

TV Feature: What Will Happen to Your Favorite Network Shows

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on May 8, 2012 - 2:00pm

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CHICAGO – It's that crazy time of year when network executives have to make the tough decisions. What do they cancel? What do they give another chance? What do they move? These are no small choices. Not only do they impact your favorite shows, but they can also determine the overall success of a network and lead to millions of dollars made or lost. If a network renews a bubble show and it takes off, their entire fortune can change. But what if they cancel the wrong one? Every major network is currently working on finalizing these huge decisions for their 2012 fall seasons. And it's inevitable that some hearts will be broken. Will it be yours? Let's take a look at the choices facing the major networks at the moment.

CBS

We might as well start at the top. The #1 network in terms of total ratings had a strong 2011-12 season but not an overwhelming one. The breakout hit was "2 Broke Girls" (which just proved that it doesn't even need a strong lead-in like "How I Met Your Mother" as the hour-long season finale last night matched ratings for the finale episode of "The Voice"). "2 Broke Girls" is one of those shows that feels like it will be on for years. And "Person of Interest" delivered solid numbers, even if it's not a "Lost"-esque phenomenon. In fact, they have both been renewed already along with a number of hits. Don't worry about the following shows:



Rob
Photo credit: CBS

"2 Broke Girls"

- “The Amazing Race”
- “The Big Bang Theory”
- “Blue Bloods”
- “Criminal Minds”
- “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation”
- “The Good Wife”
- “Hawaii Five-0”
- “How I Met Your Mother”
- “The Mentalist”
- “NCIS”
- “NCIS: Los Angeles”
- “Person of Interest”
- “Survivor”
- “Two and a Half Men”

What does that leave on this network of smash hits? Let’s get the bad news out of the way first — fans of “A Gifted Man,” “NYC 22,” and “Unforgettable” should let them go (and “How to Be a Gentleman,” which will burn off episodes that were already shot soon, was already canceled). I would be stunned if any of them were renewed.

It leaves four major question marks or “on the bubble” shows — two comedies and two stalwart mystery shows — “CSI: Miami” & “CSI: NY” and “Rob!” & “Rules of Engagement.” While all of these shows get reasonably strong enough numbers to warrant renewal, CBS is going to want to bring out some new programming that could do better. A lot depends on whether or not they open a new night to comedies, which would be good news for Rob Schneider and David Spade. If not, both of those shows could go.

I think they’ll hold “Rules” as a mid-season replacement and cancel “Rob!,” looking for another partner for “The Big Bang Theory” on Thursday nights. I also think, believe it or not, that both “Miami” and “NY” will go. The network has a history of canceling old mystery shows (“Cold Case,” “Without a Trace”) that they feel are past their prime. I also think they’ll move “The Good Wife” out of Sunday nights, maybe even pairing it with “Blue Bloods” on Fridays along with opening a new hour to comedy, maybe even on Sundays.

Predicted CBS Renewals:

“Rules of Engagement” (mid-season)

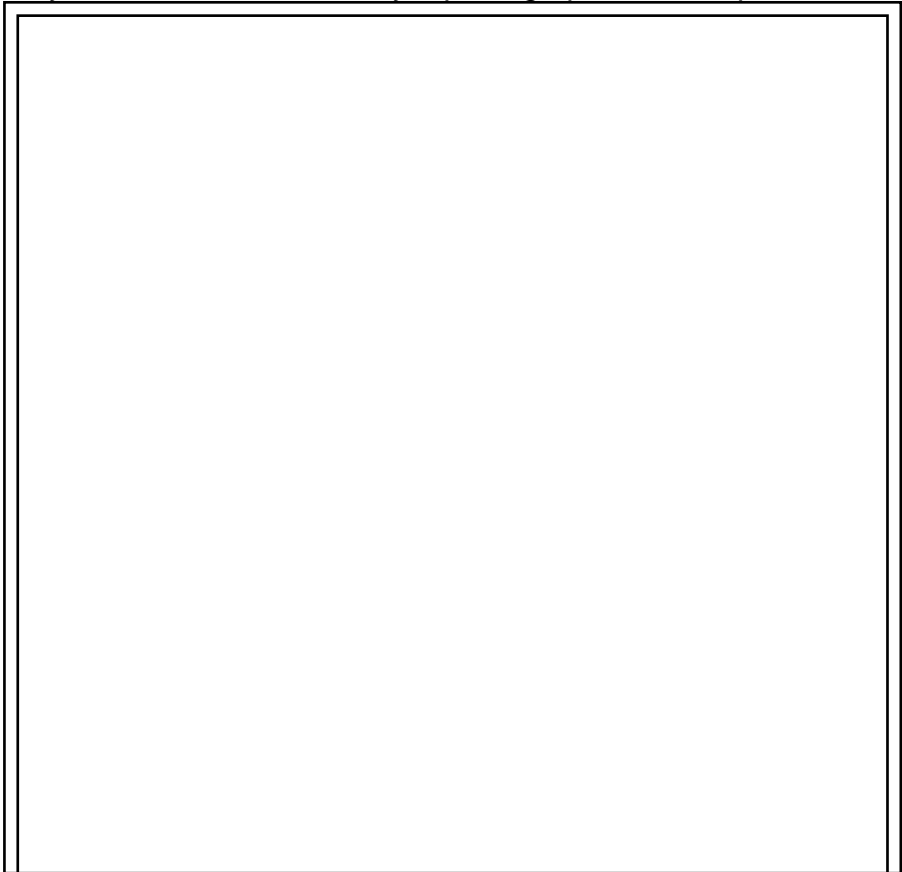
Predicted CBS Cancellations:

- “CSI: Miami”
- “CSI: NY”
- “A Gifted Man”
- “NYC 22”
- “Rob!”

“Unforgettable”

NBC

Things are getting weird at NBC. They just announced that they have officially added five sitcoms (for a total of six) to their Fall schedule. Where do they put them? Not only is this weird given the fact that they haven’t exactly produced a sitcom hit in the last several years, but it also begs the question - has the network just given up on drama? Will it be all reality shows and sitcoms (which is where I see most network TV going in the next ten years as more drama moves to cable)? Or could this be bad news for the NBC’s current “on the bubble” sitcoms like “Up All Night,” “Whitney,” and “Community”? News that “30 Rock” is headed toward a short, final-season renewal is also interesting. I think they’ll hold that until January, opening up a sitcom space for one of their new entries in the Fall.





Are You There, Chelsea
Photo credit: NBC

We should start with what we know for sure. “Smash” and “Grimm” have been renewed. “Chuck” is over. “The Firm,” “Free Agents,” “The Playboy Club,” and “Prime Suspect” will never return.

What does this leave? There are a few certain cancellations but just as many question marks.

“30 Rock” will return in some form at some time, but probably not until 2013. “Law & Order: SVU” and “The Office” haven’t been officially renewed but they will be. Don’t worry about them. And “Parks and Recreation” is very safe. Don’t worry about Leslie Knope either.

I wish I could say that I was 100% confident that “Community” would return. I’m 80% sure now with the new sitcom announcements. There’s a good chance, but, with all the new sitcom pick-ups, it’s not a certainty any more.

The confusion at the Peacock network also centers around two shows with older, smaller audiences, but loyal ones — “Harry’s Law” and “Parenthood.” The former gets decent overall numbers, but few people under 50 watch it. The latter gets small overall numbers but does have a loyal fanbase with a high median household income. I think “Harry’s” is done on a network that likes to skew young and “Parenthood” gets another season as it inches closer to syndication totals.

What about the other comedies? The big question marks are “Up All Night” and “Whitney.” The network has already announced seven new shows — five sitcoms and two dramas. Is there room for either of these under-performers? Believe it or not, I think they both get another shot to find an audience and will do so together on Wednesday nights, although I won’t be too surprised if I’m wrong about one or even both. Things are SO weird at NBC right now that I’m not sure there’s ever been a harder fall schedule to predict. So I’ll be conservative...

Predicted NBC Renewals:

“30 Rock”
“Community”
“Law & Order: SVU”
“The Office”
“Parenthood”
“Parks and Recreation”
“Up All Night”
“Whitney”

Predicted NBC Cancellations:

“Are You There, Chelsea?”
“Awake”
“Bent”
“Best Friends Forever”
“Harry’s Law”

ABC

ABC had an amazing 2011-2012, easily the best of any of the major networks. Sure, some of their risks didn’t work out (“The River” is unlikely to return), but one has to admire the direction they took creatively and many of their choices paid off. I expect that they will renew a number of freshman series, including “Once Upon a Time,” “Revenge,” and “Suburgatory.” Those are almost guaranteed. Fans of “Missing”

and “Don’t Trust the B—— in Apt. 23” shouldn’t be as optimistic, but the fact is that a network that was desperately in need of new hits found them this year. Take notice NBC and FOX. Things can change in one year if you green light the right pilots.



Scandal
Photo credit: ABC

ABC has yet to renew anything officially but they will probably have the least-changed schedule come Fall 2012. I expect many of their nights to look exactly the same.

The network’s two biggest question marks are their most recent premieres — “GCB” and “Scandal.” Neither has had enough time to really prove itself as a hit or a failure. I think “Scandal” will be given the chance to do so, especially since it’s getting numbers near “Private Practice,” another Shonda Rhimes show. “GCB” will be less lucky.

As for veterans, “Body of Proof” is the only drama likely to be shown the door and then we have the never-dead “Cougar Town.” It returned from the brink of cancellation yet again to produce its lowest numbers to date. TBS has reportedly been in talks to save it if ABC cancels it, which should make that decision even easier to make. Expect to see Courteney Cox on the same network as Conan O’Brien this time next year.

Predicted ABC Renewals:

“The Bachelor”
“Castle”
“Dancing With the Stars”
“Grey’s Anatomy”
“Happy Endings”
“Last Man Standing”
“The Middle”
“Modern Family”
“Once Upon a Time”
“Private Practice”
“Revenge”
“Scandal”
“Suburgatory”

Predicted ABC Cancellations:

“Body of Proof”
“Cougar Town”
“Don’t Trust the B—— in Apt. 23”
“GCB”
“Missing”
“The River”

FOX

It must be a nightmare to be a FOX executive right now. They haven't produced a major hit in years. Even shows like "American Idol" and "Glee" are sliding quickly and "House" is ending. The fact is that it's a network that has long been built around a young audience, thus it makes sense that it is the first major network hit by the reality that young people don't really watch TV like they used to (The CW already feels this pain but doesn't really count as a major network anymore).



Alcatraz

Photo credit: FOX

They should be very happy about "New Girl", but the streak of 2011-12 shows that seem unlikely to return is more than a bit disturbing. "Allen Gregory," "I Hate My Teenage Daughter" and "Terra Nova" have been canceled. I expect "Alcatraz," "The Finder," and "Napoleon Dynamite" to follow. "Touch" and "Breaking In"? I doubt either return. This network needs a miracle.

Already Renewed:

"American Dad"
"Bones"
"The Cleveland Show"
"Family Guy"
"Fringe"
"Glee"
"New Girl"
"Raising Hope"
"The Simpsons"
"The X Factor"

Predicted FOX Renewals:

"American Idol"
"Bob's Burgers"

Predicted FOX Cancellations:

"Alcatraz"
"Breaking In"
"The Finder"
"Napoleon Dynamite"
"Touch"

THE CW

Oh my, The CW. It's not going out on too much of a limb to predict that The CW won't exist by the end of this decade. It has been in steep decline for years and it's hard to even say what's a hit and what's a miss on this network. "Ringer" ended its season on a series low and "The L.A. Complex" is setting records for tune out. Those seem like safe bets for cancellation. But what about things like the declining "Gossip Girl," "Nikita," or "Hart of Dixie"? They can't cancel EVERYTHING. They have already renewed "The Vampire Diaries," "Supernatural," and "90210." Everything else should be considered on the bubble, but this is a network that never brings out too many pilots. 2 to 3 new ones are normal. Which is good news for fans of Leighton Meester and Rachel Bilson.

Predicted The CW Renewals:

"Gossip Girl"
"Hart of Dixie"
"The Secret Circle"

Predicted The CW Cancellations:

“The L.A. Complex”
“Nikita”
“Ringer”



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