

EVENTS

‘Friends’ creators talk about the show’s legacy

BY BETHONIE BUTLER
THE WASHINGTON POST

On Sunday, cast members from shows such as “Taxi,” “Cheers,” “Frasier,” “Will and Grace” and “The Big Bang Theory” will salute veteran sitcom director James Burrows in the NBC special “Must See TV: A Tribute to James Burrows.” But no cast’s appearance has been touted more than that of “Friends.” Five of the six main cast members will be in attendance; Matthew Perry will appear in a pre-taped segment.

News of the Burrows special sent longtime rumors of a “Friends” reunion into overdrive, though creators Marta Kauffman and David Crane have since reiterated what they’ve said all along: There will be no official “Friends” reunion.

Kauffman and Crane, who met while doing theater in college, also teamed up on HBO’s “Dream On” and the NBC show “Veronica’s Closet.” Kauffman’s latest creation, “Grace and Frankie,” has been renewed for a third season on Netflix. Crane and his partner, Jeffrey Klarik, co-created the Showtime comedy “Episodes,” which stars

“Friends” alum Matt LeBlanc. But their names are synonymous with “Friends,” which the Hollywood Reporter declared “Hollywood’s favorite show” last fall. In a phone interview, Kauffman and Crane talked about the reunion rumors and how they view the show’s legacy.

The interview has been edited and for length and clarity.

Q: How often do you get the reunion question?

Kauffman: Constantly. All the time. I was once in a bar with a friend of mine, we were having a drink and a bunch of people walked in and they were talking about how, “It’s official, there’s going to be a ‘Friends’ reunion,” and I’m sitting there with my friend going, “No, no, there’s not.”

Crane: It is remarkable the number of times that it has been reported absolutely and definitively there’s going to be a reunion. And I think Marta and I probably both have the same reaction to first go: “Why didn’t anyone tell us?” And then we find out no, we’re right, it’s not happening.

And we don’t want to it happen. I mean, if you talk about a reunion — getting the characters back together, like where are they now — that just

seems like a terrible idea.

Kauffman: And part of my feeling about that is as we’ve always said the show for us was about that time in your life when your friends are your family and once you start to have a family of your own, it’s no longer that time in your life, so you know the show’s purpose would be gone and if you’re not doing the vision of the show, then why do it? I think it can only be disappointing.

Q: Are you against reboots and reunions in general? Or is there something unique about “Friends” that would make it hard?

Crane: I really like “Star Wars” and I really like “Star Trek,” but I really don’t want to see “Friends” come back that way. I think it depends on what you’re talking about. One of the things that makes it particularly difficult with our show was that it was a multi-camera show in front of an audience. So when people talk about “Oh, there should be a ‘Friends’ movie,” it totally changes the nature of what the show was. It isn’t in, like, a show like “Sex and the City,” which was much more [film-like] in its original form.

Kauffman: We used to joke

that we were going to do a cartoon called “Friends Babies.”

Crane: There you go, that’s your reboot. On one hand, I was going to say that the actors have all gone on to do really good work and so it’s not like you’re not getting to see them. And as far as if you really want to see “Friends,” God knows, knock on wood, it’s on TV.

Q: It’s also on Netflix. Do you ever hear from people who are watching it for the first time?

Crane: It is shocking how much we don’t remember. We’ll run into people who talk about moments or scenes or stories and I’m like, “I have the vaguest recollection.” We worked hard those 10 years and a lot of stuff is just, I don’t know ...

Kauffman: Gone.

Crane: It is amazing the number of children of friends who are discovering the show for the first time and that’s so exciting. The fact that it feels current and contemporary to them and that they can invest in these characters, stories from like 20 years ago and that there’s still something relatable and aspirational — that part of it is incredibly

exciting and gratifying.

Kauffman: And surprising.

Q: A few weeks ago, someone posted on Reddit that it was the day Chandler Bing was supposed to call Susie Moss, referring to an episode from 20 years ago (“The One After the Superbowl Part 2”). Does it surprise you how invested people still are in the show and the characters?

Kauffman: It’s sort of surreal. And truly wonderful. I don’t think we can be any more proud or grateful that the show has retained its fanbase.

Crane: You don’t do the work for that — it was just each week trying to tell a funny story and to invest in these people and the fact that that investment is still here all these years later and, apparently, with this new level of enthusiasm, it’s fantastic.

Kauffman: We used to say at the end of the show — “another one that didn’t suck.”

Crane: And here we are, apparently they didn’t.

Q: Do either of you have a favorite episode?

Kauffman: That’s like saying, “Do you have a favorite child?”

Crane: This is not a favorite one, but there is certainly a very fond place in my heart

for any of the Thanksgiving shows. Somehow everything always came together for those.

And anytime anyone had a baby. The baby shows — it was like, I think we knew, OK, this has got to count, you can’t have some middling C story that might or might not work. I think everyone brought their A-game to those shows.

Q: How do you view the show’s legacy now?

Kauffman: That’s a very big word. I think for me personally the greatest part of it is that people still get joy from it. It makes them happy. It makes them smile, it makes them laugh, it makes them care. And I certainly still get a great deal of joy from the memory of doing it.

Crane: There’s something so digestible about television. You watch it, you enjoy it and you move on. The fact that we’re still here is astonishing.

Kauffman: I also believe that’s because television is a very intimate experience. It’s in your home, you watch it in your PJs and while you’re folding towels. It’s a different experience. I think for that reason those characters and their stories can stay with you.

Things to Do

BANGOR — “Search Images,” woodblock prints by artist Amy Guadagnoli, through April 14, Robert E. White Gallery, Husson University, Amy Guadagnoli, 370-9202 or art@amyguadagnoli.com; or Kathi Smith, smithk@husson.edu.

BANGOR — Coffee With a Cop, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, Bangor Grange hall, 1192 Ohio St. Meet Bangor police officers, chat and enjoy home-made treats. 973-3976.

BAR HARBOR — “Long-Term Climate Dynamics Provide Surprising Clues about Maine’s Future” with Dr. George Jacobson, former Maine state climatologist and professor emeritus of biology, ecology and climate change, University of Maine, 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, Jesup Library. 288-4245 or kchagnon@jesuplibrary.org.

BAR HARBOR — Music by James McMurtry with special guest Micah Blue Smaildone, 8-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, 1932 Criterion Theatre, 35 Cottage St. Doors open, 8 p.m.; music, 9 p.m. Tickets \$25 orchestra, \$30 balcony. Special pricing for students. 288-0829.

BATH — “Visiting Mr. Green” by Jeff Baron, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26-27; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St. Staged in Curtis Room. Advance tickets \$12; \$15 at the door. 442-8455 or info@chocolatechurcharts.org.

BELFAST — “Bodies,” exhibition of work by nine New York-based artists, through March 10, Perimeter Gallery, 96 Main St. 338-0555 or perimeter96@gmail.com.

BELFAST — Belfast Garden Club and Belfast Free Library Evening Lecture Series: “Gardening in Tune with Nature,” illustrated talk by Reeser Manley and Marjorie Peronto, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, Abbott Room, Belfast Free Library. Free and open to all.

BLUE HILL — Exhibit of colored pencil drawings, “Crystal Gems” by 7-year-old Bean Fitzpatrick, during library hours through February, children’s Larchwood exhibit case, Blue Hill Public Library, 5 Parker Point Road. Libby, 374-5515.

BREWER — Storytime for preschool children and caregivers, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 23 and

24, Brewer Public Library. Read, sing, do crafts and have a snack with Miss Shelley. 989-7943.

BREWER — Experienced or new knitters, crocheters or needleworkers invited to Brewer Public Library, 9:30-11 a.m. Fridays. Bring your own yarn projects and socialize in conference room. 989-7943.

CAMDEN — Camden Garden Club Winter Horticulture Series, 10 a.m. Tuesdays, through Feb. 23. Free and open to all. 236-3440.

CAMDEN — Knitting circle for adults of all abilities, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, Camden Public Library. Bring a project, learn new skills. Group meets second and fourth Thursdays of each month. 236-3440.

EASTPORT — Stress-relieving dancing, 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, Eastport Arts Center, 36 Washington St. Open to all. Wear loose, comfortable clothing, bring water to drink. Robin, 853-9211 or coastalme-photography@gmail.com.

ELLSWORTH — High-definition simulcast performance from The National Theatre of London of Shakespeare’s “As You Like It,” 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25. General admission tickets — \$17, \$16 seniors, \$15 Grand members, \$13 students, \$10 age 12 and under — available by calling 667-9500, or visit grandonline.org.

ELLSWORTH — Judy Pancoast: Weird Things Are Everywhere! 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, The Grand. General admission tickets \$10, \$5 age 12 and under. 667-9500 or grandonline.org.

ELLSWORTH — Film “Grandma,” 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, and 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24. The Grand. \$7, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 Grand members. Matinee tickets \$5. 667-9500 or grandonline.org.

HAMPDEN — Hampden Garden Club talk by Dr. Lois Stack, ornamental horticulture specialist, University of Maine Cooperative Extension and university faculty member, on attracting pollinating insects and birds to the home garden, noon Tuesday, Feb. 23, Hampden town office meeting room, 106 Western Ave. Pat, 862-3909.

MACHIAS — Valerie Aponik and Robin Rier dual art show, through Feb. 24, University of Maine at Machias, Powers Hall Gallery.

MILLINOCKET — Soup luncheon, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 40 Highland Ave. Soups, biscuits, cakes and beverage. \$7. 907-3115.

PORTLAND — Paul Sacaridiz, executive director of Haystack Mountain School of Crafts on Deer Isle, speaking, noon-1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, Osher Lecture Hall, Maine College of Art, 522 Congress St. 775-3052 or info@meca.edu.

PORTLAND — Costume historian and author Jacqueline Field giving an illustrated talk exploring fashion trends of “Downtown Abbey” era at a tea, 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, Maine Historical Society, 489 Congress St. Exhibit “Fashionable Downtown Abbey: Selections from the Maine Historical Society Costume Collection” also on view through Saturday, March 12. \$15 Maine Historical Society members, \$25 others. 774-1822, ddippolito@mainehistory.org or eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-downtown-abbey-era-fashions-tickets-21562760798.

ROCKLAND — Snow Day Camp for ages 5-10 on days school is canceled because of snow, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks. Organized activities.

Deposit of \$15 per child to reserve space and \$15 per child per snow day. If there are no snow days, the deposit will be returned. Limited to 30. 370-7887 or uursnow-daycamp@uurockland.org.

SOUTH PORTLAND — Reza Jalali, writer and essayist, discussing challenges a displaced writer faces in writing about “home,” 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, McKernan Center, Southern Maine Community College, 2 Fort Road. 773-5051 or info@mainehumanites.org.

SOUTHWEST HARBOR — Retired Acadia National Park superintendent Paul Haertel and park lead education Ranger Michael Marion discuss

Acadia’s night sky and beauty, history and science addressed in “The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light” by Paul Bogard, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, Southwest Harbor Public Library. Followed by stargazing at Pemetic Elementary School. 244-7065.

SOUTHWEST HARBOR — Brenda Merritt paintings “A Tribute to Dad,” through February, Southwest Harbor Public Library. Art sold during exhibit will support library’s children’s programs. 244-7065.

UNION — Ashwood Waldorf School early childhood teacher Beth Lunt leading seasonal puppet play, simple morning cir-

cle and-or simple craft activity for young children, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, April 8 and 29, and May 6. Free and open to the public. 785-4733 or voselibrarian@voselibrary.org.

UNITY — “Barbara Peabody: On the Water and in the Woods,” a show of paintings, through April 1, Leonard R. Craig Gallery, Unity College Center for the Performing Arts, 42 Depot St. Refreshments provided. Free and open to all. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and by appointment. 509-7239 or bpotter@unity.edu.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

Tuesday prime time

MOVIES

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
BROADCAST	2 NBC 207 Inside Ed.	Hollywood Game Night	Chicago Med (N) (HD)	Chicago Fire (N) (HD)	News				
	4 CBC Rick Mercer 22 Minutes	Creek Mr. D (N)	The National (N)	CBC Coronation Rick Mercer					
	5 CBS Big Bang	Broke Girl NCIS (N) (HD)	NCIS: New Orleans (N)	Limitless (N) (HD)	News				
	52 CW Family Guy	The Flash (N) (HD)	iZombie (N) (HD)	News Seinfeld	Cougar				
	6 NBC 207 Inside Ed.	Hollywood Game Night	Chicago Med (N) (HD)	Chicago Fire (N) (HD)	News				
	7 ABC Wheel	Jeopardy!	Fresh-Boat Muppets	Marvel's Agent Carter A deal with Whitney Frost. (N)	News				
	WAGM FOX The Insider	Ent. Tonight	New Girl	Grand Brooklyn News Big Bang	Big Bang				
	8 ABC Wheel	Jeopardy!	TBA Muppets	Marvel's Agent Carter A deal with Whitney Frost. (N)	News				
	MPBN PBS PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)	Finding Your Roots (N)	The Flash (N) (HD)	Frontline New approaches for dealing with heroin. (C)	R. Rose				
	9 IND Marvel's Agent Carter	The Flash (N) (HD)	NCIS: New Orleans (N)	Limitless (N) (HD)	News				
KIDS	13 CBS Ent. Tonight	The Insider	NCIS (N) (HD)	NCIS: New Orleans (N)	Limitless (N) (HD)	News			
	22 FOX Mod Fam	Mod Fam	New Girl	Grand Brooklyn The Grinder	FOX 22 News at 10 (N)	Walk:Dead			
	33 IND M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy Griffith	Happy Days Laverne	Hogan Hero Hogan Hero C. Burnett				
	38 IND Big Bang	Big Bang	The Walking Dead	The Walking Dead	WBZ News (N) (HD)	Seinfeld			
LEARN	HIST	Join or Die Join or Die	Cnt. Cars Cnt. Cars	Cnt. Cars Cnt. Cars	Forged in Fire (N)	Forged-Fire			
	DISC	Moonshiners	Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts	Moonshiners (N)	Street Outlaws	Moonshine			
	TLC	The Little Couple	The Little Couple	The Little Couple (N)	(.01) Rattled (N)	Couple			
	A&E	Married at First Sight	Married at First Sight	Married at First Sight (N)	(.01) Fit to Fat to Fit (N)	Married			
SPORTS	ANPL	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	(.01) North Woods Law	(.02) North Woods Law	North-Law			
	CSNE	The Baseball Show	Early Notre Dame	The Baseball Show	Sports SportsNet	Sports			
	ESPN	College Basketball Alabama at Kentucky. (N) (L)	College Basketball Michigan	Slate at Ohio State. (N)	SportCtr				
	ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball Kansas at Baylor. (N) (L)	NBA Coast to Coast (N) (L)					
NEWS	NBCSP	NHL Live (N) NHL Hockey	Columbus Blue Jackets at Detroit Red Wings. (N) (L)	(.15) NHL Overtime (N)	Diving				
	NESN	College Basketball Clemson at Georgia Tech. (N)	Town Hall Meeting	Sports Red Sox	Sports				
	CNBC	The Filthy The Filthy	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	The Filthy The Filthy	Shark Tank			
	CNN	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	CNN Democratic Presidential Town Hall (N) (L)	Nevada GOP Caucuses	Hannity (N)	Election HQ			
VARIETY	FNC	Greta Van Susteren	The O'Reilly Factor (N)	The Kelly File (N)	The Last Word	Politics			
	MSNBC	Hardball Chris Matthews	All In With Chris Hayes	Rachel Maddow Show					
	AMC	(5:30) Dawn of the Dead	*** Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (2003), Nick Stahl (R)	Day Earth Stood Still					
	BRV	Real Housewives/Beverly	Real Housewives/Beverly	Real Housewives/Beverly	Girlfriends' Guide-Divorce	Happens			
PREMIUM	CMT	Last Man Last Man	Last Man Last Man	*** Grumpy Old Men (1993)	Comedy Jack Lemmon. (P6-13)				
	COM	Tosh.0	(.24) Tosh.0 Tosh.0	Tosh.0	(.29) Tosh.0 Tosh.0 (N)	Not Safe Daily Show			
	E!	E! News (N)	Total Divas	Total Divas (N)	Just Jillian (N)	E! News			
	FOOD	Chopped (N)	Chopped	Chopped (N)	Chopped (N)	Chopped			
STARZ	FX	*** American Hustle (2013), Comedy-Drama Christian Bale. (R)			The People v. O.J. Simpson: American				
	GAC	Log Cabin Log Cabin	Log Cabin Log Cabin	Log Cabin Log Cabin	Big Sky Big Sky	Big Sky			
	HALL	Last Man Last Man	Last Man Last Man	The Middle The Middle	The Middle The Middle	Golden Girls			
	HGTV	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper (N)	Hunters Hunters Int'l	Wise Buys			
SHOW	LIFE	Dance Moms	Dance Moms (N)	Dance Moms (N)	(.06) Pitch Slapped (N)	Dance			
	MTV	Ridiculous. Ridiculous.	Ridiculous. Ridiculous.	Teen Wolf (N)	The Shannara Chronicles	Ridiculous.			
	OXY	Prancing Elites	Prancing Elites	Prancing Elites	Preachers of Atlanta	Prancing			
	SPIKE	(6:00) Happy Gilmore	** The Longest Yard (2005, Comedy) Adam Sandler, (2008) Harrison Ford.	Chris Rock. (P6-13)	HappyGil				
STARZ	SYFY	Tremors 5: Bloodlines	** Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull	(2008) Harrison Ford.	Colony				
	TBN	Supernat. Potters	Trinity Everyday	Prince Cornelius	Praise the Lord (N) (L)				
	TBS	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Big Bang	Big Bang Big Bang	Conan (N)			
	TCM	(6:00) Cyrano de Bergerac	*** The Caine Mutiny (1954) Humphrey Bogart.		(.15) **** Marty (1955) (NR)				
STARZ	TMC	(6:10) *** Kelly & Cal	*** Ginger & Rosa (2012) (P6-13)	*** GBF (2013) Michael J. Willett. (R)	Good Will				
	TNT	Rizzoli & Isles	Rizzoli & Isles	Rizzoli & Isles (N)	Rizzoli & Isles	Castle			
	TRAVEL	Bizarre Foods America	The Trip: 2016 (N)	Delicious Destinations	Goose Traveler	Bizarre			
	TRU	Imp. Jokers Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers Imp. Jokers	Benzie 10 Things	Genius			
STARZ	TVL	Andy Griffith Andy Griffith	Everybody Raymond	Raymond Raymond	Raymond Raymond	King			
	USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Mod Fam			
	VH1	Stevie J K. Michelle	Love & Hip Hop	Love & Hip Hop	Mob Wives	Stevie J			
	WGN-A	(6:00) *** The Last Samurai (2003) Tom Cruise. (R)	Outsiders (N)	Outsiders (N)	(.01) Outsiders	Outsiders			
STARZ	ENC	(6:10) *** The Big Chill (1983) William Hurt. (R)	** Forces of Nature (1999) (ESP) Sandra Bullock. A groom hurries to his wedding, with a fellow traveler.		(9:50) ** 28 Days (2000, Comedy-Drama) (ESP) Sandra Bullock. (P6-13)				
	HBO	(.15) ** Wimbledon (2004) (ESP) Kirsten Dunst. Two tennis players fall for each other. (P6-13)	Vinyl Richie delivers a bombshell. (ESP)		REAL Sports With Bryant Gumbel (N) (ESP)	Gonzaga: The March			
	MAX	(6:40) ** Vice (2015, Action) (ESP) Bruce (20) ** The Invasion (2007, Science Fiction) (ESP) Nicole Kidman. (P6-13)			*** Edge of Tomorrow (2014, Science Fiction) (ESP) Tom Cruise. (P6-13)				
	SHOW	(6:00) ** Black Snake Moan (2007) (ESP) (R)	Billions Wendy facilitates a deal	** Shooter (2007) Mark Wahlberg. A wounded sniper plots revenge against those who betrayed him. (R)	(.05) Shameless (ESP)				
STARZ	STARZ	(6:05) ** Uncle Buck (1989) John Candy. (P6)	(7:50) *** Déjà Vu (2006) Denzel Washington. A time-folding agent falls in love with a murder victim.		Black Sails Silver pushes Flint to take action	Day-Tomorrow			