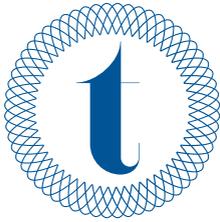


• **CRIMINAL MINDS** •

airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. ET/PT  
on CBS. Season premiere: Oct. 1.



he only thing better than “tried and true” is tried, true and new—a winning trifecta embraced by *Criminal Minds*.

As it enters its 10th season, the esteemed show is upping the ante with its addition of Jennifer Love Hewitt as a series regular.

*Criminal Minds* certainly could have followed the “If it ain’t broke ...” model. For nearly a decade, Wednesday’s most watched show has consistently scored high ratings; an average of 12.7 million devoted fans follow the exploits of the FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Unit and its key members, played by Thomas Gibson, Joe Mantegna, Shemar Moore, Matthew Gray Gubler, A.J. Cook and Kirsten Vangsness. The decision to bring Hewitt

wanted to come aboard *Criminal Minds*, we’d been seeing each other’s faces for 17 years, and it was so lovely to see that someone who has had so much success was still the same person I remember—grounded, funny and charming.”

It also made Messer’s task of creating Hewitt’s character, FBI agent Kate Callahan, a creative joy. “By the time I sat down with her, this character was already developing in my brain and I had already written a few scenes. It just clicked for me, which was a very exciting process.”

The character is not one that audiences have seen Hewitt play before: “She’s been dealt a hand in her life you wouldn’t wish on anyone, which is that on 9/11, her sister and brother-in-law died and since Kate was the guardian for their infant daughter, she’s been raising her for the past 13 years,” Messer explains. “She’s

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— *Criminal Minds* executive producer and showrunner Erica Messer

onboard, says *Minds*’ executive producer and showrunner Erica Messer, “was really a joint decision with CBS to introduce another character.” With the departure of Jeanne Tripplehorn, “we knew we wanted another female on the show, and CBS adores Hewitt from *Ghost Whisperer*.”

Messer has her own history with Hewitt: She was the executive assistant to the creators of *Party of Five* when Hewitt joined the show that would make her a star. “When I met with her to see if she

gotten married and found love, and adores her niece/child, but is saddened that her sister is no longer there.”

Playing against type is a strength for Hewitt, says Marc Berman, editor-in-chief of industry website TV Media Insights. “This is out of the norm for her—you don’t think of her fighting crime—so from a career standpoint it’s very good for her to diversify.” Berman predicts the series will benefit as well, with stalwart Hewitt fans following the actress

to her next gig. “The show is one of the strongest performers, but it’s helpful to freshen it up and get in a new player. This will attract new attention without losing its audience.”

Hewitt will be getting plenty of screen time out of the gate. “We’re going to get into her history really quickly,” says Messer, “because the past 10 years have been about giving our heroes layers and layers of backstory. We don’t have 10 years to catch her up, so we’ll do it right away.”

Already, Hewitt’s a hit as far as the cast and crew are concerned. “Behind the scenes when the cameras aren’t rolling, we’re a big goofy group,” says Messer, “and she fit in immediately.” Like (*Criminal*) minds indeed. — *Sam Shelton*

**More Grist for The Millers**

When Sean Hayes got the call from TV legend James Burrows about joining *The Millers*, “it was probably the easiest ‘yes’ I’ve ever said,” the actor recalls. Already a fan of the Thursday night sitcom, Hayes relished the chance to reteam with his former *Will & Grace* director Burrows, and to join friend Will Arnett on-screen.

This season, Hayes’ character, Kip, becomes Miller matriarch Carol’s new friend—and thus a nascent rival for her son, Nathan. “It’s been really fun turning our friendship into an adversarial relationship,” Arnett says.

“Just the thought of Sean and Margo Martindale as BFFs makes me smile,” adds *Millers* creator Greg Garcia. “We’re only getting started, and writing this season’s stories has been a blast.”

(*The Millers* airs Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. ET/PT on CBS.)

— *Jim Colucci*



Sean Hayes, *The Millers*