

By Adam Thomlison
TV Media

Q: In early 2018 there was an ABC series called "For the People." At the end of the last show I saw an announcement saying the show would return in the fall. It hasn't returned, so what happened?

A: Wow, have I got good news for you. Not only is "For the People" coming back, against the odds, but it's coming back soon.

The ABC series, a legal drama set in "America's most prestigious trial court" (according to the official description), will return for its second season on March 7.

Whatever news you saw saying it would be back in the fall misled you — this return comes almost exactly a year after the show's debut in 2018. It's possible that there was talk at one point about promoting it from a winter show to a fall show, but that would have been before the ratings were in.

That brings me back to the odds I was talking about: many expected "For the People" to be canceled after its first season due to low ratings — it averaged just 2.54 million viewers, placing it 21st out of ABC's 26 unscripted shows, below some of the shows the network canceled.

That unlikely survival could have to do with its creator — TV hitmaker Shonda Rhimes. The general wisdom around ABC's offices has been to give a better than fair shake to everything she's come up with since "Grey's Anatomy."

Q: Is it true Steve Carell's going to star in a show about space? When's that being released?

A: It took no time at all, in TV terms at least, for Steve Carell and his former boss on "The Office" to see the comedic potential of the Space Force that President Trump proposed last summer. They even kept the name.

Just seven months after the announcement they had a deal with Netflix for a series called "Space Force," which

will be a comedic imagining of the very work the U.S. government and military is currently undertaking to create a sixth branch of the Armed Forces that will "defend satellites from attack" and "perform other space-related tasks."

It was a quick process to get a deal for the show, but it likely won't be so quick getting it made. There's been no word yet on a release date, which suggests it won't be any time soon.

Netflix released a brief teaser describing the show that included a subtle jab at the government for not providing a very clear idea of what the Space Force program is for. It says the show is "the story of the men and women who have to figure it out."

Q: What's Cote de Pablo been doing since she left "NCIS"?

A: So far, Cote de Pablo has been dabbling in other TV (including the 2015 miniseries "The Dovekeepers" and the failed 2016 pilot "Prototype") and in film (namely the 2015 drama "The 33" and the upcoming indie pic "Seneca").

But to most, she's still the artist formerly known as Ziva David in nine seasons of "NCIS" from 2005 to 2013. Thus, her most interesting project is the TV series she's developing with fellow "NCIS" departee Michael Weatherly. (Weatherly, of course, played Anthony DiNozzo in "NCIS" from 2003 to 2016.)

De Pablo and Weatherly will serve as executive producers of "MIA," about a newly minted homicide detective struggling "to keep her personal life from interfering in her first undercover assignment in Miami."

No cast has been announced yet, which at least leaves open the hope that de Pablo will also be playing the detective.

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

STREAMING THIS WEEK

By Jacqueline Spendlove
TV Media

NEW ON NETFLIX:

"The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind"

Chiwetel Ejiofor ("12 Years a Slave," 2013) wrote, directed and stars in this film based on the memoir of William Kamkwamba. Maxwell Simba makes his acting debut playing the 13-year-old Kamkwamba, who builds a wind turbine to alleviate the effects of a terrible famine on his Malawian village. Forced to drop out of school due to a crop failure on his family's farm — and thus a lack of income needed to pay his tuition fee — William builds the turbine using just scrap materials, bicycle parts and guidance from a library book. Ejiofor plays William's father, Trywell. You can stream this inspiring movie on Friday, March 1.



"Our Idiot Brother" (2011)

An uncharacteristically bearded and long-haired Paul Rudd ("Ant-Man," 2015) stars in this comedy-drama as Ned, a genial but not-too-bright farmer recently released from prison, where he landed after selling pot to a cop out of sympathetic naiveté. Needing a place to stay, he moves in with his sister, then his other sister, then his OTHER sister, played by Elizabeth Banks ("The Hunger Games," 2012), Emily Mortimer ("Mary Poppins Returns," 2018) and Zoëy Deschanel ("New Girl"). Though ever well intentioned, the idealistic Ned winds up wreaking havoc on his sisters' lives, to hilarious ends. The big-name cast also includes Kathryn Hahn ("Transparent"), T.J. Miller ("Silicon Valley"), Rashida Jones ("Parks and Recreation") and Steve Coogan ("Philomena," 2013). Watch it starting Tuesday, Feb. 26.

"Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and the Notorious B.I.G."

True crime shows are all the rage just now, and the murders of rap icons Tupac and Biggie, though more than 20 years in the past, still loom large in the public consciousness. Marcc Rose ("Straight Outta Compton," 2015) and Wavy Jonez star as the two legendary artists in this dramatized account of the police investigations that followed the controversial murders, with Josh Duhamel ("Transformers," 2007) and Jimmi Simpson ("Westworld") playing detectives Greg Kading and Russell Poole. All 10 episodes stream Wednesday, Feb. 27.

NEW ON AMAZON PRIME

"The Widow"

This eight-episode thriller drops Friday, March 1, and stars Kate Beckinsale ("Underworld," 2003) as Georgia, a woman who has become a (scruffy-haired) shell of her former self following the loss of her husband, whose plane went down in Congo. When she catches a glimpse of him on the news, however, she clings to the hope that he might be alive after all and sets out to find out what really happened to him. Her search turns up one mystery after another, and it's not long before Georgia finds her own life in danger. It's a



gripping ride from the minds of Harry and Jack Williams, who also created the BBC/Starz series, "The Missing." Charles Dance ("Game of Thrones") also stars.

"The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet" (2013)

This Franco-Canadian adventure drama is adapted from Reif Larsen's debut novel, "The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet." It follows 10-year-old T.S. Spivet (Kyle Catlett, "Poltergeist," 2015), a science prodigy and mapmaking enthusiast from a mismatched family in Montana. When he gets word that he's to receive a prestigious award for an invention of his, the young T.S. travels alone from his family's ranch to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., for the acceptance ceremony, having many adventures and meeting some interesting characters along the way. Helena Bonham Carter ("Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," 2007) plays his scientist mother, Clair. You can stream it starting Thursday, Feb. 28.

NEW ON HULU

"Archer: Danger Island"

The Indiana Jonesy ninth season of this Emmy-winning animated series can be streamed in full starting Monday, Feb. 25. The FXX series follows the death-defying and womanizing escapades of the eponymous Sterling Archer, voiced by H. Jon Benjamin ("Bob's Burgers"), and his associates. The immensely vainglorious Archer is a secret agent at the International Secret Intelligence Service (ISIS), initially headed up by his icy mother, voiced by "Arrested Development's" Jessica Walter. The latest season, subtitled "Danger Island," looks markedly different from its predecessors. Season 8, "Dreamland," took place entirely in Archer's subconscious while our hero was comatose following the events of the Season 7 cliffhanger finale. "Danger Island" continues with the coma shtick and shifts the story to a new setting: the South Pacific, circa 1939. A now eyepatched Archer is a tourist pilot who crash-lands on a mysterious jungle island and gets wrapped up in a hunt for a hidden idol. Like I said, very Indiana Jonesy.



"Three Identical Strangers" (2018)

This documentary focuses on Edward Galland, David Kellman and Robert Shafran, identical triplets who, unbeknownst to them or their adoptive parents, were adopted as infants by different families and learned of each other's existence at age 19. The boys were deliberately placed with families at different economic levels — one working class, one middle class and one wealthy — as part of an undisclosed scientific "nature versus nurture" study on twins. It's a fascinating and at times mindboggling film that has earned considerable acclaim. It streams Tuesday, Feb. 26.

Last Chance:

"Blue Jasmine" (2013): Cate Blanchett won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in this Woody Allen film. She plays a once rich Manhattan socialite who moves in with her sister (Sally Hawkins) when she falls on hard times.
"Mansfield Park" (1999): This film veers away from the Jane Austen novel on which it's based in a few notable ways, but it's nonetheless a popular adaptation. Frances O'Connor plays the heroine, Fanny Price.
"Spy Game" (2001): Brad Pitt and Robert Redford make for a hunky (and older hunky) lead duo in this spy film. Redford's Nathan Muir is a senior CIA operative on the verge of retirement whose former protégé (Pitt) needs his help.