

focus ON fashion



"Fall Flannel"

Plaid-printed flannel is a fun and classic way to spice up any outfit.

Get senior Codi Caton's look!

-A plaid flannel shirt is a great place to start.

-Put on your comfiest pair of jeans!

-Choose your warmest sweatshirt to finish the look.

HIT. or miss

The Index has scoured the Internet and gone deep into the recesses of Netflix to find the things you have yet to discover. We lie in wait for new entertainment to hit the web or the shelves. We do the heavy lifting when it comes to all things entertainment, and for your sake, we deem them a hit or a miss.

"A to Z"
is a...

MISS

Not enough letters for "A to Z" to grow

BY ERICA NOLAN
Staff Writer

It's officially fall and the smell of new TV shows is in the air. One of these shows is NBC's original sitcom "A to Z."

"A to Z" takes a traditional approach on romance in the digital age. The main characters are Andrew, played by Ben Feldman of "Mad Men," and Zelda, played by Cristin Milioti of "How I Met Your Mother." If you're still wondering where the connection between "A to Z" starts, take a look at their names one more time.

Andrew is an emotional man, although he works for a heartless online dating site whose goal is to set up hook-ups, not relationships. He is a true romantic who thinks dating sites like his own are destroying the chance of real relationships.

Zelda is an independent, career-driven woman with a rough past that deters her from romantic relationships. Once again, the caring man is paired with the headstrong woman, and he tries to soften her.

Their relationship starts with a classic meeting you might find in a movie from the 1950s. The two characters are dragged by different people to a concert that neither one of them wants to. They never actually speak, but they make eye contact across the crowded venue. Years later, they officially meet at the office park where the headquarters of Wallflower, the online dating site Andrew works for, and Zelda's law firm are located. Andrew thinks it is fate — Zelda thinks it a coincidence. They kiss and seal their fate of having a stereotypical romance.

This show is reminiscent of "500 Days of Summer," if not an exact repetition of the concept. Every episode thus far starts with the lines, "Andrew Loftland and Zelda Vasco will date for eight months, three weeks, five days and one hour. This television program is the comprehensive account of their relationship ... from 'A to Z'."

Knowing this relationship has an inevitable end does not benefit the show. There's a potential the two characters will get married because it only says they stop dating during the opening scene, but I think the likelihood is slim.

Another unfortunate characteristic of this show is each episode title starts with a letter of the alphabet. For example, the pilot episode is titled "A is for Acquaintances," the second is "B is for Big Glory." That is the third reference to the alphabet within this show.

There are only 26 letters in the English alphabet. This means, to stay true to the witty connec-

tions made throughout this show about the alphabet, there only can be 26 episodes. This means the show will only last one season. What is the point? It seems like a waste of money on NBC's part to put this much effort into a show that is dooming itself through an unoriginal theme.

The alphabet throughout the show is not the only thing setting "A to Z" up for failure. The acting is doing a pretty good job of that as well. Milioti, aka the Mother from "HIMYM," is doing a horrible job of portraying a strong independent woman on screen. In "HIMYM," Milioti is a beacon of hope that brings happiness into the life of a character we grew to love throughout nine seasons.

Her short time on "HIMYM" gave me hope for her abilities as an actress. It's not that she's a bad actress, she's just not made for this role.

In the most recent episode of "A to Z," Milioti has to cry about the loss of her aunt, a woman who was like a second mother to her.

The scene was supposed to be funny because of the overexaggeration of Milioti's emotions, but it came across as downright pathetic and uncomfortable. The scene probably should have been cut in half to help with the uncomfortable situation.

Feldman as Andrew is extremely flat in his acting and pretty forgettable as a character. The only memorable part about his role is his character's desperate need for a fairy tale ending. Oh, and his rendition of Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" is pretty spot-on as well.

The characters I find most compelling are the supporting roles of Zelda's best friend, Stephanie, played by Lenora Crichlow and Andrew's best friend, Stu, played by Wolf of Wall Street's Henry Zebrowski. These characters despise each other. Crichlow's character is the typical woman trying to find the perfect man online. Zebrowski's character is known for catfishing — falsifying information on the Internet — those women.

The two characters meet through Wallflower, the site Andrew works for, and instantly become each other's foil. They are perfect examples of the struggles men and women go through during the age of online dating.

Unfortunately, aside from their small subplot, they haven't done much for the actual storyline and therefore are unimportant to the survival of this show.

This show sadly is a definite miss when it comes to the lineup of new sitcoms this season. Go watch "500 Days of Summer" on repeat — it's a better way to spend your time.

You can catch "A to Z" on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. on NBC.

picks OF THE week

Welcome to the Picks of the Week, where we update you about anything ranging from special events, movies, music and entertainment taking place around campus and Kirksville.

Marvel News

Kevin Feige, president of Marvel Studios, announced the release dates for nine Marvel Cinematic Universe films during a press conference Tuesday. Here's the confirmed schedule.

Captain America: Civil War

Release date: May 6, 2016
Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo

Doctor Strange

Release date: Nov. 4, 2016

Guardians of the Galaxy 2

Release date: May 5, 2017
Directed by James Gunn

Thor: Ragnarok

Release date: July 28, 2017

Black Panther

Release date: Nov. 3, 2017

Captain Marvel

Release date: July 6, 2018

Avengers: Infinity War Parts 1 and 2

Part 1 release date: May 4, 2018
Part 2 release date: May 3, 2019

Inhumans

Release date: Nov. 2, 2018

events

Nov. 1

Feminism Isn't Scary Costume Dance

9 p.m. to midnight
SUB Down Under
The Women's Resource Center will host a Halloween dance complete with food, games, candy and a costume party. There will be a \$1 entry fee at the door.

Nov. 5

Addiction Hurts: Unveiling the Stigma of Addiction:

6-7:30 p.m.
SUB Alumni Room
Amy Voiles and Michelle Stockwell from Preferred Family Healthcare will host a discussion about addiction, covering the impact of addiction, the signs of addiction and how friends and family can help. Snacks and beverages will be provided. This event is a part of a project for COMM 353. The Communication Department will host the event via Communications professor David Price and is sponsored by Truman Student Government's Diversity Committee.

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