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Murder rocks a Boston suburbs and family in 'Defending Jacob'

BY GEORGE DICKIE

A popular teen's murder rocks a leafy Boston suburb and a prosecutor finds himself conflicted when his son is accused of the crime in a drama series that premieres this week on Apple TV+.

In "Defending Jacob," an eight-episode limited series that begins streaming Friday, April 24, Chris Evans ("Gifted," the "Captain America" movie series) stars as Andrew Barber, assistant district attorney in Middlesex County, husband of Laurie (Michelle Dockery, "Downton Abbey," "Good Behavior"), head of a local private school, and father of Jacob (Jaeden Martell, "Knives Out," "St. Vincent"), by all appearances, a normal, happy junior high schooler.

When popular classmate Ben Rifkin is stabbed to death apparently on his way school, none of the kids interviewed want to give up any information. But multiple texts from other teens accuse Jacob of the crime, thus getting the police's attention and placing

Andy between the law he has sworn to uphold and the love for his son.

"The heart of this story is about a family," executive producer/director Morten Tyldum explained to a recent gathering of journalists in Pasadena, Calif. "It's about a family who's experienced this extraordinary situation, this nightmare, this thing that both tears them apart and pulls them together in some way. And you really need to feel for them and you need to believe it 100 percent that this is a family. ... And it's the little things, it's the small things, and how they touch and feel and talk and look and behave around each other, that suddenly (makes this) a family you believe in."

Best known for his action roles in Marvel films, Evans has drawn critical acclaim for turns in recent dramatic productions such as "Knives Out" and "Gifted." Here, the unmarried, childless actor takes on the emotional rigors of playing a parent in crisis, a challenge that he embraced.

"There's body language there, there's postures, there's so many things that ... I drew from my own childhood of what a dad looks and feels like," he says. "I really, really, really enjoyed it, actually, because it really does lend itself to the complexity and depth of the film. I think being a parent, I would imagine, unlocks depths of love that you didn't know you were capable of. And I think that only raises the stakes and makes things more interesting. So for me, it was a fun place to start off that kind of blinding love at times and how far you would go to keep it pure."

Dockery, also a singleton with no offspring, agrees. "Like with any role, you have to immerse yourself in the character and ... you kind of observe others," the actress says. "I felt like it was very easy for us to sort of become a family on set. We all had a really lovely time together in spite of the intensity of the subject matter. ... I feel like we bonded very quickly, and I think that comes across on screen."



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Horoscopes

The luckiest signs this week:
Gemini, Cancer and Leo

- ♈ ARIES**
There will be lots of action and excitement this week. You'll face new challenges, both in your career and in your personal life.
- ♉ TAURUS**
Sometimes you need to take a step back before you can move forward. By taking initiative, you'll succeed in creating balance in your financial situation and in your love life.
- ♊ GEMINI**
At work, your customer base will grow dramatically, thereby increasing your income significantly. In your love life, your partner or someone you're interested in will surprise you in a way that makes you very happy.
- ♋ CANCER**
You'll have an epiphany that will light the way to achieving your personal and professional objectives. As a result, you'll take the first steps toward starting your own business.
- ♌ LEO**
In order to expand your professional and personal horizons, you'll take a training course. To your great delight, this will change the trajectory of your life.
- ♍ VIRGO**
Emotions will be palpable this week and may cause a degree of restlessness. You'll receive a clear sign of affection and commitment from your new love interest.
- ♎ LIBRA**
Consider the consequences before making a decision that could change your life and that of those closest to you. Your generosity will be contagious and you'll spread the seeds of happiness.
- ♏ SCORPIO**
Changing your eating habits will have a considerable effect on your health. In your love life, clear communication allows you to avoid conflict and propels you toward making a more serious commitment.
- ♐ SAGITTARIUS**
You'll be a hero this week. You may even help someone out of a difficult situation just by listening for a few minutes and offering them a smile.
- ♑ CAPRICORN**
If you've been thinking about moving, you'll start to consider the idea more seriously. Notably, you'll find a home that suits your family's needs.
- ♒ AQUARIUS**
You won't pull any punches this week or beat around the bush when expressing your disagreement. You'll be feared and respected.
- ♓ PISCES**
To be happier in your relationship, you need to break out of your routine and communicate your desires to your partner. If you don't already live together, you'll consider it.

New Streaming Movies & Shows

NETFLIX

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"Cooked With Cannabis"
Fans of culinary series such as "Cooking on High" and "Bong Appetit" will want to take a look at this new six-episode competition series that pits three professional chefs who are tasked with creating cannabis-infused dishes. The winner of each episode receives a \$10,000 prize. Singer and cookbook author Kelis and chef Leather Storrs serve as hosts and judges, with rotating guest judges including actresses Ricki Lake and Mary Lynn Rajsukub. (ORIGINAL)



"Movie: The Willoughbys"
From writer/director Kris Pearn ("Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2") comes this CG-animated feature film about the four Willoughby children, abandoned by their selfish parents, who must adapt their old-fashioned values to the contemporary world to create a new, modern family. Ricky Gervais, Maya Rudolph, Will Forte, Martin Short, Alessia Cara and Jane Krakowski head the voice cast. (ORIGINAL)



"After Life"
Season 2 of this Netflix dramedy returns with Tony (series star Ricky Gervais) still struggling with immense grief over the death of his wife and trying to be a better friend to those around him, all of whom are grappling with their own problems that threaten to intensify with the looming closure of the local newspaper. Penelope Wilton, David Bradley, Ashley Jensen, Tom Basden and Tony Way are among cast returnees. (ORIGINAL)



"Movie: Extraction"
Stuntman Sam Hargrave made his feature film directorial debut with this action/drama that stars Chris Hemsworth ("Avengers: Infinity War") as a black market mercenary who embarks on the most deadly extraction of his career: the rescue of the kidnapped son of an imprisoned international crime lord. David Harbour, Golshifteh Farahani, Derek Luke and Chris Jai Alex also star. (ORIGINAL)



"Movie: Cunningham"
Fans of dance and 3D cinematography will want to check out this 2019 documentary from Russian filmmaker Alla Kovgan ("Movement (R)evolution Africa") that profiles late American dancer and choreographer Merce Cunningham and looks at the last generation of his Merce Cunningham Dance Company. A number of contemporaries and students weigh in.



"Movie: Abominable"
Three teens help a Yeti get back to his family while avoiding a millionaire and a zoologist who have their own intentions for the creature in this 2019 animated adventure from the creative team behind "Open Season" and "The Croods." Chloe Bennet, Albert Tsai, Tenzing Norgay Trainor, Eddie Izzard and Sarah Paulson head the voice cast.



"Movie: Vault"
Based on real events, this 2019 actioner follows a group of small-time criminals who tried to pull off the biggest heists in American history, more than \$30 million from the mob in Rhode Island in 1975. Theo Rossi, Clive Standen, Samira Wiley, Chazz Palminteri and Don Johnson head the cast for director Tom DeNucci ("Army of the Damned").



"Movie: Little Joe"
A plant breeder at a corporation that develops new species brings one of them home as a gift for her son and even names it after him but soon starts to fear it in this 2019 horror movie from director Jessica Hausner ("Amour Fou"). Emily Beecham, Ben Whishaw and Kerry Fox star.

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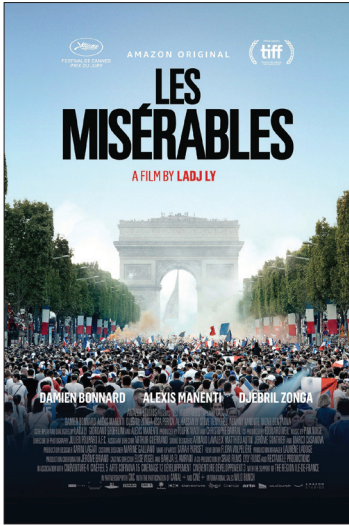
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"Movie: Selah and the Spades"

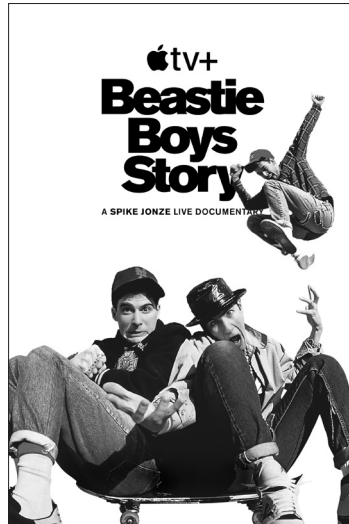
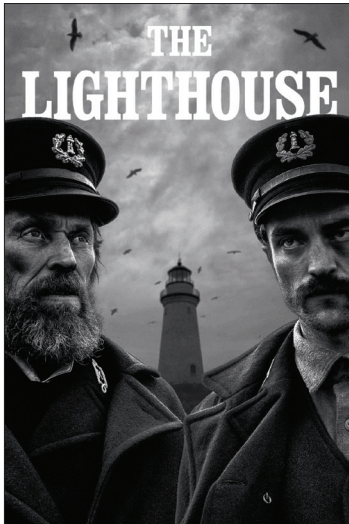
Filmmaker Tayarisha Poe made her directorial debut with this 2019 drama that follows the five factions that rule the student body at an exclusive boarding school and Selah (Lovie Simone, "Greenleaf"), the head of the most powerful one, the Spades. The film, which made its debut at this year's Sundance Film Festival, also stars Celeste O'Connor, Jharrel Jerome and Ana Mulvoy Ten. (ORIGINAL)

"Movie: Les misérables"

Inspired by the 2005 Paris riots, this Oscar-nominated 2019 drama is set in the present day and follows a cop who moves to the French capital and gets caught up in the tensions among the different groups that make up its underworld. Damien Bonnard, Alexis Manenti and Djibril Zonga head the cast for director Ladj Ly ("The Pitiful").

"Defending Jacob"

A gripping, character-driven thriller based on the 2012 New York Times best-selling novel of the same name, and starring Chris Evans, Michelle Dockery and Jaeden Martell. The limited series unfolds around a shocking crime that rocks a small Massachusetts town and one family in particular, forcing an assistant district attorney to choose between his sworn duty to uphold justice and his unconditional love for his son. (ORIGINAL)



"Movie: Invisible Life"

From Brazil comes this 2019 drama set in 1950 Rio de Janeiro and follows inseparable sisters forced by their father to live apart, who each take control of their destinies to pursue their dreams: one to become a renowned pianist and the other to find true love. Julia Stockler, Carol Duarte and Flávia Gusmao head the cast for director Karim Ainouz ("Madame Sata").

"Movie: The Lighthouse"

From Canada and director Robert Eggers ("The Witch") comes this 2019 fantasy drama about two lighthouse keepers who try to maintain their sanity while living on a remote and mysterious New England island in the 1890s. The film, which received a nomination for best cinematography at this year's Oscars, stars Robert Pattinson, Willem Dafoe, Valeria Karaman and Logan Hawkes.

"Movie: Beastie Boys Story"

Beastie Boys Mike Diamond and Adam Horovitz tell you an intimate, personal story of their band and 40 years of friendship in this live documentary experience directed by their longtime friend and collaborator, filmmaker Spike Jonze. "Beastie Boys Story" is set to premiere on the heels of the 26th anniversary of the release of Beastie Boys' No. 1 charting 1994 album, "Ill Communication." The film reunites Beastie Boys with director Spike Jonze over 25 years after directing the music video for the album's immortal hit single, "Sabotage." (ORIGINAL)

COMING SOON

"Judith Lucy: Judith Lucy vs Men"

"Invincible" (Season 1)

"Pet" (Season 1)

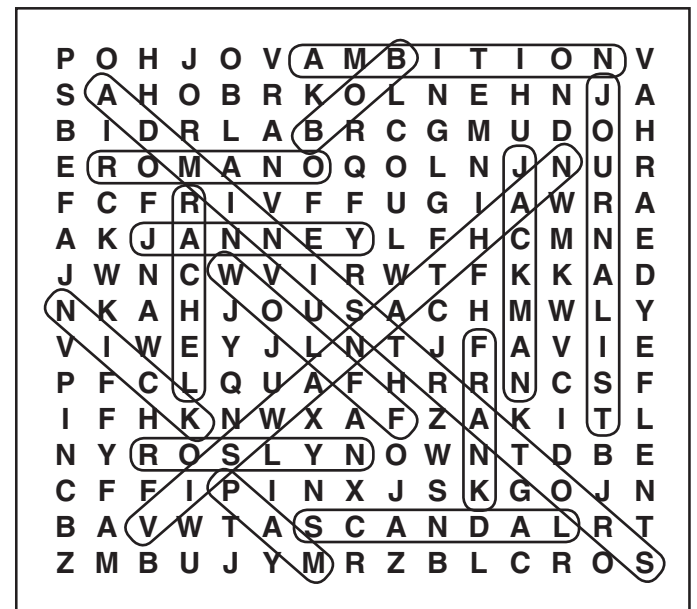
Word Search

P O H J O V A M B I T I O N V
 S A H O B R K O L N E H N J A
 B I D R L A B R C G M U D O H
 E R O M A N O Q O L N J N U R
 F C F R I V F F U G I A W R A
 A K J A N N E Y L F H C M N E
 J W N C W V I R W T F K K A D
 N K A H J O U S A C H M W L Y
 V I W E Y J L N T J F A V I E
 P F C L Q U A F H R R N C S F
 I F H K N W X A F Z A K I T L
 N Y R O S L Y N O W N T D B E
 C F F I P I N X J S K G O J N
 B A V W T A S C A N D A L R T
 Z M B U J Y M R Z B L C R O S

"Bad Education" on HBO
(Words in parentheses not in puzzle)

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Frank (Tassone) | (Hugh) Jackman | Roslyn (High School) |
| Pam (Gluckin) | (Allison) Janney | Administrators |
| Bob (Spicer) | (Ray) Romano | Ambition |
| Rachel (Kellog) | (Geraldine) Viswanathan | (Student) Journalist |
| Nick (Fleischman) | (Alex) Wolff | Scandal |

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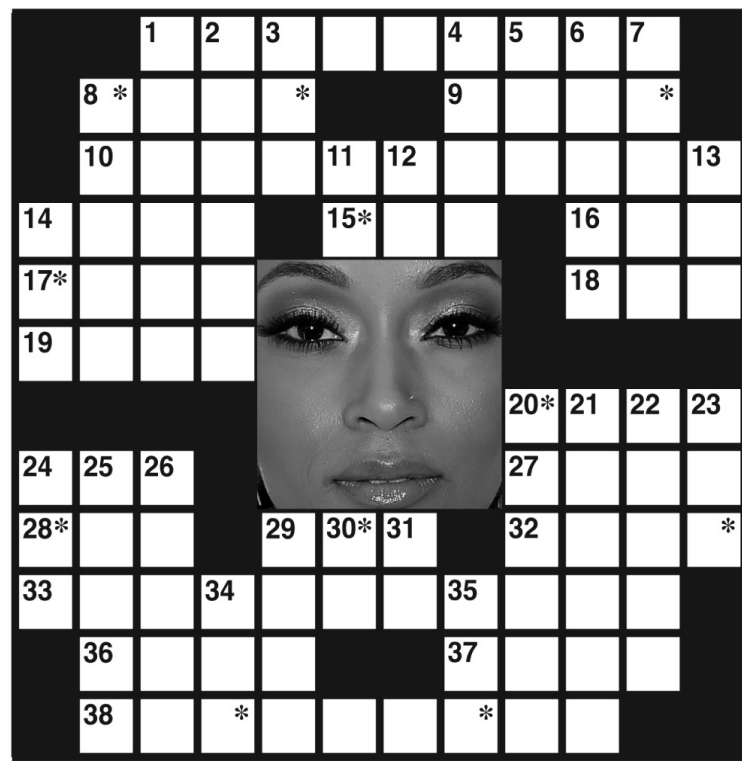
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Crosswords



The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

ACROSS

- 1. "NCIS: Los Angeles" role (2)
- 8. In ___; mired by routine
- 9. Pleased
- 10. "Ellen's ___"
- 14. "El ___"; John Payne western film
- 15. "Say ___ to the Dress"
- 16. 90 degrees from NNW
- 17. Of the U.S.A.: abbr.
- 18. File drawer, perhaps
- 19. Della Reese's "Touched by an Angel" role
- 20. "Here ___ the Brides" (1968-70)
- 24. Musical notes
- 27. ___ about; approximately
- 28. "Carol's Second ___"
- 29. Adams or Johnson
- 32. Lucy and others
- 33. Chris Harrison's series (2)
- 36. Get ___; seek revenge
- 37. Rex of "CSI: Miami"
- 38. Actor on "Will & Grace" (2)

- 6. Like a poorer excuse
- 7. Barbara and others
- 8. "Sherlock Holmes: ___ of Shadows"; 2011 film
- 11. Comment from Nanny Fine
- 12. "Santa ___ Trail"; movie for Errol Flynn
- 13. ___ up; arrange
- 14. Boone or Benatar
- 20. Lassie, for one
- 21. Chili dog topper, for some
- 22. Grieve
- 23. Syllables of hesitation
- 24. "My Big ___ Greek Life"
- 25. Fibromyalgia symptoms
- 26. Allen or Martin
- 29. Actor Florek
- 30. "The ___"; 2003-07 series for Adam Brody
- 31. Concord's place: abbr.
- 34. ___ Arthur
- 35. Actor Ron ___

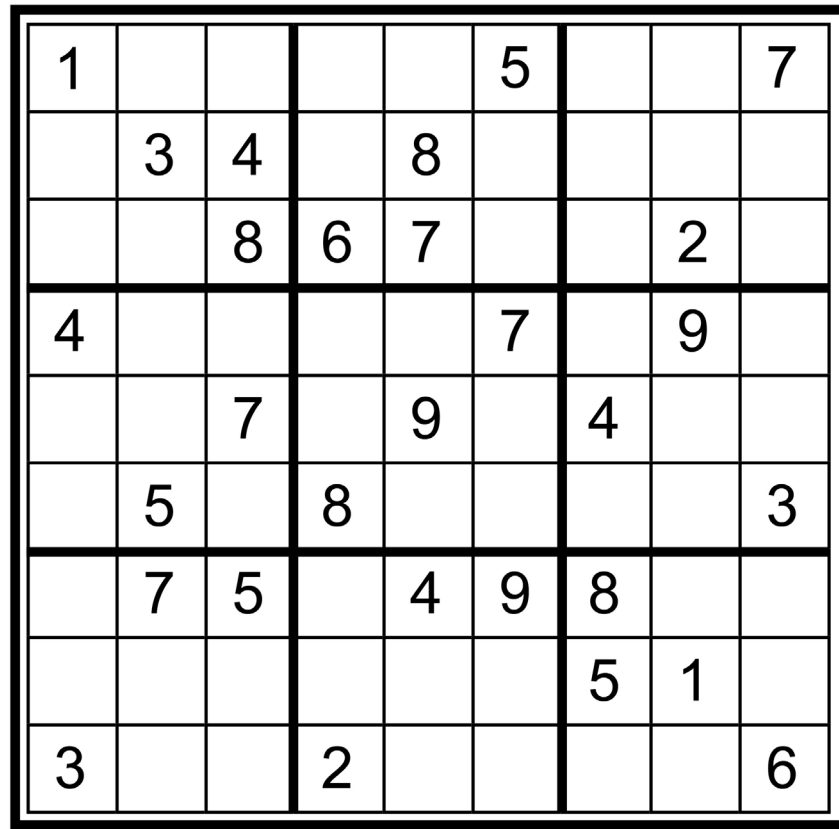


DOWN

- 1. Gets rid of errors
- 2. Bits of gossip
- 3. Ending for meteor or social
- 4. Breakfast order
- 5. Channing Tatum's state of birth: abbr.

Sudoku

PROVIDED BY GRACENOTE



To complete this puzzle, place the numbers 1-9 in the empty cells, so that every row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold outline) contains all nine digits.

Each number 1-9 may appear only once in each row, column and 3-by-3 box.

SOLUTION

1	2	6	4	3	5	9	8	7
7	3	4	9	8	2	1	6	5
5	9	8	6	7	1	3	2	4
4	6	3	5	1	7	2	9	8
2	8	7	3	9	6	4	5	1
9	5	1	8	2	4	6	7	3
6	7	5	1	4	9	8	3	2
8	4	2	7	6	3	5	1	9
3	1	9	2	5	8	7	4	6

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SUNDAY EVENING APRIL 19

Table with 11 columns: SP, FT, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM. Local Channels include WIS, WLTX, WOLO, WRJA, WACH, WKTC.

Cable Channels section with 11 columns: SP, FT, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM. Lists channels like AMC, ANPL, BET, BRAVO, CNN, COM, DISN, etc.

MONDAY EVENING APRIL 20

Table with 11 columns: SP, FT, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM. Local Channels include WIS, WLTX, WOLO, WRJA, WACH, WKTC.

Cable Channels section with 11 columns: SP, FT, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM. Lists channels like AMC, ANPL, BET, BRAVO, CNN, COM, DISN, etc.

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Daniel Craig's Top 10 Movies

BY JAY BOBBIN

"Knives Out" (2019): Heading an all-star cast, Craig is hugely enjoyable as an outsider who probes the murder of a wealthy and famous novelist during a reunion of the victim's colorful family.



"Logan Lucky" (2017): Knowingly taking a gamble with his image (and accent), Craig is hilarious as a convict sprung by two brothers to help commit a speedway robbery.



"Skyfall" (2012): Craig hits his stride as James Bond, who has to deal with painful remnants of his past while protecting boss M (Judi Dench) from a vengeful enemy.

"The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" (2011): The screen remake of the mystery boasts a fine Craig as a shamed journalist on a private job.



"Defiance" (2008): Craig does solid work as one of several Jewish brothers teamed with Russian resistance fighters to oppose the Nazis.

"Casino Royale" (2006): After many purists' carping about "the blond Bond," Craig redefined and re-energized Agent 007, giving the adventure series a big jump-start. Rarely has an actor made an on-screen card game so engrossing.



"Infamous" (2006): Amid the initial James Bond hype, Craig also delivered a compelling performance as "In Cold Blood" killer Perry Smith.

"Munich" (2005): Craig gave a strong indication he was up for 007 duty in Steven Spielberg's drama about the hunt for the organizers of the 1972 Munich Olympics athlete massacre.



"Layer Cake" (2004): Perhaps Craig's best-known film before "Casino Royale," this melodrama uses him to terrific effect as a drug dealer whose retirement plans go awry.

"Road to Perdition" (2002): For proof of Craig's versatility, just stack his Bond against his work here – for "Skyfall" and "SPECTRE" director Sam Mendes – as the sniveling son of a Depression-era underworld titan (Paul Newman).



'Casino Royale' still a breathtaking James Bond debut for Daniel Craig

BY JAY BOBBIN

His name is Bond ... James Bond. For one more movie, anyway.

When "No Time to Die" gets its delayed release (expected this Thanksgiving), Daniel Craig will have owned the role of arguably the most famous secret agent in films and literature for 14 years and five pictures. With his exit on the horizon, it's nice that his entrance in "Casino Royale" currently is available on HBO.

The 2006 adventure is the screen treatment that Ian Fleming's first Bond novel always deserved, but didn't quite receive, twice – first in a live 1955 television production, then in a 1967 spoof that retained some of the original story elements, but buried them in a flashy jumble. As it turned out, "Casino Royale" would prove an ideal reboot of the movie franchise, introducing Bond to his 007 "licensed to kill"

designation at the same time it introduced audiences to Craig in the role.

Under the steady hand of director Martin Campbell, who also introduced the preceding Bond (Pierce Brosnan, in "GoldenEye"), "Casino Royale" really is three interlinked stories. First, there's the infiltration of a terrorism ring planning to blow up a prototype aircraft just before its maiden flight from Miami's airport; then, there's the card game in which Bond tries to prevent Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen) from winning and funding more of the terrorism; and then, there's the playing out of the related betrayal that does much to shape Bond both personally and professionally.

Perhaps the most amazing accomplishment of "Casino Royale" is that at a running time just short of two-and-a-half hours, it never flags. It's always interesting and involving, even in the relatively quiet scene of Bond meeting skeptical treasury

agent Vesper Lynd (Eva Green) aboard a train. The dialogue between them crackles, and that's not the only instance of that.

The Moneypenny and Q characters would be reintroduced in later Craig-starring chapters, but "Casino Royale" is smart enough to keep Bond's boss M – and the performer who also played the part so superbly during the Brosnan era. Judi Dench makes (of course) a superb match for Craig, and the love-hate tension between them remained a major Bond-movie element for the rest of Dench's run.

Yes, the shaken-not-stirred end is coming for him, but it's great to have a reminder of Craig's roots in the role that expectedly would transform his career. Some of the follow-ups were better than others, but "Casino Royale" always will stand as a sterling starting point for the star's duty on Her Majesty's Secret Service.



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Eddie Muller continues to prowl "Noir Alley"

BY JAY BOBBIN

If anyone is an appropriate guide for a weekly stroll down "Noir Alley," it's Eddie Muller.

The expert on film-noir pictures – with their questionable morality, shady ladies and business conducted in the shadows, often literally – established the Film Noir Foundation and oversees related festivals, and he's also the author of several books on the subject.

Additionally, he's the host of the similarly themed showcase Turner Classic Movies presents Saturday nights and Sunday mornings, with Muller typically applying his sly humor to the wealth of facts he offers on the given week's attraction.

"I'm very happy that they have given me so much freedom and latitude to do what I do, and the time to

do it," he says of his TCM association. "And they built me that fantastic set, and I couldn't be happier." Though he gives a bounty of information in his segments surrounding each movie, Muller allows, "I have to leave something for the repeats, so sometimes, I have to rein myself in."

The "Noir Alley" feature the weekend of April 25-26 is 1953's "Wicked Woman" with title star Beverly Michaels, who later married the film's director (Russell Rouse). Subsequent weeks boast such evocative titles as "Fallen Angel," "The Crimson Kimono" (directed by the legendary Samuel Fuller) and "Cornered," plus the original version of "A Kiss

Before Dying" and the Joan Crawford classic "Mildred Pierce" (which earned the actress an Oscar).

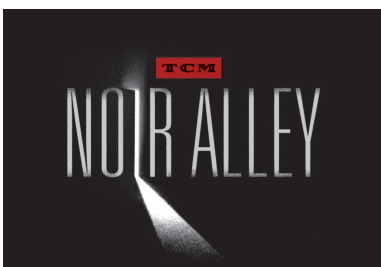
"I'm hopeful that we'll be able to broaden the selection of films," Muller notes, realizing he largely has to abide by titles TCM already has the rights to. "I'll program a whole year at a time," he explains, "but they've been very good about allowing me to choose five or six films a year that are outside of the licenses. We

go after them and get them specifically for 'Noir Alley.'"

The son of a boxing writer, Muller appreciates that "the titles are so great" in film noir. "I have actually programmed festivals just to see two titles on a marquee together. My all-time favorite was, 'I Wake Up Screaming' 'In a Lonely Place.'"



"Wicked Woman" (1953)



Celebrate Earth Day 2020 with environmentally-focused specials



BY GEORGE DICKIE

It was amid a growing awareness of man's pollution of the planet that Earth Day was born on April 22, 1970.

Fifty years later, that awareness is arguably at an all-time high and we've made significant gains in addressing problems but science has proven we still have a long way to go. And it is on that note that a number of services will offer up environmentally-oriented programming in prime time on Wednesday, April 22.

Probably the most noteworthy is "Jane Goodall: The Hope," airing on National Geographic, Nat Geo Wild and Nat Geo Mundo. Directed by Kim Woodard ("Border Wars") and Elizabeth Leiter ("Mars"), the two-hour documentary tells the story of the primatologist's four decades of advocacy work for chimpanzees and follows her in her travels in California, Sri Lanka and Florida to show how she has made a difference in animal conservation. There will also be a live segment from Australia with weather anchor Sam Champion of "Good Morning America."

Immediately preceding on Nat Geo and Nat Geo Wild is "Born Wild: Earth Day Live," which as the title indicates is hosted live by ABC News anchor Robin Roberts from the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, Calif. This hourlong event combines live footage with prerecorded segments to give a revealing look at the next generation of baby animals and their ecosystems and the environmental challenges they face in places such as Florida, Minnesota, Sri Lanka, Australia and Kenya.

Very appropriate to today's world is Discovery Channel's "The Story of Plastic," which shines the spotlight on the environmental damage and human rights abuses that occur throughout the entire life cycle of plastic, not just when it's disposed of. It also reveals how the plastics industry is stepping up its production of single-use plastic products while at the same time blaming wasteful consumers for plastic pollution. The solution, the film posits, lies in stopping their mass production all together.

Also quite relevant is the PBS documentary "Climate

Change: The Facts" (check local listings), which brings together leading climate scientists to explain what might happen if global warming increases 1.5 degrees and examines the consequences of rising temperatures on ice sheets, fragile ecosystems, developing communities and extreme weather events. Personal accounts of California wildfires, extreme coastal flooding in Louisiana and increasing temperatures in Australia paint vivid pictures of these devastating effects.

Currently available for the younger set on Apple TV+ is "Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth." Based on the bestselling book by Oliver Jeffers, the animated short film follows the journey of a precocious 7-year-old who over the course of Earth Day learns about the wonders of the planet from his parents and visits a mysterious exhibit at an edifice known as the Museum of Everything. Meryl Streep narrates the program, with Ruth Negga ("Preacher"), Chris O'Dowd ("Mary Poppins Returns") and Jacob Tremblay ("The Smurfs 2") providing the characters' voices.

View from the Couch BY JAY BOBBIN



"The Gentlemen"

The title of this crime tale is tongue-in-cheek, referring to criminals who are supposed to be gentleman thieves ... but in the world of filmmaker Guy Ritchie, such crooks stay mannerly only so long, usually about as long as it takes to get to the opening credits. The writer-director certainly knows the genre ("Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," "RocknRolla"), and here, he makes Matthew McConaughey the protagonist ... a drug kingpin in England who wants out of the trade to live a comfy retirement with his wife (Michelle Dockery, "Downton Abbey"). Several things stand in his way, though, including a blackmailer played by Hugh Grant; he's written a script inspired by the McConaughey's character, who would rather not see his underhanded dealings detailed on the silver screen – thus potentially foiling his thought of handing his narcotics empire over to a fellow hoodlum (Jeremy Strong). The cast has room for a lot of good actors, with Colin Farrell, Charlie Hunnam and Henry Golding also among them. Even if the picture won't stay with you very long afterward, it puts forth quite an attractive package while it's playing. »» (R: AS, P, V) (Also on Blu-ray and On Demand)

"Bad Boys For Life"

In their third chapter of the "Bad Boys" franchise, Will Smith and Martin Lawrence reunite for more action and humor as their Miami-cop characters are targeted by a prison escapee and her son (Kate del Castillo, Jacob Scipio), relatives of a deceased

cartel chief. After an attempt to kill Smith's character fails, he recovers and tries to recruit the then-retired Lawrence to join him in tracking and capturing the would-be murderers. Co-stars Joe Pantoliano and Theresa Randle also return, with Vanessa Hudgens a cast addition as

a member of an elite police team. Original producer Jerry Bruckheimer also remains with the series here, putting his familiar stylistic stamp on this "threequel." »» (R: AS, P, V) (Also on Blu-ray and On Demand)

"Like A Boss"

The women are doing it for themselves in this comedy, teaming Tiffany Haddish and Rose Byrne as close friends who run a cosmetics company ... which they could lose to the machinations of a scheming mogul (Salma Hayek). In the course of that plot, the co-owners go their separate ways, only to realize they'll have to stay united to protect their personal and professional futures. In a similar sense, Haddish and Byrne, both skilled in humor that often borders on – and sometimes steps directly into – the raunchy, put forth very enjoyable teamwork here. "Friends" alum Lisa Kudrow, Jennifer Coolidge ("2 Broke Girls") and Emmy winner Billy Porter ("Pose") also star. »» (R: AS, P) (Also on Blu-ray)

"Looking For Alaska"

Several false starts were made at bringing it to the screen earlier, but the American Library Association-honored novel by John Green ("The Fault in Our Stars") finally arrived last fall as an affecting Hulu limited series adapted by writer-producer Josh Schwartz ("Gossip Girl," "The O.C."). "All the Money in the World's" Charlie Plummer is the male lead in the young-adult drama, playing Miles "Pudge" Halter, a soulful teen whose new prep-school roommate "The Colonel" (Denny Love) introduces him to independent-minded beauty Alaska Young (actress-model Kristine Froseth). The three form a close friendship that ultimately deepens into more for

Alaska and Pudge – and takes some unexpected, potentially life-shaping turns. Emmy winner Ron Cephas Jones ("This Is Us") appears as an influential teacher. »» (Not rated: AS, P)

"30 Rock: The Complete Series"

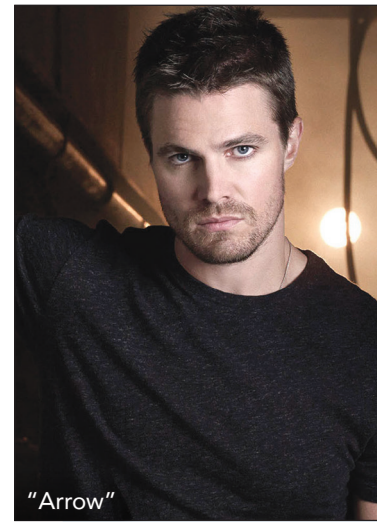
Tina Fey and her producing partner Robert Carlock are developing a new NBC comedy, which actually was planned to be a direct spinoff of this show initially ... but in the meantime, their much-acclaimed sitcom about a sketch-based program not unlike "Saturday Night Live" (on which, of course, Fey was a vital performer and writer) gets a full-series release on home video. Fey plays the brilliant and caustic Liz Lemon, who keeps the show-within-the-show running – which proves challenging on a number of counts, not the least of which is her interaction with quirky network executive Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin, who won two Emmy Awards for the role). Tracy Morgan, Jane Krakowski and Jack McBrayer are among other regulars in the series, which boasted a parade of famous guest stars over the course of its seven-season run. »»» (Not rated: AS, P) (Also on Blu-ray)

"Masterpiece: World On Fire – Season One"

As it continues its current telecasts on PBS, this World War II-themed British-American co-production makes its U.S. home-video debut letting those who acquire it early see much of the series before it airs. Written by Peter Bowker ("Blackpool") and set in 1939 in several countries that were at the forefront of the conflict – including America and England – the drama features Oscar and Emmy winner Helen Hunt ("Mad About You") as a

U.S. journalist covering the war. Another major plot involves a love triangle among a would-be diplomat (Jonah Hauer-King), the Polish waitress turned Resistance member he loved and supposedly lost (Zofia Wichlacz), and his more recent interest (Julia Brown). "Phantom Thread" Oscar nominee Lesley Manville and Sean Bean ("Game of Thrones") also star in the saga, which the BBC aired overseas last fall ... and more of it is coming, since a second season has been ordered. (Not rated: AS, P, V) (Also on Blu-ray)

Coming Home Soon



"ARROW: THE EIGHTH AND FINAL SEASON" (April 28)

"THE RHYTHM SECTION" (April 28)

"DOCTOR WHO: THE COMPLETE TWELFTH SERIES" (May 5)

"GUNSMOKE: THE FINAL SEASON" (May 5)

"THE GOOD PLACE: THE FINAL SEASON" (May 19)

"WATCHMEN: AN HBO LIMITED SERIES" (June 2)

AS Adult situations
P Profanity

Family Viewing Ratings
V Violence
N Nudity

GV Graphic Violence

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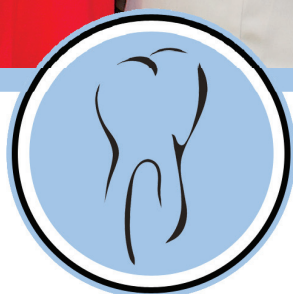
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