2017 fall preview

Did somebody say encore?

TV raises its glass to toast a new season of fresh faces and iconic comebacks.
Brandon Micheal Hall is guaranteed to drive television writers crazy with the spelling of his middle name, and he likely hopes for a similar impact with his acting in this comedy – with “Hamilton’s” Daveed Diggs among its producers – about a rapper who runs for mayor of his California hometown for publicity. When he wins, it’s another story. “Glee” and “Scream Queens” veteran Lea Michele continues her steady series work as a co-star here, as does Yvette Nicole Brown (“Community,” “The Odd Couple”).

Though she had a guest stint on “Brooklyn Nine-Nine,” Kyra Sedgwick makes her first full return to television acting since her Emmy-honored work on “The Closer” with this drama from former “Rookie Blue” showrunner Tassie Cameron. Also an executive producer here, Sedgwick plays an ex-documentary maker turned crime-show producer; she’s thrust into a real-life case, and one that’s way too personal, when her daughter disappears. Erika Christensen (“Parenthood”) and Malcolm-Jamal Warner also star.

Much has been said about Daniel Dae Kim’s departure from the “Hawaii Five-0” cast, and one reason he left is that he’s an executive producer of this drama, along with “House” veteran David Shore. Freddie Highmore follows his “Bates Motel” run as the title medic, who has autism and savant syndrome – making his professional skills virtually his sole means of communicating with others. Stars of the series also include Hill Harper (“CSI: NY”) and Richard Schiff (“The West Wing”).

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Fivenew SHOWS to watch on ABC!
The "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." won't be back until midseason, but have no fear ... ABC is making sure a Marvel-ous time still is had this fall. Anson Mount ("Hell on Wheels") plays the king of the Inhumans, whose refuge in Hawaii may prove to be not only their own salvation, but that of the entire planet. In a unique move, the first two episodes are getting a theatrical run in IMAX theaters before their telecasts.

Can an assignment from "above" set a ne'er-do-well on the right path? What sounds like a role that would have been ideal for John Ritter goes to his son Jason in this drama, as the title Kevin is tasked with saving the world, a mission he seems incredibly unsuited for ... but if he was readily suited for it, you wouldn't have a series. JoAnna Garcia Swisher ("Once Upon a Time") also stars as Kevin's twin sister.
How would “This Is Us” play as a comedy?

This vehicle for Bobby Moynihan, who becomes a ready-for-primetime player after his tenure on “Saturday Night Live,” provides a definite indication. He plays the present-day incarnation of a man whose life is traced yesterday, today and tomorrow ... meaning way in the past and well into the future. Jaleel White (Urkel!), Sharon Lawrence (“NYPD Blue”) and John Larroquette all return to series work as co-stars here.

“Friends” yielded “Joey,” so it’s never certain that a beloved character from an ensemble comedy will carry his (or her) own show successfully. With that said, “The Big Bang Theory’s” Sheldon already is so well-defined, it would take some doing for him to fail as the center of a series ... even in his younger years. Iain Armitage emulates Jim Parsons (who’s the narrator here) as Sheldon Cooper’s famously advanced mind perplexes nearly everyone around him. Zoe Perry, Lance Barber and Annie Potts also star.

Well-known for his Emmy-winning work as comically manic agent Ari Gold on “Entourage,” Jeremy Piven has shown his serious chops in “Mr. Selfridge.” He taps into the latter again for this adaptation of an Israeli drama about a tech wizard determined to solve his daughter’s murder by involving many other “eyes” via his revolutionary app. Richard T. Jones (“Judging Amy”) co-stars as a police veteran collaborating on that and other cases; Monica Potter (“Parenthood”) also is featured.

continued on next page
His character on the recent revival of “Prison Break” was anything but amusing, so Mark Feuerstein probably can use some laughs. The “Royal Pains” alum gets them from his own life in this sitcom, based on his experiences in New York as both a struggling actor and a struggling relative. The latter situation comes from his living in an apartment literally between his parents (Linda Lavin, Elliott Gould) and his new-father brother (David Walton) – ensuring that he’s never, ever without family around.

**9JKL**
Premieres: Monday, Oct. 2 8:30 p.m.

**SEAL TEAM**
Premieres: Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 9 p.m.

To one network’s lineup that already includes such action-show reboots as “Hawaii Five-0” and “MacGyver,” add another. After a season away from series work following his departure from “Criminal Minds,” Shemar Moore returns to CBS by assuming Steve Forrest’s 1970s role as Hondo Harrelson, the leader of a Los Angeles tactical unit. Other retained characters include Jim Street and Deacon Kay, now played by Alex Russell and Jay Harrington; Stephanie Sigman (“Spectre”) also stars.

On the heels of wrapping up a dozen years on “Bones,” it’s not taking long for David Boreanaz to report for series duty again. His new character is, of course, a member of the elite brigade of Navy officers sent on dangerous missions whenever necessary – typically without much, if any, prep time. Other cast members include Jessica Paré, who made her mark as Megan on “Mad Men.” Max Thieriot and A.J. Buckley (“CSI: NY”) also star.
NEW THIS SEASON

VALOR
Premieres: Monday, Oct. 9 at 9 p.m.

The CW’s schedule certainly has its share of superheroes, but this military drama revolves around heroes of a more down-to-earth nature. They’re the U.S. Army helicopter pilots whose mission to Somalia went tragically wrong, with the only two returnees (Matt Barr, Christina Ochoa) keeping many of the details quiet. When they learn that one of their comrades (W. Trè Davis) is alive and held captive by terrorists, they start training to go back and retrieve him.

DYNASTY
Premieres: Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 9 p.m.

If you’re of a certain age, you’ll remember the catfights between Alexis and Krystle ... and if not, this reboot from former “Gossip Girl” producers alters the premise of the popular 1980s serial a bit. There’s now a Cristal (Nathalie Kelley), whose entry into the wealthy and powerful Carrington family – through her marriage to patriarch Blake (“Melrose Place” alum Grant Show) – alarms his daughter Fallon (Elizabeth Gillies, “Sex&Drugs&Rock&Roll”), threatened by the newcomer’s presence.

THE CW

RETURNING FAVORITES

MONDAY, OCT. 9
- Supergirl 8 p.m.
TUESDAY, OCT. 10
- The Flash 8 p.m.
- DC’s Legends of Tomorrow 9 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11
- Riverdale 8 p.m.
THURSDAY, OCT. 12
- Supernatural 8 p.m.
- Arrow 9 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCT. 13
- Crazy Ex-Girlfriend 8 p.m.
- Jane the Virgin 9 p.m.
>> Fox moves into Marvel territory with this “X-Men”-related drama about a family whose children (Natalie Alyn Lind, Percy Hynes White) have mutant powers, not unlike such well-known characters as Wolverine and Storm. With unfriendly government officials on their heels, the parents (Stephen Moyer and Amy Acker) take their offspring on the run and ask other mutants for help. Bryan Singer, the director who launched the “X-Men” movie franchise, is among the creative talents here.

>> There’s an inescapable “Ghostbusters” undercurrent to this comedy that pairs two very different paranormal sleuths – played by NBC-sitcom veterans Craig Robinson (“The Office”) and Adam Scott (“Parks and Recreation”), also executive producers of the show – on otherworldly mysteries that plague Los Angeles. Above and beyond their case of the week, there’s also a larger threat that could mean nothing less than the end of mankind. Ally Walker (“Profiler”) makes a return to weekly television as their boss.

>> “Family Guy” mentor – and one-time Oscar host – Seth MacFarlane applies his sensibilities to a space saga with the seriocomic adventures of the intergalactic vessel Orville, whose part-human, part-alien crew gets lots of life lessons while traversing the cosmos. MacFarlane plays the ship’s commander, sharing duties with a first officer (Adrianne Palicki, “Marvel’s Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.”) who also happens to be his ex-wife. “24” alum Penny Johnson Jerald and comic Norm Macdonald also are on board.
Well, look who's back! The popularity of an election-themed online cast reunion inspired this revival of the long-running sitcom, with Eric McCormack and Debra Messing reprising the title roles, and Sean Hayes and Megan Mullally as their colorful comrades Jack and Karen again. It's equally heartening that much of the behind-the-scenes team returns as well, including executive producers Max Mutchnick and David Kohan, plus the legendary James Burrows (who directed every episode of the original show).

The internal and external workings of the Defense Intelligence Agency fuel this drama about undercover military operatives and the lifesaving missions they covertly tackle. Anne Heche plays the agency's Washington, D.C.-based deputy director, who uses analysis and surveillance techniques to help steer dedicated Special Ops officers – including the one portrayed by Mike Vogel (“Under the Dome”) – through their assignments in global hot spots. Sofia Pernas and Tate Ellington also star.

One of television’s longest-running franchises gets a new wrinkle, as executive producer Dick Wolf opts for a true story, rather than “ripping” headlines for fictionalized stories. Not unlike “The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story,” this retelling uses as “characters” figures familiar to anyone who followed the case of two brothers (played by Gus Halper and Miles Gaston Villanueva) accused of killing their parents. Edie Falco returns to series TV as defense attorney Leslie Abramson.
Certainly no stranger to daytime television – nor primetime, for that matter – Steve Harvey repositions himself in the syndicated-talk-show landscape by relocating from Chicago to Los Angeles with this new weekday venture. His aim is to bring a late-night sensibility to daytime, but he vows not to abandon subjects he’s passionate about, such as women’s issues. He also expects to have a fair share of personalities stop by.

The Pickler is “American Idol” alum Kellie Pickler and the “Ben” is television journalist Ben Aaron – the husband of “Good Morning America” meteorologist Ginger Zee – in the case of this new weekday talk show, which relies heavily on the co-hosts’ personalities. It also is likely to rely heavily on country-music stars, since it originates from Nashville ... and includes Faith Hill among its producers.

Married trial attorneys Dana and Keith Cutler’s court show uses science and technology, including GPS, DNA and forensic studies of email and cellphone records to investigate accusations of infidelity and other transgressions between partners.

A talented cast including Martin Sheen (“The West Wing”), Ella Ballentine (“Against the Wild 2: Surviving the Serengeti”) and Sara Botsford (“Ride”) star in this coming-of-age tale about 13-year-old Anne Shirley (Ballentine) as she faces such teen milestones as sleep-overs, culinary misadventures and shifting relationships and seeks to strike a balance between being responsible and embracing her free-spirited nature.

THE VIETNAM WAR
Premieres: Sunday, Sept. 17 at 8 p.m.

>> Lynn Novick are the creative forces behind this 10-part, 18-hour documentary that takes an epic look at a war that was unpopular in many corners of the country, a conflict whose roots can be traced back to the mid-19th century. Archival footage, photos and the accounts of witnesses, protesters, U.S. and Vietnamese combatants and civilians from the winning and losing sides flesh out the stories.

RETURNING FAVORITES
check local listings

THURSDAY, OCT. 5
• The This Old House Hour

SATURDAY, OCT. 7
• Austin City Limits
• Ask This Old House

SUNDAY, OCT. 15
• The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece

MONDAY, NOV. 6
• Independent Lens
An innocent date between a widowed surgeon (Ioan Gruffudd, the “Horatio Hornblower” telepic series) and his son’s high-school teacher (Joanne Froggatt, “Downton Abbey”) takes an unexpected turn after she accuses him of drugging and raping her. But is this her mental illness coming to the fore or is he the sociopath she paints him as? As the layers of each person are revealed in this gripping psychological thriller, the viewer is left to guess.

This crime mystery stars Elisabeth Moss (“The Handmaid’s Tale,” “Mad Men”) as a troubled Sydney police detective who investigates the case of an Asian girl whose body washed up on a local beach. Her quest to discover the “China Girl’s” identity and that of the killer take her to the city’s criminal underbelly and forces her to face her own dark secrets. Nicole Kidman, Gwendoline Christie and Alice Englert also star.

From the network responsible for “The Colbert Report” comes this satirical late-night talk show in which former “The Daily Show” correspondent Jordan Klepper takes on the persona of a buffoonish political commentator who never met a conspiracy theory he didn’t embrace – be it from the right, left or center. In the conspiracy-ridden media landscape of today, this one has the potential to resonate.
The award-winning team responsible for “The Story of God” is the creative force behind this six-part documentary series that finds Oscar-winning actor Freeman (“Million Dollar Baby”) on a global quest to understand how human culture has taken on so many forms and the forces that drive them together and apart.

Oscar-nominated and Emmy-winning filmmaker Joe Berlinger (“Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory”) helmed this four-part documentary that revisits the 1959 Clutter murders in Kansas and the book that ingrained the case in the country’s psyche, Truman Capote’s “In Cold Blood.” Using original interviews, photos and documents, combined with new material, he seeks to broaden understanding of the case and track the survivors’ fates in the half century since the book’s publication.

David Simon (“Homicide: Life on the Street”) and George Pelecanos (“The Wire”) are the creative forces behind this drama series that follows the legalization and rise of the porn industry in New York’s Times Square from the early 1970s through the mid-’80s. Oscar nominees James Franco (“127 Hours”) and Maggie Gyllenhaal (“Crazy Heart”) head a talented cast that also includes Lawrence Gilliard Jr., (“The Machinist”) and Margarita Levieva (“Sleeping With Other People”).

Premieres: Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9 p.m. on SundanceTV

Premieres: Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 9 p.m. on National Geographic

Premieres: Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9 p.m. on HBO
THE LONG ROAD HOME

Premieres: November 2017 on National Geographic

>> Martha Raddatz’s best-selling book was the basis for this intense drama series that relives the events of “Black Sunday,” when the First Cavalry from Fort Hood, Texas, was ferociously ambushed in April 2004 in Sadr City, Iraq, and was forced into a heroic fight for survival. The solid cast includes Michael Kelly (“House of Cards”), Kate Bosworth (“Superman Returns”), Jason Ritter (“You’re Not You”) and Jeremy Sisto (“Law & Order”).

MORE NEW SHOWS

MONDAY, SEPT. 4
- Biggie: The Life of Notorious B.I.G. (A&E Network, 8 p.m.)
- Grave Mysteries (ID, 9 p.m.)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8
- US Weekly’s Famous Feuds (Reelz, 9 p.m.)

MONDAY, SEPT. 18
- The State (National Geographic, 9 p.m.)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22
- Mike Judge Presents: Tales From the Tour Bus (Cinemax, 10 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27
- Rosehaven (SundanceTV, 11 p.m.)

TUESDAY, OCT. 24
- The Last O.G. (TBS, 10 p.m.)
- At Home With Amy Sedaris (truTV, 10:30 p.m.)

THURSDAY, OCT. 26
- Drop the Mic (TBS, 10 p.m.)

FRIDAY, NOV. 10
- It Happened Here (Reelz, 9 p.m.)
- The Stalker Files (Reelz, 10 p.m.)

You ask, we answer!

Q: Why have shows gone shorter seasons and why does it seem like they take more breaks during their seasons?

A: Shorter seasons first became standard for cable series, driven by available budget as a major factor. In most cases, that field wasn’t—and still isn’t—equal to the budgets for broadcast shows, so cable networks would take what money they had and apply it as best they could. By having shorter seasons, they could spend more per episode. Seeing that such a plan was workable inspired broadcasters to follow suit in some instances, also “lengthening” a season by taking a show off the air for a while, then bringing it back to finish its year.

Having a shorter time commitment also appealed to many actors … particularly stars who would have little trouble getting movie assignments, which is why the Reese Witherspoons and Nicole Kidmans of the entertainment world would consider a “Big Little Lies” (along with the fact that they had a creative say by also producing that limited series).
SUNDAY, SEPT. 3
- Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall (ID, 10 p.m.)

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5
- Below Deck (Bravo, 9 p.m.)
- Inside the NFL (Showtime, 9 p.m.)
- American Horror Story: Cult (FX, 10 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6
- Total Bellas (E!, 9 p.m.)
- Eric & Jessie: Game On (E!, 10 p.m.)
- You’re the Worst (FXX, 10 p.m.)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9
- Copycat Killers (Reelz, 9 p.m.)

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10
- Outlander (Starz, 8 p.m.)
- Fear the Walking Dead (AMC, 9 p.m.)
- The Talking Dead (AMC, 11:10 p.m.)

MONDAY, SEPT. 11
- Monday Night Football (ESPN, 6:55 p.m.)
- Counting On (TLC, 9 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13
- South Park (Comedy Central, 10 p.m.)
- Broad City (Comedy Central, 10:30 p.m.)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14
- Better Things (FX, 10 p.m.)

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17
- Vice Principals (HBO, 10:30 p.m.)

TUESDAY, SEPT. 19
- The Little Couple (TLC, 9 p.m.)
- Tosh.0 (Comedy Central, 10 p.m.)
- The Jim Jefferies Show (Comedy Central, 10:30 p.m.)

SUNDAY, OCT. 1
- Curb Your Enthusiasm (HBO, 10 p.m.)

TUESDAY, OCT. 10
- Adventure Capitalists (CNBC, 10 p.m.)

SUNDAY, OCT. 15
- Berlin Station (Epix, 9 p.m.)
- Good Behavior (TNT, 9 p.m.)

MONDAY, OCT. 16
- Martha & Snoop’s Potluck Dinner Party (VH1, 10 p.m.)

SUNDAY, OCT. 22
- The Walking Dead (AMC, 9 p.m.)
- The Talking Dead (AMC, 10 p.m.)
- Graves (Epix, 10 p.m.)

TUESDAY, OCT. 31
- Major Crimes (TNT, 9 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1
- Stan Against Evil (IFC, 10 p.m.)

SATURDAY, NOV. 4
- Murder Made Me Famous (Reelz, 9 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15
- Mythbusters (Science Channel, 9 p.m.)

SUNDAY, NOV. 19
- Search Party (TBS, 10 p.m)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29
- Vikings (History, 9 p.m.)
Every teenager at one time or other has believed their parents are evil but in this new series from showrunners Josh Schwartz (“Gossip Girl”) and Stephanie Savage (“Hart of Dixie”), they really are. It’s the story of six diverse teens who can barely stand one another, who must band together against a common enemy: their folks. Gregg Sulkin, Rhenzy Feliz, Lyrica Okano and Virginia Gardner star.

>>> This crime mystery stars Elisabeth Moss (“The Handmaid’s Tale,” “Mad Men”) as a troubled Sydney police detective who investigates the case of an Asian girl whose body washed up on a local beach. Her quest to discover the “China Girl’s” identity and that of the killer take her to the city’s criminal underbelly and forces her to face her own dark secrets. Nicole Kidman, Gwendoline Christie and Alice Englert also star.
**BIG MOUTH**

Premieres: Friday, Sept. 29

From the fertile imaginations of real-life best friends Nick Kroll (“The League”) and Andrew Goldberg (“Family Guy”) comes this animated adult comedy about the glorious nightmare that is teen puberty. The formidable cast of vocal talent includes John Mulaney (“The Comeback Kid”), Maya Rudolph (“Saturday Night Live”), Jason Mantzoukas (“Lady Dynamite”), Fred Armisen (“Portlandia”) and Jenny Slate (“Girls”).

**FUTURE MAN**

Premieres: Tuesday, Nov. 14 on Hulu

Seth Rogen is among the creative minds behind this comedy series that follows the travails of Josh (Josh Hutcherson, “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2”), a janitor by day and champion gamer by night who is tasked with saving humanity after mysterious visitors pronounce him as the key to defeating an invading race. Eliza Coupe (“Happy Endings”) and Derek Wilson (“Preacher”) also star.

**STAR TREK: DISCOVERY**

Premieres: Sunday, Sept. 24 at 8:30 p.m. on CBS; moves to CBS All-Access

Alex Kurtzman (“Transformers”) are the creative forces behind this new series, the first developed specifically for CBS’ online platform. Set a decade before the original “Star Trek” series, it follows the cold war that results with the United Federation of Planets when the Klingon leader (Chris Obi) endeavors to unite the 24 great Klingon houses. Sonequa Martin-Green, Terry Serpico, Maulik Pancholy and James Frain star.