

BACK TO COOL

MEET THE MOST
EXCITING SHOWS
OF THE NEW
TV SEASON

The beginning of a new season can feel like the first day back at school after summer vacation: There are old friends with new stories to tell, as well as the new kids in class who bring fresh energy, engaging personalities and the possibility of long-lasting relationships. This fall, you can *laissez les bons temps rouler* with *NCIS: New Orleans*, laugh along with *The McCarthys*, get spooked by *Stalker*, up your IQ with the geniuses of *Scorpion* and be inspired by *Madam Secretary*. Take your seats. No pencils necessary. — *Jim Colucci*



Madam Secretary stars Bebe Neuwirth, left, Téa Leoni, Tim Daly and Patina Miller.



"This is the woman I want to see in office."

— TÉA LEONI,
ABOUT HER CHARACTER
ELIZABETH McCORD

MADAM SECRETARY



When Téa Leoni first read the pilot script for *Madam Secretary*, from renowned show creator Barbara Hall (*Joan of Arcadia*), "I knew right away who this woman was going to be." As she thought about playing Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord on what will be her first regular dramatic series, Leoni says that three role models who immediately came to mind were Hillary Rodham Clinton, Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice. "As an actress, I'm in a great position where I can steal from those women."

Leoni reveals she was already a big fan of the similarly multifaceted *The Good Wife*, with Julianna Margulies' Alicia Florrick. Now with McCord, she says, "We have more strong, complex and dynamic women on television."

So while in real life Leoni hopes that Clinton will leverage her years of experience into a 2016 presidential bid, for now, "This is the woman I want to see in office." (Airs Sundays at 8 p.m. ET/PT on CBS, beginning Sept. 21.)

CAST: HEATHER WINES; CBS; ON TV: SCREEN: CRAIG BLANKENHORN/CBS



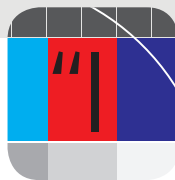
"It's hard to predict which lines get crossed, and when, and why."

— **MAGGIE Q,**
ABOUT STALKING

Stalker star Dylan McDermott (with Maggie Q, below)



STALKER



It's a dance," Maggie Q says of her character Lt. Beth Davis' work on the new crime thriller *Stalker*. Stocked with the nail-biting suspense for which its creator Kevin Williamson (*Scream*, *The Vampire Diaries*) is famous, *Stalker* depicts the LAPD's work to save the targets of obsessive criminals.

Q explains that, as no-nonsense Davis has learned first-hand as a victim, "Stalking is one of those subject areas we don't know a lot about. We know there's a high correlation with mental illness, but it's hard to predict which lines get crossed, and when, and why."

Co-star Dylan McDermott says, "The problem is, the threat has to become real. The law can't really prosecute until someone does something that physically harms you."

Ironically, McDermott's character, Detective Jack Larsen, has transferred from New York partly to pursue his estranged wife. As the actor says, "That's a twist I found really interesting." (Airs Wednesdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT on CBS, beginning Oct. 1.)

MCDERMOTT: ROBERT ASHCROFT/EPIC INDICATION; ON TV SCREEN: RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/CBS



NCIS: NEW ORLEANS



fter the success *NCIS* scored last spring with its two-episode arc set in New Orleans, it was clear we would see more of Special Agent Dwayne Pride, aka “King” (Scott Bakula), and

his unorthodox ways in policing the Big Easy.

“King just loves this town so much—every aspect of it,” says Bakula, star of the new *NCIS: New Orleans*. Bakula paraphrases D’Wayne Swear, whom his King character is based on: “I just want to work with the people. We’ll get it done. We don’t worry about rules, but we take care of business.”

As *New Orleans* showrunner and captain of the *NCIS* flagship Gary Glasberg explains, King is “much more emotional and outspoken” than Mark Harmon’s *NCIS* leader Jethro Gibbs, “reflecting the different rhythm and energy in this part of the country. There’s so much color and vibrancy in this city. We took some extraordinary characters and tied it all together.” (Airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CBS, beginning Sept. 23.)

“We don’t worry about rules, but we take care of business.”

— **SCOTT BAKULA,**
PARAPHRASING THE MAN HIS
CHARACTER IS BASED ON



NCIS: New Orleans stars Alfre Woodard, left, Zoe McLellan, Scott Bakula and Lucas Black.





The cast of *Scorpion* includes, from left: Robert Patrick, Elyes Gabel, Ari Stidham, Jadyn Wong, Eddie Kaye Thomas and Katharine McPhee.



“We’re going to show how being a genius can be tough. When you’re one in 1.47 billion, that can be a lonely feeling.”

— SHOW CREATOR **NICK SANTORA**

SCORPION



When writer Nick Santora first heard about real-life genius Walter O'Brien and his think tank company, Scorpion Computer Services, he immediately saw the potential for action.

His resulting show for CBS, *Scorpion*, casts Elyes Gabel as O'Brien, whose IQ is ranked the world's fourth-highest, and surrounds him with other brilliant specialists in mechanics, statistics and behavior analysis. As the brainy new team, guarded by federal agent Cabe Gallo (Robert Patrick), works each week to defend the U.S. against the high-tech threats of the modern age, *Scorpion* will be “a little bit of *X-Men*, a little bit *A-Team*,” Santora promises. “There will be self-doubt and self-discovery, because so many of these guys are insecure. We’re going to see how being a genius can be tough. Because when you’re one in 1.47 billion, that can be a lonely feeling.” (Airs Mondays at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CBS, beginning Sept. 22.)



CAST: HEATHER WINES/CBS; ON TV: SCREEN MOUNTY BRINNO/CBS

THE MCCARTHYS



rowing up in a suburb of Boston, Brian Gullivan's biggest sin in the eyes of his sports-crazed, Irish-Catholic family wasn't that he's gay—it's that he knows nothing about basketball.

"The fact that Ronny is gay isn't even a driving characteristic," says Tyler Ritter, who plays Gullivan's alter ego Ronny on the new comedy *The McCarthys*.

"The show is a good combination of traditional family comedy and progressive, edgier stuff," says Joey McIntyre, who plays one of Ronny's three siblings, alongside on-screen parents Jack McGee and Laurie Metcalf. "A lot of Irish families don't know how to talk to each other," says McGee. "They talk at each other, and it comes out unfiltered."

"The show is peppered with details from real life, so my family can't wait to see it," Gullivan says. "But every time I go home, they all say, 'Don't say anything to him—it'll end up in an episode!'" (Airs Thursdays at 9:30 p.m. ET/PT on CBS, beginning Oct. 30.)

"The show is a good combination of traditional family comedy and progressive, edgier stuff."

— JOEY MCINTYRE



The McCarthys cast, from left: Joey McIntyre, Laurie Metcalf, Jack McGee, Tyler Ritter, Kelen Coleman and Jimmy Dunn.

CAST: SPLASH NEWS/CORBIS; ON TV SCREEN: SONIA FLEMING/CBS