

By Adam Thomlison
TV Media

Q: There are two different films entitled "The Island" — one is an action film with Michael Caine that came out in 1980, while the other is a more recent sci-fi one that came out in 2005. But it's always the sci-fi one I see in the television listings. Why is the Caine film seemingly never on TV anymore?

A: There are a couple of harsh realities that figure into your question. One is the harsh-for-filmmakers reality that you can't copyright a title, and the other is the harsh-for-Michael Caine reality that he isn't the bankable star he used to be.

Don't get me wrong, Caine is still a huge name, but the popular idea of him today is not as a leading man. In some ways he's a victim of his recent success — his role as Alfred in Christopher Nolan's Batman movies, and similar supporting gigs in hits like "Inception" (2010) and "Now You See Me" (2013), mean he's better known today as a wise guide than a death-defying charmer.

Meanwhile, the drawing power of the 2005 version's stars has only grown since it was made. Scarlett Johansson in particular has become one of the biggest names in cinema today, and co-star Ewan McGregor isn't far behind.

There's also what we can call a contextual problem to deal with. Yes, the new "Island" is a dystopian-future sci-fi thing, but its plot seems almost plausible compared to Caine's movie about pirate conspiracies and brainwashing set in the Bermuda Triangle. That sort of story fit nicely into turn-of-the-'80s cinema, but today it sounds a bit off the wall — they just don't make 'em like that anymore.

Confusing matters further (though not much), another film called "The Island" was released in 2006, though this was a Russian one that didn't get a lot of global traction.

The real issue here, as I said at the start, is that titles can't

be copyrighted. This makes sense to some degree — titles need to be short and pithy, and there are only so many words to go around. "The Piece of Land Surrounded on All Sides by Water" just isn't as catchy.

Q: Can you tell me why the actress who played Dawson left "Chicago Fire"?

A: Gabby Dawson, a lead character since the beginning in the NBC drama "Chicago Fire," exited the series in dramatic fashion — leaving her job, her home and her husband in order to do hurricane-recovery work in Puerto Rico. The actress, on the other hand, left the show for a pretty mundane reason.

"It's time for me to move on to the next chapter in my life," Monica Raymund said in an official statement on her Twitter feed. Translation: she wants bigger roles.

It's a mundane reason from the perspective of viewers, who see this fairly often with long-running ensemble shows, but it's anything but mundane for Raymund, because she's already landed just such a role.

She'll play the lead in a prestige drama series on premium cable — the real big league for actors nowadays. She is booked to play a lesbian (that's important to the plot, I promise) fisheries officer who stumbles on a murder tied to the opioid epidemic in her city in the Starz drama "Hightown."

It has a lot of quirky details that make it perfect for pay cable — such as the fact that she's a fisheries officer instead of a cop (or a firefighter), and the fact that it's set in "the gay mecca of Provincetown, Massachusetts."

All this adds up to a pretty good reason for leaving even a hit show like "Chicago Fire" — from the actress's perspective, at least.

Have a question? Email us at questions@tvtabloid.com. Please include your name and town. Personal replies will not be provided.

By Shona Dustan
TV Media

NEW ON NETFLIX:

"Rebellion" Season 2

When the second season of this historical drama aired in the U.K. last month, it was marketed as a followup miniseries called "Resistance." To ensure American audiences know it's a continuation of 2016's "Rebellion," Netflix has rebranded it as simply Season 2 of the original miniseries. Season 1 was the thrilling and tragic tale of the 1916 Easter Rising, an Irish attempt to throw off oppressive British rule and gain the autonomy for which they'd been fighting for generations. The rising failed, but the hope for freedom and the seed of violent rebellion had been



planted. Season 2 kicks off in 1920, right in the middle of the Irish War of Independence, which would ultimately result in both victory and partition — Irish history is rife with complexities, excitement and tragedy, and this series delivers all of the above. Brian Gleeson ("Taken Down") returns for a second season as World War I veteran-turned-IRA affiliate Jimmy Mahon, a man with strong convictions who finds himself caught up in all the action. You can stream the first season now, and season 2 arrives Friday, Feb. 22.

"Paddleton"

Comedy great Ray Romano ("Everybody Loves Raymond") teams up with indie darling Mark Duplass ("Togetherness") for this funny and poignant drama. The men star as neighbors Andy (Romano) and Michael (Duplass), who develop an unlikely and very quirky friendship that is tested when Michael is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Soon after his diagnosis, Michael asks Andy to help him end his life before the cancer takes too much from him, and the pair sets out on a road trip to collect the pills they will need to fulfill Michael's wishes. It may sound like a grim premise, but the film expertly balances comedy and tragedy to produce a heartwarming, life-affirming experience. This gem is available for streaming starting Friday, Feb. 22.

"Chef's Table"

The sixth installment of this unique food series features another batch of chefs from around the world. Each episode follows one chef and illustrates how their culinary and life experience is unique. This season, we'll get to see the lives and culinary creations of renowned Italian butcher Dario Cecchini, London-based Indian chef Asma Khan, and two stars of the food scene in the American South, Mashama Bailey and Sean Brock. All of the international flavor drops Friday, Feb. 22.

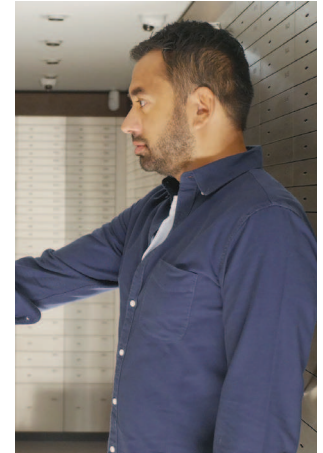
"The Big Family Cooking Showdown"

Netflix is really cashing in on our love for cooking shows, and this British series gets the whole family involved — 16 whole families, actually. Each team is made up of a family that believes that they can outcook the others. It's not just their culinary skills that are tested, but their ability to work together under pressure, which, for some families, proves to be the real challenge. Every episode has three main challenges: the £10 challenge, the home visit challenge and the impress-the-neighbors challenge, and it's up to the judges to determine who stays in the competition and who goes home. You can find out who wins the ultimate prize when the show begins streaming Friday, Feb. 22.

WHAT'S NEW ON AMAZON PRIME:

"This Giant Beast That Is the Global Economy"

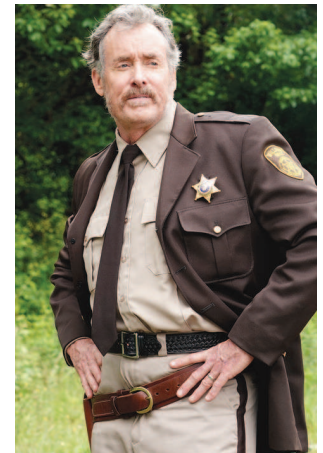
Kal Penn ("Designated Survivor") takes viewers on a journey around the world in this documentary from Adam McKay, the director of "The Big Short" (2015) and "Vice" (2018). The eight-episode series is available starting Friday, Feb. 22, and follows Penn as he delves into the machinations of the world's economy to explain and expose many of the most surprising ways money affects our everyday lives. The docuseries features appearances by stars such as Ted Danson ("The Good Place"), Rashida Jones ("Parks and Recreation"), Joel McHale ("Community") and Ed Helms ("The Office"), and strikes a humorous tone that will keep you engaged if the fascinating money stuff isn't enough for you.



WHAT'S NEW ON HULU:

"Stan Against Evil" Season 3

John C. McGinley ("Scrubs") stars in this unique horror/comedy series as Stan Miller, the former sheriff of an extremely haunted New Hampshire town. Stan teams up with the current sheriff (Janet Varney, "You're the Worst") to take on some terrifying ghouls and ghosts, while employing a sardonic wit that will keep you in stitches. Sadly for the show's sizable and dedicated fanbase, it has not been picked up for a fourth season, so when Season 3 begins streaming on Friday, Feb. 22, you'll have access to the entire series.



"Death Wish" (2018)

If you're looking for fast-paced action, look no further than this flick, which you can stream starting Friday, Feb. 22. It's a remake of the 1974 film of the same name, which starred Charles Bronson ("Once Upon a Time in the West," 1968), which in turn was based on Brian Garfield's 1972 novel. This iteration of the story stars Bruce Willis ("Die Hard," 1988) as trauma surgeon Paul Kersey, whose family is violently attacked by masked intruders while Paul is at work one evening. With his wife dead, his daughter in a coma, and the police failing to find the perpetrators, Paul goes off the rails and sets out on mission of vengeance and vigilantism. It's an action-packed and bloody romp that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Last Chance:

"Rob Roy" (1995): This Scottish historical epic tells the true-ish tale of Rob Roy MacGregor, a lowland chieftain whose life is torn apart by a greedy and ruthless brute. Liam Neeson stars as Roy, who must go on the run and hunt down the criminal responsible for his woes.

"Message in a Bottle" (1999): This was the first adaptation of a Nicholas Sparks novel, and it's just as romantic and mushy as the films that followed. Robin Wright stars as a journalist who discovers a literal message in a bottle — a love note that breaks her heart. So, of course, she tracks down the man who wrote it and immediately falls in love.