



Winter TCA 2018: HBO Preps Premieres of 'Barry,' 'Zen Diaries'

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Game of Thrones won't return to finish telling its epic tale until 2019, but in the meantime, HBO has plenty of series, specials and documentaries on tap.

The fifth season of Emmy-winning Last Week Tonight with John Oliver returns on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 11 p.m. ET, and is expected to pick up the hilarious rants wherever Oliver left off.

Also returning on HBO are musical comedians Bret McKenzie and Jemaine Clement in a one-hour comedy special version of Flight of the Conchords. The presentation will feature the duo performing their classics and new original songs from their Flight of the Conchords Sing Flight of the Conchords Tour. New Zealanders McKenzie and Clement debuted on HBO in 2005 in an edition of the comedy series One-Night Stand, and they returned to the network in 2007 for the debut season of the series Flight of the Conchords, which followed fictionalized versions of their lives in New York City.

Up first in the new series department on HBO is Barry, a dark comedy starring Bill Hader as a depressed, low-rent hitman who reluctantly travels to Los Angeles to execute a hit on an aspiring actor. It opens March 25. Succession, a drama which follows Logan Roy and his four children and how they deal with

their aging father as he begins to step aside from the family business. It debuts in June.

Ronan Farrow, who is credited for helping bring down Harvey Weinstein through a series of well-researched investigative reports published in The New Yorker, has signed an exclusive three-year television deal with HBO that will begin later this year. Farrow will develop and front a series of investigative documentary specials and his stories will continue to document the abuse of power by individuals and institutions. Farrow also is joining The New Yorker as a contributing writer.

Farrow also will produce and host other topical, newsworthy pieces for HBO's various platforms.

Later this year, HBO will debut 2 Dope Queens, a series based on the podcast hosted by Jessica Williams of The Daily Show and Phoebe Robinson of Broad City.

The late Garry Shandling will be the subject of The Zen Diaries of Garry Shandling, a two-part mini-series from producer and director Judd Apatow that will air March 26 and 27. Interviews from nearly four dozen of Shandling's friends, family and colleagues will be featured.

Elvis Presley: The Searcher, a three-hour, two-film presentation following Elvis Presley's childhood through the final 1976 Jungle Room recording sessions, will debut on Saturday, April 14 at 8 p.m. ET. And Oscar winner and current Grace and Frankie star Jane Fonda will be the subject of Jane Fonda In Five Acts, which features Fonda speaking candidly and frankly about her life and her missteps.

Other upcoming documentary titles at HBO are The Number on Great Grandpa's Arm on Jan. 27, May It Last: A Portrait of the Avett Brothers on Jan. 29, Atomic Homefront on Feb. 12, Arthur Miller: Writer on March 19, King in the Wilderness in April, Traffic Stop in April, I Am Evidence in April and The Final Year in May.

[Images courtesy of John P. Johnson/HBO]