hollywood q&a

By Adam Thomlison TV Media

Q: We're wondering about some of our favorite shows from last season — "Survivor," "A Place to Call Home" and "Victoria" on Masterpiece? Will they be back?

A: The answer is a yes and two very different maybes.

You have no need to wonder about "Survivor" for a while — Season 39 (yes, you read that right) debuts later this month, and CBS has already ponied up for a 40th season in 2020.

I'll address the two maybes in order of likelihood.

"Victoria," which stars Jenna Coleman ("Doctor Who") and Tom Hughes ("The Game") as Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, hasn't officially been greenlit for a fourth season, but it's been a huge hit for PBS, and for ITV in the U.K. — it's produced jointly by the two networks. And there was no kind of resolution to the story at the end of Season 3. (Queen Victoria reigned for more than 63 years, so how could there be?) All this bodes well for a renewal.

The chances of more episodes of "A Place to Call Home" range from unlikely to basically impossible, depending on how you've been watching it so far. That series was produced in Australia and aired its sixth and final season there in 2018. It aired (in the traditional definition) in North America on PBS affiliates but stopped at Season 4. However, all six seasons are available to stream in North America via the Acorn. tv site (a Netflix competitor that specializes in imports from other English-speaking countries).

So if you've been watching on Acorn, you're all caught up and out of luck. If you've watched it on PBS, there are two seasons you haven't seen yet.

However, PBS has made no mention of picking them up for air. That could mean they're just waiting, or it could mean they've abandoned the show entirely. The fourth season debuted on PBS back in 2017, so the second scenario is more likely.

But that doesn't mean you should give up hope. Both of the latter shows are international ones, and those tend to operate on a different — that is, slower and less predictable — schedule than American or Canadian ones. Years often pass between seasons, meaning that in the case of "A Place to Call Home," PBS can take its time making a decision on those last two seasons.

Q: Is it true that Timothy Olyphant and Anderson Cooper are related?

A: Handsome seems to run in the extended Vanderbilt family.

Former "Justified" star Timothy Olyphant and news talking-head Anderson Cooper are indeed semi-distant cousins (third cousins once removed, if anyone's keeping that kind of score).

Both are descended from William Henry Vanderbilt and Maria Louisa Kissam — they were the great-great-greatgrandparents of Olyphant on his father's side, and Cooper's great-great-grandparents on his mother's side. They were also the second generation of the megawealthy Vanderbilt family, which made its money in shipping and railroads in the mid-1800s. They were once the richest family in America, and they still command a hefty fortune.

Many of the Vanderbilt offspring have gravitated to showbiz. Cooper's mother was noted author, designer and artist Gloria Vanderbilt, and another distant relative, James Vanderbilt, is a successful Hollywood screenwriter. He penned such hits as 2012's "The Amazing Spider-Man" and this year's Netflix film "Murder Mystery," which itself was set in the world of the upper class.

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

STREAMING THIS WEEK



Shameik Moore as seen in "Wu-Tang: An American Saga" By Jessica Gosse

TV Media

WHAT'S NEW ON HULU

"Wu-Tang: An American Saga"

On Wednesday, Sept. 4, Hulu presents the new miniseries "Wu-Tang: An American Saga." Written and produced by Alex Tse ("SuperFly," 2018) and original Wu Tang Clan member RZA, the series introduces the members of hip hop's original dynasty. Set in Staten Island, New York City, in the early 1990s, the show follows Bobby Diggs (a.k.a. RZA) as he works to bring together a dozen talented black men who are torn between a life of crime and a career in music. The biographical miniseries boasts a strong cast, including Ashton Sanders ("Moonlight," 2016), Shameik Moore ("The Get Down"), Siddiq Saunderson ("Boomerang," 2019) and Zolee Griggs ("Bit," 2019). Inspired by "The Wu-Tang Manual," a book about the philosophy and history of the group written by RZA, this compelling miniseries will both entertain you and tug at your heart strings. Catch the first three episodes of the 10-episode series when they premiere Wednesday, Sept. 4, with a new episode slated for release every subsequent Wednesday.

"Untouchable" (2019)

On Monday, Sept. 2, the controversial documentary "Untouchable" premieres on Hulu. The film originally premiered at this years Sundance Film Festival and is a harsh look at the life of producer Harvey Weinstein as he built his intimidating empire — easy to see why there has been controversy attached to this one. The documentary looks at how Weinstein rose to his position of dominance within the Weinstein Company and Miramax, and how he was brought down by more than 80 allegations of sexual assault. Viewers are treated to accounts from former employees who enabled the power-hungry abuser, as well as interviews with a number of celebrities — including Rosanna Arquette ("Pulp Fiction," 1994) and Paz de la Huerta ("Boardwalk Empire") — who were affected not only professionally, but physically and emotionally by the movie mogul's unscrupulous use of power. "Untouchable" is a poignant film that looks at the lasting effects of sexual assault and the Hollywood empire that turned a blind eye.

Into the Dark: Pure

The September installment of the gruesome horror event series "Into the Dark" premieres Friday, Sept. 6, on Hulu. This month's feature spins an eerie tale that plays out on a holiday known as Daughter's Day and stars Jahkara Smith ("NOS4A2") and McKaley Miller ("Hart of Dixie") as two teen girls who attend a purity retreat. As they participate in a secret ritual intended to release a demon, things begin to go sideways, and the girls are torn between the dangers of the supernatural being they've summoned and the pressures of conforming to their fathers' expectations. Don't miss this frightful, supernatural new episode in Hulu's horror series.

WHAT'S NEW ON DC UNIVERSE

"Titans" Season 2

During an event promoting their new streaming service at this year's San Diego Comic-Con, DC Comics announced that Season 2 of "Ti-

tans" would premiere Friday, Sept. 6, on their streaming platform. The series focuses on a team of superhero vigilantes led by Batman's former sidekick, Dick Grayson, a.k.a. Robin (Brenton Thwaites, "Gods of Egypt," 2016), who was infected with a dark force at the end of Season 1. Fighting alongside him are Raven (Teagan Croft "Home and Away"), a teenage girl with incredible powers that she doesn't yet understand; Starfire (Anna Diop, "Us," 2019), an alien warrior who was sent to Earth to capture Raven but chooses to stay and protect her instead; and Beast Boy (Ryan Potter, "Big Hero 6," 2104), a shape shifter whose powers came from the life-saving treatment of a fringe-science doctor. Minka Kelly ("Almost Human") also stars as Dawn Granger, the Dove half of Hawk and Dove, a vigilante team that Robin used to run with. Alan Ritchson ("The Wedding Ringer," 2015) is Hawk. The new season delivers even more exciting characters with the arrival of Iain Glen ("Game of Thrones") as Bruce Wayne and Esai Morales ("Ozark") as main villain Slade Wilson (a.k.a. Deathstroke the Terminator). Based on the comic book series "The New Teen Titans," created by Mary Wolfman and George Perez, the series itself is very dark (as so many of the DC Comics adaptations are), but is also highly comical, thanks to some great writing. Whether or not you're a comic book fan, you won't want to miss Season 2 of "Titans," and you can catch up on Season 1 on DC Universe any time.

WHAT'S NEW ON NETFLIX

"Elite" Season 2

On Friday, Sept. 6, Season 2 of the Spanish drama/thriller "Elite" is set to premiere on Netflix. Akin to shows like "Gossip Girl" and "Big Little Lies," "Elite" focuses on the lives of three working-class teenagers, Samuel (Itzan Escamilla "Victor Ros"), Christian (Miguel Herran "Money Heist") and Nadia (Mina El Hammani "Servir y proteger"), who are enrolled in an exclusive private school after the roof of their public school collapses. Their arrival sparks controversy in a school where money, sex and power determine your social standing, and the three quickly clash with their wealthy classmates. The first season hooks you immediately with scandals such as a mysterious murder, student-teacher blackmail and faith-based discrimination, not to mention the perennial high school problem: relationships. The new season includes new cast members, including Claudia Salas ("The Plaque"), Jorge López ("Soy Luna") and Georgina Amorós ("Welcome to the Family"). Season 1 of the Spanish series is already available on Netflix, so you can catch up on the nuances of privilege and sexuality before the Season 2 premiere on Friday, Sept. 6.



Brenton Thwaites stars in "Titans"