

# Entertainment

## Spring TV Preview

By: Brent Cannon--Lions Eye Staff Writer--bmc5196@psu.edu

So the stage is set for one of NBC's new musical dramas, "Smash", and the season is already off to a great start. The show revolves around Karen Cartwright (Katharine McPhee, American Idol finalist) and her journey to become the next big star on Broadway. Tom and Julia (Debra Messing, Will and Grace) begin composing a musical based off of Marilyn Monroe. There are two choices for the role, Karen and Ivy (Megan Hilty) who are up for the role of Marilyn. The drama fills the screen as you watch the two girls compete for the role of a lifetime. You feel almost sympathetic to both of them as struggling artists and find it hard who to root for, although I am team Karen. It depicts the real life in show business in all of its glamour and its torture. The musical numbers are so intriguing and the voices of the two girls are impeccable. This show is 100% for show/musical lovers and I think it is going to be hard to try and get into a big audience, but my inner musical geek is totally hoping this show continues on. Think of this show as a more grown up Glee, more provocative and real. Aired Monday nights at 10pm after the voice on NBC.



Photo Courtesy of google

"The River" follows the story of a group of people who are looking for missing wildlife TV personality, Emmet Cole, Emmet's wife, Tess, sets a group up to find her husband, and with the help of her reluctant son, Lincoln, they search the Amazon. Emmet Cole went searching for magic in the jungle and then was lost and many presume him dead. Until one day, six months after his disappearance, his beacon goes off, making his wife believe that he is alive and she needs to help him. Creepy things begin to happen on the island, a ghost haunts them when they first find the Cole's ship. Tribal men hunt for the group and a child ghost tries to drown those near the river. What exactly did Emmet Cole find? Where is he? What will happen next? Why are there so many ghosts in the Amazon? I feel like these questions will be either may never be answered or they will just lead to more questions.

The whole thriller series is filmed documentary style and from the creators of "Paranormal Activity". You can see the "Paranormal Activity" influences with the show and how it is filmed; the cameras speed up and slow down when something spooky is about to happen, just like the Paranormal films. At times the show is creepy and other times it seems like it is trying to hard. Its also hard to imagine that all of those cameras are catching everything and everything seems to be at just the right angle and everything is filmed almost perfectly even while running from head hunters through the Amazon. The eight-episode season on ABC has started off kind of slowly and I have hopes that it will pick up. I love thriller/horror so I have high hopes for this show. Aired Tuesdays at 9pm on ABC.

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

By: Dave Serpentine--Lions Eye World and Local Editor--dms5419@psu.edu

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## Big Miracle Movie Review

By: Megan Draper- Lion's Eye Staff Writer- msd5198@psu.edu

I am pleasantly surprised to report that I enjoyed Big Miracle. Big Miracle is based on a true story (although, if you investigate the original story, you will realize that there were certainly some liberties taken). The story follows a family of three gray whales trapped in the ice in Point Barrow, Alaska. An Alaskan news reporter, Adam Carlson (John Krasinski) breaks the story, which attracts the attention of his ex-girlfriend Rachel Kramer (Drew Barrymore), a Greenpeace volunteer. The plight of the three whales, christened Fred, Wilma, and Bam Bam, captures the hearts of the American public. This leads to various individuals' attempts to do their part to help free the whales, everything from publicizing their plight to helping keep their breathing hole in the ice open.

One of my favorite things about Big Miracle is that it respects the nature of the whales. It gives the audience real reasons to be concerned about the whales, without relying entirely on the "animals are always cute" factor. The whales are the fabric that holds the story together, but they are by not the sole focus of the story.

Big Miracle has a sizeable cast of characters, some with more interesting stories than others. On one hand, these characters and their stories are necessary; the movie would have felt hollow and sappy without that assortment of concerned citizens. However, some of their stories should have been abbreviated. Some of the stories of a few of the characters should have been cut altogether. I also appreciated that the characters were handled fairly, which is often not the case in kid-friendly movies. For example, the Inupiat people hunt whales (not gray whales, however) as a way to survive in the harsh conditions of Barrow, Alaska; despite this, I felt that the film handled these characters fairly. They are not apathetic whale-killers, but they are also not mystical shamans, despite the fact that many of these whalers feel a close connection to the whales.

The movie is family-friendly; there are no graphic or frightening "jump" scenes. However, if you were considering bringing a child to the film, there is something you should be aware of (spoiler warning). The baby whale, Bam Bam, does not survive the ordeal. This realism did help to keep the film from feeling contrived, but at the same time, it puts a damper on the freeing of the two adult whales.

Although Big Miracle was not as feel-good as I thought it would be, it is also, thankfully, not as corny as I assumed it would be. It is exactly what it set out to be, an entertaining family film.



Photo Courtesy of google