

Back in the fold

Jimmy Smits returns to NBC this fall

By Michelle Rose
TV Media

Back in the fold: Jimmy Smits is back. Then again, the talented Emmy winner has never been away.

In a career spanning more than four decades, the Brooklyn-born actor has racked up an impressive list of TV credits: he's played an attorney in "L.A. Law," a detective in "NYPD Blue," a presidential candidate in both "The West Wing" and "24: Legacy," and a, er, "companionator" in "Sons of Anarchy," to name a few. He's even tried his hand at comedy with a guest appearance in "Brooklyn Nine-Nine."

So what's next? This fall, the hard-working TV veteran is heading back to NBC and the courtroom drama genre in the series "Bluff City Law."

The weekly drama centers on a father-daughter team of social justice attorneys. Caitlin McGee ("Grey's Anatomy") is Sydney Strait, a brilliant young lawyer who left her father's civil rights law firm in an attempt to put distance between them. But the estrangement doesn't last: after a death in the family, dad Elijah (Smits) attempts a reconciliation by inviting Sydney to rejoin the firm in Memphis. She agrees (it's not a spoiler if it's in the pilot). But they'll have to find a way to overcome lingering resentment and deep mistrust in order to mend their relationship, or at the very least, work together to make the world a better place.

The series is written and co-executive produced by Dean Georganis. If that name seems familiar, too (maybe not Smits-level famous), it's because Georganis has been mentioned in recent articles about another project of his, ABC's "The Baker and the Beauty."

Barring any delays, "Bluff City Law" is scheduled to begin filming this week in its namesake city. It just so happens that Memphis is celebrating its bicentennial this year, and there are high hopes that the Smits-led series will further boost tourism.



Jimmy Smits and Caitlin McGee from "Bluff City Law"

Clearly, NBC has high hopes for "Bluff City Law," too. The peacock network ordered it straight to series and gave it a choice timeslot after "The Voice" on Monday nights, beginning Sept. 23.

Out of Purgatory: Earpers, rejoice! Fans of the Western/horror series "Wynonna Earp" will be relieved to hear there will likely be a Season 4 after all.

Trouble began earlier this year when production on the fourth season was inexplicably delayed. When cast members confirmed that they had yet to film any new scenes, fans rallied around the show and campaigned on its behalf through billboards, hashtags (#FightforWynonna) and websites.

Still, many wondered how a critically acclaimed, award-winning series with a strong fan base and the support of TV executives could go from greenlit to potentially canceled.

According to sources, it all comes down to one thing: money. The series shoots in Canada, where it airs on Space; stateside, Syfy licenses the series. A deal was struck to air the first two seasons on Netflix for additional streaming revenue, but that still left IDW Entertainment footing most of the bill for production costs. And that's where the show's continuation hit a snag.

Luckily, the financial difficulties seem to have been resolved with increased support from

networks and partners, who also took notice of the passionate fan response. This piece of good news is a rare show of faith in this industry, which says plenty about the show's value and its potential. Production is scheduled to resume in January 2020.

'Most Wanted' premiere: With all this talk of new series and fall premiere dates, there's one highly anticipated CBS show that doesn't seem to be in the starting lineup for the fall.

The second season of "FBI" is set to kick off on Sept. 24. But so far, the eye network has made no mention of a start date for the planned spinoff, "FBI: Most Wanted."

Don't worry, it doesn't mean the spinoff isn't happening. The series order came with a substantial commitment penalty, so it's safe to say the network would probably prefer to honor its commitment rather than pay a hefty sum to executive producer (and franchise mastermind) Dick Wolf.

Instead, the series will likely be a mid-season addition to the CBS lineup. And that means you can expect new episodes sometime between January and March 2020.

The spinoff, which stars Julian McMahon ("Nip/Tuck") and Alana de la Garza ("Law & Order"), was introduced to viewers back in April, when its backdoor pilot aired as an episode

of "FBI" (fittingly, the episode was titled "Most Wanted"). Its storylines will center on the Fugitive Task Force responsible for tracking and apprehending the criminals on the bureau's Most Wanted Fugitives list.

As for the series' legendary executive producer, Wolf isn't one to rest on his laurels. The Emmy winner recently told Variety he's working on the ultimate crossover event, one that will cross networks by bringing together characters from his NBC and CBS series. It remains to be seen how/when/if that will happen, or which shows will be involved. But if the networks and Wolf can work it all out, that would definitely be a "can't miss" TV event.