

hollywood q&a

By Adam Thomlison
TV Media

Q: What's Jim Parsons doing now that "The Big Bang Theory" is over?

A: Actually, Jim Parsons is the only actor on the cast for whom "The Big Bang Theory" is not over, but I understand what you mean.

Parsons, who played Sheldon in all of the billion (actually 12) hit seasons of "The Big Bang Theory," is also an executive producer and narrator of spinoff "Young Sheldon." That show will be returning for its third season this September.

But Parsons is also lining up work outside the "Big Bang Theory" universe (I'd say "pardon the pun," but I'm actually pretty proud of that).

In his free time, he's been appearing on Broadway in the drama "The Boys in the Band," along with a gang of other notable screen names including Zachary Quinto (Spock in the recent "Star Trek" films) and Matt Bomer (of TV series "White Collar" and "Doom Patrol"). And it was recently announced that the whole cast will reunite for a film adaptation that will be released on Netflix next year.

After that, Parsons seems to have his pick of projects, which isn't surprising since he was undeniably the breakout star of "Big Bang."

His resume on the Internet Movie Database lists nine other projects in development, in either the script stage or the pre-script "treatment" stage, and they all seem to reveal an impulse to get far away from his Sheldon character.

Q: I just watched that Netflix movie about Ted Bundy and thought I recognized the guy who played the cop who arrests him for running a stop sign. Who is he? I didn't recognize his name in the credits.

A: You might have recognized the name if the credits listed him as "Metallica's James Hetfield" instead of just "James Hetfield," but he might not have been very pleased with that for his first screen debut.

Hetfield, lead singer and rhythm guitarist of the legend-

ary heavy metal band Metallica, plays officer Bob Hayward in this year's "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile," the biopic of serial killer Ted Bundy. It's a small but crucial role — Hayward really was the person to first arrest Bundy.

It's Hetfield's first on-screen acting role. He has previously done voice work for two cartoons — "Metalocalypse" and "Skylanders Academy" — and, of course, appeared on screen frequently in his band's videos and concert documentaries, but this was his debut as a thespian.

And by most accounts, he pulled it off. Star Zac Efron, who threw off his nice-kid image to play Bundy, said Hetfield "absolutely nailed the part." In an interview on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," Efron said he was prepared to offer Hetfield an acting tip or two, but instead Hetfield just walked in and "crushed it. It's like he's been acting his whole life."

Q: I loved "Berlin Station" (so sad it's gone!), and I particularly liked the character of Robert. What can you tell me about the actor and what he's doing now?

A: San Francisco-born Leland Orser has been a well-regarded character actor in Hollywood for decades now, generally known for playing creepy weirdos until relatively recently. His foul-mouthed but brilliant and generally noble character Robert Kirsch in "Berlin Station" has done a lot to change his screen type.

His notable previous roles have included the aforementioned creepy weirdos in "Se7en" (1995), "The Bone Collector," and several seasons of "ER" also in the late '90s (as chief of surgery Dr. Lucien Dubenko).

More recently, he appeared in the three smash-hit "Taken" films as Sam, the lead character's old CIA buddy. This was a big step away from the creeps and toward his "Berlin Station" role.

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

▶ STREAMING THIS WEEK



Bobby Berk, Tan France, Antoni Porowski, Jonathan Van Ness and Karamo Brown star in "Queer Eye"

By Shona Dustan
TV Media

NEW ON NETFLIX:

"Queer Eye" Season 4

The Fab Five are back for more heartwarming makeovers, and this time they're in Kansas City. Season 4 of this hit reality TV series premieres Friday, July 19, and the life-changing magic of our favorite hosts will have you choked up in no time. In each episode, Tan France, Jonathan Van Ness, Karamo Brown, Antoni Porowski and Bobby Berk swoop into someone's life and turn it upside down — in a good way. France overhauls the wardrobe, Van Ness takes care of the hair/makeup/skincare routines, Brown treats their soul, and Porowski teaches them a thing or two in the kitchen, all while Berk does the literal heavy lifting in the home makeover department. When all is said and done, the hosts sit back and watch as their subject implements everything he or she has learned. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll certainly cringe at some of the "before" circumstances, but the "afters" are always touching. Watch for another batch of "Queer Eye" episodes to drop later this year featuring some incredible adventures in Japan.

"Frankenstein's Monster's Monster, Frankenstein"

This Netflix mockumentary stars David Harbour (Chief Hopper from "Stranger Things") as a thespian whose discovery of old footage of his father's stage play "Frankenstein's Monster's Monster, Frankenstein" takes him on an over-the-top, hilarious journey of self-discovery. This half-hour special premieres Tuesday, July 16, features a number of guest stars, including Alfred Molina ("Spider-Man 2," 2004) and Kate Berlant ("Ghosted"), and was created by John Levenstein, one of the great minds behind "Arrested Development."

"Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" Season 11

Jerry Seinfeld's unique comedy series kicks off its 11th season on Friday, July 19, and this round features some big stars. The "Seinfeld" co-creator invites comedians — some are old friends, some he's never met — to hop into one of his many classic or luxury cars and whisks them off to grab a cup of joe. The cameras roll as some of the funniest people in the biz discuss everything from the weather to economic projections, and each episode is gilded with comedy gold. Seth Rogen, Eddie Murphy, Ricky Gervais, Matthew Broderick, Martin Short and more — the stars have really come out for Season 11, and you won't want to miss a minute of it.

WHAT'S ON HULU:

"Mythbusters Jr"

After 14 seasons of "MythBusters" magic, hosts Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman finally called it quits and went their separate ways. But apparently Savage had more myths to bust, and he returned earlier this year to host "MythBusters Jr." — the scientists may be smaller, but the experiments are as big and loud as ever. Savage lends a hand

as six incredibly talented young STEM experts put duct tape to the test, investigate an air-freshener bomb, and test an impossible Jenga move in the first few episodes. Is it impossible to make mayonnaise during a lightning storm? Can the domino effect crush a car? Is spider silk stronger than steel? Can farts launch a rocket? Get the answers to all these questions and more when this investigative series premieres Monday, July 15.

WHAT'S ON AMAZON PRIME

"Love Happens" (2008)

Therapist and author Burke Ryan (Aaron Eckhart, "The Dark Knight," 2008) is riding a wave of fame, thanks to his newest book, which gives advice about how to deal with the passing of a loved one. Unfortunately, Ryan based much of the book on his own experiences — his wife died in a car accident, and he found writing the book to be therapeutic. While on a promotional book tour, Ryan meets a dynamic florist named Eloise (Jennifer Aniston, "Friends"), but before their relationship can get off the ground, he must confront a hard truth that he's been avoiding since his life took a tragic turn. Martin Sheen ("The West Wing"), Judy Greer ("Kidding") and Dan Folger ("Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," 2016) round out the cast of this traditional romantic comedy that you can watch starting Monday, July 15.

"All or Nothing" Season 4

This documentary series goes behind the scenes of a new professional sports club each season. Premiering Friday, July 19, the fourth installment features the Carolina Panthers football team, and takes a close look at their dramatic 2018 NFL season. It's a fascinating and heartbreaking story: the Panthers kicked off the season with earned optimism, and they seemed to be on track to retake the NFC South title from the New Orleans Saints. But halfway through the season, things began to go wrong, and dramatic victories gave way to injuries and coaching drama. Whether you're a fan of football or just of compelling drama, this series is worth a watch.

"Trading Paint" (2019)

John Travolta stars in this film as Sam, a former racecar driver whose son, Cam (Toby Sebastian, "Game of Thrones") is now racing at the Talladega short tracks. When Cam leaves the family business to race with Sam's longtime rival, Linskey (Michael Madsen, "The Hateful Eight," 2015), their family is torn apart, and Sam warns his son about Linskey's corrupt ways. After a terrifyingly close call, father and son must come together to rebuild their relationship and restore their racing reputations. You can watch this action-drama on Friday, July 19.



Adam Savage as seen in "MythBusters"