

Review: Laurel and Hardy movie 'Stan & Ollie' is a joy

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

had long since retired. There is a brief introduction of them at their peak working with Hal Roach (played by Danny Huston). They're laughing about ex-wives and money and declaring that they'll never get married again — or, as Laurel says, he's just going to find a woman he doesn't like and buy her a house.

But there's a sign of trouble to come. Laurel's contract with Roach is up, and he's taking a meeting at another studio, expecting (and hoping) that Hardy will come along.

The film comes back to this pivotal break throughout, as we learn more and more about that rift and their lingering issues with one another, and the seams



Steve Coogan as Stan Laurel, left, and John C. Reilly as Oliver Hardy in a scene from 'Stan & Ollie.'

of this showbiz-manufactured marriage start to show, even as this performance tour becomes trying as it becomes evident that this is their last act.

It's a rough go on the road at first, as they try to keep their spirits up even when performing to a half-full, second-rate theater (a lousy promoter has not done a

good job educating the public that they're not retired).

Eventually they have to lower themselves to do a series of cheesy promos educating the public that, yes, it is them and not some impersonators, which ends up working. Abbott and Costello might have been the big-screen comedy duo of the moment, but it turns out there was still an audience for nostalgia.

And there is more at stake than just their ego. Laurel has been hard at work on a Robin Hood movie that he hopes could be their big comeback (a producer is supposed to come see their London show), while Hardy is trying to mask his declining health.

"Stan & Ollie" packs a

surprising emotional punch as well, without ever delving into the sad-clown sentimentality that you might expect from a standard performer biopic. And Coogan and Reilly are at the top of their game, truly disappearing into the icons they're playing.

Baird and his performers have fun integrating these well-worn bits (even the piano box!) into their daily life, and Laurel and Hardy fans will have fun spotting them throughout. And don't worry if you're only passingly familiar with the pair — their comedy is timeless, and it's not an uphill battle to understand why they were the best, or to see their impact on the comedy of generations to come.

TV SCHEDULE

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings
FRIDAY—SUNDAY

FRIDAY EVENING													DECEMBER 28	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Fresh Off the Boat	Speechless	20/20 "Killing on the Cape" (N)				News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Fresh Off the Boat	Speechless	20/20 "Killing on the Cape" (N)				KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	Midnight, Texas "Yass, Queen" (SF) (N)	Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.					KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show	
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Garth: Live at Notre Dame! Garth Brooks performs at Notre Dame Stadium.	Blue Bloods "Second Chances"					News (N)	(35) Colbert	
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Garth: Live at Notre Dame! Garth Brooks performs at Notre Dame Stadium.	Blue Bloods "Second Chances"					KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Colbert	
9	KGW	(9) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Midnight, Texas "Yass, Queen" (SF) (N)	Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.					News (N)	(35) Tonight Show	
10	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Penn&Teller "Here Lie Penn and Teller"	Popstar's Best of 2018 (N)	News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half			
10	KOPB	(10) Curious Tr. (N)	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		800 Words	The Inspector Lynley Mysteries "Payment in Blood" (35) Silent Witness					One of Our Own"	Silent Witness 2/2	
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Last Man Standing	The Cool Kids	Hell's Kitchen "What Happens in Vegas"	10 O'Clock News (N)			News (N)	Page Six TV	
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Prime News (N)	Prime News (N)	Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game			
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Last Man Standing	The Cool Kids	Hell's Kitchen "What Happens in Vegas"	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)			Most Wanted	The Simpsons	
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	*** Captain America: Civil War (2016, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Chris Evans.						Eleague (N)		
20	KZJO	(22) Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family							Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
29	ESPN	(29) NCAA Football	Alamo Bowl Iowa State vs. Washington State Site: Alamodome -- San Antonio, Texas (L)							SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)			
30	ESPN2	(30) ESPN Magazine	Preview (N)	SportsCenter "Don't Ever Give Up"	SportsCenter (N)									
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	*** Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (05, Com) Eugene Levy, Bonnie Hunt, Steve Martin.		Friends	Friends			
32	DISN	(32) Coop & Cami	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	The Good Dinosaur (15, Ani) Jack Bright, Raymond Ochoa. (:40) Coop & Cami	(:05) Coop & Cami	Raven's Home				Raven's Home	Andi Mack	
34	FAM	(34) (5:40) *** Rataouille (07) Voices of Patton Oswalt, Brad Garrett.				(:20) *** The Incredibles (2004, Animated) Voices of Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Craig T. Nelson.						The 700 Club		
35	FMC	(35) (4:45) The Heat (13) Sandra Bullock. (:05) *** The Heat (2013, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Michael McDonald, Sandra Bullock.				*** Enough (2002, Thriller) Bill Campbell, Juliette Lewis, Jennifer Lopez.						(:25) *** Night at the Museum (06) Robin Williams, Dick Van Dyke, Ben Stiller. (:40) FXM Presents		
36	LIFE	(36) *** Sleeping With the Enemy (91) Patrick Bergin, Kevin Anderson, Julia Roberts.										(:35) Killer Mom (17, Thrill) Kirby Bliss Blanton, Karen Cliche.		
38	ROOT	(38) NCAA Basketball	North Alabama at Gonzaga (L)			NCAA Basketball	UTRGV at Texas Tech			FootballWeek (N)	Press Pass	NCAA Basketball N.Ala./Gonz.		
39	FST	(39) (5:00) NCAA Basketb. S.U./Marquette (L)	[Snowboarding U.S. Open			Speak for Yourself						NCAA Basketball S.U./Marquette		
43	SPIKE	(43) *** Dirty Grandpa (2016, Comedy) Zac Efron, Julianne Hough, Robert De Niro.						*** The Hangover	Part II (2011, Comedy) Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms, Bradley Cooper.			Taladega Nights: The Ballad of Ric...		
44	COM	(44) (1:15) South Park (:50) South Park		(:25) South Park		Cleveland Show	Cleveland Show	Cleveland Show	Cleveland Show	Kevin Hart: Seriously Funny	ComedyCellar	Seriously Funny		
45	HIST	(45) Ancient Aliens "Voices of the Gods"		Ancient Aliens "Aliens in America"		Ancient Aliens "Shiva the Destroyer"		Ancient Aliens "The Science Wars"		(:05) Aliens "Aliens and Superheroes"	(:05) Aliens "The Von Daniken Legacy"			
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) Live PD				Live PD: Rewind (L)		Live PD Live access inside the country's busiest police forces.						
47	TLC	(47) Weddings "...and a Nail in the Head"		Weddings "...and a Mouthful of Blue"		90 Day Fiancé: Extended (N)						Str. Addiction	90 Day Fiancé	
48	DISC	(48) Gold Rush "Megamorphosis"		Gold Rush "Father's Day"		Gold Rush: Dirt "The Resurrection" (N)		Gold Rush: The Dirt (N)		White "The Dakotas vs. Alaska" (N)		Gold Rush "The Dakota Boys"		
49	NGEO	(49) (5:00) US Secret Service		Inside North "Kingdom of the Kims"		Inside North "The Son of God"		Inside North "Nuclear Family"		Inside North "Rocket Man"		Inside North "Kingdom of the Kims"		
50	TNT	(50) Bones "The Monster in the Closet"		Bones		*** Blended (2014, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, Bella Thorne, Adam Sandler.				*** Kindergarten Cop (90) Arnold Schwarzenegger.				
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) *** The Notebook (04) Rachel McAdams, Gena Rowlands, Ryan Gosling.				*** Cast Away (2000, Drama) Helen Hunt, Nick Searcy, Tom Hanks.						Dietland "Pilot"		
52	USA	(52) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Lead"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Ballerina"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Selfish"		Law&Order: SVU "Transgender Bridge"		Law&Order: SVU "Sheltered Outcasts"		Modern Family	Modern Family	
53	FOOD	(53) Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins		Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins Diners, Drive-Ins		
54	HGTV	(54) My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home		My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home		My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home		My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home		My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home		My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home My Dream Home		
56	FX	(56) (5:00) *** Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation (15) Simon Pegg, Tom Cruise.				*** Jason Bourne (2016, Action) Julia Stiles, Alicia Vikander, Matt Damon.				*** Jason Bourne (2016, Action) Julia Stiles, Matt Damon.				
57	CNN	(57) CNN Report "All the Best, All the Worst"		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		The Eighties "Raised on Television" How the VCR and remote control changed TV.				Eighties "Video Killed the Radio Star"		
58	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		The Five		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		
61	CNBC	(61) Deal or No Deal		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Paid Program	Paid Program	
63	BRAV	(63) The Real Housewives of Atlanta		Housewives Atl. "Final Destin-ation"		MarriedMed "Docs on the Dock 2.0"		Married Medicine "Reunion Part One"		*** School of Rock (2003, Comedy) Joan Cusack, Mike White, Jack Black.				
64	TCM	(64) Movie	(:45) *** Jailhouse Rock (57, Mus) Judy Tyler, Mickey Shaughnessy, Elvis Presley. (:45) *** Tommy (1975, Musical) Elton John, Jack Nicholson, Roger Daltrey.			*** Tommy (1975, Musical) Elton John, Jack Nicholson, Roger Daltrey.				*** A Star Is Born (76) Kris Kristofferson, Barbra Streisand.				
65	SYFY	(65) (05) *** Need for Speed (2014, Action) Imogen Poots, Dominic Cooper, Aaron Paul.				Z Nation "The End of Everything" (N)		Van Helsing "Birth Ritual" (SF) (N)				Z Nation "The End of Everything"		
162	RFD	(162) Texas-Reporter	FarmHer	Chasing-Madison	The Jimmy Dean Show	Rural News (N)		Country's Family Reunion		Texas-Reporter	Chasing-Madison	Time Life Library		

SATURDAY EVENING													DECEMBER 29	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Mickey's 90th Spectacular Celebrating 90 years of Mickey Mouse.				The Alec Baldwin Show (N)		News (N)	(35) HonorWrestle	
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Paid Program		Mickey's 90th Spectacular Celebrating 90 years of Mickey Mouse.				The Alec Baldwin Show (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) HonorWrestle	
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	L.M. Traveler	Raw Travel	Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.				Sat. Night Live		KING 5 News (N)	Sat. Night Live	
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN 6 News (N)	Weekend News (N)	Entertainment Tonight	Weekend	God Friended Me "Pilot"		48 Hours		48 Hours		News (N)	(35) Amer.Ninja	
7	KIRO	(7) Weekend News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Steve Raible	[Right This Minute	God Friended Me "Pilot"		48 Hours		48 Hours		KIRO 7 News (N)	(35) Wipeout	
9	KGW	(9) NBC News (N)	Naturally, Danny	Vets Saving Pets	Champion Within	Dateline NBC Investigative features are covered.				Saturday Night Live		News (N)	Sat. Night Live	
10	KRCW	(3) WHL Hockey	Portland Winter Hawks at Seattle Thunderbirds Site: ShoWare Centre -- Kent, Washington	Friends		Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Two and a Half		News (N)	Seinfeld	Impractical Jokers		
10	KOPB	(10) Great British Baking	"Quarter Final"	Doc Martin		Doc Martin "Control-Air-Delete"		Doc Martin "Other People's Children"		Doc Martin "Facta Non Verba"		Doc Martin "The Doctor Is Out"		
12	KPTV	(12) *** Popeye (1980, Fantasy) Shelley Duvall, Ray Walston, Robin Williams.				9-1-1 "Haunted"		The Resident "The Germ"		10 O'Clock News (N)		Hell's Kitchen "Hot Potato"		
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	People Now	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Prime News		Prime News		NCIS: New Orleans "Confluence"		West Coast Wrestling Connection		
13	KCPQ	(13) Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	9-1-1 "Haunted"		The Resident "The Germ"		News (N)	Seahawks	Hell's Kitchen "Hot Potato"		
20	TBS	(20) *** National Security (2003, Comedy) Martin Lawrence, Colm Feore, Steve Zahn.				Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal	Love Actually (03)	
20	KZJO	(22) WHL Hockey	Portland Winter Hawks at Seattle Thunderbirds Site: ShoWare Centre -- Kent, Washington (L)			Pawn Stars		Q13 News at 9 (N)	Seahawks	Most Wanted		Bones "The Doll in the Derby"	Person of Interest	
29	ESPN	(29) (5:10) NCAA Football	Orange Bowl Oklahoma vs. Alabama Site: Hard Rock Stadium (L)			(:40) Football Bowl (:50) SportsCenter (N)				SportsCenter (N)				
30	ESPN2	(30) (5:00) NCAA Football	Orange Bowl Alabama vs. Oklahoma Site: Hard Rock Stadium (L)			(:40) CFB Pre/ Post (:50) Top Ten		(:50) NCAA Football		Camping World Bowl West Virginia vs. Syracuse Site: Camping World Stadium				
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	(35) Friends	
32	DISN	(32) Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Coop & Cami	Coop & Cami	Coop & Cami	Andi Mack	
34	FAM	(34) (4:30) The Incredibles		(:10) *** Beauty and the Beast (91) Voices of Richard White, Paige O'Hara.		(:15) *** Tangled (2010, Comedy) Voices of Zachary Levi, Donna Murphy, Mandy Moore.								
35	FMC	(35) (20) Trolls (2016, Animated) Justin Timberlake, Zooey Deschanel, Anna Kendrick.				(:10) Nine Lives (2016, Comedy) Christopher Walken, Jennifer Garner, Kevin Spacey.				(:55) Nine Lives (16, Com) Christopher Walken, Kevin Spacey.		(:40) FXM Presents		
36	LIFE	(36) Her Boyfriend's Secret (18, Drama) Maiara Walsh, Mark Famiglietti, Kelly Sullivan.				Killer Vacation (2018, Thriller) Jacob Young, Alexa Havins.				(:05) Seduced by My Neighbor (18) Trevor St. John, Andrea Bogart.				
38	ROOT	(38) (5:30) NCAA Basketball	St. John's at Seton Hall (L)	In Depth		NCAA Basketball	Xavier at DePaul			ProFootball Week	Press Pass	WCC All-Access		
39	FST	(39) (5:00) UFC UFC 232 (L)		Boxing Premier Champions Jermall Charlo vs. Willie Monroe Jr.				Bowl Preview	NFL Turning Point	Post-Fight '232: Jones vs. Gustafson 2"		Post-Fight '232: Jones vs. Gustafson 2"		
43	SPIKE	(43) Movie	*** Dumb and Dumber (1994, Comedy) Jeff Daniels, Lauren Holly, Jim Carrey.			To Be Announced		*** The Waterboy (1998, Comedy) Kathy Bates, Henry Winkler, Adam Sandler.				Wedding Crashers (05) Owen Wilson.		
44	COM	(44) (5:35) To Be Announced				To Be Announced				To Be Announced				
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars (N)		(:05) Pawn Stars	(:35) Pawn Stars	(:05) Pawn Stars	(:35) Pawn Stars	
46	A&E	(46) (5:00) Live PD				Live PD: Rewind (N)		Live PD Live access inside the country's busiest police forces.						
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes to the Dress		Yes Dress "Launching a New Marriage"		Say Yes "There's a Shark in the Salon!"		Say Yes to the Dress		Say Yes to the Dress		Say Yes "That's How You Dress a Lady"		
48	DISC	(48) Exp. Unknown "Roswell Revealed"		Exp. Unknown "Hunting Vampires"		Exp. Unknown "Incan King's Mummy"		Border Live Bill Weir tracks action at the U.S.-Mexico border.				To Be Announced		
49	NGEO	(49) The '80s "The Revolutionaries"		The '80s "Shop 'Til You Drop"		The '80s "Masters of the Universe"		The '80s "Tear Down These Walls"		The '80s: The Decade "Super Power"		The '80s: The Decade "Lift Off"		
50	TNT	(50) (5:45) Pate's Dragon (16, Adv) Oakes Fegley, Wes Bentley, Bryce Dallas Howard.				The Jungle Book (2016, Family) Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley, Neel Sethi.				(:15) *** Alice Through the Looking Glass (16) Johnny Depp, Mia Wasikowska.				
51	AMC	(51) (4:30) *** Cast Away (2000, Drama) Helen Hunt, Tom Hanks. *** Road House (1989, Action) Sam Elliott, Ben Gazzara, Patrick Swayze.								The Walking Dead "First Time Again"		The Walking Dead "JSS"		
52	USA	(52) NCIS "One Man's Trash"		NCIS "Death From Above"		NCIS "The Numerical Limit"		NCIS "Fallout"		NCIS "Date With Destiny"		Modern Family	Modern Family	
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Teen Tournament: Battle 4"		Chopped		Diners...Dives "Hearty Home Cookin'"		Diners, Drive-Ins "Triple-D Classics"		Diners, Drive-Ins "By Land And Sea"		Diners, Drive-Ins "Late Night Legends"		
54	HGTV	(54) Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper "All-American Farmhouse"		Love It or List It "Separate Spaces"		Love It/ List It "Nostalgia Is Not Enough"		Love/List "All About That Basement"		House Hunters	House Hunters	
56	FX	(56) (5:30) *** Inferno (2016, Mystery) Felicity Jones, Irfan Khan, Tom Hanks.				*** 21 Jump Street (2012, Action) Channing Tatum, Ice Cube, Jonah Hill.				22 Jump Street (2014, Action/Comedy)				
57	CNN	(57) The Nineties "The One About TV"				The Nineties "Isn't It Ironic?"		The Nineties "The Information Age"		The Nineties "Terrorism Hits Home"		The Nineties "New World Order"		
58	FNC	(58) Justice With Judge Jeanine		The Greg Gutfeld Show		Watters World		Justice With Judge Jeanine		The Greg Gutfeld Show		Watters World		
61	CNBC	(61) Under Boss "Armando Montelongo"		UndercoverBoss "Sky Zone"		UndercoverBoss:Celeb "Jewel"		UndercoverBoss:Celeb "Idina Menzel"		UndercoverBoss:Celeb "Bethany Mota"		Paid Program	Paid Program	
63	BRAV	(63) Movie	*** School of Rock (2003, Comedy) Joan Cusack, Mike White, Jack Black.			A Madae Christmas (13, Comedy) Tyler Perry, Tika Sumpter, Chad Michael Murray.		*** Double Indemnity (44) Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck.				A Madae Christmas		
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) The Young in Heart Janet Gaynor. (:45) *** Keeper of the Flame (42) Katharine Hepburn, Richard Whorf, Spencer Tracy.				*** Double Indemnity (44) Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck.				Lifeboat (44, Susp) Tallulah Bankhead.				
65	SYFY	(65) (5:30) *** The Fast and the Furious (01) Michelle Rodriguez, Vin Diesel.				(:55) *** Two Fast Two Furious (03, Act) Tyrese Gibson, Eva Mendes, Paul Walker.				(:10) *** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (06) Lucas Black.				
162	RFD	(162) Opry Encore	Dailey and Vincent	Mollie B Polka Party		Larry's "Jason Crab/Jim Ed Brown"		Country's Family Reunion		Hee Haw		Time Life Library		

SUNDAY EVENING													DECEMBER 30	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		News (N)	(35) Castle	
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		KOMO 4 News (N)	(35) Full Measure	
5	KING	(5) (5:20) NFL Football (L)					5th Quarter	Evening		Dateline NBC		K		