

'Arrested Development' finale may be forever

Tonight, viewers can witness the opening of one of the year's premiere TV events, as well as the probable end to a critically acclaimed and innovative comedy, albeit one that has been more loved and admired than watched.

Justine Bateman and Judge Reinhold guest star on the two-hour third-season finale of "Arrested Development" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14).

While this is being billed as a season, and not a series, ender, the chances of "Arrested" returning to the Fox lineup remain somewhere between slim and nonexistent.

A rumor that Showtime would pick up the show produced by Ron Howard's Imagine Entertainment (and narrated by Howard, as well) gave fans some hope of a fourth season.

And some felt that the quirky comedy would be a perfect fit for the premium network's provocative schedule. But the recent TV critic's tour came and went without a peep from Showtime about getting "Arrested."

Perhaps it's time that members of the show's hardcore audience resigned themselves to the inevitable. There have been plenty of quality shows that never survived one maiden season.

Three years is a good, long run, especially for a challenging, groundbreaking and transformative show. "Arrested Development" arrived at a time when the sitcom was considered all but dead.

This season we have seen the genre's ratings revival and creative renewal. The critical and popular response to a show as offbeat as "Arrested Development" clearly helped make shows like "My Name is Earl" and "Crumbs" possible.

Besides, few shows have been more tailored to the joys of viewing and reviewing on DVD. The show's many throwaway gags and quirks (like the weekly coming attractions of "scenes from next week" that never arrive) are custom made for repeat appreciation.

Katie Couric and Bob Costas host the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony (8 p.m., NBC) from Turin, Italy. Look for the smarty-pants Costas to keep the fact-boiler stoked.

I can already hear the informed patter: "Did you know Turin was home to Italy's automobile industry? Katie, the sports world has moved from a Detroit Super Bowl to an Olympic Games in Italy's own Motor City ..."

Couric will keep the focus where it belongs: on the emotional stories of athletes and their proud and tearful families. Our heartstrings have already been



Kevin McDonough

plucked by the tale of Michelle Kwan's probable swan song. Will it be bathed in a golden glow, settle for a silver lining or boil down to a bronze?

There are a million soap operas in the Motor City as the world turns its eyes to Turin. And NBC and its corporate cousins, USA, CNBC, MSNBC and Universal HD will provide endless hours of curling, snowboarding, luge and other highlights from tonight through Feb. 26.

Tonight's other highlights

- Orphan spirits find solace on "Ghost Whisperer" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

- Jesse Bradford and Erika Christensen star in the chlorine-soaked teenage angst drama "Swimfan" (8 p.m., WB, TV-14, D, S, V).

- Two rebellious rottweilers and an incorrigible corgi get their day with "The Dog Whisperer" (8 p.m., National Geographic).

Cult choice

A young woman battles local thugs and a ticking clock to save her boyfriend in the cult 1998 German-language feature "Run Lola Run" (8:30 p.m., IFC).

Series notes

Wrestling on "WWE SmackDown!" (8 p.m., UPN) ... The results are read on "Dancing with the Stars" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) ... Two teens held for murdering their parents on "Close to Home" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14, V).

Late night

Martha Stewart and Brian Regan appear on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Paul Walker and Fiona Apple on "The Tonight Show" (12:35 p.m., NBC) ... Steve Coogan, Travis Stork and Daddy Yankee appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC). Rachel Weisz, Paul Bettany and Graham Bensinger chat on "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" (1:35 a.m., NBC) ... Craig Ferguson hosts Eddie Izzard and Patti Hall on "The Late, Late Show" (12:37 a.m., CBS).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

FRIDAY EVENING

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WTTV	Friends (CC)	Every-Raymond	Swimfan (PG-13) (02) * Jesse Bradford, Shiri Appleby. Suspense. (CC)	Sex and the City	Will & Grace	Sex and the City	Will & Grace	Sex and the City	Will & Grace	Will & Grace
WRTV	The Insider (N)	Be a Millionaire	Dancing With the Stars (N) (CC)	In Justice (9:01) (N) (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)
WISH	Inside Edition	Ent. Tonight	Ghost Whisperer "Lost Boys"	Close to Home (CC)	NUMB3RS "Obsession" (CC)	NUMB3RS "Obsession" (CC)	NUMB3RS "Obsession" (CC)	NUMB3RS "Obsession" (CC)	NUMB3RS "Obsession" (CC)	NUMB3RS "Obsession" (CC)
WTHR	Jeopardy! (N)	Olympic Zone	XX Olympic Winter Games Opening Ceremony. From Turin, Italy. (CC)							
WFYI	Business Rpt.	Religion-Ethics	Indiana Week	McLaughlin	Wash. Week	NOW (N) (CC)	Inside Indiana Business	Lawmakers	Time Goes By	
WNDY	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	WWE Friday Night SmackDown!	The Undertaker vs. Mark Henry. (N)	News	Access H'wood	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park
WTIU	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Wash. Week	NOW (N) (CC)	Sci. Frontiers	Foreign Exchng	Young Lincoln	Lawmakers	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
WHMB	The 700 Club (CC)	Harvest	Behind Scenes	Great Souls	Joel Osteen	Frederick Price	Praise the Lord (CC)			
WCLJ	ACLJ	Primary Focus	Arrested Development (N) (CC)							
WXIN	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	Arrested Development (N) (CC)							
WIPX	Pyramid (CC)	Family Feud	Christy: Choices of the Heart (01) ** Lauren Lee Smith. Drama.							
WTBU	Bill Purvis	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Celebration	Van Impe Pres	Balanced Living	This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice	
A&E	American Justice (CC)	Batman Returns (PG-13) (92) ** Michael Keaton, Michelle Pfeiffer. Action. (CC)	Criss Angel	American Justice "Thrill Killers"						
AMC	Hustle (CC)	The Day the Earth Stood Still (G) (51) *** Michael Rennie.	The Mummy (NR) (32) *** Boris Karloff. (CC)	Invisible Man						
AP	The Most Extreme "Venom" (CC)	The Planet's Funniest Animals	Animal Report	Animal Rescue	Dog-Friendly Destinations	The Planet's Funniest Animals				
BET	106 & Park	Blue Hill Avenue	R (01) ** Allen Payne, Angelle Brooks, William Johnson. Crime Drama.	Comicview Gary Moore.	In Living Color	In Living Color				
BRAVO	Inside the Actors Studio (CC)	Scarface (R) (83) ** Al Pacino, Steven Bauer. Crime Drama. A Cuban immigrant fights to the top of Miami's drug trade. (CC)	Scarface (83) **							
CNBC	On the Money	Deal or No Deal (CC)	Mad Money	The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch	Deal or No Deal (CC)					
CMT	Dukes of Hazzard	Trick My Truck	Great Balls of Fire! (PG-13) (89) *** Dennis Quaid, Winona Ryder, John Doe. Drama.	Garth Brooks	Trick My Truck					
CNN	The Situation Room	Paula Zahn Now (CC)	Larry King Live Michael W. Smith.	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)						
COM	Com.-Presents	Reno 911! (CC)	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Premium Blend	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	David Cross	South Park	Drawn Together
DISC	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)
EI	El News (N)	El News	Number 1 Single	Number 1 Single	Fashion Police: 2006 Grammy	The Soup (N)	Girl Next Door	Saturday Night Live (CC)		
ESPN	SportsCenter (6)	NBA	NBA Basketball	San Antonio Spurs at New Jersey Nets. (CC)			NBA Basketball:	Mavericks at Nuggets		
ESPN2	Interruption	NFL Matchup	2005 Road to the Pro Bowl (N)	Boxing Friday Night Fights - Paul Malignaggi vs. Donald Camarena.	Soccer Japan vs. United States.					
FAM	Smallville "Crisis" (CC)	The Parent Trap (PG) (98) *** Lindsay Lohan. Reunited twin girls try to get their parents back together.	The Parent Trap (98) ***							
FNC	Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	Hannity & Colmes (CC)	On the Record-Van Susteren	The O'Reilly Factor					
FOOD	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Emeril Live A tequila party.	\$40-a-Day	Tasty Travels	Roker on Road	Food Network	Iron Chef "Sea Urchin" Recipes.		
FOXMV	Lucas (6) (PG-13) (86) *** Drama.	Mother, Jugs & Speed (PG) (76) ** Bill Cosby. Comedy-Drama.	Mother, Jugs & Speed (76) **							
FOXSM	Knockouts	Gamenight	NBA Basketball	Golden State Warriors at Indiana Pacers.	Pacers	NBA Action	Sports Report			
FX	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	The Shield "Trophy" (CC)		
HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger "Lazarus"	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Love's Long Journey (05) Erin Cottrell, Dale Midkiff. Drama. (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)					
HGTV	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Get Color (N)	Design Remix	Double Take	FreeStyle (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	HGTV's Dream Home 2006	
HIST	Modern Marvels (CC)	D-Day: The Lost Evidence	Pilots create an unprecedented record.	Heroes Under Fire (CC)	Pacific: The Lost Evidence (CC)					
LIFE	Second Honeymoon (01) Roma Downey, Michael Nouri. Romance. (CC)	Love in Another Town (97) Victoria Principal, Adrian Pasdar. Drama. (CC)	Love in Another Town (97)							
MSNBC	Hardball (CC)	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	MSNBC Investigates Louisiana.	MSNBC Reports "To Catch a Predator 3" Sex predators.						
MTV	Direct Effect	True Life	True Life "I Live to Ride"	Gamekillers Dating.	Wild & Out	Wild & Out				
NICK	SpongeBob	Catscratch	Avatar-Last Air	The X's (CC)	Danny Phantom	Danny Phantom	Full House (CC)	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Cosby Show
OXY	Oprah After	Oprah After	Real Weddings	Real Weddings	Some Kind of Wonderful (PG-13) (87) ** Eric Stoltz. Romance.	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)				
SCIFI	John Doe "Past Imperfect" (CC)	Stargate SG-1 "Off the Grid" (N)	Stargate Atlantis (N) (CC)	Battlestar Galactica "Sacrifice"	Stargate SG-1 "Off the Grid" (CC)					
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Video Justice: Crime on Tape!	Video Justice: Crime-Type 2					
TBS	Every-Raymond/Every-Raymond	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	The Mask (PG-13) (94) *** Jim Carrey, Peter Riegert. Comedy. (CC)	The Cable Guy (11:10) (96) ** (CC)					
TCM	Doctor Zhivago (4:30) (65) ***	Heaven Can Wait (PG) (78) *** Warren Beatty, Jack Warden. Fantasy.	2001: A Space Odyssey (G) (68) ****	Keir Dullea. (CC)						
TLC	Wild Weddings (CC)	What Not to Wear "Maria" (CC)	What Not to Wear (CC)	Miami Ink	What Not to Wear "Maria" (CC)					
TNT	Law & Order (CC)	U.S. Marshals (PG-13) (98) ** Tommy Lee Jones, Robert Downey Jr. Crime Drama. (CC)	U.S. Marshals (PG-13) (98) **	Tommy Lee Jones.						
TOON	Foster's Home	Grim Advent.	Camp Lazlo	Codename: Kid	Hanky Panky	Valentine Bravo	Foster's Home	Grim Advent.	Puffy AmiYumi	Juniper Lee
TVL	Good Times	Good Times	The Munsters	The Munsters	The Munsters	The Munsters	Good Times	Good Times	Happening!	Cheers (CC)
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Monk "Mr. Monk and the Kid"	House "The Socratic Method"					
VH1	Top 20 Countdown (6) (N)	100 Greatest Teen Stars "Hour 4"	100 Greatest Teen Stars "Hour 5"	The Flavor of Love	Bad Habits	Web Junk 20 (N)				
WE	Dharma & Greg	Dharma & Greg	The Jewel of the Nile (PG) (85) ** Kathleen Turner, Danny DeVito. Adventure. (CC)	Style-Hunter	Style-Hunter	Jewel of Nile				
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos	Mimic (R) (97) ** Mira Sorvino, Josh Brolin. Horror. (CC)	WGN News at Nine (CC)	Sex and the City	Becker (CC)					
DISN	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven	New supplier.	Mulan II (G) (04) ** Voices of Ming-Na. Animated. Mulan and Shang escort three royal sisters. (CC)	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers (9:35)	Phil of the Future	Sister, Sister "Rosebud"	The Suite Life of Zack & Cody	That's So Raven	New supplier.
ENC	Weekend at Bernie's II (6:30) (PG) (93) ** Andrew McCarthy. (CC)	Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) (03) ** Julia Roberts, Julia Stiles. Drama. A professor challenges her female students in 1953. (CC)	No Way Out (10:05) (R) (87) *** Kevin Costner, Sean Young. Drama. A Pentagon job leads a Navy officer into a deadly game. (CC)							
HBO	Inside the NFL (CC)	True Lies (R) (94) *** Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold. Adventure. A man lives the double life of a spy and a family man. (CC)	Deadwood Tolliver enlists Lee to clean up Wolcott's mess. (CC)	I Know What You Did Last						
SHOW	The School of Rock (PG-13) (03) *** Jack Black, Joan Cusack, Mike White. Comedy. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher. (CC)	Sleeper Cell "Soldier" The cell infiltrates a warehouse. (CC)	Without a Paddle (PG-13) (04) ** Seth Green. Three friends embark on a calamitous canoe trip. (CC)	Black Filmmaker Showcase						
MAX	2 Days in the Valley (6:30) (R) (96) ** Danny Aiello. (CC)	Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid (8:15) (PG-13) (04) ** Johnny Messner. Explorers encounter monstrous snakes in Borneo.	Seed of Chucky (R) (04) * Jennifer Tilly. Horror. The doll and his bride try to raise a killer child. (CC)	Hotel Erotica Cabo (N) (CC)						
TMC	Niagara Niagara (6:25) (R) (97) ** Robin Tunney. Drama. (CC)	The Faculty (R) (98) ** Jordana Brewster, Laura Harris. Horror. High-school students suspect that their teachers are aliens. (CC)	Pursued (R) (04) Christian Slater. Suspense. A corporate headhunter will not take no for an answer. (CC)	Dolores Claiborne (11:40) (95)						
STARZ	The Santa Clause 2 (7:10) (G) (02) ** Tim Allen, David Krumholtz. Comedy. Santa must get married in order to keep his job. (CC)	The Forgotten (PG-13) (04) ** Julianne Moore, Dominic West, Gary Sinise. Suspense. (CC)	Ice Princess (10:40) (G) (05) ** Joan Cusack. A teen chases her dream of becoming a figure skater. (CC)							

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO

Willie Nelson pushes alternative fuel

Willie Nelson introduced California to "BioWillie," his brand of clean-burning fuel made from soybeans.



NELSON

BioWillie went on sale Wednesday at an alternative fuel station in San Diego where the 72-year-old singer filled his tour bus from a pump emblazoned with a picture of himself strumming a guitar.

"It is the future," Nelson said. "Through biodiesel, we can reduce dependency on foreign oil and adopt an energy source that's clean (and) renewable and helps family farmers find new uses for their products."

NEW YORK

Late-show host will grace fans with his presence

"Late Night" host Conan O'Brien has joked that he now watches his talk show. That's certainly not the case in Finland, where he has become an unlikely cultural icon, and soon a visiting one.

The quirky, self-deprecating

NBC host, along with a camera crew, will visit the Nordic country next week. He'll meet with Finnish President Tarja Halonen and be honored with a Telvis Awards for being "the most surprising and entertaining TV personality in Finland."

"Once I conquer Finland, I'll head south through the Baltics and on to Belarus," O'Brien joked. "Soon, all the world will find me mildly amusing."

Last year, O'Brien caused a stir in Finland by broadcasting mock campaign ads promoting Halonen. O'Brien has joked that "Late Night" is popular in Finland because of his resemblance to the fair-skinned, red-haired Halonen.

BIRMINGHAM, Mich.

News anchor's son sees game without Dad

ABC news anchor Bob Woodruff couldn't take his son to the Super Bowl as planned, but 14-year-old Mack made it to the game accompanied by his uncle.

Woodruff was seriously hurt in a bomb blast while reporting from Iraq on Jan. 29.

He grew up near Detroit in Bloomfield Township. His 46-year-old brother, David, lives in Birmingham.



WOODRUFF

Popular series use narration to tell tales CALENDAR

By JANICE RHOSHALLE LITTLEJOHN

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Once upon a prime time, TV series decided to use narration to help tell their stories. Today, nearly a dozen popular shows are using the device, with unseen voices coming from everywhere, including the grave.

"Grey's Anatomy," "Everybody Hates Chris" and "My Name is Earl" rely on offscreen talent to fill in the details. "Desperate Housewives" employs the voice of a dead person to begin and end each episode.

"Using voiceover definitely helps us," says Greg Garcia, creator and executive producer of the NBC sitcom "My Name is Earl." "We try to tell a lot of story each week. Almost every episode we do we could make it into a movie so we've got to move along quick. We can't just sit there and explain things in the body of a scene."

On UPN's "Everybody Hates Chris," much of the humor is carried by the hidden-but-heard Chris Rock, whose recollections of his wonder years in Brooklyn are the stuff of standup.

"A comedian knows how to twist a phrase and make a face and fall over a chair or whatever they have to do to get that laugh, that's what they know how to do," says series co-creator Ali LeRoit. "That's what Chris Rock does in voiceover."

Besides being a creative tool,



AP PHOTO

"Desperate Housewives" stars, from left, Alfre Woodard, Teri Hatcher, Brenda Strong, Felicity Huffman, Marcia Cross, Eva Longoria and Nicollette Sheridan. Strong, whose character died before the show began, opens and closes each episode with a narration.

voiceover has become a practical and, for some shows, necessary dictum in the ever-shrinking world of prime-time.

"Our half-hour show, when all is said and done, is less than 21 minutes long," says Bill Lawrence, creator and executive producer of NBC's "Scrubs," another user of narration.

"There are so many people faced with trying to figure out how to take care of their stories in a shorter period of time, shows are using voiceover," Lawrence says.

But there are limits to the off-camera chatter.

"We try not to have too much,"

says Garcia. "I've looked at first drafts of scripts where there's too much, and then I've looked at first drafts of scripts where it's too little and it starts to not feel like our show. So there's definitely a balance you try to find."

Lawrence also notes that narration runs the risk of overuse and that some thought needs to be put into the process.

"If you don't find an angle on it, it's already starting to seem old and overdone," he cautions.

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FIRE WALL (PG-13) 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
PINK PANTHER (PG) 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) 12:30 3:45 7:00 9:45
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 12:30 3:45 7:00 9:45
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