

# Tales of valor

## Tattoo artists of 'Hero Ink' pay respect to first responders

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**Tales of valor:** Prison Break Tattoos in Houston, Texas, isn't just any tattoo studio. The artists who work there are on a special mission to connect with servicemen, servicewomen and first responders, and to give them body art that communicates and honors their individual stories. This year, A&E follows these tattoo artists and captures the emotional catharsis that occurs when these officers, soldiers and emergency responders see their ink visions come to life on their skin as healing reminders of what they do and why they do it. "Hero Ink" premieres Thursday, June 6, on A&E.

Prison Break's owner, Bryan Klevens (also known as BK Klev), opened the shop in 2013. He spent 25 years as a police officer for the Houston Police Department, and his experiences on the job inspired the shop's theme. Aside from a full and rewarding law-enforcement career, Klevens has also cultivated a lifelong passion for the arts, and he's earned degrees in both visual arts and theater. Knowing that tattoo parlors aren't always welcoming spaces for cops, BK wanted to use his creative skill to offer not only a safer environment, but a place for other servicemen and servicewomen to get ink that would meaningfully memorialize their experiences.

BK isn't the only artist at Prison Break who holds the work of police officers, firefighters and armed service members close to his heart; each

of the studio's employees has their own connections with high-risk, self-sacrificing occupations. Rich Verdino served more than a decade with the NYPD and Janice Danger is a military spouse. Tony "4 Fingers" Stannard is a former U.S. Marine, and Robbie Carson is a current one, as well as a firefighter.

Zoey Taylor had an experience being "rescued by police as a child." In an interview with Time Out, Taylor summed up the special relationship between the tattoo artist and the customers at Prison Break: "I reached this period just shy of a year into tattooing when I realized the huge responsibility of connecting with the person you're tattooing, of creating this thing that they're going to wear forever."

This season on "Hero Ink," a police officer shares that he "saw probably about every way a person can die" during his stint in a homicide department early in his career. He gets a tattoo on his chest: a scroll that bears the message, "what lies underneath here no man can take." "Hero Ink" aims to not only honor the work of people in the line of duty, but to help them heal through body art. "My tattoo studio is a place where all first responders can feel comfortable, get a tattoo, and tell us an amazing story," Klevens said.

Catch back-to-back episodes of "Hero Ink" when it premieres Thursday, June 6, on A&E.

**On the rocks:** Jon Taffer isn't satisfied with just saving struggling family-run bars anymore — he's upgraded to saving people's marriages on the side. For six seasons, Taffer's show "Bar Rescue" has kept fans entranced with

his steady formula of catching corner-cutting entrepreneurs red-handed, yelling until he nearly bursts a blood vessel and promptly whipping the whole establishment into shape. If it works for failing businesses, it might just work for some struggling relationships that need a last-ditch attempt at resuscitation. Taffer hosts "Marriage Rescue," premiering Sunday, June 2, on Paramount.

According to Deadline, Taffer will be working with a wide range of couples "ranging from newlyweds to couples who have been together for decades." The experienced reality TV show host won't shy away from anything, using the same blunt, head-on and usually loud coaching tactics that he does in the fan-favorite "Bar Rescue." In the official Season 1 trailer, Taffer explains the premise: "I've invited couples who have tried conventional marriage therapy and failed to a five-star resort." There, the couples are forced to confront their issues with Taffer's unique style of encouragement. Throwing caution to the wind in a final attempt to work things out, the spouses are challenged to extreme activities like skydiving and paintball and, of course, yelling matches with each other and their host.

The high-stakes challenge of revitalizing bar establishments, coupled with Taffer's no-nonsense approach, has kept fans wanting more. "Marriage Rescue" plans to up the stakes to a delightfully absurd degree, testing out the couples' issues in a pressure cooker to see if they reach a breaking point or stay united by the end of each episode. "Because I'm not a therapist, I don't care what their mother said to them when they were five years old," Taffer says, selling the same tough-love brand that's earned him his popularity and ratings. "Marriage Rescue" will air in six one-hour installments. Watch the first one when it premieres Sunday, June 2, on Paramount.

**Robbie, Rich and Janice in "Hero Ink"**



# Late laughs

## Conan

Last night was the final episode of "Game of Thrones" and people are not happy about it. USA Today was railing against it. It was the angriest pie chart I've ever seen.

That's why I'm happy I've put a lot of thought into how our show is going to end. It's going to be Season 48, oh boy. I'm gonna burn the whole set down and then I'm gonna marry my Aunt Louise.

## The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon

Everybody's talking about last night's episode of "Game of Thrones." Now, I won't give away any spoilers — but I will say they killed off the Starbucks cup.

"Game of Thrones" might be winding down, but "The Bachelorette" is just getting started. The season premiere was tonight, and you can tell they're trying to copy the success of "Game of Thrones," because one of the contestants is her brother.

I saw that the CEO of Bed Bath & Beyond is stepping down. He was supposed to leave Bed Bath & Beyond last month, but he kept seeing things he needed.

Donald Trump Jr. agreed to testify before a Senate

Committee, but only for a maximum of four hours. Apparently that's as long as Don Jr. can leave Eric outside in the car.

## The Late Late Show With James Corden

This is the first time two brothers have played each other in the Conference finals — Steph and Seth Curry. It's great news for NBA fans, terrible news for anyone with a lisp.

An Australian man was recently out walking his dog when he found a gold nugget worth \$37,000. Does anything ever go wrong for Chris Hemsworth?

The beer company Natural Light is currently looking for a paid intern to spend their working days sampling the company's beer. Well, they're calling in an internship; it's really more of a training course for future divorced dads.

According to new research, the back seat of a rideshare vehicle has over 35,000 times more germs than the average toilet seat. Yeah, I know. They are definitely losing at least half a star.

Rideshare seats are dirtier and more dangerous than a toilet seat. Plus, the toilet seat won't spend 20 minutes rambling about his idea to make socks for dogs.

## Jimmy Kimmel Live

There's another controversy over who might be the new Batman. It is rumored that Robert Pattinson from the Twilight movies might be the next Batman. If you think about it, it makes sense. He was a vampire, now he's a bat.

In the ("Game of Thrones" finale), Westeros was left with a system of government not unlike our own. One in which a leader is chosen not by birthright, but by three women and 10 white guys.

## Late Night With Seth Meyers

According to the New York Times, President Trump uses more profanity in public speeches, interviews and in tweets than previous presidents. OK, I'll give you public speeches and interviews, but tweets seems pretty unfair. Twitter is 13 years old. No one's like, "Not Lincoln, that's a guy who could tweet!"

"Game of Thrones" will air its final episode this weekend. And if you're wondering who's going to die, my guess is HBO.

The NBA Draft Lottery was last night, with the New Orleans Pelicans getting the top pick. Even though New Orleans Pelicans sounds like a fake team they would mention in a movie so you know it's the future. "You see that Pelicans game? The whole space station's talkin' about it!"

