

Silverman's show has in-your-face humor

Another shock comic tries to reinvent the situation comedy. "The Sarah Silverman Program" (10:30 p.m., Comedy Central, TV-14) stars Silverman as herself.



Kevin McDonough

She's an unemployed woman who sponges off her sister, Laura (portrayed by Silverman's real sister, Laura), who works as a nurse when she's not dotting on the slightly childlike Sarah. Brian Posehn and Steve Agee portray Sarah's two gay and nerdy neighbors.

entertainment to Phyllis' bridal shower on "The Office" (8:30 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

On two episodes of "CSI" (CBS, TV-14, V), the team investigates a hip-hop homicide (8 p.m.), a black market in cadavers (9 p.m.).

The battle to replace Chief begins in earnest on "Grey's Anatomy" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

"The Little Zoo That Could" (9 p.m., Animal Planet) returns to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo for a one-hour special.

Paul Reubens guest stars as foreign dignitary on "30 Rock" (9:30 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

Sebastian prosecutes the murderer of a despised real estate developer on "Shark" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14, V).

"Juvies" (10 p.m., MTV) takes an eight-part look at life in an Indiana juvenile-detention facility.

Cult choice

Lee Marvin, Burt Lancaster and Claudia Cardinale star in the 1966 western "The Professionals" (10:30 p.m., TCM), directed by Richard Brooks.

Series notes

Eddie's new friend on "Til' Death" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-PG, D, L) ... Red Kryptonite puts Clark in an amorous mood on "Smallville" (8 p.m., CW, TV-PG, D, L, V) ... Larry takes the fall on "The War at Home" (8:30 p.m., Fox, TV-14) ... Politics divides the hospital on "Scrubs" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) ... Taylor tries to make peace between Ryan and his father on "The O.C." (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14, D, L, S) ... A visit from an angel on "Supernatural" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14, V).

With the Oscars just three weeks away, Turner Classic Movies celebrates its 13th annual 31 Days of Oscar film festival (running through March 3).

Every day this month will showcase films nominated for a particular Academy Award. Every film shown on TCM today was nominated for a best director Oscar. Tomorrow celebrates cinematographers. Other days will highlight nominees for actor, actress, song, costume design and other awards. TCM will air a 72-hour marathon of best-picture winners beginning on Thursday, Feb. 22, concluding at 8 p.m., on Oscar night, Sunday, Feb. 25.

Tonight's other highlights

- Earl tries to make amends with a former foreign exchange student on "My Name is Earl" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
A scandal rocks the industry during fashion week on "Ugly Betty" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).
Tim Gunn ("Project Runway") guest stars and returns next week.
Michael brings questionable

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

Man accused of stalking Kidman guilty of assault

A man once accused of stalking Nicole Kidman has been convicted in a separate case for breaking a glass on a woman's face, prosecutors said Tuesday. Matthew Hooker, 46, could face as many as seven years in prison for the December 2005 incident at a San Francisco bar, which left a woman with facial scars. He was convicted of mayhem and assault with a deadly weapon.



KIDMAN

Hooker was ordered in 2001 to stay away from Kidman for three years. "I wrote her a love poem," Hooker said at the time. "I went by her house to ask to take her to the ballet and to take her kids to ice cream. That's it."

Brandy sued for \$50M by parents of woman killed

The parents of a woman killed in a freeway crash involving Brandy sued the actress-singer for \$50 million Tuesday.

The wrongful-death suit claims Brandy was driving recklessly when her Land Rover struck the back of a Honda driven by Awatef Aboudihaj, 38.

It comes a day after the California Highway Patrol recommended Brandy be charged with misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter in the Dec. 30 accident.

LOS ANGELES

Willis settles lawsuit against childhood pal

Bruce Willis has settled a lawsuit filed against his childhood friend over allegations the man tried to extort money from the actor, Willis' publicist said.



WILLIS

The lawsuit accused Bruce DiMattia, who was hired to maintain Willis' personal items and memorabilia, of extortion.

The lawsuit claimed DiMattia threatened to disclose personal information about the star unless Willis bought him a car and paid him \$100,000.

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Advertisement for AMC GreenWood Park 14. All Shows Before NOON Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays. Shows include Blood and Chocolate, Catch and Release, The Departed, Epic Movie, Smokin' Aces, The Hitcher, Freedom Writers, Stomp the Yard, Night at the Museum, The Pursuit of Happyness, Volver, Babel, Pan's Labyrinth, Dreamgirls, The Queen, We Are Marshall, Night at the Museum, The Pursuit of Happyness.

THURSDAY EVENING

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Table with columns for time slots (7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WTTV, WRV, WISH, WTHR, WFYI, WNDY, WTIU, WHMB, WCL, WXIN, WIPX, WDTI, A&E, AMC, AP, BET, BRAVO, CNBC, CMT, CNN, COM, DISC, EI, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FNC, FOOD, FOXMV, FOXSM, FX, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MSNBC, MTV, NICK, OXY, SCIFI, SPIKE, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TVL, USA, VH1, WE, WGN, DISN, ENC, HBO, SHOW, MAX, TMC, STARZ) listing their respective programs.

'Criminal Minds' team giddy over Super Bowl boost

By BRIDGET BYRNE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH, Calif. The team from "Criminal Minds" is attempting to build a profile of an unknown suspect who must be stopped before he commits more heinous crimes.

Gathered around a desk, the elite FBI squad's brains buzz and leap, their words flowing with clever ideas as they watch Web video and listen to a 911 call.

"We may be asking the wrong question," interjects team leader Jason Gideon, cutting into the combined thought processes of agents Aaron Hotchner, Emily Prentiss, Derek Morgan, Dr. Spencer Reid, and Jennifer "JJ" Jareau.

The disparate team, headed by Mandy Patinkin's Gideon, a brilliant behaviorist, also includes computer whiz and fashion freak Penelope Garcia (Kirsten Vangsness). Her appeal, coupled with the public's fascination with murder, mayhem and serial killers, has made the CBS series a smash hit in its second season.

The show's regular time slot is Wednesdays at 9 p.m. But the network is giving the series an added push, airing an episode titled "The Big Game" in the coveted post-



AP PHOTO

"Criminal Minds" stars Mandy Patinkin, foreground, Paget Brewster, far right, A.J. Cook, center and Thomas Gibson, seated at computer, take a break during filming Jan. 9 in Long Beach, Calif.

Super Bowl slot on Sunday. "It's completely shocking, because I had no idea anyone was considering us (for the slot). It's the most incredible opportunity I've ever had. I'm also a Chicago Bears fan, so it may be the greatest single day of my life," enthuses executive producer Ed Bernero.

Although most of the cast registers some degree of excitement about the high-profile air date, Bernero stresses the special episode won't differ too

gruesome, there's considerable levity on the set. Shermar Moore, the ensemble's glamor guy who portrays Morgan, finds plenty of time to do his flirtatious thing as the ensemble teases each other through the numerous takes needed when pre-produced video and computer imagery are woven into a scene.

Bernero's just been told by director Gloria Muzio — amicably but pointedly — that she's not happy with the style, size and color of the pre-produced material.

Sometimes the writers don't realize the difficulties they've created, says Muzio. But, he cheerfully adds, "If it all comes together on paper, it all comes together. It's just sometimes tedious."

Although the profiling team travels all over the country on the trail of serial killers, all filming takes place in and around Los Angeles.

"The hardest thing to find for this episode was a corn field," Bernero says.

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Advertisement for Canary Creek Cinemas 8. 1/8 Mile West of Applebee's on Mallory Parkway. Showtimes for Thursday: EPIC MOVIE (PG-13), DREAM GIRLS (PG-13), FREDDOW WRITERS (PG-13), BABEL (R), THE DEPARTED (R), THE HITCHER (R), STOMP THE YARD (PG-13), NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG), BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13), THE MESSENGER (PG-13). Starting Friday: BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13), THE MESSENGER (PG-13).