

THIS WEEKEND

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Brooke Shields: Amateur sleuths clash, collaborate in new series 'Killing Me'

BY KAREN BUTLER
UPI.com

"Suddenly Susan" and "Lipstick Jungle" alum Brooke Shields says the age difference between the two main characters in "You're Killing Me" offers as much insight as it does humor.

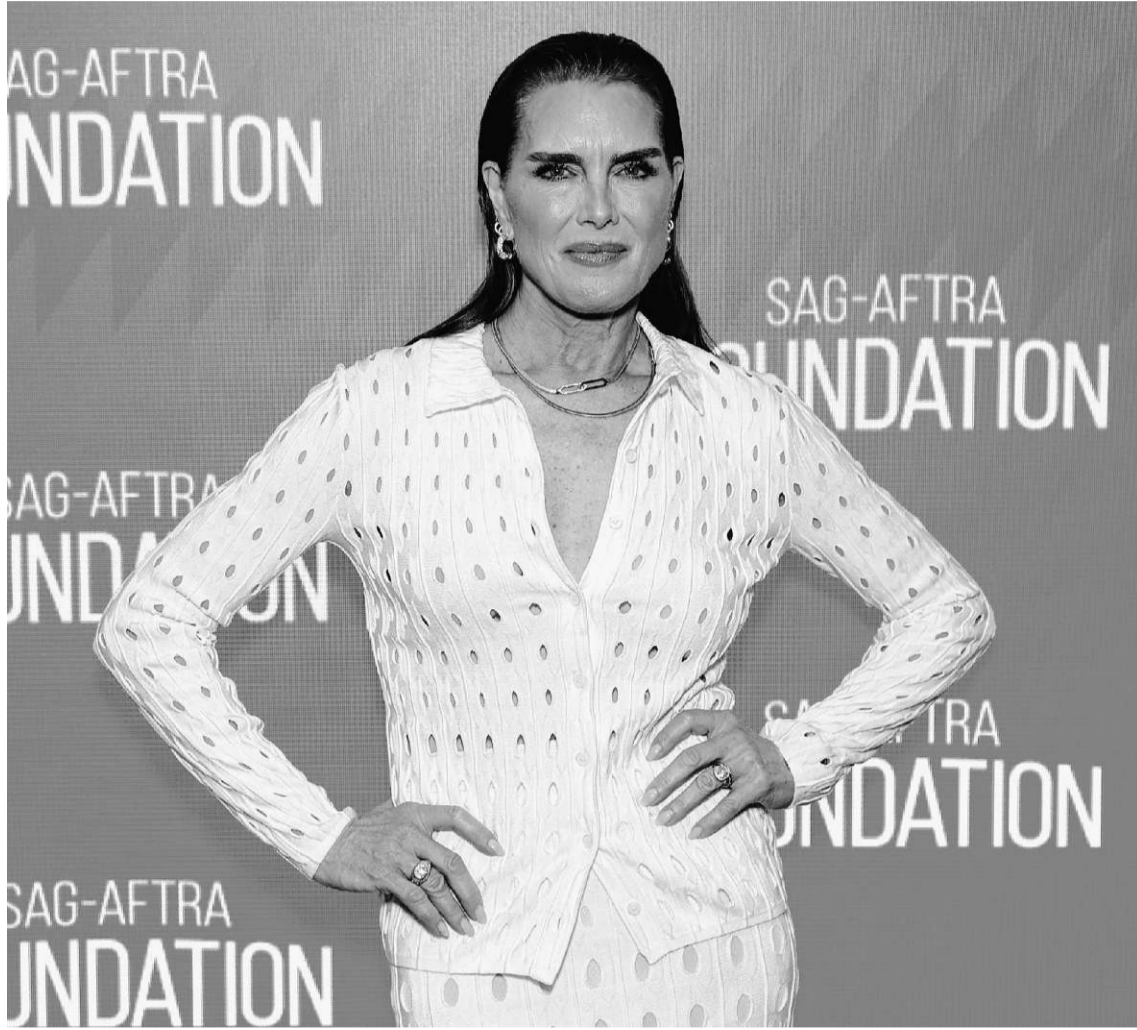
Airing on Acorn TV on Mondays, the new series follows Shields' mystery writer Allie as she teams up with a 20-something-year-old, true-crime podcaster Andi (Amalia Williamson) to figure out who killed another author during a book convention in a small New England town.

"The generational gap between these two is something that I thought was really important to highlight. It can be very comedic. It gives you a lot to work with, but, also, my character Allie, doesn't have a daughter. She has a son," Shields, 60, told UPI in a recent Zoom interview.

"So, this is the first sort of female/maternal relationship that she's had and she doesn't want to project onto Andi, but she also wants to be able to share with her. She wants to help her. So, that's so layered in their relationship, which I think is just very touching and interesting. That's the heart, 'the feels' as they call this."

The comedy comes naturally from having people with little in common forced to collaborate, according to Shields.

"They don't agree. They have different skill sets. Allie's much



Actress Brooke Shields attends a screening of the new Acorn TV series "You're Killing Me" on May 18 in New York City.

more interested in story and motive and looking at where a character is in their life and why they would do something, why they would act that way,"

Shields explained.

"Whereas, Andi is saying, 'Well, there's a scuff on the carpet, that's consistent with this...' So, the combination of those two

sensibilities makes for a good detective team. So, they're thrown together. They don't really like each other and then that kind of tension just lends

itself towards, 'Together, we can be stronger than apart.'"

Allie is also in a bit of a rut when she meets Andi.

For example, Allie's book editor wants her to take a break from her writing stories about one popular character and try something new.

"My character also needs to learn from a younger generation female who can help her let go of some stuff. Don't take herself so seriously," Shields said.

"Maybe she can have some fun. My character is also there to say: 'Hey, stay focused on what can create longevity for you,'" she added.

"Don't be so having fun and frivolous that your brain can carry you further, but you've got to access it and use it and, so, there's this really interesting kind of female dynamic. We make fun of each other all the time, but it's done with respect. That's the character part that you keep going back to."

Allie might seem like a television archetype, but Shields is fine with that because this type of character has been beloved for decades.

"There's the crime solving," she said. "It's 'Only Murders in the Building' or 'Murder She Wrote' - all those characters that we can laugh with, be entertained by and still go to sleep at night [after watching]."

Tom Cavanagh plays Jack, the local police detective with whom Allie and Andi keep crossing paths.

"He actually grounds us, as much as we fight him," Shields said.

"We don't ask for permission. We even barely ask for forgiveness. He's by the rule book, so we're always kind of ruining his investigation, but then, in turn, solving it," she added.

"So, he's got this sort of push-pull with us and there's an attraction between the Jack character and my character Allie and, so, there's a lot going on and, yet, there's a murder every week and somehow the combined effort of all of us is able to kind of get this going."

Three underrated Netflix shows to start watching

BY BRIANNA ZIGLER
Us Weekly

When you think "Netflix," you probably think of the platform's top shows like "Beef" and "Bojack Horseman," but there aren't just mainstream hits on the streamer.

If you want something more under-the-radar, you'll find what you're looking for.

We've picked three underrated series on the platform that nevertheless have great Rotten Tomatoes scores:

'THE GET DOWN' (2016)

Rotten Tomatoes score: 81 percent

Set in New York City in the late '70s, "The Get Down" centers on a group of young people in the South Bronx and fictionalizes the story of the rise of hip-hop. At a time when the city was on the financial brink and with disco fever on its way out, hip-hop began its rise to the mainstream, and orphaned teenager Zeke Figuero (Justice Smith) sets out on his dream to be a successful musician. Director Baz Luhrmann ("Elvis," "Romeo + Juliet") teams up with top-notch collaborators like MC Nas, Grandmaster Flash and playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis in this compelling, music-infused drama.

"The Get Down" is a bold and stylish series that was unfairly axed by Netflix after only one season, but its sole season is a true work of art. Smith leads the show confidently alongside an ensemble of terrific actors such as Jaden Smith, Shameik Moore, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Jimmy Smits. The show leans hard into spectacle, with impressive visuals, sweeping emotions and a killer soundtrack.

'BRAND NEW CHERRY FLAVOR' (2021)

Rotten Tomatoes score: 76 percent

In 1990s Hollywood, aspiring filmmaker Lisa Nova (Rosa Salazar) arrives in the movie capital of the world to meet a high-powered producer (Eric Lange) who

was impressed by her short horror feature. After signing a contract that guarantees Lisa the autonomy to direct a feature film, she is dropped from the project when she rejects the producer's unwanted sexual advances. To get revenge on him (and get her movie back on track), Lisa makes a deal with a witch named Jennifer (Catherine Keener) - but every wish that seems too good to be true always is, and Lisa is pulled into a surreal nightmare.

This series from "Channel Zero" creator Nick Antosca is strange, unusual and totally goes for broke. "Brand New Cherry Flavor" is confidently led by Salazar in a show that isn't afraid to go to some dark (and disgusting) places, diving headfirst into the uncanny by blending horror with drama and a satire of the film industry. The show is not for everyone, but it is deranged in all the best ways.

'NETFLIX PRESENTS: 'THE CHARACTERS'' (2016)

Rotten Tomatoes score: 100 percent

"Netflix Presents: The Characters" is a playground for some of the best and most offbeat voices in modern comedy, including Kate Berlant, John Early, Tim Robinson and Paul W. Downs. Fans of Robinson's series "I Think You Should Leave" and "Detroiters" will find a lot to love here, but what makes the show so great is that each episode is in the control of one particular comedic voice, with every sketch tailored to their sensibilities. As a result, you get something totally different each time, and the series features multiple different kinds of comedy: from cringe realism to full-on absurdist scenarios.

Though not every sketch in "The Characters" lands, when they land, they really land, such as Natasha Rothwell's "Chiggers," Early's "The Toast" and Robinson's "Sammy Paradise," all three of which made it onto *Vulture's* 2019 list of "Best Comedy Sketches of the Decade." The show stands as a terrific showcase of some of the best comedic voices of the past 10 years.



Benicio del Toro in a scene from the 2015 film "Sicario," now available on Hulu.

Three new Hulu movies with great scores on Rotten Tomatoes

BY BRIANNA ZIGLER
Us Weekly

Hulu has added some high-quality movies recently. We have combed through the list of recent additions, and we've picked three great movies you'll want to watch.

And what's more, all of them have at least a 90 percent score on Rotten Tomatoes.

'The Departed' (2006)
Rotten Tomatoes score: 91 percent

South Boston police officer Billy Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio) goes undercover to take down local organized crime mafioso Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson), becoming embedded in his gang. But at the same time that Billy is infiltrating the mob, one of Costello's own men, Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon), has fooled the police into thinking he's one of them. As both men report to their respective superiors, both organizations ultimately discover they have a mole, and the two men must race to be the first to find the other's

identity if they have a chance of saving themselves.

If you weren't already aware, Best Picture-winning "The Departed" from gangster film maestro Martin Scorsese is actually a remake of Hong Kong picture titled "Infernal Affairs." The equally thrilling English-language adaptation features a fantastic ensemble cast that includes Mark Wahlberg, Alec Baldwin and Martin Sheen, all giving top-notch performances from dialogue written by William Monahan. If you're a fan of Scorsese or gangster movies in general, you won't want to miss this.

'STAR WARS: EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE' (1977)

Rotten Tomatoes score: 94 percent

In a galaxy far, far away, the evil Imperial Force, led by the dictatorial Darth Vader (voiced by James Earl Jones), kidnap Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) and hold her hostage, in their goal of extinguishing the rebellion efforts against the Galactic Empire. Elsewhere, young Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill)

learns that he's more than just a farmer's nephew, and he teams up with pilot Han Solo (Harrison Ford), Han's furry friend Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew) and droids R2-D2 (Kenny Baker) and C-3PO (Anthony Daniels) to save Princess Leia, join the Rebel Alliance, and restore peace to the Galaxy.

The first "Star Wars" movie is a classic that still radiates movie magic to this day, and it's always worth revisiting. The initially simple story dovetails into a full-on space opera with memorable characters, exotic creatures and a ravishing adventure saga. There's a reason it's part of what is probably the most iconic sci-fi trilogy of all time, and decades later, the movie's blend of action, humor and heart still feels fresh. After you watch "A New Hope," stay on Hulu to watch the rest of the original "Star Wars" trilogy.

'SICARIO' (2015)

Rotten Tomatoes score: 91 percent

In the aftermath of a successful drug raid, by-the-books FBI Agent Kate Mercer (Emily Blunt) is recommended for a top-secret task force fronted by CIA officer Matt Graver (Josh Brolin), accompanied by the shifty, enigmatic Alejandro Gillick (Benicio del Toro). The mission is outwardly straightforward: to apprehend a major drug lord who is currently running his operations covertly within the United States. However, as Kate spends more time working alongside Alejandro and his team, she comes to understand that they are attempting to employ unorthodox, even illegal methods in their war against drugs.

Sicario is a dark and intense but excellent film that examines the murky line between good and evil and the morally complex nature of the drug wars and the actions of the U.S. government. Directed by Denis Villeneuve ("Dune"), the immersive action set pieces, gripping atmosphere and sustained tension allow Sicario to be a compelling portrait of systemic corruption. Blunt and Brolin are both exceptional in their performances, but del Toro is the real scene-stealer as the menacing Alejandro.