

'Summerland' kicks off the spring Premiere shows off stars McCartney and Loughlin



ABOVE: Lori Loughlin plays Ava Gregory, the aunt of the three children.

BELOW: Shawn Christian plays Johnny Durant, Ava's ex-boyfriend.



ABOVE: Jesse McCartney plays a high school student who loves to surf. **BELOW:** Kay Panabaker plays 13-year-old Nikki Westerly.



Photos courtesy of wb.com

★★
BY KATY KOMARCHUK

The second season of "Summerland" has started off on the right foot by attracting audience members of all ages.

Summerland is about a family of kids, Bradin Westerly (Jesse McCartney), thirteen-year-old Nikki Westerly (Kay Panabaker), and eight-year-old Derrick (Nick Benson) whose parents have recently died for unknown reasons. As a result, the children go to live with their aunt Ava Gregory (Lori Loughlin), and her friends Johnny Durant (Shawn Christian), Jay Robertson (Ryan Kwanten), and Susannah Rexford (Merrin Dungey) who all live together in one house. All of Ava's friends lend as much support and help as they can to Ava and the children. The show

deals with topics such as drug and alcohol addictions, with their living situation, and their love lives.

This season started out with Ava proposing to Simon, a man she is currently dating, but right after doing so, her ex-boyfriend, Johnny, returns. This creates conflicting feelings for Ava because Johnny has made it perfectly clear that he wants her back.

After sending his previous girlfriend to a drug rehab clinic, Bradin, moves on to another girl named Callie.

This season seems to be focusing on Bradin's desires to be a professional surfer. Along with this, he's also experiencing frustration with his girlfriend holding her reasons for not wanting to move to the next level.

The show is engaged by the great

acting displayed by everyone.

The children have starred in everything from 7th Heaven (Panabaker), All My Children (McCartney), to National Treasure (Benson).

The adults have starred in everything from As The World Turns (Christian) to Alias (Dungey).

Unfortunately, the major downside to the show is that Bradin and Ava get all the airtime. It seems like each and every show is all about Ava's or Bradin's problems, and the rest of the characters are more side characters which is disappointing.

Going into the show, it was assumed that the episodes would be about all of their children and their problems, but now it seems that since McCartney's fame, he is the only one deserving of the airtime.

Summerland is worth the watch, but don't become disappointed when you don't see any actors besides McCartney and Loughlin receive their time to shine.

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'Smallville' soars high with its new season

★★★
BY DAKOTA WEST

In the exciting fourth season of the hit Warner Brother's show, Smallville, teenager Clark Kent uncovers more about his past and comes closer to realizing the reason he was sent to Earth and discovering the destiny he was supposed to fulfill.

The Man of Steel, Superman, has been molded into an American hero like no one has ever seen.

Clark Kent aka Superman (Tom Welling, Cheaper by the Dozen) is like any other normal teenager, except for the fact that he can pick up objects weighing thousands of pounds, see through solid objects, shoot fire from his eyes, and hear things below a whisper from hundreds of yards away.

The meteor shower that brought Clark's ship to Earth has left behind scars on the people of Smallville, not only by the deaths of loved ones, but also by the mutations that the meteor rock has caused on the residents.

Feeling that it is his fault that this happened, Clark takes on the responsibility of protecting Smallville from the many villains that threaten it everyday and keeping his powers a secret

from everyone but his parents and best friend.

With some help from his millionaire friend Lex Luthor (Michael Rosenbaum), Clark starts another year of high

school trying to keep his grades up while still saving the innocent.

This season focuses more on the person that Clark Kent will become in the future. The relationships between many of the characters have been changing, creating more suspense



Photo courtesy of abcfamily.go.com
Clark Kent, played by Tom Welling on the WB's series "Smallville", has a discussion with his adoptive father, played by John Schneider.

and confusion to what is around the corner.

A lot has happened during the season, including high school news reporter Chloe Sullivan (Allison Mack, 7th Heaven) finding out about Clark's secret powers from the first woman Clark has ever fallen in love with. Clark is also introduced to his future wife, Lois Lane (Erica Durance).

Even though they will become one of the most famous couples in history, as teenagers they don't get along so well.

The cast is stacked with an array of great actors, making the show that much better.

John Schneider (The Dukes of Hazard) and Annette O' Toole (Superman III) play the adoptive parents of Clark Kent. Kristin Kreuk, who plays Lana Lang, has taken the role as Tenar in the Sci-fi Channel miniseries "The Legend of Earthsea" in addition to her role on "Smallville".

The fourth season of "Smallville" is the best one yet, loaded with lots of action for guys and plenty of love story for girls. The special effects are beyond where many action television shows are at, making the story of Clark Kent even more believable than before.

Whether you are a fan of Superman or not, this is definitely a show worth watching an entire hour of.

'Daniel' novel highlights the era of Hitler

★★★
BY DAKOTA WEST

Daniel Kraushaar lives in Hamburg, Germany along with his mother and father during the rise of Hitler's Nazi regime in 1933.

As Hitler's power grows, Daniel's life changes. Daniel's parents are forced to reveal to him that his mother is Jewish, making him half-Jewish and 'half human' in the eyes of the Nazis. At first, Daniel is furious at his mother for being Jewish, but after months of seeing how the Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) and real Nazis treat Jews, he knows he doesn't want to be like them. It becomes more and more difficult to keep everything a secret becomes all of his friends are joining the Hitler Youth.

Because Daniel's father is a successful attorney, he is always used to having everything handed to him on a silver platter. Along with his best friend Armin, Daniel would spray paint Nazi signs on the sides of buildings. Now all he wants to do is get back to his normal way of life because his father has lost his job and Daniel is forced to drop out of his school to attend a Jewish one. Daniel and his family go through a difficult time during one of the worst periods known to man.

The story travels back and forth between Daniel's life as a kid and his life in 1945 as a U.S. Army officer. Even though this proves that Daniel survives throughout everything, none of the other character's fate are mentioned until the end of the book.

The story line is very easy to follow. Everyone has at least heard of Hitler, and this story shows a Jewish family's point-of-view much like Anne Frank did. Even though this story is fictional, it is almost exactly as you can picture life being in Germany during World War two.

Throughout the book, Daniel grows into a man, starting out as a spoiled brat, and ends as a refined soldier in his twenties. Even if you find history boring, this is able to put a very important subject into plain view.