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Christina Hendricks, Mae Whitman & Retta GOOD GIRLS GONE BAD!

Figure skater Nathan Chen SIMONE BILES

magazine

®

America's Most Decorated Gymnast Shares Her Story

SUPER BOWL LII Is Bringing Sexy Back

Heartache Inevitable? THE WALKING DEAD's Dreaded Return

# **PyeongChang** Vour Guide To The 2018 Winter Olympic Games

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On The Cover: Nathan Chen: © 2017 Getty Images. Credit: Ezra Shaw/Getty Images A.P. Bio: © 2017 NBCUniversal Media, LLC. Credit: Maarten de Boer/NBC. Good Girls: © 2017 NBCUniversal Media, LLC. Credit: Danielle Levitt/NBC.

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NBC's new comedy-infused drama *Good Girls* mixes a little *Thelma* & Louise with *Breaking Bad* 

18 Living Biblically Add this warm and genuinely funny sitcom to your watch list this month.

#### **Eric Clapton**

We talk with the legendary 18-time Grammy winner on his deeply personal documentary *Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars.* 

#### **NEXT MONTH**

0

Two TV favorites return next month – *American Idol* gets a refresh on ABC, and Roseanne Barr is back, along with the rest of the cast of *Roseanne*, for a nine-episode revival.



Complete our 2018 Reader Survey for your chance to win some fun prizes! See page 9.

Not all services are available in all areas.

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## **Fditor's Note Olympic TV Glory**

I'm not a huge sports fan, but I really get into the Olympics. I love the personal stories on the athletes that air just before a heat or medal round. Learning about their families and the astounding amount of time and sacrifice they make to get to these Games is



so inspiring. At the end of these segments, you feel like you know them, and you cheer maybe just a little harder for their success. I know I do. I talked with Simone Biles (2016 Summer Olympics gold medalist), who shared some of the personal sacrifices she made to compete. She was home-schooled, and told me how she never went to prom, homecoming or any high-school football games. Her amazing story is shared in a Lifetime biopic this month (page 17).

The Olympics also surprise me as I find myself enjoying sports I never imagined I would like - take curling or luge, for example, which I find crazily entertaining

and thrilling. Inside we've got an expansive section that shares some of the top stories and athletes of this year's Games, as well as helpful medal-round and event TV schedules so you can keep track of the daily coverage.

Our February issue also includes our annual reader survey (see page 9). Please take a minute to answer our questions and provide your feedback on what you would like to see more or less of in this magazine. I know I've told you this in the past, but I do honestly read all of your comments, and we make improvements based on what you share.

Happy Viewing!

Barb Oates, Editor in Chief

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Questions or comments about this magazine? Call us at 888-333-5388 or contact us at letters@ntvbmedia.com

You can also write: NTVB Custom Media Attention: Editor 9275 N. 49th Street, Suite 100, Brown Deer, WI 53223

CHANNEL GUIDE® magazine (USPS 719-690) (ISSN 1042-1238), Volume 35, Issue 2, is published every month by NTVB Custom Media, LLC, 9275 N. 49th St., Suite 100, Brown Deer, WI 53223-1495. Periodicals postage rates paid at Nilwaukee, WI and at additional mailing offices. The goal of NTVB Custom Media, LLC is to deliver your



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First on my list to DVR: Good Girls on NBC

Shocked I get hooked watching: Olympic curling matches

#### JEFF



First on my list to DVR: Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl!

**Favorite Winter** Olympics event: Biathlon (cross-country skiing and shooting!)



My Olympic obsessions: The Nigerian bobsled team and Maame Biney. Both irresistible.

#### RYAN

First on my list to DVR: Good Girls on NBC

Winter Olympics need more: Snowshoe racing!

#### KELLIE



**Favorite Winter Olympics** event: Figure skating. I love the mixture of grace and power.

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## Random Rants & Raves YOUR FAMOUS ENCOUNTERS



# Do I Know Someone Famous!

As a kid I was a child entertainer, traveling by bus, train and plane all over the country during the 1950s. My cousin is Dennis Day, the Irish singer of the old *Jack Benny Program* in the 1950s. His mother and my grandmother came to Ellis Island from Ireland in 1859! I also grew up with Bobby Hatfield, one of the Righteous Brothers.

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Have you ever met a famous athlete? If so, tell us your story.

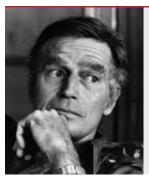
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Bobby's parents were friends of my parents. From 1952 to 1964 I traveled when school was out, where I spent a lot of time backstage in Vegas. Here are some of the famous people I met then: Elvis Presley, Juliet Prowse, Donald O'Connor, Dickie Henderson, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Red Skelton, Connie Francis and, of course, Bobby Hatfield and Bill Medley.

There are other people I know personally, like the old-timer Spike Jones, the comedy band owner from the 1940s-60s. Spike lived with my grandparents while he attended Fullerton Junior College. In 1965 to 1969, my ex and I worked for NASA at Edwards Air Force Base. While there we also had a racecar, which is when I met Andy Granatelli, owner of STP, and Mario Andretti.

My next marriage was to Dick Lee, off-road champ and decorated Air Force sergeant. Among the many friends we had was Jimmie Johnson's family of NASCAR. Jimmie was 11 years old last time I saw him. We all had homes in Baja. Among others of our famous friends at that time was the late Kiel Martin of *Hill Street Blues*. The cast members gave me a birthday party one

Heston: © Getty Credit: Evening Standard/ Getty Images



time. After Dick passed away I married a friend, widower Rolly Porterfield, who used to be a band member on the West Coast for Bill Monroe. Now I'm enjoying my TV (I even have one in my garage!). Not bad for 72! – Linda Porterfield

#### "Hey, Hey, It's The Monkees ..."

A few years ago, in spite of back problems, I managed the trip across the country to finally get to meet someone I had admired since I was 12, Peter Tork of the Monkees. Quivering inside as he shook my hand after his show, I told him it had only taken me all those miles, and 45 years since the show's debut, to meet him in person! He and his wife Pam could not have been sweeter or more gracious to me, and I was totally floating on air. (Once I stopped shaking.) – Wendy

#### Meeting A Brat Packer ...

I have a mental list of famous people I'd like to meet, but many are musicians that I have had the opportunity to do so after concerts. I never thought I'd ever be able to meet one of my favorite actors, Andrew McCarthy, but I did at a venue I never would have anticipated. AAA hosts Travel Expos, and given that Andrew McCarthy is also an accomplished travel writer, he was a guest speaker one year and stayed afterwards for a meet and greet. I must admit that I got nervous with excitement over actually getting to meet him and was thrilled to check off his name on my "famous people" bucket list! - Suzanne

#### Meeting Charlton Heston ...

I met Charlton Heston. I was working in the Fisher Building in Detroit. I saw Mr. Heston waiting for an elevator to go to WJR radio to be interviewed. My mom loved Charlton Heston so I asked him for his autograph for my mom. The elevator doors opened, and as he got on the elevator I realized he had my pen. So I jumped on the elevator and got to ride up to the radio station with him and Chad Everett. Small talk with me and Heston – not too bad. Made my whole day. – Merry

#### Frozen Over The Famous

I grew up in San Diego, Calif. In the early '70s, a show called Harry O was being filmed in San Diego. The star of the show was David Janssen of The Fugitive fame. The twist in the show was that his car needed repairs so he had to take the bus to his clients. Coming home from school on the bus, my friend Frank and I saw them filming downtown. We got off to watch, and who walks up but David Janssen! We both stood there a few seconds, and Frank said hello and shook his hand. I was still transfixed because I was faceto-face with The Fugitive. By the time I got myself together they called him to start filming. He said goodbye and walked away. - Ricky

# An Unlikely Place For A Celebrity Encounter

I met Steve-O from *Jackass* when I was at an AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meeting in Columbia, Mo. Of all people to be at an AA meeting, there he sat across from me. Sorry for breaking your anonymity, Steve-O. – Justin

Include your address when you write or email us, and we'll most likely send you something. We're not promising, we're just saying. Also, if you didn't know this, the letters and opinions above reflect the views of our readers, so don't go crazy on us because you don't like what someone else said.

#### Send your thoughts to:

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

Oops! Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake and the infamous malfunctioning wardrobe

# SUPER BOWL LII: BRINGING SEXY BACK!

**What Is This?** Super Bowl LII, the NFL's championship game for the 2017 season, is played Feb. 4 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

**Isn't It Cold There?** The Feb. 4 temperatures in Minneapolis historically average a low of 9 degrees and a high of 26, but everyone will be nice and cozy inside the climate-controlled confines of U.S. Bank Stadium.

#### What's LII In Regular Numbers? 52

**Is It On TV?** Yes, on NBC. Al Michaels calls the game with analyst Cris Collinsworth and reporter Michele Tafoya. NBC wants to remind you that it also airs the Winter Olympics, a.k.a. the Super Bowl of bobsledding.

**How Many People Watch It?** Insanely many. FOX says Super Bowl LI reached a total audience of 172 million, more than any other program in U.S. TV history.

**Who's Playing At Halftime?** Pop star Justin Timberlake headlines the halftime spectacle.

Wait. Didn't He...? Oh, yes he did. It was Timberlake who shocked and horrified the nation at halftime of Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004 when he removed a piece of Janet Jackson's

clothing, exposing most of her right breast to about 143 million TV viewers. This "wardrobe malfunction" resulted in nearly 540,000 complaints to the FCC in what would become the long national nightmare of "Nipplegate." Timberlake is a controversial pick for this year's halftime show, but we're tantalized by a possible Jackson guest appearance.

What Should You Buy? If you're easily swayed by advertisements during Super Bowls, you'll likely soon crave Stella Artois, Avocados from Mexico, Coca-Cola, Doritos, Groupon offers, M&M's, Pringles, and a new Kia and Hyundai with WeatherTech floor mats. A 30-second spot is expected to cost marketers just over \$5 million.

**How About Football?** There is some in between commercials. Super Bowl LI saw the New England Patriots staging a big comeback for a 34-28 overtime win against the Atlanta Falcons. Expect Super Bowl LII to be much, much less exciting than that.

**Not Sad Enough?** If you're not already depressed over the outcome of the game or the quantity of cream cheese you consumed, NBC will jerk your tears with a new episode of *This Is Us* after the Super Bowl.





On Feb. 9, the world will be watching when NBC's Winter Olympics coverage kicks off from PyeongChang, South Korea, with Mike Tirico serving as its new primetime host. Tirico shares why the parade of athletes during the opening ceremony is such a special TV moment, saying, "They are looking at each other and are walking in together, and you are reminded that the title of 'Olympian' stays with them for life." Here, Tirico earns a gold medal for answering our "5 Questions."

If your TV had only three shows on it, what would you be watching? I am going to be really old-time on you: *The Odd Couple*, *Cheers* and *M\*A\*S\*H*.

What three foods do you have to have in your fridge or pantry? There always has to be ketchup. I love ketchup on eggs – I know that it is crazy for some people. I'll go with ketchup, I will go with pineapple and the other "must" is coffee.

**Tell us about a moment when you were completely starstruck.** I was *this* close, I was in arm's distance of Bruce Springsteen in 2004 at a concert. And that's the only person who I have never met who I want to meet. I've been lucky enough to meet presidents. I've been lucky to meet every great athlete in this generation of sports. I have never met Bruce, and I am dying to meet him.

What is a moment in sports that you will never, ever forget? The one that matters the most to me is a regular-season NFL game at the New Orleans Superdome in 2006, which is the first game in New Orleans after Katrina, and it was New Orleans' symbol to the world that they were open for business again. It always reminds me that sports is more than fun and games; it matters to communities and cities.

#### Which Olympic event are you most excited to watch?

The downhill skiing. I am in awe of these people. The speed. The daredevil nature. The breathtaking moments they provide, all to be known as the faster skier in the world for four years. It is just the coolest thing to me, and I cannot wait to watch the women's and the men's downhill.

## **Returning Favorites**

Ash vs Evil Dead Starz (Feb. 25) The Big Interview With Dan Rather AXS TV (Feb. 27) Comic Book Men AMC (late-night Feb. 25) DC's Legends of Tomorrow The CW (Feb. 12) Designated Survivor ABC (Feb. 28) Homeland Showtime (Feb. 11) Last Week Tonight With John Oliver HBO (Feb. 18) Mozart in the Jungle Amazon (Feb. 16) Strike Back Cinemax (Feb. 2) Survivor CBS (Feb. 28) Talking Dead AMC (Feb. 25) The Tick Amazon (Feb. 23) **UnREAL** Lifetime (Feb. 26) The Voice NBC (Feb. 26) The Walking Dead AMC (Feb. 25) When Calls the Heart Hallmark Channel (Feb. 18)

#### They're Back, Baby!: Recently Renewed Shows

Shooter is on target for a third season at USA Network. ... HBO's Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon-led *Big Little Lies* has been renewed for Season 2, with a new director, Andrea Arnold (creator David E. Kelley will return to write and produce). ... Production on Season 10 of HBO's hit comedy *Curb Your Enthusiasm* will begin this spring. ... USA Network has renewed *Mr. Robot* for Season 4.

#### YANKED!: Recently Canceled Shows

PBS canceled *Charlie Rose* and *Tavis Smiley* in the wake of sexual misconduct allegations. ... *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* has had its last case on BBC America. ... Tyler Perry is down one TV show after TLC canceled his drama *Too Close to Home*. ... Netflix won't make a third season of *Haters Back Off!*, and rom com *Love* will end after Season 3 drops March 9. ... BET put the brakes on *The Breaks* Season 2.



#### The Cyberpunk Classic Becomes A Netflix Series. By Jeff Pfeiffer

2018 has been a good year so far for visionary sci-fi works on streaming networks. Last month, we told you about Amazon's new anthology series *Philip K. Dick's Electric Dreams*, and the return of Netflix's *Black Mirror* (which actually debuted with two days left in 2017, but why quibble?). Now, this month, Netflix is unleashing a beautiful-looking new series that appears just as captivating as the others: *Altered Carbon*.

Based on Richard K. Morgan's groundbreaking 2002 cyberpunk/noir novel of the same name (a Locus Award nominee and winner of the Philip K. Dick Award), the series is set over 300 years in the future, in a world where society has, of course, been transformed by new technology. In this case, death is now no longer permanent – a way to digitize consciousness has been developed, and human bodies are now interchangeable, with consciousnesses passed back and forth between them.

In this world, Takeshi Kovacs (Joel

Kinnaman) is the lone surviving soldier from a group of elite interstellar warriors who were defeated in an uprising against the new world order of this future. Kovacs' mind was imprisoned for centuries, until Laurens Bancroft (James Purefoy), an incredibly wealthy and longlived man, offers Kovacs the chance to live again. But in exchange for this, Kovacs must solve a murder – that of Bancroft himself.

If you're a fan of Philip K. Dick and are enjoying the new Amazon series based on his works, you are practically guaranteed to enjoy *Altered Carbon*. Of course, if you *are* a fan of Dick's writings and similar works, you've likely already read this novel and have been well aware of, and highly anticipating, this series. For those of you not in the choir to whom we are preaching – if you are in the mood for a mind-bending, trippy noir thriller, check out *Altered Carbon*.

Altered Carbon Season 1  $\rightarrow$  Netflix  $\rightarrow$  Available Feb. 2

## And Don't Miss...

#### **Queer Eye** (Netflix) Available Feb. 7

Fifteen years after the lifestyle makeover hit *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* revolutionized reality television, the series returns with a brand-new Fab Five — Antoni Porowski (food and wine), Bobby Berk (interior design), Karamo Brown (culture), Jonathan van Ness (grooming) and Tan France (fashion) — helping men and women in the Atlanta area.

#### **Girlfriends** (Acorn TV) New Episodes Debut Mondays.

The drama series starring Miranda Richardson, Phyllis Logan and Zoë Wanamaker as three friends struggling with the responsibilities that come with being a modern woman of a certain age continues this month, with new episodes on Mondays leading up to the season finale on Feb. 26.

#### Ackley Bridge (Acorn TV) Series 1 Available Feb. 26.

This is the exclusive U.S. premiere of a new British series set in a multicultural school in West Yorkshire. It's a characterdriven look into the daily drama of teachers, teenagers and families whose lives and cultures collide in a fictional 21st-century northern town.



### The **LOOMING TOWER** Hulu Series Recounts The Intelligence Wars In The Buildup To 9/11. By Jeff Pfeiffer

Set in the late 1990s, *The Looming Tower* is based on Lawrence Wright's 2006 book *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* that traces the rising threat of Osama bin Laden and his terrorist group during that time. It follows members of the counterterrorism divisions of the FBI and CIA as they travel the world fighting each other for ownership of information while seemingly working toward the same goal of trying to prevent an imminent attack on American soil.

The superb cast includes Jeff Daniels, Tahar Rahim, Peter Sarsgaard and Wrenn Schmidt, among others. The Looming Tower  $\rightarrow$  Hulu  $\rightarrow$  Available beginning Feb. 28

# 2018 CHANNEL GUIDE Magazine READER SURVEY

SAVE A STAMP! Complete our survey online and be registered for your chance to channelguidemag.com/su Please take a few minutes to give us your fee Channel Guide Magazine. We use your res comments to make improvements to the r	<ul> <li>7. To which of the following premium networks and/or streaming services do you subscribe? (Check all that apply.)</li> <li>HBO</li> <li>Netflix</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Showtime</li> <li>Amazon</li> <li>None</li> <li>Cinemax</li> <li>Hulu</li> <li>Starz</li> <li>Crackle</li> <li>Starz Encore</li> <li>CBS All Access</li> <li>TMC</li> <li>Acorn</li> </ul>						
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2		Hype (pages 6-7)					
3		Cover Story/What's New (pages 10-21)					
2. What are your three favorite networks? (List network name, not channel number.)	Movies On Demand (pages 24-25)						
1		Best Bets (pages 27-35)					
2 3		Streaming Section (pages 36-					
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		Series Listings (pages 168-16					
<ol> <li>How many times do you use or refer to Channel Magazine during the course of a week?</li> </ol>	Premium Profiler (pages 170-1						
		Movie Description Listings Sports Listings					
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More Satisfied  Less Satisfied		Channel Lineup (back cover)					
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(10) Jumbo Face

**Playing Cards** 

# PEAK PERFORMANCE: 2018 VINTER OLYMPICS

It's the high-soaring adrenaline rush of ski jumping. It's the cold calculations of curling. It's the spine-tingling speed of skeleton. It's the power and finesse of figure skating. It's the dizzying heights of freestyle skiing. It's the joy and pride of a place on the podium.

The 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics take place in South Korea Feb. 8-25, as the world's most daring athletes on ice and snow seek the glory of gold for their countries.

This special section looks at the top stories of the PyeongChang Games, and when and where to watch the drama unfold.

#### **U.S. FIGURE SKATING'S BEST HOPE**

With Gracie Gold taking time away from figure skating to deal with personal health issues, the USA looks to 2017 national champion Karen Chen (pictured), 2010 Olympian Mirai Nagasu and 2018 national champion Bradie Tennell for a medal in the women's competition. Alexa Scimeca Knierim and husband Christopher Knierim are the only U.S. skaters in the pairs competition. The best chance for a medal comes from Nathan Chen, who in December became the first U.S. man in eight years to win the ISU Grand Prix Final.

## So C-C-COLD

While unusually warm temperatures were a concern at the 2014 Sochi Games, bitter cold could be a problem at PyeongChang. The region is among the coldest in South Korea. and the Manchurian and Siberian winds blowing over the mountains of North Korea are especially brutal. Organizers are providing raincoats, blankets and heating pads to attendees at the opening and closing ceremonies who will sit for five hours exposed to the elements in the openair Olympic Stadium.



# **Hockey Left Short-Handed**

The Olympic men's hockey tournament will be short on star power, as the NHL declined to send its players to PyeongChang. NHL owners cited the disruption in the season schedule and its effect on players' health as the primary reasons for bowing out, but the International Olympic Committee (IOC) no longer footing the bill for NHL players' travel and accommodations was also a factor. The result is that hockey powerhouses like Canada and the USA will field rosters largely made up of little-known minor leaguers, collegians and players from overseas leagues. If Russia's KHL opts out of sending its players, the talent pool will be diluted even further. It's still the Olympics and a huge honor for the players participating, but this will not be a showcase of the world's best.

In December, the IOC banned Russia from competing in the PyeongChang Games based on the country's extensive statedirected doping and manipulation of the drug-testing process. Dozens of Russian athletes have been handed lifetime bans, and several of Russia's medals from the 2014 Sochi Games have been stripped. The IOC ban won't affect all Russian athletes, however, as athletes who are proved to be clean will be allowed to compete in PyeongChang as an "Olympic Athlete From Russia" (OAR). They will wear an OAR uniform, and the Olympic anthem will be played at any medal ceremonies for Russian athletes.

# FOES TURNED FRIENDS

Apolo Ohno Reflects On His Fierce Rivalry With South Korean Speed Skaters. By Kellie Freeze

Eight-time Olympic medalist Apolo Ohno will be at the PyeongChang Olympics – not as a competitor, but as NBC's short track speed skating analyst. "I've competed there, I've lived there, I've trained there, I've had Korean coaches," he says. And after a controversial finish at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City, Ohno found himself the subject of ire. "I was the second most-hated person in Korea," he recalls with a laugh. "Second. No. 1 was Osama bin Laden. Yeah. That's not a joke. ... In 2003, they started making toilet paper with my face on it. I did not receive any royalties from that."

But today, Ohno has a great love for South Korea and great respect for the country's short track skating fanaticism. "It's their marquee sport for the Winter Olympics," he explains. "Without them, I never would have reached the levels of performance that I was at. One in the same, we needed each other, and it made for a great story."

Ohno understands that the media scrutiny that he faced was necessary to elevate his sport. "Without the media, there would be no coverage of short track speed skating," he concedes. "I think media is absolutely critical for all sports, and especially for the ones that are obscure that people don't watch on a daily basis. We are a stick-andball country. We watch basketball, football, baseball. Short track speed skating is not something that people in L.A. do, or people in Florida."

And as the Olympic cycle once again brings attention to his sport, Ohno is glad to, once again, be a part of the action. "I'm excited to kind of bring my voice to the forefront and hopefully give the viewers an inside look into such a crazy, obscure sport where these athletes, wearing Superman outfits, skate around an ice rink going 35, 40 miles an hour, leaning over at these impossible angles."



# WILL IT BE A SUPER-V (VICTORY) FOR LINDSEY VONN?

After being sidelined with a knee injury shortly before the 2014 Sochi Games, skiing's downhill darling Lindsey Vonn is back and hoping she's better than ever. In December, the 33-year-old blond bombshell won her 78th World Cup race in Val d'Isère, making her the second-oldest woman to win a World Cup race and inching her closer to becoming the greatest racer who's ever lived. In a career marred by injuries, Vonn needs to beat Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark, who holds the record of 86 World Cup victories, to claim the title. "For me, I feel like I'm going to keep going until I get it," Vonn said. Off the slopes, Vonn has long been grabbing attention on red carpets and at award shows, as well as launching a ski gear collection with her longtime sponsor Under Armour.

# **PASSING THE TORCH**

Bob Costas Hands Olympic Hosting Duties To Mike Tirico. By Kellie Freeze

Since the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain, Bob Costas and his dulcet voice have been as much a part of NBC's Olympic coverage as John Williams' venerable musical score. But in February 2017, Costas announced that he was retiring from Olympic duties, and the honor and responsibility of anchoring NBC's primetime coverage was passed figuratively – and literally – to former ESPN anchor Mike Tirico.

"There is a picture that I want to get Bob to sign [of] Bob literally passing a torch – a PyeongChang 2018 torch – to me for the start of the Olympics," laughs Tirico.

Tirico is aware that he's been tasked with filling legendary broadcasting shoes, and says, "You follow a Bob Costas. You don't replace him." Costas' fellow Syracuse alum is excited to bring his own take to the

special assignment. "If you think about what the primetime Olympic host brings, it brings 18 consecutive nights in the living rooms of America," Tirico says. "And there is no other job like that in American television."



### **PRECIOUS MEDALS**

The medals at the PyeongChang Games are inspired by three important aspects of Korean culture. The medals incorporate 3-D shapes from Hangeul, the Korean alphabet. The ribbons are made from Gapsa, a traditional Korean fabric, and the wooden cases borrow curves from the architecture of Korean houses.

## **CUTTHROAT CURLING**

It's no secret that Canadians are serious about curling. Competition at Canada's highest level is so fierce that 2014 gold-medal winners Brad Jacobs and Jennifer Jones won't have a chance to defend their titles. Both teams were eliminated in Olympic trials. The gold-medal mission now falls on the teams led by Kevin Koe and Rachel Homan.

# **Could Geopolitical Unrest Thwart The Games?**

As the 2018 Winter Olympic Games debut in Pyeongchang, just 50 miles from the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea, the relationship between the two sovereign states has been about as frosty as the mountainous South Korean city's brutal winter weather. Meanwhile, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President **Donald Trump** continue a scary war of words on social media and beyond, as North Korea ramps up its nuclear missile program while annual U.S.-South Korea joint military drills are tentatively on hold until after the Olympics.

With no assurance of a peaceful Games, it's no surprise that tourism and ticket sales have suffered accordingly.

Still, South Korean President Moon Jae-in pointedly invited

North Korea to take part in the Games in an effort to quiet worldwide unease about the potential for violence. Two North Korean

figure skaters have gualified, but their participation - a reassuring sign that peace would prevail - was unconfirmed as of presstime.

So how likely is an act of North Korean aggression?

U.S. and Korean security experts believe a major terrorist attack is improbable, but Moon isn't taking chances. According to Reuters, South Korea's **Defense Ministry** will fortify the Games with 5.000 armed forces personnel, including a specially created and trained SWAT team. The PyeongChang Olympic committee has spent \$17.6

million on screening measures and contracted a private cybersecurity firm to thwart the hackers some think present the biggest threat to the Games going off without a hitch.

The consensus is that, while North Korea will likely make its presence known - in or out of the athletic arena - with all the world's eves on the divided nation, the athletes and attendees will make it safely home with medals and good memories.

#### MAKE WAY FOR MIKAELA

2014 Olympic gold medalist and three-time world champion alpine skier Mikaela Shiffrin became the voungest athlete ever to win an Olympic gold in the slalom event, and she'll be a favorite to repeat in PyeongChang. With her young age and tremendous skill, Shiffrin could someday topple teammate Lindsey Vonn's record of 78 World Cup wins.

bsfnigeria

WinSport's Canada Olympic Park

QV

2.038 likes bsfnigeria IT'S RACE DAY d FOR OUR NIGERIAN LADY **II** ICE BLAZERS At the NORTH AMERICAN CUPT LETS WISH THEM A SAFE RACE TO THE FINISH ## #nac #nigeria #nigerianbobsledteam #iceblazers #bsfnigeria #nigerianathletes

## The NIGERIAN **BOBSLED TEAM** Makes History

If you tuned in to Ellen in early December, you likely got your first look at a trio of the most infectiously energetic athletes to head for PyeongChang. American-born daughters of Nigerian nationals, Seun Adigun, Ngozi Onwumere and Akuoma Omeoga – all track and field stars, too - aren't just the first Nigerian bobsledders ever to make it to the ultimate athletic contest. They were also the first Nigerian athletes ever to gualify for a Winter Olympic Games. Adigun, the team's founder and driver, built the trio's first sled with her own hands, then turned to GoFundMe for the money to make their dream come true. Enough cash flowed in to convince Nigeria to create a governing body for the sport and make them official, then propel the team through all five qualifying races. According to Adigun, most Nigerians don't understand bobsledding ("This is bobsledge?") one bit, but no matter: "They don't care. They just know that the flag is raising high!" The charming Chicago native's own concerns are a bit more dire. "Every time - literally - I cross the finish line, I'm screaming," she told the talk show host. "Like, 'Thank God, we survived!""

Follow Nigeria's bobsled team on Instagram at bsfnigeria

## 2018 WINTER OLYMPICS

### SUPER SIBLINGS

Siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani hope to pick up where 2014 U.S. gold medal ice dancers Meryl Davis and Charlie White left off. Alex, 26, and Maia, 23, won bronze at the ISU Grand Prix Final for the second straight year. They're emerging as true challengers to Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, and France's Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron.



### U.S. Bobsled Team Moves On After Tragedy

The U.S. bobsled community lost an icon in May when Steven Holcomb passed away unexpectedly at age 37. Holcomb was pilot of the "Night Train" four-man bobsled at the 2010 Vancouver Games, which won the USA its first gold medal in the event since 1948.



energy might signal a budding athlete. Not long after, the Bineys – who immigrated to Virginia from Ghana – drove past a local ice-skating rink advertising lessons. Little Maame was game, so Kweku signed her up. His girl proved a natural, and when a coach noticed that she had an exceptional knack for speed, Maame switched from salchows to short track. The rest, as they say, is history. In December, as her jubilant dad waved a "KICK SOME HINEY BINEY!" sign, the joyful 17-year-old with the miles-wide grin finished first in the women's 500-meter Olympic trials, becoming the first black female ever to make the U.S. Olympic speed skating team and one of just three women who will represent the country in short track. True to form, her celebration was as explosive as her signature powerhouse starts. Nodding her head, clapping and pumping her arms in victory, Maame wiped herself out and stayed seated on the ice, laughing along with her fellow competitors as they high, well, *Jow-*fived her for the win.

# **PYEONGCHANG** By The **NUMBERS**

Number of hours needed to get curling stones down to the proper temperature.



Number of kilometers the Olympic torch relay covers through South Korea in honor of the 2018 PyeongChang Games. Number of NHL players who have participated in the Olympics since 1998.

**111.12** The length in meters of the oval for the short track competition. It is approximately 1/4 the length of a regular speed skating track.



Speed in miles per hour a four-man bobsled can reach, putting its crew through forces of up to 5Gs.

Number of Winter Olympic events the U.S. has never won a gold medal in: pairs figure skating, curling, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ski jumping and luge.

## Meet SOOHORANG

The official mascot for the PyeongChang Olympic Games is Soohorang, a white tiger who symbolizes trust, strength and protection. Bandabi, a black bear, is the mascot for the Paralympic Games. Both are refreshingly simple and cuddly, unlike some past freakish mascots that gave us nightmares.

## Not To Be Confused With ...

Do you know your PyeongChang from your Pyongyang? The South Korean region of Pyeongchang is hosting the Winter Olympics. The North Korean capital city of Pyongyang is the seat of leader Kim Jong Un's oppressive regime. Olympic organizers hoped to alleviate some of the confusion by branding it as the PyeongChang Games with some creative capitalization.

### CAN NEW OLYMPIC EVENTS DRAW IN A YOUNGER VIEWERSHIP?

For the 2018 Winter Olympics, the IOC has ratified the inclusion of four new events: "big air" snowboarding and freestyle skiing; mass-start speed skating; and mixed doubles in curling.

Snowboarding, freestyle skiing, speed skating and curling have been Olympic sports for years, but according to *Sports Illustrated*, the IOC decided to include these variations for, among other purposes, "added value; youth appeal; attractiveness for TV, media and the general public; [and] gender equality."

The big air events involve riding a snowboard or skis down a hill and then performing tricks after launching off very large ramps.

Mass-start speed skating, which, as its name implies, features a large number of racers all starting at once, is technically not a stranger to the Olympic Games, although it has only been featured in the quadrennial event once before – in Lake Placid back in 1932.

The mixed doubles curling competition is also fairly self-explanatory: Teams of two players – one male, one female – will be featured, with each team having six stones, rather than the usual eight in other curling events.

# RALPH LAUREN ON WARDROBE

Polo Ralph Lauren returns for its sixth Olympics to give U.S. athletes some added style. Athletes will be outfitted for the closing ceremonies in a white down jacket, navy fleece pants and a ski-inspired red-white-and-blue sweater, along with some brown suede boots. Lauren said he used "Polo's iconic and authentic all-American style, infused with a modern sensibility" to create this year's uniform. Some of the Team USA collection is available at ralphlauren.com and teamusashop.com.

## 2018 WINTER OLYMPICS

FOR DETAILED EVENT COVERAGE, SEE THE SPORTS SECTION.

The schedule below represents live event dates in Eastern Standard Time, not necessarily TV air dates. (Korean time is 14 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.)

	_	_	_			_	_	_	_				_					_
<ul> <li>= Event This Day</li> <li>= Medal Event</li> </ul>	тни <b>8</b>	FRI 9	sat 10	sun 11	<sup>MON</sup> 12	тие 13	wed 14	тни 15	<sup>FRI</sup> 16	sat 17	<sup>sun</sup> 18	<sup>MON</sup> 19	тие 20	wed 21	тни <b>22</b>	<sup>FRI</sup> 23	sat <b>24</b>	<sup>sun</sup> 25
Alpine Skiing																		E
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<b>Bobsled</b>																		
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Snowboard																		
Speed Skating																		

# WHERE TO WATCH

NBCUniversal will present more than 2,400 hours of coverage of the PyeongChang Games — the most ever for a Winter Olympics. Here's a breakdown of NBC's platforms:

NBC: Primetime coverage begins Feb. 8 — a day before the opening ceremony — with figure skating, skiing and ski jumping. NBC's nightly primetime Olympics coverage will be live across all time zones and feature alpine skiing, figure skating, snowboarding, freestyle skiing and short track. NBC airs the closing ceremony Feb. 25. NBCSN: Live primetime coverage nearly every night of the Games, with gold-medal finals in hockey, snowboarding, short track, luge and bobsled.

**CNBC**: CNBC is back with its popular evening coverage of curling.

USA Network: Live curling and hockey coverage throughout the Games.

#### NBCOlympics.com/NBC Sports

**app**: Authenticated users who log in with their TV provider accounts can livestream 1,800 hours of coverage across a variety of connected devices. In addition to livestreams of all competition, the digital platforms also offer streams of NBC's primetime programming, enhanced viewing experiences, three digitalexclusive programs, streams of practices and more.

## WHAT'S NEW

# The STOR

From Foster Care To Becoming One Of The Greatest Gymnasts Of All Time, Simone Biles Shares Her Inspiring Story. By Barb Oates

fter 13 years of training, Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles took some time off to catch up on life outside of a gymnasium post her epic 2016 Rio Olympic victories. Our country's most decorated gymnast enjoyed a whirlwind of bucket-list experiences - she met her celebrity crush Zac Efron (along with the Obamas and countless other celebs). she was honored as the 2017 Best Female Athlete at the ESPY Awards. she was a semifinalist in Dancing With the Stars, she released the book Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance, and now her book is being translated into a Lifetime original biopic.

Like the book, the film begins with her childhood, following her journey from foster care - she was adopted by her maternal grandfather at age 6 - to her 2016 Olympic triumphs, capturing the highs and heartaches along the way. Biles recently took time out from her 32- to 36-hours-a-week training schedule (she's back in the gym with 2020 on her mind) to chat about her movie and what's next for the 20-yearold superstar.

Tell us about going on set, watching your life played out by actors and reliving everything.

Simone Biles: I got to go one weekend for two days and go on set, and see everyone, and then do some behind-thescenes kind of things. I'm really happy with it, and really excited. They were shooting the Olympic scene, and I could not stop smiling because the arena they had set up - where we competed at in Rio – it looked exactly the same on set. It was kind of like I was back in Rio. It was very emotional, and exciting, and brought back all the feelings.

#### Your life is so inspirational. What do you want people watching to know about you?

To realize that I'm a normal person just like them, and it doesn't matter where you start from, it's where you go from there and your outlook on everything, and to try to be positive. I want them to realize that I was a kid going through some of the same struggles that they're going through, and it's just not like I was put into this. I had to work for it. I had goals. It took a lot of determination, a lot of sacrifices. Because people don't see the mountains that you have to climb to

see what you've achieved. They only see the outcome.

Simone Biles is America's most

decorated gymnast

And speaking of the sacrifices, people also don't realize how difficult it is to be missing out on normal school life.

You don't get to go to the football games, you don't get to go to the prom, the homecoming, and that's like a once-

### bb It doesn't matter where you start from, it's where you go from there and your outlook on everything, and to try to be positive. Simone Biles

in-a-lifetime kind of thing, you know? You dream of going to prom, and going to all the school dances, and all of this, and just living out that high-school journey. I was home-schooled, so I didn't get to experience any of that. So I had to sacrifice a lot.

#### As for the 2020 Olympics?

I mean 2020 would be the ultimate goal, but you just never know what God has planned for you.

The Simone Biles Story → Lifetime  $\rightarrow$  Feb. 3

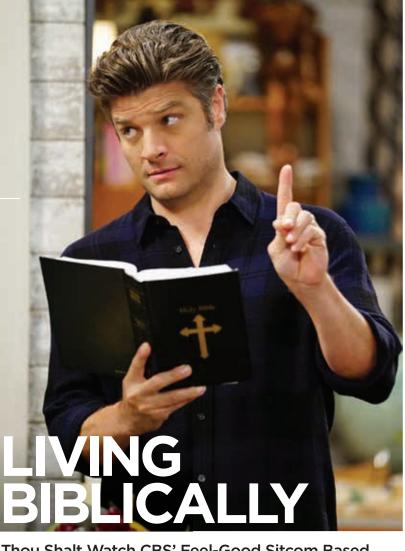


### PLAYING THE PART

Simone Biles actually got to select the actress to play her, relative newcomer and gymnast Jeanté Godlock (pictured far left, with Biles). "I actually think she kind of looks like me so that was kind of crazy," Biles says. "Very bubbly, great personality."

## WHAT'S NEW

Chip Curry (Jay R. Ferguson) aims high



#### Thou Shalt Watch CBS' Feel-Good Sitcom Based On The A.J. Jacobs Book. By Lori Acken

n 2007, A.J. Jacobs charmed believers and doubters alike with *The Year* of *Living Biblically* – the *Esquire* editor's hilarious, insightful attempt to follow the Good Book's 700-plus edicts right down to the letter. And the single-fabric robes. And the sheep. And the impressive, if sort of yucky, beard. And the bemusement of a patient Mrs. Jacobs.

Ten years later, *The Big Bang Theory*'s Johnny Galecki and screenwriter Patrick Walsh (*2 Broke Girls*, *Crashing*) have mined Jacobs' book to create the warm and genuinely funny sitcom *Living Biblically*. The series stars Galecki's pal Jay R. Ferguson (*Mad Men*) as Chip Curry, a 40-ish newspaperman who is inspired to seek a more meaningful existence when, in mere days, his best friend dies and he learns his wife (*Grace and Frankie*'s delightful Lindsey Kraft) is expecting.

Then a Bible mysteriously lands in his shopping basket at the bookstore, and Chip decides it's a celestial sign. Enlisting guidance from his bemused "God Squad," Father Gene (a scenestealing lan Gomez) and Rabbi Gil (David Krumholtz) – interfaith besties who discuss their flocks over cocktails at the neighborhood pub – Chip gets down to the business of being unerringly devout. Beginning with kiboshing the gossip. And "stoning" his adulterous coworker with a decorative pebble.

"On a deeper level, what interested me about the show is the opportunity to do something like it at a time where I think people want to watch characters that are just trying to be good people and find a way to be kinder," the merryfaced Ferguson explains of stepping into Chip's seeker skin. "People are thirsty for that right now." Still, the actor admits, the Biblically gang - which includes Camryn Manheim as Chip's no-nonsense, gay boss and Tony Rock (yes, Chris' brother) as his comical workplace pal - fully accepts that some folks might roll their eyes when Chip immediately reaps the benefits of his newly divine life.

"[Faith] is a very delicate topic," Ferguson offers. "Certainly, we're not out to offend anybody. We're getting stuff from the Bible, yes, but it's also very fundamental rules and values that all people – regardless of whether they are Christians or subscribe to a different religion or to no religion at all – can get behind. The notion of loving thy neighbor and not coveting and 'it's better to give than to receive' are basic, human, life principles that everybody, I believe in their hearts, wants to be practicing."

And while you won't catch Ferguson shepherding in his own backyard, he says that the show's "do good, feel good" message has afforded the cast an appealing self-awareness.

"Lindsey has told me that, since we've been doing the show, it's actually had that effect on her in her real life – and I'd be lying if I said it didn't have an effect on me, as well," Ferguson says. "It's *good* to be reminded of these things that are so easy and simple to do and could have such a huge impact on everybody. The feeling that it gives you, it's *nice*. To simplify it and wrap it up in a nutshell, start just by simply being kind. If you whack away at it and whittle it down to one word, that would be it for me."

**Living Biblically**  $\rightarrow$  CBS  $\rightarrow$  Mondays

beginning Feb. 26

Living Biblically: © 2017 CBS Breadcasting, Inc. Credit: Sonja

# **GOOD GIRLS**

Three Moms. A Trip To The Grocery. Much More Than Dinner Is Cooking. By Lori Acken

Annie Marks (Mae Whitman), Beth Boland (Christina Hendricks) and Ruby Hill (Retta) – the titular "Good Girls" of NBC's new dramedy from Shondaland alum Jenna Bans – are devoted moms, each with her own cross to bear. Immature Annie's responsible ex wants custody of their bullied daughter Sadie (Izzy Stannard). Beth, Annie's suburbanhousewife sister, discovers that her "good provider" has run them into financial ruin. And diner waitress Ruby's little girl needs an astronomically priced medicine to survive.

Pushed to the brink, the ladies act on grocery cashier Annie's suggestion that they knock off her workplace to score just enough cash to tide them over till they can make a better – and, you know, *legal* – plan. Except their haul is far larger than Annie banked on. And it didn't come from peddling pancake mix. And Annie wasn't as incognito as she thought. And extricating themselves from their *Breaking Bad* moment proves far tougher than they imagined – testing the trio's mettle, their friendship and their ability to recognize a blessing in disguise.

For the show's premise to work, the chemistry between the girls playing the Girls must be money, too – and it is. For good reason, says Whitman. The actresses were, er, thick as thieves from the get-go. "We, all three, went out to drinks and dinner and had a million wines and then ended up back at one of our houses," Whitman recalls. "It was an instant connection. And somehow, I left Christina's home without my pants. All I know is the next day she texted me and was like, 'your *pants* are here.' I was like, 'Well, you know ... sometimes things happen.' It set up the whole [onscreen] relationship perfectly."

Much of the fun of the series is seeing the Good Girls each find personal empowerment in their newly badass ways. And wondering if we, too, could go rogue for our loved ones. "The reasons that these women are doing these things are [what] a lot of people in America feel right now," Whitman reflects. "People are being backed into corners financially, medically. I just hope that, in this positive, funny, emotional way, maybe we can inspire that strength in people that otherwise feel stuck. Or at least make people feel less alone that are in this situation."

**Good Girls**  $\rightarrow$  NBC  $\rightarrow$  Mondays beginning Feb. 26





Former NFL star Rodney Peete and wife Holly Robinson Peete

# MEET THE PEETES Life Is A Team Sport For

Holly Robinson Peete And Hor Family. By Kellie Freeze

Hallmark Channel jumps into its first ever primetime reality series with *Meet the Peetes*, a sweet docuseries that follows the busy and loving lives of Holly Robinson Peete and her husband, Rodney. The actress and the former NFL star juggle busy schedules as working professionals and advocates while raising four children and sharing their home with Holly's 81-year-old spitfire of a mother.

When we chatted with Holly, she shared her hope that *Meet the Peetes* would infuse the oft-contentious reality TV genre with a light of affirmation. "I really felt like it would be a good positive thing for us to do an inspirational and aspirational reality program with humor and heart," she says. "We have conflict, too, but we resolve it together as a family."

Thanks to Rodney's 16-year career as an NFL quarterback, Holly reveals that when it comes to parenting 20-year-old fraternal twins Rodney Jackson (RJ) and Ryan, and younger sons Robinson and Roman, success comes from treating life like a team sport. "We laugh about it and joke that Rodney's always coming up with these sports analogies: 'You're on the 20yard line, and you're driving in ...'" Holly laughs. "But the reality is – we *are* a team. When life is touch you team up and

... When life is tough, you team up, and you huddle up, and you get a game plan, and you execute that game plan together."

Meet the Peetes  $\rightarrow$  Hallmark Channel  $\rightarrow$  Sundays beginning Feb. 18

# ERIC CLAPTON: LIFE IN 12 BARS

# Film Spotlights The Highs And Lows Of The Mesmerizing Music Legend. By Eric Kohanik

Eric Clapton's life has been quite a roller-coaster ride. And the 72-year-old music legend isn't afraid to admit it. In fact, he was keen to shine a spotlight on both the highs and lows of that ride. And that's exactly what happens in *Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars*, a mesmerizing two-hourand-15-minute documentary that makes its TV debut on Showtime.

Directed by Lili Fini Zanuck, the production actually had its world premiere back in September at the 2017 Toronto

International Film Festival. I had the pleasure of moderating a press conference with Clapton and Zanuck the day after the film's debut. The easygoing Clapton was open and sincere as he fielded questions. As for the documentary, that was something in his mind for a few years.

"The idea had been floating around with a group of friends, and it wasn't really coming to fruition," Clapton recalled. "I actually tried to assemble it. I got in touch with a couple of friends, with a lot of material. And I knew that there was enough there to make a movie with, but what I didn't want was for there to be a film [to] come out after I died, that I didn't think was any good - I mean, as if I would know. I didn't really want to see it. ... But I wanted to know that it would be OK." Clapton and Zanuck had worked together on Rush, a 1991 movie directed by Zanuck that featured a soundtrack composed by Clapton. So, when Clapton got serious about his idea, he turned to her.

The journey of *Eric Clapton: Life* in 12 Bars is a captivating one, using

some stunning archival resources. "This wasn't a period of time where people, like, whipped out a phone and said, 'Oh, let me have my picture taken with you,'" Zanuck points out. "It becomes a lot of detective work. Some of the places where we got the footage was surprising. We were lucky."

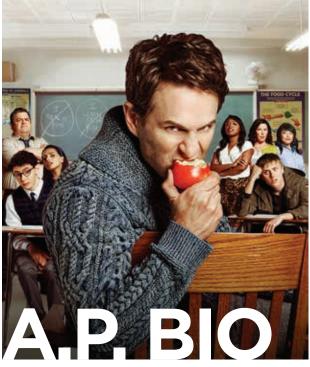
The film doesn't pull any punches in telling Clapton's story, either. As well as honoring his numerous musical achievements, it also focuses on the darker sides of his life, including drug and alcohol addictions, personal tragedies and various family struggles. "I was somewhat concerned that there may be an impression, because we've been friends for so long, that I would whitewash something or Eric would say, 'Take it out,'" Zanuck explains. "None of that happened because of the trust that we have and the fact that he gave me this responsibility and didn't secondquess me."

There are some elements in the film that even avid Clapton fans may be surprised to see. "It's very difficult in places," Clapton admits. "But, overall, it was a great thing to see from beginning to end. ... The last section is my favorite part because I look like I've got a smile on my face for the first time in my life."

That smile comes during a segment focusing on a rehab clinic that Clapton founded in 1997 in Antigua to help people suffering from addictions. "The underlying theme for me was to show that, from all of that mess, I could still come to be a well-behaved human being with a sense of responsibility," he said. "So, all of that stuff that went before has brought me to that."

Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars  $\rightarrow$  Showtime  $\rightarrow$  Feb. 10

There are stories in this film that even avid Eric Clapton fans will be surprised to learn



#### Glenn Howerton Is A Teacher Who Refuses To Teach In NBC's New Laugher. By Bella Barbiere

"I've always had a lot of fun playing characters who think they are better than they really are. I think it's just something that I find really funny in real life," Glenn Howerton reveals. The *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* star is talking about his new role in NBC's *A.P. Bio.* His character, the vengeful and riotous Jack Griffin, is a disgraced Harvard professor who reluctantly returns to his hometown to teach high-school biology.

"For various reasons, he was passed up for tenure. He believed it was some kind of internal grudge between him and his boss," Howerton explains. "He ends up getting in a fistfight with an 80-year-old man [who kicks his butt], and he gets fired."

With no money to his name, Jack moves back to his hometown of Toledo, Ohio, and accepts a job at his local high school. "I think he is teaching A.P. Biology because that was the only position that was open, but he has no intention of teaching it," Howerton says. "It's a reversal of the movie that you've seen one thousand times where the teacher goes into the classroom of really out-of-control kids who have no interest in learning anything and turns the whole class around."

The real fun begins when Jack realizes his students are actually smart and seizes the opportunity "to basically turn them into his lackeys," Howerton says. "He begins using them to get revenge on people and try to get his dream job, which is head of the philosophy department at Stanford."

But underneath the snark and biting arrogance is a softer side to Jack. "He sort of ends up being a role model in spite of the fact that he's not a role model. ... What I love about Jack is that he doesn't treat kids like they're kids. He does this beautiful thing by saying, 'I'm not going to stand up here and be your babysitter.'"

While Jack would get an F as a teacher, *A.P. Bio* gets an A+ in our grade book as a fresh laugh-out-loud satire on the teacherstudent relationship.

**A.P. Bio**  $\rightarrow$  NBC  $\rightarrow$  Sneak Peek Feb. 1; Airs Thursday beginning March 1



# **"INDEPENDENT LENS"**

Celebrates Black History Month With A Pair Of Stirring Films. By Lori Acken

# WINNIE Feb. 5

In 2004, filmmaker Pascale Lamche debuted Accused #1: Nelson Mandela, documenting 1963's notorious Rivonia Trial in South Africa, which charged 10 leaders in the anti-apartheid movement with sabotage and led to Nelson Mandela's 27-year imprisonment. Thirteen years later, *Winnie*, her thoroughly researched, bold biography of Mandela's equally impassioned former

wife, took the independent film circuit by storm. To craft the intimate portrait, which Lamche calls a "political thriller," she interviewed Winnie Mandela multiple times and also spoke with her intimates and enemies to shape a stirring portrait of a woman undeterred by the worst adversity, but often tailed by controversy. Her battle to liberate South Africa from white supremacy is legendary, but were her frequent legal

woes ego-driven and self-inflicted or the work of secret enemies and an inscrutable national patriarchy?

### **TELL THEM WE ARE RISING:** The Story Of Black Colleges And Universities Feb. 19

Emmy-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson (Freedom Riders) explores the 150-year history of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and the profound power of higher education to transform lives, advance civil rights and reshape our national identity. Nelson, whose own parents were HBCU grads, uses archival footage, letters, diaries, photos and home movies to bring to life tenacious Americans determined to create colleges that embraced black students, and, in doing so, presented an incubator and national platform for educated and powerful African-American voices that refused to go unheard. "If education is a cornerstone of society, then HBCUs are the groundwork for advancing justice in America," Nelson said in his director's statement. "Thoroughly examining the history of HBCUs not only allowed me to highlight their importance within black communities, but demonstrate how they were instrumental to the formation of protest movements across the United States."

NAT

Rick (Andrew Lincoln) and Carl (Chandler Riggs) prepare for the worst

# THE WALKING DEAD

We Turn To Jesus And The Doctor As Season 8 Returns With The Loss Of A Fan Favorite. By Lori Acken

Alexandria's in ashes. The Saviors are free. So, is Negan on top as we rejoin *The Walking Dead* Season 8, as the newly homeless Rick deals with epic heartbreak (see sidebar)? With matters of life and death direr than ever, we ask Jesus – a.k.a. Tom Payne – and our favorite brand-new wino, Dr. Eugene Porter (that's Josh McDermitt), for intel on both sides as "All Out War" continues.

#### On "Why Carl?! Whyyy?!"

Josh McDermitt: You start to go, "Who has complete immunity on this show?" Carl was always on that list, because at the heart of it, this is a show about a man and his son surviving in the apocalypse. But what does [his death] do to the story? What does that turn Rick into? What does that make [other] people deal with in their own lives? It allows us to explore some really cool places.

**Tom Payne:** Carl and Jesus are on a similar page in the respect of how we should proceed and the pointlessness of all of it – but Carl is, to many people, the future of the show and the future of life. The world is very different with no children, because there *is* no future.

#### On The Decimation Of The Sanctuary And Alexandria

**McDermitt:** People are focused on Alexandria being blown to bits, but I don't think the Sanctuary is in a good place either, even though I *do* feel like they have the upper hand in this situation. We're going to explore a lot of "what's left," you could say. This is a world where resources are finite, and now we're

expending them at a greater rate than we ever have before – and I may or may *not* be talking about bullets and food.

#### On The Value Of Hilltop's Savior POWs

**Payne:** This is the first instance where Jesus made a decision which affects everyone else around him. So, when Maggie comes back to the Hilltop and kills the Savior who Jesus saved a few episodes before, he has to accept that. He sees within Maggie an inherent goodness, and he's absolutely there to be a right-hand man, but he'll fight for his beliefs.

**McDermitt:** It's scary, because [Maggie] can come close to being unhinged. We're not too far out from the deaths of Glenn and Abraham – and she's pregnant. We would hope that she would lean into being this moral compass that the show definitely needs. But she could go just as far in the other direction, and we're starting to see the seedlings of that now.

#### **On Eugene's Wobbly Allegiances**

**McDermitt:** He's been forced to confront the decisions he's made in the past and the ones he wants to make moving forward. When he helps carve a path for Dr. Carson and Gabriel to escape, this is not just, "I'm going to help them escape." This is going to help save Maggie's child. ... [But] he still has the tape [of Dwight's confession]. That may come back; it may not. When Eugene says, "I am Negan," yeah, he's Negan – to Negan. But he's Eugene to Eugene.

The Walking Dead  $\rightarrow$  AMC  $\rightarrow$  Sundays beginning Feb. 25

# THAT BITES:

Contrary To The Comics, Carl's A Goner

However you feel about the surprise fate of Chandler Riggs' Carl Grimes, "indifferent" probably isn't it. While some fans stayed warm to the moody teen, plenty of other The Walking Dead faithful considered Grimes Jr. disposable goods once he evolved from Shane's hat-wearin'. frog-chasin' little buckaroo into a rash smartass with a twitchy trigger finger.

In Dead's seventh and eighth seasons, Carl wandered in and out of the storvline, but the bits of plot he had been given - Negan's dream progeny, pointer-outer of Rick's hypocrisy, introspective peacenik and keeper of Alexandria - allowed even detractors to root for the kid.

And then showrunner Scott Gimple opted to buck the comics, stunning Riggs, the cast and the graphic novel faithful who eagerly awaited Carl-



centric, post "All Out War" storvlines that saw the boy mature into a morally upright leader. Carl. a seasoned walkeroffer, somehow took a deadly bite, while toddler sister Judith (who expired along with her mother in print) improbably lives on.

A young Chandler Riggs

And Riggs, an original cast member, who was just 10 when he joined the show, was suddenly out of a job.

Riggs' livid dad used social media to put both Gimple and AMC on blast before walking back his vitriol toward the folks who made his son a star. Happily, the younger Riggs - who lopped off his flowing "Carl" locks, moved to L.A. and joined the upcoming drug thriller Inherit the Viper - sees the silver lining. The 18-year-old told Entertainment Weekly that "in terms of typecasting and my career, it's the best move for me."

#### Arielle Carver-O'Neill and Bruce Campbell

# S EVIL DEAD

The Chainsaw-Wielding, Bloody-Messy Monster Fighter Has A Daughter! Now What? By Barb Oates

Well, evil still isn't done with Ash, Kelly and Pablo, but Season 3 finds them with maybe even a bigger challenge - protecting Ash's long-lost daughter, Brandy, from the crazy carnage involved in saving humanity. Like father, like daughter, Brandy proves she's no pushover when it comes to fighting the deadites. Playing Ash's daughter is newcomer Arielle Carver-O'Neill, who tells us a little more about this interesting new family dynamic.

#### A bit of insight on who Brandy is ...

Arielle Carver-O'Neill: Brandy is her own person. She got thrown into this whole world, which, of course, is Ash's domain that she knows nothing about. She gets pushed into the fight against evil completely unprepared, as anyone would be, and in a very, very horrific and traumatic way. ... She's very guarded against anyone new in her life, like Ash.

#### And learning that Ash (Bruce Campbell) is your father ...

Let's be honest, if you found out that your real father was a chainsaw-handed demon fighter, it would be a hard pill to swallow at first. ... She's a lot like Ash. She's quite stubborn and very strong-willed, and they also have a very similar sense of humor. That being said, they do grow a lot closer throughout the show. ... She inspires him to be the hero that he's never really thought he could be, or he was. And he inspires her to find her own strength.

#### Any chance Ash is going to get all soft on us?

Oh, I wouldn't say softer. It's certainly still got the same harshness and the horror's still there and the humor's definitely still there. There's just a slightly different side to Ash that everyone gets to see.

#### Action sequences are easy; it's the breathing that will kill va ...

The hardest part was actually the breathing. You have to learn ... it's like horror breathing. You know you have to do scared breathing - heavily, but trying to keep it quiet. Sometimes you're almost certain you're going to pass out if you don't do it properly. So, that was actually the hardest part - getting the breathing right.

**Ash vs Evil Dead**  $\rightarrow$  Starz  $\rightarrow$  Sundays beginning Feb. 25

#### MOVIES ON DEMAND NEW RELEASES



#### Coco

(Family) As a music aficionado, Miguel longs to express the rhythms in his heart. When he unexpectedly finds himself in the Land of the Dead, he tries to become the person he needs to be, regardless of the consequences, and return home to his family. *Voices* of Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal, Benjamin Bratt (PG, 1:45) (HD)



#### Wonder

(Drama) Auggie is a kid about to start fifth grade, marking his first time in school with other kids. Can everyone in school get past his physical appearance to see the delightful individual he is, or will this journey end in heartbreak? Based on the bestselling novel. *Julia Roberts, Jacob Tremblay, Owen Wilson* (PG, 1:53) (HD) **Premieres Feb. 13** 



Daddy's Home 2 (Comedy) Brad and Dusty are enjoying their lives as co-dads in their blended families. Christmas this year has the two families coming together, and that means Brad and Dusty's dads are in town. Will they all have a blessed holiday season? *Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, Mel Gibson* (PG-13, 1:40) (HD)



Murder on the Orient Express

(Mystery) On a lavish train traveling across Europe, a mystery unfolds. A passenger on the Orient Express is dead, and Hercule Poirot will attempt to decipher the clues to catch the killer while onboard. Based on the Agatha Christie novel. *Kenneth Branagh, Penélope Cruz, Johnny Depp* (PG-13, 1:54) (HD)



(Family) A group of animals, yearning for adventure, follows a bright star that leads them to a couple whose child is in danger. These animals soon become the heroes in this unique perspective on the story of the first Christmas. *Voices of Steven Yeun, Keegan-Michael Key, Gina Rodriguez* (PG, 1:26) (HD) Premieres Feb. 20



Lady Bird (Comedy) Christine, who

(Comedy) Christine, who prefers to be called Lady Bird, is trying to find her place in the world. Her relationship with her mom is strained, her best friend does not fit her new image, and she now has a romantic relationship or two to deal with. Can she get through life as a high-school senior? *Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf, Lucas Hedges* (R, 1:34) (HD)



#### Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

(Drama) In a small Midwestern city, three billboards are put up with a controversial message that calls attention to bumbling and bungling within the police department. All this mom wants is to find her daughter's killer. *Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson, Sam Rockwell* (R, 1:55) (HD) Premieres Feb. 27



**Darkest Hour** 

(Drama) Winston Churchill faces one of the defining moments of his life as he weighs negotiating a peace treaty with Nazi Germany. With an unprepared public, a skeptical king and his own party plotting against him, Churchill tries to change the course of world history. *Gary Oldman, Lily James, Kristin Scott Thomas* (PG-13, 2:05) (HD)





#### A Bad Moms Christmas

(Comedy) Our three favorite underappreciated and overburdened moms are back. Now Amy, Kiki and Carla are going to fight against the ultimate pressure-packed situation: being a mom at Christmas. Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, Kathryn Hahn (R, 1:44) (HD) Premieres Feb. 6



**Only the Brave** 

(Drama) A group of elite firefighters known as the Granite Mountain Hotshots risks everything to protect a town from a historic wildfire. Based on a true story. Josh Brolin, Miles Teller, Jeff Bridges (PG-13, 2:14) (HD) Premieres Feb. 6

# At-A-Glance

February Movies On Demand

PREMIERES	BEGINS	The Odyssey	2/1
Accident Man	2/6	Off the Menu	2/6
Ada for Mayor	2/1	1000 Days in Space	2/6
All I See Is You	2/6	Only the Brave	2/6
Along for the Ride	2/6	Permission	2/9
The Arctic Expedition:		Poop Talk	2/16
A Historic Journey	2/6	Red Dog: True Blue	2/6
Atlantic Rim: Resurrection	2/15	Revive Us 2	2/6
A Bad Moms Christmas	2/6	Ridge Runners	2/13
Basmati Blues	2/9	Rise of the Footsoldier Part II	2/20
Batman: Gotham by Gaslight	2/6	Roman J. Israel, Esq.	2/13
Being Black Enough or		Same Kind of Different as Me	2/20
(How to Kill a Black Man)	2/20	Scorched Earth	2/2
Black Code	2/20	Service to Man	2/6
Black Creek	2/16	72 Hours: A Brooklyn Love Story	2/13
Black Hollow Cage	2/16	She Wolf	2/6
Blueprint	2/6	The Star	2/20
Braven	2/2	Steve McQueen: American Icon	2/20
Casanova Variations	2/6	Still/Born	2/9
Coco	2/27	The Stray	2/6
Daddy's Home 2	2/20	Suburbicon	2/6
Darkest Hour	2/20	That's Not Me	2/13
Django	2/6	Thelma	2/6
Doomsday Device	2/20	Thirsty	2/6
Easy Money	2/16	Three Billboards Outside	
Entanglement	2/9	Ebbing, Missouri	2/27
Extraordinary Mission	2/6	Witness Unprotected	2/13
The Florida Project	2/13	Wonder	2/13
For the Love of George	2/13	Woody Woodpecker	2/6
Golden Exits	2/16	ALSO AVAILABLE	ENDS
Hazlo Como Hombre (Do It Like an Hombre)	2/13	American Assassin	6/30
Hellraiser: Judgment	2/13	American Made	5/30
Honor Up	2/13	Battle of the Sexes	5/31
The Hudson Tribes	2/10	Blade Runner 2049 (3-D)	5/25
Just Getting Started	2/13	Despicable Me 3	4/4
Keep Watching	2/27	Dunkirk	5/11
Lady Bird	2/0	The Foreigner	5/25
LBJ	2/27	Geostorm	5/31
Lies We Tell	2/0	Happy Death Day	6/27
Living Among Us	2/2	lt	5/18
Mad to Be Normal	2/2	Jigsaw	7/15
Murder on the Orient Express	2/10	My Little Pony: The Movie	6/18
My Friend Dahmer	2/27	Tyler Perry's Boo 2!	
Neat: The Story of Bourbon	2/0	A Madea Halloween	7/29
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Titles and premiere dates may vary depending on your cable operator. Movies available in 3-D require a 3-D television.



#### Complete 2018 NASCAR Schedule Page 230

Rising NASCAR star Bubba Wallace is now behind the wheel of Richard Petty Motorsports' No. 43

# NEV BLOOD NASCAR Rolls With The Changes In 2018. By Ryan A. Berenz

Changes come fast and furious in a sport that's built on speed. Here's a look at the top developments as the 2018 NASCAR season fires up:

DALE JR. & DANICA NASCAR's most popular driver, Dale Earnhardt Jr., retired from racing after the 2017 season and will join NBC's NASCAR coverage in 2018. Racing pioneer Danica Patrick announced that she'll drive in the Daytona 500 and Indianapolis 500 and then retire to pursue other enterprises. NASCAR can't replace these icons, and it will take some time for the sport to develop similar household names.

FRESH FACES Young drivers like Kyle

Larson, Chase Elliott, Ryan Blaney, Erik Jones and Daniel Suarez have shown star potential, and a handful of Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series rookies could join them. 2017 Xfinity Series champion William Byron takes over Jeff Gordon's old No. 24 car for Hendrick Motorsports. Darrell "Bubba" Wallace Jr., the first black full-time Cup driver since the early 1970s, will drive the famed No. 43 for Richard Petty Motorsports.

**SWAPPING RIDES** Alex Bowman replaces Earnhardt in the No. 88 Chevy for Hendrick Motorsports, and Aric Almirola takes over Patrick's No. 10 Ford at Stewart-Haas Racing. Blaney joins Penske's expanded team in the No. 12 Ford. Kasey Kahne drives the No. 95 Chevy for Leavine Family Racing. 2003 Cup Series champion Matt Kenseth is taking 2018 off after losing his ride at Joe Gibbs Racing.

**CHEVY ADDS MUSCLE** Chevy replaces the SS it has run in the Cup Series since 2013 with the new Camaro ZL1. Chevy hopes to catch Toyota, which won the Cup manufacturers title for the past two seasons.

SCHEDULE SHIFTS The Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway now becomes the Cup Series regularseason finale on Sept. 9. Las Vegas' second Cup Series date opens the playoffs on Sept. 16. There will now be two short-track races in the playoffs with Richmond's race moving to Sept. 22. Charlotte's playoff race on Sept. 30 will be run on a combined road course/oval (a "roval"). Dover's first race moves to May 6, and Chicagoland's race moves to July 1.

NASCAR ON TV Speedweeks at Daytona begin on FS1 with the Advance Auto Parts Clash Feb. 11 and the Can-Am Duels Feb. 15. FOX airs the Daytona 500 Feb. 18, and FOX and FS1 combine to air the first half of the Cup and Xfinity Series seasons. NBC and NBCSN take over coverage of the second half. FS1 airs the Camping World Truck Series, with the Oct. 13 race at Talladega airing on FOX.

# The **DEPTH CHART**

#### NBA All-Star Weekend

The NBA switches from East vs. West to a fantasy-draft style format for this year's All-Star Game. **TNT** airs the All-Star festivities from the Staples Center in Los Angeles Feb. 16-18.

#### **NHL Hockey**

The NHL doesn't break for the Olympics, but **NBCSN**'s NHL coverage does. Highlights of the sparse schedule include Boston at N.Y. Rangers (Feb. 7) and Detroit at St. Louis (Feb. 28).

### **College Basketball**

Madness is just around the corner. Top college hoops matchups include Duke at North Carolina (**ESPN**, Feb. 8), Villanova at Xavier (**FOX**, Feb. 17), Oklahoma at Kansas (**ESPN**, Feb. 19) and Michigan State at Wisconsin (**CBS**, Feb. 25).

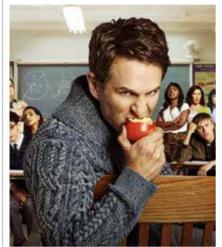
### 30 for 30: The Two Bills

ESPN's *30 for 30* documentary series reunites NFL coaching greats Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick for a sit-down interview and a look back at their long and complicated coaching partnership. (**ESPN**, Feb. 1)

Patriots head coach Bill Belichick grew from Bill Parcells' coaching tree

#### SHORT LIST

#### 30 for 30: The Two Bills, ESPN



A.P. Bio, NBC – Sneak Peek 1 The Good Place, NBC - Season Finale

Strike Back. Cinemax - Season Premiere 2 Dope Queens, HBO - New Series Great Performances: "Nas Live From the Kennedy Center: Classical Hip-Hop," PBS

The Simone Biles Story, Lifetime - Original Film

Puppy Bowl XIV, Animal Planet Super Bowl LII, NBC

# 5

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**Better Late Than Never, NBC** - Season Finale The Wall, NBC - Season Finale Winnie, PBS

#### 6 Ellen's Game of Games, NBC - Season Finale

# We Break Down The Month's Biggest And Best Programming So You Never Miss A Must-See Minute.

Knightfall, History - Season Finale

## 9

College Basketball: Duke at North Carolina, ESPN

2018 Winter Olympics: **Opening Ceremony, NBC** 

Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars, Showtime

The Radical Story of Patty Hearst, **CNN** – New Series Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series: Advance Auto Parts Clash, FS1 Homeland, Showtime - Season Premiere

DC's Legends of Tomorrow, The CW - New Episodes

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series: **Can-Am Duels**, FS1

Mozart in the Jungle, Amazon - Season Premiere

College Basketball: Villanova at Xavier, FOX

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500, FOX Meet the Peetes. Hallmark Channel - New Series When Calls the Heart. Hallmark Channel – Season Premiere Last Week Tonight With John Oliver, HBO – Season Premiere 2018 NBA All-Star Game, TNT

College Basketball: Oklahoma at Kansas, ESPN



Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of **Black Colleges and Universities, PBS** 

The Tick, Amazon - New Episodes

Talking Dead, AMC - Midseason Premiere The Walking Dead, AMC - Midseason Premiere College Basketball: Michigan State at Wisconsin, CBS 2018 Winter Olympics: **Closing Ceremony, NBC** Ash vs Evil Dead. Starz Season Premiere

Living Biblically, CBS - New Series UnREAL, Lifetime - Season Premiere Good Girls, NBC - New Series The Voice. NBC - Season Premiere

# American Creed, PBS

Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and the Notorious B.I.G., USA Network - New Series

**Designated Survivor, ABC** - New Episodes Survivor, CBS - Season Premiere Glam Masters, Lifetime - New Series



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