

hollywood q&a

By Adam Thomlison
TV Media

Q: What happened to Food Network's new show "The Play List" that was supposed to be premiering in early April? I haven't seen it on the schedule.

A: "The Play List" has evaporated from Food Network's schedule like so much boiling water.

The show has not only been scrubbed from the network's schedule but also from its website. There used to be a dedicated page at FoodNetwork.com/ThePlayList, but it now just redirects back to the network home page. That's not a good sign.

It's quite a mystery. The show, in which celebrity chef Bobby Flay and his daughter Sophie tour New York eateries, was generating a good deal of buzz ahead of its widely advertised premiere on April 11. It was also a big piece of the multi-year deal that Bobby signed with the Food Network late last year.

The show seems to have already been filmed, since it wasn't yanked from the schedule until shortly before the scheduled premiere, and since the list of featured restaurants was released in advance.

Q: I just watched a delightful British romantic comedy called "Man Up," and I know I recognized the lead actress, but I can't think of why. Can you help?

A: It's possible you've fallen victim to the same trick that took in the film's cast: you might have an easier time placing Lake Bell if you knew she's not actually British.

"Man Up" (2015) stars British comedy wunderkind Simon Pegg and Lake Bell, an American actress who does a plausible English accent throughout.

It was so plausible, in fact, that the film's crew reportedly didn't know it wasn't real.

Pegg, in an interview with Asbury Park Press, said that Bell kept the accent up even off-camera during the shoot, so that she could "improve and ... think in a British accent." So at the end of the shoot, when Bell thanked and said goodbye to

the crew, they were surprised to hear her do it in an American accent.

But in fact, she's best known as an American TV actress. Comedy fans know her as the dreamy Donna in the two "Wet Hot American Summer" series (which spun off from the original film), or as Dr. Cat Black/Dixie Peters in another cult favorite, the Adult Swim series "Childrens Hospital."

If you're more of a drama person, you might know her from a very different series — the 2005-06 NBC sci-fi mystery "Surface."

Q: Are there any plans for another "Jersey Shore" reunion season?

A: Yes there are, but a few things will likely have to wrap up first.

Stars Vinny and Pauly are in the midst of their own series, "Double Shot at Love," in which they try their hands at the celeb-reality dating show model. That will have to finish airing on MTV before the network puts on any other "Jersey Shore"-related content.

More importantly, Mike Sorrentino (better known, even to himself, as The Situation) will need to get out of jail before he does any substantial work on a new series. The Situation is in jail for tax evasion and is scheduled to be there until September.

However, the network and the other Shore house dwellers are reportedly not letting any of this stop them from getting started on the new season.

MTV renewed "Jersey Shore Family Reunion" (the official title of the reunion series) for a third season back in December, two months after The Situation's sentencing.

In April, "Jersey Shore" stars Vinny and JWovw (whose parents named her Jennifer Farley, for what that's worth) reportedly visited The Situation's wife, according to the gossipmongers at TMZ. The story went on to say that the visit was actually being filmed for the third season of "Family Reunion."

Have a question? Email us at questions@tvtabloid.com.

STREAMING THIS WEEK



Marquis Rodriguez in "When They See Us"

By Jacqueline Spendlove
TV Media

NEW ON NETFLIX:

"When They See Us"

A big-name cast comes together for this four-part miniseries written and directed by Oscar nominee Ava DuVernay ("Selma," 2014). Streaming Friday, May 31, it centers on the 1989 Central Park jogger case, in which five young men — four black and one Hispanic — were wrongly convicted of the violent rape of Trisha Meili, a white woman jogging in Central Park. The men, who became known as the Central Park Five over the course of the highly publicized case, were exonerated more than a decade later. John Leguizamo ("Bloodline"), Michael K. Williams ("The Wire"), Vera Farmiga ("Bates Motel"), Felicity Huffman ("Desperate Housewives"), Joshua Jackson ("The Affair") and Famke Janssen ("X-Men: The Last Stand," 2006) star, among others.

"Always Be My Maybe"

Ali Wong ("American Housewife") and Randall Park ("Fresh Off the Boat") wrote and star in this new romcom dropping Friday, May 31. The real-life pals play Sasha and Marcus, childhood besties who reconnect 15 years after a falling-out, when Sasha returns to her hometown to open a restaurant. Romance ensues, if not right away, as the two get to know each other again as adults living very different lives — she's a successful celebrity chef who's been living in L.A., and he's a contentedly struggling musician still living at home and working for his dad. The comedy is a perfect mix of Wong's brash humor and Park's deadpan and sweet awkwardness. Keanu Reeves ("John Wick," 2014) and Daniel Dae Kim ("Hawaii Five-0") also star.

"Historical Roasts"

"Roastmaster General" Jeff Ross ("The Wedding Ringer," 2015) hosts this R-rated comedy series premiering Monday, May 27. Ross welcomes fellow comedians and A-listers to skewer famous figures from history, while donning appropriate period garb. Ross has a long resume of roasting experience — he's participated in the popular Comedy Central Roasts of William Shatner ("Star Trek"), Bob Saget ("Full House"), Bruce Willis ("Die Hard," 1988), Roseanne Barr ("Roseanne") and many more. "Historical Roasts" is based on the comedian's live Los Angeles show of the same name that has featured William Shakespeare, Michael Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and many others. Keep an eye out for John Stamos ("Grandfathered"), Ryan Phillippe ("Crash," 2004) and Nikki Glaser ("Trainwreck," 2015) among this season's guest stars.

NEW ON AMAZON PRIME:

"Good Omens"

This six-episode series is based on the comedic fantasy novel by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, the latter of whom wrote the TV adaptation as well, which streams Friday, May 31. David Tennant ("Doctor Who") and Michael Sheen ("Masters of Sex") make a very pleasing odd couple as Crowley, a demon, and Aziraphale, an angel. Both have lived on Earth since the dawn of time and are pretty happy with the status quo, so they're none too happy to hear that the apocalypse is nigh, courtesy of an 11-year-old boy who's unaware that he's the Antichrist (Sam Taylor Buck, "Medici").

The fussy angel and insouciant demon therefore team up to prevent the end of days. Sheen and Tennant are supported by an equally impressive cast that includes Jon Hamm ("Mad Men"), Michael McKean ("Better Call Saul"), Jack Whitehall ("Bad Education"), Mireille Enos ("World War Z," 2013) and Nick Offerman ("Parks and Recreation"), with Emmy winners Frances McDormand (" Fargo," 1996) and Benedict Cumberbatch ("Doctor Strange," 2016) voicing God and Satan, respectively.

NEW ON DC UNIVERSE:

"Swamp Thing"

This swampy superhero drama also has a distinct horror bent, which is evident about 20 seconds into the very creepy trailer. When CDC doctor Abby Arcane (Crystal Reed, "Teen Wolf") returns to her Louisiana hometown to investigate a deadly virus, she quickly forms a connection with scientist Alec Holland (Andy Bean, "Here and Now"). After undergoing a transformation — that ever-prevalent comic book trope — Alec becomes the man-plant hybrid known as Swamp Thing (Derek Mears, "Friday the 13th," 2009), and Abby gets pulled along with him into a supernatural world as he defends the town, all the while struggling to hold onto his human side. The series, premiering Friday, May 31, has had some production issues and its freshman run was shortened from 13 episodes to 10. Jennifer Beals ("Taken") and Ian Ziering ("Sharknado," 2013) also star in a recurring capacity.

NEW ON HULU:

"Ask Dr. Ruth"

She's tiny, German and vivacious, she talks openly and frankly about sex, and at 90 years old, she's been doing so publicly for nearly 40 years. Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the daughter of Orthodox Jews, escaped Nazi Germany just before the start of World War II. Forty years later, she began her rise as a celebrity sex therapist in the United States, breaking down walls to educate the sexually confounded masses in a time when the subject matter was still fairly taboo. Directed by Ryan White, this documentary charts Westheimer's illustrious career as a sex therapist, starting with her 1980s call-in radio show, "Sexually Speaking," which blossomed into five television shows, 40 books and countless delightful guest appearances on various talk shows. Without a doubt, she's someone worth getting familiar with, and you can stream the doc on Saturday, June 1.

"Broad City" Season 5

You can stream the fifth and final season of this much-loved comedy starting Monday, May 27. Abbi Jacobson ("Disenchantment") and Ilana Glazer ("Rough Night," 2017) star in the sitcom that was born of their popular web series of the same name, and Amy Poehler ("Parks and Recreation") is an executive producer. The series follows the 20-something pals' life in New York City, and it's received critical acclaim — much like "Seinfeld," the show manages to pull great humor out of the mundane goings-on of everyday life. The series had a good run on Comedy Central, and now you can binge it from start to finish.



David Tennant and Michael Sheen as seen in "Good Omens"