

Well, we're all still spending loads of time on the couch. TV has become our new national pastime. That being the case, here's a few shows we think you'll enjoy. Each is now streaming and available on demand. Read our interviews at [www.wnypapers.com](http://www.wnypapers.com).



### 'THE GOLDBERGS'

Regrettably, high school juniors and seniors around the country will miss their prom this spring, as schools are closed to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Recognizing this, ABC set out to offer a special at-home event.

"Who said that you can't host prom in your living room?! Break out your punch bowls and dust off your dancing shoes, because ABC is bringing the party home ... with #ABCPromNight," a press release stated.

Comedies "The Goldbergs," "Schooled" and "American Housewife" wrapped the season in much the same way the school year ends - in a gymnasium under colored lights and shining mirror balls.

"They kind of finagled it, so that they could have the prom episodes of all the shows line up for this special event for some of the kids that missed out on the prom they were planning on going to. I thought it was a really cool trying to figure out how to interact with the audience," "The Goldbergs" star Sean Giambrone said in a phone interview.

"The Goldbergs" is set in the 1980s, and there was, perhaps, no better time to stage a prom than the decade of big hair, neon colors and rhinestones. Show creator Adam F. Goldberg meticulously recreates the period of his youth - while lovingly and hilariously poking fun at his over-the-top family: "smother" Beverly, "moron"-yelling father Murray, karate-rapping brother Barry and aspiring rock star sister Erica.

As the big dance draws near, Bev's not too keen on seeing her "lil' schmoo" dating and almost ready for college.

"The prom episode of 'The Goldbergs' is pretty fun, because Adam, my character, is planning on going. And he's got to work up the nerve to ask his girlfriend to prom, but then he also has to worry about his mom trying to cancel it. He's got a couple of battles to go through in this episode," Giambrone said. "And the other side of the storyline is so fun. Erica has to kind of step up in her role as girlfriend for her boyfriend, because her boyfriend is kind of going through a hard time."

Many of the characters on "The Goldbergs" are inspired by people Goldberg encountered growing up in Pennsylvania in the 1980s. This includes Adam's date, Brea Bee (Sadie Stanley).

Giambrone worked with Stanley on the big screen, in 2019's live action "Kim Possible" movie. He described her as a talented actor who has brought out this best in him on "The Goldbergs."

"I'm very happy about it," Giambrone said. "She's awesome. I really enjoy working with her. I consider her a good friend of mine. To see her on a more consistent basis and get to act with her again has been pretty awesome. I'm very happy that they decided to keep going like it has."

### 'ALL RISE'

New entertainment options have been limited of late, with production on TV shows and major motion pictures shut down due to the outbreak of the coronavirus. Television series have come to an abrupt halt three-quarters of the way through their planned storylines, as actors and crews can't get together in this time of physical distancing.

Not content to sit around and wait to see what happens next, or when society will reopen, the showrunners of CBS freshman series "All Rise" opted to shoot an episode where the characters are dealing with the state-imposed quarantine. ... Just like the rest of us.

As the network described it, "With Los Angeles under a mandatory shelter-in-place order and trials piling up, Judge Benner authorizes Judge Carmichael to preside over a virtual bench trial, a case regarding a dispute between brothers over a car."

This episode also sees these characters, who work in an essential field, experiencing the challenges of romance and relationships, food availability and hunger, and maintaining health guidelines in a pandemic.

"Throughout it all, unknown dance party DJ Tailwind (guest star Dorian Missick) offers a comforting, irreverent voice for all Angelenos in lockdown by sharing his music and thoughts via his laptop at home," CBS added.

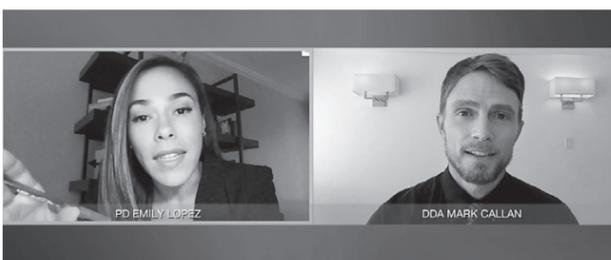
Jessica Camacho, who portrays defense attorney Emily Lopez, explained, "It was pitched to us in a Zoom meeting. We were all gathered together at the request of our showrunner, our producers. And once they had us all gathered together in this virtual meeting space, they're like, 'Hey guys, we just pitched an idea for the next episode to CBS using this exact technology and other virtual meeting spaces just like Zoom, but this is how we're thinking about shooting the next episode. Are you guys game?' We're like, 'Yeah; sounds great! (Laughs)' We were just like, 'How does this work? What are we going to do?'"

"And they basically sent us this very basic lighting equipment ... and they're like 'You're gonna clip this on your device, and then we're going to just hit record and we're going to do these things.' We're like, 'Great; we're in!'"

"You know, we were just excited. I mean, I'm a big TV fan. I love this industry; I love the history of broadcasting; I love all of the different stages that it's taken. And to know that our episode was making TV history, I mean, that to me is mind-blowing. It's such a cool thing to be a part of something historic."

"And we all felt that way. We all felt very lucky to have the ability to do something so innovative and cool, but also lucky to just be able to work. You know, there's so many people right now in our industry - and in every industry - that just want to work - and that was not lost on us. We just felt very, very fortunate, very blessed and very appreciative."

"There were learning curves, and our equipment would go out, and signal would drop, and we'd have to dial back in. There was a lot of reconfiguring and stuff like that. ... I think the raw element and the fact that it's not all glossy, it's in our living rooms and our bedrooms, and it's with these very basic recording tools, I think there's something very, very simple and raw, and very human about that, that our audience is going to really appreciate. I think the audience is going to appreciate seeing these characters go through that."



### 'A MILLION LITTLE THINGS'

In a season one tagline, ABC said friendship is "A Million Little Things."

The truth is, many shows fail because they have a million little things.

What "A Million Little Things" has is two things - and these things showrunner D.J. Nash and his crew do better than any other show on TV. It has stars who are not stars, and a storyline that effortlessly leaves viewers desperate for five more minutes each week.

David Giuntoli led a large cast on "Grimm," as did James Roday did on "Psych." Grace Park was a lead on both "Battlestar Galactica" and "Hawaii Five-0." Romany Malco spent seven years on the critically acclaimed "Weeds," while Stephanie Szostak squared off with Robert Downey Jr. in "Iron Man 3."

This is a group of actors who could easily marquee any number of projects across networks. ... But which one is the star on "A Million Little Things?" Not one of them - and all of them!

And that's not even including Ron Livingston, the iconic star of "Office Space," whose character died in the first episode!

Talk about checking your ego at the door. But that's the first thing that makes "A Million Little Things" so great: There's no "B story." Ten regular cast members, and each and every one of them gets to play an interesting character with an essential (and welcomed) piece of the overall story.

And that overall story is the second thing that sets "A Million Little Things" apart. It's not an action-adventure, or a procedural, wherein we know the good guys will oppose the bad guys, some sort of fight will occur, and good will probably win in the end. (See: Main character dies in episode one). It's different tales of a diverse group of people working to maintain their friendships and support each other through life's worst days and greatest joys.

Somehow, somehow, Nash and his team manage to tell that story in a way that keeps the audience engaged, surprised, frustrated, and on the edge of its seat. Every. Single. Episode.

In season two, the group has come to terms with Jon's death (mostly), and encountered new challenges.

Star David Giuntoli chatted about season two.

Pictured on "The Goldbergs," are Sean Giambrone and Sadie Stanley. (ABC photo by Richard Cartwright). • Pictured, from their homes, are stars Jessica Camacho and Wilson Bethel. (Screen grab ©2020 CBS Broadcasting Inc. All rights reserved.) • "A Million Little Things" is a master class in managing a large cast. The series stars Lizzy Greene, Stephanie Szostak, James Roday, Allison Miller, Chance Hursfield, Christina Moses, Romany Malco, David Giuntoli, Grace Park and Tristan Byon. (ABC photo by Robert Trachtenberg)

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