

WHAT'S WORTH WATCHING

TV GUIDE


APRIL 26–MAY 2, 2010

CONAN'S BACK!

The inside story of his
late-night shocker

SVU SCOOP

Will Sharon Stone
shake up the show?



STILL SMOKIN'

*Seven seasons in, the NCIS
rat pack keeps on swinging!*

Michael Weatherly,
Sean Murray and
Mark Harmon
(Tuesdays on CBS)

TVGUIDEMAGAZINE.COM \$3.99



22 COVER STORY

The Men of NCIS

"We've developed an unusual mix," says Mark Harmon (left, with Sean Murray and Michael Weatherly). "It's like a fraternity house."

4 The Guide

6 Editor's Letter

7 Ask the Editors

8 TV Insider Inside Conan's surprising move to TBS. Plus: Nicollette Sheridan's *Housewives* lawsuit; Annie Wersching on her final 24 moments.

13 The Biz

14 Keck's Exclusives

16 Is It Just Me?

18 Roush Review

20 News Special TV's hot actors work overtime with ad voice-overs.

28 MONDAY Highlights

30 Get the Look: House

A peek inside *House* and Wilson's guy-friendly new bachelor pad.

32 Monday Grid

34 TUESDAY Highlights

36 Chris Colfer *Glee*'s Kurt sings about his quick rise to stardom.

38 Tuesday Grid

40 WEDNESDAY Highlights

42 Patrick Stewart Captain Picard boldly returns to his Shakespearean roots in PBS' broadcast of "Hamlet."

44 American Idol We go behind the scenes with the vocal coaches.

46 Wednesday Grid

48 THURSDAY Highlights

50 FlashForward The sci-fi drama's cast shows off their goofy side in the TV GUIDE MAGAZINE Photo Booth.

51 Nick Offerman Meet *Parks and Rec*'s man, the myth, the mustache.

52 Thursday Grid

54 WEEKEND Highlights

58 Friday Grid

60 Saturday Grid

62 Sunday Grid

64 Soaps

65 Sports Highlights

66 Daytime Grid

67 Late-night Grid

68 Flashback *Charlie's Angels*

70 Crossword/Sudoku

71 Horoscope

72 Cheers & Jeers

ON THE COVER Mark Harmon, Sean Murray and Michael Weatherly photographed on April 10, 2010, by Brian Bowen Smith in Los Angeles. FOR THE COVER AND THE COVER STORY ON PAGE 22: HARMON'S AND MCCALLUM'S HAIR: CARLA DEAN. HARMON'S AND MCCALLUM'S GROOMING: JOE HAILEY. MURRAY'S AND CARROLL'S GROOMING: HELEN ROBERTSON/VICTORIA'S SECRET BEAUTY/CELESTINE AGENCY. WEATHERLY'S AND DIETZEN'S GROOMING: CAROLA GONZALEZ/CLOUTIER REMIX. STYLING: BECKS WELCH/THE WALL GROUP. STYLING ASSISTANT: TAYLOR BASS. PROP STYLING: STILL SETS. FOR STYLING CREDITS, SEE PAGE 26.

**THE MEN FROM
NCIS**—Weatherly,
Dietzen, Murray,
Carroll, Harmon
and McCallum
(from left)—were
shot April 10 at a
private residence
in Los Angeles

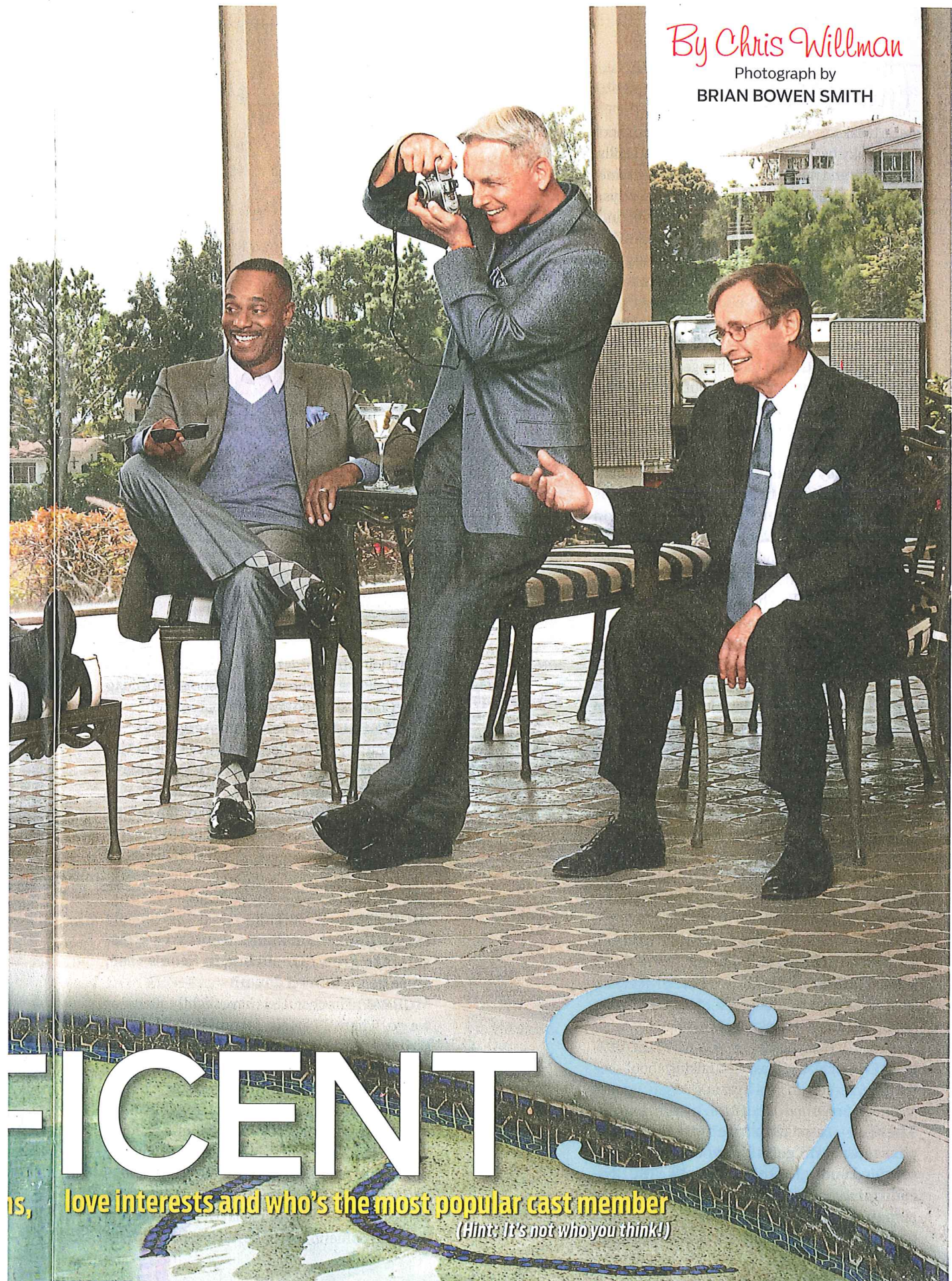


The * * MAGNIFI

The manly men of NCIS shoot straight about their fans, lov

By Chris Willman

Photograph by
BRIAN BOWEN SMITH



EFFICIENT Six

ns, love interests and who's the most popular cast member
(Hint: It's not who you think!)

The men of NCIS

are on break from a Rat Pack-themed photo shoot in a swanky backyard atop the Hollywood Hills. The cigars and mixed drinks have been set aside, and the guys revert to their characteristic ways.

Rocky Carroll (Vance), who plays the only character with a nuclear family, has spread out a sheet on the grass for a picnic with his daughter. David McCallum ("Ducky"), who starred in *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* during the shoot's era, picks up a 1960s TV GUIDE MAGAZINE being used as a prop, maybe to see if he's in it. No-pretense Mark Harmon (Gibbs) has changed from a suit into a sweater and baggy jeans, but Sean Murray (McGee) and Brian Dietzen (Palmer) are still in costume, happy to be freed from prime-time dweebdom. Michael Weatherly (DiNozzo), as if to the *Playboy* manor born, is leaning against the sliding door of a frilly bedroom to have his portrait taken. Eyeing a comely production assistant, he asks, "Would you go lie down on the bed behind me and look devastated?" She demurs. "Come on! I'll give you \$200." No go.

"I like to think that these guys together encapsulate everything that's good and bad about men," says exec producer Shane Brennan of the characters. "You have the juvenile aspects to DiNozzo a lot of women recognize in their men: 'Men are so stupid and silly and crazy, but I love them.' McGee brings that amazing sense of the guy who can fix anything. Women want men who can make the remote work. Gibbs is the guy who's utterly reliable and there for you, and he's strong and silent. It's fascinating that each of them brings something special, and we build this superman."

Wary of the effect of all this testosterone, we gave Pauley Perrette and Cote de Pablo the day off to let the boys talk amongst themselves.

TV GUIDE MAGAZINE: Shane Brennan said you all add up to the perfect man.

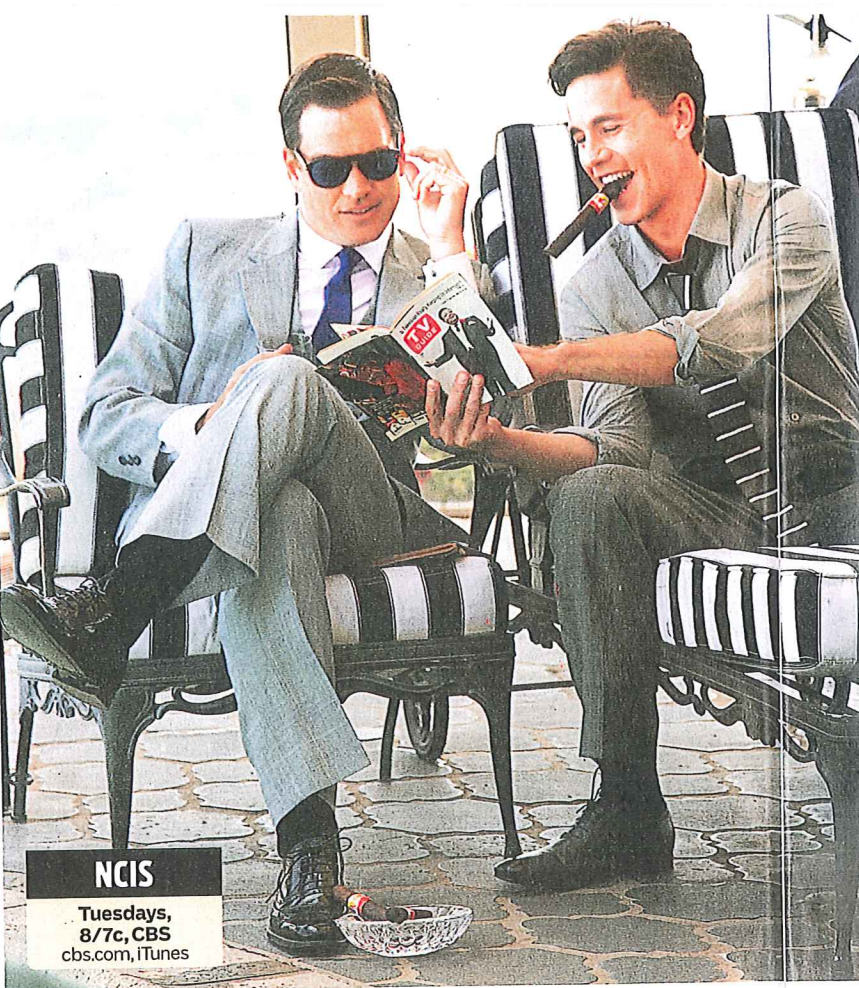
WEATHERLY: Hydra. The six-headed man.

McCALLUM: I wouldn't want to be married to any of these characters!

HARMON: Hear, hear.

WEATHERLY: CBS has been talking about seeing if we can absorb Jon Cryer and Angus T. Jones and make *Seven and a Half Men*. It has a ring to it. **There are fans who latch on to certain characters and get mad when they aren't serviced enough. Or fans who like the procedural aspects and could do without the romance and humor.**

CARROLL: I got a really good piece of advice



"I like to think that these guys together encapsulate everything that's good and bad about men"

—Shane Brennan, exec producer

when I joined the cast. I'd said, "You know, there's a lot of discussion boards." And someone said to me, "Don't wade too deep into that water."

WEATHERLY: The fan forums serve as entertainment. It's like fan fiction—which is fantastic. **I've heard about NCIS fan fiction and have been a little scared to look.**

MURRAY: It depends what level of fan fiction you go to. I have seen a site dedicated to Tony 'n' McGee fan fiction. The first story I started to read, I had to go away from there.

WEATHERLY: "McGoney!"

DIETZEN: Look out, Tiva.

Do you think the audience wants your characters to grow? Or shrink, in Sean's case, since he's trimmed down?

MURRAY: The characters have slightly altered as we go. There's certain formulas in place for scripts, but when we go down there on the floor and play with it, it's like a little dance we do....

WEATHERLY: The script starts wide and then drives us towards those turns that usually happen in autopsy or in the lab. Then, all of a sudden, there's a directive from Vance and things winnow down until we discover that it's the red herring, and, of course, we were wrong! And then we go to the Act 2 "Phoo!" [Laughs] **Not that there's a formula! Sometimes it's the Act 3 "Phoo!"**



DIETZEN: You just wrote an episode!

I was at the PaleyFest event, where NCIS was honored recently. Not to make it competitive, but during the introduction, I did notice one guy getting slightly more applause. I'm wondering if you know who.

WEATHERLY: David McCallum.

Right.

WEATHERLY: It's earned.

McCALLUM: I've got the 80-year-olds and the 90-year-olds. They have to humor the old guy.

HARMON: Bulls--t! You want to know why the big applause? Because he's the role model. No one prepares harder; no one spends more time on his character. His preparation is impeccable.

DIETZEN: Every time David and I have a scene together, I can show up 20 minutes early and David's waiting there and he says, "Here's my idea...." **There is a definite part of the fan base that distinguishes between Jimmy Palmer episodes and non-Jimmy episodes.**

HARMON: [Laughs] We're gonna straighten that out next year.

MURRAY: We don't like it when Jimmy's not in our episodes.

But then you are the one guy who gets an on-screen girlfriend.

MURRAY: I had one, but she turned out to be an

▲ PRANKSTER WEATHERLY gives Murray a wet willie. Such camaraderie means "You can pass the ball anywhere," says Weatherly.



Check out the behind-the-scenes video from our "Men of NCIS" cover shoot at [tvguide magazine.com](http://tvguide.com)!

international killer.

DIETZEN: Yeah, we're on No. 2. I told the actress there's a mark on her head, because my last girlfriend on the show took six to the chest from a woozy Gibbs.

It seems safe to say that if this show runs as long as *Guns Smoke*...

CARROLL: Hey, I like that.

DIETZEN: I like that, too! Keep going with this! **...that no one besides Vance will ever have a wife or serious girlfriend. It's important to keep the flirtations going. David, you had an off-screen girlfriend for two episodes.**

McCALLUM: And then she put Mother's silver in the dishwasher!

WEATHERLY: It's like "On Her Majesty's Secret Service." If you're going to marry any of the characters off, that probably means they're gonna get killed. We were actually listing the fallen the other day. It's the most dangerous place to have ovaries, the set of *NCIS*.

McCALLUM: Well, in the old days, the [studio] loved you to have girlfriends and go out, but they didn't want you to get married. You had to be available to the public. And it's the same with you two [Weatherly and Murray].

WEATHERLY: Yep. McGoney. It's not sticking, is it? Tague? McT? Tuggy?

MURRAY: Yeah, when you were talking about flirting, I assumed you meant Tony and me.

Mark, I think a lot of people love the interaction you have with the guest characters played by Rena Sofer and Dina Meyer, though some fans feel very protective of Gibbs. The female characters might like flirting with you, but Gibbs is a character who doesn't do flirting.

WEATHERLY: For good reason!

HARMON: I think it's great that the audience out there cares enough to have an opinion and like it or not like it. In both of those instances, to some degree, what people have seen was misread. They aren't in bed anywhere. You don't know where that went. That was left up in the air. It's great our writers keep people guessing and certainly keep us interested. I'm playing new things all the time.

WEATHERLY: We're in the penultimate episode, shooting right now, and just got the script for the final. I see you doing stuff that I haven't seen in 160 episodes, which is interesting.

Some of the most intriguing moments go against character, whether it's Tony being unusually serious or Gibbs grinning.

MURRAY: Especially after seven years of the characters, we still learn more of them as we go. I had a conversation with Pauley last week about

