



LINDSEY FLEMING

Boom in TV means more summer series

NOT SINCE THE DAYS of cable have there been so many scripted television series.

At least that's what a recent *Vulture* article told me. The piece said that between 2009-'15, the number of series has almost doubled.

And while "The Business of Too Much TV" explores the many issues, such as programming quality, that this glut has caused, there are also upsides. Namely, that summer is no longer a wasteland of reruns.

Increased competition means that networks, cable and online-streaming services can no longer afford a vacation. True, you may have to sift through more garbage to get to the good stuff, but at least it's out there somewhere.

I'm most excited to see how AMC's "The American West" pans out, as the eight-part series was shot primarily in West Virginia, in locations as close by as Prickett's Fort State Park. It debuts at 10 p.m. June 11 and focuses on the time after the Civil War, from 1865-'90.

Produced by **Robert Redford** and **Laura Michalchyshyn**, it features interviews with Western film stars such as Redford, **Ed Harris** and **James Caan**. The series also delves into the lives of historic icons like **Jesse James**, **Billy the Kid**, **Wyatt Earp** and **Crazy Horse**.

And "The American West" is just one of more than a dozen shows premiering this summer.

Here are a few others that sound like they're worth checking out:

■ "Roots" — premieres at 9 p.m. Monday — OK, so this isn't technically a new show, but a new version of the 1977 miniseries. The History channel is remaking the iconic tale of slavery with a star-filled cast made up of **Forest Whitaker**, **Laurance Fishburn**, **Anika Noni Rose**, **Jonathan Rhys Meyers**, **T.I.** and **Anna Paquin**. The eight-hour series will air over four consecutive nights.

■ "BrainDead" — premieres at 10 a.m. June 13 — Being an ever-more reluctant follower of the presidential-election chaos thus far makes the premise of this CBS sci-fi comedy almost believable. Upon taking a job in Washington, D.C., a staffer soon learns the reason why many of the politicians she comes across are acting so strangely — an alien parasite is eating their brains. **Mary Elizabeth Winstead**, of "10 Cloverfield Lane," stars and, appropriately, "Good Wife" co-creators and spouses **Robert** and **Michelle King** are behind this, hopefully funny, jab at our political system.

■ "The Get Down" — premieres Aug. 12 — I'm not usually a huge fan of musicals. However, if that musical has to do with the early days of hip-hop, I'm guaranteed to at least give it a shot. This Netflix series is filmmaker **Baz Luhrmann's** ("Moulin Rouge," "The Great Gatsby") jump to the small screen and chronicles the genre's formation in 1970s, in the Bronx. While **Jaden Smith** is the best-known name associated with "The Get Down" it's "Dope's" **Shameik Moore's** involvement I'm most excited to see. And finding out that **Grandmaster Flash** is a producer and adviser for the drama series gives me hope for its authenticity. Young actor **Mamoudou Athie** will portray Flash on-screen. No pressure there.

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10 questions for: Worst Kept Secret



Submitted photo

Worst Kept Secret will begin its first tour today, with Guns at Sundown. The five-piece Southern metal band will tour throughout West Virginia and surrounding states.

Southern metal band kicks off tour today

WORST KEPT SECRET will play June 10 at 123 Pleasant Street for the "Off the Record" show with all proceeds going to Pop Shop, a nonprofit music academy in Morgantown. Show starts at 8 p.m.

BY MADISON FLECK
The Dominion Post

This week, Worst Kept Secret is heading on its first-ever tour after two successful years of playing music around West Virginia. The Southern metal band from Elkins, will kick off today, with Guns at Sundown. The group will play through June 6, in West Virginia and surrounding states.

From growing up together being the "skater kids" in high school, the five-man band — Shawn Fisher, on vocals; Jared Miller, on guitar; Ben Geelhaar, on guitar; Pat Cole, on bass; and Ryan Schauman, on drums — writes all of their own music and has a blast doing it.

The Dominion Post had the chance to talk with guitarist Jared Miller about the band's successes, struggles and the West Virginia dynamic it brings to the heavy-metal music scene.

Q: You're heading on tour with Guns at Sun-

down. What's the relationship there?

A: "We kind of have a similar style, like a Southern rock, metal kind of thing. We did a four-day run with them last year, and we started saying we should go on tour with them. They kept bringing it up, so I was like, 'Oh, this is a real thing. We're going to go on tour with them.'"

Q: How will all of the guys cope with being on the road and working for a couple of weeks?

A: "I guess we'll see. We get on each other's nerves, like anyone else, but at the end of the day, we're all just working toward the same goal. Everyone is just so excited to go."

Q: You describe your style as southern metal. What does that mean?

A: "Genres are so blurry now-a-days. I always say Southern metal because bands like Pantera and Black Label Society just have these dirty southern riffs in their music. It's really just like hard rock and a little bit of punk too."

Q: How does your song-writing process work?

A: "I don't know if we do it right, but we usually [start

with] a riff or a melody. It's weird because we always do lyrics last."

Q: What is it like being a metal band in the music scene of West Virginia?

A: "It has its ups and downs. We have a huge fan base because the state is so small, and you see your name spreading really fast. But the negative with that is that [some fans] think you're like hillbillies or something."

Q: Have you ever felt like you were discouraged from pursuing music?

A: "Not really, honestly. The only people that have ever discouraged us are other people in the music scene. I don't know if that's a jealousy or an envy thing. Our parents have always been supportive of us."

Q: Most of you have known each other since you were kids. What made you take the leap to form your own band?

A: "A couple of us were in a cover band in high school. We were skater kids, and no one thought we were going to amount to s*** anyway. We all moved to Morgantown separately, and just the music scene [in Morgantown] was really stale, it all sounded cookie-cutter to me.

We were all just jamming around one time, and I came up with this riff, and it was just a snowball effect. Next thing I know, it's been two years, and we've played like 85 shows."

Q: What do you want your music to convey to your audience?

A: "The overall message in our music is really just to have fun. Just come and have a good time, don't think about work or whatever is happening in your life."

Q: What song seems to get the crowd going the most?

"The song we open with is called 'Running Gun,' and it's got a police-chase feel to it. We just try to come out wide open, and we want the energy level to be at 100. My favorites though are probably 'Dirty' or 'Follow the Buzzards,' they really get the crowd pumped up."

A: As you look toward the future, where do you see Worst Kept Secret?

"It's kind of hard to say because all of this was unexpected anyway. CD sales are like nonexistent now, so it's all about touring. We're just going to keep pushing for it, and if the opportunity presents itself, we're going to go."

Exhibit features work by MFA students

Submitted to The Dominion Post

The Mountain State provided inspiration for a new exhibition at WVU. Twelve Master of Fine Arts (MFA) candidates and recent graduates from WVU's School of Art and Design will present a summer exhibition through Aug. 18, at the Creative Arts Center's Laura Mesaros Gallery.

Titled "Surroundings: MFA Students Respond to Their Environments," the exhibit features contemporary experiences the students have had in West Virginia. The artists, who are from inside and outside the state, reflected on their surroundings to create this diverse work expressing personal, industrial, surreal and jovial perspectives.

"Glimpses of their personal studio surroundings are displayed with their works, and

items from their studios are also included in this collaborative installation to surround visitors with a hint of their creative spaces," said Sally Deskins, curator of the exhibition.

Deskins said viewers are invited to participate in the exhibition by posting a picture of their own surroundings (a selfie with the art in the gallery, or from around campus or from their own West Virginia environments) with the hashtag #wvsurroundings. The photos will be printed weekly and displayed in the collaborative installation throughout the summer.

A closing reception for the exhibition is set for 5-7 p.m. Aug. 18 at the gallery, with a curator's talk with artists at 5 p.m.

Deskins is a recent graduate of the School of Art and Design, having received her master's de-



Submitted photo

MFA candidates and recent graduates from WVU's School of Art and Design will present a summer exhibit at the Creative Arts Center's Laura Mesaros Gallery.

gree in art history.

The artists in the exhibition include Allison Blair, printmaking, Nate Ditzler, ceramics and sculpture, Tiera Floyd, painting,

Megan Gainer, sculpture, Jake Guzan, printmaking, Brett Heron, printmaking and sculpture,

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