If the dialogue is critical, then we make sure it's clear. If the dialogue is just a part of the big medical emergency — i.e., if it's just medical jargon — then we don't feel the need to completely clear it of the music, since the way we look at it is that in those cases it IS an element of the music. Also, we clear Quality Control both domestically and internationally, with QC never having come back and saying the dialogue was illegible."

So Where Can I Watch That Movie?

When you rave about a movie in this column – e.g., the February issue and Somewhere in Time – please print where and what channel or network it's on. I spent two hours looking for it in my quide! – Joan

Joan, I apologize that you interpreted the reader's suggestion and our response as if the movie was airing this month. She was simply sharing her favorite romantic movie ever, and I agreed. I'm sending you a DVD of the movie to enjoy! Also, anyone who has Amazon Prime can stream it for a nominal fee.

■ "Exorcist" Fan

I really enjoyed the FOX series *The Exorcist*. The storyline and plot were great. The series seemed very short compared to others. I was wondering if FOX renewed the series or not? – Juan

There's still no word on whether FOX is bringing back the series. Jeremy Slater, "The Exorcist" creator and executive producer, told "Deadline": "I have a lot more story to tell. But if this is all we get, then I feel we went out swinging and on a real high note." Just for writing, I'm sending you a copy of our sister publication "ReMIND."

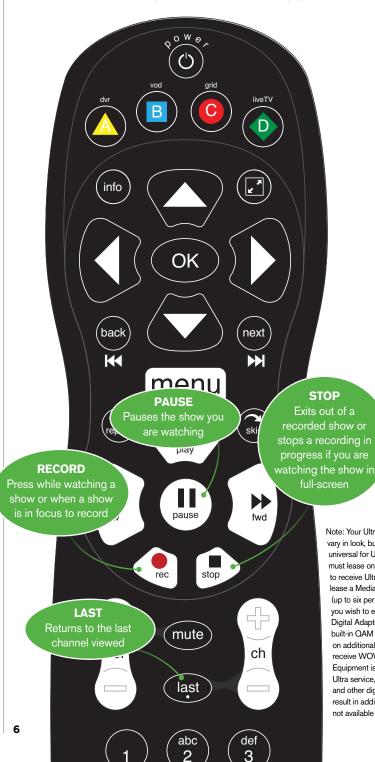
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Send your thoughts to:

letters@ntvbmedia.com or write to Random Rants & Raves, VIEW!, 9275 N. 49th St., Suite 100, Brown Deer, WI 53223-1495.

SO THAT'S WHATThose Buttons Do ...

Here are some helpful hints for using your remote.



Note: Your Ultra remote style may vary in look, but functionality is universal for Ultra remotes. You must lease one Media Gateway to receive Ultra service and must lease a Media Player for each TV (up to six per household) on which you wish to enable Ultra features. Digital Adapter, CableCARD, or built-in QAM digital tuner is required on additional TVs over six to receive WOW! Basic Cable, Ultra Equipment is required to receive Ultra service, WOW! OnDemand and other digital services and may result in additional charges. Ultra is not available in all markets.

Employee Of The Month



Meet Cuong N.

- How long have you worked at WOW!?

 Six months
- What movie can you watch again and again?
- A: Captain America: Civil
 War
- Q: When you were a kid, what were your favorite TV shows?
- A: Ed, Edd 'n' Eddy; Samurai Jack; Kenan & Kel
- Q: What TV or movie character is most like you?
- Can't really think of one, but I am a huge fan of Kanye and his sneakers.
- When you're not working at WOW! (the best job ever), what do you enjoy doing?
- A: Building up my sneaker collection
- What is your favorite thing about working at WOW!?
- A: My coworkers



Start Training For TV Marathons.

Enjoy back-to-back movies and TV shows with WOW! OnDemand.

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- 3. When you find your selection, press "OK/Select."

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STREAMING PICKS!

A look at the best shows and movies to stream online.



Elisabeth Moss as Offred in "The Handmaid's

For Elisabeth Moss, Hulu's Adaptation Of Margaret Atwood's Novel Hit "A Little Too Close To Home." By Jeff Pfeiffer

"It was perhaps more emotional than I would have anticipated," Elisabeth Moss (Mad Men, Top of the Lake) told a small scrum of reporters at a recent press conference for her mesmerizing (and frightening) new Hulu series The Handmaid's Tale. "Or a little too close to home."

Moss plays Offred, the Handmaid of the title from whose point of view the story is told, in a tale encompassing always-relevant themes of men's attempts to control women's bodies and reproduction, along with themes of environmental devastation and population issues. She is joined in the inspired cast by Joseph Fiennes, Yvonne Strahovski, Samira Wiley and Alexis Bledel, among others, in this 10-episode adaptation of Margaret Atwood's 1985 dystopian novel, which is set in a not-far-off future society called Gilead – a militaristic theocracy that has replaced the United States, and where women are viewed as property of the state.

While Atwood, a Canadian author, has said she wasn't necessarily inspired by a specific modern American government when she wrote the book, and borrowed a lot

from America's Puritan beginnings, readers over the decades have often found parallels to the times in which they are living, much as they have with similar fiction like 1984 and Brave New World. And today's era is no exception. Moss said working on the show during the recent presidential election gave it new relevance for her.

"I worked the day after the election," she said, "and we did a couple of scenes, and actually Joseph had the line that's from the book, where he says, "Better" never means better for everyone; it always means worse for some.' I get chills just talking about it. It was very difficult to stand there and hear him say that to me, and play my reaction to that — which obviously was horror — and not feel something more than I think I would have felt otherwise."

The actress also expressed a particular closeness to this role out of all the other notable characters she's played.

"I would never be a copywriter in the '60s," Moss explained. "I would never be a detective. [But] if Gilead happened now, I would be a Handmaid. And that to me is something that I latched onto at the very beginning and found it very affecting. I do feel closer to this role than anything I've ever played."

In the Handmaid's Tale → Hulu → April 26



AMERICAN PLAYBOY: THE HUGH HEFNER STORY

Available April 7 on Amazon

This docuseries combines archival footage, interviews and cinematic reenactments to tell the story of *Playboy* magazine's charismatic founder Hugh Hefner and his impact on global culture and history. *American Playboy* begins in post-World War II America, continues through the launch of *Playboy* magazine in 1953, and covers the next six decades of Hefner's life and career. As Hefner built his empire, he became a social justice advocate and a target of the conservative movement, battling with the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover while becoming an outspoken defender of civil rights.

Plus ... 6 More Shows On Our Radar



Parents (Acorn TV)
Available April 17
In this six-episode British
sitcom, after losing her management
job following an altercation with a
colleague, Jenny Pope (Sally Phillips,
Bridget Jones's Diary), her husband
Nick and their children find themselves
in desperate straits when their house is
repossessed. They have no choice but
to move from London to live in Kettering
with Jenny's parents – just till they get
back on their feet ... which may take a
little longer than Jenny expected.

Dominion Creek (Acorn TV) Available April 24
In the second season of this award-winning Irish drama, the Connolly brothers are struggling to forge an empire for themselves during the gold rush of the 1890s. They stand united, having established themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the territory. But, against a backdrop of growing lawlessness in Dominion Creek, they must face a challenge that threatens to take from them all that they hold dear – family, friends and gold.



Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Return (Netflix) Available April 14

The "Satellite of Love" is back with a new host and new episodes of the hilarious series that riffs on terrible old B-movies.

Dear White People (Netflix)
Available April 28
Set against the backdrop of a predominant

Set against the backdrop of a predominantly white Ivy League university where racial tensions bubble just below the surface, this series is a sendup of "post-racial" America. The series picks up where the 2014 film of the same name left off.





Bill Nye
Saves
the World
(Netflix)
Available April 21
Award-winning host,
educator and engineer
Bill Nye returns with
a new show that
tackles topics from
a scientific point of
view, dispelling myths
and refuting antiscientific claims.

Fortitude (Amazon)
Available April 14

The British psychological thriller returns and Dennis Quaid joins the cast in Season 2 as Michael Lennox, a fisherman who will try anything to find a cure for his terminally ill wife. The show follows Sheriff Dan Anderssen (Richard Dormer, *Game of Thrones*) of Fortitude, a small isolated community in Arctic Norway that is undergoing change and upheaval due to parasite and pathogen activity. The gripping action of Season 2 centers on the grisly discoveries of headless corpses, and the town's desperate attempt to stop the mysterious serial killer responsible for the deaths.

USA Network Is GOING TO THE DOGS AGAIN

Former Westminster Broadcaster Embarks On New Dog Show Partnership. By Jeff Pfeiffer



USA Network may have relinquished its broadcasting rights to the iconic Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show after more than 30 years, but that doesn't mean the network is getting out of the dog show game. Starting this year, USA will embark on a new partnership with the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills to telecast the DOG SHOW Beverly Hills Dog Show. PURINA This year's event, taped in March, will be broadcast on Easter Sunday (April 16), so it should make for nice family holiday viewing. And, of course, given the hoity-toity nature of Beverly Hills, you know there are going to be some lovely, well-coiffed and -manicured canines to check out.

David Frei, who was a cohost

for Westminster with USA for many years, is back as an announcer here, alongside dog lover John O'Hurley (Seinfeld), who has hosted The National Dog Show. Stars from

NBCUniversal's television shows are expected to share top billing, but it's hard to imagine they can

the pooches.

Speaking of the dogs, over 1,000 of them from more than 200 eligible

be more telegenic than

breeds are expected to participate in the competition. The crowning of Best in Show will be the culmination of USA's two-hour broadcast, with the seven Best in Show finalists walking a fashion-show-style runway while the judge decides the champion. Only in Beverly Hills!



Helping Animals Find "Fur-Ever" Homes Is A Slam Dunk. By Kellie Freeze

In keeping with its tradition of pairing pet-adoption specials with major sporting events (Kitten Bowl, Kitten Summer Games). Hallmark Channel presents its inaugural basketballrelated adoption special, Meow Madness (April 3), to coincide with the NCAA men's basketball championship. Beth Stern will host this event along with coannouncers sports commentator Mary Carillo and four-time NBA champion John Salley. As a result of the hoop-la, all of the event's cat-letes will find purr-manent homes.

Hallmark Channel and its partner, North Shore Animal League America, present this and other celebrations of adoption to remind viewers that adorable and adoptable pets are always available at shelters around the country.



Remember when word of mouth and water-cooler talk were how you discovered new TV shows, good restaurants and your next great read? Now we've got recommendation engines matching us up to what to watch next.

Here we keep it simple.

IF YOU LIKE

Texas Rising, Dances With Wolves

Into the Badlands, Preacher, 300



Dexter, Breaking Bad

Game of Thrones, Outlander

TRY

The Son (AMC)

American Gods (Starz)

Mary Kills People (Lifetime)

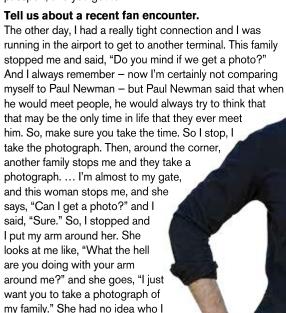




It's the 29th season of *The Amazing Race* and host Phil Keoghan believes the show is more relevant than ever. "We've always prided ourselves in having a very diverse cast – black and white, Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, fit and unfit. We've always been a celebration of diversity, which to me is what America is." So in a series first, *The Amazing Race* moves away from lifelong friendships and familial bonds and compiles teams by matching single contestants with complete strangers. "We decided that we would bring 22 complete strangers to the starting line. And then, literally pair them up at the starting line," Keoghan tells. "They have to find a way to get along, if the common goal is to win the million dollars." The series returns to CBS Thursdays beginning March 30. Here Keoghan answers our "3 Questions."

What are three things you never leave home without?

I've had a Moleskine diary since I first left school, when I first started in television in 1986, because I love writing things down, names of books that people recommend. I do a lot of sketches of cool things, if I see things. I love traveling with a camera. Definitely sunglasses are a key. I love having an eye mask and earplugs, so I can sleep anywhere. I also have a little travel pillow. And of course, you've got to have a passport, and you got to have cash and sunblock.



What do you enjoy watching on TV these days?

I have kind of an eclectic mix of shows that I love to watch. 60 Minutes. I love any documentaries. I've been watching Stranger Things. The Crown. I watched the O.J. series, and I like Blue Bloods. I love Big Bang Theory. Peaky Blinders, I binge-watched.

Returning Favorites

The Amazing Race CBS (March 30)

Angie Tribeca TBS (April 10)

Archer FXX (April 5)

Better Call Saul AMC (April 10)

The Blacklist NBC (April 20)

Bosch Amazon (April 21)

Brooklyn Nine-Nine FOX (April 11)

Call the Midwife PBS (April 2)

Casual Hulu (May 23)

Chelsea Netflix (April 14)

Fargo FX (April 19)

Game of Thrones HBO (Summer 2017)

Gomorrah SundanceTV (April 26)

Gotham FOX (April 24)

House of Cards Netflix (May 30)

iZombie The CW (April 4)

The Leftovers HBO (April 16)

Lucifer FOX (May 1)

Master of None Netflix (May 12)

Orange Is the New Black Netflix (June 9)

Outlander Starz (September 2017)

Pretty Little Liars Freeform (April 18)

Prison Break FOX (April 4)

Sense8 Netflix (May 5)

Silicon Valley HBO (April 23)

Teen Mom OG MTV (April 17)

Twin Peaks Showtime (May 21)

Tyler Perry's For Better or Worse OWN (June 10)

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt Netflix (May 19)

Veep HBO (April 16)

YANKED!: Recently Canceled Shows

CBS didn't show much faith in *Doubt*, pulling the drama off the schedule after two airings. ... Truth is, HBO's *Big Little Lies* wasn't intended to have a second season. The series finale is April 2. ... MTV showed no mercy to freshman comedies *Loosely Exactly Nicole* and *Mary + Jane*.

PBS programming varies regionally.



Fun for kids and kids at heart

THE TOY BOX

New Series Hopes To Discover The Next Must-Have Toy. By Kellie Freeze

Toys are an \$80 billion-a-year industry, and in ABC's eight-episode series *The Toy Box* (Fridays beginning April 7), entrepreneurs present their

B

Eric Stonestreet hosts

toy innovations in the hopes of creating the next must-have toy. The winning toy will be manufactured by Mattel – the toymaker behind iconic brands including Barbie, Hot Wheels and Fisher-Price – and will be sold exclusively by Toys "R" Us. The unique toys presented in the series run the gamut from silly to inspiring to downright bizarre, and each toymaker believes they have created the next Hatchimal, Cabbage Patch Kid or Tickle Me Elmo.

But first, they need to impress a panel of toy-industry experts and mentors, including Dylan Lauren, owner of Dylan's Candy Bar; Jen Tan, Pixar's creative director of consumer products; and toy guru Jim Silver. If the product earns the mentors' approval, it heads into "the toy box," where it's passed into the toy-loving hands of a panel of quippy, pint-sized experts: Sophia Grace Brownlee (*The Ellen DeGeneres Show*), Aalyrah Caldwell (*Uncle Buck*), Toby Grey (*The Unexpected John Cena Prank*) and Noah Ritter (*The Ellen DeGeneres Show*). These future consumers decide which toy makes it to the finals, and which ultimately wins.

Modern Family's Eric Stonestreet hosts the fun and family-friendly series that we wish they'd titled Gummy Shark Tank: It doesn't have a lot of teeth, but it's very, very sweet.

They're Back, Baby!: Renewed

NBC's acclaimed and top-rated freshman drama *This Is Us* has been picked up for two additional, minimum-18-episode seasons. ... TNT has renewed *The Librarians* for Season 4 and *Major Crimes* for Season 6. ... *The Good Place* will be back for a second season on NBC. ... ABC's hit family comedy *Middle* has been picked up for Season 9. ... Thank goodness for

The Middle has been picked up for Season 9. ... Thank goodness for another season of ABC's TGIT — the popular Thursday night block featuring Shonda Rhimes hits will be back, with Grey's Anatomy set to return for Season 14, Scandal for Season 7 and How to Get Away With Murder for Season 4.

POPQUIZ

Here, KITTY, KITTY!

This month's PopQuiz is paws-itively adorable.

How much do you know about

TV cats?

By Andrea Verschage

Who is the black-haired (and thus name-defying) cat on *The Simpsons?*

Who was Penelope
Pussycat?
A) Gargamel's ferocious furball
in *The Smurfs*

B) The friendly pink feline in Strawberry Shortcake

C) The love interest of Pepé Le Pew in Looney Tunes

Ser Pounce, Lord Tubbington and Mr. Puss: Which of these three cats is not from the show *Glee*? (Bonus point if you can name the show he hailed from!)

What was the name of the family cat that ALF (on the '80s sitcom of the same name) always wanted to dine on?

A) Tanner B) Fluffy C) Lucky

What '90s sitcom starred Salem, a former witch transformed into a talking cat as a 100-year punishment for trying to take over the world?



How Did You Score?

5 (or 6, with the bonus): Purrfect score!

3-4: Meow-velous job!

0-2: Hiss-appointing results.

and Mandy Moore in "This Is Us"

Lonnie Chavis



really paid much attention to that," Nicklaus says. "If I start saying, 'Well, I've got them beat because they're intimidated,' then they'll turn around and beat me. So I never really paid much attention to that stuff."

Nicklaus' record 18 major championships is a benchmark that Tiger Woods, who is stuck at 14 major titles, continues to chase. Jack addresses the chase for the record, even if Nicklaus downplays its significance. "My record is what it is," Nicklaus says. "If somebody comes along and beats it, then I want to be the first one there to shake his hand."

What makes Nicklaus' record more impressive is that he had no one to chase after surpassing Bobby Jones' 13 majors in 1975. "Had I had a young Tiger come along at that time - I wish I would have - I would've loved to have competed against him," Nicklaus says. "Maybe I would've made it more. Who knows? Eighteen is what I won, and that's I guess the standard today that people have to go after. But I certainly enjoyed doing it."

Jack → Golf Channel → April 9-11

Golf Channel wraps up Masters Tournament week with Jack, a new three-part documentary series about Jack Nicklaus, arguably the greatest player in the history of golf. Nicknamed the "Golden Bear," Nicklaus won his first professional major title at age 22 in the 1962 U.S. Open. He went on to win 17 more in his career, with his final major victory coming at age 46 in the 1986 Masters in one of the most memorable moments in all of sports.

As it did with Arnold Palmer in 2014's Arnie, Golf Channel gathers interviews with luminaries from sports and media, and rarely seen video footage, to create an in-depth portrait of Nicklaus not only as a great athlete, but also as a family man, businessman, philanthropist and ambassador for golf.

"It was just really trying to get inside his head, and give the viewer an idea of what made him so great, beyond the obvious talent and skill," says Israel DeHerrera, coordinating producer of Golf Channel Films. "I really think you could possibly call him the most mentally strong athlete ever."

That strength could strike fear in his opponents. "I never

The DEPTH CHART

The Masters

Golf's first major of the year returns to Augusta National for The Masters Tournament April 6-9 on ESPN and CBS. England's Danny Willett won the 2016 Masters after Jordan Spieth's big final-round meltdown.

NFL Draft

The Cleveland Browns have the No. 1 overall pick at the NFL Draft in Philadelphia. Texas A&M DE Myles Garrett, Alabama DT Jonathan Allen and LSU RB Leonard Fournette are high on the draft board. ESPN, ESPN2 & NFL Network (April 27-29)

NBA Playoffs

The NBA's regular season ends April 12, and then the real fun begins with firstround playoff action on ABC. TNT, ESPN, NBA TV and ESPN2 starting April 15.

MLB Opening Day

The World Series champion Chicago Cubs (still doesn't seem right) are at the St. Louis Cardinals April 2 on ESPN's Sunday Night Baseball, ESPN and ESPN2 combine to televise seven opening day games April 2-3.





Pierce Brosnan
Trades Bond
For The Bandit
War In AMC's
Sweeping Drama.

By Lori Acken

Pierce Brosnan sits across from me at a bistro table in the Southern California sunshine. He wears an impeccably tailored, steel gray suit that complements his salt-and-pepper hair. His blue eyes gleam. That *voice* — Brosnan doesn't just answer questions, he orates. And all I (and most likely the diners stealing glances at the actor) can think is *Bond. James Bond*.

hat may soon change to *McCullough*. *Eli McCullough*.

Brosnan plays the wily Texas rancher and oilman in AMC's new period drama *The Son* – his first starring role in series television since *Remington Steele* made the debonair Irishman a household name in the '80s. Culled from Philipp

Meyer's best-selling American epic (Meyer also pens and produces the series), *The Son* weaves together two tales. One captures McCullough's harrowing experiences as a brutally orphaned boy learning a cruel brand of survival at the hands of his Comanche captors. The other follows along as Eli – now a grandfather – battles for his family name and dynasty during the Bandit War of South Texas, tracking the reverberations of his actions for generations to come.

Brosnan took over the role when Sam Neill dropped out at the same time as Brosnan's plans to film a feature in Russia fell through. The timing seemed perfect in other ways, too. "It felt fitting for me at this age and this time in life, as a man who has traveled down the road a fair ol' bit and knows something of success and loss," he says. "I loved it – because of the man, because of this prototypical American hero, because of the determination that he has. The brutality and savagery of this man who is self-made and goes on to create an empire, and of the storytelling of the history of Texas.

"Before I knew it, I was sitting on a horse in Austin, Texas," Brosnan grins. "Then comes the panic. 'Now I have to do it, so how do I do it? How do I find the accent? Who do I listen to?'"

For Brosnan, the answer was a hodgepodge of Lone Star sons and daughters, from Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson to former Texas Gov. Rick Perry to the Austin locals. Then he just trusted his gut – and his Irish heritage. "He's 'McCullough,' so his ancestors would have been Irish, Scottish, too," Brosnan says. "No one knows what they really sounded like in 1850s rural Texas, or before that time. I found myself on the set the first day and this voice came out. I just followed that sound."

The swagger, he says, came a bit more easily: "You put the boots on and then you put the gun on and you put the hat on and then you get on the horse – just like that, you have a whole vocabulary of the Western, of the cowboy." The impressive beard, he laughs, "gets progressively more grand."

The series title references McCullough's birth – he arrived in the world on the same day Texas became an independent republic, earning him the title "The First Son of Texas" – but its nuances go well beyond his birthright. This is a generational tale, start to finish, as the elder McCullough tries to instill his pitiless business sense in his sons, fair-minded married dad Pete (Henry Garrett), who runs the family ranch, and bachelor lawyer Phineas (David Wilson Barnes), who handles the family fortune.

"Eli has certainly been brought up and burnished and brutalized by violence," Brosnan explains, "and he's a man who has successively lost three families: his pioneer mother and father, his Comanche family, and his own wife. So it's very animalistic – he *knows* he's born of violence, and that innate sense of survival that came from the Comanches. But he's also extremely charismatic. He loves people. He loves humanity."

And he loves most Pete's feisty preteen daughter Jeannie (Tony nominee Sydney Lucas), in whom he recognizes his own understanding of how the world works – and how to make your mark on it. "Eli really has a prophetic kind of understanding of the world around him – much more so than his sons, because of his upbringing and because of the trauma of his youth,"



Johnny Flynn and Geoffrey Rush

$= MC^2$

Geoffrey Rush As (A Deliciously Human) Einstein? That's ... Well, You Know. By Lori Acken

Think "genius" and your next thought is probably "Einstein." Think "Einstein" and your next thought is probably "E=mc²."

nd after that? For most of us, not too much.

National Geographic, in conjunction with Ron Howard and
Brian Grazer's Imagine Entertainment, aims to change that with
Season 1 of its planned anthology series *Genius*, which profiles

the German-born physicist.

The true genius of *Genius* is how it turns its source material, Walter Isaacson's 700-page *Einstein: His Life and Universe*, into a rich and intimate tapestry woven from Einstein's experiences as the youthfully impulsive, impatient and lusty black sheep of his family (played with verve by Johnny Flynn) and as a world-wizened, but no less wonder-filled, scientific rock star (Geoffrey Rush, a physical match for the real deal). Here, Einstein is a young man who foundered in German classrooms filled with boys identical in dress and expression, and rejected science used for capitalism and cruelty. An egoist who longed for the approval of his father, his instructors, his peers – even when

he wasn't inclined to afford them the same. A natural teacher who redefined scientific discovery, but, for a time, could only find work as a patent clerk. And a wicked wit, transfixed by music and water.

"We don't want this show for a minute to feel like homework," Howard says. "People will come away smarter, with a deeper understanding of the science, but more importantly of the man and the people around him that shaped those ideas and also made it possible for him to finally reach our public awareness."

In other words, don't sweat the smart stuff. Einstein's greatest breakthroughs came from intricate visualizations he called "thought experiments," and *Genius* makes dazzling use of them, illustrating complex observations and ideas via gorgeous, accessible imagery. "He was fascinated by nature. He was fascinated by machines. He was fascinated by the details of existence," Howard says. "That made every hour of every day interesting to him. I wanted to acknowledge that and create a visual style for the show that is going to draw you in."

And while you may know of the churning global political climate during Einstein's lifetime, Genius also lays bare a stunning war on free and creative thinking in his German homeland. Born to Jewish parents and inherently averse to authority, Einstein considered politics a "momentary concern," nationalism "an infantile disease" and Hitler "a loudmouth, art-school reject with a handful of followers" who wouldn't last a year. As such, he was targeted by fascists - some, his own scientific contemporaries - and became a vocal pacifist. "There was a very real possibility that he might not have succeeded, that he might not have been allowed to flourish and achieve because of politics, because of bigotry," Howard says. "It remained a part of his life until his last day."

Genius → National Geographic →
 Tuesdays beginning April 25

THE TWO ALBERTS

Geoffrey Rush done up as Einstein begs a double take. For actor/musician Johnny Flynn, embodying the younger Albert proved a bit more challenging.

the footage that exists of him is after he came to America," Flynn explains of the man he calls "quite maverick and punk." "The exciting thing about the potential in this show is to create an idea of him before that." Thus, the two actors opted to build their shared character together, working with Rush's longtime dialect coach to make sure the Alberts shared the same vocal rhythm and energy. They had some good fun, too. "I got my old drama teacher to be the instigator for a series of exercises that we did." Flynn chuckles. "We interviewed each other as Einstein. Geoffrey has a wonderful sense of the older character through videos and stuff, and I really got a series of imaginings as to who this person was as a young guy. It was like advice to your younger self. We'd burst out laughing."

A young creative himself, Flynn understood Einstein's frustration with the rigid academic landscape of the time. And he found the scientist's personal foibles intriguing. "The coolest revelation I had about him was that his discoveries about time and space not being absolute extended to his personal life," Flynn says. "In his early sense of it, love wasn't absolute. He lived to regret that. He lost his first family [with Mileva Marić] and there's accounts of him breaking down and weeping for weeks. He followed his heart impulsively, which led him on that course."

"Albert had estrangement from his children – quite mortifying and difficult arrangements there," Rush adds. "Complicated marriages. A sense of isolation, because he knew he had a gift that required solitude. There was no malicious intent, but with the curiosity of all the forces that came on him, he would retreat if his head was imploding and he was emotionally not able to deal with certain things."

But it wasn't all Sturm und Drang. "There's just as much Groucho Marx in him as there is scientist, you know?" Rush grins. "And a bit of Harpo, as well. There's footage of him talking at the White House or in some big kind of Congress-type situation and he seems more interested in the NBC microphone. So there's a nice clown in there to play with."

A lifelong science buff, Rush says he longed to be an astronomer as a boy dazzled by the space race. But like many a starry-eyed student, his plans changed "once they got into replacing numbers with X and Y and all of that. I got very, very, very poor grades. But that also coincided with the time when I took over the running of the school drama club." A twist of fate that led to scientific genius after all. Well, sort of. "We did a pub quiz together the other night," Flynn grins. "We came fifth. We didn't tell them that we were playing Einstein. We kept that under our hat."

THE TWO MRS. EINSTEINS

Behind every great man, there is a great woman. In Einstein's case, there were two.

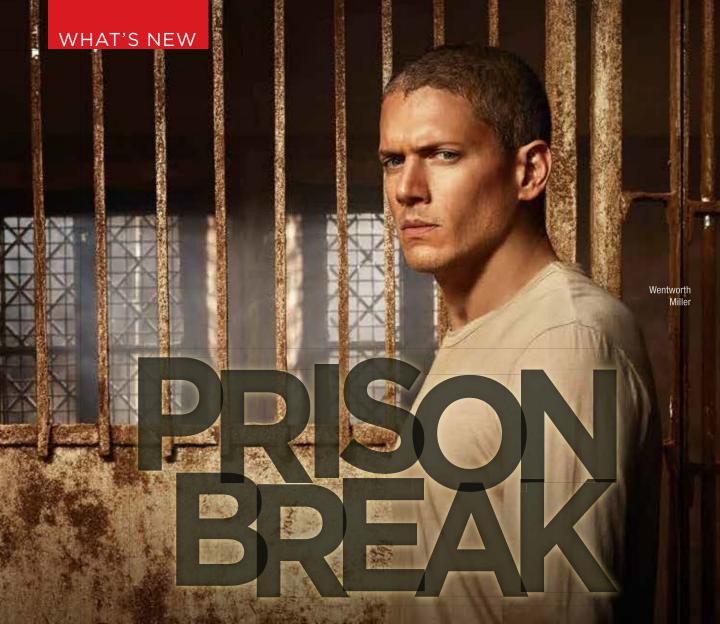


Mileva Marić (Samantha Colley)
"In their letters, Albert always writes, 'Will
you check the math? Will you prove
my work?'" says Colley of the equally
brilliant Marić's contributions. "Albert
often talks about 'our' work. She honed
him, in a way that women do."



Elsa Einstein (Emily Watson)

"They're first cousins, and I think they are very similar in their DNA," says Watson of the stalwart divorcée. "They have a molecular relationship, somehow. Before we started, I emailed Geoffrey and said, 'I think we should play them as Tweedledum and Tweedledee!"



Michael Scofield Is Alive! Now What? Everything You Need To Know About FOX's Follow-Up. By Kellie Freeze

n keeping with recent reboots and reinventing former successes (think *The X-Files* and *24*), FOX is bringing back *Prison Break* for a nine-episode limited event series. Most of the main players will reprise their roles, including star Wentworth Miller, whose character Michael Scofield appeared to die in the original series' finale. But more on that later.

Fans of the series, which aired from 2005-2009, can thank The CW's *The Flash* for inspiring the reboot by casting Miller and Dominic Purcell as comic book villains Captain Cold and Heat Wave. "That is where Dom and I had our reunion," explained Miller at the Television Critics Association's winter press tour. "We hadn't seen each other for about five years, and suddenly, we are back on set. We are talking about old times, and out of that conversation came the possibility of revisiting *Prison Break*."

WHERE WE PICK UP

The series finale and stand-alone DVD film Prison Break: The Final Break explained that Scofield, suffering from an inoperable and fatal brain tumor, sacrificed his life while breaking his wife Sara (Sarah Wayne Callies) out of prison. Fans of the series were heartbroken at their hero's valiant death, but when a reboot can be made, fan favorites don't stay dead for long. The new Prison Break finds Michael very much alive and imprisoned in a notorious Yemeni jail, accused of having ties to terror organizations. "We're dealing with ISIS," Purcell revealed to Deadline. "And obviously we left off with Michael presumably dead. He wasn't; he ended up working for this organization. It got to the point where he couldn't do it anymore, and they threw him in a jail in Yemen to change his mind. He didn't change his mind; they set him up ..." How Scofield managed to fake his death and why he stayed away from his wife and son is the crux of the story, and to explain it, executive producer Paul T. Scheuring looked to Homer's Odyssey. "It took me back about 2,500 years in literature," he explained, "but I found a reason."

WHO IS BACK?

The globe-trotting season features familiar faces including Michael and Lincoln's jailhouse cronies Fernando Sucre (Amaury Nolasco), "C-Note" (Rockmond Dunbar) and prison scourge Theodore "T-Bag" Bagwell (Robert Knepper). Callies, who has been busy since *Prison Break* starring in *The Walking Dead* and *Colony*, returns as Dr. Sara Tancredi, but our hopes for a tearful Michael/ Sara reunion fade with the news that her character is happily remarried. Foe-turned-friend Paul Kellerman (Paul Adelstein) also returns.

NEW CAST ADDITIONS

To help tell this worldwide tale, the show enlisted a few new faces. *Royal Pains* star Mark Feuerstein joins the cast as Sara's second husband, who, despite the emotional complexities of discovering that his wife's thought-to-be-dead husband is alive, joins the fight to save Michael. Inbar Lavi will play a brave and beautiful activist who we're pegging as a possible love interest for Lincoln. Augustus Prew, Rick Yune, Marina Benedict, Kunal Sharma, Steve Mouzakis and Amin El Gamal also add flavor to this international escape saga.

SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO MICHAEL?

In the years since *Prison Break* aired, the characters have gone through significant changes. "Who are these characters now?" Miller asks. "When they see each other, will they even recognize each other? *This* is the meat of the story." And when we first see Michael, he's barely recognizable.

Scofield's epic tattoos also get a new look, but spoiler prevention keeps Miller from sharing details. "It's a different set of tattoos," he reports, "and they serve a slightly different purpose. That's all I can say."

WHY YOU MUST WATCH

When *Prison Break* premiered, it stood out from its contemporaries as a fast-paced thrill ride. But now, most TV dramas echo *Prison Break*'s frenetic pace, so this time around, Scheuring saw another chance to try something new. "In the new era of television, people are much more open to limited runs and event series," he revealed. "This is a very tight, close-ended story, and it's just constant thriller, cliffhanger, revelation, one after another and another." These final nine episodes will also provide closure to fans.

But despite plans for *Prison Break* to be concise and tight, the production crew also had to show its ability to think on its feet when Purcell was seriously injured on set in June 2016. A piece of scenery fell onto the actor's head, breaking his nose and causing a severe head laceration that required over 100 stitches to close. While Purcell recuperated from the incident, his injuries were written into his character's story. "[It] pays to have a thick skull when an iron bar falls on your #head!! busting it open severely also broke my nose in two places," Purcell shared on Instagram. "Haha. I got a free nose job out of it."

Prison Break → FOX → Tuesdays beginning April 4



Jodie Comer stars as Princess Elizabeth of York, the White Princess

THE WHITE PRINCESS

Humble And Penitent? Not This Lady. By Barb Oates

A new generation of wicked-smart women manipulate the English throne in Starz's eight-episode limited series *The White Princess*. The series is a follow-up to 2013's *The White Queen* — both based on Philippa Gregory's historical fiction novels of the same names — which follows the political and emotionally turbulent times of 15th-century British history over who is the rightful king ... according to the ladies' vantage point.

Creator/showrunner Emma Frost exquisitely begins this second story three days after the Battle of Bosworth, where King Richard III (the last York king) was defeated and killed, making Henry Tudor (a.k.a. Henry VII from the House of Tudor) the newly anointed king.

But here's the real problem: Princess Elizabeth of York (Jodie Comer, BBC America's *Thirteen*) was promised in marriage to the victor of the war by her mother.

Neither Princess "Lizzie" nor Henry Tudor (newcomer Jacob Collins-Levy) desire to be wed, as Lizzie was in love with Richard (even bedding him the night prior to the battle), and Henry, well, he just isn't interested in this whore from a rival family. England, however, needs them to unite and bring an end to the warring.

"The politics of the whole country are told through the lens of that marriage," Frost explains. "The sacrifice the two of them make is to give peace to England by marrying someone they absolutely hate, so the war is now moved into this very personal relationship and into this marriage."

■ The White Princess → Starz → Sundays beginning April 16

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MARY **KILLS** PEOPLE

She Leads A Double Life To Help People End Theirs. By Kellie Freeze

Lifetime's *Mary Kills People* is a provocative examination of people's right to die. Dr. Mary Harris (Caroline Dhavernas) is a lifesaving ER doctor by day, who secretly moonlights as an "end of life" consultant, helping terminally ill patients end their lives on their own terms.

The topic is polarizing and viewers must decide for themselves if Mary is a compassionate doctor or a serial killer.



"We make decisions for ourselves all through our lives, and the terms of our death should be the final one," says Dhavernas, giving rationalization to her character.

Without Mary's help, people in her nameless American city with terminal diagnoses face unattractive end-of-life options. "It's either suffering some more," explains
Dhavernas, "or – as we say in the first

episode – going to Switzerland [where assisted suicide is permitted] and dying on their own in a very depressing hotel room with people they don't know." Mary provides a more dignified and celebratory option: a lethally laced champagne toast that gently ushers the client into permanent sleep. "I actually think it's really beautiful instead of having to do it in a very brutal and violent way," says Dhavernas. "Because that's one of their options as well."

Mary's partner in her medical endeavor is Des (Richard Short), a former plastic surgeon whose drug addiction cost him his medical license. "He's obviously her partner in crime, literally," laughs Dhavernas. And in addition to assisting in the procedures and handling some logistical minutiae of their illegal business, Des uses his connection to drug dealers to source their necessary – and deadly – chemical.

But life (and death) doesn't always go as planned, leading Mary to find levity in unexpected places. "It leads to very dark humor, but that's my favorite kind of humor anyways," says Dhavernas. "To be able to have a laugh about it after doesn't take away from the seriousness of the moment that just happened."

■ Mary Kills People → Lifetime → Sundays beginning April 23



"American Crime's" John Ridley Brings His Strong Storytelling To A Limited Showtime Series. By Jeff Pfeiffer

Creator/writer/director John Ridley, of *American Crime* fame, continues his mesmerizing and unique storytelling approach with this six-episode limited series set in early '70s London. Like much of Ridley's work, *Guerrilla* is a gripping tale that also deals with important themes of race and society that still remain with us.

"I've done stories in the 1840s, the 1940s, the 1970s, the 2000s," Ridley said at a recent press conference. "There are times for me that it's very painful to be telling stories that are timeless, but unfortunately are also very timely."

The particular story of *Guerrilla* has as its starting point a couple, Jas and Marcus (Freida Pinto and Babou Ceesay), whose relationship and values are tested when they liberate a political prisoner and form a radical underground cell. How the events around them, particularly systemic racism and police brutality – including Scotland Yard's notorious "black power desk," a real-life, secretive counterintelligence unit dedicated to crushing all forms of black activism – transform them from everyday citizens to revolutionaries is fascinating to watch.

What won't come as a surprise to fans of Ridley's expertly told *American Crime* in particular is that the rest of *Guerrilla*'s canvas similarly fills out with other well-rounded characters of different types. We get to know several of these characters, including community activist Kent Fue (played by a great Idris Elba, who also serves as an executive producer) and the police officers.

"We did want to expand it," Ridley — who wrote most of the series and directed three episodes — said. "But at the same time, even though I was blessed with working with a little bit more time than we do in the broadcast space in terms of running time [Guerrilla airs on Showtime, versus ABC for American Crime], to not overpopulate this world. ... I wanted to make sure it was focused on these two performers in particular, but to have a little bit of expansion."

■ Guerrilla \rightarrow Showtime \rightarrow Sundays beginning April 16



Rose Byrne as reporter Rebecca Skloot and Oprah Winfrey as Henrietta Lacks' daughter Deborah

HBO And Oprah Turn The Stunning Bestseller Into A Must-See Film.

By Lori Acken

ou may not know of her, but your life has been directly impacted by Henrietta Lacks. Henrietta, a sturdy, pretty rural Virginian born in 1920, was a devoted mother of five, including a disabled eldest daughter on whom she doted. She looked after friends and neighbors, too. Henrietta accepted the hard work of tobacco farming, though she knew she might have accomplished much more. She loved to dance and tended her looks, particularly her nails, which were perfectly polished nearly to the day she died at age 31.

Henrietta suffered an agonizing and possibly preventable death from cervical cancer – because she was poor, black and undereducated at a time when those things were often a death sentence if you were desperately ill, even if you had access to healthcare.

But part of Henrietta lived on.
In the late '80s, Rebecca Skloot

– then a bright but restless Illinois highschool student – became aware of Mrs.
Lacks literally cell by cell when alternative

schooling landed her in a community-college biology course. There, her instructor taught his students about "HeLa" cells – "He" for Henrietta, "La" for Lacks, though few people knew it. Cells that, unbeknownst to Henrietta, were taken from her body during treatment at Johns Hopkins University, code-named, studied and eventually dispensed throughout the world. Because they, unlike other cells researchers attempted to keep viable, not only survived outside of Henrietta's body, but also reproduced at an unprecedented and robust rate. And they still do today.

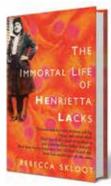
Though her embattled family wouldn't know it until a quarter-century later, Henrietta's "immortal" cells - by then replicated more than 50 tons' worth - were central to researching and treating everything from polio, cancer, AIDS and Parkinson's disease to wrinkles and lactose intolerance. All without public recognition or a nickel of compensation to her widower, children and grandchildren, despite Henrietta's indelible role in the multibillion-dollar medical industry. So Skloot made it her mission to learn more about this unsung heroine and to ensure that Henrietta, her family and her impact on humanity got their due. Skloot's 2010 nonfiction book

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – a decade-plus effort that documented Henrietta's fate and contributions, and Skloot's bond with the proud and wounded Lacks family – became an instant bestseller. HBO, Oprah Winfrey and Alan Ball teamed up to turn it into a film.

Made with the input and cooperation of the Lacks family, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* stars Winfrey as Henrietta's younger daughter, Deborah, Rose Byrne as the tireless Skloot and *Hamilton*'s Renée Elise Goldsberry as Henrietta herself.
Told from the colorful Deborah's perspective, the film chronicles a troubled

daughter's effort to learn more about the mother she never knew and to comprehend the scope of Henrietta's impact on medicine, all with Skloot by her side. It's a story of race, family, friendship, medical arrogance and advancement, and our right to the very stuff of our own bodies — with a brave, doomed and, at long last, celebrated woman at its core.

■ The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks → HBO → April 22





n late fall of 2014, Denver defense attorney Don Knight had just pulled up to a barbecue joint when his cellphone rang. On the line: Sister Helen Prejean. The same Sister Helen whose tireless work to end the death penalty made her the subject of 1995's critically acclaimed feature film *Dead Man Walking*. Prejean was calling about Richard Glossip. And the makings of Investigation Discovery's chilling two-night event, *Killing Richard Glossip*, were set into motion.

In 1997, Glossip – an Oklahoma City motel manager and father of four with no felony record – was named the mastermind of a vicious murder. Glossip's coworker, Justin Sneed, admitted that he alone killed the motel's owner, Barry Van Treese, and only Sneed's fingerprints were found at the murder scene. But in a bid to avoid execution, Sneed implicated

Glossip in the crime and was sentenced to life without parole. Glossip – steadfast about his innocence – rejected two plea deals and was ordered to die by lethal injection.

For the past 20 years, Glossip has lived in a windowless underground cell, suspended in a nightmarish limbo that has seen him tried twice, marched to the edge of death three times, and Oklahoma's execution methods debated in the Supreme Court and beyond.

"There was a group that started a petition for Richard that brought it to my attention, and there was a phone number on it," Prejean recalls of her own introduction to Glossip and his plight. "I called the woman and she set up a phone call with Richard." With Glossip's newest execution date looming, Prejean convinced Knight and his partner Mark Olive to take his case pro bono. And in the summer of 2016, Joe Berlinger – whose Oscar-nominated, Emmy-winning *Paradise Lost*

documentaries contributed to the release of the West Memphis Three after nearly two decades of wrongful imprisonment – got wind of the situation.

Berlinger knew he had to work quickly. "When I started to drill into the case facts and details, I couldn't turn away — because, to me, this case is the poster child for everything that's wrong with the death penalty," Berlinger says. "I felt I had to meet the challenge." And, in doing so, convince Knight and Olive to let him and his cameras follow them in real time as they race against the clock to prove Glossip's innocence.

To flesh out a complex, 20-year-old story, Berlinger says he "had to rely more on re-creation than I have in the past to bring those two different, conflicting versions of the accounts of what happened that night to life." And, he is quick to point out, "despite my personal opinions about his guilt or innocence, this is *not* an advocacy piece."

Instead, it's an education.

"I think why it's so important to get a story like this out is you have a power system in place with politics and money feeding it, and they have their way with human beings," Prejean exclaims. "They found in the United States, of all the counties and districts and prosecutors, 2 percent are responsible for over 70 percent of all people on death row. How do you break that? The only way you break that is us."

Knight hopes for a more immediate payout. "I want witnesses," he says. "Richard is innocent and we need to get enough witnesses to get us back into court. So my one wish is that people who know or have heard or think they have an idea – come forward."

➤ Killing Richard Glossip → Investigation Discovery → April 17 & 18



"Dead Man Walking's" Sister Helen Prejean is working to free Glossio

TRUE CRIME TV

NY PRISON BREAK: The Seduction Of Joyce Mitchell

Ripped from the headlines, Lifetime's original movie (airing April 23) tells the story of Joyce Mitchell, a married mother of three who worked as a prison seamstress at New York's Clinton Correctional Facility and was seduced by convicted murderers Richard Matt and David Sweat. Mitchell helped the two escape, which led to a fatal manhunt. Recently denied parole, Mitchell is played by Penelope Ann Miller.



:: © IFC Credit: Erika Doss Great News: © 2017 NBC Universal Media, LLC

GREAT NEWS

NBC's Workplace Comedy Grows From "30 Rock" Roots. By Ryan A. Berenz

It's not a coincidence that NBC's *Great News* bears a striking resemblance to *30 Rock*, given that Tina Fey (*30 Rock*), Robert Carlock (*30 Rock*) and David Miner (*30 Rock*) are executive producers, and Tracey Wigfield (*30 Rock*) is creator, writer and executive producer. It's not a bad thing, either, given the critically acclaimed but low-rated *30 Rock*'s ability to remain on the air for seven seasons.

In *Great News*, Katie Wendelson (Briga Heelan) is a frustrated TV news segment producer whose workplace world gets rocked when her meddling mother, Carol (Andrea Martin), gets an internship at the station. Wigfield says her mother, who made constant visits to the *30 Rock* set, inspired the character of Carol.

Great News goes for generational laughs as much as it pokes fun at the fading relevance of TV news in the age of social media, played out in the contrasting styles of aging prima donna anchor Chuck (John Michael Higgins) and his young, stylish and celeb-savvy co-anchor Portia (Nicole Richie).

There's also a lot of subtle humor derived from the oddities that go on behind the scenes of an actual TV production. Horatio Sanz (Saturday Night Live) plays a video editor at the station, and he's learned a lot from watching editors at work over the years. "They don't really talk to other human beings," Sanz says, adding that they're also known to wear jackets from shows that have been canceled. "It's just a fun character to play because these guys are crazy and they're off."

■ Great News → NBC → Tuesdays beginning April 25





BROCKMIRE

Hank Azaria's Boozy, Foulmouthed And Funny Love Letter To Baseball.

By Ryan A. Berenz

Since he was a teenager, Hank Azaria has been preparing for the role of baseball announcer Jim Brockmire. Azaria would imitate the baseball announcers of his youth, with their unmistakable inflections and patterns of speech, and wondered if they sounded like that all the time. "Do they sound like this when they're making love to their good lady wives?" Azaria asks. "Do they sound like this when they're really upset or drunk off their asses?"

Many years later, Azaria's imitations spawned a Funny or Die short about Brockmire, a broadcaster who has a majorleague meltdown on air after discovering his wife's infidelity. IFC's new comedy series *Brockmire* picks up 10 years after that incident, as an off-the-rails Brockmire gets hired by Jules (Amanda Peet), owner of the Morristown Frackers, the most minor of minorleague baseball teams.

"In its own weird, alcohol-soaked, soporific, dark, gritty, sad way, this is a love letter to baseball," Azaria says of *Brockmire*. It's also a toast to the old-school broadcasters who understood that baseball just isn't baseball without a few beers. "A lot of the guys I grew up with in New York, not just in baseball, were open about it," Azaria recalls. "The guy who used to call the Rangers games — 'The Big Whistle' Bill Chadwick — used to often spill his beer on the air and go, 'Oh! I spilled the Schaefer, folks!' It was just part of the broadcast."

■ Brockmire → IFC → Wednesdays beginning April 5



eil Gaiman's best-selling fantasy novel American Gods comes to Starz in an eye-popping and fantastic series from co-creators, writers and showrunners Bryan Fuller (Hannibal, Heroes) and Michael Green (Logan). In this modern tale, war is brewing between Old Gods, whose backgrounds come from global mythology, and new deities, who seduce followers into worshiping money, technology and celebrity. Shadow Moon (Ricky Whittle) is an ex-con who becomes the bodyguard of charming con man Mr. Wednesday (lan McShane), but unbeknownst to Shadow, Mr. Wednesday is a powerful old deity on a mission to reclaim his lost glory.

As Shadow and Mr. Wednesday road-trip across America, viewers see that in this hyper-stylized and hyper-violent universe (think the movie 300), fame equals power. Old Gods have been forgotten and lost, and slick New Gods incite fervent worship. For a layperson like Shadow, understanding this concept seems paramount to believing in the impossible. Whittle poses the question on his character's mind: "Is he going crazy or is the world crazy?" As Shadow witnesses fantastical things happening around him, he struggles to push aside his desire for logic and reason.

"Only so many kinds of fantastical events can be put in front of you before you really have to start either believing in the magic in the world, or basically your world is unraveling and that maybe there's something wrong with yourself," explains Whittle.

To populate Gaiman's rich world, Starz has gathered acting talent that wows even its star. "In my opinion, it's the best ensemble cast I've ever seen on television," says Whittle, who marvels that his costars include McShane, Kristin Chenoweth, Crispin Glover, Cloris Leachman, Pablo Schreiber, Emily Browning, Orlando Jones, Peter Stormare

and Gillian Anderson. "It's kind of an epic battle of the minds," he teases.

Whittle eagerly relays a tale told by Gaiman about the origin of the character Shadow, and it begins in an unlikely setting – a campground – where Gaiman met a fellow camper. "[Gaiman] kind of put him down to be a big, dumb guy, who, when everyone was asked to pick up some firewood, he came back with basically a huge log – like a tree – and just dumped it down. And Neil just thought, 'Oh God, this guy's absolutely brainless.' But that night, everyone else was sleeping and the two of them were the last men standing. He realized that this guy was actually super intelligent, very intellectual, cultured. And they talked the night away, and he said he was completely surprised by the personality of this guy." And, per Whittle, Gaiman knew right then and there he had found the perfect foundation for a character.

Whittle boils down the encounter to the essence of his character saying, "Shadow's very much the dumb-looking guy in the room, but he realizes he's got two eyes, two ears and one mouth. And he's always going to learn more if he watches, if he listens, and speaks less."

American Gods welcomes newbies into its visually sumptuous world, and offers plenty of surprises to longtime fans. "Those hardcore Neil Gaiman fans that know the book inside out, they're the ones who are going to say, 'Oh wow. That's later on in the book,' and 'Oh, this bit has been brought forward,' and 'He didn't say that, she says that," Whittle laughs. "We're going to follow the book and everything that they love in the book is going to be in the show, but not necessarily in that order."

▲ American Gods → Starz → Sundays beginning April 30

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Bob Odenkirk as "sweetheart fellow" Jimmy McGill

Is This The Season Jimmy Goes "Saul" In?

By Lori Acken

When Better Call Saul debuted, fans were itchy to see prankster Jimmy McGill (Bob Odenkirk) morph into *Breaking Bad* shyster Saul Goodman, *pronto*. Then something unexpected happened. We fell hard for Jimmy - loving, loyal, funny, fumbling Jimmy - and his kooky (and sometimes genius) resourcefulness and joie de vivre. Even though we knew the honeymoon couldn't last.

Vince Gilligan and Peter Gould, producers of both shows, confirmed that this is, indeed, the season that Jimmy begins to break Goodman, as an angrier-than-ever Chuck (Michael McKean) seeks revenge for Mesa Verde (and perhaps their mother's dying words) and Jimmy's beloved Kim (Rhea Seehorn) seems a little, well, over it. "This is what we signed up for," Odenkirk laments. "I understand it and I know it has to happen and it all makes sense, but I feel like it's saying goodbye to a friend, slowly. But to compensate, then the bad guys come around more, and that's a lot of fun." To that end, Odenkirk says Jimmy will share more screen time with Jonathan Banks' hitman-for-hire Mike Ehrmantraut, after the pair were largely caught up in their own dramas in Season 2. "It's a great Laurel-and-Hardy duo with Mike getting frustrated with Jimmy's inspirations and crazy-pants style," he says. "I can't be onscreen enough with Jonathan Banks."

And while Odenkirk reveals it will be a while before Jimmy crosses paths with Bad favorite and new Saul arrival restaurateur-cum-meth-king Gus Fring (Giancarlo Esposito), Gus factors into Season 3 storytelling as Mike becomes more entangled in the Salamancas' world. "What the writers and creators have done with Gus and with Mark Margolis as Hector Salamanca is they don't just bring them back for the fun of bringing them back – they add to their story. In this new season, you're going to get to learn more about them and what went on between them and it will all make Breaking Bad even more impactful. You start to understand the backstory of the characters - not just Saul, but these other characters - and how it affects the world of Breaking Bad.

"And I just want to reiterate - characters come back from Breaking Bad and I identified two of them, but there's more than that this season," Odenkirk teases (could Saul turn a little Pink-man?). "At some point, these two shows are going to be like The Godfather I and II, where you could just marry them up and it'll be an amazing, powerful, massive epic. I wouldn't be surprised if these writers take the story even past Breaking Bad."

■ Better Call Saul → AMC → Mondays beginning April 10

FARGO

Ewan McGregor Pulls Double Duty. By Kellie Freeze

FX's crime anthology returns, and in this third installment the drama takes place in 2010 and focuses on the complicated relationship between brothers Emmit and Ray Stussy, both played by Ewan McGregor. Their sibling rivalry spirals out of control as petty theft turns to murder, mobsters and "cutthroat" competition - and in the world of Fargo, you can usually take most plot descriptors literally.

Carrie Coon is the latest to take up the mantle in the franchise's tradition of exceptional female characters as Gloria Burgle, the chief of the local police department and a newly divorced mother, "She really represents a kind of smalltown aesthetic, a sense of community that she feels has been eroded by forces outside of herself," shares Coon. Another tradition that Fargo maintains is attracting top film talent - giving McGregor his first starring role on TV since 1993. "I'm doing the 'Fargoee' accent," the Scottish actor reveals, "It's the hardest accent I've ever done. And I did Dutch once in something. I thought that was quite hard, but this is worse."

Other notables in this season's cast are Mary Elizabeth Winstead, who laughs that her recent-parolee character needs little introduction: "Nikki Swango says it all." Harry Potter alum David Thewlis, comedian Jim Gaffigan and Boardwalk Empire's Michael Stuhlbarg round out the cast.

Fargo → FX → Wednesdays beginning April 19





Do Carrie Coon and Justin Theroux see a trip Down Under in their future?

The End Is Near For The Thought-Provoking HBO Chiller. By Lori Acken

Though *The Leftovers* Season 2 finale suggested a (mostly) satisfying series finale, too, fans of the Justin Theroux starrer's thought-provoking supernatural bent hoped there might be just a bit more to the complex tale of life in a tiny town after 2 percent of the world's population disappears.

HBO delivered.

Co-creators Tom Perrotta and *Lost*'s Damon Lindelof set to work on a final season that would tie up the tale they sought to tell and provide their devoted fan base some genuine closure. "The real blessing was knowing that the show was going to end, and having an entire year to process that emotionally – and also to execute it so that it felt more like a celebration of the show," says Lindelof. "As opposed to bittersweet, it's sweet-bitter."

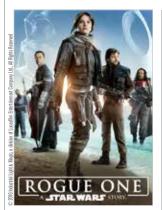
Like Season 2, Season 3 begins with a wordless but rending genesis story – this time centered on a real-life religious group called the Millerites that portends the start of the Guilty Remnant. Then? A substantial time jump that keeps us in Miracle, Texas, but offers new realities for many characters, setting up what promises to be an engrossing final run. Lindelof says that jump allowed the writers room to honor the Sudden Departure's rapture-like nature. "The idea that the final season was going to take place in the days leading up to the seven-year anniversary of the departure – perhaps in anticipation of the final reckoning – it just felt like how do we *not* do that? Especially if the audience knows that the series is coming to a close," he explains. "Then all bets are off and the audience begins to experience the same anxiety that the characters are in terms of 'Wow! Maybe they *are* gonna end the world!"

By now, you've likely heard that some Miracle residents are Australia-bound, too – little surprise to fans who've paid attention. Especially after Theroux's former lawman Kevin

Garvey's wayward dad (played by Scott Glenn) proclaimed that he could "sit around and cry about how the world @#\$%ing ended – or I could start it up again," then headed Down Under. Lindelof relishes the chance to use Glenn – whose craggy face is a story in itself – to full effect. "Until Season 3, Kevin Garvey Sr. has almost been exclusively linked to Kevin Jr.," he says. "The idea of letting Scott play with more of the ensemble – what does it look like for him to be in scenes with Amy [Brenneman, who plays Laurie Garvey]? With Kevin Carroll [troubled dad John Murphy]? – became really exciting to us. Senior's actions in Australia are really that he's been basically laying the pipe for what's going to happen now." Meaning what for the Garvey-family bliss in the closing moments of Season 2 (coupled with Kevin Jr.'s apparent inability to expire with any finality)?

"Here's what I'll say," Lindelof hedges. "There's a metaphysical level of the show, which is 'Can I die? Can I not die? The experience that I had when I was in the hotel, what did all that mean?' That stuff is important - but what's more important is the emotional idea of the show, which has always been guite simple. In Season 1, we demonstrated that even before the departure happened, Kevin was one foot out the door. He was already struggling with the idea of being in a family unit. So this idea that the departure destabilized everyone is bull@#\$%. For this character, there is this fundamental idea of escape - and he keeps finding himself in those situations. But we did want to reconnect back to the initial premise of the show, which is, 'What now? What are we supposed to make of this? Even though it's almost seven years after the initial Sudden Departure, it felt like there was a new way of re-examining it that was directly personal to Kevin, and we'll be exploring that idea all season long. Whether the show is going to definitively answer whether he is some kind of messianic character is less interesting to us than how Kevin and Nora will handle it."

■ The Leftovers → HBO → Sundays beginning April 16



Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

(Action) Rebel soldier and criminal Jyn is on a mission to steal the plans to the Death Star. She'll get help from the rebels, a master swordsman and non-allied forces, but Jyn will soon realize that this is something much bigger than anyone imagines. Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Alan Tudyk (PG-13, 2:13) (HD) Premieres April 4



Hidden Figures

(Drama) As NASA races to space against the Russians, a team of African-American women is at the core of the most important mathematical data. An amazing story of courage in a white-maledominated world, this film will inspire everyone. Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe (PG, 2:07) (HD) Premieres April 11



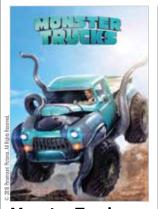
La La Land

(Comedy) An aspiring actress toiling in a coffee shop meets a struggling jazz musician who seems attached to his roots. Can the two find common ground as a couple in the fast-paced world of show business? Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, John Legend (PG-13, 2:08) (HD) **Premieres April 25**



Lion

(Drama) Five-year-old Saroo is adopted from India by an Australian couple. Now in his 20s, Saroo decides to search for the family he was separated from as a child. His adoptive mother encourages the journey, as it will open his eyes to his past. Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman, Rooney Mara (PG-13, 1:58) (HD) Premieres April 11



Monster Trucks

(Action) As a high-school senior, Tripp is ready to get away from life in his small town and begins his exit plan by working to create a monster truck from scrapped vehicles. Along the way, he finds a creature that may just be the friend he needs to help him succeed. Lucas Till, Jane Levy, Thomas Lennon (PG, 1:45) (HD) Premieres April 11



Underworld: Blood Wars

(Action) Vampire death dealer Selene is back and is fighting to end the eternal war between the Lycans and the vampire faction that betrayed her. Kate Beckinsale, Theo James, Tobias Menzies (R, 1:31) (HD) **Premieres April 25**



The Bye Bye Man

(Horror) If you say his name, or even think it, he will come for you. When three college friends move into a house together, they start to see and think things that aren't there thoughts put into their head by the mysterious figure known only as the Bye Bye Man. Douglas Smith, Carrie-Anne Moss, Lucien Laviscount (PG-13, 1:36) (HD)





Split

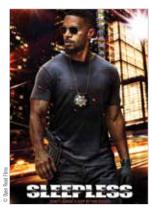
(Thriller) Kevin looks to be a normal man, but he has 23 different personalities within him. When he abducts three young women, they will try to pit personalities against each other in a desperate attempt to survive. James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Haley Lu Richardson (PG-13, 1:57) (HD) Premieres April 18



Office Christmas Party

(Comedy) What better way to land the big client than to throw an epic Christmas party with him as the guest of honor? But Clay is about to get an earful from his sister, the no-nonsense CEO, as the party gives the word "epic" a new definition. Jason Bateman, T.J. Miller, Jennifer Aniston (R, 1:45) (HD)

Premieres April 4



Sleepless

(Action) As revenge for a heist gone wrong, some bad men take the son of Las Vegas police officer Vincent Downs. In one sleepless night, Downs will need to rescue his son, avoid internal affairs and bring the kidnappers to justice. Jamie Foxx, Michelle Monaghan, Dermot Mulroney (R, 1:35) (HD)

Premieres April 18

At-A-Glance

April On Demand Movies on Channel 1

PREMIERES	BEGINS	Sable	.4/25
After the Reality	4/25	Salt & Fire	.4/11
Aftermath	4/7	Saving Banksy	.4/4
Alive and Kicking	4/7	Shot! The Psycho-Spiritual	
Altitude	.4/14	Mantra of Rock	.4/7
Arctic Adventure:		Sleepless	
On Frozen Pond		Smoking Guns	
Bethany		Speech & Debate	
Bigger Fatter Liar	4/18	Split	.4/18
The Bounce Back		The Sweet Life	
Breaking Legs		Teen Titans: The Judas Contract	
Bwoy		This Small	.4/11
The Bye Bye Man	4/25	Those Left Behind	.4/25
Carrie Pilby	4/4	The Ticket	.4/7
A Cowgirl's Story		Toni Erdmann	.4/11
The Dark Tapes	4/18	UFO Conclusion	.4/4
The Duelist		Underworld: Blood Wars	
The Fast and the Fierce	4/4	Voice From the Stone	.4/28
The Founder	.4/18	The Void	.4/7
Generation Found	4/4	Water & Power:	
Hacker	4/4	A California Heist	
Heidi	4/4	We Are X	
Hidden Figures	4/11	We Don't Belong Here	
In the Doghouse	.4/18	Wild Plants	
Inframundo:		Wolves at the Door	.4/25
Guerras de Sangre	4/25	WWE: Diamond Dallas Page:	
Isolation	4/18	Positively Living!	
La La Land	4/25	Youth in Oregon	
Landline		ALSO AVAILABLE	ENDS
The Levelling		Allied	.8/10
Lion	4/11	Assassin's Creed (3-D)	.8/31
Lucky's Treasure	4/4	Collateral Beauty	
The Marine 5: Battleground	4/25	Elle	
Mine	4/4	Fantastic Beasts and	
Monster Trucks	4/11	Where to Find Them (3-D)	.8/6
NOLA Circus		Fences	.8/23
Office Christmas Party	4/4	Jackie	.7/31
The Outcasts	4/14	Moana (3-D)	.6/19
Paterson	4/4	A Monster Calls	.8/30
Power Rangers: Dino Super		Patriots Day	.9/30
Charge – Volume 4	4/4	Shut In	.8/28
Rogue One:	4/4	Silence	.8/31
A Star Wars Story (3-D)		Sing (3-D)	
Rupture	4/20	Why Him?	.8/31

How To Order On Demand Movies:

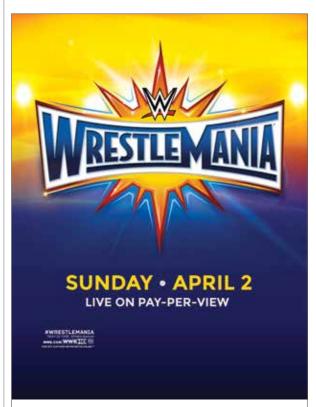
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LIVE! April 2 - 7/6pm

Countdown Show Prior • Replays April 3 - 12am(ET)/ April 2 - 11pm(CT) Events iN1

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Anthony Johnson gets a second shot at UFC light heavyweight champion Daniel Cormier in this rematch at KeyBank Center in Buffalo, N.Y. Plus, Chris Weidman battles Gegard Mousasi.

LIVE! April 8 - 10/9pm

Countdown Show Prior • Replays April 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 27 Events iN1

Only \$49.99 Per Showing





Some call it retaliation, vengeance or retribution. WWE Superstars call it Payback! Don't miss Roman Reigns, Kevin Owens and all your favorites as they settle their differences at SAP Center in San Jose, Calif.

LIVE! April 30 - 8/7pm

Countdown Show Prior • Replays May 1 - 12am(ET)/ April 30 - 11pm(CT)

Events iN1

Only \$44.99 Per Showing





Mexico's Óscar Valdez makes his second title defense when he squares off against challenger Miguel Marriaga of Colombia in the main event of this boxing card in Carson, Calif.

LIVE! April 22 - 9/8pm

Countdown Show Prior • Replays April 23-26

Events iN1

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