

Dancing With the Stars kicks off its 35th season

DENELL MARSHALL

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

“Dancing With the Stars” started its season on Tuesday, Sept. 15. The two-night premiere featured eight male stars competing for the Len Goodman Mirrorball Trophy. The Premiere began with



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Dancing With the Stars hosts Alfonso Ribeiro and Julianna Hough in promotion for the 35th season.

a group dance featuring the show’s pro dancers choreographed by Jamal Sims. The competition then started as all the stars danced to a song from the year they were born. Actor and dancer Harry Shum Jr. is known for his roles as Dr. Benson “Blue” Kwan in “Grey’s Anatomy” and Mike

Chang in “Glee.” Shum has extensive dance experience, including serving as a backup dancer for Beyoncé, Jennifer Lopez, and Mariah Carey. He and his partner Jenna Johnson performed a cha-cha to “Let’s Groove” by Earth, Wind & Fire where they received 21 points as their scores for their performance.

TV personality and content creator Conner Leavitt salsaed to “Whoomp! There It Is” by Tag Team with his partner Adele Zaikman who won Dancing With the Stars: The Next Pro on August 31. Leavitt is known for his appearance on “The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives” alongside his wife, Whitney Leavitt, who competed on season 34 of “Dancing With the Stars” and finished in sixth place. Leavitt and Zaikman received 12 points as their scores for the night.

Paralympian & gold medalist Ezra Frech and his partner Daniella Karagach

received 20 points for their performance. French and Karagach Tangoed to “Since U Been Gone” by Kelly Clarkson. French is known for being a paralympic track-and-field athlete who won two gold medals for team USA at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

Comedian and podcaster Connor Wood is known for co-hosting “Make a Podcast” with Brooke Averick. He is also a famous stand-up comedian and content creator. He and his partner Rylee Arnold performed a cha-cha to “I Like It, I Love It” by Tim McGraw and received 16 points as their scores.

Platinum recording artist Taylor Hanson performed a quickstep to “Tell Her About It” by Billy Joel with his partner Britt Stewart. Hanson is known for being the lead singer and keyboardist of “Hanson”, a band he formed with his brothers Isaac and Zac Hanson. His biggest hit, “MMMBop” became a

worldwide hit in 1997. Hanson and Stewart received 16 points as their scores for the night.

Savannah Bananas member Jackson Olson received 15 points as his score with his partner Emma Slater. The couple performed a cha-cha to “Wannabe” by Spice Girls. Olson is known for playing as an infielder and second baseman for 4 years on the team.

Guillermo Rodriguez and his partner Whitney Carson performed a cha-cha to “Mr. Big Stuff” by Jean Knight. The pairing received 10 points as their scores for the night. Rodriguez is known for his work as a TV personality and comedian on “Jimmy Kimmel Live!”

TV personality and host Tyler Cameron tangoed to “Are You Gonna Go My Way” by Lenny Kravitz with his partner Sharna Burgess. Cameron is known for competing on season



15 of “The Bachelorette.” Cameron and Burgess received 17 points as their scores for their performance.

At the end of the night, Conner Leavitt was eliminated. The female stars will perform Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. on ABC and Disney+. After the two-night premiere, two stars will be eliminated. Every Tuesday at 7 p.m., viewers can watch the remaining stars and vote by texting the first name of their favorite stars to 21523.

Secret Lives of Mormon Wives The trainwreck continues in season five

ALLIE CARSON

EDITOR IN CHIEF

The five episode season five of “Secret Lives of Mormon Wives” is officially out and five minutes in, Taylor Frankie Paul is stressing everyone, including me, out.

The main issue with reality tv is that the seasons premier months after what happens in real life.

So, in this season, Dakota and Taylor are still sleeping together, Whitney Leavitt’s “Chicago” opening night is just happening three episodes in, Jessi Draper and Jordan are STILL together while Jessi is furiously hating on her current fling, Marciano Brunette.

The public “Bachelorette” season cancellation with Taylor Frankie Paul following a released domestic violence situation is at the end of the season and is the reason the season was only five episodes long.

The season starts and Taylor is back from filming the Bachelorette and she says she’s engaged to Doug, the winner of the season. The winner that none of her friends or family liked by the way.

Taylor then proceeds to talk about how she’s slept with Dakota since she got back and that she doesn’t love Doug and she loves Ben, some TikTok dude she was seeing before her Bachelorette season began.

Just to recap Taylor’s love life in this season: A fiancé, a toxic baby daddy fling and a boyfriend. All in five episodes.

Enough about Taylor though, even though every season and every episode of this trainwreck of a show is about her.

I was team Jen Afflec for three and a half seasons. I was team Jen, over Whitney at least, during Dancing with the Stars



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

last year. Now, I cannot stand her.

Speaking of Dancing with the Stars, if they show that damn clip of the Halloween episode where Jen got voted off one more time, I’m personally pulling a Demi and sending a cease and desist on Hulu. I’m tired of seeing Allan stand on the elimination block by himself because Elaine got injured.

I digress, though, because what do you mean Jen now has me siding with Zac, her husband who threw a fuss in season one over a Vegas trip. She turned me into a Whitney Leavitt fan because Jen just argues to argue and doesn’t know what the hell she’s saying.

“I said that because I was desperately wanting to validate what wasn’t fully happening,” Afflec said during the insane episode that was episode five.

The quote was regarding a time Jen told Mayci and Mikayla that they were the only ones there for her during the hardest time in her life.

She also brought up stuff that happened two or three years ago in both her argument with Whitney and with Mayci and Mikayla. Like girl, that’s old and, for the most part, already apologized for.

Whitney is lucky as hell she’s hardly in this season because I wasn’t even in the show and I wanted to leave.

Mayci and Miranda stay being my favorite girls and Mikayla with her no-shit attitude is making her way up to a very close three-way tie.

While this show at its core is the biggest trainwreck known to man, it’s also genuinely funny. The people behind the scenes do a bang-up job every season but this season was something else.

From the camera angles and shots showing the cast reactions to the producers acting like the background characters of the season, the hilarity factor of the season made up for the halted production and the fact that Taylor Frankie Paul kept giving me a migraine with her inflicted stupidity.

The season came to an end when production halted filming back in March, fans had to dig up from MomTok and news outlets everything that came after the fact.

However, MomTok is, hypothetically, still alive and well because Hulu has ordered 20 more episodes between seasons six and seven. Filming for season six is already underway and will, if the release pattern continues, be released sometime in March of 2027.

Hopefully the audience will get more insight as to what’s gone down these past six months with the members of MomTok.

NEXT BEST WATCH: “ADULTS” IS BRINGING BACK COMEDY TELEVISION

ELLA DOBSON | A&E EDITOR

FX released the first season of their new show “Adults” in May of last year, but it didn’t start gaining traction until recently. The show, streaming on Hulu, is trending across TikTok as being unabashedly funny and relatable.

The show follows five codependent friends living together in New York City. They try to navigate young adult life, tackling dating, weird friendships, and finding employment. Their hilarious misadventures show the real ups and downs of adult life, but through it all, they support and love each other.

It’s basically the Gen-Z version of Friends.

Samir is the “host” of this group as all the friends live in his parents house while they travel the country. Billie is Samir’s childhood friend who constantly worries about her future and tries not to let it show. Issa is a loud and passionate dance teacher whose energy sometimes leads the group into wild situations. Anton is Samir’s college roommate who uses his charming personality to win people over, often taking things a bit too far. Rounding off the group is Paul Baker, a Canadian who joins the group as Issa’s hookup.

These characters are played by young and relatively unknown actors. Owen Thiele, who plays Anton, is the most well-known of the cast, but even he has stuck to smaller roles. The newfound fame of “Adults” might bring these actors to the next level in their careers.

The use of actors just starting off their careers actually elevates the show. You aren’t just watching the same actors you’ve seen on screen over and over again. You get fresh faces who still have their passion for acting and the television industry.

Another reason why the show is trending on the internet is the relatability of the characters. They represent a diverse friend group spanning across race, nationality, sexual identity, and career goals. No character is stale or unnecessary in the show; they all add something special.

“Adults” is also culturally relevant and keeps up with the times. It’s politically sensitive, but it doesn’t shy away from making jokes that young adults actually would make. The diction of the characters sounds real and almost improved. The show is fresh and shows how wild young adult life actually is, especially when you live with 4 of your craziest friends.

The recent release of season two catapulted “Adults” into TikTok fame. Hilarious scenes like Issa randomly acting like a crab in a bar and Paul Baker’s absolutely opposite friends groups mixing started to make their way around TikTok circles. Fanpages and edits began popping up and the shipping of characters, a tell-tale sign of a good show, showed up on For You Pages everywhere.

Season three hasn’t been announced yet, but plans are supposedly in the works. If you’re looking for a silly and unique show to occupy your time, “Adults” might just be your next best watch.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FX