

FAMILY

Spring Preview



Doc's toy friends come to life whenever she dons her magic stethoscope

▲ Doc McStuffins

Series premiere: Friday, 3/23, 4/3c,
Disney Junior; disneyjunior.com, iTunes

Got a boo-boo? Doc McStuffins to the rescue! This animated charmer, and flagship series on the new Disney Junior channel, features a 6-year-old girl who heals stuffed animals, action figures and blow-up toys in her playhouse clinic. There's lots more that's fresh and different here. Doc is the first female African-American character ever to headline a preschool series. And traditional parental roles get quite a spin: Doc's mom is a busy pediatrician, while her stay-at-home dad does the cooking and tends to the flowerbeds. Nothing is ever truly dire—the toy patients are diagnosed with such maladies as Filthy Icky Sticky Disease—but the intent is serious. Says creator Chris Nee, "Our goal is to demystify the experience of getting medical attention and help kids get past their fears and concerns." —Michael Logan

How to Rock Saturdays, 8:30/7:30c, Nickelodeon; nick.com

More than just another pretty face, **Cymphonique Miller** can deliver a joke and carry a tune as the star of Nickelodeon's newest hit kid-com *How to Rock*, about a former teen snob who traded her high-school clique for a rock band. So what else does the 15-year-old daughter of legendary rapper Master P have up her sleeve? She gives us a peek. —Megan Walsh-Boyle

How much fun are you having hamming it up in front of the camera?

The physical comedy is pretty crazy on this show. There are episodes where I get macaroni and cheese dumped on me, I fall into a pile of fruit, my mints are switched with Alka-Seltzer. Each week it's like,

"What are the writers going to have me do next?!" [Laughs]

Do you have a comedy idol? My all-time inspiration is Lucille Ball. I always watch her on my lunch break. What's really amazing is that we shoot on Stage 25 of the Paramount lot and that's where they used to shoot *The Lucy Show*.

Any chance your big brother Romeo, who also starred on his own Nickelodeon show, will make an appearance? Oh, yes, definitely—we're about to shoot that episode very soon. And he will be featured singing with me. **Name your most rocking moment so far!** I actually shot a three-pointer while filming [a basketball scene]. No stunt double—I actually did it!

And Don't Miss...



Drake Bell, of *Drake & Josh*, will voice the webslinger

▲ Ultimate Spider-Man

Series premiere: Sunday, 4/1, 11am/10c, Disney XD; disneyxd.com, iTunes

One of the world's most popular superheroes, Spider-Man has starred in scores of cartoon and live-action series over the last 45 years. This latest version puts a new spin on the famed webslinger by teaming him up with other Marvel Comics characters when he's recruited into a training program by S.H.I.E.L.D., a government spy agency that keeps a close eye on the capes-and-cowls crowd. A who's who of comic book and animation icons were brought in to create the stories, including Paul Dini (*Batman Beyond*), Brian Michael Bendis (the Ultimate Spider-Man comic book) and Jeph Loeb, the head of Marvel's TV division, whose credits include *Smallville* and *Heroes*. Loeb promises "bigger villains, more dangerous missions and some terrific guest stars from the Marvel Universe," including Captain America, Iron Man, Thor and the Hulk. Sounds super! —Rich Sands

PRE-SCHOOL

Dora the Explorer (3/16, 10am/9c, Nickelodeon) Dora and Boots the Monkey dive into an underwater adventure full of mermaids, music and a special guest star: Mexican singer Thalia! **Martha Speaks** (4/2, PBS; check local listings at tvguide.com) Martha celebrates National Poetry Month with a visit from former poet laureate Billy Collins.

► **Arthur** (4/16, PBS; check local listings at tvguide.com) On Earth Day, our favorite aardvark encourages his pack-rat pal Prunella to give recycling a try.

SCHOOL AGE

Kick Buttwski—Suburban Daredevil (3/24, 11am/10c, Disney XD) Kick's older bro gives up his bullying ways just long enough to impress his dream girl (voiced by Fergie).

Adventure Time (Season premiere: 4/2, 7:30/6:30c, Cartoon Network) Season 4 brings with it more non-stop wackiness and an answer to the burning question: Who'd win in a fight—Finn or BFF Jake?

Pair of Kings (4/9, 8:30/7:30c, Disney XD) NBA All-Star Dwight Howard can't get no respect playing the role of a chef whose cuisine is underappreciated by his royal bosses.

Kaijudo: Rise of the Duel Masters (Series premiere: 4/14, The Hub) A 14-year-old boy and his two best buds fight fantastical creatures from a parallel dimension in this animated series based on the trading-card game.

Motorcity (Series premiere: April, Disney XD) Teen hot-rodgers rev their motors through the streets of a futuristic Detroit on a mission to

take down an evil billionaire voiced by "Star Wars" hero Mark Hamill. **The Last Airbender: Legend Of Korra** (Series premiere: Spring, Nickelodeon) This spin-off of *Avatar: The Last Airbender* follows Aang's airbending successor, Korra, a headstrong teen preparing to battle anti-benders.

Arctic and Antarctic. (For more, see page 44.)

Speak Up (Series premiere: 3/18, 8/7c, Cartoon Network) Real kids and athletes, including NBA All-Star Chris Webber, NASCAR driver Jeff Burton and BMX champ Matt Wilhelm, open up about their experiences with bullying.



TEEN

The Vampire Diaries (3/22, 8/7c, The CW) Elena continues to push Stefan to find his humanity, while Bonnie and Caroline help Abby adapt to her life as a vampire.

The Secret Life of the American Teenager (Season premiere: 3/26, 8/7c, ABC Family) Eleven new episodes kick off with someone caught smoking. Uh-oh. **Make It or Break It** (Season premiere: 3/26, 9/8c, ABC Family) It's time to go for the gold as Season 3 opens with Kaylie and Co. striving to make the Olympics 2012 gymnastics team.

Hart of Dixie (4/23, 9/8c, The CW) *American Idol*'s Scotty McCreery performs!

SPECIALS

Frozen Planet (Premiere: 3/18, 8/7c, Discovery Channel) A breathtaking—and educational—look at the

Kids' Choice Awards

2012 (3/31, 8/7c, Nickelodeon) The annual slimefest celebrates its 25th anniversary with Will Smith hosting and orange blimp-shaped trophies being handed out in categories like Favorite TV Show and Favorite Movie.

Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey (4/5, PBS; check listings at tvguide.com) Prepare to be tickled when the critically acclaimed 2011 Sundance documentary about Kevin Clash, the man behind the famed furry red Muppet, makes its television debut.

My Little Pony Friendship Is Magic (4/21, The Hub) Not everything is rainbows and gumdrops in this two-part special that finds unicorn Twilight Sparkle digging up a wedding shocker as her brother Shining Armor prepares to get hitched. —MWB

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DISNEY JUNIOR; MARVEL STUDIOS; 2012: WGBH/COOKIE JAR ENTERTAINMENT INC.; MICHAEL ELINS/NICKELODEON



"I've never felt like I'm too cute to do anything crazy," says Miller