

Friars IN THE PICTURE



Friar Kelsey Grammer is starring as a fictional Chicago mayor in *Boss* on the Starz network. This series time around Grammer is playing ruthless, power-hungry Mayor Tom Kane. The brooding Kane is a far cry from the light and breezy Frasier. Ok, Frasier was never light and breezy per se but he was very funny so such a dark character might be jarring for some Grammer fans. Oh, and his character has a degenerative brain disease he's keeping secret—sounds like a real day brightener. Wonder how the series will end?



There's still time to catch Friar Brooke Shields on Broadway, playing Morticia in the musical, *The Addams Family*, that will be closing at the end of the year. Shields has comfortably filled the tight spider gown that Friar Bebe Neuwirth first shimmied into when the show opened and is bringing it to as graceful a close as that walk of hers in that getup allows. Shields, who says, "I am having the time of my life," filled the role after a successful cabaret run at Feinstein's so we can't wait to see where she pops up next.



The person who laughed the most at the Friars Roast of Matt Lauer was Matt Lauer, which is always a good sign at this insult event. So it makes sense that he would appear on USA's *Royal Pains*, demonstrating he can laugh at himself. The storyline had one of the characters, Evan (Paulo Costanzo), running into Lauer in a supermarket trying to convince him to interview him on *Today*. Lauer, on the other hand, was on the hunt for "cowboy rub" which added a comedic turn to the anchor's resumé.



Friar Alan Zweibel comically improv'd his way through a scene with Larry David on *Curb Your Enthusiasm* this season. Playing Duckstein, Alan insisted on having lunch with Larry while they both happened to be staying in New York. "Playing an obnoxious guy that Larry didn't want to have lunch with was hardly a stretch. It happens to me in real life. With lots of people. Okay, with all people. Now I'm depressed," joked Alan. Well, we hope joked. Feel free to invite him to lunch at the Friars anytime. Maybe.



CBS' hit drama CSI is getting a Friarly dose of adrenalin this season with Friar Ted Danson taking on the role of D.B. Russell. Danson is now the head honcho replacing Laurence Fishburne who left the series last season. Now the crack investigators, who include Catherine Willows (Marg Helgenberger) and Nick Stokes (George Eads), will have Danson breathing down their necks to solve whatever crimes the movers and shakers in Las Vegas dole out. Best part: he brings a quirky humorous flare to the character.



One would think the transition from roaster to sitcom star would be common practice but Friar Whitney Cummings's newest project on NBC puts her at the head of that comedy class. Whitney premiered this fall and she's getting as many laughs as her stinging one-liners got at Friar Quentin Tarantino's Roast. She is also Executive Producer of the comedy where she plays a smart, free-thinking photographer, happily unmarried to her longtime boyfriend Alex (Chris D'Elia). Fear not, there are plenty of roasted zingers tossed around.