

The DAILY NEWS  
**tvspotlight**

Your Weekly Guide to TV Entertainment

• For the week of July 22 - 28, 2017 •



Peter Mensah stars in  
"Midnight, Texas"

# Small town

"Midnight, Texas" premieres Monday, July 24, on NBC, and is based on the literary trilogy of the same name by Charlaine Harris. Starring Francois Arnaud ("Blindspot") as Manfred Bernardo, a man on the run from his mysterious past, the show features a colourful cast of strange characters, all of whom live in the small town and look out for one another. Peter Mensah ("Sleepy Hollow") and Parisa Fitz-Henley ("Jessica Jones") also star.



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# Full moon

## Extraordinary and supernatural beings stand their ground in 'Midnight, Texas'

By Shona Dustan  
TV Media

Hollywood has been turning novels into big- and small-screen sensations for decades, and while specialty cable channels may seem to have that market cornered at the moment (see "Game of Thrones," "Outlander" and oh so many more), NBC is about to give them a run for their money.

The peacock network has chosen a series by author Charlaine Harris as their subject matter, which is a pretty great way to hedge their bets — Harris's addictive Sookie Stackhouse novels (also known as the Southern Vampire Mysteries) served as the basis for HBO's incredibly popular "True Blood," so this new series should come with a built-in and very eager audience.

"Midnight, Texas" premieres Monday, July 24, on NBC, and is based on the literary trilogy of the same name. Once again, Harris uses her novels to weave a complex web of mystery and drama, using characters with supernatural qualities as her protagonists. The series stars broody Canadian hunk Francois Arnaud ("Blindspot") as Manfred Bernardo, a man on the run from his mysterious past. Bernardo is a psychic who, through his dead grandmother, Xylida (Joanne Camp, "Manhattan") can communicate with other deceased individuals, sometimes with terrifying results.

Led by Xylida to a tiny Texas crossroads town called Midnight, Bernardo is told by his ghostly gram that he'll be safe there. "Safe" probably isn't the right word, but he certainly finds a sense of purpose and belonging. Midnight, Texas, you see, is a haven town for others like Bernardo — supernatural humans inhabit the hamlet, and they take care of each other, protecting one another from interlopers and prying eyes, not to mention mortal danger.

It's Midnight's most prominent vampire who declares Bernardo the be "one of us." The striking Peter Mensah ("Sleepy Hollow") plays Lemuel Bridger, an old and very wise vamp whose opinion holds a lot of sway in the Texas

town. He works at the local pawn shop (the night shift, of course) and is one of the oldest local inhabitants. Mensah is no stranger to sci-fi and supernatural roles, or roles originating in Harris's novels, for that matter — he had a significant character arc in "True Blood" back in 2012.

The rest of the town's residents are just as interesting. Fiji Cavanaugh (Parisa Fitz-Henley, "Jessica Jones") is the owner of The Inquiring Mind, a witch with a Wiccan shop who has some serious unrequited feelings for her neighbor. That neighbor is Bobo Winthrop (Dylan Bruce, "Orphan Black"), who owns the pawn shop and employs Mr. Bridger; though he seems to be a regular human, his past is mysterious, and he's an integral and stalwart part of the eclectic town.

Arielle Kebbel ("The Vampire Diaries") stars as Olivia Charity, a deadly and eerily effective assassin with a deep emotional and physical connection to Mr. Bridger. Sarah Ramos ("Parenthood") plays Creek Lovell, main love interest of Bernardo and a writer whose family harbors a deep, dark secret. Yul Vázquez ("Bloodline") is Rev. Emilio Sheehan who watches over the town and oversees the Midnight Chapel and Pet Cemetery, while not-so-mysteriously disappearing every month during the full moon (werewolf alert!). Rounding out the cast is perhaps the most interesting character: Joe Strong (Jason Lewis, "Sex and the City") is a literal angel. He's been on Earth for thousands of years and lives with his husband, Chuy (Bernardo Saracino, "From Dusk Till Dawn: The Series"), while he watches over all the citizens of Midnight. His is a sacred mission: to await the arrival of "The One," an enigmatic stranger who is destined to save Midnight and all humanity from a great evil.

Upon his arrival in Midnight, Bernardo has no idea what he's walking into, but

wins over the townspeople one by one. It isn't long before the town is threatened by outside forces, and Bernardo finds himself fighting alongside the strange inhabitants. The series is shaping up to be an excellent mix of weekly mysteries and threats, as well as long-running story arcs — a combination that has been network television's bread and butter for years — and while "Midnight, Texas" is by no means the raunchy, envelope-pushing, sexy extravaganza that "True Blood" was, it's safe to say that the new series can scratch a lot of

the itches fans were left with when the latter series ended back in 2014.

With three of Harris's novels to pull from, writers have plenty of fodder for a good few seasons of this show, and when they run out, they should have a handful of well-developed and already beloved characters to work with — plenty of material for many seasons to come, though the longevity of the series will be largely determined by the viewership numbers. Summer series almost never do as well as those that air in the fall and winter, but NBC has a lot of faith in this quirky sci-fi drama.

Whether you're a sci-fi or fantasy fan, or even just a mystery buff, tune in to "Midnight, Texas" when it premieres Monday, July 24, on NBC.

**Parisa Fitz-Henley as seen in "Midnight, Texas"**



## Video releases

### Ghost in the Shell

It is the near future, and the line between humans and machines has grown increasingly blurred as people augment their bodies with advanced cybernetics. After her body is severely damaged in a terrorist attack, a woman (Johansson) has her undamaged brain integrated with a mechanical body in an experimental procedure. Now called Major, she quickly rises through the ranks of a counterterrorism organization, but soon she begins experiencing alarming hallucinations as the memories of her past continue to fade. When her body is hacked by an unknown assailant, she is set on a path that could lead her to the truth about her origins.

*Director: Rupert Sanders. Stars: Scarlett Johansson, Juliette Binoche, Michael Pitt, Pilou Asbæk, Takeshi Kitano. 2017. 107 min. Action.*

### The Boss Baby

When his parents bring home a business suit-wearing baby, seven-year-old Tim (Bakshi) is jealous, and more than a little suspicious of his new brother's (Baldwin) unusual behavior. His suspicions prove to be founded

when the baby, also known as "The Boss," reveals that he can talk like an adult, and that he's actually an agent who's been sent by Baby Corp., an organization made up of babies of adult-level intelligence devoted to preserving the love of infants. His mission: to discover why puppies have been getting more love than infants.

*Director: Tom McGrath. Stars: Alec Baldwin, Miles Bakshi, Steve Buscemi, Jimmy Kimmel, Lisa Kudrow, Tobey Maguire. 2017. 97 min. Animation.*

### Gifted

Seven-year-old Mary (Grace) has been raised by her Uncle Frank (Evans) since her mother died when she was infant. Her mother was an accomplished mathematician, so when Mary shows a remarkable aptitude for mathematics, her teacher, Bonnie (Slate), secures a scholarship for her to a private school for gifted children.

Frank, however, believes that attending a similar school prevented Mary's mother from having a normal childhood, and he turns down the scholarship, much to the chagrin of his own estranged mother (Duncan), who launches a battle for custody of her granddaughter. *Director: Marc Webb. Stars: Chris Evans, Mckenna Grace, Lindsay Duncan, Jenny Slate, Octavia Spencer. 2017. 101 min. Drama.*



**Pilou Asbæk, Chin Han and Scarlett Johansson in a scene from "Ghost in the Shell"**











# Cooking this week

## SATURDAY

**6:00 p.m. WGBH (2) WENH (11)** **The Great British Baking Show** The showstopper is a bit of a mousse marathon.  
**7:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy's driving all over the nation for some real eats.  
**7:30 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy is in search of the most unique offerings.  
**8:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy visits the San Francisco coast.

## SUNDAY

**6:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Food Network Star** The finalists take on the master himself, Bobby Flay.  
**7:00 p.m. WGBH (2)** **The Great British Baking Show** Twelve home bakers take part in a baking competition.  
**WENH (11)** **The Great British Baking Show** The showstopper is a bit of a mousse marathon.  
**FOOD (40)** **Guy's Grocery Games** Four of Cooking Channel's favs take on Guy's games.  
**TRAV (67)** **Food Paradise** We're frying up donuts for every meal of the day.  
**8:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Guy's Grocery Games** Four of America's food bloggers go head-to-head.  
**TRAV (67)** **Food Paradise** Taste the sweet life with the coolest frozen treats.

## MONDAY

**8:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Dessert Games** The chefs make a dessert with ravioli ingredients.  
**TRAV (67)** **Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations** Andrew uncovers the edible icons of Memphis.

## TUESDAY

**7:30 p.m. WGBX (16)** **America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated**  
**8:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Chopped** The chefs create breakfast, lunch and dinner.  
**TRAV (67)** **Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations** Andrew highlights iconic Berlin street foods.

## WEDNESDAY

**7:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Chopped** Four returning teen winners come back to compete.  
**7:30 p.m. WGBX (16)** **America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated** Becky Hays learns the secret to foolproof boiled corn.

## THURSDAY

**7:30 p.m. WGBX (16)** **America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated** Host Julia Collin Davison makes a Korean rice bowl.  
**8:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Chopped** A fierce creature makes round one interesting for all.

## FRIDAY

**7:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy tries a fully loaded Venezuelan sandwich.  
**7:30 p.m. WGBX (16)** **Cook's Country** From America's Test Kitchen Adam Ried unveils his top picks for insulated carriers.  
**FOOD (40)** **Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy travels the South to try the unique flavors.  
**8:00 p.m. FOOD (40)** **Ginormous Food** Josh searches for the most titanic eats in Mobile.

**Newburyport Daily News, MA: Food Jul 22, 2017 to Jul 28, 2017**

# taste tv

## Andrew Zimmern chows down on America's early eats

By Andrew Warren  
TV Media

Andrew Zimmern sure does get around. The chef is probably one of the more well-traveled TV personalities out there, with his long-running Travel Channel series "Bizarre Foods" taking him around the globe to sample some of the more unusual dishes and cuisines out there.

For the new season (its 21st!), premiering Tuesday, July 25, on Travel Channel, Zimmern stays close to home and sticks with all-American foods. In his cross-country trek, he doesn't just seek out modern cuisine, oh no — he heads out on an adventure through time, too, and looks for foods that are ripped right out of the nation's history.

In the July 25 season premiere, Zimmern seeks out the history of cowboy culture. With a cowboy hat on his head, he visits a modern-day vaquero, who shares with him a centuries-old dish: the barbacoa, which is a whole cow's head that's slowly roasted until it's perfectly tender.



Andrew Zimmern as seen in "Bizarre Foods"

Sound gross? Not for Zimmern, who's not averse to trying — and usually enjoying — any food, no matter how off-putting it may be to our modern sensibilities. That becomes apparent later in the same episode, when he chows down on an old-fashioned chuckwagon stew made of calf heart, stomach, liver, tongue and marrow.

Later this season, the four-time James Beard Award-win-

ning chef and TV host retraces Paul Revere's legendary ride, cruises down the Mississippi and recreates legendary pioneer Daniel Boone's famous journey. Every step of the way, he mixes history with modernity, with a special focus on the foods that were enjoyed as America was built.

This is far from the first time that "Bizarre Foods" has stayed

home. Seasons 7 through 12 even had the title "Bizarre Foods America," and the last season, which aired earlier this year, also stayed in the United States. It just goes to show that in a country as large and diverse as this one, there's always more tasty — and bizarre — foods to be discovered. "Bizarre Foods" returns for season 21, premiering Tuesday, July 25, on Travel Channel.



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  - Half of D
  - Egg on
  - Go up against
  - Pi follower
  - Charity volunteers
  - Propel, in a way
  - Old ABC Western starring Pete Duel: "\_\_\_ Smith and Jones"
  - Setting for TV's "Newhart"
  - Flat noggined

- Shark Week predators
- Script ending
  - "The Gondoliers" girl
  - Nine: Prefix
  - Substantial
  - Major department store
  - Bill \_\_\_\_, TV's Science Guy
  - Shark Week's star attractions
  - Pres. Lincoln
  - Less forward
  - Scratch the surface of
  - Hallmark series based on a TV movie franchise
  - "Kate & Allie" star Meyers
  - El \_\_\_\_, Texas
  - "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" (2001) star Miriam \_\_
  - Miss-named?
  - Distort, as survey results
  - Daughter of Zeus
- ment at Pebble Beach
- Rock bottom
  - West Indies sorcery
  - Bottom-feeding Shark Week shark
  - Tiebreakers, briefly
  - Buttery French pastry
  - "Rush Hour" (1998) star Jackie
  - Desolate
  - "Hurrah!"
  - Tones
  - "Rule, Britannia!" composer
  - Animal park
  - 24-hr. banking convenience
  - "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" (1982) star Wallace
  - Eye problem
  - Roll call calls
  - "To \_\_\_ is human ..."
  - Enzyme ending
  - Drenched
  - Plural of "that"
  - "The Avengers" (2012) superhero Black \_\_\_
  - Cut down
  - Like Pierce Brosnan
  - Make \_\_\_ of
  - Like floors without carpets
  - Navigation sys.
  - Not just any
  - It's corny
  - Charlemagne's domain: Abbr.

- DOWN**
- "Acid"
  - Mil. address
  - Kind of shot
  - Annual tourna-

- Solution on page 7

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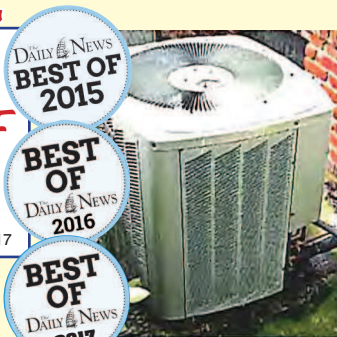
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

**Solution on page 6.**

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