

SIN CITY
Morgan and
Kurylenko



The Killing

Sundays, 9 p.m., AMC

CAN YOU FIND IT IN YOUR heart to give *The Killing* another chance? It might be the most ill-fated Seattle melodrama since the Soundgarden reunion tour. *The Killing* burned a lot of audience bridges as Mireille Enos and Joel Kinnaman continued to fail at nabbing the long-promised bad guy. When they finally cracked the case in the second season, the air had gone out of the ball and *The Killing* officially got the ax. But it's risen from the grave like a *Walking Dead* zombie, though maybe with less sense of direction.

As Season Three begins, Enos has quit the police force to work on a Puget Sound ferry. But of course, no TV cop ever really walks away, so when Kinnaman comes to her with a juicy case, she's back investigating a whole new murder spree. More dead bodies than ever! Could it be a conspiracy? (Nobody actually comes out and says, "This whole thing is bigger than you can imagine," but you can tell they really want to.) *The Killing* has

gotten lighter - sometimes it goes minutes at a time without rain. But unless the two cops get more compelling, this could be strike three.

Graceland

Thursdays, 10 p.m., USA

"GRACELAND" IS A TWIST ON the USA network's grand tradition of *Burn Notice* (cocky ex-CIA spy in Miami) and *Royal Pains* (cocky doctor in the Hamptons), with a cocky FBI agent who lives in a SoCal beach house. He's got a con-man housemate who probably lists his occupation on his tax return as "wisecracking sidekick." (Just kidding! Why would a USA hero ever file a tax return?) But it's not a mere party house - *Graceland* is inspired by the real-life case of a beachfront mansion once used by the FBI, the DEA and customs agents as an undercover safe house. (OK, maybe sometimes it feels like a party house.) *Graceland* is grittier than the USA norm, but it doesn't make the mistake of trying to get dark. Instead, there's just a danger the guys will run out of limes before Monday.

King & Maxwell

Mondays, 10 p.m., TNT

IT'S A PAIR OF FORMER SECRET Service agents in D.C. who've gone into private practice. They take on cases that the Man won't touch. And they wonder whether or not they should make out. (They should. They will. But not yet.) Jon Tenney is the dashing troubled one who quit because he's tortured by shame after the assassination of a candidate he was sworn to protect. (Ninety-five percent of Hollywood's Secret Service agents suffer from this malady - doctors call it "Costner Bodyguard Syndrome.") Re-



Enos and Kinnaman back on the case

becca Romijn, on the other hand, clearly left because the good Lord didn't build those legs for trench coats. There's a welcome return for Ryan Hurst, the much-lamented Opie from *Sons of Anarchy*, as well as Chris Butler and Michael O'Keefe. But of course the real mystery: *When* will they make out?

Magic City

June 14th, 9 p.m., Starz

IF YOU WANT THE DIRT ON A nation, go snooping around in its dreams. That's the power of *Magic City*: It presents Miami Beach circa 1959 as the dream palace where America stashes its innocent fantasies and guiltiest secrets. As the second season begins, Jeffrey Dean Morgan's Ike Evans is still trying to sell Miami Beach to the rest of the world as a posh luxury destination. He's built the Miramar Playa Hotel in his own image, with blood money from his mobster moneyman, Danny Huston's Ben "The Butcher" Diamond. (And inspiration from his nightclub-dancer empress, Olga Kurylenko's Vera.) It's the era of JFK and Sinatra, the Mafia and the CIA, all of whom want their piece of America's subtropical playground. But even as these gangsters are making deals and cutting throats to build this sleepy beach town into a glittering resort city, it's as corrupt a place as anywhere they might want to escape. With the same taut writing and acting as the first season, *Magic City* takes all the dirt and makes it shine.

Ray Donovan

June 30th, 10 p.m., Showtime

LIEV SCHREIBER GIVES GOOD thug. As a bona fide movie star making the smart move into cable, Schreiber plays a seedy operator in L.A., paying for his mansion by doing off-the-books dirty work for the rich and the elite. He's not above using a baseball bat to make his point. But, of course, Ray has a past - he moved his wife and kids from South Boston to get away from the grasp of his dad, Mickey, an incarcerated Irish gangster played by Jon Voight. (Wait, Voight as an asshole dad? Who knew?) But when Mickey gets out of jail early and shows up in L.A., Ray begins to realize he's closer to the old man than he thinks - he just happens to be a thug in a pricier suit. Schreiber and Voight glower it up, with a boost from Elliott Gould (the streetwise mentor) and James Woods (another Southie dirtbag). But Schreiber gives *Ray Donovan* all the menace and pent-up rage it needs.



Voight vs. Schreiber

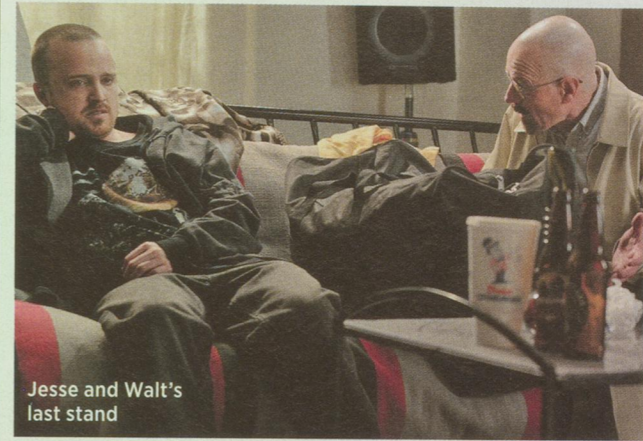
The Bridge

July 10th, 10 p.m., FX

TWO DETECTIVES - ONE from Mexico, one from America - join forces to hunt down a mass murderer who works both sides of the border. Together, they get lost in the rain in Juárez. It's a remake of an arty Danish series, kind of like *The Killing*, except with better weather and smarter suspense. FX has been on a roll with crime dramas, from *Justified* to *The Americans*, and *The Bridge* is gunning for that level. Demián Bichir shines as the slow-burning stoic Juárez

cop surrounded by corruption. Diane Kruger is the loathsome Texan detective. When they first meet, at a border crime scene, she snarls that the case is hers because the victim's car came from El Paso. He

edy *Bang! Bang!* has gotten even looser in its second season, with host Scott Aukerman and wingman Reggie Watts, whose unzipped verbal and musical mojo remains unparalleled. For some reason it just



Jesse and Walt's last stand

just shrugs: "I don't need your body. Just this morning I got nine heads in the parking lot at City Hall. We've got our own dead." Their rapport is admirably free of buddy-cop shtick, and they both respond to the horror they witness with different (yet tangible) grief. The run-of-the-mill TV sadism is hard to take. Yet the anguish feels real, and it stays with you.

makes all the antics seem more freewheeling when it slips into traditional chat-show mode; this season features comedians (Aziz Ansari, Sarah Silverman, Bill Hader), living legends (Pee-wee Herman) and welcome back to the talk-show circuit, Jessica Alba - we all missed you! Remember: You don't really have to talk!

Comedy Bang! Bang!

July 12th, 10 p.m., IFC

AT LAST - THE LATE-NIGHT variety show that makes you scoff at all the others and wonder where the variety is. *Com-*

The Newsroom

July 14th, 10 p.m., HBO

THERE ARE TWO SCHOOLS OF thought about *The Newsroom*, which means two different ways of watching it: (1) It celebrates a noble middle-aged hero with bold ideas who

stands up to the corruption of TV news because he believes in this nation, or (2) it mocks a middle-aged gasbag who can't stop giving speeches about how he's the last honest man. Basically, you think Jeff Daniels is either Peter Finch in *Network* ("I'm mad as hell and I'm not gonna take it anymore!") or Ron Burgundy in *Anchorman* ("I'm kind of a big deal!"). Somewhere in the middle of *The Newsroom's* debut season, it became obvious that Aaron Sorkin takes this blowhard 100 percent seriously - but that doesn't mean you have to.

Breaking Bad

August 11th, 9 p.m., AMC

THERE'S AN 800-POUND gorilla in the swimming pool this summer. And this bald gorilla wants to sell you some crystal meth. One thing we know for sure: This is the final chapter for *Breaking Bad*, wrapping up five classic seasons of blood, drugs and vengeance. We will finally learn how Walt got to that birthday breakfast at Denny's - whom he might have had to kill on his way there, and whom he's planning to kill for dessert. There are just a couple of months left to ponder the burning leftover questions: Will Jesse get sucked back in? What will Hank do now that he knows the identity of Heisenberg? And the toughest query of all: Mike Ehrmantraut, how are we supposed to live without you? ROB SHEFFIELD

THE SECRETS OF 'TRUE BLOOD'

True Blood

June 16th, 9 p.m., HBO

When we last left the perennially endangered Sookie Stackhouse, she was hightailing it away from her megalomaniac vampire ex-boyfriend, Bill Compton. We checked in with Brian Buckner - creator Alan Ball's showrunner successor - for what's in store this season.



Deborah Ann Woll and Anna Paquin

1. A major character dies: "One of our principal characters will not make it through the season," reveals Buckner.
2. There is hope for Bill: "There's a fight between the Bill part of Bill and the Lilith side - she will win for a little while."
3. The Bill/Sookie/Eric love triangle still exists: "The tension is there," says Buckner, "but these characters have never been further apart, romantically." SARENE LEEDS