

Picks & Pans

Week at a glance

Sunday, Nov. 3

MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE FOX (9 p.m. ET)

Season premiere, with Malcolm and family spending an atrocious day at the zoo.

Monday, Nov. 4

DOG DAYS

Animal Planet (10 p.m. ET)

A series about Manhattan canines and their humans.

Tuesday, Nov. 5

LESS THAN PERFECT

ABC (9:30 p.m. ET)

Claude is dragged to a strippercize class to boost her confidence.

Wednesday, Nov. 6

36th ANNUAL CMA AWARDS

CBS (8 p.m. ET)

Faith Hill, Alison Krauss, Toby Keith and Shania Twain perform.

Thursday, Nov. 7

FRIENDS

NBC (8 p.m. ET)

The 200th episode, with Freddie Prinze Jr. guest-starring as infant Emma's new nanny.

Friday, Nov. 8

ANOTHER PRETTY FACE PAX (8 p.m. ET)

TV movie about a news anchor (Mel Harris) passing for a younger woman. *Survivor* casting coup: Colby Donaldson plays her son-in-law.

Saturday, Nov. 9

MTV ALBUM LAUNCH: JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE MTV (1 p.m. ET)

All about the 'N Sync boy's new solo album, *Justified*.

Tube

by Tom Gliatto



Following in the footsteps of her superhero dad, the Huntress (Scott) battles a flock of villains.

BY SHUNBOLT/NET

Show of the week

Birds of Prey

The WB (Wednesdays, 9 p.m. ET)

It's hard to resist a supergirl series that has the gumption to kick off with more back story than *The Forsyte Saga*. To wit, here's just part of the lengthy premise to *Birds of Prey*: Catwoman has been murdered and Batman has vanished from the scene, but their illicit love child has grown into a statuesque looker who tends bar and is endowed with metahuman strength. Calling herself the Huntress (Ashley Scott), she swoops through the night sky in a lacey duster that looks as if Anne Robinson, *Weakest Link*'s former headmistress, had begun designing for Victoria's Secret. The

Huntress fights crime along with the former Batgirl, Barbara Gordon (Dina Meyer), who's now confined to a wheelchair—a victim of the Joker's gunfire—and concentrates on detective work from a clock-tower lair. There the two are joined by Dinah (Rachel Skarsten), a teenager with unexplained psychic powers.

Birds mixes the foxy-cuties-in-action of *Charlie's Angels* and the dark mutant fantasy of *X-Men*. It's fun, fast, no-cal: a caprice that incongruously unfolds in the heavy shadows of New Gotham. Things get a tremendous lift from Mia Sara as the Huntress's psychiatrist—the (now-jailed) Joker's lover. With spiky blonde hair and piercing eyes, Sara—unrecognizable from *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*—is stiletto sharp. Her relationship with the Huntress promises to be a lot more twisted than Tony Soprano and Dr. Melfi's. **Bottom Line:** Watch the birdies

