



May 19, 2005

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## NEWS LATEST NEWS NEWS



Everybody Hates Chris

### UPN Turns to Chris Rock, J.Lo

by Kimberly Potts  
May 19, 2005, 1:20 PM PT

UPN is now billing itself as the place "where the girls are," but the network's highest profile new show comes from a guy by the name of [Chris Rock](#).

UPN closed the annual network [Upfront Week](#) presentations in New York on Thursday by announcing a schedule heavy on comedy and dramas aimed at female viewers. But the new series most likely to generate buzz is a *Wonder Years*-ish comedy about Rock.

*Everybody Hates Chris* is inspired by Rock's childhood in Brooklyn, where he was bused two hours away to a school with a predominantly white population. The former *Saturday Night Live* star will narrate the series, though teenage Chris will be played by actor Tyler Williams. (The network already airs *All of Us*, a semi-autobiographical sitcom based on the lives of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith.)

Despite UPN President Dawn Ostroff's statement that *Chris* will fill a void of prime-time comedy on Thursday nights--apparently she's no fan of NBC's *Friends* spinoff, *Joey*--the Rock show will face an uphill battle for ratings. It anchors UPN's Thursday night lineup at 8 p.m., where other networks have already scheduled key shows like *Alias* (ABC), *Survivor* (CBS), *The O.C.* (Fox), *Smallville* (WB) and, yes, *Joey* (NBC).

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Rock, J.Lo  
  
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Also on tap for the 2005-06 UPN season: another edition of *America's Next Top Model*, the Tyra Banks-hosted reality series that is the network's top rated show, new shows starring Shannen Doherty and Denise Richards, and a midseason drama produced by Jennifer Lopez.

Here's a rundown of UPN's other new series:

- *Love, Inc.*: Shannen Doherty stars in this comedy as a dating consultant who, of course, has trouble finding a suitable match for herself. Holly Robinson Peete costars, and Adam Chase (*Friends*) and former NBC entertainment president Warren Littlefield are executive producers.
- *Sex, Lies & Secrets*: This soapy drama, which sounds like the title of a Danielle Steel novel, stars the estranged Mrs. Charlie Sheen, Denise Richards, as the center of a group of twentysomethings who live in a hipster L.A. neighborhood. This time, it's trendy Silver Lake instead of *Melrose Place*.
- *South Beach* (midseason): A drama about two friends who move to Miami in hopes of making a better life for themselves. Stars Marcus Coloma, Chris Johnson and Vanessa L. Williams, and is produced by Jennifer Lopez's Nuyorican Productions company.



Meanwhile, MIA from the UPN schedule: *Star Trek: Enterprise*, which aired its [series finale](#) last week; the Taye Diggs drama *Kevin Hill*; the *Soul Food* spinoff, *Second Time Around*; and the Missy Elliott-hosted reality contest, *Road to Stardom*.

The following is a night-by-night look at the network's fall schedule:

**MONDAY:** *One on One*; *All of Us*; *Girlfriends*; *Half & Half*

**TUESDAY:** *America's Next Top Model* encore; *Sex, Lies & Secrets*

**WEDNESDAY:** *America's Next Top Model*; *Veronica Mars*

**THURSDAY:** *Everybody Hates Chris*; *Eve*; *Cuts*; *Love, Inc.*

**FRIDAY:** *WWE Smackdown*

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