celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

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CELEBRITY EXTRA

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Photo Credit: Courtesy of HBO Max

Photo Caption: Alexandra Metz as Dr. Garcia in "The Pitt"

Q: When is "Will Trent" coming back with new episodes? I hope that it didn't get canceled. It's one of my family's favorite shows. — *D.D.*

A: No worries, the crime procedural "Will Trent" has been a hit for ABC for four seasons now, easily earning it a renewal for a fifth. Look for new episodes to premiere at 8 p.m. ET on Jan. 5, 2027, followed by the long-awaited season premiere of "High Potential" at 9 p.m. They'll cap off the evening with a new true-crime series called "Surviving a Scandal."

Ramon Rodriguez will, of course, be back as the titular "Will Trent," with Betty the chihuahua (played by canine actress Bluebell) sporting her fashionable sweaters. Also returning are Erika Christensen as Angie, Iantha Richardson as Faith, and Kevin Daniels as Franklin, according to Yahoo Entertainment.

If you're a fan of the awards-season darling "The Pitt," you'll recognize actress Alexandra Metz when she joins the bureau this winter as deputy director Birdie Palmer. Much like the take-charge surgeon Dr. Garcia, Metz should easily fill Birdie's shoes as "a confident and ambitious character stepping into leadership at the GBI."

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Q: Did they ever decide who was going to take over Kelly Clarkson's daytime talk show? I thought they'd try out different hosts. — *T.C.*

A: Unlike "Live with Regis and Kelly" and "Today's" fourth hour, NBCUniversal, which owned the "Kelly Clarkson Show," decided to pull the plug on its first-run syndication productions. According to Variety, NBCU flatly stated that "marketplace conditions no longer support the traditional model of syndication." Thus, "Access Hollywood," "Karamo," and "The Steve Wilkos Show" were all struck with the cancellation axe in 2026.

NBCU would've made an exception for Clarkson if she hadn't decided on her own to retire from the daily grind to spend more time with her children. (Her daytime talk show averaged 2.3 million viewers daily.) Even though they're fresh off their hosting duties at the Winter Olympics (and competing on "The Traitors"), it was rumored that besties Tara Lipinski and Johnny Weir were being considered as co-hosts of the former "Kelly Clarkson Show," but this never materialized. Instead, local stations are filling the hour with expanded newscasts or "Dateline" reruns.



Courtesy of HBO Max

Alexandra Metz as Dr. Garcia in "The Pitt"

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Q: What ever happened to Richard Gere? Did he quit acting? I haven't seen him in anything in years. — *P.P.*

A: Now age 77, Richard Gere could very easily quit acting, and no one would blame him. But he's actually maintained gainful employment in recent years, albeit quietly. Way before "Pretty Woman" in 1990, he was already a huge star and heartthrob in Hollywood with starring roles in "An Officer and a Gentleman," "American Gigolo," and "Looking for Mr. Goodbar."

Most recently, he starred in the Showtime series "The Agency," opposite Michael Fassbender and Jeffrey Wright, and he has no intentions of slowing down. He has four projects lined up, including the romantic comedy "The Making Of" with Blake Lively and Lin-Manuel Miranda, as well as the miniseries "The Off Weeks" with Ben Stiller.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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