

# First-year acting majors debut first show

Diana Stancy  
Senior Reporter

Elon University's first-year acting majors will perform in a special showcase at 2 and 4 p.m. Nov. 16 to highlight their talent in various pieces. The performance will be held in Yeager Recital Hall in the Center for the Arts.

Each student will perform in a short, two-person scene from shows like *Almost Maine* and *Appearances*. The performances are student-directed by upperclassmen, who selected scenes to perform. Every scene was assigned a student director.

One of the benefits of this showcase is it allows first-year students an opportunity to perform during their first semester of college. Casting for full productions is competitive.

"It's more difficult to be cast in the full productions, so the showcase gives us a chance to be in a performance setting," said George Whitaker, a first-year acting student who will be performing a scene from *Almost Maine* with classmate, first-year Christine Lane.

In their first semester, the students are aware of the improvements in their acting. Being in a professional environment where they are challenged as artists has given them

confidence as actors.

"Being surrounded and supported by all of your incredibly talented peers and learning from masters has been incredible," Lane said. "But personally, I've come to accept that the work I do will never be perfect. I've become much more knowledgeable about what we do, and more fearless."

The semester has been a learning process for the students. They have grown as actors, artists and individuals. The students meet several times a week to rehearse outside of class, and a unique bond has formed among the members.

First-year acting major Emily Collins remarked that the relationships she has developed have contributed to her growth as an actor.

"I have grown a lot as an artist and as a member of an ensemble. I see myself as one part of a 12-piece puzzle that is continuously growing as a whole," Collins said. "We work together, we support each other and we inspire each other."

The students are especially excited to share their work over the semester with the audience because, for most, this is their first performance at Elon. They said their dedication is visible in the show.

"From this performance, I hope the audience sees the passion that we all share for



First-year acting students take on their debut roles in an acting showcase Nov. 16.

JANE SEIDEL | PHOTO EDITOR

our craft," said Lane. "I hope they see how much we love what we're lucky enough to be studying at Elon."

By challenging themselves with their first showcase, the group has been able to enjoy their accomplishments

"The work we do is never a finished product — you're constantly growing and learning," Lane said. "Taking what we do each day in class and bringing it back to the scenes has been difficult, but we've learned so much."

# Fall TV: What's canceled and what's not

Casey Brown  
Senior Reporter

Fall is a hectic time for television. New shows are premiering daily and fighting for a spot and fan base among well-adjusted series. Some succeed and become runaway hits. Some break under the weight of high expectations. Here is how the new shows of 2014 are faring:

## How to Get Away with Murder

Status: Full season order  
Shonda Rhimes has the magic touch. Her newest series under the ShondaLand banner focuses on defense lawyer Annalise Keating and her five wide-eyed interns. The show has remained steady in its ratings. It collected about 9.2 million views this past Thursday (between live and same-day views), which is up from last week. Between that ratings strength and a full season order, "How to Get Away with Murder" is looking strong. (Thursday 10 p.m., ABC)

## Forever

Status: Full season order  
This procedural drama about an immortal medical examiner may have a full season order, but the ratings could affect the future of the series. Though it premiered at a respectable 8.2 million, its latest episode pulled a meager 4.95 million viewers. "Forever" may be safe for now, but that could change in May. (Tuesday 10 p.m., ABC)

## Mulaney

Status: Canceled  
This comedy from and about a fictionalized life of former Saturday Night Live writer John Mulaney was one of the earliest to die this TV season. "Mulaney" premiered to a weak 2.3 million viewers, and the number has only decreased since then. The 16-episode order was shortened to 13 before FOX announced they would not be ordering any more episodes. (Sunday 9:30 p.m., FOX)

## Gotham

Status: Full season order  
FOX's Batman prequel about James Gordon's start as a Gotham detective is one of the network's highest-rated shows this fall. This past week, it had 6.63 million live and same-day views, almost two million more than "Sleepy Hollow," the more established series in the following time slot. Its steady ratings of more than 6 million viewers makes "Gotham" a strong contender for success. (Monday 8 p.m., FOX)

## Stalker

Status: Full season order  
CBS's procedural drama about detectives in the Los Angeles Police Department's Threat Assessment Unit has had steady ratings throughout its first couple episodes. It premiered at 9 million viewers, and, while it has dropped a bit, it remains consistent at the 7 million range. These ratings and the full season order show the network's confidence in the series. (Wednesday 10 p.m., CBS)

## Marry Me

Status: An additional 5 episodes ordered  
This romantic comedy, created by "Happy Endings" David Caspe, is in the middle of the television road. Premiering to 7.5 million views, "Marry Me" has dropped to 4.5 million views in its most recent episode. NBC has optimistically ordered five additional episodes, bumping up the season to 18 episodes. It seems only time will tell the fate of "Marry Me." (Tuesday 9 p.m., NBC)

## Bad Judge

Status: Canceled  
The freshman comedy about a tough Los Angeles judge with a wild personal life lives in purgatory. It is canceled in the sense that no more episodes were ordered beyond the original 13. But if the ratings can improve from its current 3 million average, there may be hope for the cancellation to be rescinded. (Thursday 9 p.m., NBC)

## Scorpion

Status: Full season order  
This Monday night drama focuses on genius Walter O'Brien, whose team of highly intelligent associates works for Homeland Security as the last line of defense for complicated global problems. "Scorpion" debuted with a strong 13.8 million views, now settling for more than 10 million a week. With a full season order already, "Scorpion" seems like a score for CBS. (Monday 9 p.m., CBS)

## Mysteries of Laura

Status: Full season order  
This Debra Messing-led comedy-drama about a homicide detective balancing work and home life is another show that has leveled off in the 7 millions. The show has steadily dropped in ratings since its debut at 10.1 million, but the full season order implies NBC's faith in the future of the series. (Wednesday 8 p.m., NBC)

## Red Band Society

Status: Four more scripts ordered  
This ensemble comedy-drama about a group of teenagers in a pediatric ward is in television limbo. As of now, the series isn't performing well in the ratings, fluctuating between the high 2 millions and low 3 millions. Although new scripts were ordered, there is no guarantee that more episodes will air. (Wednesday 9 p.m., FOX)

## Manhattan Love Story

Status: Canceled  
ABC's romantic he-said she-said comedy, in the slot following recently canceled "Selfie," was the first show of the season to be canceled. Its last episode averaged 2.6 million viewers, only pulling 0.7 million among adults aged 18 to 49. The network pulled the series without running out its additional episodes.

## Black-ish

Status: Full season order  
The Anthony Anderson series about an upper-middle class black family remains one of the highest rated freshman comedies of this fall. The show premiered at 11 million views, and although this has since fallen, its ratings remain in the high 7 millions. It is the highest-rated show in the post-"Modern Family" slot, so the full season order seems to be in good confidence. (Wednesday 9:30 p.m., ABC)

## The Flash

Status: Full season order  
The latest superhero drama from The CW looks like it's here to save another day. Premiering with the highest ratings ever for the network at 4.83 million, the show has continued to bring high viewership for The CW standards. It pulled 3.53 million views in its latest episode. (Tuesday 8 p.m., The CW)

## A to Z

Status: Canceled  
The romantic comedy "A to Z" is in a spot similar to "Bad Judge." Its ratings are poor — pulling 2.74 million on its latest episode — and NBC decided not to order additional episodes. However, since the show is technically in production, there is a chance to come back. One of the show's creators, Rashida Jones of "Parks & Recreation," has launched a Twitter campaign to save the freshman comedy. Whether that will work remains to be seen. (Thursday 9:30 p.m., NBC)

## Selfie

Status: Canceled  
The ABC comedy based on the classic play "Pygmalion" is the latest show on the chopping block. The network chose not to order any additional episodes of the freshman comedy, which averaged 3.5 million in ratings each week. The remainder of the episodes will play at its regular time. (Tuesday 8 p.m., ABC)