

get 'ARRESTED'

WHY FOX'S UNWATCHED COMEDY IS BACK FOR A THIRD SEASON

BY JENNIE DORRIS
BALDANDSEXY@BOULDERDIRT.COM

Fox's "Arrested Development" is the outside-the-box sitcom that the critics love and you probably haven't seen. Much like "Freaks and Geeks" and "Family Guy" — which were canceled and then won Emmys — "Arrested Development" is just starting to gain ground through its DVD sales.

This quirky comedy centers around the Bluth family, whose lives are turned upside down when George Bluth Sr. (played by Jeffrey Tambor) gets thrown into jail for shady accounting and his son Michael (played by Jason Bateman) has to take over the family real estate business and try to hold together his extended family, including his wanna-be magician brother, his socialite mother, his cause-loving sister, his psychiatrist-turned-actor brother-in-law and his paranoid son.

The first two seasons were set up for success as part of a humorous Sunday lineup that also included "The Simpsons," "King of the Hill" and "Malcolm in the Middle," but "Arrested Development" still didn't attract more than seven million viewers. Despite its flagging numbers, the network rewarded its cult following by renewing the series for a third season, which premieres Monday at 7 p.m.

Inside the entertainment business, "Arrested Development" is famous. It won five Emmy Awards, was nominated for a Golden Globe and won a Writers Guild Award. It has also attracted star power in its first two seasons — there were guest appearances by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Liza Minnelli, Heather Graham and Henry Winkler. Charlize Theron will join the cast for five episodes in the upcoming season.

dirt makes no apologies that it is part of the show's aforementioned cult following, and begged Tony Hale, who plays Buster, to give us some inside information about the show. Buster is the youngest Bluth brother who is a perpetual graduate student (with certifications in cartology and indigenous hand drumming) and a faithful momma's boy (he stayed in the womb 11 months). However, Tony Hale is much more assertive, and nearly tried to interview us before we turned the interview around.



» TONY HALE PLAYS BUSTER BLUTH

dirt: So —
TONY HALE: So where did you go to school?

d: Um, CU. I just graduated from CU with a Master's in music.
TH: In music? That's so great! What do you play?

d: Percussion. I play classical music.
TH: Where'd you do your undergrad?

d: Iowa. And where'd you do yours?
TH: Samford in Birmingham, Alabama. I studied journalism.

d: So what happened to that career?
TH: I was working the advertising angle, and I just decided it wasn't working for me.

d: Yeah, advertising sucks. So what'd you do instead?
TH: I moved to New York in 1995, and waited

tables for seven months. I mainly did commercials, and then did off-off-off-off Broadway work.

d: How did you hear about auditions for "Arrested Development"?

TH: I had an agent in New York, and she called me in to cast this new show.

d: So you did a long-distance audition?

TH: Yeah, and normally you don't have much hope if you're putting yourself on a tape from New York. But I thought, "You know what, I'll audition, I'll have a good time." I liked the script; it looked so smart and funny.

d: And...

TH: I heard back from them a week later — they wanted me for a call-back. I flew out there and thought I was going to be there for two days. They kept me there to shoot the pilot. I had to end up going

to Old Navy to buy underwear; I had no clothes.

d: That's amazing. So now you have to move from New York, right?

TH: Yeah, I went back to New York and got married. We moved to Los Angeles the following August.

d: The chemistry and flow on the show is friggin' great — is there a lot of ad-libbing?

TH: It's not ad-libbed at all — we go directly by the script. The writing is so good that we don't want to ad-lib.

d: How much of the plot do you know ahead of time?

TH: We also get the script the same day we shoot, which starts on Thursdays. It's a five-day shoot for each episode.

d: So you didn't know about some of the crazy stuff involving your character — like losing your hand or dat-