FRIDAY PRIMETIME/LATE NIGHT — AUGUST 9, 2013

	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30
BROADCAST STATIONS																						
PBS KUSD 2 8 2	Arthur CC (DVS)	WordGirl (N) CC (DVS)	Wild Kratts CC	The Electric Company	Martha Speaks	Nightly Business Report	PBS NewsHour (N) (In Stereo) CC		The Jimmy Dean Show: Country Classics Compilation of the show's performances. CC		A Farm Story With Jerry Apps Farm life in the 1930s and 1940s. (In Stereo) CC				Great Performances "Andrea Bocelli: Love in Portofino" Andrea Bocelli performs love songs. CC				Tavis Smiley CC	America's HeartInd	★★★ "Note by Note: The Making of Steinway L1037"	
KTIV 4 4 4	Cash	Cash	Ellen DeGeneres		News 4	News	News 4	Ent	Camp "Heat Wave"		Dateline NBC (In Stereo) CC				News 4	Jay Leno		Jimmy Fallon		Daly	News 4	Extra
NBC KDLT 5 5 5	The Doctors (In Stereo) CC		Judge Judy CC	Judge Judy CC	KDLT News (N) CC	NBC Nightly News (N)	KDLT News (N) CC	The Big Bang Theory	Camp "Heat Wave" A heat wave hits Little Otter.		Dateline NBC (In Stereo) CC				KDLT News (N) CC	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N) (In Stereo) CC		Late Night With Jimmy Fallon (N) (In Stereo) CC		Last Call With Carson Daly	According to Jim CC	(Off Air)
KCAU 9 6 9	Dr. Phil CC		The Dr. Oz Show		News	ABC	News	Inside	Shark Tank		Would You Fall		20/20 CC		News	Jimmy Kimmel Live		Nightline	Joint	Inside	Juicing!	Got
CBS KELO 11 3 11	Dr. Phil (In Stereo) CC		The Dr. Oz Show (In Stereo) CC		News	CBS Evening News	News	Entertainment Tonight	Undercover Boss Rollins, Inc., President John Wilson.		Hawaii Five-0 "Kanalua" A deadly art heist. CC		Blue Bloods A man is thrown from a moving vehicle.		News	Late Show With David Letterman (In Stereo) CC		PGA Champ. H'lights	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson (N) CC		News	Weather NOW
ABC KSFY 13 7 13	Jeopardy! CC	Be a Millionaire	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (In Stereo) CC		KSFY News at 5 in HD	ABC World News	KSFY News at 6 in HD	Wheel of Fortune CC	NFL Preseason Football Houston Texans at Minnesota Vikings. From Mall of America Field at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis. (N) (Live)						KSFY News at 10 in HD	Jimmy Kimmel Live (In Stereo) CC		Nightline (N) CC	Paid Program	Extra (N) CC	Would You Fall for That? (N) (In Stereo) CC	
KMEG 14 13 6	The Doctors CC		Jdg Judy	Jdg Judy	News	CBS	Jeopardy	Wheel	Undercover Boss		Hawaii Five-0 CC		Blue Bloods CC		News	Letterman		High	Ferguson		Paid	Paid
FOX KTTW 21 9 7	Maury Guests return with updates. (In Stereo) CC		America's Funniest Home Videos (In Stereo) CC		Steve Harvey (In Stereo) CC		How I Met Your Mother	How I Met Your Mother	Bones Investigating a former Marine's death. CC (DVS)		The Following Claire adjusts to life at the mansion.		The Office "Gossip"	The Office CC	Dish Nation (N) CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Baggage CC	New Adv./Old Christine	New Adv./Old Christine	Excused CC	Excused CC
KLKN	The Dr. Oz Show		Dr. Phil CC		News	ABC	News	Ent	Shark Tank		Would You Fall		20/20 CC		News	Jimmy Kimmel Live		Nightline	Katie CC		Paid	Dog
KOLN	Ellen DeGeneres		First	Jeopardy	10/11	CBS	News	Wheel	Undercover Boss		Hawaii Five-0 CC		Blue Bloods CC		News	Letterman		High	Ferguson		Paid	Inside
KPTH	The People's Court		Maury (N) CC		Big Bang	Two Men	Big Bang	Two Men	NFL Preseason Football: Texans at Vikings						News	Bones CC (DVS)		The Following		Paid	Friends	American
KSCB 97	S Ade	Bill Win	Sid Roth	Gary	Zola Lev.	Creflo D.	Jewish	J. Hagee	Parsley	Joni	Marcus and Joni		V'Impe	Franklin	FLC	Cope	Life To	J. Meyer	Sound	The EVO	Global	Marcus
KSIN 99 12	Arthur	Martha	Wild	WordGirl	Curious	PBS NewsHour (N)	Inside		Wash	News	Market	Plea	Sat. in the Park		Business	Time/By	Death in Paradise		(Off Air)			
KXNE 8	Curious	Super	Arthur	WordGirl	Wild	Electric	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nebraska's Capitol			Burt Bacharach's Best			Sarah Brightman			Grooves	(Off Air)			
PAY CHANNELS																						
HBO 17 401	★★★ "Beasts of the Southern Wild"		★★ "American Dreamz" (2006) Hugh Grant, Dennis Quaid. (In Stereo) CC				★★ "Meet the Fockers" (2004) Robert De Niro. Future in-laws clash in Florida.				Boardwalk Empire "Resolution" CC		Boardwalk Empire (In Stereo) CC		The Newsroom (In Stereo) CC	Hard Knocks: Training Camp With		★★ "Savages" (2012) Taylor Kitsch, Blake Lively. (In Stereo) CC				
HBO2	"Johnson Family Vacation"			★★ "Devil" (2010) (In Stereo)			★★ "Tower Heist" (2011) Ben Stiller.				★★ "Ted" (2012) Mark Wahlberg. CC				True Blood CC		Girls	★★★ "The Five-Year Engagement"				Pool
MAX 420	Strike Back	Strike Back	Strike Back (In Stereo) CC		Strike Back (In Stereo) CC		Strike Back	Strike Back (In Stereo) CC		★★ "Taken 2" (2012) Liam Neeson. Premiere. (In Stereo)			Strike Back (Season Premiere) (N)		Strike Back (In Stereo) CC		Strike Back (In Stereo) CC		"Dark Secrets" (2012) (In Stereo)		★★ "The Thing" (2011) (In Stereo)	
MAX2	Roun		★★★ "The Thin Red Line" (1998) Sean Penn. (In Stereo)					"Journey 2-Mysterious Isl."			Banshee CC				★★★ "Prometheus" (2012) (In Stereo)			★★★ "Ocean's Twelve" (2004) CC			"Busty Hswives"	
SHOW 18 435	Salmon	"2 Days in New York" (2012)			★ "The Darkest Hour" (2011) (In Stereo)				★★ "Real Steel" (2011) Hugh Jackman.				Boxing Deontay Wilder vs. Siarhei Liakhovich. (N) (Live)						Ray Donovan		60 Minutes Sports	
SHOW2	★★ "A Summer in Genoa"			★★★ "Your Sister's Sister"			★★ "Step Up Revolution" (2012)				Homeland "Pilot"		Homeland "Grace"		Homeland CC		★★★ "Our Idiot Brother"			"How to Lose Friends"		
TMC	★★★ "The Pianist" (2002) (In Stereo)				★ "200 Cigarettes" (1999) Ben Affleck.				★ "Legendary" (2010) Patricia Clarkson.				★★★ "Mean Girls" (2004)			"MILF" (2010) Jack Cullison.			★★ "Afterschool" (2008) Ezra Miller.			
CABLE STATIONS																						
A&E 57 41	Barter Kings CC		Barter Kings CC		Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Barter Kings CC		Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC 41 54	Breaking Bad CC		Breaking Bad CC		Breaking Bad "Bullet Points"			Breaking Bad CC		Breaking Bad CC		Breaking Bad CC		Breaking Bad CC		Breaking Bad CC		Breaking Bad CC		Breaking Bad CC		Break
ANPL 19 43	Gator Boys		Wildman	Wildman	River Monsters		To Be Announced		Treehouse Masters		Tanked (In Stereo)		Tanked (N)		Tanked (In Stereo)		Tanked (In Stereo)		Treehouse Masters		To Be Announced	
BRAVO 25 55	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		★★★ "Scary Movie" (2000, Comedy)				★★★ "Scary Movie" (2000, Comedy)				Medicine	
CMTV 38 77	"Shanghai Knights"		Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	★★★ "Jerry Maguire" (1996) Tom Cruise. Premiere.						Cops	Cops	★★★ "Jerry Maguire" (1996) Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding Jr.					
CNBC 53 52	Closing Bell		Fast Mny	Options	Mad Money (N)		The Kudlow Report		Twitter Rev.		The Profit		American Greed		Mad Money		The Profit		American Greed		Paid	Cook
CNN 33 49	Jake Tapper		The Situation Room (N)				E. B. OutFront		Anderson Cooper		Piers Morgan Live		Anderson Cooper		Stroumboulopoulos		Anderson Cooper		Anderson Cooper		Stroumboulopoulos	
COM 45 61	Bar	Futurama	Futurama	Sunny	South Pk	Tosh.0	Colbert	Daily	Tosh.0	Work.	Work.	Work.	Work.	Tosh.0	J. Oliver	★★★ "Get Him to the Greek" (2010)			★★ "Waiting..." (2005) CC			
CSPAN 49 17	Politics & Public Policy Today								Politics & Public		First Ladies: Influence			Politics & Public Policy Today								
DISC 34 44	Shark Attack		Great White		Sharkpocalypse		Alien Sharks CC		The Great White		Gold Rush (N) CC		Saint Hoods (N)		Gold Rush CC		Saint Hoods CC		The Great White		Gold Rush CC	
DISN 64 36	Dog	Good	Good	Good	Good	Jessie	Shake It	Austin	ANT	Jessie	Phineas	Gravity	Dog	Good	Austin	Austin	Austin	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie	Jump
DISXD 65 103	Kickin' It	Lab Rats	★★ "The Little Vampire" (2000)				Pac-Man	Steel	Slug	Zeke	Zeke	Zeke	Zeke	Zeke	Zeke	Zeke	Kings	Suite	But	But	Pac-Man	Fish
E!TV 51 62	Kardashian		★★ "Bring It On: All or Nothing" (2006)				E! News (N)		Vanessa	Soup	Fashion Police		Fashion Police (N)		Chelsea	E! News		Chelsea	Fashion Police		"Bring It On"	
ENC 480	★★ "The Notebook" (2004) (In Stereo)				★★★ "Friday Night Lights" (2004) CC				★★★ "The Witches of Eastwick" CC				★★ "The Wedding Planner"			"Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse"				"Action Jackson"	
ESPN 28 24	Little League		Around	Pardon	SportsCenter (N)		Little League Baseball				Little League Baseball				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
ESPN2 29 25	NFL Live (N) CC		Little League Baseball				Film	Nation	ATP Tennis				Boxing Friday Night Fights. (N) CC				Baseball Tonight		Coaches	Coaches	Coaches	Coaches
EWTN 74 65	Donut	Cross	Truth	Church	Faith	Papacy	Daily Mass		Life on the Rock		Campus	Rosary	Crossing	Evange	Fr. Rutler	Women	Women	Daily Mass		Life on the Rock		Campus
FAM 62 40	'70s	'70s	'70s	'70s	Spell-Mageddon		★ "Wild Hogs" (2007) Tim Allen.				★ "Zookeeper" (2011) Kevin James.				The 700 Club CC		Prince	Prince	Paid	Nopalea	Paid	Paid
FX 23 56	Mother	Mother	Two Men	Two Men	★★ "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs"				★★★ "Rio" (2011) Jesse Eisenberg				★★★ "Rio" (2011) Jesse Eisenberg				★★★ "Tropic Thunder" (2008) Ben Stiller.					Tropic T
FXNWS 50 48	Neil Cavuto		The Five (N)		Special Report		FOX Report		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity (N)		Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		Greta Van Susteren		The Five	
FOXSP 35 27	MLB Baseball		Twins	Vikings	West-Customs		Vikings	Twins	MLB Baseball Minnesota Twins at Chicago White Sox. (N)						Twins	Vikings	World Poker Tour		MLB Baseball: Twins at White Sox			
GOLF 55 310	Golf U.S. Women's Amateur, Day 3. (N)				Feherty		Live From the PGA Championship (N)				Live From the PGA Championship				Live From the PGA Championship				Golf U.S. Women's Amateur, Day 3.			
HALL 22 33	The Waltons CC		Little House/Prairie		Little House/Prairie		Little House/Prairie		"Falling in Love With the Girl"				Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden	Cheers	Cheers
HGTV 54 34	First Pla.	First Pla.	First Pla.	First Pla.	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Extreme Homes		Extreme Homes (N)		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Extreme Homes		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl	Hunt Intl
HIST 46 47	UFO Files CC		First Apocalypse CC				American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		Shelby	Shelby	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		Shelby	Shelby
KAUN 15 22	Movin' On		Naked City		Tarzan	Cis. Kid	Hopalong	McCoys	Hillbillies	Ozzie	Highway to Heaven		The Saint		Route 66		Da Vinci's Inquest		Cold Case Files		Cold Squad CC	
KWSD 12 14	Dragnet	Adam-12	Emergency!		Rifleman	Rifleman	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Bewitch	Jeannie	Mary	Rhoda	V. Dyke	OddCple	Gallery	Perry Mason CC		Kojak (Part 2 of 2)		Honeym	Mission: Impossible	
LIFE 58 29	Wife Swap CC		Wife Swap CC		Hoarders CC		Hoarders CC		Hoarders CC		Hoarders CC		Hoarders CC		Hoarders CC		Hoarders CC		Hoarders CC		Hoarders CC	
MSNBC 66 50	Martin Bashir (N)		Hardball Matthews		PoliticsNation (N)		Hardball Matthews		All In With Chris		Rachel Maddow		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Raw		Lockup		Lockup: Raw		Lockup: Raw	
NICK 32 37	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sponge.	Teenage Mut.		Turtles	Turtles	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se
RFDTV 131	BootDad.	Country	RFD-TV Live		Farmwk.	Gilley's	Jimmy	Porter	Family Reunion		JoeyRory	Reporter	Profess.	Rodeo	Penny G	TruCoun	Paid	Paid	Paid	American	BootDad.	Paid
SOAP 120	Beverly Hills, 90210		Veronica Mars		Veronica Mars		General Hospital		Days of our Lives		General Hospital		Days of our Lives		General Hospital		Days of our Lives		All My Children		All My Children	
SPEED 63 28	NASCAR Racing			SP Cen	Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction (N) (Live)										Fox	Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction						
SPIKE 30 60	Ink Master CC		Ink Master CC		★★★ "Men in Black" (1997) Tommy Lee Jones.					★★★ "Coming to America" (1988) Eddie Murphy.					★ "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo"				Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue	
STARZ	★★ "John Carter" (2012) Taylor Kitsch.				★★ "The Odd Life of Timothy Green"				Da Vinci's Demons		Magic City CC		Magic City CC		Magic City CC		Magic City CC		★★ "Total Recall" (2012) Colin Farrell.			
SYFY 44 46	Face Off: Vets		Joe Rogan Qu.		Joe Rogan Qu.		Joe Rogan Qu.		WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N)				Continuum (N)		Haven "Stay"		Continuum		Face Off: The Vets Strike Back CC			
TBS 36 57	Friends	Friends	Friends	King	King	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Fam Guy	Fam Guy	"Talladega Nights: Ricky Bobby"				There	There	There	There	There	★ "Norbit" (2007) CC		
TCM 76 53	★★★ "Bullitt" (1968) Steve McQueen.				★★★ "Le Mans" (1971, Action)				★★★ "The Cincinnati Kid" (1965)				★★ "The Reivers" (1969) CC				★★★ "Papillon" (1973) Steve McQueen. CC					Soldier
TLC 43 45	Gypsy Wedding		Gypsy Wedding		Gypsy Wedding		Gypsy Wedding		Gypsy Wedding		The Big Day		What Not to Wear		The Big Day		What Not to Wear		Gypsy Wedding		Gypsy Wedding	
TNT 37 59	2013 PGA Championship Second Round. (N) (Live) CC						Castle CC		★★ "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" (2007) CC						King & Maxwell		★★ "Four Brothers" (2005) CC				★★ "Invincible"	
TOON 42 38	Gumball	Total	Incred	Adven	Adven	Regular	Regular	Teen	Cartoon Planet		King/Hill	King/Hill	American	American	Fam Guy	Fam Guy	Chicken	Aqua	Squidbill.	American	American	Fam Guy
TRAV 24 42	Bizarre Foods		Food	Food	Bizarre Foods		Food	Food	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		The Dead Files		The Dead Files		Ghost Adventures		The Dead Files		The Dead Files	
TRUTV 52 63	Wipeout "Feed Jill"		Wipeout CC		Cops	Cops	Most Shocking		Most Shocking		World's Dumbest...		World's Dumbest...		Upload	Upload	Most Shocking		World's Dumbest...		World's Dumbest...	
TVFN 56 31	Restaurant: Im.		Restaurant: Im.		Diners	Diners	Restaurant: Im.		Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	The	The	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	The	The
TVLND 47 39	Bonanza CC		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends CC		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
UNI 69	El Gordo y la Flaca		Primer Impacto (N)		Casa	Notic.	Corazón Indomable		Porque el Am.		La Tempestad (N)		Qué Bonito Amor		Impacto	Noticiero	Familia-Suerte		Zacatillo, un		Con	Casa
USA 31 58	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Necess. Rough		CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime Scene		"Quantum-Sol."	
VH1 39 76	Behind the Music		Love, Hip Hop		Marry	Couples Therapy	Movie (In Stereo)						Miss U	Marry	T.I.-Tiny	T.I.-Tiny	La La	Miss U	40 Funniest Fails 2		40 Funniest Fails 2	
WE 30	Marriage Boot		Rose.	Rose.	Rose.	Rose.	Rose.	Rose.	Bridezillas		Bridezillas (N)		Obsesse.- Dress		Bridezillas		Obsesse.- Dress		Bridezillas		Bridezillas	
WGN 16 18	Walker, Ranger		Law Order: CI		Funny Videos		Funny Videos		MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals. (N)						News	Videos	Rules	Rules	30 Rock	Scrubs	30 Rock	Sunny

'Breaking' Up Hard To Do For Cast, Fans

BY GREG BRAXTON

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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Five months after scoring his second Emmy for playing tortured junkie Jesse Pinkman on AMC's "Breaking Bad," Aaron Paul paraded around a massive soundstage at Albuquerque Studios, carrying another kind of prize on his back.

With a playful grin, the pencil-thin Paul was giving his bride-to-be, documentary filmmaker Lauren Parsekian, a piggyback ride as other members of the "Breaking Bad" cast and crew began preparing a night of shooting that would stretch past midnight. Eventually, the couple approached Bryan Cranston, who stars as Walter White, the cancer-stricken chemistry teacher turned lethal criminal mastermind and Pinkman's partner in crime.

Cranston eyed Paul's passenger: "Well, this makes sense, Aaron," he joked. "I've been carrying you for the past six years!"

The banter was illustrative of the loose camaraderie of the company, far from the distractions of Hollywood. Though there was a lot of work ahead, there were no signs of fatigue or pressure. Executive producer Michelle MacLaren, directing the episode, was in good spirits as around 50 actors and technicians moved into position.

But on this February evening, it was anything but business as usual at the home base of the show, which has grown in five seasons from a low-profile cable entry series to one of prime time's most elite and honored dramas. Production was gradually winding down — the scenes being filmed were for the show's final episodes, which will start running Aug. 11.

The approaching finish line gave the proceedings an extra emotional charge. One scene being rehearsed was a tense confrontation that would be filmed the following week in a remote desert area that was also the site of White's maiden voyage into meth manufacturing inside a recreational vehicle during the first episode.

Just a few minutes after kidding around, Paul and Cranston slipped into "Breaking Bad' mode for a scene in which Pinkman and White (aka the deadly drug kingpin "Heisenberg") are talking on the phone. Though the actors weren't physically facing each other, the explosiveness of their conversation, flavored with words of violence and rage, exposed two characters very much on the brink.

The white-hot exchange between the mesmerizing duo is but one guarantee that the series is not going gently into the good night — which will be welcome news to the devotees who have clung to every brutal twist and turn of White's hellbent mission to build a drug empire, no matter what the cost to friends and family. Last season's episodes contained a kaleidoscope of calamity — an attack on a police station with giant magnets, a breakneck heist of a train in the desert, the gunning down of an innocent boy who unwittingly witnessed the robbery and White's murder of henchman Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks).

Now as the saga of White's journey from "Mr. Chips to Scarface," as creator Vince Gilligan puts it, winds down, major questions remain: How large will the final body count be? And will Walter White, who first turned to crime after his cancer diagnosis to provide money for his survivors but then betrayed his family, poisoned innocent children and wreaked havoc throughout New Mexico, be punished for his crimes? Will his cancer, which had been in remission, return?

FRANK OCKENFELS/COURTESY AMC/MCT

Jesse Pinkman (Aaron Paul), left, and Walter White (Bryan Cranston) in AMC's "Breaking Bad." The final episodes of AMC's acclaimed television series will begin airing Aug. 11.

Said Jake Wilbanks on the Whatculture! blog: "The prediction that I've heard made a thousand times over is that Jesse is going to end up killing Walt, but that's the most predictable ending there could be, and 'Breaking Bad' is anything but predictable.'"

The ultimate outcome has made the end of "Breaking Bad" perhaps the most anticipated TV finale since the curtain dropped ambiguously in 2007 on "The Sopranos."

While sitting within the cradle of celebrated shows that have centered on charismatic antiheroes such as "The Sopranos," "The Shield," "Dexter," "Mad Men" and "Sons of Anarchy," TV scholars say "Breaking Bad" is a standout because of its foundation of an Everyman who does the wrong thing for the right reasons.

Said Barbara Miller, collection curator for the New York-based Museum of the Moving Image, which just opened an extensive "Breaking Bad" exhibition: "Walter White is really someone that people can relate to. They feel empathy for him. He's always been human in his motivations, even though he made horrible choices."

The buildup to the finale has approached Hollywood blockbuster proportions. Film Independent at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art hosted a standing-room-only live reading of the drama's pilot episode directed by Jason Reitman. And in what is certain to be a somewhat chaotic scene, the final episode airing Sept. 29 will be screened that evening at Hollywood Forever Cemetery. Paul is planning to attend.

The hoopla is a long way from the show's under-the-radar launch in 2008. Unlike "The Sopranos" or "Mad Men," the concept of turning a humble and decent middle-class man into a monster was not genre-based. The cast was primarily below-the-line character actors, and the best-known performer was Cranston, who seemed an unlikely choice for a dramatic lead since he was coming off seven seasons of playing goofy father Hal on "Malcolm in the Middle."

Gilligan, a former film student from Farmville, Va. had a few screenplay credits ("Wilder Napalm" and co-writer of "Hancock") as well as a notable writing and producing stint on the landmark series "The X-Files" but was an unknown quantity as a show runner.

Unfailingly polite, easygoing and humble — unlike the hard-driven, obsessive producers at the helm of many quality dramas — Gilligan was uncertain whether there was an audience prepared for the darkness of his sinister brainchild. There was initial resistance: FX, which has a reputation for producing edgy material, was among the networks that passed on his pilot script.

Even after AMC picked up the series, he never envisioned "Breaking Bad" lasting six years: "Not even close. I thought we were lucky to make the pilot in the first place. Once we were up and running, I would have said we would last two seasons, maybe at the outside four seasons."

Said Jamie Erlicht, president, programming for Sony Pictures Television, which produces the show: "We knew a series like this wouldn't be easy. Most networks eliminated the concept right off the bat. But we knew it was an idea that would pay dividends."

"Breaking Bad" received immediate critical acclaim during the first season, which only grew (said Variety's Brian Lowry, "For a show about meth cookers, 'Breaking Bad' is simply one of TV's great addictions.").

Cranston's three consecutive Emmy victories for lead actor in a drama series boosted interest, and viewership increased.

The innocuous story line of the pilot that had echoes of "Les Miserables" — a mild-mannered man who turns to crime temporarily to provide for his family — evolved into a universe clouded by blurred morality, brutality and over-the-top characters: Walt indirectly caused a plane collision that killed hundreds; a fast-food chicken chain was the front for an elaborate meth-selling operation. Ruthless drug kingpin Gus Fring (Giancarlo Esposito) slashed the throat of an accomplice with a box cutter and threatened Walter's family. Walt then planned an elaborate revenge scheme that ended with Fring's face being blown off in an explosion at a nursing home.

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