

MIDSEASON FIRST LOOK

Channel Guide[®]

January 2018 • \$7.99

magazine

13
NEW
MUST-
WATCH
SHOWS

JANE SEYMOUR
Let's Get Physical

Steven Soderbergh Innovates Storytelling With **MOSAIC**

The True Story That Shocked The World **WACO**

Dakota Fanning

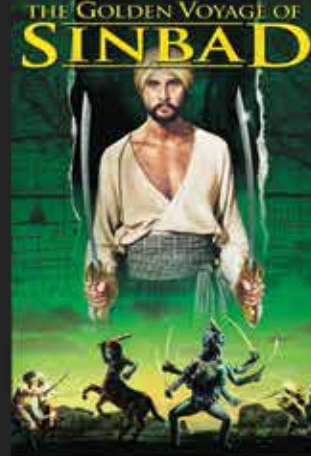
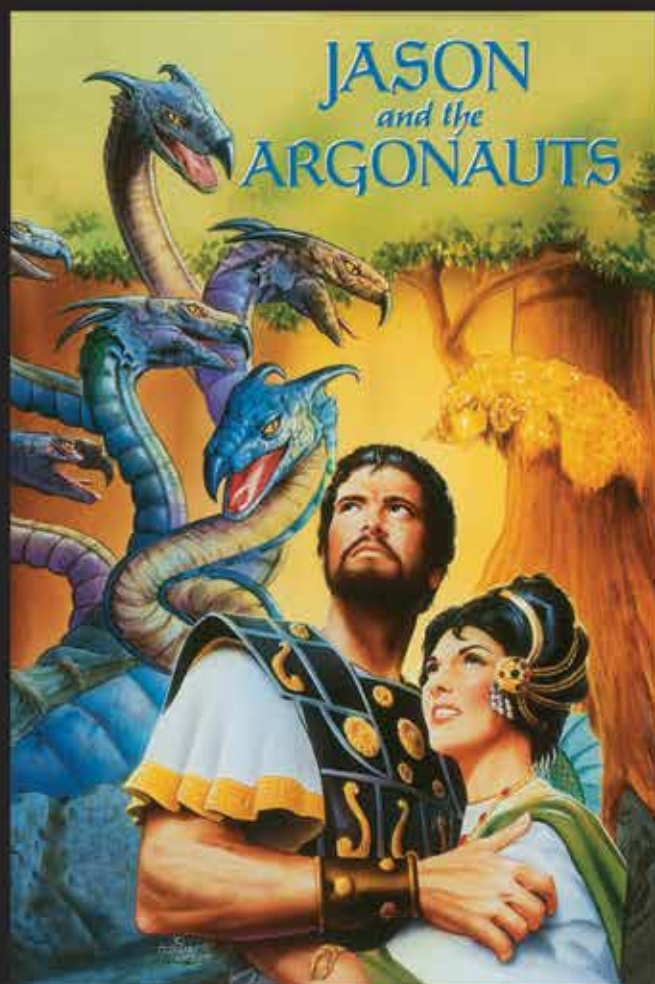
On TNT's Psychological Thriller
THE ALIENIST

THE X-FILES
DIVORCE
THE BLACKLIST
TAKEN



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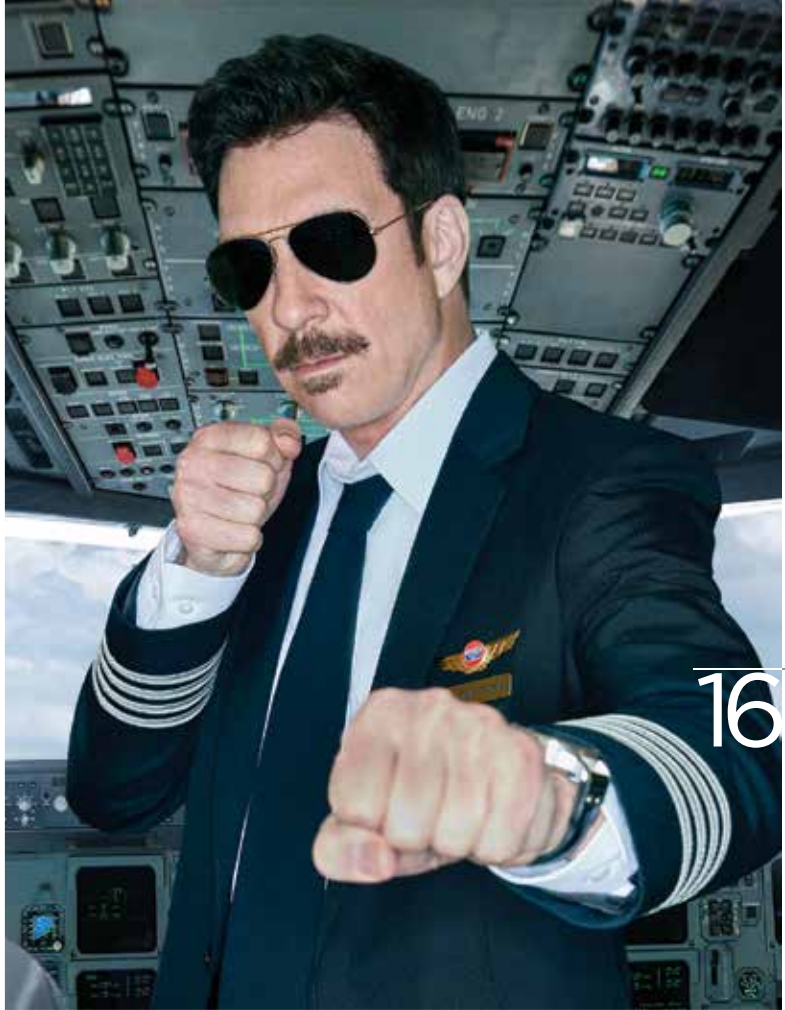
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From the guys who brought us *Anchorman* and *Talladega Nights* comes this workplace comedy starring Dylan McDermott

13 Cocaine Godmother
Catherine Zeta-Jones stars as drug lord Griselda Blanco in this captivating biopic.

14 The Assassination Of Gianni Versace
The second installment of Ryan Murphy's *American Crime Story* explores the fashion icon's murder.

NEXT MONTH
It's Winter Olympics XXIII. We'll detail everything you need to know about the games airing Feb. 9-25 from PyeongChang, South Korea.

CHANNEL GUIDE'S READER REWARDS

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Editor's Note

A New Year, A New Network & Hundreds Of New Shows

WELCOME, 2018! The new year always marks an opportunity to start afresh and, as the wise Oprah once remarked, it also brings “another chance for us to get it right.” Oprah’s words



certainly ring true when it comes to the world of TV programming. While 2017 brought hundreds of new shows, some of which were quite memorable (think *The Good Doctor*, *Young Sheldon*, *The Sinner*) and some we wish we could forget (think *Emerald City*, *APB*, *Kicking & Screaming*), this year a fresh list of newbies is set to roll out. The networks waste no time, either — series premieres begin almost immediately. Inside, we highlight 13 new shows that deserve your attention, from TNT’s new psychological thriller *The Alienist* to Steven Soderbergh’s interactive storytelling experience *Mosaic*.

Also new this year is a major network revamp. Spike — part of the Viacom family of networks that includes MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, BET and TV Land — is smartly morphing into Paramount Network effective Jan. 18. Please note that your daily program listings have already been updated to reflect this. Paramount’s first original series is *Waco* (see page 15), which tells the tragic story of David Koresh, the cult leader of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, and his followers.

As always, on behalf of the staff, I wish you all a healthy, peaceful and happy 2018!

Barb Oates

Barb Oates, Editor in Chief

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Meet THE CREW



BARB

First on my list to DVR: *Counterpart* on Starz

In 2018, TV networks should resolve to:

Stop changing their programming after they issue a schedule.



JEFF

First on my list to DVR: Return of *The X-Files* on FOX

In 2018, TV networks should resolve to: Stop rebooting everything.



LORI

First on my list to DVR: *Mosaic* on HBO. *Mind Blown*.

My TV-centric New Year's resolution: Find

more time to binge like the cool kids.



RYAN

First on my list to DVR: *The Alienist* on TNT

In 2018, TV networks should resolve to: Air

nothing but live musicals!



KELLIE

First on my list to DVR: *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*

on FX. I saw a sneak

peek and was blown away.

In 2018, TV networks should resolve to: Do what Barb says.

PREMIERES 1/16

Random Rants & Raves

■ If I Could Program A Network For A Day ...

I'd air anything about UFOs, Area 51, shows like *Ancient Aliens*. I can't get enough of these. Then my other favorite is *The Middle*, as it reminds me so much of my own family. I'd like more, much more, of *The Middle* and a lot less of *The Golden Girls* and *Reba*. – David

I would put *Game of Thrones* on a standard network such as TNT. – Justin

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

What is your favorite event you watch in the Winter Olympics?

Email us at letters@ntvbmedia.com

■ What Happened To “Ten Days In The Valley”?

I'm so annoyed with ABC. I was following the new Kyra Sedgwick drama that had her searching for her missing daughter Lake, and now it's not on Sundays anymore. What's up with that? – Mary

After four episodes, ABC pulled the series from Sunday nights and replaced it with “Shark Tank.” The network took a short break with airings before moving “Ten Days in the Valley” to Saturdays in mid-December. A two-hour season finale will air on Jan. 6, so you should get your answers on whether she'll ever get her daughter Lake back.

■ Looking For More Horror

I just finished overdosing on all of October's scream-and-holler horror films. Syfy, AMC and TCM all did very well with a great variety. My favorite is the original, very first *The Exorcist*, but it has to be uncut and unedited. Then what really scares me are *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* (1974) and *Deliverance* (1972). Why? Because it could really happen. Get this – when I ask people if they know character actor

Ned Beatty, they say no. I tell them he was in *Deliverance*, and then they know. I really can't get enough horror and scary movies, so kudos to those networks who did it for October. – Bruce

■ “Halcyon” Confusion

Why oh why would anyone cancel *The Halcyon*? The storyline is so interesting, and the characters hold your attention with their interactions. Please forward any comments, however many you get, to someone who may listen to us viewers. – Mattie

The period drama following London's socialites was produced and originally aired in the U.K. on ITV before Ovation picked it up. Unfortunately, ITV did not recommission the series for additional seasons.

■ Cover Suggestions

My list for who I would like to see on the cover of this magazine is: No. 1, Muhammad Ali, a great person – he has appeared on the cover of all the leading magazines and on *Sports Illustrated* almost more than anyone else [Michael Jordan is the only athlete who appeared more]. No. 2, Donald Trump because he will make America great again. No. 3, Elvis Presley – he's a handsome, kind, real person who loved America. No. 4, Sam Elliott because he is a great person and great actor. The magazine needs some handsome people. – Edward

Thanks for writing! We are sending you all a FREE copy of our sister publication “ReMIND magazine.”

■ **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.**

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SETH STEPS IN TO HOST GLOBES

The Golden Globes has certainly found its comfort host in *SNL* alumni. Only seven weeks prior to the Jan. 7 live event, NBC announced Seth Meyers will take on hosting duties for the 75th annual gala. Meyers takes over the reins from fellow NBC late-night host and former *SNL*er Jimmy Fallon (2017), who took over for Tina Fey and Amy Poehler (2013, 2014, 2015). Unlike the Oscars, the Globes didn't have a regular host until 2010 when Ricky Gervais captivated Hollywood's best party for three years standing, and then returned for his fourth and final gig (so he swears) in 2016. Here's a look at this year's nominees for:

Best Television Series – Drama

- The Crown*/Netflix
- Game of Thrones*/HBO
- The Handmaid's Tale*/Hulu
- Stranger Things*/Netflix
- This Is Us*/NBC

Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy

- black-ish*/ABC
- The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*
Amazon
- Master of None*/Netflix
- SMILF*/Showtime
- Will & Grace*/NBC

Best Television Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television

- Big Little Lies*/HBO
- Fargo*/FX
- FEUD: Bette and Joan*/FX
- The Sinner*/USA Network
- Top of the Lake: China Girl*/SundanceTV

AWARDS SEASON FRENZY ...

Every year millions of viewers tune in to cheer on their favorite stars, series and movies, and see the hosts, fashions and hoopla of the Hollywood pageantry. Here's a quick breakdown of the awards season and where each ceremony stands in viewer devotion (based on last year's ratings).

Golden Globe Awards

NBC, Jan. 7
Viewers:
20 million

Critics' Choice Awards

The CW, Jan. 11
Viewers:
Info not available

Screen Actors Guild Awards

TNT & TBS,
Jan. 21
Viewers:
3.9 million

Grammy Awards

CBS, Jan. 28
Viewers:
26 million

Academy Awards

ABC, March 4
Viewers:
32.9 million

5 Questions

With ... Brandi Rhodes Of
"WAGS Atlanta." By Scott Fishman

As a model, ring announcer and professional wrestler, Brandi Rhodes is used to cameras on her. However, having them follow along in daily life was a new experience for the former WWE beauty. The wife of Ring of Honor star Cody Rhodes is among the cast of *WAGS Atlanta*, which airs on E! Wednesdays beginning Jan. 3. Viewers will get a candid glimpse of her married life and career. Here we get to know Rhodes a little better.

1 What's one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

I'm a nerd. I was a nerd in school growing up. I wasn't popular. I wasn't cool. I was really into my academics and books. I was an accomplished figure skater, so that took up a ton of my time. Because of the role I've played on television, people think of me as the cool girl. I was not that at all.

2 Where was your first date with Cody, and when did you know he was the one?

The first date we had was in Biloxi, Miss. It's Biloxi, so there wasn't a whole lot to do. We hung out with Ted DiBiase Jr. part of the time because he had a place to hang out, a cigar club. Then we ended up at Waffle House because, again, it's Biloxi. There weren't a lot of places open past 10pm. On another date, he asked me, "Would you ever want to go with me to Halloween Horror Nights?" I am a horror junkie and have been since I was 8 years old. My heart beat out of my chest at that moment. If he had proposed then, I would have said yes.

3 What was your biggest splurge item you got for yourself?

Probably my current car, a Mercedes GL350. I got that because before that I had purchased a Range Rover Evoque. I loved it for 15 minutes and realized I shouldn't have spent the money because it doesn't have what I need.

4 If you could invite three celebrities alive or dead for a dinner party, who would they be?

Oprah because Oprah kind of has her hands in everything. If I were to fall on hard times, I feel like Oprah would be a good friend to have. Ryan Seacrest because he is the man, and I would love to learn how he went from being a cohost on a reality show competition to owning everything in Hollywood. I would have my father-in-law Dusty [Rhodes]. Dusty was always the guy you wanted to have over for dinner. He was so charming, so positive, and he would have a good time with Oprah.

5 What's a movie you can watch over and over and never get tired of?

Forgetting Sarah Marshall is one of my favorite movies.



Returning Favorites

- The Amazing Race CBS (Jan. 3)
- Arrow The CW (Jan. 18)
- The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story FX (Jan. 17)
- The Bachelor ABC (Jan. 1)
- Baskets FX (Jan. 23)
- Beyond Freeform (Jan. 18)
- Billion Dollar Buyer CNBC (Jan. 3)
- The Blacklist NBC (Jan. 3)
- Blindspot NBC (Jan. 12)
- Bob's Burgers FOX (Jan. 7)
- The Brave NBC (Jan. 8)
- Chicago Fire NBC (Jan. 4)
- Chicago Med NBC (Jan. 2)
- Chicago P.D. NBC (Jan. 3)
- Crashing HBO (Jan. 14)
- Crazy Ex-Girlfriend The CW (Jan. 5)
- The Detour TBS (Jan. 23)
- Divorce HBO (Jan. 14)
- Dynasty The CW (Jan. 17)
- Family Guy FOX (Jan. 7)
- The Flash The CW (Jan. 16)
- The Fosters Freeform (Jan. 9)
- Ghosted FOX (Jan. 7)
- The Gifted FOX (Jan. 1)
- The Good Place NBC (Jan. 4)
- Great News NBC (Jan. 4)
- Grey's Anatomy ABC (Jan. 18)
- Hell's Kitchen FOX (Jan. 5)
- High Maintenance HBO (Jan. 19)
- How to Get Away With Murder ABC (Jan. 18)
- Jane the Virgin The CW (Jan. 26)
- The Last Man on Earth FOX (Jan. 7)
- Law & Order: SVU NBC (Jan. 3)
- Lethal Weapon FOX (Jan. 2)
- Lip Sync Battle Paramount Network (Jan. 18)
- Lucifer FOX (Jan. 1)
- Match Game ABC (Jan. 3)
- The Mick FOX (Jan. 2)
- Nashville CMT (Jan. 4)
- Portlandia IFC (Jan. 18)
- Revenge Body With Khloé Kardashian E! (Jan. 7)
- Riverdale The CW (Jan. 17)
- Scandal ABC (Jan. 18)
- Schitt's Creek Pop (Jan. 24)
- The Simpsons FOX (Jan. 7)
- Star Trek: Discovery CBS All Access (Jan. 7)
- Supergirl The CW (Jan. 15)
- Supernatural The CW (Jan. 18)
- Superstore NBC (Jan. 4)
- Taken NBC (Jan. 12)
- This Is Us NBC (Jan. 2)
- Valor The CW (Jan. 1)
- Victoria PBS (Jan. 14)
- Will & Grace NBC (Jan. 4)
- The X-Files FOX (Jan. 3)

PBS programming varies regionally.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson



HAPPY 25TH, "MONDAY NIGHT RAW"!

By Scott Fishman

WWE is going all out for the 25th anniversary of *Monday Night Raw* with a live special extravaganza Jan. 22 on USA Network. Since its debut on Jan. 11, 1993, the sports entertainment leader's flagship program has been a ratings winner on cable. With almost 1,300 shows and counting, the long-running primetime series has more original episodes than *The Simpsons*, *Gunsmoke*, *Lassie* and *Monday Night Football*. Members of the *SmackDown*

LIVE roster will appear alongside *Raw* Superstars from the jam-packed Barclays Center. The Manhattan Center, site of the first episode, is also hosting legends who helped put the show on the map, including The Undertaker, Shawn Michaels and Kevin Nash.

"We look forward to celebrating this unmatched milestone with our fans around the world, but 25 years only marks the beginning of WWE surprising, delighting and entertaining generations to come," remarked chairman and CEO Vince McMahon in a release.

Over the past quarter of a century, *Raw* served as a platform for WWE stars past and present to break through into the mainstream. Stars like Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, John Cena, Triple H, the Bella Twins and Mick Foley, to name a few. The show's massive popularity led to the creation of *SmackDown*, which can currently be seen Tuesday nights on USA Network.

Foley was part of the early days of *Raw* and saw his dreams realized when he won the WWE Championship for the first time during an episode in 1999. The WWE Hall of Famer and *New York Times* bestselling author is amazed at the show's evolution, still going strong after 25 years.

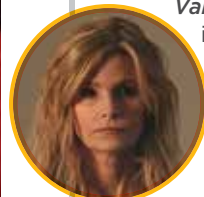
"No offseason, no reruns, no end in sight," Foley said. "It's no exaggeration to say that this television show changed my life, and has made brighter the Monday nights of millions of fans from all walks of life."

They're Back, Baby!: Recently Renewed Shows

The Good Place is good for another season — NBC will bring the Kristen Bell/Ted Danson comedy back for a third go-round. ... The FX comedy *You're the Worst* has been renewed for a fifth and final season to air in 2018. ... Showtime has renewed *Shameless* for Season 9. ... Seth MacFarlane's FOX sci-fi adventure *The Orville* will return for Season 2. ... *Preacher* has been renewed for Season 3 at AMC.

YANKED!: Recently Canceled Shows

FX cut ties with Louis C.K., effectively canceling *Louie*. ... The series finale of ABC's *Ten Days in the Valley* (pictured) is Jan. 6. ... CBS yanked *Me, Myself & I* but will air the remaining episodes at a later date. ... *Throwing Shade* and *Lopez* are banished from TV Land. ... USA Network outgrew *Playing House* after three seasons. ... Don't tell Billy Ray Cyrus' achy breaky heart that CMT canceled *Still the King*.



SO LONG, SPIKE! | Spike Morphs Into Paramount Network Jan. 18. By Ryan A. Berenz



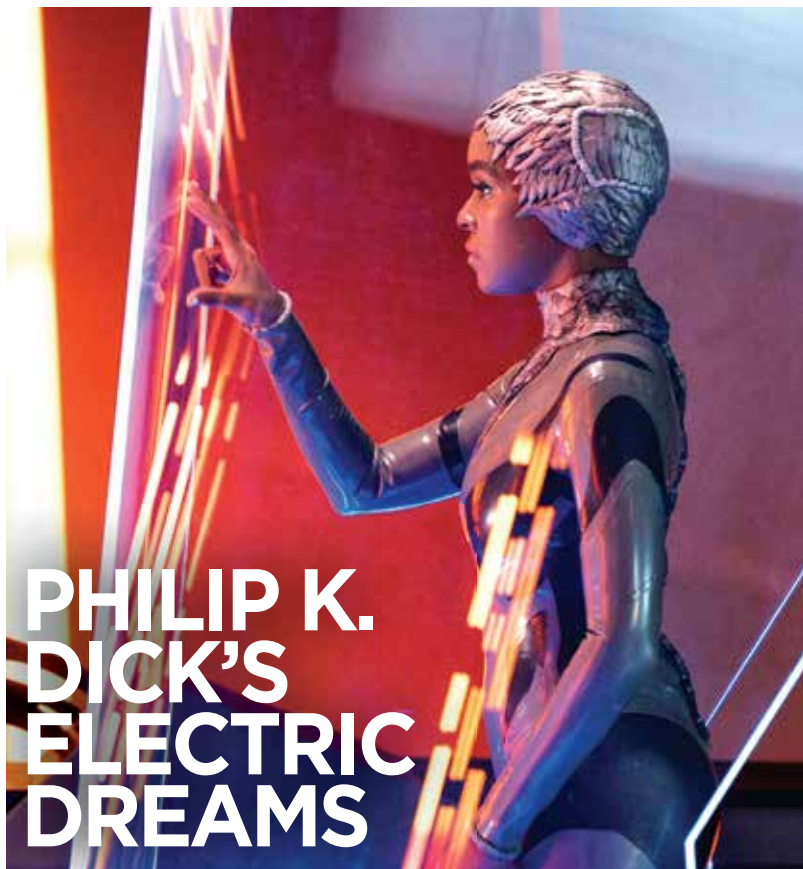
It was 2003, but it feels like yesterday when Spike Lee got a court injunction to block TNN from rebranding into Spike TV. The case was settled, and Spike had a good 14-year run as a male-targeted network. But the times and the TV business have evolved, and Spike will flip the switch to become Paramount Network on Jan. 18. Paramount looks to attract a wider audience with bold

scripted and nonscripted series. Paramount premieres event drama *Waco* on Jan. 24, and later this year will debut *Heathers*, a modern take on the '80s cult film; scripted half-hour dramedy *American Woman*, starring Alicia Silverstone and Mena Suvari; and drama *Yellowstone*, starring Kevin Costner. Spike favorites remaining on Paramount include *Lip Sync Battle*, *Ink Master*, *Bar Rescue* and Bellator MMA.

Ten Days in the Valley: © 2013 WWE, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The Rock: © 2013 WWE, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

STREAMING PICKS!

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



Janelle Monáe in the "Autofac" episode of *Electric Dreams*

– with time ranges from five to 5,000 years in the future. But at the heart of each episode, as it is at the core of many of Dick's stories, is the exploration of the significance of humanity.

Dick's works are adapted for this series by leading American and British writers and directors, including Ronald D. Moore of *Battlestar Galactica* and *Outlander* fame, who also serves as an executive producer for the series.

Another executive producer of *Electric Dreams* is Bryan Cranston, who will also be part of the large and notable cast of actors bringing Dick's tales to life. Along with Cranston, the series will feature Steve Buscemi, Greg Kinnear, Maura Tierney, Janelle Monáe, Mireille Enos, Anna Paquin, Terrence Howard, Vera Farmiga and many others.

Based on photo captions that we've seen for the series, the Philip K. Dick stories adapted for *Electric Dreams* in Season 1 will include "The Commuter," "The Father-Thing," "The Impossible Planet," "Real Life," "Crazy Diamond," "Kill All Others," "The Hoodmaker," "Safe & Sound," "Human Is" and "Autofac."

Amazon's foray into a sci-fi anthology series launching at this time may be no coincidence; Netflix's *Black Mirror* debuts Season 4 on Dec. 29, so it will be interesting to see these similar series competing for the eyeballs of sci-fi fans looking for something to stream.

▶ **Philip K. Dick's Electric Dreams Season 1** → Amazon → Jan. 12

Amazon Series Adapts More Tales From The Writer Who Inspired "Blade Runner." By Jeff Pfeiffer

If you have loved adaptations of the visionary work of sci-fi author Philip K. Dick that have been made over the years – such as the *Blade Runner* films (based on the novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*) and the Amazon drama *The Man in the High Castle* (based on the novel of the same name, and which will debut its third season sometime this year) – you'll be

excited to know that Amazon has more Dick adaptations in store.

Several of the author's short stories have each inspired an episode in the new anthology series *Philip K. Dick's Electric Dreams*. The streaming service says that every one of the 10 stand-alone episodes is set in a different and unique world – some in the far reaches of the universe, others closer to home

And Don't Miss...

The Path (Hulu) Season 3 — Available Jan. 17.

The Aaron Paul- and Michelle Monaghan-led drama returns in the wake of a miracle by Eddie Lane (Paul) going viral, leading to Meyerism growing exponentially across the world.

Grace and Frankie (Netflix) Season 4 — Available Jan. 19.

Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin return for another round in their Emmy-nominated title roles in this comedy.

STREAMING NEWS

Hulu has acquired streaming rights to more Disney/ABC TV shows. The service is now the exclusive subscription streaming home to *Designated Survivor*, and features the complete libraries of the following current and past series: *Blossom*, *Bunheads*, *The Catch*, *Cougar Town*, *Marvel's Agent Carter*, *Perception*, *Revenge* and *Shadowhunters*.

13
NEW
MUST-
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SHOWS

1

THRILLER

The Alienist

Dakota Fanning Hunts A Psycho Killer In TNT's Period Thriller. By Ryan A. Berenz

"In the 19th century, persons suffering from mental illness were thought to be alienated from their own true natures," explains the introductory title sequence to TNT's psychological murder mystery series *The Alienist*. "Experts who studied them were therefore known as alienists."

The Alienist is set in New York City in 1896 at the tail end of America's Gilded Age, when the economic expansion, industrial advances and scientific achievements veiled widespread corruption, organized crime and serious social inequality. In a dark corner of this world, an immigrant boy dressed in women's clothing is found gruesomely murdered. Dr. Laszlo Kreizler (Daniel Brühl), an alienist specializing in child psychology, and *New York Times* illustrator John Moore (Luke Evans) are drawn into the case, uncovering evidence and following leads that the corrupt police officials won't.

Kreizler and Moore enlist the help of Sara Howard (Dakota Fanning), secretary to then-police commissioner and future president Theodore Roosevelt (Brian Geraghty), to secretly circumvent the police. Sara's the first woman employed by the department, and many of her cohorts are openly hostile.

"Sara just wants to be able to do her job," Fanning says.

"She wants to be able to help other people and be able to use her skills and her intelligence to be of service. She's not really thinking about being a pioneer."

What Sara *is* thinking about becomes a part of the mystery. As the investigation progresses, more is revealed about her own dark past. "She comes from a family of means, but she's largely been on her own for most of her life and was orphaned at a young age," Fanning says.

Sara's somewhat cold and detached exterior belies her complex emotional core. "A big part of her character is that she doesn't really let other people see her sweat," Fanning says. "She can't show vulnerability because that in this time would have been perceived as weakness. But there are a lot of times when we see her embrace her femininity. It's important to show female characters who are feminine and strong, because of course you can be both."

The Alienist will draw comparisons to a 19th-century *True Detective* (Cary Fukunaga executive produced both series). Based on early episodes, *The Alienist* looks like a deep dive into a complex world inhabited by characters who confront a disturbed psychopath and their own natures.

▶ **The Alienist** → TNT → Mondays beginning Jan. 22



Dakota Fanning, age 23, rose to fame at age 7 for her heartbreaking performance in 2001's *I Am Sam*, opposite Sean Penn, and later in 2004's *Man on Fire*, opposite Denzel Washington

2

THRILLER



Identity And Fate Give Emotion To This Espionage Thriller. By Barb Oates

What if someone was living your life in a parallel world? And maybe his or her life path turned out better than yours? Starz's new psychological thriller *Counterpart* ponders that thought on a darker level.

Oscar winner J.K. Simmons (*Whiplash*) is at the center of this intriguing 10-episode whirlwind. Simmons plays Howard Silk, a cog in a Berlin-based spy agency, whose life is abruptly altered when the firm he's been employed at for 29 years encounters a security breach. The breach involves Howard and his "counterpart" — a near-identical version of himself who lives in a mysterious parallel world. Each of the men's lives is equally captivating to explore, with Simmons (and a few other cast members) brilliantly playing double duty.

The kindhearted Howard learns that 30 years ago an experiment went awry, which opened a passage to an identical world. While he shares the same DNA and same early memories of his counterpart, when the world split, so did the sequences in each of their lives. Now one side has infighting in their leadership and a faction trying to take over as defectors travel to the other side and assassins chase their marks. As their worlds are about to collide, these two men are joined together with their true motives not fully known.

The series is a bit *Inception*-like (the 2010 Leonardo DiCaprio blockbuster) in its corporate espionage/alternate universe theme and has just as much emotion, as you'll find yourself rooting for both men.

▶ **Counterpart** → Starz → Sundays beginning Jan. 21

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3 MOSAIC

THRILLER

Steven Soderbergh's Innovative App Becomes An HBO Mini. By Lori Acken

The first thing you should know about Steven Soderbergh's atmospheric five-night HBO miniseries *Mosaic* is that there's an app for that. And if you haven't already done so, downloading the fun freebie to experience the Emmy- and Oscar-winning director's latest take on storytelling, with scriptwriter Ed Solomon, is an addictive time suck before you get the definitive version of their tale via the series.

The core plot of both app and series is the same: The mysterious murder of cougarish writer/philanthropist Olivia Lake (Sharon Stone, deliciously in her element) unveils a small Utah town's ugly secrets. But the app allows users to choose their path to the tale's resolution via characters who fascinate them most, digging deeper into plot details via quick breakouts called "discoveries" and retracing paths not taken however they please. You don't need the app to enjoy the moody mini, but the knowledge accrued in taking the plunge does enrich the story. And only one reveals with certainty who dunnit and why. Was it the boozey handyman (Garrett Hedlund)? The con man younger lover (Frederick Weller)? Or someone else entirely?

Soderbergh says the sophisticated character study details "what happens when your narrative that you've built for yourself is destroyed by someone else in a brutal way. Where does all that energy go? How is it dispersed? How do you reconstruct a narrative of yourself that allows you to go forward? ... I view it as

a subtle empathy tool."

Thinking app first, Solomon and Soderbergh crafted a basic premise and timeline, winnowed core characters, then papered dry-erase boards with Post-its to create fully formed narratives for each, figuring out where stories naturally intersected to craft a whole-cloth tale. The mini, which helped fund the app, is minus its intriguing myriad viewpoints but nicely beefs up some characters and plot threads. "I had to make a decision when we got to the linear series: 'Whose scene is this? Whose POV am I in here *really*?' " Soderbergh says, adding that he gave no actor a full version of the twisty script, leaving most guessing if they were good guy or bad to the bitter end. "I explained to everybody that this was a study in subjectivity and that they should embrace that — that they were all, in essence, the leads," he says.

Calling Stone's Olivia "the sun that everybody's got to orbit around," Soderbergh knew he needed a special sort of woman to fill her mountain-chic shoes. "I'd never met Sharon," he recalls of his pitch. "I said, 'Look, Olivia's someone who is very polarizing, says what she thinks and doesn't look back. She's very aware of the power that she has when she walks into a room and doesn't hesitate to use it.' She started laughing and said, 'What a shock that you would think of me!'"

▶ **Mosaic** → HBO → Jan. 22-26

Why is Sharon Stone's Olivia Lake feeling blue? Find out via the *Mosaic* event series or the app (below).



5

BIOPIC

Cocaine GODMOTHER

Catherine Zeta-Jones Stuns As The Horrific Colombian Drug Trafficker Griselda Blanco.

By Barb Oates

Fans of films like *The Godfather* and *Goodfellas* will relish the story of Griselda Blanco — the famed Colombian drug lord who rose to the top of the Medellín Cartel in the late 1970s and early '80s — who is now the centerpiece of the Lifetime biopic *Cocaine Godmother: The Griselda Blanco Story*. Griselda's

nefarious story, brought to life by Catherine Zeta-Jones' intoxicating performance, could have easily warranted a theatrical outing; instead, delightfully it makes its bow on TV this month.

Editorial narratives, as told through the DEA agent tracking Griselda, weave through the film and share the story of a young girl abused by her mother who makes her way to the U.S. at an early age to become one of the most ruthless drug traffickers in history.

Shortly after arriving in New York in the early '70s, Griselda (a.k.a. La Madrina) made a living as a petty criminal providing counterfeit passports to local drug dealers. Married three times and a mother to four boys (three of whom would later become involved in her criminal empire), Griselda had the creativity and street smarts to become a pioneer in the criminal world. She's credited with being the mastermind behind drive-by motorcycle assassins and using beautiful women and the elderly as mules to smuggle drugs, as well as allegedly ordering the deaths of over 200 people (including children).

In the end she was regaled as the Black Widow/Cocaine Godmother but "everything she touched turned to @#\$\$%." She was eventually deported and in 2012 was assassinated with a technique she's credited with introducing.

► **Cocaine Godmother: The Griselda Blanco Story** → Lifetime → Jan. 20



Catherine Zeta-Jones



4

COMEDY

Let's Get PHYSICAL

Jane Seymour Flexes Her Comedy Muscles In Pop's New Sitcom. By Kellie Freeze

When Col. Tom Force, the "Godfather of Aerobics," dies unexpectedly, he wills his gym and his fortune to his middle-aged slacker son Joe (Matt Jones, who stole scenes on *Mom* and *Breaking Bad*), but *only* if he can successfully uphold the family's honor by winning a national aerobics competition. Standing in Joe's way are his archrival (Chris Diamantopoulos) and his former flame (AnnaLynne McCord), who want the Force fortune for their own.

Jane Seymour also stars in the biting funny comedy as Joe's sassy mom, Janet. She's a former pageant queen whose body is as great an asset as her mind, and Seymour loves showing off her funny side as a hilarious and sexy master manipulator. "I think I'm a natural comedian but somehow segued into playing straight roles and romantic roles," the actress says. "As the series goes on, they really made me even funnier and funnier. They've got me doing outrageous things!"

Let's Get Physical is a farcical homage to the 1980s aerobics craze, and Seymour shares a surprising connection, laughing, "Oh my God, I'm on the cover of the Jane Fonda pregnancy workout! I mean, how close do you need to get?"

Seymour relishes her character's antics and is thrilled that the series takes full advantage of Jones' gift for physical comedy. "He's a phenomenal talent," she says. "This is his moment." Seymour reveals that the pair worked together on her 2011 Hallmark film *Perfectly Prudence*, "so I already feel a sort of maternal feeling towards him." She laughs. "I knew exactly how to annoy him."

► **Let's Get Physical** → Pop → Wednesdays beginning Jan. 24

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NEW
MUST-
WATCH
SHOWS

Gianni Versace (played by Edgar Ramírez) was murdered on July 15, 1997, on the steps of his Miami Beach mansion

The Assassination Of GIANNI VERSACE: AMERICAN CRIME STORY

6

TRUE STORY

New Saga Explores Designer's Famous Life And Infamous Death. By Kellie Freeze

The second chapter of executive producer Ryan Murphy's *American Crime Story* saga begins on Jan. 17 with the premiere of *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*. "I think the word 'assassination' has a political overtone," says Murphy, "and I think it denotes somebody who is taking the life of somebody else to make a point. And I think that's exactly what Andrew Cunanan did and what he was trying to do, and that's explored in the show."

Season 2 of the anthology series will explore Cunanan's 1997 cross-country killing spree, which left five people dead, including fashion mogul Gianni Versace. The all-star cast includes Edgar Ramírez as Versace, Penélope Cruz as his sister Donatella, Ricky Martin as Versace's partner Antonio D'Amico and Darren Criss as Cunanan.

Ramírez is best known for his role in *Joy* and his Golden Globe-nominated turn as the titular character in the miniseries *Carlos*. For Murphy, he was the only man who could play Versace. "I've seen a lot of his work, and I think his work is incredibly soulful," says Murphy. "You cannot deny the physical appearance and the resemblance, which is startling."

The Venezuelan actor reveals that to play Versace, who was a decade his senior, he gained "10 kilos – 20 pounds" and found a new fondness for prosthetics. "It took me a while," he laughs. "But now, I put on my wig, and I'm ready."

Ramírez shares that he was drawn to the role because

of Versace's bold and iconic status as a cultural disrupter. "Basically, the world that we live in is a world aesthetically that Gianni Versace created," he explains. "For the first time, he combined sexiness and glamour and opulence like no one has ever done before."

The series is based on Maureen Orth's controversial book *Vulgar Favors: Andrew Cunanan, Gianni Versace, and the Largest Failed Manhunt in U.S. History*. "The first episode obviously deals with the literal murder – assassination – itself," explains Murphy. "And then we tell the story in reverse." When a scene of the series was screened to members of the Television Critics Association, we witnessed a taste of Versace's beautiful life and ugly, violent death. It culminates with Cunanan slaying the designer on the front steps of his opulent Miami Beach home. Murphy recalls, "The assassination was important and tough to shoot, and the crew was crying, and we were very emotional doing it."

And while the home is no longer owned by the Versace family, Criss shares, "I had a moment when I walked in the building where I really could feel Gianni's presence. ... I found myself walking in there and sorta talking to Gianni and being like, 'Look, man, this is a really horrible thing that happened here, and I'm so appreciative of what you've given the world.'"

➤ **The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story** → FX → Wednesdays beginning Jan. 17

7

TRUE STORY

WACO

Taylor Kitsch Has Us Under David Koresh's Spell. By Ryan A. Berenz

"If you don't make enough noise, the world might forget about you," says David Koresh (Taylor Kitsch) in *Waco*. The noise Koresh made nearly 25 years ago still echoes through history.

In the spring of 1993, Koresh and followers of his Branch Davidian religious sect were hunkered down in their compound outside of Waco, Texas. Federal agents, acting on warrants issued for weapons violations, raided the compound. A gun battle ensued, resulting in the deaths of four agents and six Branch Davidians. The FBI held a 51-day siege on the compound before unleashing an assault that ended in the deaths of 76 Branch Davidians – men, women, children and Koresh himself.

Paramount Network (formerly Spike) launches its first original series with the six-part event *Waco*, chronicling what life was like inside Koresh's polygamist commune, as well as how federal agents – often motivated by politics and publicity – assembled the case against Koresh.

To portray Koresh, Kitsch pored over hundreds of hours of videos, recruiting tapes and recorded phone conversations, and had a close relationship with *Waco* survivor David Thibodeau.

"I think he was mad brilliant, and that would be very hard to debate that he wasn't," Kitsch says of Koresh, whom he calls "Dave" throughout our interview. Koresh had memorized the Bible, and he employed it to his advantage. "Any time they had Dave in a corner or his back against the wall, he would resort to something that no one could one-up him in, and that's going to Scripture," Kitsch says.

Koresh was incredibly persuasive, gaining many well-educated followers. "He would be an incredible coach," Kitsch says. "And the best coaches were the ones that knew how to coach individually, on what makes each individual tick, and also make them feel like they're serving a purpose. And I think Dave was just a master at that. And it does go into fear, and it does go into the unknown, and it goes into their weaknesses."

Kitsch hopes *Waco* will give viewers a different perspective on the events than the one-sided story the media presented in the '90s. "It's just a matter of trying to find the whys," Kitsch says. "Even after this, there's going to be a lot of unanswered questions. But I hope we provoke it, and I hope we enlighten a lot of people, and I hope these questions are asked."

▶ **Waco** → Paramount Network → Wednesdays beginning Jan. 24

The former *Friday Night Lights* and *True Detective* star Taylor Kitsch portrays David Koresh

13
NEW
MUST-
WATCH
SHOWS

LA TO VEGAS

**Dylan McDermott Is Ready For Takeoff In FOX's
Outrageous Comedy.** By Kellie Freeze

Stow your electronics, and put your seats and tray tables in the upright position – FOX's *LA to Vegas* is ready for takeoff. The comedy follows the antics aboard a no-frills flight between the City of Angels and Sin City, and the short flight is just enough time for the crew and their eccentric passengers to get in a whole lotta trouble and serve up a whole lotta laughs. At the center of the brouhaha is pilot Capt. Dave, perfectly played by Dylan McDermott. He's a smarmy lounge lizard of the skies and TV's most delicious new character.

"As soon as I read the script, my mustache started to grow by itself," McDermott reveals. "The mustache knew before I did." Unbridled, outlandish and outspoken, Capt. Dave can say or do anything he wants to – and does. "I think it's just one of those characters where there's so far to go with this guy," McDermott marvels. "He could just go and go and go, and you accept him."

McDermott is best known for playing buttoned-up attorney Bobby Donnell on David E. Kelley's courtroom drama *The Practice*, but the actor admits that his love for comedy runs deep. "I started in comedy in New York years ago when I was just a kid. I must've been 20," he recalls. "Then I got caught up in drama for many years." McDermott credits hosting *Saturday Night Live* in 1999 – which launched his fortuitous friendship with the comedy team of Will Ferrell and Adam McKay, who serve as executive producers of the series along with *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*'s Lon Zimet and *Modern Family* co-creator Steven Levitan – for this comedic turn. "We did *The Campaign* together," McDermott explains. "So it was just like, you know, people who know that I'm funny are embracing me, and helping me, and saying, 'Go, Dylan!'"

While McDermott steals every scene he's in – as a captain has every right to do – the cast also includes



COMEDY

8

“As soon as I read the script, my mustache started to grow by itself.”
— Dylan McDermott on his outrageous character, Capt. Dave

standouts Kim Matula and Nathan Lee Graham as members of the Jackpot Airlines crew, with Ed Weeks, Olivia Macklin and Peter Stormare adding big laughs as three of the flight’s regular customers. McDermott also reveals that the transient nature of the series also opens itself up to a great potential for guest stars. “Already, Dermot Mulroney has come on, which was, like, 30 years in the making. People have confused us for 30 years!” McDermott laughs uproariously. “So when he comes on as my rival, it’s just like ... you can’t make this @\$% up!”

The reality of airline travel doesn’t always make for a pleasant experience, but *LA to Vegas* is shaping up to be a hilariously memorable ride. So, sit back, relax and enjoy this zany flight.

▶ **LA to Vegas** → FOX → Tuesdays beginning Jan. 2

9

REALITY



Adults Pose As Students To Expose What It’s Like To Be A Teen. By Barb Oates

The team that brought us the prison-life docuseries *60 Days In* (Lucky 8 TV) turns its cameras on the challenges of high-school students in A&E’s new social experiment *Undercover High*. Seven young adults ranging in age from 21 to 26 go undercover as high-school students for one semester in this 11-episode docuseries.

“While the shows have that similar DNA, they’re very different,” executive producer Gregory Henry stresses. “It’s not like, ‘Can you survive high school?’ That’s not the intent here. It really is, how do you pierce that teen veil, that teen bubble, because it’s become so difficult for adults to really see the world through the eyes of those kids.”

Stripped of their true identities, the undercover adults turn in their credit cards and cellphones and are given a new phone with fake social media accounts, along with some coaching, before being immersed into Highland Park High School in Topeka, Kan. Only the school administrators and select members of the community know their true identities and the reason for their semester-long stay.

“You’re signing up to go live in a place for five months, and you’re going to go to school, and you’re going to take tests, and you’re going to go to class. They get that this is much more than a television show,” Henry explains.

Each of the participants had their reasons for becoming involved. Most were looking to broaden and strengthen their occupational skill sets and help impact positive change. Erin, age 25, decided to get braces to look more the part. She didn’t, however, expect how difficult it would be to keep up with social media, relearn algebra and follow lunchroom conversations. Also unexpected for 22-year-old Lina was the segregation among blacks and Hispanics and the speed at which social media was used to befriend and to bully.

The series is a fascinating and sometimes brutal awakening to the challenges teens and school staff members endure daily.

▶ **Undercover High** → A&E → Tuesdays beginning Jan. 9

LA to Vegas © 2011 Fox Broadcasting Co. Credit: Kevin Estrada/Fox. Undercover High, Credit: A&E.

13
NEW
MUST-
WATCH
SHOWS

9-1-1

Ryan Murphy's Star-Studded Drama Makes The Procedural Personal. By Lori Acken

We all know the drill. Something bad happens? Call 9-1-1.

But then what? Who's behind that voice that takes the frantic call? Who do they call next? And how do those first responders deal daily with a life-and-death job when they're finally off the clock? *American Crime Story's* Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk set out to explore the lifesaving entity we often take for granted in their new drama called, yes, *9-1-1*.

9-1-1 reunites Murphy and Falchuk with their *American Horror Story* alumni Angela Bassett and Connie Britton, who play policewoman Athena Grant and call-center operator Abby Clark, respectively. *Underground's* Aisha Hinds costars as Henrietta "Hen" Wilson, Athena's pal and the only female firefighter on her squad. Peter Krause rounds out the core cast as Hen's compassionate but driven boss Bobby Nash. The series expertly blends the drama – and sometimes humor – of the emergent situations and the gratification the job affords the first responders, with the wreckage it can leave in their personal lives and perpetually tested souls.

"What you never think about is that they go right on to the next emergency," says Bassett. "They don't know 'How does it end? What's the outcome? What happened to that baby, that woman, that man – did they make it, did they not?' ... What's interesting about our show is that we see that there are real and perceived emergencies in their lives – not just the hero and the person in distress. We're *all* just trying to do the best that we can to get through the day."

▶ **9-1-1** → FOX → Wednesdays beginning Jan. 3

Angela Bassett

10

HEART-STOPPING DRAMA



TWISTY DRAMA

BELLEVUE

WGN America's Thrilling Canadian Import. By Kellie Freeze

WGN America is moving away from providing original programming and into sourcing international productions for its American audience. The network's first acquisition, *Bellevue*, is a Canadian thriller that explores the disappearance of a transgender teen and the connection to an unsolved murder in a small mining town.

Anna Paquin (*True Blood*, *Roots*) stars as Annie, a young detective whose determination to solve the crime is intensified when mysterious riddles – which haunted her childhood – reappear and taunt her anew. "Annie is very strong, she is very flawed, and she has, consequently, had a very reckless life," says Paquin. "But it has also made her a very, very good cop." Annie's ability to solve the puzzles is paramount to solving the cases and also figuring out how they connect – to each other and to her.

Bellevue is a bleak drama with twists at every turn. The series concludes neatly at the end of its octet of episodes, making it a quick wintertime chiller that will satisfy even the most time-pressed of amateur sleuths.

▶ **Bellevue** → WGN America → Tuesdays beginning Jan. 23

12 WE'LL MEET AGAIN

COMPASSIONATE TRUE STORIES

Ann Curry Hosts Heartwarming, History-Based Reunion Show. By Lori Acken

This month, former *Today* show anchor Ann Curry and PBS introduce a moving and inspirational take on the reunion show with the six-episode historical heartwarmer *We'll Meet Again*.

Executive produced and hosted by Curry, each episode of *We'll Meet Again* attempts to reunite people who were thrown together – or torn apart – during pivotal moments in history.

"This series helps people separated by conflict, war and humanitarian disasters find each other again and reveals untold stories of courage, survival, friendship and even love," says Curry. "This is human history – not from the point of view of kings or politicians or generals – but of everyday people on the front lines of massive events they have no way to control. Their stories tell us something about what we are made of."

Among the deeply personal tales told are that of a Vietnam War baby desperate to find the American father she last saw 40 years ago, a military chaplain who helped a stranger through the trauma of 9/11, a Japanese-American girl interned in 1942 who never forgot a compassionate classmate, and civil rights workers whose lives were forever changed by the deep relationships they formed in the 1960s South.

"I think that these kinds of stories are sorely needed now," Curry says. "Knowing about the potential of compassion, knowing about the value of courage and how we find it – in part because others allow it to happen in us – these kinds of stories are really important right now."

▶ **We'll Meet Again** → PBS → Tuesdays beginning Jan. 23



Ann Curry brings compassion back to TV



Theodore Roosevelt (right) and his son Kermit on an African safari

INTO THE AMAZON

PBS Retraces The Brazilian Expedition That Nearly Killed Teddy Roosevelt. By Meredith Ennis

Into the Amazon, which tells the story of the 1914 journey into the heart of the Brazilian rainforest taken by former President Theodore Roosevelt and legendary Brazilian explorer Cândido Rondon, opens the 30th season of *American Experience* this month. Alec Baldwin provides Roosevelt's voice, and *Narcos* star Wagner Moura voices Rondon.

Roosevelt's excursion was supposed to be a tranquil journey to chart an unexplored tributary of the Amazon River. Before it was over, one member of the expedition had drowned, another had been murdered, and the murderer was abandoned to perish in the jungle. Roosevelt himself would be badly injured and beg to be left to die.

In the end, he survived to tell the tale of his greatest adventure. After paddling more than 400 miles, the expedition reached the mouth of the River of Doubt, now known as the Rio Roosevelt.

Director John Maggio says, "I was drawn to the material because I do feel that there is a sense that there aren't many frontiers left, and I think Theodore Roosevelt was drawn to that, and I was drawn to the idea: How deep can we go? How far can we go, to a physical sense of the frontier? And what Cândido Rondon was doing was a sense of Manifest Destiny for [his] country. It really was about connecting the city, the Rio and other cities with the Amazon, and incorporating people there in a very different way than we did it in this country. He believed – maybe naively a little bit – [that] you can incorporate slowly the Western traditions to the Indians as he moved forward through the rainforest. It was certainly a more passivist approach than the approach that we had in this country."

▶ **Into the Amazon** → PBS → Jan. 9



Costar Thomas Haden Church (right) says, "I love making SJ [Sarah Jessica Parker] laugh"

DIVORCE

The DuFresnes Move On In Season 2 Of HBO's Relationship Dramey. By Lori Acken

If you had trouble knowing who to root for as *Divorce* Season 1 came to a close, you weren't alone. Frances (Sarah Jessica Parker) cruelly kiboshed estranged husband Robert's fledgling business. Robert (Thomas Haden Church) dispatched Frances' erstwhile lover Julian to her gallery opening and falsely reported her to the cops for "kidnapping" their kids.

So where are the feuding exes as Season 2 dawns? Blessedly over it. And getting on with it.

"Everybody made a committee decision that we're just gonna get those documents signed and stamped in the first five minutes and be done with it and move on and see how their lives develop," says Church of the show's retooled sensibility under new showrunner Jenny Bicks, a longtime writer/executive producer on Parker's fame-making *Sex and the City*. "We set out to make it a little bit sunnier in Westchester County. We didn't want as much conflict." Instead, Season 2 — which time-jumps six months forward — is infused with a wistful hopefulness as the

DuFresnes disengage without losing sight of each other. "We definitely tried to build a much more fulfilling dynamic with them, and with the kids, this season," Church offers. "[The kids] are way more involved."

Making peace with some giant steps backward in his career, Robert finds an unexpected job perk in beautiful, ballsy real estate broker Jackie (*Ugly Betty*'s Becki Newton), leaving Frances wobbly that her ex is no longer pining. The relationship also has ramifications for Frances' friendship with therapist Dallas (Talia Balsam) and a caught-in-the-middle Diane (Molly Shannon) and Nick (Tracy Letts), who are trying to mend their own fractious union by literally saying something nice or saying nothing at all. "We gave those relationships more room to breathe, too," Church explains. "Tracy, Molly and Talia, they're such compelling performers, and it was never intended to just be 'The Robert and Frances Show.'"

If you're leery of Robert's May-December romance, rest assured that Bicks and company soundly grounded the relationship in Robert's clear-eyed

new mindset — at Church's behest. "I thought that Becki was terrific, but I was concerned," Church admits. "Do we *really* want to do that, that Robert ends up with somebody that's so much younger? I wanted it to be more long-lead, that he wasn't just looking to just jump into bed with somebody. The feeling-out process between Jackie and Robert goes on for a while."

Frances, meantime, finds passion of a different sort when she happens upon the paintings of a local artist whose past gallery experiences have soured her on showing her work. And her own love life gets a boost when Nick and Diane introduce her to their pal Andrew (Steven Pasquale). Amy Sedaris also signs on as Robert's dingbat sister in an episode that sees Frances race to her ex's side in a crisis with results both tender and hilarious. "I love making SJ laugh, and she can absolutely just knock me down with funny," Church says of his longtime friend. "I'd put her work ethic up against Elon Musk's any day. Sarah Jessica Parker could be president of the United States. George Clooney's gonna run in 2020, so why not SJ?"

▶ **Divorce** → HBO → Sundays beginning Jan. 14

William B. Davis, David Duchovny,
Gillian Anderson and Mitch Pileggi

The X-Files

Series Creator Chris Carter Unlocks The Mysteries Of Season 11. By Kellie Freeze

FOX's supernatural series returns this month and continues the saga of FBI Special Agents Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) and Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) as they search for truth within unexplainable events. We chatted with series creator Chris Carter, and he outlined where the season starts and offered a taste of this season's adventure.

It took a lot of courage to write Season 10 as a cliffhanger without knowing if there'd be a Season 11.

How were you so sure that *The X-Files* would be back?

Chris Carter: I *wasn't* sure. I always write as if it is the end, and I thought that would be an interesting ending. It certainly left people wanting and wondering, but I always write as if the show is never coming back. Luckily, the show *is* coming back, and I designed it also in a way that I knew where we would be going.

In the final scene of Season 10, Scully stood on a bridge as an extraterrestrial light shone down from above.

Where does Season 11 pick up?

I can tell you that you will find that that light in Scully's eye isn't necessarily from a spaceship. She has had a medical condition – a seizure – and you will find that the things that she witnessed and experienced were part of a connection to her son, who she's been estranged from for 17 years.

Scully's son, William, has been off-mentioned but little seen on the series. Now, Scully believes that he may be key to curing a global pandemic. Is that a lot of responsibility for a character viewers haven't met?

We are going to meet him. ... It's not putting a responsibility on him. We'll find out that it is actually his destiny.

How did you approach Season 11 differently than Season 10?

I felt that Season 10 was a standing start. We had to come

back, and we had to reorient the audience. The hardcore audience needed less reorienting, but the casual or new audience needed orienting. I find that is not necessarily as true coming back now; we're at a running start rather than a standing start, which is a nice thing.

Which episodes stand out as ones that will particularly thrill fans of *The X-Files*?

I know that Episode 7, which is a big departure for us, is going to be an interesting episode. I loved the script, and we got a capable director, Glen Morgan, who I think is going to bring it all to reality in an interesting way.

Which episodes uphold *The X-Files*' tradition of using levity in unexpected ways?

Episodes 2, 3 and 4 take advantage of the actors' tremendous comedic talents, but in different ways. Episode 4 is a Darin Morgan episode, so you get what I would call an "*X-Files* parody," but a very idiosyncratic and brilliant one and timely one. Episode 2 – Glen Morgan's episode coming off what I would call "the thriller" Episode 1 – has some comedy, even though it's a really action-packed episode. I wrote Episode 3, which has a darkly comedic element.

Do you foresee an end to *The X-Files*?

I open the paper every day, and I see another *X-Files* episode, so I think it is an evergreen in that sense. And that, because this show is science-based, there's always interesting new science on which to draw science fiction from. So I think that you could tell *X-Files* stories into the future. I'm not sure if the show will outlive all of us in terms of current production, but there are stories to tell. It's really a question of if David and Gillian want to come back and keep doing them, because I think without Mulder and Scully it wouldn't be *The X-Files*.

▶ **The X-Files** → FOX → Wednesdays beginning Jan. 3

THE BLACKLIST

The 100th Episode Promises More Heartache, Nathan Lane And A Story About A Hat. Reporting by Ileana Rudolph

On a Monday afternoon in November, the cast of NBC's *The Blacklist* gathered on the show's New York City set, which sits along the Hudson River, to celebrate its 100th episode. James Spader was all smiles as he shared some hugs amid the rest of the cast and media taking part in cake and photo ops. Between the festivities, we did get

down to business to talk about the banner episode and the rest of the season.

What's in store for the 100th episode airing Jan. 17 ...

John Eisendrath, executive producer: It's special because we have Nathan Lane, and that is super special. He is the "blacklister" of the episode. ... A lot of people said to us, "It's your 100th episode. You should do things that

are like a wink and a nod." We rarely do that, unless it feels organic. Although in the 100th episode, Liz is doing a story that is a total shoutout that harkens back to one of our favorite blacklisters. And what she does in the episode is exactly what the blacklister did in the episode that he was in and tried to do to her.

Jon Bokenkamp, creator and executive producer: There's also a story about a hat. It's a fun, big episode. There's a heist element to it.

What's next for Liz (Megan Boone) and Red (James Spader) in the aftermath of Tom's (Ryan Eggold) death ...

Megan Boone: She's dealing with Tom's murder and really kind of changing as a character, using more questionable and illegal tactics to achieve her ends. We're seeing her move slowly toward becoming Red. In a way, we're seeing how Red became Red by lifting that curtain. I think there's a real deep-seated need for revenge. When you're grieving, I know waking up in the morning can be a difficult thing to negotiate for yourself. And in that negotiation, I think she has to throw in some kind of motivator. And the motivator is, the purpose of her life now is to get to the people who destroyed her family and destroy them.

➤ **The Blacklist** → NBC → Wednesdays beginning Jan. 3 (100th episode airs Jan. 17)



Megan Boone and James Spader

Clive Standen

TAKEN

The NBC Series Gets A "More Mills" Reboot. By Lori Acken

When *Taken* debuted last winter, fans of the Luc Besson film franchise on which the series was based knew they were getting an origin story. What they didn't expect was that the drama and its core character Bryan Mills (Clive Standen) were almost unrecognizable to the Besson mythology.

Rather than give up on a promising premise, NBC instead opted to reboot its reboot, cleaning house on an oft confusing array of supplemental characters and bringing in *Person of Interest*'s Greg Plageman to oversee a more Mills-centric tale, augmented with just a pair of intriguing newbies.

In Season 2, Mills is still in the black-site Mexican prison when he, of course, witnesses a kidnapping. Meantime, his former handler Christina Hart (Jennifer Beals), now running her own private security firm, taps a pair of unusual allies to help free him — a former soldier and master negotiator named Santana (Jessica Camacho, *The Flash*) and a wry and dangerous super-hacker who calls himself Kilroy (Adam Goldberg, *The Jim Gaffigan Show*) and hasn't forgotten that Hart once put him away.

Sitting on the Toronto set of the gang's new "hide in plain sight" lair, Plageman says he wanted to add modern relevancy to the action and focus on what made Mills exceptional, not vulnerable. "Let's see that resourcefulness," Plageman explains. "Let's see that guy that can take the mantle of someone else's situation on and make that situation right for them. I didn't feel his exceptionalism [in Season 1], and I wanted to understand what made this guy special ... to show some flashbacks, learn more about what happened to this guy and why was he different."

"The very first 10 minutes of Season 2 is where Bryan becomes a man," says Standen. "It's about new beginnings. ... You want to feel Bryan's in jeopardy every time, that there's some blood, sweat and tears involved. That he keeps getting knocked down, but he keeps getting back up again. It's gone back to the M.O. of the film, which is about one man who is just relentless. ... That's what I'm doing more now, is putting it down and socking it to the man!"

➤ **Taken** → NBC → Fridays beginning Jan. 12

NO DOUBT

Count Out The New England Patriots At Your Own Risk. By Ryan A. Berenz

It had all the makings of a classic 1980s blowout. The Atlanta Falcons led the New England Patriots 28-3 in the third quarter of Super Bowl LI. Then the Patriots defense clamped down, Tom Brady and the offense woke up, and the Pats scored 25 unanswered points to tie the game at 28 at the end of regulation. In the first Super Bowl to go to overtime, the Patriots won the coin toss and needed only eight plays to score the game-winning touchdown. The Patriots won their fifth Super Bowl title, and Brady claimed his record-breaking fourth Super Bowl MVP.

Super Bowl LII Feb. 4 in Minneapolis might seem a little ho-hum after that historic spectacle.

The NFL regular season ends Dec. 31, and when the dust settles, expect the Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers to claim the AFC's top seeds,

with the Tennessee Titans, Jacksonville Jaguars, Kansas City Chiefs, Buffalo Bills, L.A. Chargers and Baltimore Ravens hoping to fill out the field. Even if they're without starting quarterback Carson Wentz, who suffered a knee injury in Week 14, the Philadelphia Eagles should own the top seed in the NFC. Other frontrunners for NFC playoff berths are the Minnesota Vikings, L.A. Rams, New Orleans Saints, Carolina Panthers, Seattle Seahawks and Falcons.

This year's Super Bowl halftime show headliner, Justin Timberlake, will try to top his own act. Timberlake's last Super Bowl halftime appearance was in February 2004, when he was an accessory to Janet Jackson's infamous "wardrobe malfunction," from which the national psyche has yet to fully recover.

We've learned to never count out Tom Brady and the New England Patriots

NFL Playoff Schedule

Jan. 6-7	AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs (ABC/ESPN, CBS, FOX & NBC)
Jan. 13-14	AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS, FOX & NBC)
Jan. 21	AFC and NFC Championship Games (CBS & FOX)
Jan. 28	Pro Bowl in Orlando, Fla. (ABC/ESPN)
Feb. 4	Super Bowl LII in Minneapolis (NBC)

The DEPTH CHART

College Football Playoff

College football's final four play in the Rose Bowl and Allstate Sugar Bowl semifinal games Jan. 1 on ESPN. The national championship is Jan. 8 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, also on ESPN.

U.S. Figure Skating Championships

Top skaters and ice dancers compete for a spot on the U.S. Olympic team roster at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, Calif. (NBC & NBCSN, Jan. 3-7).

Australian Open Tennis

The 2018 Grand Slam season starts at Melbourne Park for the Australian Open. Roger Federer is defending men's champion. After giving birth in September, reigning women's champ Serena Williams may be able to compete (ESPN & ESPN2, Jan. 14-28).

NHL Hockey

The Winter Classic outdoor game brings the N.Y. Rangers and Buffalo Sabres together at New York's Citi Field (NBC, Jan. 1). The NHL All-Star 3-on-3 tournament takes place in Tampa, Fla. (NBC, Jan. 28).



Will Roger Federer's renaissance continue in 2018?

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It

(Horror) An evil clown is terrorizing the town of Derry, and it is up to a group of seven kids, struggling with bullying, to rise up and fight back. This terrifying tale of kids going missing is based on the Stephen King novel. *Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher, Finn Wolfhard* (R, 2:15) (HD) **DVD** Premieres Jan. 9

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Blade Runner 2049

(Sci Fi) K, a young blade runner on the LAPD, discovers a long-buried secret that could destroy society as we know it. The discovery sends K on a journey to find former blade runner Rick Deckard, who's been missing for 30 years. *Harrison Ford, Ryan Gosling, Ana de Armas* (R, 2:44) (HD) **DVD** Premieres Jan. 16

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Happy Death Day

(Horror) As horrifying as murders are, imagine getting murdered multiple times. That is the story for Tree Gelbman as she relives the day of her murder, trying to get to the bottom of who killed her. *Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine* (PG-13, 1:36) (HD) **DVD** Premieres Jan. 16

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American Made

(Action) When the CIA comes calling for Barry Seal, he gets a chance to take his flying skills to another level as he begins working for a number of different government agencies and maybe even a drug cartel in a new life far from that of an average pilot. *Tom Cruise, Domhnall Gleeson, Sarah Wright* (R, 1:55) (HD) **DVD** Premieres Jan. 2

© Universal Pictures.



Tyler Perry's Boo 2! A Madea Halloween

(Comedy) Kids and killers are both at a camp with a history of murder. With craziness at every turn, Madea and her friends will have to try to save the day. Can they hack it against these killers? *Tyler Perry, Patrice Lovely, Brock O'Hurn* (PG-13, 1:41) (HD) **DVD** Premieres Jan. 30

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Jigsaw

(Horror) When bodies start showing up around town, all evidence points to John Kramer, the legendary Jigsaw. But he has been dead for 10 years – or has he? *Matt Passmore, Hannah Emily Anderson, Callum Keith Rennie* (R, 1:32) (HD) **DVD** Premieres Jan. 23

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The Foreigner

(Action) When his daughter dies in an act of terrorism, a mild-mannered businessman will take matters into his own hands. *Jackie Chan, Pierce Brosnan, Rufus Jones* (R, 1:53) (HD) **DVD** Premieres Jan. 9

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Geostorm

(Action) Climate change is threatening the Earth's survival, so governments unite to create a worldwide satellite system to control the weather and keep the Earth safe. But the technology can become perilous when it is no longer under the control of those who would use it for good. *Gerard Butler, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish* (PG-13, 1:49) (HD) **DVD** Premieres Jan. 23



Titles available same day as DVD release



Battle of the Sexes

(Drama) Bobby Riggs is a former No. 1 tennis champion, but his playing days have long since passed when he issues a challenge to Billie Jean King, the current No. 1 female player. King accepts, and a battle of the sexes takes center court. *Emma Stone, Steve Carell, Andrea Riseborough* (PG-13, 2:01) (HD) **Premieres Jan. 2**



My Little Pony: The Movie

(Family) A new pony is coming to town who wants the magic of the other ponies. Her intentions are not so sweet and innocent, and all the ponies will need to friend up to save Equestria. *Voices of Emily Blunt, Kristin Chenoweth, Liev Schreiber* (PG, 1:39) (HD) **Premieres Jan. 9**

At-A-Glance

January Movies On Demand

PREMIERES

Abe & Phil's Last Poker Game
 Abracadabra
 Acts of Violence
 Almost Paris
 American Made
 Battalion
 Battle of the Sexes
 Beyond the Farthest Star
 Blade Runner 2049
 Blame
 Brad's Status
 Breathe
 Chavela
 The Competition
 Conduct! Every Move Counts
 Day of the Dead: Bloodline
 A Demon Within
 Dina
 A Dog and Pony Show
 A Dying King: The Shah of Iran
 The Foreigner
 Friend Request
 Future 38
 Geostorm
 Goodbye Christopher Robin
 Happy Death Day
 Hedgehog
 Human Flow
 Inside
 It
 Jigsaw
 Last Flag Flying
 Lost Birds
 Lucky
 Madtown
 Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down the White House
 Marshall
 Mom and Dad
 My Little Pony: The Movie
 9/11
 No Solicitors

BEGINS

1/12
 1/23
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 1/2

Please Stand By 1/26
 Professor Marston and the Wonder Women 1/30
 Queen of Ireland 1/9
 A Question of Faith 1/2
 The Rizen 1/2
 Saturday Church 1/12
 Scooby-Doo! & Batman: The Brave and the Bold 1/9
 Sealed Cargo 1/23
 Shadowman 1/2
 Shock Wave 1/2
 Small Town Crime 1/19
 The Snowman 1/16
 Soy Nero 1/1
 #SquadGoals 1/16
 The Stolen 1/2
 Stopping Traffic: The Movement to End Sex-Trafficking 1/9
 The Strange Ones 1/5
 Stratton 1/5
 Take My Nose... Please! 1/9
 Thank You for Your Service 1/23
 The Tiger Hunter 1/9
 Trafficked 1/11
 Tyler Perry's Boo 2! A Madea Halloween 1/30
 Una 1/2
 Windsor 1/2
 WWE: NXT: From Secret to Sensation 1/5

ALSO AVAILABLE

ENDS

American Assassin 6/30
 Despicable Me 3 4/4
 Detroit 4/30
 Dunkirk 5/11
 Home Again 4/11
 Kingsman: The Golden Circle 4/30
 The Lego Ninjago Movie (3-D) 5/11
 mother! 5/27
 The Mountain Between Us 5/31
 Victoria & Abdul 5/30

Titles and premiere dates may vary depending on your cable operator.
 Movies available in 3-D require a 3-D television.

SPECIAL EVENTS

For more information on events, go to www.indemand.com or check your onscreen programming guide. Not all areas have access to events in HD. HD events are subject to higher fees.



MAIN EVENT ADDED:
MIOCIC vs NGANNOU
 HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

CORMIER vs VOLKAN
 WORLD LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
SATURDAY, JAN. 20

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Heavyweight champion Stipe Miocic faces challenger Francis Ngannou in an explosive fight at TD Garden in Boston. In the co-headline match, light heavyweight champion Daniel Cormier defends his title against Volkan Oezdemir.

LIVE! Saturday, Jan. 20

10pm ET/ 9pm CT/ 8pm MT/ 7pm PT

Countdown Show Prior

Only \$54.99 for Standard Definition



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SUNDAY JANUARY 28

The road to *WrestleMania* begins at *Royal Rumble*. Witness the Superstars of Raw and SmackDown LIVE battle in this 30-man match at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

LIVE! Sunday, Jan. 28

7pm ET/ 6pm CT/ 5pm MT/ 4pm PT

Countdown Show Prior

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Jan.

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

1

60 Days In, A&E – Season Premiere
The Bachelor, ABC – Season Premiere
College Football: Allstate Sugar Bowl, ESPN
College Football: Rose Bowl, ESPN
The Gifted, FOX – New Episodes
Lucifer, FOX – New Episodes
Better Late Than Never, NBC – Season Premiere

2

Intervention, A&E – Season Premiere
LA to Vegas, FOX – New Series
This Is Us, NBC – Midseason Premiere

3

Match Game, ABC – Season Premiere
The Amazing Race, CBS – Season Premiere
WAGS Atlanta, E! – New Series
9-1-1, FOX – New Series
The X-Files, FOX – Season Premiere

4

Nashville, CMT – Season Premiere
The Interrogation Room, Discovery Channel – New Series
Chicago Fire, NBC – Midseason Premiere
The Good Place, NBC – Midseason Premiere
Will & Grace, NBC – Midseason Premiere

6

Ten Days in the Valley, ABC – Series Finale

7

The 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards, NBC
Final Appeal, Oxygen – New Series
The Chi, Showtime – New Series

8

College Football Playoff National Championship, ESPN
David Bowie: The Last Five Years, HBO

Home Town, HGTV – Season Premiere
The Brave, NBC – Midseason Premiere

9

Undercover High, A&E – New Series
The Haves and the Have Nots, OWN – Season Premiere
America's Next Top Model, VH1 – Season Premiere

10

People's Choice Awards 2018, E!
The Magicians, Syfy – Season Premiere

11

Critics' Choice Awards, The CW

12

Blindspot, NBC – Midseason Premiere
Taken, NBC – Season Premiere

14

Crashing, HBO – Season Premiere
Divorce, HBO – Season Premiere
Victoria, PBS – Season Premiere

15

The Gifted, FOX – Season Finale
Chain of Command, Nat Geo – New Series

16

Major Crimes, TNT – Series Finale

17

Corporate, Comedy Central – New Series
The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story, FX – Season Premiere
The Blacklist, NBC – 100th Episode

18

Grey's Anatomy, ABC – Midseason Premiere
How to Get Away With Murder, ABC – Midseason Premiere
Scandal, ABC – Midseason Premiere
Portlandia, IFC – Season Premiere

20

Cocaine Godmother: The Griselda
 ↓ **Blanco Story**, Lifetime – Original Film



21

Counterpart, Starz – New Series
24th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards, TBS & TNT

22

Mosaic, HBO – New Miniseries
The Alienist, TNT – New Series
WWE Monday Night Raw 25th Anniversary, USA Network

23

We'll Meet Again, PBS – New Series
The Detour, TBS – Season Premiere
Bellevue, WGN America – New Series

24

Waco, Paramount Network – New Series
Let's Get Physical, Pop – New Series

25

MVP: Most Valuable Performer, CBS

27

Faith Under Fire: The Antoinette Tuff Story, Lifetime – Original Film

28

Waco: Madman or Messiah, A&E
NFL Football: Pro Bowl, ABC & ESPN
The 60th Annual Grammy Awards, CBS
2018 NHL All-Star Game, NBC

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