



Imaginary Mary

Jenna Elfman ups her game
opposite CGI character

DUCK DYNASTY

Yeah, it was good
for business

HARLOTS

Prostitution as an
economic engine



Jim Herman hoping
luck returns at

HOUSTON

NOBODIES

A valentine to the Groundlings
improv troupe

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In ABC's "Imaginary Mary," Jenna Elfman stars as a career woman whose childhood imaginary friend reappears as she faces a life change. George Dickie speaks with the actress about the role and what it's like playing opposite a CGI-animated character.



TOP STORIES

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'Imaginary Mary' posed a **real acting challenge** for Jenna Elfman in ABC sitcom

BY GEORGE DICKIE

W.C. Fields once warned performers to “never work with animals or children,” lest they be upstaged by their cute castmates. Were he alive today, the famously irascible vaudeville comic and actor would likely take a dim view of CGI-animated characters, too.

And that's not to say that Jenna Elfman is upstaged by the animated character she plays opposite in her new ABC comedy series “Imaginary Mary.” Quite the contrary. It merely underscores the skill it takes to act and react to an entity that viewers can see but the actor can't.

In the half-hour series, which premieres Wednesday, March 29, Elfman (“Dharma & Greg,” “Friends With Benefits”) stars as Alice, a PR guru enjoying the fruits of success and the freedom that singlehood affords. But when Ben (Stephen Schneider, “You're the Worst,” “Broad City”), a divorced father of three, crosses her path seeking help with his social media page, she falls hard. And that sets off alarm bells in the commitment-phobic Alice and summons forth her imaginary friend from childhood, Mary.

Mary, who resembles something of a cross between the Pillsbury Dough Boy and a mogwai from the movie “Gremlins,” would surface in times of crisis to talk Alice through whatever predicament she happened to be in. And now that the possibility of a long-term relationship has entered the picture, Alice needs Mary more than ever.

“She's my inner voice and my mentor,” explains Elfman in a quiet corner of a Pasadena, Calif., hotel. “Mary kind of mirrors what's going on with my character. So when Alice is a little tipsy, Mary is tipsy. And when Alice is enjoying her melted mint chocolate chip ice cream, Mary



Pictured: Jenna Elfman

is enjoying the mint chocolate chip ice cream. So she's mirroring her and challenging her at the same time, much like our own thought process.”

Playing opposite the CGI Mary turned out to be quite the exercise in acting for Elfman. In addition to having to be funny and believable as Alice, the actress also had to focus her eyes on a point in space where Mary was supposed to be while reacting to Mary's lines being thrown at her by a comedic actress off camera (on the show, she's voiced by Rachel Dratch of “Saturday Night Live” fame). And then of course, when the character moved, Elfman's gaze had to adjust as well.

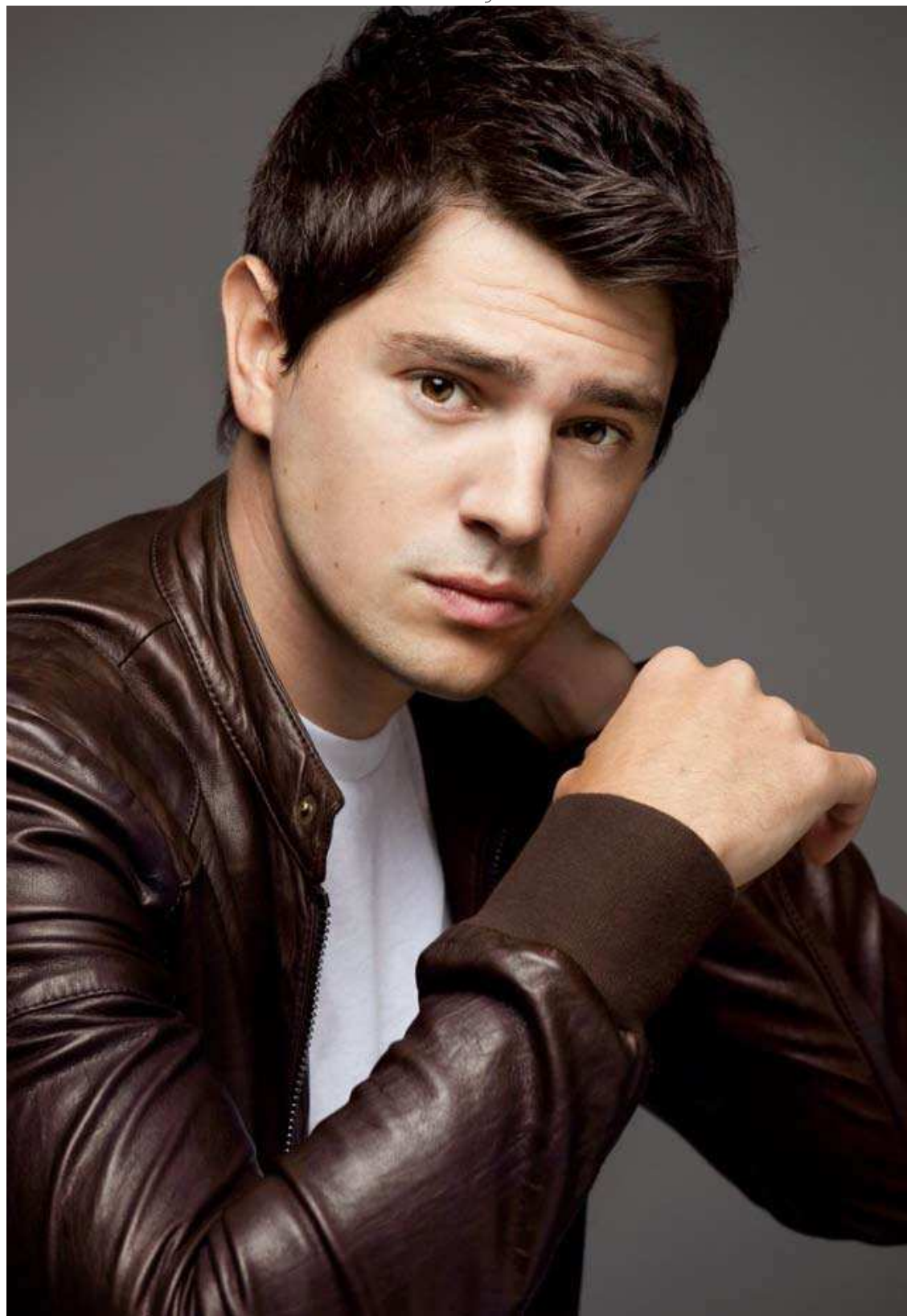
“We would sometimes tape marks on the walls,” Elfman notes, “but obviously if she's in this space and right here – like sometimes she'll be right here on the table with me so then it's a dimension point so there's nowhere to put tape. So sometimes there will be like eight to eleven eye (lines) in a scene that I'd have to remember while also focusing on performance (and) comedic timing.”

In the end, it was 15-hour days and a lot of mental calisthenics, but Elfman welcomed the challenge and says the experience made her better.

“It was great because I was ready for that next level of challenge ... which really excited me,” she says. “It wasn't just the same-old. It was like definitely the next level of game for me, which I loved.”

NICHOLAS D'AGOSTO

of 'Trial & Error' Tuesday on NBC



How is it to film a comedy like “Trial & Error” in the style of a true-crime documentary?

(Executive producer Jeffrey) Blitz would come up to me, and he was like, “We’re actually ahead of schedule, Nick. We’re just killing time.” But really, what he was doing was allowing us all to play and find these interpersonal relationships early, even before I kind of knew what he was doing. We were grounding all of our characters in what this world was going to be ... it was such a charmed show to get to fall into. By the time we got to Episode 3 or 4, I felt like we were in such a groove. We were having so much fun, and we all knew how to mess around and toss things away and take new notes. And for me, it’s been the most empowering thing I’ve ever gotten to do.

You’ve also been featured as Harvey Dent on “Gotham.” What are the chances of your going back to that show while doing this one?

He’s technically still in the show. One of the benefits of my ability to maneuver out of that show and into this show was ... first of all, that show has some really wonderful, established stars and some big storylines that revolve around them. But also, Warner Bros. produces both of the shows. They were incredibly generous to me and encouraging me to take time off from “Gotham” and come here. As much as I love “Gotham” and being a part of it, the ability to come onto this show has been an absolute dream. I hope to get back and do something there again when it’s time, but they’ll call me when they want me to come back. And Warner Bros. will allow the scheduling, I imagine, if it fits.



JAY BOBBIN'S Q&A

JANA KRAMER



of 'Love at
First Bark'
Saturday
on
Hallmark
Channel



What drew you to making “Love at First Bark”?

I have to admit what whenever I watch a Hallmark Channel show, I know what I’m going to get. It’s wholesome, it tells a good story, and it’s good for the whole family. When I got the script and read it, I was like, “This is so cute.” I was definitely interested.

As the title suggests, one of your principal co-stars is a dog. How did that go?

I was imagining this little toy poodle, and I got a 100-lb. Lab mix. His name was Alpine, and he was enormous, but he ended up being great to work with. I had a really good time.

This was my first movie where it was literally me in every scene, so I worked really hard. It was hard spending that much time away from my daughter, but she was there on the set with me as much as she could be, and it was really cool to throw myself into playing a different kind of character.

Besides projects such as “Love at First Bark,” you were a “Dancing With the Stars” finalist last season, and you’re continuing your country-music career. Where does your drive for diversity come from?

I love singing and I love acting, and I want to be able to not be in a box, I want to do everything that I love to do and try new things, which was why I took “Dancing With the Stars” last year. I wanted to be able to challenge myself and kind of do it all. You don’t have to be just a country singer or just be an actress, so I’m trying to define that and not be held to one thing.



- 4 You run marathons?**
 I haven't had a chance to run a full but I've done a few halves. I've done a Half Ironman, I've done a lot of shorter distance triathlons. I definitely have aspirations to do fulls but the training and then also the lack of available weekends kind of hurt me in that respect. But I look forward to that stuff down the road.
- 3 Does the Ironman training help your driving?**
 Oh yes, the physical side, of course, obvious benefits. Nutrition, hydration have been big takeaways, and then ... the discipline required, all that crosses over so there's some mental toughening that I think getting ready for some of these endurance events has helped me with – that I can apply to my car racing
- 2 Is there strategy there that you can apply on the racetrack?**
 Yeah, that kind of falls in that mental strengthening part. I mean, you're not comfortable in either. Identifying 100 percent is important. It's easy to over-drive a car; it's easy to go out too fast and blow up in a marathon or something (laughs). So there definitely are some similarities that cross over.
- 1 As you consider your racing career, do you look back on your seven Cup titles and say "Wow"?**
 Yeah, I'm completely blown away in that my goal is to win a race. So to have 80 wins and seven championships is pretty insane. You know, the other piece I guess would be winning with the different points systems and then all the different evolutions of the car. So when I look at it in the whole, I'm really impressed with my ability to adapt and then certainly the team – they're such a big part of all this as well.

NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson of the Auto Club 400 Sunday on Fox

GEORGE DICKIE'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER

EDDIE JACKSON'S

love of food spawns a booming second career

In the annals of athletes who have found a second career well away from the field of play, Eddie Jackson is in a league of his own.

A familiar Food Network face since 2015, the former defensive back for three NFL teams in the mid-2000s has been a winner in Season 11 of "Food Network Star," the host of "BBQ Blitz" and "Kids BBQ Championship" and now a judge on "Chopped: Star Power Tournament," in which actors, athletes, comedians and Internet performers compete for charity. It premieres Tuesday, March 28.



"The thing about an athlete," Jackson says of the show's ex-jocks, "is that they always have that competitive edge. You know, they want to win no matter what, so they're going to pull out all the stops to get that victory, even if it is for charity or whatever the case may be. But at the end of the day, a true athlete is always trying to get the W."

In addition to competition, one could say a love of food, especially barbecue, is deeply ingrained in Jackson's personality. The 36-year-old native of Plano, Texas, has been grilling since he was a child, when his dad handed him some tongs one day and showed him the ropes.

After his playing days ended in 2008, Jackson needed a second career, but didn't have to look too far for inspiration. He started a line of food trucks in his home burg of Cypress, Texas, and is in the process of opening a food truck park and beer garden. Though he's expanded his business to include four trucks and now the park, he can still be seen driving around the Houston suburb and grilling up meats for his customers.

"I'm very busy so anytime I can get back on a truck – because that's how I started – I'm always excited about that ..." Jackson says. "I get recognized a lot more now than I did when I was playing professional football. You know, when you're playing football you have a helmet on pretty much the majority of the time, nobody recognizes you. It's not like the NBA. But now that I'm on TV, people recognize my face. I went to the gym this morning and a lady said, 'Hey, you're the guy from Food Network.' So you get that a lot."

What book are you currently reading?

"Right now I'm reading a book called 'Run Fast, Eat Slow' and it's by Shalane Flanagan and Elise Kopecky. And basically what it is is just she's a marathon runner and she has a friend who's a chef and they came up with this cookbook dedicated to athletes, not professional athletes but athletes in general. So it's just a book that's filled with healthy recipes, very bright and vibrant and I'm so into it right now."

What did you have for dinner last night?

"Yesterday was Sunday and Sunday is my slow-cooker day, so I made braised oxtails with polenta yesterday. It was delicious (laughs)."

What is your next project?

"The next project that I will definitely be working on is my food truck park and beer garden. And honestly, I'm just looking forward to Season 2 of 'Kids BBQ Championship' coming out. We added more episodes this year so I'm really looking forward to everybody seeing the new product. It's really exciting."

When was your last vacation, where and why?

"The last trip I did was to Kingston, Jamaica, and I can't wait to get back. The food scene there is so amazing. ... I love going out on Fellowship Beach, where literally the fishermen bring in fresh fish from parrotfish to snapper and they fry it right in front of me. You just sit on the beach with a cold beer and you're eating this fried fish and it's the most amazing, relaxing thing ever."



Good material is priceless to a performer, even on a series called “Billions.”

Maggie Siff certainly knows that, since Wendy Rhoades – her character in the finance-world drama, seen Sundays on Showtime (and on The Movie Network in Canada) – is undergoing big changes in Season 2 (with even more likely in Season 3, which the show will be getting). Newly separated from her federal-prosecutor husband Chuck (Paul Giamatti), she also has left her employment as a closely-trusted adviser to hedge-fund titan Bobby “Axe” Axelrod (Damian Lewis), giving her extra appeal to his rivals ... who would like to recruit her not only for her coaching skills, but for her bounty of information on him.

“When I first read those (first-year) scripts, I was super-excited about her,” Siff says of Wendy. “She felt really unusual. I had been pregnant during the last season of ‘Sons of Anarchy,’ then I was a mom, and I had all those questions you face as an actor like, ‘Is anything going to come along that’s interesting?’ It was nice to encounter something where it was so immediately clear to me that I wanted it.”

With a laugh, Siff admits her knowledge of the financial sector pre-“Billions” was limited, if not nonexistent: “I had a girlfriend who dated a guy who was a ‘hedgie,’ and I worked at his hedge fund for about a minute. It was a temp job when I was just a struggling actor in New York, and that’s about as close as I officially got to it. My interests were always much more arts-focused, from the time I was little.”

Still, Siff – who stars in the newly released independent movie “A Woman, a Part” – did consult on her Wendy portrayal with famed life and business strategist Tony Robbins, a personal friend of “Billions” producers. “I think the character is an amalgam of a bunch of different kinds of jobs in the world,” she reasons, “and it’s been fun to try to piece it together.”

Check out this project from DIY!

BICYCLE GEAR VOTIVE HOLDERS

Give your decor a shot of steampunk style by turning discarded bicycle parts into industrial-chic votive holders



Materials:

- bicycle gears ranging from 2-1/2 inches to 6-1/2 inches in diameter

damp cloth or paper towel

votive candles

permanent bond glue

Instructions:

CHOOSE APPROPRIATELY-SIZED GEARS

In order for the gear votive holder to proportionately align with the candles it holds, you must heed proper size and scale. Stick with gears between 2-1/2 inches and 6-1/2 inches in diameter. Because the gears will be layered with a pyramid effect, using several gears differing between 1/4 inch and 1/2 inch in diameter will result in a balanced, stacked look.

WIPE EXCESS OIL

Before assembling the gears, wipe excess oil and residue with a damp cloth or paper towel.

APPLY GLUE AND STACK

Allow one full day for glue to cure before inserting and lighting votive candle.

INSERT VOTIVE CANDLE

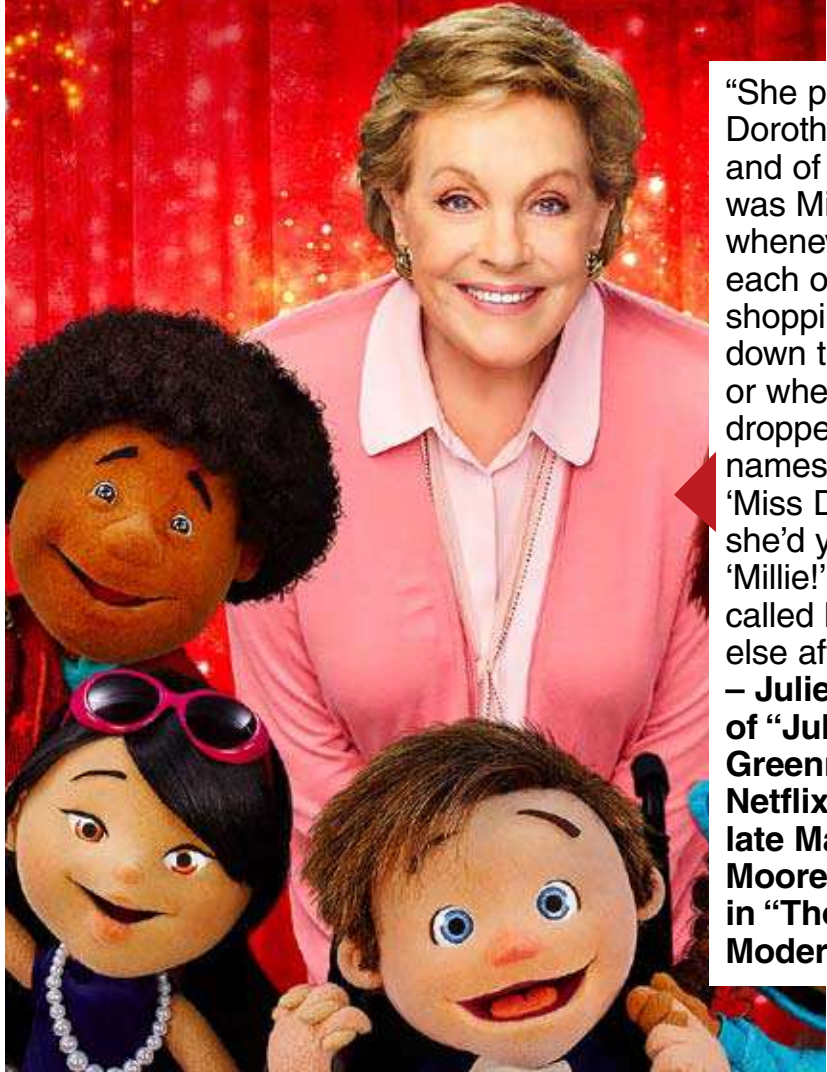
After the glue has properly cured and stacked gears have bonded, place votive candle into hole of top gear.

Thanks DIY
network!

<http://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/make-and-decorate/crafts/how-to-make-bicycle-gear-votive-holders>



WHAT'S NEWS



“She played Miss Dorothy in the film, and of course, I was Millie. And whenever we saw each other – in a shopping aisle or down the street or wherever – we dropped our real names and I’d say, ‘Miss Dorothy!’ And she’d yell back, ‘Millie!’ I never called her anything else after that.”
– Julie Andrews of “Julie’s Greenroom” on Netflix, about the late Mary Tyler Moore, her co-star in “Thoroughly Modern Millie”



“They are both beautifully written parts, and it’s just a completely different vein. And one of the things that I like about having played these two characters – and having them on the air virtually at the same time – is they couldn’t possibly be more different, one from the other.” – John Lithgow of “Trial & Error” on NBC, on doing both that show and Netflix’s “The Crown”



“I just feel like it’s a win-win for the actors, for the writers and for the audience. I feel that the writing deepens, the connections with the actors deepen, and I think the audience is feeling that depth as well. I think we’re starting a trend.” – Lili Taylor of “American Crime” on ABC, on being a part of the series’ returning ensemble

WHAT'S TRENDING

ON DVRs



Terrence Howard of "Empire" on Fox

“I watch reruns of ‘MASH’ and I also watch ‘Game of Thrones.’ ... I became a fan of ‘Game of Thrones’ this year and I binge-watched. I never binge-watched anything before in my life. The work in there is amazing work. ... And ‘Westworld,’ too.”



Lesley Manville of “Harlots” on Hulu

“I don’t watch television very much but I have enjoyed ‘Fleabag,’ which is a comedy. ... ‘Catastrophe’ I liked a lot, written by Sharon Horgan. And I’m on episode 9 of ‘The Crown,’ which I’m enjoying hugely.”



Maggie Siff of “Billions” on Showtime

“The last thing we watched was ‘The Crown,’ which I really loved. And I’m partial to ‘Call the Midwife’ and ‘Orange Is the New Black.’ And ‘Transparent’ is one of my favorites, and I also loved ‘Togetherness.’ What I like about those last two shows is what I’m really hungry to see on television, this kind of really intimate storytelling that’s not obvious. They’re also really interesting and complicated explorations of gender and gender roles.”

Daniel Wu of “Into the Badlands” on AMC

“‘Game of Thrones’ is probably my favorite show. I’m really into this show ‘The Last Man on Earth’ for some reason, just because when I was a kid I would always imagine that I was the last person on Earth. So that show, when it came out, I was like, ‘Wait, that’s exactly how I was thinking when I was a kid and that’s what I was going to do when I was a kid.’ And I watch a lot of reality shows about building cars and building houses. ‘Treehouse Masters’ is probably one of my favorite shows (laughs) because I was an architect before I became an actor. So I’m still interested in building things and stuff like that.”



Prostitution drives a rivalry and the economy in 18th-century London in Hulu's 'Harlots'

BY GEORGE DICKIE

The year is 1763 and everything in London is for sale, including its women. In fact, one in five is involved in the sex trade in one capacity or another, among them two ladies who are at the center of a new period drama series premiering this week on Hulu.

In "Harlots," dropping with eight episodes on Wednesday, March 29, Oscar nominee Samantha Morton ("In America," "Sweet and Lowdown") stars as Margaret Wells, a strong-willed madam struggling to reconcile her career choice with her role as a mother to Charlotte (Jessica Brown Findlay, "Downton Abbey," "Victor Frankenstein") and Lucy (Eloise Smyth, "The Frankenstein Chronicles"). All the while, she's fighting off attacks from a business rival, a ruthless brothel owner by the name of Lydia Quigley (BAFTA nominee Lesley Manville, "Another Year," "River"), with whom she has a long history.

As these archrivals do battle for their share of the London hospitality market, everything is at stake for Margaret, including her livelihood, her family and even her life.

Morton, who says she was excited at the possibility to work with Manville, producers Moira Buffini, Alison Owen and Debra Hayward and director Coky Giedroyc, admits she was "hungry" to play a character in Margaret that she felt she could do justice to.

"She's incredibly witty, incredibly strong, funny, feisty – you wouldn't

Continued on next page

Pictured: Lesley Manville

Continued from previous page

mess with her, you wouldn't cross her," Morton says of Margaret. "She's got a code. She seemed very gangster in an honorable way, kind of an honorable gangster-y way, but loyal, incredibly loyal to the people she loves and cares about, and lives by this code. Very brave as well."

And that gangster bravery can most likely be traced back to a hardscrabble childhood of prostitution that came courtesy of Lydia, played with a chilling hardness by Manville, who is almost unrecognizable in 18th-century dress and pasty white makeup.

"Somehow or other, Lydia was her guardian," Manville explains, "but she put her out to prostitution very young and didn't treat her very well in the sort of usual ruthless way that Lydia sees people as a commodity. ... And although Sam and I had various conversations about historically what had gone on, it was kind of up to us to be creative with it but without being too finite about it because I think it is something that will be explored"

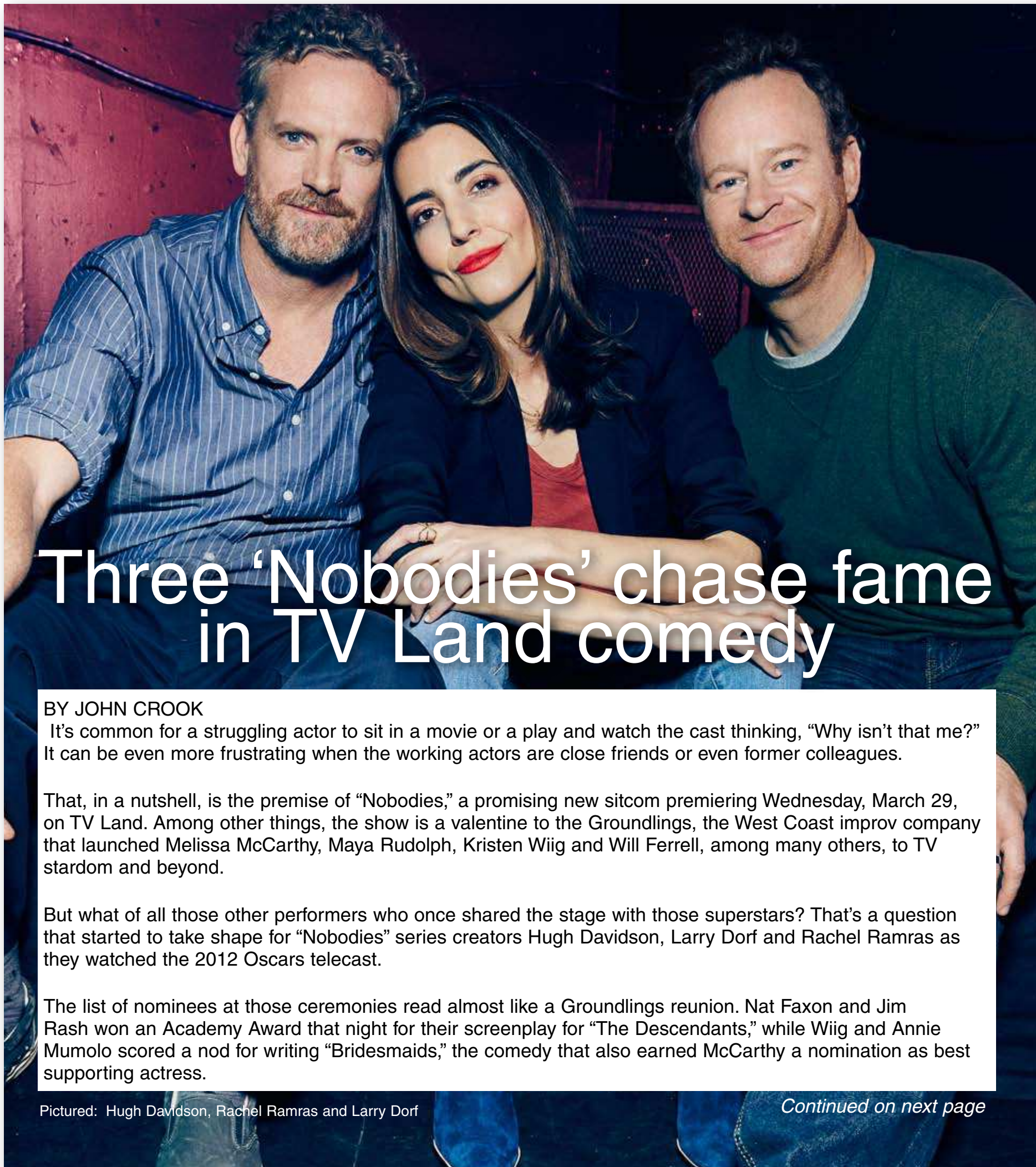
The series is based on "Harris's List of Covent Garden Ladies," essentially a directory of West End London prostitutes that was published annually in the late 1700s, which described everything from physical appearance to sexual specialties, mostly in complimentary terms, and which Manville calls a "fascinating read."

"It was describing, often in a very witty way, what a woman will get up to and you don't expect to read that," she says. "You know, sex in our culture now, unless it's movie sex, it's a very private thing and people don't really talk about it. So it's quite shocking to have this book where things that really we think of now as being private and not having to do with anybody else were made so public."

"And nobody was moralizing about it," she continues. "It was very open. It was a very sexually open society. It was brazen and, yeah, you could be walking around Soho and see people having sex in an alley. It wouldn't be unusual."



Pictured: Samantha Morton



Three 'Nobodies' chase fame in TV Land comedy

BY JOHN CROOK

It's common for a struggling actor to sit in a movie or a play and watch the cast thinking, "Why isn't that me?" It can be even more frustrating when the working actors are close friends or even former colleagues.

That, in a nutshell, is the premise of "Nobodies," a promising new sitcom premiering Wednesday, March 29, on TV Land. Among other things, the show is a valentine to the Groundlings, the West Coast improv company that launched Melissa McCarthy, Maya Rudolph, Kristen Wiig and Will Ferrell, among many others, to TV stardom and beyond.

But what of all those other performers who once shared the stage with those superstars? That's a question that started to take shape for "Nobodies" series creators Hugh Davidson, Larry Dorf and Rachel Ramras as they watched the 2012 Oscars telecast.

The list of nominees at those ceremonies read almost like a Groundlings reunion. Nat Faxon and Jim Rash won an Academy Award that night for their screenplay for "The Descendants," while Wiig and Annie Mumolo scored a nod for writing "Bridesmaids," the comedy that also earned McCarthy a nomination as best supporting actress.

Pictured: Hugh Davidson, Rachel Ramras and Larry Dorf

Continued on next page



Pictured: Hugh Davidson, Rachel Ramras and Larry Dorf

Continued from previous page

“It seemed like almost every single one of our friends from the Groundlings was at the Academy Awards in gowns and tuxedos and we – weren’t. It just struck us how ‘the same’ we are and how very different,” recalls Ramras.

In the world of the show, Ramras, Davidson and Dorf are desperately trying to get a greenlight for their movie script “Mr. First Lady,” but no one seems interested unless McCarthy signs to play the first female president of the United States.

“Throughout the season you’ll see us still working on getting ‘Mr. First Lady’ made and still working on getting Melissa involved,” Ramras says. “It’s a lot of ‘two steps forward, three steps back.’ In other parts, you’ll get to know more about our characters and relationships.”

McCarthy, who’s an executive producer on the show along with husband and frequent collaborator Ben Falcone, says both she and her hubby play “horrible versions of ourselves” on the show.

“But it’s so fun, because everybody up there, we’ve been friends for 20 years. We’ve known each other forever,” she says during a Television Critics Association (TCA) press session last January.

Still, much like their characters on the show, the three creators had to go to McCarthy and Falcone and ask them to take part in their sitcom. It was just as awkward as it seems on screen.

“Honestly, it’s awful,” Davidson says. “You go out to lunch with someone and you know in the back of your mind that you’re going to be asking this big thing. Melissa and Ben are as sweet as they can be, but the having-to-ask part is still just terrible.”

TV Land is so sold on the show that they ordered a second season even before this one premieres. With plenty of Groundlings alumni lined up to appear, and the long working relationship between Davidson, Ramras and Dorf, the creators aren’t too concerned they’ll run out of story ideas.

They’re also not likely to get too cocky about their new success, says Dorf.

“I got the call that we had been picked up for Season 2 while I was in a Town Car taking me to TCA,” he says. “I walked into this hotel and – nobody cared. There was nobody there to tell me where to go and I had to stand in a line to check in. I was quickly brought back to Earth.”

TCM double feature showcases Paul Newman as a director

BY JAY BOBBIN

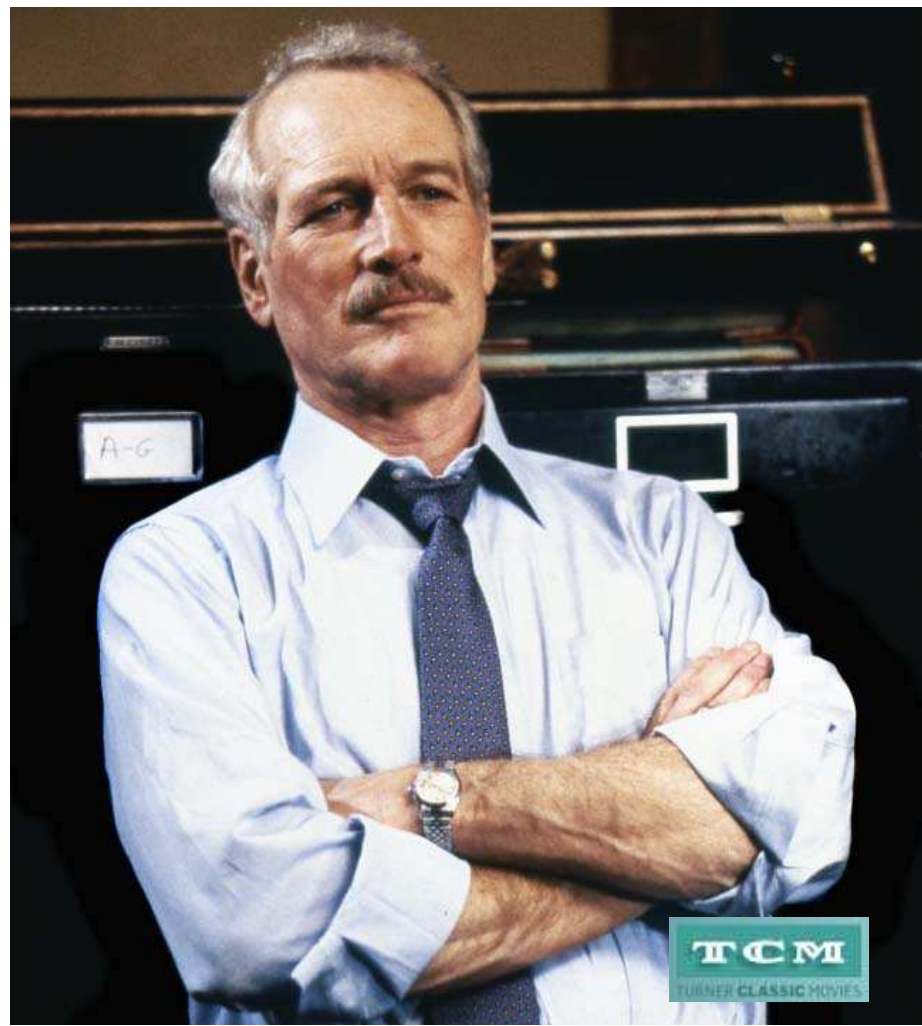
Paul Newman was best known for his acting, but there were times when he wanted to be the person fully calling the shots. Quite literally.

Honored with an Oscar for his performance in “The Color of Money,” the 1986 follow-up to his 1961 classic “The Hustler,” Newman turned director on several occasions ... preferring to stay behind the cameras most of those times while giving showcase roles to his wife, Joanne Woodward. Two such films make up a “Directed by Paul Newman” double feature that Turner Classic Movies will present Sunday, March 26.

The 1968 drama “Rachel, Rachel” marked Newman’s directing debut, and he produced it as well. Oscar-nominated for best picture, it earned Woodward – who had co-starred with her husband a number of times by then (“The Long, Hot Summer,” “From the Terrace,” “A New Kind of Love,” etc.) – a best actress nomination in the title role of a spinster schoolteacher. Supporting actress Estelle Parsons and screenwriter Stewart Stern (adapting Margaret Laurence’s novel “A Jest of God”) were Academy Award contenders in their categories as well.

During summer vacation, Rachel finds religion at the urging of another teacher (Parsons) who eventually appears to show a romantic interest in Rachel ... who responds by turning instead to a school acquaintance (James Olson) back home in Connecticut for a visit. More complications build from there, leading Rachel to make a major decision about her future.

“Rachel, Rachel” also features Newman and Woodward’s eldest daughter, Nell Potts, in flashbacks as the young Rachel – and she plays a major role in the Newman-



directed attraction that follows immediately on TCM, 1972’s “The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds.” Based on Paul Zindel’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play, it casts Woodward as a widow who has dreams but also personal struggles, as do her daughters (Potts and Roberta Wallach, a daughter of another celebrated acting couple, Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson).

Though he didn’t do it frequently, Newman directed several other movies. He also starred with Henry Fonda and Lee Remick in the 1970 logging-family drama “Sometimes a Great Notion,” and with Robby Benson in the title roles of 1984’s “Harry & Son.” He also directed Woodward again twice, in a 1980 television production of actor-playwright Michael Cristofer’s Tony- and Pulitzer Prize-awarded “The Shadow Box,” and in a 1987 film (his last as a director) of the Tennessee Williams classic “The Glass Menagerie.”

Even though Paul Newman’s greatest fame came from his being in front of the lens (a fact that was cemented by his strikingly and enduringly handsome appearance), his directing efforts were respected at the time and remain so, making a TCM tribute to them entirely fitting.



Pictured: Jep, Willie and Si Robertson (from left)

BY GEORGE DICKIE

Ask Willie Robertson what stands out from his five years and 11 seasons of making “Duck Dynasty” for A&E Network and you’ll likely get a wry chuckle.

“Well, I would say I’m just amazed at how long it went and how big the show got,” he says. “I guess that’s what kind of stands out for me.”

And now, as the unscripted series draws to a close with its finale on Wednesday, March 29, Robertson finally gets a chance to take a breath. As the CEO of Duck Commander and a primary player and executive producer on the show, he’s been not only at the center of a popular series since its creation and premiere in 2012 (and its Outdoor Channel incarnation for three seasons prior to that) but also the man calling the shots for a Louisiana duck-call company that’s grown by leaps and bounds in that time. So with one successful concern now behind them, it’s time for Willie and wife Korie – along with brothers Jase and Jep, dad Phil, Uncle Si and the others – to have a little down time and maybe do a little traveling, fishing and hunting. And reflect a little and enjoy the fruits of success.

“Oh yeah, it’s affected business,” Willie Robertson says with a laugh of how the show has helped sell DC duck calls. “The year before the show started, we sold about 60,000 duck calls, which is pretty good in the duck-call-

selling realm. And then the year after the show hit, we sold well over a million duck calls. So business was rolling and some of that’s leveled off. I mean, it’s grown for sure but for a couple of years there it was pretty out of control.”

As a result, the sharp spike in demand for duck calls meant hiring more employees, which also forced the need for more space and a bigger plant. At the same time, the show’s success prompted increased demand for public appearances by Willie and the others. So around 2013, Willie found himself a very busy and popular guy.

That became apparent to him during an appearance at the Daytona 500 that year, when he and Korie found themselves swarmed by fans before the race.

“I had a security guy there,” Robertson recalls, “and he said, ‘In all the years I’ve done this I’ve only seen one guy that (got a comparable reaction) to how people reacted to you and that was Clint Eastwood. ... A lot of people know who you guys are.’ ... But it settled down and I figured, ‘Eh, they’ll take a lot of pictures.’”

“But it’s not probably as chaotic as it was in 2013,” he continues. “And they were running the show so much, too, it was out there a lot and we had all these products with our faces on them. And so they did a pretty good job of marketing.”

HERMAN looks for **repeat** in Houston



FULL NAME: James Robert Herman

BORN: Nov. 5, 1977

BIRTHPLACE: Cincinnati, Ohio

HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6 foot/170 pounds

TURNED PRO: 2000

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS: Winner, 2016
Shell Houston Open

BY DAN LADD

With The Masters just a week away many of the top golfers on the PGA Tour will be looking to play their way in via the Shell Houston Open, which begins first round play Thursday on the Golf Channel. Jim Herman did just that in 2016 when he won his first PGA Tour victory on his 106th start. The Shell Houston Open, which is played at the Golf Club of Houston in Humble, Texas is typically held one week prior to the Tour's first Major.

Herman, who began playing on the Tour in 2011, shot a 68 final round last year finishing 15 under par and a shot ahead of Henrik Stenson, earning himself a spot at Augusta. He also qualified for the PGA Championship and was an alternate at the Open Championship. Herman didn't fare well in the Majors, missing the cut in two of them, but it was a great experience for a golfer who is not a household name.

In the past Herman made an impression on President Donald Trump, who encouraged him to become a professional golfer early on in his career, when Herman was an assistant professional at the President's private golf club in New Jersey. While seldom at the top of the leader-board, Herman is one of those guys who will make a shot during a tournament that viewers won't forget. Such was the case at this year's Sony Open in Hawaii, when he had a dazzling walk-off eagle on the 18th hole, which is a par-5.



JAMESHERMAN

HOW TO 'COLLIDE'

with some surprising movie fun

Our Take

Filet mignon is nice, but there are times when you'd just rather have a thick, juicy hamburger instead.

Such is the appeal of "Collide," which features a number of talents who surely have done projects of higher pedigree. The action tale doesn't pretend to be anything more than it is ... which is why it ends up being surprisingly entertaining, often the simple secret to relative movie success.

"X-Men" member Nicholas Hoult and recent "Rogue One" adventuress Felicity Jones play new lovers whose European romance is threatened when the woman suddenly needs an expensive kidney transplant. To get the funds, the boyfriend goes back to his former life of crime, working for a boss played by Ben Kingsley.

Our antihero steals a big cocaine shipment, whose owner is portrayed by none other than Anthony Hopkins – the sworn enemy of Kingsley in the story. Hannibal Lecter vs. Gandhi: Who, with a sense of movie-history giddiness, wouldn't want to see that clash of Oscar winners?

To be sure, those two actors aren't the top stars of "Collide," but they're given just enough time to make their marks and do some scene-chewing along the way. They're such smart performers, it's a given that they



Felicity Jones

knew exactly what they were getting into ... and you sort of have to appreciate that they went for it anyway.

As for the two leads, it's still a wake-up call to see him in his latest roles that Hoult was the engaging youngster opposite Hugh Grant in "About a Boy." He's grown up well, both as a physical presence and in his command of acting.

With Jones, it's a question mark whether she knew

"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" was in her future at the time she made "Collide" – which had an overseas release in the middle of last year, suggesting it was finished well before getting its U.S. exhibition. In any event, she does what's required of her efficiently, again likely knowing this wasn't going to be one of the standout credits on her screen resume.

While it is by no means a classic, "Collide" gets points for knowing nods to any number of action classics along the way. (It even salutes "Perfect," a John Travolta vehicle that was anything but what that title suggests, but also was what it was.)

Take it on its own terms, and grant the stars the paychecks they undoubtedly took and ran with, and "Collide" is a collision with rather ridiculous fun.



Pictured: Katherine Waterston

“FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM”

It may not be “Harry Potter” territory exactly, but author J.K. Rowling maintains a sense of magic as the screenwriter of this fanciful fantasy. Eddie Redmayne makes a fine hero as Newt Scamander, a “magizoologist” who loses several of his fantastic beasts in mid-1920s New York. A former investigator (Katherine Waterston) who wants her job back gets in on the hunt to retrieve them, for a variety of reasons. Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol, Ezra Miller, Samantha Morton, Jon Voight, Carmen Ejogo and Colin Farrell also are among the picture’s stars ... as are, expectedly, the special-effects wizards who bring the creatures to life. DVD extras: “making-of” documentaries; deleted scenes. *** (PG-13: V) (Also on Blu-ray and On Demand)



Pictured: Jennifer Aniston

UPCOMING DVD RELEASES

“OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY”

(April 4): Workers refuse to let their branch’s pending closure wreck their holiday bash; Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman and T.J. Miller star. (R: AS, N, P)

“ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY” (April 4): The latest chapter of the intergalactic saga introduces Felicity Jones as a rebel involved in a counterattack on the evil Empire. (PG-13: V)

“SILICON VALLEY: THE COMPLETE THIRD SEASON” (April 11): Richard (Thomas Middleditch) ponders his next move after being ousted as Pied Piper’s CEO. (Not rated: AS, P)

“VEEP: THE COMPLETE FIFTH SEASON” (April 11):

Selina Meyer’s (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) bid for another round as the American president hangs in the balance. (Not rated: AS, P)

“WAR ON EVERYONE” (April 11): Alexander Skarsgard and Michael Pena play corrupt policemen whose extortion attempts finally backfire. (R: AS, N, P, V)

“HAWAII FIVE-O: THE COMPLETE ORIGINAL SERIES” (April 18):

Jack Lord stars as police-unit chief Steve McGarrett in the crime drama that had a 12-season run. (Not rated: AS, V)

Family Viewing Ratings

AS Adult situations P Profanity V Violence N Nudity GV Graphic Violence



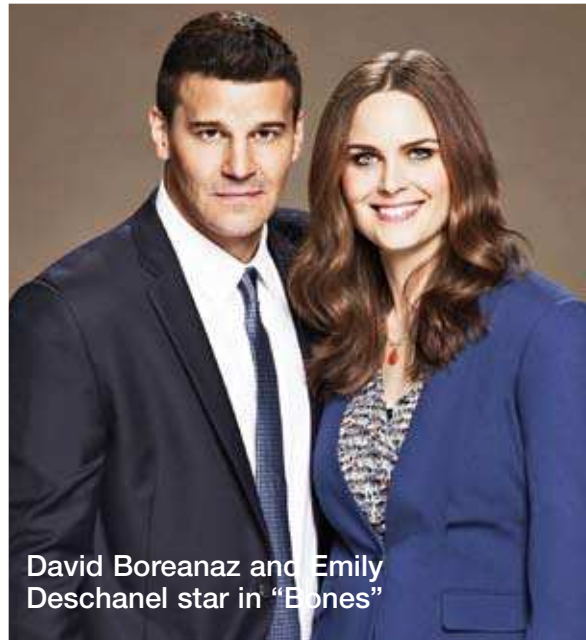
"Imaginary Mary" premieres



Anna Gunn stars in "Shades of Blue"



Melissa Benoist stars in "Supergirl"



David Boreanaz and Emily Deschanel star in "Bones"

SUNDAY
10 p.m. on NBC

Shades of Blue

Harlee (Jennifer Lopez) undertakes her own investigation of Julia Ayres (guest star Anna Gunn), since Stahl (Warren Kole) is fiercely determined to bust the politician, in the new episode "Daddy's Girl." Wozniak's (Ray Liotta) deep ties to Ayres are explained as a drug case forces him to revisit the circumstances of his daughter's death. Drea de Matteo, Dayo Okeniyi, Vincent Laresca, Hampton Fluker and Sarah Jeffery also star. **New**

MONDAY
8 p.m. on CW

Supergirl

Filmmaker Kevin Smith ("Clerks") has dabbled in directing The CW's superhero series, and he does so again with the new episode "Distant Sun," which finds Supergirl (Melissa Benoist) a wanted woman — and not in a good way — as aliens invade National City to claim the bounty issued for her. President Marsdin (recurring guest star Lynda Carter) has plans for Hank (David Harewood). Maggie's (Floriana Lima) ex-girlfriend (guest star Hayley Sales) visits. **New**

TUESDAY
9:01 p.m. on FOX

Bones

One of Fox's longest-lasting series bids farewell as "The Final Chapter: The End in the End" — directed by series co-star David Boreanaz — really does mark the end of this show. The rest of the team must seek elusive, lethal Mark Kovac (guest star Gerard Celasco) without Brennan (Emily Deschanel), but she eventually rejoins Booth (Boreanaz) for what's destined to be the final showdown. TJ Thyne, Michaela Conlin, Tamara Taylor and John Boyd also star. **Series Finale New**

WEDNESDAY**8:30 p.m. on ABC****Imaginary Mary**

Voiced by “Saturday Night Live” alum Rachel Dratch, the computer-animated title character in this otherwise live-action sitcom — getting a “preview” premiere here with its “Pilot” — offers advice to the public-relations executive (Jenna Elfman) who, as a child, invented her. The woman is in a romance with a single dad (Stephen Schneider), and Mary pops up to counsel her. Adam F. Goldberg (“The Goldbergs”) is among the show’s creator-producers. **New**

THURSDAY**10 p.m. on CBS****The Amazing Race**

Though it was unusual for this Emmy-winning competition series not to have a fall run, it returns here for its 29th season as host Phil Keoghan again sets two-person teams — whether friends, co-workers, romantically involved couples or parent-and-child combinations — on an around-the-world course. They face unusual challenges in various countries, aiming to beat their rivals to each finish line and stay in the game to win the \$1 million prize at the end. **Season Premiere New**

10 p.m. on USA**Colony**

Will and Katie (Josh Holloway, Sarah Wayne Callies) team up with Broussard (Tory Kittles) to square off against the Red Hand for control of the RAP gauntlet in a new episode called “Seppuku.” Meanwhile, Snyder (Peter Jacobson) helps Helena (Ally Walker) re-take command over the Los Angeles bloc. **New**

FRIDAY**9:01 p.m. on FOX****Sleepy Hollow**

The drama’s fourth season concludes with “Freedom,” which is what Crane (Tom Mison) and company hope to limit when it comes to Dreyfuss (Jeremy Davies). The villain is ready to exert his influence over the White House, which only can mean disaster on a grand scale if he isn’t stopped. Guest star John Noble returns as Henry Parrish. Javina Gavankar, Lyndie Greenwood, Rachel Melvin, Jerry MacKinnon and Oona Yaffe also star. **Season Finale New**

SATURDAY**9 p.m. on HALLMARK****Movie: Love at First Bark**

Portland interior designer Julia Galvins (Jana Kramer) faces an unconventional challenge when a pregnant client — who also has a dog with a litter on the way — hires Julia to design a nursery and a “puppery” for her. In the course of the assignment, Julia turns to canine expert and trainer Owen Michaels (Kevin McGarry) for advice and, in the way of all such romantic comedies, the two of them soon feel a connection. Sarah Edmondson, Anna Van Hooft, Natasha Burnett and Reese Alexander star in this 2017 romance. **Premiere**



Jana Kramer stars in
“Love at First Bark”



Tom Mison stars in
“Sleepy Hollow”



Phil Keoghan hosts “The Amazing Race”