

IN THE NEWS

▶ THE LATEST SCOOP ON YOUR FAVORITE SHOWS

FIRST LOOKS AT FALL TV!



SNEAK PEEK

▲ **THE MIDDLE** “You look really familiar.” That’s what Ray Romano’s character says to Patricia Heaton’s Frankie when he stumbles upon his old *Everybody Loves Raymond* wife on *The Middle*’s September 21 premiere on ABC. Romano plays Nicky, an old classmate of Mike Heck, who interrupts the couple on what’s supposed to be a romantic getaway. Jokes Romano, “I’m her husband of nine years. Patty and Neil [Flynn] have only been married so far for two.” —William Keck



▲ **GREY’S ANATOMY** Awww. Good to know that Derek has something to smile about after leaving Meredith at the end of last season upon discovering that she tampered with his clinical trial. “The story of [their adopted] baby, Zola, is going to be amazing,” promises *Grey*’s creator Shonda Rhimes. “As an adoptive mother myself, I really want this story to have a sense of authenticity—with both pain and joy. In a surprising way, I think the baby will bring them back together.” The season premieres September 22 on ABC. —WK

▼ **CSI: NY** True to his word at the end of last season, Mac is taking some time off from the lab. The premiere (September 23 on CBS), which serves as a tribute to the 10-year anniversary of 9/11, reveals that he’s been working with retired fire chief Joe Vincent (Robert Forster). “Robert’s character lost a son on 9/11, so Mac [whose wife died on 9/11] and Joe have spent the last four months working on a project that is near and dear to both of their hearts,” says exec producer Zachary Reiter, adding, “We wanted it to be simple and respectful, and I think we accomplished that.” —Carita Rizzo



▲ **THE VAMPIRE DIARIES** Mystic Falls celebrates Elena’s birthday when The CW drama returns September 15. But cake is the last thing on her mind with Stefan missing and Jeremy seeing his dead exes, who could wreak havoc on the event. “Elena and Alaric discover new reasons to be concerned about Jeremy’s behavior,” says exec producer Julie Plec. Party pooper! —Leane Rudolph

▼ **CRIMINAL MINDS** Emily Prentiss fans, rejoice: In the September 21 premiere of CBS’ *Criminal Minds*, Paget Brewster returns as the BAU pursues the terrorist who caused her to fake her own death last season. In the scene below, Prentiss contemplates photos of fallen agents, including herself. “For her, it’s a very public display—‘Oh, my gosh, I was dead to the entire world,’” says exec producer Erica Messer. “It wears heavily on her. But the mood lightens up when Joe [Mantegna’s character, Rossi] comes up alongside her and tries to remove her photo. She says, ‘I tried that. It’s screwed in.’” —David Kronke



▼ **THE OFFICE** “I can assure you I did not win some sort of contest to replace Steve Carell,” insists James Spader, who joins the cast of *The Office* as Sabre CEO Robert California in the September 22 premiere. “I just thought, this show is fun, this character is strange and NBC asked me to sign on, so I said, ‘Absolutely.’” How’s life in the office so far? “It’s probably the funniest group of people I’ve worked with.” —David Hochman



▲ **THE GOOD WIFE** Lisa Edelstein trades Dr. Cuddy’s pencil skirts for lawyerly pantsuits in her first post-*House* gig, three episodes of CBS’ *The Good Wife* (the show returns September 25). “They called very soon after I officially left [House]. I felt it was a really great idea to jump to another wonderful drama,” she says. “Plus, my mother is obsessed with it.” She plays a “free-spirited” attorney named Celeste who’s defending a doctor in a malpractice suit. “Celeste has more pliable ethics and she’s free in a way that Alicia can’t be. It makes for nice opposition.” She also “shares some colorful history with Will. We partied around a bit.” —IR



▲ **LAW & ORDER: SVU** The new cops are ready for duty. Kelli Giddish and Danny Pino join NBC’s *SVU* (back September 21) as Amanda Rollins, an ambitious former Atlanta cop, and Nick Amaro, a New Jersey-raised, top-notch interrogator. “Amanda has a masters in forensic psychology,” says new executive producer Warren Leight. “I wanted a book-schooled detective to work with the more intuitive Nick.” Says Giddish, “Everybody on the set is really excited and energized. They’ve lost a family member with Chris Meloni leaving, but they’ve been very accepting of us. Amanda is thrilled to be here working with these people, and so am I.” —IR



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RICHARD FOREMAN/ABC; BILL INOSHITA/CBS; QUANTRELL D. COLBERT/THE CW; DANNY FELD/ABC

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: WILL HART/© NBC UNIVERSAL, INC.; DAVID W. RUSSELL/CBS; RONTOM/© NBC UNIVERSAL, INC.; MICHAEL YARISH/CBS