

# Out of this world

## 'Ancient Aliens' returns on History

By Andrew Warren

TV Media

**Out of this world:** Polish off those tinfoil hats: there have been aliens among us for millennia, and they've shaped our culture and civilization in an untold number of ways. At least, that's the idea behind History's "Ancient Aliens," which launches a new season Friday, May 31.

The documentary-style series has been running since 2010 and delves into the fringe hypothesis that extraterrestrials visited Earth thousands of years ago and influenced early human cultures. It's an idea that's been roundly rejected by scientific experts in various fields, but despite that, the show's popularity has remained strong over nine years and 13 seasons.

A big part of that popularity might come from just how seriously the show treats its subject matter. Despite their ideas being blasted by the experts, ancient alien proponents like Swiss TV personality Giorgio A. Tsoukalos are true believers and make frequent appearances in "Ancient Aliens." They look at ancient texts, massive stone monuments, oral legends and archeological finds and describe how they believe they fit into the ancient alien hypothesis, providing context and explanations that always tie back to extraterrestrial visitors.

Of course, the series has attracted its share of negative reception. The ideas behind the show's premise have been called speculative and far-fetched, and the lack of any sort of opposing viewpoints definitely makes it a one-sided watch. The show has been parodied by "South Park," and Tsoukalos' appearances in the series have even sparked a popular internet meme about aliens being behind all things mysterious or unexplained.

Whether you're a true believer or think that this whole idea is a bunch of hogwash, "Ancient Aliens" sure can be entertaining. Put on that tinfoil hat and continue the search for the truth in a new season, premiering Friday, May 31, on History.



Giorgio A. Tsoukalos in "Ancient Aliens"

**Daytime dominance:** When you're in the lead, the last thing you want to do is shake things up. When you've held that lead for more than three decades ... well, then you're probably doing something right.

CBS's daytime lineup's ratings beat out all other networks for the 32nd straight year this past TV season, and the big eye network is celebrating by renewing all five of its daytime originals. "The Price Is Right," "Let's Make a Deal," "The Talk," "The Bold and the Beautiful" and "The Young and the Restless," which together brought in 56 Daytime Emmy nominations this year, will all be back in the fall.

"The Price Is Right" leads the pack with an average of 4.9 million viewers every weekday. Hosted by Drew Carey ("The Drew Carey Show"), the game show has been going strong since 1972, and in October will air its landmark 9,000th episode. How's that for an impressive achievement?

Over on the daytime soap side of things, "The Young and the Restless" has maintained its position as the most-watched daytime drama for more than three decades through innumerable plot lines and cast changes. It's managed to thrive in a modern TV landscape that hasn't been kind to daytime soaps,

pulling in an average of 4.6 million viewers each episode last season.

In a bit of sadder news, "The Talk" creator Sara Gilbert ("The Conners") has announced that she will not be returning as one of the show's co-hosts this fall, citing the need to spend more time with her three children. The talk show features a panel of women, all of them mothers, discussing the day's headlines and interviewing celebrities.

CBS has had a firm hold on the daytime TV throne for a long time, and with its entire lineup renewed, that grip doesn't look to be loosening any time soon. All five daytime originals will

return with new episodes in the fall.

**Monday fun day:** It's a bright day for a black day. Showtime's "Black Monday" premiered in January to mixed critical reception and so-so ratings, but the cable network still has faith in the historical comedy: it's renewed it for a second season with a planned 2020 premiere date.

"Black Monday" features an all-star cast playing a group of investors in the lead-up to the infamous Black Monday stock market crash of 1987. It's a fictional account of how their actions directly contributed to

the Wall Street slaughter of that day, with a lot of laughs along the way.

Don Cheadle ("Avengers: Endgame," 2019), Andrew Rannells ("A Simple Favor," 2018), Regina Hall ("The Hate U Give," 2018) and Paul Scheer ("Fresh Off the Boat") all star as employees of a Wall Street trading company whose actions directly and indirectly lead to one of history's biggest-ever stock market crashes.

Despite the soft landing of its debut season, the network is banking on audiences checking out the show during the sweltering days of summer. Watch for the second season of "Black Monday" next year on Showtime.