

As summer heats up, *Us* offers seven reasons to chill in the great indoors. Behold the season's top dramas, comedies and unscripted TV

# BEST IN SHOW



## Game of Thrones

HBO . 7/16 . 9 P.M.

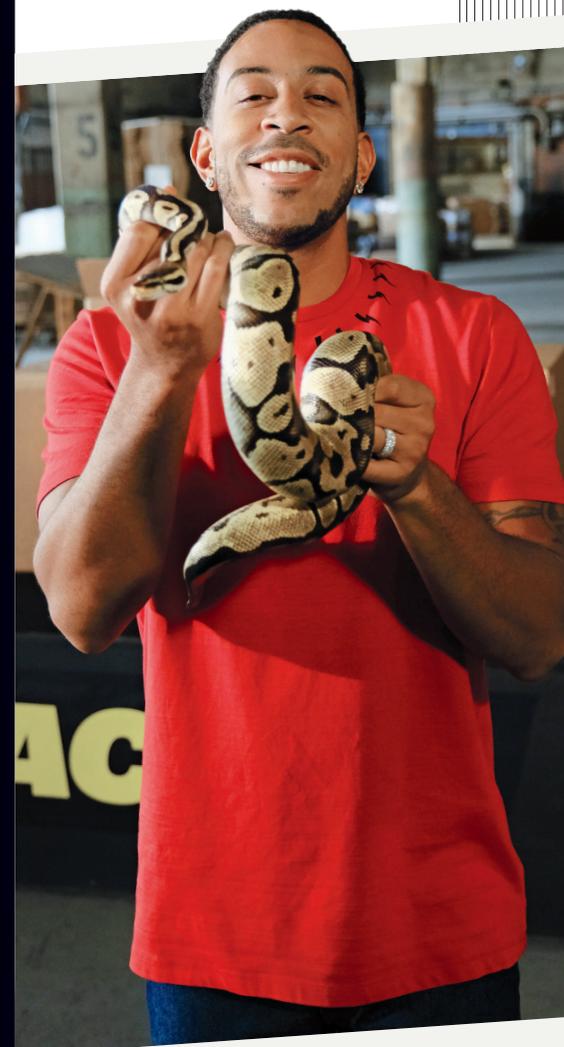
**A** Stark family reunion is coming. Well, maybe. Isaac Hempstead Wright can't guarantee a season 7 homecoming between his warg Bran and sisters Arya and Sansa (Maisie Williams and Sophie Turner), but the Brit says if it happened, it would be bittersweet: "They've changed so much that I don't think they'd get along." He takes *Us* to Westeros.

**Q: What can you tease?**

This season, every single episode is huge. It's like a fireworks display. Things happen that we've been waiting for since the beginning. And in true *Game of Thrones* fashion, characters will die.

**Q: Weirdest fan encounter?**

People pick me up like Hodor did. But one time a guy did it wrong and I fell to the ground.



## Fear Factor

MTV . 5/30 . 10 P.M.

» Ludacris lives for the rush. "I'm an adrenaline junkie," the rapper tells *Us*. Now, as the host of the stunt show's reboot, he's getting in on the action — without actually having to scarf down a plate of bugs. While contestants test their limits, "I'm drinking wine and throwing it in their face," explains the *Fast and Furious* actor. "It's the added Ludacris element." As for his own anxieties, the Atlanta resident admits he'd refuse any challenge involving open water. "I'm afraid of having something brush up against my leg," he says. "Also, I dread when fans ask me for pictures in the men's bathroom!"



## Kingdom

AT&T Audience Network . 5/31 . 8 P.M.

**T**wo seasons of cutting weight to play MMA fighter Jay was enough for Jonathan Tucker — and his wife. Since he was able to ditch his 1,000-calorie-a-day diet, “this season was her favorite,” says the Boston native, who plays Nick Jonas’ brother. “I get grumpy when I don’t eat.” He spills on the drama’s final round. **Q: Pick up any MMA skills?** My Muay Thai looks good! I train every day and I go to fights.

**Q: What’s the biggest difference this season?**

Previously, there have been private struggles with addiction and lying. Now, everything is very public. It is the most organic way to end the show.

**Q: How does Jay learning about his brother’s sexuality affect their dynamic?**

He is defensive of him. He would do anything for Nate, especially if someone was threatening him.

# WHEN AREN'T MINIS TRENDING?



**Blue Bunny**  
ICE CREAM

bluebunny.com

© 2017 Wells Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Orange Is the New Black

Netflix . 6/9

» Here comes a revolution. After rebelling against the corrupt prison system, the ladies of Litchfield Penitentiary are divided. “It’s really exciting,” Laverne Cox, who plays inmate Sophia (inset), tells *Us*. “It’s interesting to look at the characters who are very comfortable with the system versus the characters who are pushing against that and participating in the riot this season.” The transgender actress adds that there’s a deeper message to the drama: “I’d like viewers to think about the people in real life who are resisting and the people who are complacent with the status quo, even when that status quo isn’t serving them. That’s a really interesting topic to look at.”



## Younger

TV Land . 6/28 . 10 P.M.

» Being a mean girl doesn’t come naturally to Hilary Duff. Season 4 of the comedy picks up with her character, ambitious book editor Kelsey, learning bestie Liza (Sutton Foster) has been posing as a twentysomething all along. Distraught, “she’s so hard on Liza,” Duff tells *Us*. “The first six episodes were really hard for me to film because Kelsey was so vicious.” Kelsey’s love life doesn’t fare much better. Though Duff says her character has a good prospect this season — “a cool dude who’s romantic and cooks for her” — she hints they’re not destined to be happy ever after: “She has the worst taste in guys and tends to jump the gun a little bit too fast!”



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DIRECTV; JOJO WHILDEN/NETFLIX (2); TVLAND

## Orphan Black

BBC America . 6/10 . 10 P.M.

In its final 10 episodes, the sci-fi thriller is offering up a timely lesson. "A lot of this last season is about patriarchy — the way that it controls women in terms of their bodies, voices and identities," Tatiana Maslany, who stars as the show's numerous clones, tells *Us*. "I had a lot of conversations with the writers, like, 'We can't avoid this.'" The Canadian-born actress teases more.

### Q: Favorite clone?

It's hard for me to pick! Rachel last season was really exciting and so was Helena. It changes day by day.

### Q: Take anything from set?

Clothes. I've got Cosima's glasses and her nose ring and Helena's coat.

### Q: How would you end the show?

I don't want to say, because we kind of did it. It's not a happy ending, for sure, but an ending. I'm happy with how we say goodbye to the clones.

## Daytime Divas

VH1 . 6/5 . 10 P.M.

» Vanessa Williams loves a power play. In her new drama, she stars as the bossy cohost of a daytime talk show, *The Lunch Hour*. "I've played this role before, so there's the same attitude," the *Ugly Betty* alum tells *Us*. "The type of roles written for women 50-plus are usually either the mom, the wife or the powerful woman. So it's nice to be No. 1 on the list to play a certain part." The series' story lines come from another woman in the know: former View host Star Jones, whose novel *Satan's Sisters* was a guide. "Everything is based on people she worked with or true stories," says Williams. "I think the book is actually more scandalous!"

