



In the two-partner "Shell Shock," airing November 13 and 20, a veteran suffering from PTSD holds the key to a murder case. "It's a story we've been talking about for quite a while," says exec producer Gary Glasberg. "We've been working directly with military hospitals and Veterans Affairs. We want to make sure we do it properly."

gut blast with the window shard. I don't know if this is by design or something you and [executive producer Gary] Glasberg cooked up, but I'll ask anyway. It feels like there's a little bit of a new wind in the sail. Do you feel that at all?

**MURRAY:** Yeah, I think McGee's toughened up a little bit.

**DE PABLO:** Mark, do you want to say something? [Much laughter over Harmon's silence]

**HARMON:** No, I love listening to everybody! You've got all these excited people at this table. These guys have all done more than 100 shows, and they're every bit as motivated as they were in the beginning, and in some cases more so.

**DE PABLO:** It doesn't come without work, though.

**WEATHERLY:** Talking?

**DE PABLO:** Making it good.

**HARMON:** I just think you can't forget how hard everybody worked to get here. Most of the time, shows don't work. If you don't appreciate this ride... But it wasn't always a ride. I'm so clear about how we've earned this. I'm not confused at all. And I'm not confused about what it's gonna take to stay here. I don't think anybody at this table is. I mean, shows all end at some point. But right now, there's no end in sight for this one.

**At the end of the last season, there was a cliff-hanger during which almost every character's life was in danger. Was that a way for the producers to write out cast members who were in contract negotiations if they didn't renew?**

**HARMON:** I don't know if that was intended. If that was part of the game plan, I didn't know about it. I don't think it was a threat.

**PERRETTE:** I think it was a threat!

**CARROLL:** Do you know I found out my contract

had been renewed from somebody on Twitter? This is the Information Age to the tenth degree.

**DE PABLO:** The network knows how special this group is. If you took a piece out of it, the show could maybe possibly limp. We'd go around walking in a strange way. I don't know if they want to really mess with that. Then again, you never know. Stranger things have happened.

**HARMON:** That's why this is so special. Everybody knows, when this is gone, there won't be another one. It's important to give thanks for that but also important to know you've earned it. There were seven shows debuting on CBS when we came out, and the only other one still there is *Two and a Half Men*. I don't think there was anybody saying, "Well, this is the show that's gonna be here in 10 years and be No. 1." Except us.

RICHARD FOREMAN/CBS

## NCIS: WHAT'S COMING UP?

"We set out at the top of Season 10 to really address this theme of fallen heroes," says executive producer Gary Glasberg. "After the explosion that happened in the opening episode, we've watched our people deal with trauma both emotionally and physically. And they've decided to make different family connections along the way." He alerted us to some highlights to look forward to in the coming months:

**Did you believe that?**

**HARMON:** Yeah, but actors always think that.

**CARROLL:** You always believe you're on a championship team.

**WEATHERLY:** I went to France [for a TV convention] and tried to stretch my legs outside of the Carlton hotel last Wednesday. That didn't go so well, because I got about 10 feet [before I was swarmed]. That's a lot of enthusiasm. Gary witnessed his first head slap, which nobody believes happens until they're with me when it happens.

**PERRETTE:** With my character, everybody runs up and hugs me. I remember being on location with Sean, and there were some autograph [seekers] we went over to, and I saw some sort of movement out of the corner of my eye. I was like, "What was that?" Sean said, "I was about to get slapped on the back of my head." Which is such a violation.

**WEATHERLY:** There was this woman from Sweden last week going through customs with me at Heathrow. And she said, [*adopts accent*] "Yah, you're on my favorite show, I slap head, it's okay?" And I'm like, "It's been a long flight, and... [*sighs*] absolutely." So I lean forward, and I swear to God, she hauled off. I was like a Swedish meatball after that. Was she tenderizing me? Where did that come from? But listen, you have to remember that it comes from a place of love.

**PERRETTE:** And it ends up in a place of an assault charge.

**WEATHERLY:** Well, it does. I'm very grateful for the enthusiasm. The physical contact's a little much sometimes.

**DE PABLO:** People approach me with a little distance.

**WEATHERLY:** Yeah, you're an assassin! You killed your brother!

**DIETZEN:** I've been with Pauley and people ask me to take their picture, saying, "I'm the biggest *NCIS* fan on the planet." I wear a costume, so I don't get recognized, hardly ever. I also don't get hit in the head.

**Mark, I would guess that because of the quiet, authoritative nature of your character, strangers wouldn't be as effusive.**

**HARMON:** Listen, if you've worked long enough in this town and you've done enough things people don't care about, all of a sudden when they do care, it's a nice thing. Most people mean well. Every once in a while you meet one that's a little tougher.

## "WE'RE ALL VERY DIFFERENT, BUT WE ALL CARE ABOUT AND RESPECT ONE ANOTHER DEEPLY." —COTE DE PABLO

**PERRETTE:** Or 50.

**HARMON:** That, too. I've always thought it was a compliment. But if someone says, "Hey, hit me in the back of the head," I'm not liable to say, "Oh, yeah, sure, I'll do that right now."

**WEATHERLY:** The next guy I play on TV is gonna be a real bad-ass.

**PERRETTE:** Me too! Mean!

**McCALLUM:** Whenever I end a show, Katherine [Carpenter, my wife of 45 years] always says, "Don't worry—something better will come along." I can assure you, when this one ends, nothing better will come along.



On November 27, "Gone" finds the show's two female stars protecting a kidnapping witness. "For a long time," says Glasberg, "Cote and Pauley have come to me and asked, 'Can Ziva and Abby do something together?'" Says Perrette, "We've always wanted to go undercover together."

Exults de Pablo, "And we did it!"

In early December, look for "Devil's Trifecta," with *Men of a Certain Age* alum Melinda McGraw returning as Diane Sterling, the ex-wife of Gibbs (Mark Harmon), and his nemesis, FBI Special Agent Tobias Fornell (Joe Spano). Says Glasberg, "Everyone agrees it's one of the funniest table reads we've ever had."

Robert Wagner's shady Tony DiNozzo Sr. pays his son a Christmas visit. "In the history of the show, we've never seen where Tony lives," says Glasberg. "Everyone's got different ideas: Is it a suave bachelor pad or someone's simple? Believe me, there's an endless amount of conversation going into the design."

Not to be outdone, McGee (Sean Murray) will finally have an on-screen dad, probably in February. Casting hadn't happened at press time. Says Glasberg, "We're going to have to put some thought into who the admiral is and who can portray him the best." Might we suggest a promotion for Major Dad veteran Gerald McRaney?