

Cablefax Daily™

Tuesday — January 13, 2015

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 26 / No. 007

Golden Globes: Cable Can't Find Its Funny Bone

While cable had plenty to celebrate Sun night at the **Golden Globes**, the one area it came up short was in best comedy. **HBO** had 2 series in the running—"Girls" and "Silicon Valley"—but the win went to **Amazon's** "Transparent," which is about a family who learns the father (*Jeffrey Tambor*, who won the comedy actor Globe for his role) is transgendered. While cable has become synonymous with drama, it has struggled to get credit in the comedy space, with its lone Outstanding Comedy Series Primetime Emmy coming in 2001 for HBO's "Sex in the City." "I think comedy in general in television has been just a little bit challenged. Not challenged. I think people are making great shows of all kinds... 'Transparent' is a legit great show, but I don't think comedy has been breaking ground in the same way hour drama has been breaking ground. I feel like there's an opportunity there," said **Showtime Nets** pres *David Nevins* at a **TCA** exec session Mon. Nevins said he's found it frustrating, adding that's why he's excited about upcoming "Happyish," a dark comedy about the pursuit of happiness (premieres Apr 26). "It's got a lot of heart and a lot of emotion and big funny. So to me, it feels like a potential next way to do a cable comedy that's absorbing but it's not too cool..." he said. "But it's been frustrating that I haven't launched more comedies. It's been an area of focus." Broadcast has dominated the genre at awards shows, but there are also signs that could be changing. Only 1 broadcast show was nominated for the Globes' Outstanding Comedy or Musical series this year, and it wasn't from the Big 4. Not only did **CW's** "Jane the Virgin" get the nod, but lead *Gina Rodriguez* took the actress win Sun, beating out *Edie Falco* (**Showtime's** "Nurse Jackie"), *Julia Louis-Dreyfus* (HBO's "Veep"), *Lena Dunham* (HBO's *Girls*) and *Taylor Schilling* (**Netflix's** "Orange is the New Black") for the outstanding actress win. In last year's **Emmys**, broadcast accounted for just 2 of the 6 comedy series, raising hopes that cable might walk away with the statue. It didn't, with **ABC's** "Modern Family" scoring its 5th win. But could the love affair with the sitcom be ending? After 2 consecutive years of being nominated for the Golden Globes, both it and Emmy fave "The Big Bang Theory" were missing. Should be interesting to see the comedy contenders when the primetime Emmy nominees are announced in June. Could cable's edginess hurt it vs broadcast? Nevins doesn't think that's a concern: "The license to be edgy shouldn't mean that we have to be niche or narrow... It's more a failure to hit it exactly right than anything inherent in the genre." -- While award show darling HBO had the most nominations among TV nets at 15, it walked away with just 1 win Sun for *Matt Bomer's* supporting role in "The Normal

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CABLEFAX DAILY (ISSN 1069-6644) is published daily by Access Intelligence, LLC ● www.cablefax.com ● 301.354.2101 ● Editor-in-Chief: Amy Maclean, 301.354.1760, amaclean@accessintel.com ● Associate Publisher: Michael Grebb, 323.380.6263, mgrebb@accessintel.com ● Editor: Joyce Wang, 301.354.1828, jwang@accessintel.com ● Sr Community Editor: Kaylee Hultgren, 212.621.4200, khultgren@accessintel.com ● Advisor: Seth Arenstein ● Dir. of Business Dev.: Rich Hauptner, 203.899.8460, rhauptner@accessintel.com ● Jr. Acct. Exec: Olivia Murray, 301.354.2010, omurray@accessintel.com ● Dir of Market Dev: Laurie Hofmann, 301.354.1796, lhofmann@accessintel.com ● Production: Joann Fato, jfato@accessintel.com ● Diane Schwartz, SVP Media Comms Group, dschwartz@accessintel.com ● Group Subs: Laurie Hofmann, 301.354.1796, lhofmann@accessintel.com ● Sub Questions, Client Services: 301.354.2101, clientservices@accessintel.com ● Annual subscription price: \$1,649/year ● Access Intelligence, LLC, 4 Choke Cherry Road, 2nd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

Heart.” Showtime’s freshman series “The Affair” won Outstanding Drama, with its *Ruth Wilson* taking the best actress-drama win (*Kevin Spacey* took the drama actor win for Netflix’s “House of Cards”). HBO had 3 of the 5 nominations for Best Mini-series or Motion Picture Made for TV, but it was **FX**’s “*Fargo*” that won, and *Maggie Gyllenhaal* surprised with the actress win in the category for **Sundance TV**’s “The Honorable Woman” (*Billy Bob Thornton* received the best actor win for *Fargo*).

Blackouts End: **DirecTV** subs in some markets didn’t miss their **NFL** playoff action after all, with the satellite provider reaching a deal with **Cordillera Sat**. The 10 stations had been blacked out on DirecTV since New Year’s Day. Five of the stations were **NBC** affils, including **KVOA** in Tucson, which showed Sat’s AFC Divisional Playoff between the Patriots and Ravens. -- **Cox** reached an agreement with **Gray TV**, whose signals had been off its lineup since Jan 6. Cox temporarily lost 6 Gray TV stations in the dispute, including Topeka’s **WIBW (CBS)**, **WOWT (NBC** affil in Omaha) and **WJHG (NBC** affil in Destin/Walton County, FL).

Stop Mega Comcast Grows: Twelve organizations joined the **Stop Mega Comcast Coalition**, bringing it to a total of 27 members. The new members are **Common Cause, Consumers Union, Engine, LPTV Spectrum Rights Coalition, Media Alliance, National Alliance for Media Arts & Culture, National Consumer Law Center, New America Foundation Open Technology Institute, National Asian American Coalition, The Rural Broadband Alliance, Writer’s Guild of America, East** and media brand **Z Living**. On Mon, the Commission restarted its informal 180-day review clock for considering the merger. It was stopped Dec 22 as the agency considered more documents that TWC failed to initially submit.

Obama Talks Data Security: In a speech Mon, *President Obama* said his data security proposals aim to protect the privacy and personal information of Americans. Among proposals is the Personal Data Notification and Protection Act, which would require all companies to notify consumers within a month if their personal info had been exposed in a data breach. The plan would also standardize different state privacy laws regulating data breach notification. Another proposal, dubbed Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights, would create baseline protections to govern the collection of data. In addition, the Student Digital Privacy Act would ban companies from selling data collected on school technology. House Commerce chmn *Fred Upton* (R-MI) and incoming commerce manufacturing and trade subcmte head *Michael Burgess* (R-TX) said in a joint statement that they plan to work with the White House this year to enact “meaningful legislation that will limit online threats and give consumers better peace of mind.”

Sling Wins Best of Show: **DISH**’s OTT streaming service **Sling TV**, announced at **CES** last week, scored the Best of CES award and the Best Home Theater Product and Best Software categories. The \$20 a month service is expected to be available later this month. Other winners include **LG**’s 4K OLED TV (Best TV Product), **Energous** WattUp (Best Connected Home Product), and **Dell** Venue tablet (Best Mobile Device).

Elemental Scores Pact-12 Deal: **Elemental Technologies** scored a deal with **Pac-12 Nets** to provide live simulcast streaming to its Pac-12 Now TV Everywhere service and video processing for its **YouTube** international subscription service. As part of the deal, Elemental will process TVE content to Pac-12 Nets Android and iOS aps in 6 different bitrates ranging from 300 Kbps up to 1080p at 5 Mbps using Adobe and Apple streaming formats. Elemental will also support live streams for the net’s simulcast national channel and broadcasts in LA, AZ, WA, OR, the Bay Area and the Mountain region. The deal also covers live sporting events, original programming support, and VOD and file-based content support.

Out-of-Home Ratings: The **Media Rating Council** verified that the data fusion process **Nielsen** uses for in-home and out-of-home components of the **CNN All Screen** measurement aligns with its guidelines for data integration. CNN credits out-of-home viewing for adding an incremental 18% on a total day A25-54 basis. CNN All Screen is a custom data integration executed by Nielsen for **Turner**. The news comes on the heels of Nielsen’s announcement that it has tested PPM panels to include out-of-home viewing for local television ratings. It also comes a week after **CNBC** said it was pulling out of Nielsen ratings for daytime, instead relying on **Cogent Reports** for analysis of viewing in offices.

4K Report: The number of homes that can support 4K, which requires about 15 Mbps of sustained bandwidth, are increasing rapidly, according to **Akamai**’s latest State of the Internet Report. Globally, the number of homes ready for 4K increased 32% YOY in 3Q, the report said. South Korea was most ready for 4K streaming, with 66% of its connections at or above 15 Mbps, followed by Hong Kong at 37%, Japan at 33%, and Switzerland at 30%. The US saw 19% of connections delivering 15 Mbps speeds, down 2.3% over 2Q. DE was the most 4K-ready state, with 39% of connections deliver-

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ing 15 Mbps or beyond, followed by CT at 31%, MA at 29%, WA at 27% and DC, NJ, and RI at 26%.

Comcast Does Yoga: Comcast teamed with **Gaiam TV**, which provides online streaming yoga and other video content, to launch subscription-based VOD service Gaiam TV Fit & Yoga. Xfinity TV Digital subs can access the training program directly on TV for \$6.99 a month.

CNN Drone Research: CNN entered into an agreement with the **Federal Aviation Administration** to advance efforts to integrate drones into news-gathering and reporting. The net announced a research partnership with **Georgia Tech Research Institute** over the summer. The FAA cooperation arrangement will integrate efforts from the Georgia Tech research.

Remembering Scott: In memory of the late **ESPN** anchor *Stuart Scott*, the **V Foundation for Cancer Research** set up the Stuart Scott Memorial Cancer Research Fund. ESPN has donated \$100K to the fund.

Programming: **Great American Country's** newest original series "A Very Barry Branson," follows "The Brady Bunch's" *Barry Williams* as he launches a 1970s musical variety show in MO, Feb 5, 9pm.

People: Digital consulting firm **Om-nigon** hired **Turner** vet *Phil Sharpe* as svp, client strategy and engagement. Sharpe helped launch iterations of **NASCAR.com** and **PGATour.com**.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	01/12 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	01/12 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DIRECTV:	84.72	(0.66)	CONVERGYS:	19.81	(0.33)
DISH:	71.28	(0.51)	CSG SYSTEMS:	25.03	0.23
ENTRAVISION:	6.27	0.02	ECHOSTAR:	51.39	(0.4)
GRAY TELEVISION:	10.37	(0.07)	GOOGLE:	492.55	(3.62)
MEDIA GENERAL:	15.48	(0.23)	HARMONIC:	6.82	0.04
NEXSTAR:	47.04	(0.04)	INTEL:	36.60	(0.16)
SINCLAIR:	25.74	(0.26)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	60.47	(1.04)
MSOS					
CABLEVISION:	19.77	(0.01)	JDSU:	13.53	0.10
CHARTER:	163.85	1.87	LEVEL 3:	47.18	(0.03)
COMCAST:	56.17	(0.12)	MICROSOFT:	46.60	(0.59)
COMCAST SPCL:	55.66	(0.2)	NETFLIX:	318.83	(10.46)
GCI:	14.44	0.44	NIELSEN:	42.80	0.08
GRAHAM HOLDING:	877.62	7.15	RENTRAK:	67.34	(1.57)
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	48.99	0.10	SEACHANGE:	6.62	0.01
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	47.61	0.01	SONY:	21.36	0.02
SHAW COMM:	26.17	(0.08)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	4.13	UNCH
TIME WARNER CABLE:	145.74	(0.62)	TIVO:	10.69	(0.01)
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	35.38	UNCH	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	63.82	(0.44)
AMC NETWORKS:	62.63	(0.59)	VONAGE:	4.05	(0.02)
CBS:	54.85	0.29	YAHOO:	48.80	(0.92)
CROWN:	3.37	(0.07)	TELCOS		
DISCOVERY:	31.64	(0.39)	AT&T:	33.49	0.09
DISNEY:	94.46	0.21	CENTURYLINK:	38.65	0.25
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	32.49	(1.09)	TDS:	24.47	0.27
HSN:	76.16	0.61	VERIZON:	47.08	0.32
LIONSGATE:	30.50	(0.25)	MARKET INDICES		
MSG:	73.85	0.03	DOW:	17640.84	(96.53)
SCRIPPS INT:	74.92	(0.01)	NASDAQ:	4664.71	(39.36)
STARZ:	27.88	0.11	S&P 500:	2028.26	(16.55)
TIME WARNER:	84.05	(0.16)			
VIACOM:	72.41	0.73			
WWE:	10.87	(0.06)			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	2.40	(0.06)			
AMDOCS:	46.96	(0.02)			
AMPHENOL:	52.95	(0.65)			
AOL:	47.21	(1.78)			
APPLE:	109.25	(2.76)			
ARRIS GROUP:	27.01	(0.71)			
AVID TECH:	14.55	(0.15)			
BLNDER TONGUE:	2.31	0.04			
BROADCOM:	41.72	(0.52)			
CISCO:	28.05	0.26			
COMMSCOPE:	25.79	0.03			
CONCURRENT:	7.00	(0.04)			

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Cablefax TECH by Joyce Wang

Big Year Ahead for WiFi

With cable's rapid rollout of WiFi hotspots, deployment of Passpoint technology, and more data running over WiFi networks, 2014 became WiFi's year. Looking ahead, 2015 will be about performance boosts, more roaming deals and continuous expansion of WiFi hotspots, **WiFi Alliance CEO Edgar Figueroa** told us in an interview at **CES** last week. The alliance is backed by companies like **AT&T, Comcast** and **DirecTV**. 2015 will be a key year for Passpoint-based WiFi roaming, Figueroa said. "You will see a lot more roaming relationships among service providers" domestically and internationally, enabling users to access WiFi networks around the world, he said. "All the roaming happening on the wireless side... You will see that happening on cable networks." In addition, cable is expected to continue to expand its WiFi footprint in densely populated areas. "There is no signs of slowing down in 2015," Figueroa said. Meanwhile, technology enabling faster WiFi speeds and better performance was a key trend at CES, **Charter CEO Tom Rutledge** told us during a reception at CES. And looking further ahead, WiGig, the WiFi Alliance's initiative to develop gigabit WiFi technology, will augment WiFi's networking technology with an even higher throughput link to support in-room connectivity, according to Figueroa. Vendors are already developing new routers delivering faster speeds. **D-Link** showcased a model at CES that would push speeds beyond 1Gbps. The router also supports multi-user MIMO (multiple-input and multiple-output) technology that enables simultaneous transition to groups of clients, making more efficient use of available wireless capacity. With consumers beginning to adopt more bandwidth demanding services like 4K, more WiFi devices will feature dual-band capability, supporting both 2.4 and 5 GHz, Figueroa said. In 2014, cable MSOs such as Comcast have teamed with professional sports teams to provide connectivity in sports stadiums. In 2015, every MLB stadium is expected to have WiFi, and many more NFL and NBA facilities, as well as high-traffic venues, will follow, said Figueroa. The alliance will push an initiative this year dubbed WiFi Aware, a "neighbor

awareness" technology that operates in the background to enable service discovery for a wide range of applications. WiFi-Aware-certified devices would automatically discover nearby social apps such as gaming, peer-to-peer messaging and media sharing, as well as location-specific services, before connecting to the network. The program would enable developers to focus on creating apps for proximity-based services.

Comcast Scores Port Authority Contract: As cable looks to expand its WiFi footprint to high traffic areas such as train stations, **The Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO)** has endorsed a **Comcast** proposal to provide Xfinity WiFi to all 13 of its train stations in NJ and Philly. PATCO's parent group, the Delaware River Port Authority, will vote on the proposal during its Jan 21 meeting. If approved, the hotspots will be operational by the summer, offering free WiFi to the public.

CES Numbers: **CEA** said its 2015 International **CES** closed Fri with some 170K total attendees, exceeding last year's 160K attendees. That includes more than 45K international attendees. The event featured 375 startup companies, up from 220 last year. **CEA** said it will release final numbers after an independent audit late this spring.

AT&T to Show off LTE Tech: Following its 2015 kickoff at **CES** last week, **AT&T** hosted a live, on-site demonstration of its LTE Broadcast technology during the college football national championship game at AT&T Stadium on Mon. The technology seeks to enable the delivery of video content directly to all users with compatible devices within a designated time-frame and area. It works by allocating a portion of wireless capacity to host specific content streams that devices can access simultaneously. And by delivering the same content stream to multiple users rather than delivering each user their own individual content stream, service providers can optimize network resources, AT&T said.

Got tech news? Reach out to Cablefax Tech editor Joyce Wang at jwang@accessintel.com



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