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LOS ANGELES

**Netflix Renews 'Grace And Frankie' Ahead Of Season 5 Debut**

As the fifth season adventures of "Grace and Frankie" begin, viewers can rest assured there's more to come. Series creator Marta Kauffman and Netflix said Tuesday that the series starring Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin has been renewed for season six, due in 2020. Kauffman said she was hopeful the comedy would keep going, given that "we certainly feel the love" from streaming service Netflix.

— The Associated Press

**Backstage Pass**

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

**Satirical 'Spamalot' Fills The Sharon With Laughter**



**THEATER REVIEW**

By Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun

"Spamalot" is pure hilarious chaos.

King Arthur's encounters with the Knights Who Say "Ni," taunting French guards and the Black Knight who refuses to stop fighting even after he loses all of his limbs rolled out onto the stage of The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center on Wednesday night with the opening of the Monty Python show.

Adapted for the stage

from the iconic film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," "Spamalot" is an enthralling musical filled to the brim with silly choreography, extreme satire and a complex but fluid set.

I was gifted a DVD copy of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" for my 13th birthday, and I have fond memories of sitting in my room and watching it on a portable DVD player whenever I felt like engaging in some good old British humor.

But the days of portable DVD players are long gone, and I will admit that it's been a while since I've seen the film.

Still, scenes like the bridge-keepers' argument with King Arthur about swallows, the monks chanting and hitting their faces with books and the grubby man pushing a cart and yelling, "Bring out your dead!" are pretty hard to forget.

"Spamalot" brought all of those characters, lines and images to life onstage, and it was all enhanced by music.

The songs were catchy, hilarious, satirical and sometimes completely unexpected.

The sick man from the "bring out your dead" scene got

Please See **NEXT PAGE**



Submitted photo

Monty Python's "Spamalot" opened Wednesday night at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Tickets still are available for the performance at 7 tonight.

**HOW DO I BUY TICKETS?**

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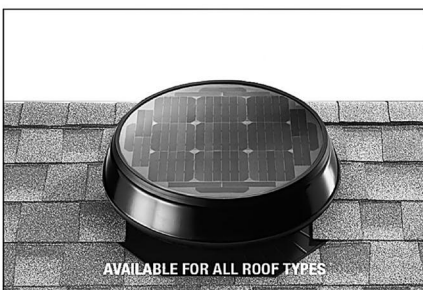


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CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



**JASON REITMAN**

Ivan Reitman is passing the Ghostbusters torch to his son. Four-time Oscar nominee Jason Reitman is set to direct a new installment in the Ghostbusters series for Sony Pictures set to come out in the summer of 2020.



**RIHANNA**

Rihanna is suing her father over his use of their last name for a business. In the lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court in Los Angeles, Rihanna, whose full name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty, says that her father, Ronald Fenty, and his partner have violated her trademark.



**STEVE HARVEY**

TV personality Steve Harvey will host the NFL Honors on Feb. 2, when The Associated Press hands out its individual league awards. The two-hour prime-time show airing on CBS will be at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta.

NEW YORK

**Sofia Coppola, Bill Murray to Reunite for 'On the Rocks'**

Sofia Coppola and Bill Murray will reunite 16 years after the Oscar-winning "Lost in Translation" in the splashiest feature film yet announced by Apple. A24 said Tuesday that Coppola's "On the Rocks" will be the indie studio's first project under its joint deal with Apple. The New York-set film stars Rasha Jones as a young mother who reconnects with her father, to be played by Murray.

— The Associated Press

Continued from Previous Page

his own number ("I Am Not Dead Yet") and was joined by the bodies in the cart.

As the show goes on, King Arthur eventually gathers enough knights for his round table and is tasked with finding the Holy Grail by God himself.

"The Holy Grail," King Arthur says. "The vessel used in the last supper."

"The vessel?" says one of the knights. "Oh, was it like a dinner cruise?"

As I don't like to call attention to myself, I'm usually not the type to do anything more than applaud at a show, but I laughed the whole way through "Spamalot," and I definitely wasn't the only one.

"From start to finish with the coconuts, the knights that dance and the rabbit, the whole thing just tickles you," said Village of Charlotte resident Theresa Ierardi, who saw the show on Broadway many years ago.

Lon and Bev Gaumer, of the Village of Largo, said the humor was crass, but not too crass.

"The energy is phenomenal," Bev said. "The choreography is fabulous and they're great singers."

I don't want to give too much more away because there's still one more performance of "Spamalot" slated for The Sharon stage.

Tickets, which range from \$50 to \$100, are still available for tonight's performance at 7.

I hope it makes you smile as much as it made me smile.

*Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.*

**Football Rules Ratings, But 'Big Bang Theory' Getting Energized**

Television shows fight for ratings as football still sits at No. 1-most viewed spot on cable.

By LYNN ELBER  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

"The Big Bang Theory" is starting to pick up ratings steam in the final stretch of its 12-year run.

The CBS sitcom was last week's most-watched entertainment show as total viewership ticked up to a 2018-19 season high of more than 13 million, according to Nielsen figures Tuesday.

That's a welcome sign for CBS, given the 30 percent drop in the sitcom's season debut compared to the fall 2017 opener.

While audience interest is likely to grow as the show draws to its conclusion this spring, "The Big Bang Theory" also is benefiting from the wrap-up of competing Thursday night NFL broadcasts.

Football still dominated

the week, as playoff games or related programming counted for half of the 10 most-watched shows, with top-rated network Fox the big beneficiary.

Less promising for Fox was the second-week performance of its new celebrity contest, "The Masked Singer." After the Jan. 2 debut drew a healthy 9.4 million viewers and major social media buzz, last week's audience dropped to 7.1 million facing a new episode of NBC's "Chicago Fire" instead of a rerun.

It didn't take long for another freshman contest, NBC's "America's Got Talent: The Champions," to snag bragging rights: It debuted last week with nearly 10 million viewers, the most-watched debut of an alternative series since the 2016 debut of NBC's "Little Big Shots" drew 14.9 million.

Fox won the week in prime-time, averaging a hefty 11.35 million viewers. CBS had 6.5 million, NBC had 4.95 million, ABC had 3.84 million, Univision had 1.4 million, ION Networks had 1.3 million, Telemundo had 1.1 million and the CW averaged 860,000.

ESPN topped the cable networks with a prime-time

average of 4.1 million viewers. Fox News Channel had 2.43 million, MSNBC had 2.1 million, Hallmark had 1.32 million and CNN and HGTV had 1.31 million each.

ABC's "World News Tonight" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 9.4 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" had 9 million viewers on average and the "CBS Evening News" drew 6.7 million.

For the week of Jan. 7-13, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships:

NFC Playoff: Dallas at LA

Rams, Fox, 33.4 million; CFP Championship: Alabama at Clemson, ESPN, 24.7 million; NFC Kickoff: Dallas at LA Rams, Fox, 24.1 million; NFC Playoff Post-game: Philadelphia at New Orleans, Fox, 22.8 million; College Football Bowl Pre-game show, ESPN, 15.9 million; "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 13.5 million; "NCIS," CBS, 12.1 million; "Young Sheldon," CBS, 12.06 million; "America's Got Talent: The Champions," NBC, 9.97 million; "Mom," CBS, 9.4 million.



From start to finish with the coconuts, the knights that dance and the rabbit, the whole thing just tickles you."

**THERESA IERARDI**  
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