

Request for Reconsideration after Final Action

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
SERIAL NUMBER	85872407
LAW OFFICE ASSIGNED	LAW OFFICE 113
MARK SECTION (no change)	
ARGUMENT(S)	
Please see the actual argument text attached within the Evidence section (PDF).	
EVIDENCE SECTION	
EVIDENCE FILE NAME(S)	
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ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS SECTION	
MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENT	The Applicant has separately filed an Allegation of Use, to change the basis of this application from Section 1(b), intent-to-use, to Section 1(a), use in commerce.
SIGNATURE SECTION	
RESPONSE SIGNATURE	/jamesjmercurio/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	James J. Mercurio
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Attorney of record, Arent Fox LLP (DC bar member)
SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER	202.857.6000
DATE SIGNED	06/17/2014
AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY	YES
CONCURRENT APPEAL NOTICE FILED	YES
FILING INFORMATION SECTION	
SUBMIT DATE	Tue Jun 17 10:04:54 EDT 2014
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Request for Reconsideration after Final Action To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

Application serial no. **85872407** has been amended as follows:

ARGUMENT(S)

In response to the substantive refusal(s), please note the following:

Please see the actual argument text attached within the Evidence section (PDF).

EVIDENCE

Evidence in the nature of Exhibits A-YY has been attached.

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Converted PDF file(s) (9 pages)

[Evidence-1](#)

[Evidence-2](#)

[Evidence-3](#)

[Evidence-4](#)

[Evidence-5](#)

[Evidence-6](#)

[Evidence-7](#)

[Evidence-8](#)

[Evidence-9](#)

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[Evidence-2](#)

[Evidence-3](#)

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[Evidence-78](#)
[Evidence-79](#)

Original PDF file:

[evi_20447535-093636824 . AMISH MAFIA - Exh OO -Exh YY.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (68 pages)

[Evidence-1](#)
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[Evidence-3](#)
[Evidence-4](#)
[Evidence-5](#)
[Evidence-6](#)
[Evidence-7](#)
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[Evidence-10](#)
[Evidence-11](#)
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[Evidence-65](#)
[Evidence-66](#)
[Evidence-67](#)
[Evidence-68](#)

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Miscellaneous Statement

The Applicant has separately filed an Allegation of Use, to change the basis of this application from Section 1(b), intent-to-use, to Section 1(a), use in commerce.

SIGNATURE(S)

Request for Reconsideration Signature

Signature: /jamesjmercurio/ Date: 06/17/2014

Signatory's Name: James J. Mercurio

Signatory's Position: Attorney of record, Arent Fox LLP (DC bar member)

Signatory's Phone Number: 202.857.6000

The signatory has confirmed that he/she is an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the

highest court of a U.S. state, which includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other federal territories and possessions; and he/she is currently the applicant's attorney or an associate thereof; and to the best of his/her knowledge, if prior to his/her appointment another U.S. attorney or a Canadian attorney/agent not currently associated with his/her company/firm previously represented the applicant in this matter: (1) the applicant has filed or is concurrently filing a signed revocation of or substitute power of attorney with the USPTO; (2) the USPTO has granted the request of the prior representative to withdraw; (3) the applicant has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her in this matter; or (4) the applicant's appointed U.S. attorney or Canadian attorney/agent has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her as an associate attorney in this matter.

The applicant is filing a Notice of Appeal in conjunction with this Request for Reconsideration.

Serial Number: 85872407

Internet Transmission Date: Tue Jun 17 10:04:54 EDT 2014

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/RFR-204.4.75.35-201406171004549076

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-N/A-20140617093636824991

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mark:	AMISH MAFIA	Trademark Examining Attorney: Kim Teresa Moninghoff
Applicant:	Discovery Communications, LLC	
Serial No.:	85/872407	Law Office: 113

RESPONSE AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Trademarks
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1451

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2013. The Examining Attorney has made final the refusal to register the mark AMISH MAFIA on two separate bases:

1. Disparagement – Trademark Act Section 2(a); 15 U.S.C. §1052(a); 37 C.F.R. §2.64(a), on allegations that Applicant’s mark disparages the Amish community.
2. Descriptiveness – Trademark Act Section 2(e)(1); 15 U.S.C. §1052(e)(1); 37 C.F.R. §2.64(a), on allegations that Applicant’s mark merely describes characteristics of Applicant’s services.

Applicant hereby incorporates by reference and preserves all of its arguments made in its November 26, 2013 Response to the Office Action dated June 4, 2013, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the refusal to register. Applicant is simultaneously filing a notice of appeal.

I. REFUSAL TO REGISTER UNDER SECTION 2(a)

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examining Attorney’s refusal under Section 2(a) of the Trademark Act, and asks that the refusal be reconsidered and withdrawn for the reasons set forth in Applicant’s November 26, 2013 Response to the Office Action dated June 4, 2013, and for the additional reasons set forth below.

A. The Examining Attorney has not met her burden of proof that a *substantial composite of the Amish community have been disparaged.*

Under federal law, a trademark may not be registered if it disparages or brings into contempt or disrepute persons, institutions, beliefs, or national symbols. Trademark Act Section 2(a), 15 U.S.C. §1052(a); *see In re Tam*, 108 USPQ2d 1305, 1309 (TTAB 2013); *In re Lebanese Arak Corp.*, 94 USPQ2d 1215, 1217 (TTAB 2010); TMEP §§1203.03, 1203.03(b).

The following two factors are considered when determining whether matter may be disparaging under Trademark Act Section 2(a):

- (1) What is the likely meaning of the matter in question, taking into account not only dictionary definitions, but also the relationship of the matter to the other elements in the mark, the nature of the goods and/or services, and the manner in which the mark is used in the marketplace in connection with the goods and/or services; and
- (2) If that meaning is found to refer to identifiable persons, institutions, beliefs, or national symbols, whether that meaning may be disparaging to a *substantial composite* of the referenced group. [emphasis added]

In re Tam, 108 USPQ2d at 1309; *In re Lebanese Arak Corp.*, 94 USPQ2d at 1217; *In re Heeb Media LLC*, 89 USPQ2d 1071, 1074 (TTAB 2008); TMEP §1203.03(b)(i).

Here, Applicant asserts that even if the AMISH MAFIA mark is disparaging, which it flatly denies, it is only disparaging of those individuals who choose to identify as part of this distinct subsection of the Amish community. Evidence provided by the Examining Attorney indicates that the Amish Community has denied the existence of such a group, further disassociating them from the mark. The title does not apply to the Amish community as a whole or to the beliefs of the Amish faith.

The PTO has routinely accepted this distinction in its acceptance of numerous third party marks featuring the term “mafia.” MAFIA GRANNIES (Reg. No. 4250545) does not disparage all grandmothers; PORTUGUESE MAFIA (Reg. No. 4404311) does not disparage all people of Portuguese descent; DUTCH MAFIA (Reg. Nos. 4391891, 4391890, and 4391887) does not disparage all people of Dutch descent; AMERICAN MAFIA (Reg. No. 4208994) does not disparage all Americans; THE MEXICAN MAFIA (Reg. No. 3665101) does not disparage all people of Mexican descent; and THE LESBIAN MAFIA (Reg. No. 3361741) does not disparage all lesbians. To ascribe the meaning of the word “mafia” that the Examining Attorney has put forward to the entirety of any of these populations would be unfair and place such people in a bad light. But such marks are permitted because common sense dictates that the term “mafia” does not apply to all of the people that comprise these groups, just those who choose to identify as such for whatever reason they choose. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the Examining Attorney is applying a highly subjective double standard to Applicant’s mark by claiming that the term “mafia” disparages all, or even a *substantial composite* of the Amish community, when it clearly hasn’t managed to disparage a *substantial composite* of any other group with which it has been associated. Indeed, no other application featuring the term “mafia” has ever been found to be disparaging and refused on such grounds by the PTO or the TTAB, including Applicant’s own registration for the mark AMISH MAFIA in Class 25 (Reg. No. 4120633).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examining Attorney reconsider her position on this and withdraw the 2(a) refusal.

II. REFUSAL TO REGISTER UNDER SECTION 2(e)(1)

A. AMENDMENT

Please enter the following statement into the application:

The mark AMISH MAFIA has become distinctive of Applicant's services through Applicant's substantially exclusive and continuous use in commerce.

B. REMARKS - Applicant's 2(f) Claim of Acquire Distinctiveness

Based on the following evidence and arguments, and in light Applicant's acquired distinctiveness claim under Section 2(f) of the Trademark Act, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examining Attorney withdraw the Section 2(e)(1) refusal and pass Applicant's mark to publication on the Principal Register.

The Examining Attorney has refused to register Applicant's AMISH MAFIA service mark on the ground that the proposed mark merely describes characteristics of applicant's services.

In response to the refusal, and without conceding that its mark is merely descriptive, Applicant amends the present application to seek registration under Trademark Act 2(f), 15 U.S.C. §1052(f).

1. Applicant's Declaration

Applicant has attached a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §2.20 stating that the mark AMISH MAFIA has become distinctive of the claimed services through the Applicant's extensive use and promotion of the mark since at least December 12, 2012. See Exhibit A. Applicant's declaration is signed by its Director, Strategy and Business Operations. Rob Hargreaves attests to Applicant's extensive use and promotion of the AMISH MAFIA mark, its success as one of the most popular shows on television, and the large amount of unsolicited press that it has received from third-party sources. *See id.* As noted in the signed declaration, and in several of the other exhibits attached hereto, Applicant's AMISH MAFIA program has millions of viewers each week. In fact, the program reached a unique audience of 52 million viewers (persons age 2 and older) for broadcast year 2013, with each episode having an average audience of 739,000 viewers, including premieres and repeats. Applicant's AMISH MAFIA

show has been aired 421 times to date. *See id.* Applicant is the only entity using the mark AMISH MAFIA in connection with a television program. *See id.* Thus, Applicant has had substantially continuous and exclusive use of the mark in the United States.

2. Applicant’s substantial, continuous, and exclusive use of the AMISH MAFIA mark

Applicant’s mark AMISH MAFIA has become distinctive of the claimed services through the Applicant's extensive use and promotion of the mark. Applicant's claim of acquired distinctiveness is based on its use and promotion of the AMISH MAFIA mark, its success as a popular show on television, and the large amount of unsolicited press that it has received from third-party sources. In addition, Applicant is the only entity using the mark AMISH MAFIA in connection with a television program. Thus, Applicant has had substantial continuous and exclusive use of the mark in the United States.

3. Media Coverage, Discovery Channel Press Releases, and Advertisements for the AMISH MAFIA mark

In addition to Rob Hargreaves' attached declaration, Applicant submits the following exhibits showing the extensive and nationwide media coverage regarding Applicant's AMISH MAFIA program. The AMISH MAFIA series is watched by a sizeable audience nationwide and even people who do not watch the series may be aware of it given the frequent references to the show in online, print, and television media and news reports.

Exhibit	Description
B	SOCIAL MEDIA – Printouts from YouTube.com showing numerous videos of the AMISH MAFIA series uploaded by Applicant. Videos attracted well over a million views, with four particular clips receiving nearly a million views (909,741) combined.
C	SOCIAL MEDIA – Printout from Facebook page for the show AMISH MAFIA revealing 160,802 “likes.”

Exhibit	Description
D	SOCIAL MEDIA – Printout of screen capture of Twitter page for the show AMISH MAFIA revealing 17,100 “followers.”
E	May 23, 2014 article on <i>Enstarz</i> website about Season 4 personalities of the AMISH MAFIA series.
F	Undated article from the <i>PluggedIn</i> website regarding television reviews of the AMISH MAFIA series.
G	December 10, 2012 article from the <i>PennLive</i> website regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
H	August 13, 2013 article from <i>Lebanon Daily News</i> website regarding the debut of the second season of the AMISH MAFIA series.
I	December 10, 2013 article from the <i>New York Daily News</i> website regarding the special Christmas episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
J	December 9, 2012 article from the <i>New York Daily News</i> website regarding debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
K	December 31, 2012 article from the <i>PennLive</i> website regarding whether the AMISH MAFIA series is real or fictional.
L	November 11, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the up-coming debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
M	November 12, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the up-coming debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
N	November 13, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the up-coming debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
O	November 30, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the up-coming debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
P	December 3, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the up-coming debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
Q	December 11, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the up-coming debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
R	December 12, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the up-coming debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
S	December 12, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the debut episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
T	December 13, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the debut episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
U	December 19, 2012 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website regarding the second episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
V	January 3, 2013 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about Lancaster County Amish cashing in on the success of the AMISH MAFIA series.

Exhibit	Description
W	January 10, 2013 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about Applicant's innovative use of social media (Twitter) as companion to its AMISH MAFIA series.
X	March 2, 2013 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about special 2-hour episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
Y	August 2, 2013 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about up-coming debut of second season of the AMISH MAFIA series.
Z	August 14, 2013 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about debut episode of second season of the AMISH MAFIA series.
AA	August 20, 2013 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about Applicant's innovative use of social media (Facebook) in advertising its premiere of the second season of the AMISH MAFIA series.
BB	August 27, 2013 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about Applicant's innovative use of social media (Facebook) in advertising its new episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
CC	December 5, 2013 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about Applicant's innovative use of social media (Facebook) in advertising its AMISH MAFIA Christmas Special.
DD	March 26, 2014 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about a new episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
EE	April 1, 2014 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about a new episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
FF	April 9, 2014 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about a new episode of the AMISH MAFIA series.
GG	May 3, 2014 article from the <i>Examiner.com</i> website about a public appearance by former star of the AMISH MAFIA series.
HH	March 6, 2014 article on <i>Snopes.com</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
II	April 11, 2014 article on <i>Lancaster Online</i> regarding legal troubles of a cast member on the AMISH MAFIA series.
JJ	April 9, 2014 article on <i>WN.com</i> regarding the Season 3 finale of the AMISH MAFIA series.
KK	August 27, 2013 article on <i>ABC News</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
LL	February 26, 2014 article on <i>TimesUnion</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
MM	March 4 and April 8, 2014 article on <i>Lancaster Online</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
NN	February 20, 2014 article on <i>WND Faith</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.

Exhibit	Description
OO	January 15, 2013 article on <i>BuzzFeed Entertainment</i> regarding the authenticity of the AMISH MAFIA series, noting 278,291 views.
PP	February 24, 2014 article on <i>The Wrap</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
QQ	November 13, 2012 article on <i>The Hollywood Reporter</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
RR	January 17, 2013 article on <i>Huff Post Religion</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
SS	November 14, 2012 article on <i>Huff Post TV</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
TT	December 3, 2012 article on <i>Huff Post Entertainment</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
UU	February 23, 2014 article on <i>Starcasm.Net</i> regarding the arrest of a cast member of the AMISH MAFIA series.
VV	November 14, 2012 article on <i>Pajiba</i> regarding the debut of the AMISH MAFIA series.
WW	February 23, 2014 article on <i>PhillyMag Ticket</i> regarding the legal troubles a cast member of the AMISH MAFIA series.
XX	August 22, 2013 article on <i>MSN news</i> regarding the authenticity of the AMISH MAFIA series.
YY	December 11, 2012 article on <i>NY Daily News</i> regarding a review of the AMISH MAFIA series.

Based on the Applicant's declaration and the aforementioned exhibits, the evidence supports Applicant's assertion that its AMISH MAFIA mark has acquired distinctiveness, and it has become a distinctive source-indicator of Applicant's services. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examining Attorney withdraw the Section 2(e)(1) refusal and approve the subject mark for publication on the Principal Register.

III. CONCLUSION

Whereas Applicant has fully responded to the issues raised by the Examining Attorney, and believes that it has successfully traversed the disparagement and descriptiveness refusals,

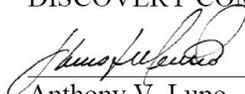
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examining Attorney withdraw the refusal to register and publish the subject mark for opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

Date: June 17, 2014

By:



Anthony V. Lupo
James J. Mercurio
Arent Fox LLP
1717 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-5342
Tel.: 202-857-6000
Attorneys for Applicant

EXHIBIT A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Discovery Communications, LLC

Serial No.: 85/872407

Filed: March 11, 2013

Mark: AMISH MAFIA

Examining Attorney: Kim Teresa Moninghoff

DECLARATION

The undersigned declares that he is an employee of Applicant; that he is over the age of twenty-one (21); that the facts set forth in this declaration are true; that all statements made of his own knowledge are true; and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Having been warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any registration resulting therefrom, the undersigned hereby affirms that:

1. I am employed by Discovery Communications, LLC ("Applicant"), the world's #1 nonfiction media company reaching more than two billion cumulative subscribers in over 220 countries and territories.
2. I am Director of Strategy and Business Operations for the Applicant.
3. Among Applicant's popular television networks is the Discovery Channel, a global brand that is distributed to 100.8 million U.S. homes, and which can be seen in 224 countries and territories. The Discovery Channel is home to Applicant's hit television series AMISH MAFIA.
4. Applicant has used the AMISH MAFIA mark in commerce since at least as early as December 12, 2012 in connection with the following services listed in the application:

Entertainment and educational services in the nature of television and multimedia program series featuring subjects of general human interest distributed via various platforms across multiple forms of transmission media; providing entertainment information to others via a global computer network, in International Class 41.

5. Applicant has extensively advertised, promoted, and marketed its AMISH MAFIA mark since October 2012. It has invested tremendous time and effort in creating an association between the AMISH MAFIA mark and Applicant's services. Specifically, Season 1 of the series was launched out of Discovery's Mega Week in 4Q12 with heavy on-air presence (sneaks, custom graphics, in show tosses, etc.). There was a Special we supported with a tactical off-air buy 1Q13, and then the big off-air spend came for Season 2 in 3Q13. Applicant expended additional resources regarding on-air support in 1Q14.

6. Applicant's AMISH MAFIA program has reached a unique audience of 52 million viewers (persons age 2 and older) for broadcast year 2013, with each episode having an average audience of 739,000 viewers, including premieres and repeats. Applicant's AMISH MAFIA show has been aired 421 times to date

7. Applicant's AMISH MAFIA program has been covered by numerous media outlets across the country, including *ABC News*, *MSN News*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *The Huffington Post*, *New York Daily News*, *Examiner.com*, *TimesUnion*, and others.

8. Since December 2012, the number of visitors to the website located at <http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/amish-mafia> has been extraordinary, with 16.7 million page views, 3.9 million video views, and 2.1 million unique views (averaging over 200K a month while the show is in season).

9. Over the course of the show, AMISH MAFIA has been tremendously active on social media as well. The Facebook page, which has 160,942 likes, reaches an average of 300,000 people a week in season. In addition, the show has 17,100 followers on Twitter and the show is

mentioned an average of 4,000 times per episode. The premiere of the show received 34,000 mentions making it the 2nd most mentioned series premiere in Discovery history.

10. To Applicant's knowledge, it is the only entity using the AMISH MAFIA mark in connection with entertainment and educational services, namely a recurring television series.

11. Based upon Applicant's extensive promotion of the AMISH MAFIA mark, the millions of viewers of the program, the significant coverage of the AMISH MAFIA program by national media outlets, and its strong presence in social media, it is my opinion that the AMISH MAFIA mark has acquired distinctiveness and become distinctive of Applicant's services.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

By: 

Name: Rob Hargreaves

Of: Discovery Communications, LLC

Its: Director, Strategy and Business Operations

EXHIBIT B



Amish Mafia | Tuesday 9/8c

Discovery 8,065 videos

1,142,052

582,658 views

22 61

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Published on Aug 5, 2013
 The ALL NEW SEASON of Discovery's hit series AMISH MAFIA premieres Tuesday at 9/8c! | For more, visit <http://dsc.discovery.com/tv-shows/ami...>

Catch up with full episodes from Season 1 instantly! | [Show more](#)

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- Merlin: Scarier Than Ever? | Amish Mafia**
by Discovery
14,212 views
- That's My Plane! | Airplane Repo**
by Discovery
25,692 views
- Merlin, Boss of the Ohio Mafia | Amish Mafia**
by Discovery
8,497 views
- Searching for the Voodoo Shark | Voodoo Sharks - Shark Week**
by Discovery
51,728 views
- Amish: A Secret Life**
by Weltkirche
714,796 views
- The Amish - A People of Preservation**
by Dave Kinsella
98,521 views
- Meet the Amish 1 of 4 - First experience on an aeroplane**
by Discern4Media
548,467 views
- Meet the Amish 4 of 4 - Night club and pagan festival**
by Discern4Media
319,991 views

Amish - A Secret Life (BBC 2012)

by Discern4Media
468,572 views

59:05

'Amish Mafia': So-Called Subculture of Outlaws

by Ann Young
15,071 views

7:12

Amish Mafia

by edbessmaster
742,910 views

6:25

Amish Mafia Myth

by Vita McHale
54,778 views

2:41

Crazy video shows how the
by TheMNCanary [Upload](#) [Sign in](#)
5:42 86,185 views

Amish Mafia - Barn Fights
by Discovery Channel Asia
17,660 views
3:23

**Amish 'Not Sure What to Expect'
in Jail**
by Associated Press
1:49 35,688 views

Amish A Secret Life Part 1
by John Daniel
14:57 259,666 views

Trouble In Amish Paradise
by D Stewart
58:53 436,540 views

**FAIL/WIN COMPILATION
DECEMBER 2013 OF FUNNY**
by BestBloopers
10:09 3,693,517 views

How Olive Oil Is Made
by Triwood1973
4:46 Recommended for you

Amish Mafia Myth 2
by Vita McHale
2:26 22,672 views

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Amish Mafia | Premieres Wed, Dec 12 at 9/8c on Discovery

Discovery · 6,065 videos

1,142,052

232,985 views

355 982

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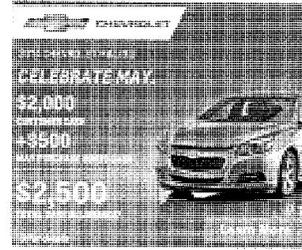
Published on Nov 13, 2012

Catch the premiere of AMISH MAFIA, an all-new series on Discovery Channel, Wednesday, December 12 at 9/8c. | <http://dsc.discovery.com/#mkcpgn=ytdsc1> | This groundbreaking series will first air on Tuesday, December 11, at 10:30/9:30c before moving to its regular day and time starting Wednesday, December

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Buried Treasure | Ghost Town Gold
by Discovery
7,296 views

Liquid Lie Detector | Breaking Magic
by Discovery
64,929 views

Armed and Dangerous | Alaska Marshals
by Discovery
10,900 views

Amish Mafia | New Season Tue Feb 25 9/8c
by Discovery
9,597 views

Body Language HD 720p Discovery & Documentary HD
by Discovery & Documentary HD Channel
111,032 views

Amish: A Secret Life
by Weltkirche
744,796 views

Discovery Channel : Flight 370 The Missing Links
by rockstarretro9
36,774 views

Meet the Amish 1 of 4 - First experience on an aeroplane
by Discern4Media
548,497 views

Amish Mafia
by discoverychannelasia
3 views

'Amish Mafia': So-Called Subculture of Outlaws
by Ann Young
7:12 15,071 views

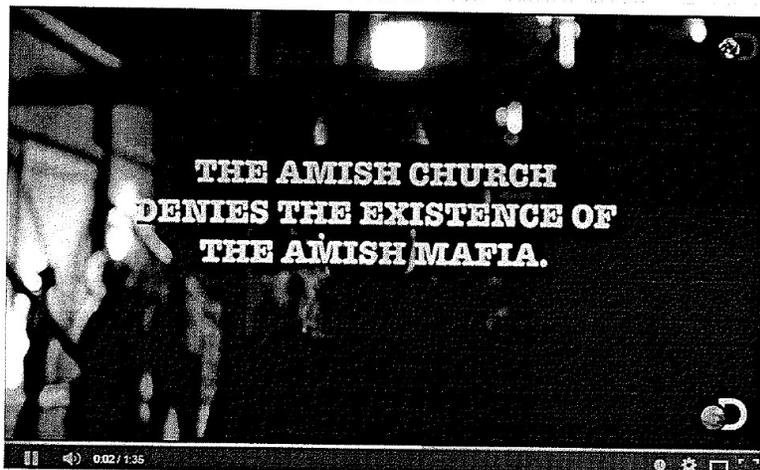
Amish On Break National Geography
by Mast3rLand3r
1:30:03 78,502 views

Amish - A Secret Life (BBC 2012)
by Discern4Media
59:05 469,572 views

- The Amish - A People of**
by Dave Kingsley
56:34 98,521 views [Upload](#) [Sign in](#)
- How to Get to Heaven with the Hutterites**
by Tr3Ve10c1ta
59:28 45,199 views
- A Simple Life**
by WesternReservePBS
58:32 90,820 views
- Amish Mafia - Barn Fights**
by Discovery Channel Asia
3:23 17,890 views
- (BREAKING AMISH) leaving amish paradise 2010 hd**
by illmicchickens1
58:17 40,147 views
- The Amish & Mennonite Home**
by jrhager
6:52 48,843 views
- Crazy video shows how the Amish move a house with out**
by TheMNCarGuy
5:42 55,185 views
- Trouble In Amish Paradise**
by D Stewart
58:53 436,540 views

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Lebanon Levi, Head of the Mafia | Amish Mafia

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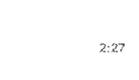
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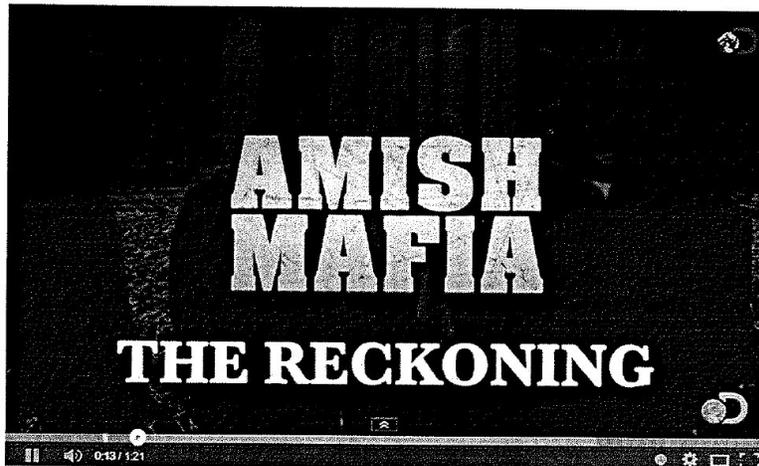
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by NeoTV
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Published on Aug 12, 2013
 Is there truly a "mafia," of Amish who help their community? | For more, visit <http://dsc.discovery.com/tv-shows/ami...>

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EXHIBIT C

Amish Mafia
Jim Home 20+

As of February 26, 2014, production on Amish Mafia has been halted.

Amish Mafia

160,802 likes · 4,803 talking about this

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Trust no others. The one and only Amish Mafia on Discovery. Tue 9/8c.
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Amish Mafia 21 hours ago

Last time we saw him, Caleb said "Our biggest mistake was letting English people into our lives." What do you think?

49

1,960 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Heather Munnerlyn-Prosser LOL this cracks me up!! I don't believe they are done, they enjoy those paychecks.
Like · Reply · 77 · 21 hours ago

5 Replies · 11 hours ago

Del Grimes you loved the money, and notriety,....you livr for drama, you'll be back
Like · Reply · 56 · 21 hours ago

3 Replies · 8 hours ago

Amish Mafia trailer

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Brian Coppola Mobile

Vincent Mares Mobile

MORE FRIENDS (4)

Andrae Schuerch Web

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Amish Mafia 2 of 613

AMISH MAFIA May 20

They've burned all the bridges this time.



Like · Comment · Share 124

3,096 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Tom Hatcock man i hope they come back best show on tv
Like · Reply · 104 · May 20 at 12:03pm

Catherine Dunks You guys would not be posting this stuff if they weren't coming back.
Like · Reply · 91 · May 20 at 12:01pm

3 Replies

View more comments 2 of 361

AMISH MAFIA May 13

Though they'll no longer talk to us or our camera crews, Esther and Levi have been seen together in Lancaster



Like · Comment · Share 198

3,919 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Jennifer Booth Ashley Hammerle if you have never been in an abusive relationship then don't comment. It is extremely hard for victims to leave or be convinced to leave. It took me 5 years and lots of help to escape him once and for all. So unless you've been domestically abused, please keep your ignorance to yourself. You know nothing about what we victims go through.
Like · Reply · 110 · May 13 at 12:07pm · Edited

13 Replies

Lisa Hammond Dargert I miss the show.
Like · Reply · 93 · May 13 at 12:04pm

6 Replies

View more comments 2 of 416

AMISH MAFIA May 2

AMISH MAFIA May 23 Jim Home 20+

The Amish do not wear bathing suits and are forbidden from swimming in public. <http://dsc.tv/wafCO>

Like · Comment · Share 11

520 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Rick Tbo Johnson Leave the page if you don't want to see the posts
Like · Reply · 16 · May 23 at 12:07pm

Dan Hamblin As if anyone cares.....lol. why keep posting on here? The show is over.....you say.....
Like · Reply · 16 · May 23 at 12:02pm

View more comments 2 of 143

AMISH MAFIA May 16

The U.S. Amish population—now at 251,000— is estimated to grow to more than a million by 2050. <http://dsc.tv/wafCO>

Like · Comment · Share 13

497 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Jay Martinez To each their own. Love them. Nice people who get a bad rap
Like · Reply · 8 · May 16 at 12:05pm

Chris Pulichene That's alot of cousin f**king, gosh!
Like · Reply · 7 · May 16 at 12:05pm

2 Replies

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AMISH MAFIA May 9

Many Amish churches prohibit bicycles but allow non-motorized scooters because they require more manual labor. <http://dsc.tv/wafCO>

Like · Comment · Share 2

375 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

J.r. Cyberpastor I mean no harm by saying so—but WORKS won't earn heaven. Only Jesus and His sacrifice for us can provide the payment ... exchanged for our sins (past, present and future) for GRACE. Why then "work?" His GRACE is sufficient...His Grace... changes us... See More
Like · Reply · 12 · May 9 at 12:16pm

3 Replies

Susie Meeks-Wade I grew up in LaGrange county, you know where the "Bear" is. They all ride bikes here. I must say in the last 20 years they have got much more liberal with having cell phones and ect. but still some of the most hardest working people you will ever meet.
Like · Reply · 9 · May 9 at 12:38pm

1 Reply

View more comments 2 of 60

AMISH MAFIA May 6

The #AmishMafia have turned their backs on the English world. Will this be the last we see of them?

- Create Photo
- Drusilla Gray via Jez Smith Micah Pilat and Joshua Pilat you need this.
 - Linda Larsen shared Health is Wealth's photo. Good to know!
 - William Casey progressed on an episode in CSI: Hidden Crimes.
 - Benita Collier shared FitnessRx for Women Magazine's photo.
 - Maria Galifianakis-Croke shared The Refusers's photo.
 - Trav Leon Grannis listened to Smoothie Song by Nickel Creek on Spotify.
 - LeAnn Rupy commented on her own photo.
 - Maria Galifianakis-Croke shared Onida Lake Campground's photo.
 - Show Older
 - Silvia Bruttomes ... Mobile
 - LeAnn Rupy Web
 - Lowell Passons Web
 - Mora's Antiques Web
 - Brenden Hart Mobile
 - Bnan Coppola Mobile
 - Vincent Mares Mobile
 - MORE FRIENDS (4)
 - Andrae Schuerch Web

Did you know that in the Amish community, men and women are segregated until Rumspringa? More: <http://dsc.tv/vUmvG>

Like · Comment · Share 4
455 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Ryan Andrew Cionka I'm church women sit on one side and the men on the other, I also had a friend in college who just left the Amish with his family like 8 months b4 college and he was raised in Lancaster and said that he knew Levi really good and said 99% of the show is showing the truth of what he and his group do, and yes they made some of it that's not 100% truthful but almost all of it ism
Like · Reply · 33 · May 2 at 12:10pm

2 Replies

Ryan Andrew Cionka The shows not a joke or lies, I have a good buddy that was one of the main camera guys
Like · Reply · 22 · May 2 at 12:04pm

6 Replies

View more comments 2 of 88

Amish Mafia shared Amish Mafia Insider's photo.
April 30

This English fan is lucky to have gotten away with taking this picture...

Alvin was recently spotted in Pinecraft, Florida fishing on the beach. Thanks to Mafia super fan Bill R from Sarasota for emailing this to us!



Like · Comment · Share 1
2,671 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Clint Matkovich "English taking pictures of Amish fishing on the beach is a big problem in the community, sometimes English charge Amish kids a fee to buy non Amish made fishing poles. It's corrupting our Amish youth and I just can't stand for it" -Merlin
Like · Reply · 38 · April 30 at 3:30pm · Edited

11 Replies

Patti Dean leave him alone!
Like · Reply · 31 · April 30 at 3:26pm

2 Replies

View more comments 2 of 317



Like · Comment · Share 143
2,974 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Teri Williamson If it were truly the end....you'd stop promoting it...
Like · Reply · 145 · May 6 at 12:04pm

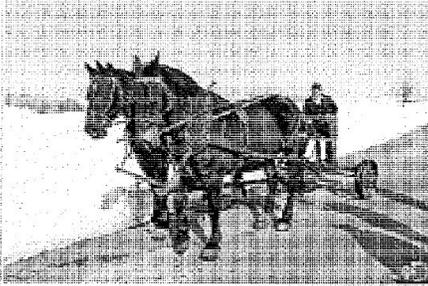
5 Replies

Roger Martinkus nope - greed fuels many!
Like · Reply · 67 · May 6 at 12:00pm

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Amish Mafia
April 29

The weather may be warming up, but the Amish Mafia remain chilly to any interaction with us...



Like · Comment · Share 102
2,448 people like this. Top Comments

Write a comment...

Bill Mitchell them knot heads.what I find funny is they blame the English for lots of things but they do the same things as us?
Like · Reply · 66 · April 29 at 12:03pm

5 Replies

Jimmy Hallmark hope you get this back on loved the show
Like · Reply · 56 · April 29 at 12:01pm

2 Replies

View more comments 2 of 417

Amish Mafia
April 25

The Amish are traditionalist Christians, closely related to but distinct from Mennonites, with whom they share Swiss Anabaptist origins. Learn more: <http://dsc.tv/vUmvG>

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Amish Mafia
April 18

Create Post
Drusilla Grey via Jez Smith Micah Pilal and Joshua Pilal you need this.

Linda Larsen shared Health is Wealth's photo. Good to know!

William Casey progressed on an episode in CSI: Hidden Crimes.

Benita Collier shared FitnessRx for Women Magazine's photo.

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MORE FRIENDS (4)

Andrae Schuerch Web



You don't have to be a married Amish man to wear this beard, get 20% off the Amish Mafia Guns Beard T-Shirt. Use code BEARD20 at checkout. Sale ends midnight PT tonight. Shop now: <http://bit.ly/1m2Rw52>



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But it won't be on Discovery. <http://dsc.tv/urctP>



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SHARE if you're watching what might be the last episode ever... Tell the #AmishMafia you want them to come back here - <http://dsc.tv/urctP>



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Did you know Pennsylvania Dutch is actually a form of German which contains many English words? More Amish facts: <http://dsc.tv/vUmvG>

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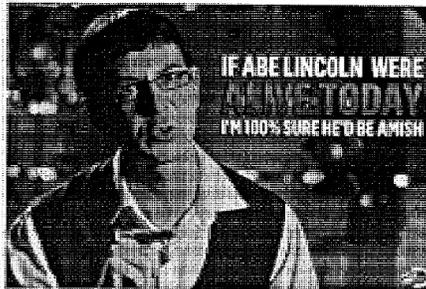


What are you going to do on Tuesday nights now that #AmishMafia might be over...

Like · Comment · Share 851 875 29



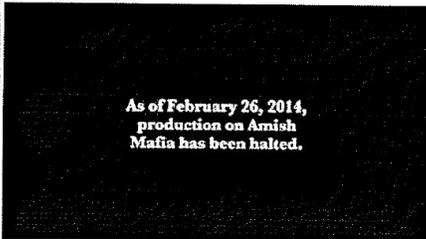
But perhaps the better question is whether Merlin is alive today? <http://dsc.tv/vBZZN> #AmishMafia



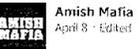
Like · Comment · Share 1,263 380 107



Is this the end of #AmishMafia...



Like · Comment · Share 1,713 834 324



Is this the end?! The Amish Mafia Insider is answering your questions LIVE on Facebook starting NOW! Ask any question you have about the Season Finale in the comments below for an answer.

Create Post Drusilla Grey via Jez Smith Micah Pilat and Joshua Pilat you need this.

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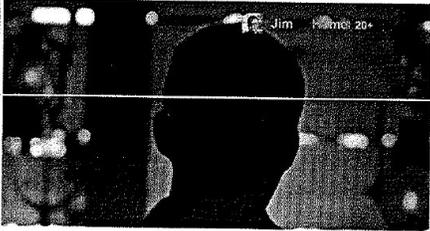
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Amish Mafia shared a link.

This is why you don't mess with Lebanon Levi. #AmishMafia

Levi and Alvin Blow Up a Car
www.discovery.com
Levi and Alvin attempt to blow up a...

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Like · Comment · Share 1,204 2,722 72

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Brenden Hart Mobile

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MORE FRIENDS (4)

Andrae Schuerch Web

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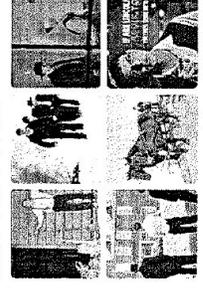
Amish Mafia @AmishMafia · May 30
 Amish do not allow electricity in their homes, but these rules are more flexible for unbaptized children. dsc.tv/3.5JK8
 View summary

Amish Mafia @AmishMafia · May 27
 "Our biggest mistake was letting English people into our lives" - Caleb



Amish Mafia @AmishMafia
 As of February 26th, 2014, production on Amish Mafia has been halted. Stay tuned for any updates.
 Lancaster, PA
 discovery.com/amish

166 Photos and videos



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Is Maddie Ziegler Leaving 'Dance Moms'?

Celebrities May 27 10:28 AM

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Meryl Davis & Maks Chmerkovskiy Getting 'Touchy Feely' After Winning 'DWTS'?



Watch: Stand up for Unsung Bacon!
The less famous Bacons in the family are Bacons too. Starring Oscar Mayer Turkey Bacon and Michael Bacon. [\[watch video\]](#)

TV/Reality TV May 26 04:04 PM

'Amish Mafia' Season 4 Cast News: Stars Of Discovery Hit 'Blurring The Lines' Between Real Life & Television Show? [PHOTOS]

By Lauren DuBois, ENSTARS
on May 23, 2014 10:31 AM EDT

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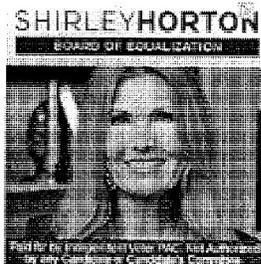
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 SUBMIT

Esther and John Schmucker of 'Amish Mafia' after Levi's Cheating was exposed (Photo : facebook.com/esther.schnucker)

As they secretly film episodes for their upcoming fourth season, *Amish Mafia* stars Esther and John Schmucker are being called out for their reported antics outside of their show.

Amish Mafia Fourth Season CONFIRMED



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'LHHA's' Rasheeda Admits to Cheating on Kirk Frost? 'The Woman Has Made ...

Both siblings have been in the media in recent months for various courtroom dramas, with the most recent involving John, who was sentenced to three months in prison May 21 for receiving 10 citations for driving on a suspended license.

In a May 22 article on Lancaster Online, both he and Esther were called out for blurring the lines between their real lives and the personas they have on their show, which has been touted as fake in the past.

Esther Schmucker Losing Weight For New Season?

"It's an interesting experience to play a role. But there is a world of difference between the real world and the reel world," the article says. "It's time these characters understood the distinction."

Adding to the article's assertion that the Schmucker siblings have blurred the lines is Esther's own legal dramas involving ex-boyfriend Imir Williams, who she pressed charges against last fall for beating her on Halloween.

Though Esther said Williams' two-month jail sentence for the assault was too lenient at the time, after he was paroled prior to Christmas, she reportedly contacted him once again, and he was seen at her home in Lancaster County, a direct violation of his parole.

At his April hearing, where he was sentenced to another three months in prison for the parole violation, Esther was also lectured by the Judge for her role in the legal drama.

"If I had Williams in Lancaster County Prison, I'd do it," Judge ...



The less known success in the family are Bacons too. Starring Oscar Mayer Turkey Bacon and ...

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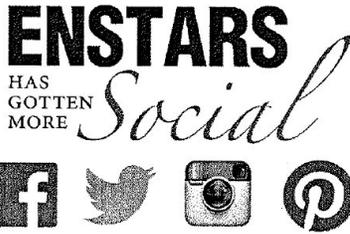
T.J. Dillashaw Next Fight: Renan Barao Deserve Instant Rematch After UFC 1

"Lancaster County courts face a daunting caseload," the article states. "Recurring cases involving people who ignore or defy the law only add to the burden."

Meanwhile, Esther appears to have confirmed reports that the show will be returning for a fourth season on her Facebook page. The news was initially confirmed by attorney Steve Breit after her brother's sentencing.

"I have never learned the power of simply believing and just having faith like I have recently! Things that I have been worrying about for months I finally learned to let go and just simply have faith that God will take care of things and all that I need to do is believe, have faith, and pray and today it all just came together!! I am so thankful I could cry.. Thank you Thank you Thank you God!!!" she wrote May 22.

Amish Mafia reportedly went on hiatus Feb. 26. There is no word on when season 4 will premiere on Discovery.



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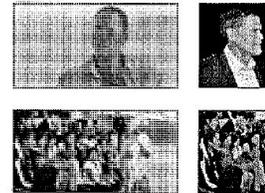
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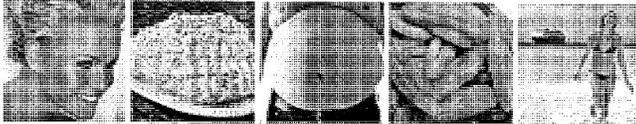


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'Sleepy Hollow' Season 2 To Introduce New Sheriff [PHOTOS], How Will She Deal With The Apocalypse? [VIDEO] - 6 Photos



1 / 6

In honor of Sleepy Hollow's casting of Sakina Jaffrey as the eerie town's new sheriff, Leena Reyes, we've put together a gallery of former PD members and their fates in order to...welcome...Reyes. Or to encourage her to run while she has the chance.

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EXHIBIT F

plugged TV REVIEWS

AMISH MAFIA

I think I could pitch a great reality show to Discovery Channel.

I'd claim to unveil the secret, sordid world of Christian critics, with cameras dogging every step the *Plugged In* staff took. The tagline might read, "By day, they review entertainment. By night, they enforce it." It wouldn't make any sense, but would that matter? One episode might document how we crashed Kanye West and Kim Kardashian's latest Hollywood party, raining down righteous anger on the unconscionably immoral mayhem we found there. Then we'd all slam back a few martinis.

It'd be complete hogwash of course—a fiction from beginning to end. But even so, it might be more truthful than *Amish Mafia*.

The one-time trusted educational channel dubbed Discovery got in some hot water during its 2013 "Shark Week" when it televised a supposed documentary titled *Megalodon: The Monster Shark That Lives*. It doesn't. Faked footage and phony scientists triggered some pretty severe outrage from viewers and pundits—but anyone who has watched *Amish Mafia* saw the template for phony reality at least a year earlier.

Discovery admits that the Amish community denies the existence of an embedded mafia, of course. And it tells us that some of what shows up onscreen are reenactments based on "the legend of the Amish Mafia." Sort of like that supersized shark, apparently.

Of course, most Amish couldn't care a buggy-driven whit about reality TV. Their entire culture sort of works against crass self-promotion, and it's that reluctance to draw attention to themselves that, presumably, has kept Amish leaders from showing up on Fox News to vehemently debunk this travesty.

But don't tell that to Lebanon Levi, the supposed godfather of this Lancaster, Penn., outfit, ostensibly tasked with keeping peace and harmony (through superior firepower) within the tight-knit Amish community. Levi is, according to Discovery's website, "above the law and occupies the role of police, judge and jury," and is tasked with keeping "outside forces from infiltrating the Amish community." (Excepting reality television film crews, we're to believe.)

Levi's joined by a tight cadre of gun-toting assistants, most of whom (like Levi himself) have criminal records: Alvin, Levi's former right-hand man who found a bit of trouble down in Florida and is now struggling to get back in Levi's good graces; Crazy Dave, who was arrested for drinking and driving; and young upstart Caleb—a semi-outsider who, not being beholden to the church's strict rules, is tasked with doing Levi's most dastardly deeds.

"I can sin, I can dance, I can f---, I can fight," he tells the camera crew. "What more do you need?"

Not everyone is thrilled with the way Levi does business, of course. Esther and John, sister and brother, were one-time confederates of Levi but are now on the outs. Jolin, Levi's former muscleman, seems to be a freelance enforcer these days. Alan wants revenge for Levi getting him thrown in the clink. And then there's Merlin, a rival godfather from Ohio who, with his dwarf-sized enforcer, Wayne, is determined to lay Levi low.

Though we're frequently told how religious the Amish are, you can already see that that doesn't stop the main players in *Amish Mafia* from drinking, fighting, swearing (lots and lots of that) and threatening folks. We see them smash car windows and steal horses. Sometimes the show can even take a tawdry sexual turn. The Discovery editing team even hopes you'll believe that Levi and his crew are actually offing other Amish and burying them behind the barn. "The last person who betrayed Levi, we don't know what happened to him," says John with a knowing look.

Could Levi, or somebody like him, actually have some connection with the Amish community? "Is there any population in which you can't find a few badly behaving, exploitable or shamelessly colorful individuals on which to base a trashy television show?" asks David George at *salon.com*. "Obviously you can find such people in any community."

But most experts believe that *Amish Mafia* is almost complete fabrication—a sense magnified by the outlandish and suspiciously telegenic cast of characters that has sprung up in the second season. "My sense is this Amish mafia is about as real as the Dunder Mifflin Paper Company in *The Office*," Professor Donald Weaver-Zercher told *inquisitr.com*. And, indeed, when you're watching, the thing feels about as credible as a Nigerian email scam.

GENRE
Reality/Game

CAST
Lebanon Levi, Alan Beiler, Alvin, Esther, John, Jolin, Merlin, Vernon, Wayne, Crazy Dave and Caleb as "Themselves"

CHANNEL
Discovery

REVIEWER
Paul Asay

And, indeed, we should hope so.

I don't think I'm the only one around this review table who has a great deal of respect for the integrity of the Amish community—as so many live in such a way that they hope pleases God and brings them closer to Him. "The Amish people live a peaceful, Christian lifestyle, dedicated to serving God in the simplest manner," Jolin says. And I'd like to think that most Amish do just that.

So to have a show that singles out that faithful community for a frivolous and foul basic cable show seems not just a shame. It's almost an affront.

EPIISODE REVIEWS

AUGUST 13, 2013 

"Wayward Sons"

When Levi hears about a guy selling phones to Amish children out of the back of his car, he sends Caleb to take care of it. Caleb does so by smashing the car's windows and taillights and swearing the man off the property. If he comes again, Caleb tells a cameraman, "He's not going to be driving his car home. He's going to be riding in an ambulance."

Amidst characters quoting from the Bible, expressing faith in God and praying, violent threats abound. A house is broken into and ransacked, an ax found buried in a table. Jolin avenges a theft by stealing. Wayne breaks up an illegal milk-selling ring, smashing bottles (and cutting himself in the process).

We hear at least 35 bleeped s- and f-words. Also, "h---," "a--," "p---," "d--n" and "b--tard." We see the Amish drink and smoke. Someone undergoes an exorcism.

DECEMBER 19, 2012 

"Devil Comes Calling"

Merlin, an Amish "godfather" from Ohio, saunters into town, ostensibly in the hopes of "freeing" Lancaster County from Levi's control (and bringing it under his). He proceeds to enter a "pimped out" buggy contest, wowing the faithful with his flat-screen TV, stereo speakers and cross-shaped bling. He promotes his buggy through a series of profane rants as he sprays champagne.

John orchestrates a barn fight (money is made through liquor sales and betting pools) in which Jolin participates. After being hit repeatedly, he "chokes out" his opponent. We see other fights, all featuring MMA-style violence. Later, Jolin ushers Esther into his room. "If we're really going to do this, we're going to have to turn off our mics," he says as they shut the door.

"Interviewees" imply that the Amish are poorly educated and women are forced to be submissive. Insinuations (verbal and visual) are made about the violent capabilities of the Amish mafia. We hear about a former Amish who was caught with a car full of drugs. Esther says Levi was "p---ed off because [the guy] didn't give him a cut of it." We hear that Merlin spent time in jail for selling marijuana, and he says he had to be smart to avoid being someone's "b--ch." About 15 obscenities (either s-words or f-words) are partially censored. We hear "a--" a half-dozen times, along with "b--tard," "h---," colloquialisms for the f-word and misuses of God's name.

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John, Discovery Jolin - the subjects of "Amish Mafia" Discovery Channel

Channel show, they are not the oddest of pairings.

"Amish Mafia" explores the world of Lebanon Levi and his gang of three men, Jolin, John and Alvin. Together, the four act as "protectors" of the Amish community in Lancaster.

A graphic at the beginning of the episode states that the Amish church denies the group exists, but the camera crew appears to tell a different story through interviews and reenactments.

- [Complete coverage of the show, including episode recaps \(http://topics.pennlive.com/tag/amish-mafia/index.html\)](http://topics.pennlive.com/tag/amish-mafia/index.html)

Throughout the first episode, the mafia members drink, drive cars and gamble on cow pies. They blackmail bishops, threaten people and shoot up cars.

"Levi is the cops. He's the courthouse. He's the bank and he's the insurance company," says Esther, John's sister, during the series' first episode, which is slated to premiere at 9 p.m. Dec. 12. A sneak peek of the show will air at 10:30 Dec. 11.

The existence of an Amish mafia is news to Amish experts [Donald Kraybill](http://users.etown.edu/k/kraybill/index.htm) and [David Weaver-Zercher](http://users.etown.edu/k/kraybill/index.htm).

'AMISH MAFIA'

[Experts weigh in on series \(http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/12/amish_mafia_amish_experts_weig.html\)](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/12/amish_mafia_amish_experts_weig.html)

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<http://www.messiah.edu/departments/brs/faculty/dzercher.html>

professors at Elizabethtown College and Messiah College respectively.

"When I first saw the trailer [for the show], I thought maybe it was a 'Saturday Night Live' skit on reality television because it was so far fetched," Weaver-Zercher said.

"My seuse is this Amish mafia is about as real as the Dunder Mifflin Paper Company in 'The Office.'"



After researching the Amish for more than 20 years, Kraybill said he had never heard of anything like a group that the show depicts.

"When I've spoken about this program with Amish friends they've just kind of laughed and said they never heard of this kind of thing," he said.

"It's just sort of an example of the foolishness and stupidity and lies — misrepresentations I should say — that are promoted [about the Amish] in television."

Over the past year, the Amish have been a popular television subject. In April, National Geographic aired the 10-part series "Amish: Out of Order," which followed people who had left the church.

A similar show, "Breaking Amish" aired on TLC in September. "Breaking Amish" focused on four Amish and one Mennonite who moved to New York City. Needless to say drinking, drugs and promiscuous activity abounded.

These shows all challenged the traditional stereotype of the Amish being solid in their moral grounds. It's a counter narrative that has grown in popularity, according to Weaver-Zercher.

"I do think that oftentimes when a culture is romanticized as particularly chaste and moral, there will be those who try to undercut it," he said.

Indeed, the people on "Amish Mafia" behavior in a way that is opposite to what the Amish church preaches. They scheme for power, lust for money and manipulate those around them for personal gain.

Kraybill admits it makes for "interesting sensational television," but believes shows like "Amish Mafia" need to be up front when they present fiction.

"These production crews should be ashamed of trying to say that represents Amish life," he said.

"Amish Mafia" is not solely fiction, as it does reveal factual information about Amish life. The Amish Aid Fund, which in the show Levi helps distribute, does exist. The fund is built upon by donated funds from those in the church and is used to help less fortunate Amish members with health costs and sometimes property damage.

But the fund would be kept by an Amish church member, Weaver-Zercher said — not an unbaptized person such as Levi.

The show also goes to lengths to blur out faces and features an interview with a person entirely in silhouette, seemingly keeping with the Amish preference for not being on camera.

Still, Weaver-Zercher and Kraybill both believe the Amish would be disappointed in "Amish Mafia."

"They're not going to lose a lot of sleep about a show like this," Weaver-Zercher said. "But at the same time they would be discouraged that some Americans are basing their beliefs of Amish life on this show."

"They would find it disappointing."

At the end of the show, there is a graphic which reads: "Recreations are based on eye witness accounts, testimonials and the legend of the Amish mafia."

According to experts, the Amish mafia is nothing more than that — a legend.

For a more accurate look at Amish life, Kraybill suggests watching the film about the Amish on "American Experience," which is available for viewing online at www.pbs.org. (<https://blog.advance.net/midstate/html/editor-content.html?cs=utf-8>)

DETAILS: A sneak peek of "Amish Mafia" will air 10:30 p.m. Tuesday (Dec. 11) on Discovery Channel. The series premieres at 9 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 12). ^À

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 **Brad Kerns**

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Jan 10, 2013

This show is fake as hell. Here's a link for the truth <http://amishmafiafake.blogspot.com/>

 **gCat**

Jan 7, 2013

The Amish need to start paying TAXES like the rest of America. The show is fake but the their greed is real.

 **dpc.C**

Dec 29, 2012

Samuel Colt made every man equal, So don't tell me how they would get their butts kicked IRL. Im from Ohio originally and have come across a few Amish in my time and i have the utmost respect for these people and their lifestyles. Ive also seen how the Discovery channel and other also make things "LOOK" real. Moonshiners is another show that is ALL recreations and no liqueur is ever made on TV. One good example is "Merlin" and is the worst actor ever. Joline would get killed against a real MMA fighter also. Entertainment versus reality is two different things. Sadly the Amish cant fight back against the negative publicity this show brings them. Any other group would fight them in court if they were shown to be so bad on TV.

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 **Boulter**

Dec 26, 2012

Little boys John and Jolin would get their little asses kicked in the real world, trust me. And I'd love to do it to both of them.

 **Blyth**

Dec 26, 2012

Just "thug" wannabees..they would get their ass handed to them in my town.. They do act like the inbreds that they are. These clowns are losers

 **Oprah Mast**

Dec 24, 2012

I find this show VERY offensive. Having been born and raised Amish for 30 years before leaving I can say without a doubt that this show is FICTION. Why anyone, especially The Discovery Channel would air trash like this just boggles my mind. I think they should be sued for slander. Anyone that watches this and believes it is delusional. Yes, they have their problems, after all they are only human but this goes way to far. I watched most of it last night and it almost made me physically ill-why would anyone want to tear down the Amish like that? SICK!!! And the "actors" and the Discovery Channel ought to be ashamed of themselves.

 **Lynda Buchfeller**

Dec 24, 2012

Oh phooey...there have been articles in the newspaper about the cops investigating amish men being accosted and their beards cut off...now if there was Amish mafia wouldn't they be handling this instead of the cops? I'm not believing there is an such group as the amish mafia.

 **stehman805**

Dec 23, 2012

This show is ridiculous. Besides being totally opposite of what the Amish represent, they try to use some scripture here and there to make it seem legit. What this show really points out is how fake "reality" TV really is. And even worse, many shows like this are glorifying violent organizations such as the mafia, who are well known for abiding outside the law, and making it seem like it's something that is good. The Discovery channel has reached a new low with this.

 **Annie Svogar-Edwards**

Dec 23, 2012

Just want to clear something up about the arrest record for Levi. His real name is Levi King Stoltzfus, and his arrest record includes such heinous crimes as "Failure to use safety belt system" and a DUI where his BAC was .16, so yeah... Oh, and buying alcohol just months before his 21st birthday. All of this information is readily available through the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas website.

 **Rpbert MacDonald**

Dec 22, 2012

I watched this show once and immediately called "BS!!" Do they think that people are so in need for entertainment that we will believe that "Levi" is a Don Corleone of the Amish and that rival Ohio Amish Mafia Boss, "Melvin" is believable to be a bad ass. Obviously this show is a spoof and the actors portraying Amish people are not believable. The producers should be tarred and feathered for putting out such a blasphemous product !!!

 **Bruce Clark**

Dec 23, 2012

I believe it is "Merlin" from Ohio. The show may be BS, but it is still entertaining!

 **Chris Stoltzfus**

Dec 22, 2012

My parents grew up in the Amish church, I have lived with Amish neighbors most of my life right in the heart of the Amish country and I have to say that the "Discovery Channel" is NOT representing true Amish life. No doubt, the Amish have their problems that are hidden, but there is absolutely nothing like the Amish Mafia in Amish life. I hope people are wise enough not to believe such things!!! <http://www.shedsunlimited.net/>

 **dpgsmaw**

Dec 20, 2012

I do have to admit that I have watched the show. I am Italian and wanted to see what this "Amish Mafia" could possibly be about. I had always heard they were peaceful people. I do admit that I have to laugh at some of the things on this show, once I saw the disclaimer that some portions are re-enactments ETC. I have to wonder. First things first, John and Esther... You do realize that you are on TV right? You do realize that the thing you are trying to hide are being broadcast to the world right? John, if your crew drive cars I am willing to bet they watch the show, stop broadcasting that you have gone behind Levi's back on things. This is on TV and Levi will find out. Your lack of intelligence is really showing man! Do you guys not realize that once you put it on tape anyone can see it. Talk about your lack of education showing... HELLO!!! Esther, do you really think that the whole portion of you going into the room with John won't be seen by Levi? I am willing to bet that if these guys are driving cars they most likely own TV's. If this show is actually true you are in deep cow patties. Grow up and shut up about what you are planning. Esther, I am glad you know that Levi won't put up with you much longer... Talk to your brother, in a true mafia he is going to get himself killed.

 **John MiddletonIV**

Dec 20, 2012

I had always loved the Amish. Traveling through the highly romanticized Pennsylvania Dutch Region was always a delight. It never occurred to me that these people were anything but gentle. However, they are human, and there is sin in humanity. The only perfect person was Christ who taught love, peace and forgiveness. We are taught to strive to be more like Him. About 15 years ago Oprah did a show on the Amish, Mennonites, and several other "gentle" groups. The stories that were told made me physically ill. Here is one example, a 15 yr old girl had been sexually abused by her brother and father since early childhood. (I do not remember if she became pregnant or not). When she finally summoned the courage to tell the truth to the elders and her mother, she was called a liar and while not completely shunned, sent for a different type of discipline. Her mother took her to the dentist and had ALL of her teeth removed WITHOUT anesthesia. I said, and let it sink in, "WITHOUT anesthesia"...This was to keep her from speaking...The next time her tongue would be cut...What kind of mother would do this to her child? The poor child's mouth physically healed, and her resolve was steeled to leave this Hell on Earth. She slipped a message to a stranger that said, "Help Me Leave This Place". Which these wonderful people did. At the time of the Oprah show the young woman was about 23 and with the help of her new family and much therapy, she was living as normal a life as she could. However, she was mentally, physically, and spiritually scared by these "gentle" people. I am a devout Protestant. No where in ANY version/translation of the Holy Bible would this

type of treatment be condoned. It is wrong, and as much as these people would like to live within their own culture and be left alone, they live in the United States of America, where each of these acts perpetuated against a child or adult would warrant a jail sentence. We have laws in a civilized society to protect people who cannot protect themselves. While it is not perfect, it is the BEST in the world. I do not know about you, but this burst my bubble about the Gentle Amish. Perhaps this young woman's experience was unusual. However, it is my experience that behind EVERY story that comes to the light of day, we will find hundreds that are unreported... Perhaps these people are kinder and gentler than we, the English, but it seems to me that these people are just better at keeping their secrets out of the papers.

 **itslikeobviousman**

Dec 23, 2012

Really? A dentist pulled a young girls mouthful of teeth without any anesthesia? I hope he lost his license. You can't believe everything on TV

 **Elian Gonzales**

Dec 23, 2012

"... Christ who taught love, peace and forgiveness." But forgot to end slavery. Not so perfect.

 **Rpbert Brittnr**

Dec 16, 2012

How pathetic you all are ...with your hateful comments..... your lives are so disgusting and decadent you have to turn on one of the last groups of people on earth that still love God, live the life he wants you to live, and they are a credit to the human race.....and the producers of amish mafia...how sick and desperate! jersey shore aint bring in the rating anymore dirtbags??? God will be dishing out some over-due retribution very soon folks....much deserved....

 **Kfvyn Totten**

Dec 20, 2012

Well said.

 **Kata Sandberg**

Dec 16, 2012

nice.... personally, i LOVE this show.... & i hope it's real they NEED someone to protect them if the first place that some retarded guy goes to go on a child molesting spree is an amish schoolhouse. And what a joke..... "They treat women and animals like dirt" (elizabeth_aspen) Well, Elizabeth, it's a good thing we're out here with the rest of the American guys (the "English") cuz they treat us SO WONDERFULLY, don't they???? Yay. And IF "they" run "puppy mills," I would be completely surprised if the way they treated their animals would be ANYWHERE even CLOSE to what could or would be considered abusive, neglectful or "mill-like"..... I don't know personally but I doubt it & I hope not..... As for selling a bunch of chicken pot pies packed full of crystal meth or whatever, I say GO 4 it! The "English" are going to buy it somewhere; it might as well be there & then the money can go to buy more barn silos or buckets of hay or whatever; instead of going to the current scumbags who sell that stuff (who COULDN'T TREAT women, children, animals & pretty much anything else that is alive ANY worse if they TRIED

 **Eric Baca**

Dec 14, 2012

The word don't seem like an oxymoron, the basically are. I will not say that everything that they show on the program didn't happen, but the fact that it is reenacted does not lend it any credibility. The only reason that I actually watched it was because I was changing the channel, stumbled across it and like you thought it was a comedy skit. I am lucky my DISH Hopper auto-records the big four networks during prime time with the PrimeTime Anytime feature because I would have hated missing X Factor because got I distracted by this "reality" TV show.

 **Quincolo Boulderdude**

Dec 14, 2012

Charlie Ergen told me to tell you "great job, Eric!" Christmas bonus was mailed out this morning. You're gonna love the real HD Channels on the DirectTV free 30 day gift package bonus. Thanks, Man!

 **Jerry_stirkey**

Dec 13, 2012

I watched this show for the first time last night (12/12/12). My wife and I WANTED to be amazed & titillated but I couldn't allow it. As much as we WANTED to get swept-up & lost in this seedy fantasy, the fact remains that real organized crime wouldn't run around, doing shady things, with a full camera crew & boom mics hangin' over their heads. I have zero tolerance for "reality" television shows that utilize reenactments. I have even less tolerance for "reality" television shows that aren't real. In this day and age of this particular brand of second-rate TV ("reality"), one must ALWAYS ask them self, "Could this event happen, naturally, in front of a camera?" You cannot romance a lady ("The Bachelor"), burn stolen furniture in the middle of a road ("Amish Mafia"), Repossess someone's car ("Operation Repo"), kick it at the beach all summer, like a normal young adult ("Jersey Shore") etc... WITH CAMERAS IN YOUR FACE. Gosh I wish 'Amish Mafia' was true, though.

 **elizabeth_aspen**

Dec 12, 2012

I live in Lancaster and I don't know how true this Mafia stuff is, but I wouldn't put anything past the so-called "gentle people". They treat women and animals like dirt and the local cab drivers live for Rumspringa because they make a ton of money taking the knocked up Amish girls into town to get their abortions. Plus, anyone from Philly knows that Reading Terminal is just a front for the Amish to sell more than just shoo-fly pie.

GreektownDave

Dec 12, 2012

 **D**
...Reading Terminal is just a front for the Amish to sell more than just shoo-fly pie..." What is it you're alleging the Amish are covertly selling there? Crack? Given this claim and the incestuous-rape allegations you made in an earlier comment, you either have some terrific "inside sources", or have one heck of an axe to grind against the Amish....or both.

 **Chad Butler** Dec 19, 2012
elizabeth you are a liar. You have witnessed none of the things you are speaking of. Get a life. Quit trying to drag people down to your gutter whore level. The Amish while not perfect, are good people, and their dedication to God and community are to be commended.

 **Mprey Ladini** Dec 11, 2012
This actually belongs only on TRU TV...but it looks like the lines are blurring. Even Nat. Geo. channel is slumming these days. Ah, for the simpler times with more nature and WWII documentaries...

 **agus0408** Dec 10, 2012
So, all we have are two professor's word that this is not the truth?? Do they live among the Amish? Have they experienced their culture??

 **dstcoach2** Dec 10, 2012
They are indeed experts on things Amish.

 **Qpbi** Dec 11, 2012
I do live in Amish country and have close ties with many Amish families. They are very private in many ways and a joy to know once you are welcomed into their circle of friends. I am honored to be known as a friend by many of them. From the commercials I have seen on this program, I can cite a dozen things wrong, and nothing right, from no facial hair, no hats, tattoos present, showing their uncovered upper torso, the list could go on. Just don't believe everything you see on TV, even on Discovery, it is just entertainment sometimes.

 **EnglishBabe** Dec 11, 2012
I have the pleasure of sharing my 1/2 mile road I live on with 3 amish families. This is so far from the truth, it isn't even funny. These people are my friends, someone to be counted on in a crisis and they are always there to help their neighbor, be it amish or 'English'. When I get together with the ladies to quilt, butcher, can or what not, we gossip. I know who is pregnant (super big secret among amish), I know who HAD to get married in the fall, I know who's maggiage is rocky, they will share anything with you, if you have earned their trust. So when I asked them about this 'Amish Mafia' first they had no clue what I was talking about, then after explaining it to them, they howled and laughed. We 'English' are so gullible they said. I have lived my whole life around and next to amish. This is a crock of crap 'Amish Mafia'!

 **elizabeth_aspen** Dec 12, 2012
Actually, yes, Donald Kraybill has been around for years. I believe he was raised Amish and left after Rumspringa. He's consulted on every Amish show I've ever watched, so he must know more than the rest of us.

 **Qurl Fischer** Dec 18, 2012
I live among the Amish. This show is a JOKE! The Amish don't allow their pictures to be taken let alone taped. The Amish do not drive cars. They use horse and buggies.

 **gunwilltravel0** Dec 10, 2012
How far will this scum and filth called "The Entertainment Industry" go? The liberals will love this show. America is almost completely submerged in self-pleasure and wicked behavior, that surpasses any Nation since the beginning of time. Drugs, sex, abortions, and anything goes is the mantra of a fallen Nation. How far will this immorally go before a great backlash occurs?

 **trpnom** Dec 10, 2012
Wait a minute, what does being liberal have to do with this trash? I am liberal and I am insensed that the "entertainment industry" continues to use the Amish to make a buck. The other alleged Amish shows are also crap, lies, and complete falacies. The actors on "Breaking Amish" have been out of their communities for years. I absolutely respect the Amish for living their beliefs and staying as true to their culture as they can in this society. The only way this travesty will end is if people stop watching this crap. End of story.

 **elizabeth_aspen** Dec 12, 2012
Don't even try arguing with an arch-conservative. They still haven't evolved past the Old Testament. If you think you're going to convince them anyone outside their little fantasy world isn't evil, you're wrong.

 **Jennie Svogar-Edwards**

Dec 23, 2012

Really? Our debauchery surpasses any nation since the beginning of time? Somehow I rather doubt that. And it's NOT the "liberals" that will love this show, it's anyone who feels better by watching the moral failings of another. They're conservative and liberal alike. It has nothing to do with their socio-economic or political leanings.

 **Qh god how did this get here i am not good with computers**

Dec 10, 2012

BREAKING NEWS: TV Show Makes Something Up, People Stunned

 **Lyla Robbins**

Dec 10, 2012

This is about as believable as the Mermaid story that the discovery channeled aired. I thought that the discovery channel was supposed to air shows that informed/educated the viewers. Ya know, like American Choppers. It's sad when Americans turn to a channel like Discovery only to find the same filth that you can find on every other channel. The only difference is that we expect to see filth on most other channels. This show does a severe disservice to itself and the Amish community. The Amish are a peaceful people. They don't serve in our military, they don't believe in violence, and they don't go on TV. They would find this repulsive and repugnant and the typical crap that the English buy into. No wonder they feel we're all doomed to hell. I'm starting to agree.

 **Qh god how did this get here i am not good with computers**

Dec 10, 2012

Anyone who watches this show has probably grown dissatisfied with the plot depth and subtle dramatic nuances of Here Comes Honey Boo Boo. I wouldn't worry too much about them.

 **qfzabeth_aspen**

Dec 12, 2012

I don't know if you actually live amongst them or are just going by the Amish myth, but as someone who lives in Lancaster, I can tell you they are most definitely NOT as "peaceful" as you'd like to believe they are. Just because they keep to themselves and turn their noses up at us "English" doesn't make them peaceful. They still treat women like hogs and their horses like slaves, and keep their children ignorant without education so that they won't want to leave the church. How you get "peaceful" out of that is beyond me.

 **GreektownDave**

Dec 12, 2012

@elizabeth_aspen "...as someone who lives in Lancaster, I can tell you...the Amish are notorious for raping their daughters..." I'm sure many people are curious what the source of your information is and how many of these alleged rapes you know of and what you or anyone else has done about it. Since Amish communities aren't sovereign nations, crimes committed there by their members are still subject to our "English" justice system. So anyone, such as you, can report a crime like rape to local law enforcement.

 **Dpbi**

Dec 13, 2012

The Amish men I know treat their wives with love and respect, not as hogs as you put it. I too would like to know how you are aware of "daddy diddling daughters while mommy goes back to baking her pies". That is such a ridiculous statement. I am sorry you are such an unhappy person.

 **Lyon Newswanger**

Dec 23, 2012

Seriously? I think the start of these shows the population of Lancaster County has tripled! I was born in Ephrata, PA. Raised in Terre Hill, PA. My father was raised Joe Wenger Mennonite. My grandparents drove horse and buggy until their deaths. Many of my family members still drive horse and buggy. I have attended Amish and Mennonite weddings, funerals, and church services. I have worked with the Amish and Mennonites as a laborer. I have interactions with the Amish and Mennonites on a daily basis. I am probably one of the most submerged people you will find actually using a computer. This show is BS and I personally find your statements obscene and offensive. Just because there may be one or two bad eggs in the community doesn't mean it applies to the entire community. That's equal to saying that all black men are drug dealers. It's a stereotype that is absolutely untrue. Stop spreading your lies and trying to make my friends and family look bad.

 **Renate**

Dec 10, 2012

One thing that isn't a lie is how the Amish & Mennonites maintain puppy mills. That is something that most people don't realize in the rest of the US.

 **Dpbi**

Dec 11, 2012

Totally untrue. Not any more than English maintain puppy mills. I live in Amish country and can say that I have personally seen my Amish neighbors treat their animals better and kinder than some of my English neighbors. Yes, they are work animals, but they are not mistreated. And as for the Amish Mafia, what a joke. Let's air a program that a community that doesn't watch TV will

never see and won't bother to waste their time correcting the errors. Meet and get to know some Amish people before judging by a TV show, you might be surprised, they are really just people.....

 **gizabeth_aspen**

Dec 12, 2012

I live here too and I don't find them to be nice people at all. They sure want our money for their arts and crafts, but damn if they're willing to even give a smile or help out with some local directions. The Mennonites tend to be nicer than the Amish, though, and run great thrift shops and are much more helpful.

 **Qebi**

Dec 13, 2012

After reading through your comments up above maybe the reason you don't get even a smile is YOUR attitude. The Amish here in Western NY wave and smile whether they know you or not. Just as there are "grumpy" English I know there are "grumpy" Amish. Not fair to judge a whole culture by a few.

 **Qarl Fischer**

Dec 18, 2012

The Amish here in Indiana are the exact opposite of what you say. I drive them around (Yes, I have my ICC number.) . A lot of them know I suffered a stroke and can't work. They have, on more than one occasion, asked and offered to help me buy a house and just pay them back at 0% interest.

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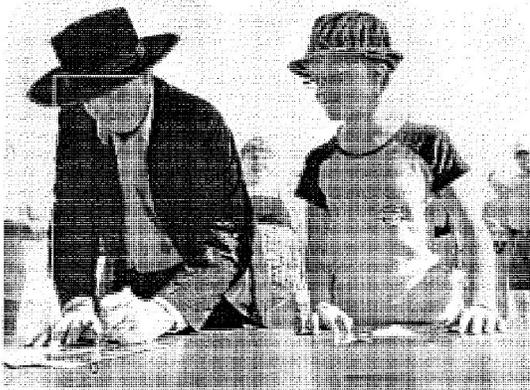
'Amish Mafia,' Lebanon Levi return for second TV season

By BRAD RHEN

Lebanon Daily News (mailto:bradrhen@ldnews.com?subject=Lebanon Daily News:)

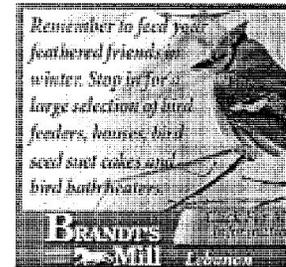
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Lebanon Levi signs a photograph for Anastasia Corp, 10, of Hanover at White's Harley-Davidson in Lebanon on Saturday, June 29, 2013. Corp is a local Goodwill Ambassador and plans on auctioning off the photograph at a dance that benefits Muscular Dystrophy. LEBANON DAILY NEWS - ASHLEY WALTER



 (undefined?source=BarHome)

Get your guns and your horse-and-buggies ready: "Amish Mafia" is back. The wildly popular though controversial Discovery Channel "reality" show, featuring arguably the most famous celebrity in Lebanon County history, returns for its second season on Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 9 p.m. Eastern time.

The show follows Lebanon Levi, portrayed by Richland resident Levi Stoltzfus, and his crew of henchmen as they administer justice and keep the peace in Lancaster County's Amish community.

The show's December 2012 premiere garnered 3.7 million viewers - a Discovery Channel record - and it was the highest-rated freshman series in Discovery Channel history.

Embed code: (<http://photos.ldnews.com/2013/08/12/photos-amish-mafias-lebanon-levi-in-lebanon-county/>)



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Check out what Lebanon Levi and his henchmen have been up to in Lebanon and Lancaster counties. (<http://www.spunge.com/notebooks/10153/>)

While millions of people across America know him, Levi remains an enigma locally. He's everywhere, but he's nowhere.

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Since Season 1 ended in January, Levi has appeared at fundraisers at White's Harley-Davidson in North Lebanon Township in June, at the Pineapple Closet in Myerstown in May and at Matthews Public Library in Fredericksburg in March. Despite his many appearances, little is known about the man behind the Lebanon Levi character.

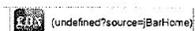
He's granted just one media interview - via email - to the New York Post on July 22. In the interview, he said he was very surprised the show did so well and talked about life as a celebrity.

"From where I grew up and where I come from it's an experience you never thought would happen," he wrote to the Post. "There were ups and downs, but once I got outside and met with people they cheered you right back up and I thank God every day for the fans. I never thought I'd be in shoes like this."

Michelle Voydik, a member of Richland Borough Council and daughter of Mayor Ronald Steiner, said she knows Stoltzfus and called him "a really nice guy."

"I'm on the recreation board, and he comes to some of the rec-board sponsored events," Voydik said. "You see him around town a lot, and he waves to you."

Despite Stoltzfus' celebrity status, Voydik said Stoltzfus still seems like an average guy.



"He's still regular old Levi from down the street," she said. "But a lot of other people are like 'Oh, it's Levi!'"

And, there aren't many people flocking to little old Richland hoping to catch a glimpse of the TV star, Voydik said.

"We're a really small town, and there's no highways coming through, so we're off the beaten path," she said.

Stoltzfus' name appeared recently in the Lebanon Daily News, but not for one of his public appearances. It was in the [police and fire log on July 26 \(http://www.ldnews.com/crime/ci_23732392\)](http://www.ldnews.com/crime/ci_23732392) after two men were caught on surveillance camera vandalizing his black 2013 Cadillac CTS and a vehicle belonging to a Harrisburg woman while they were parked on East Linden Street in Richland.

Of course, there could be another Levi K. Stoltzfus who drives a black Cadillac living in Richland.

Was the "crime" part of the show? If it was, it wouldn't be the first time Stoltzfus' name appeared in the paper for something that ended up as part of the show.

Back in August 2012, when he was just Neptune Fire Co. member Levi Stoltzfus, the Daily News reported that [Richland Borough Council gave approval for Stoltzfus "to set a mobile home on fire at the Richland carnival grounds under the condition that prior proof of liability insurance is provided to the borough office \(http://www.ldnews.com/latestnews/ci_21263744\)."](http://www.ldnews.com/latestnews/ci_21263744)

Stoltzfus told council a crew would film him combating a fire in the trailer for use in a Discovery Channel program, according to the article.

Well, wouldn't you know, in an episode during Season 1, Lebanon Levi's trailer went up in flames. The blaze was supposedly set by Levi's rival on the show, Merlin.

According to [Share](#) Discovery Channel news release, Season 2 will pick up where Season 1 left off. Two rivals, Merlin and Alan, have their sights set on Levi. Merlin, an Amish gangster himself from Ohio, wants to take over the rackets in Lancaster.

Alan, Levi's former friend, is out of prison and believes that Levi turned him in to local authorities, leading to his four-month stint in jail.

The new season will also continue to document the plight of Esther and her brothers, John and Freeman. Esther returns from North Dakota with her brothers in tow, ready to reclaim her family's once-proud name.

All the while, Levi is facing internal strife amongst his crew. His right-hand man, Alvin, was arrested in Florida, and crew member Jolin, a trained mixed-martial-arts fighter, quit the crew.

By the way, the Discovery Channel included this little disclaimer at the end of its new release:

"To protect participants and their family members, some identifying information and property has been changed. Some scenes have been reenacted."

Whatever could that mean?

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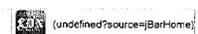
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Discovery Channel's 'Amish Mafia' premieres (http://www.ydr.com/local/ci_22181590/discovery-channels-amish-mafia-premieres?IADID=Search-www.ydr.com-www.ydr.com)

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Amish Mafia's Lebanon Levi

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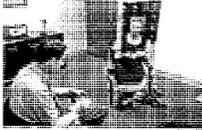


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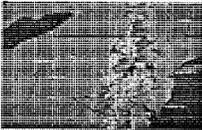
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'Amish Mafia,' TV review

Christmas is driving Merlin buggy as Lebanon Levi and his purported gangsters return

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 2:00 AM

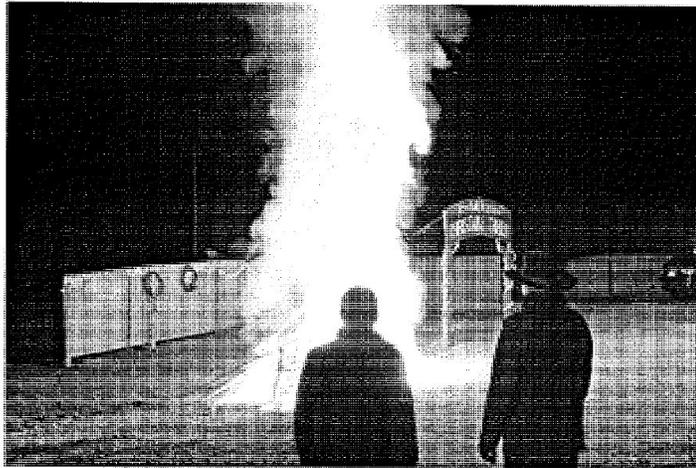
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BY DAVID HINCKLEY

★★★★★

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Lebanon Levi watches a tree burning in 'Amish Mafia.'

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

TITLE: 'Amish Mafia'
All you need to know about the "Christmas episode" of Discovery's bizarre "Amish Mafia" series is they blow up Santa Claus.

NETWORK / AIR DATE: Tuesday at 9 p.m., Discovery Channel
Okay, it's not the real Santa Claus. It's not even a person dressed as Santa Claus. It's a Santa Claus dummy of some sort.

Still, we see Amish preacher Merlin walking toward the camera and behind him, Santa Claus explodes, which immediately makes this Tuesday's "Amish Mafia" the weirdest "Christmas episode" you'll see anywhere on TV this year.

And just when you thought a series already full of "Huh?" moments couldn't find any more envelopes to push.

Merlin, you see, wants to rid Amish culture of Santa, who he feels corrupts the true spirit of Christ and the Christmas season.

He tells a classroom full of young schoolchildren that Santa is a devil who will lead them to hell. Santa wears gloves, Merlin says, because he doesn't have hands. He has hooves.



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Steve the Elf gets into the season's spirit in 'Amish Mafia.'

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Lebanon Levi, however, loves Santa, because Santa helps him make money marketing Amish Christmas stuff to "the English."

Lebanon Levi, for those who just tuned in, is the "Mafia" guy in the show's title. Levi bills himself as the protector of other Amish by taking enforcement and policing measures they sometimes won't.

He and Merlin don't get along, which leads to this tug-of-war over Santa.

When he's not sparring with Merlin, Levi presents a goat to his on-and-off girlfriend Esther, who says it's the best gift she ever got.

"Amish Mafia" isn't technically a sitcom. But technically, there's also no Amish Mafia.

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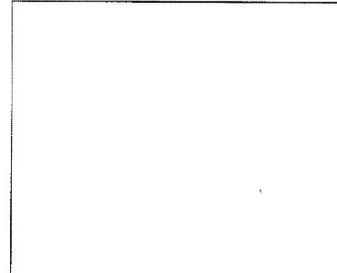
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TV & MOVIES

'Amish Mafia' reveals yet another side of the community that's currently fascinating TV viewers



BY DAVID HINCKLEY

Discovery follows up TLC's 'Breaking Amish' with another reality show, this one set within the Lancaster, Pa., Amish community and focusing on how it polices itself

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Sunday, December 9, 2012, 6:00 AM

A A A



Some of the real-life cast members of 'Amish Mafia,' including Lebanon Levi (2nd from r.) and Jolin, an armed Mennonite (r.).

Call it amusing that in a country where 80% of the population would do anything to get on reality television, some of the hottest subjects right now are people who don't even watch TV.

There are an estimated 250,000 Amish in the U.S. They carve out their own subculture, apart from the mainstream "English" world and its forbidden modern accessories like electricity and automobiles.

Their tenacity in maintaining this life has long made the Amish a subject of fascination, which in turn makes it almost irresistible for reality television.

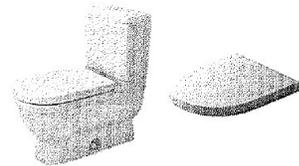
So Discovery, whose sister channel TLC scored big this year with the controversial "Breaking Amish," is now set to unveil "Amish Mafia," with a preview Tuesday at 10:30 p.m. before it debuts in its regular slot Wednesday at 9 p.m.

Dolores Gavin, senior vice president of development at TLC, says the original motivation for picking up "Amish Mafia" wasn't much more complicated than a sense viewers would be interested.

"We want to explore things people are curious about," she says.

The title is a little more provocative than general curiosity, of course, and it correctly suggests that this show will poke into a part of Amish culture most viewers wouldn't have imagined could exist.

"Amish Mafia" documents, quite matter-of-factly by reality-show standards, a small group within the Lancaster, Pa., Amish community that serves as an officially unacknowledged policing force.



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Leah Remini is a reality TV star — and it's all thanks to her mom. The celeb opened up about her new



Overseen by an Amish man named Lebanon Levi, this unit takes care of problems, from damage claims for accidents to lapses in personal morality.

"I think people understand today that 'Mafia' doesn't just mean Italians from the 1950s," says Gavin. "This is a group that performs certain functions within the community and in return derives power."

If "Amish Mafia" sounds like an oxymoron, it quickly starts to look quite real.

Levi, with the help of several associates who do his investigating and much of his enforcing, doesn't come off like Tony Soprano, where heads end up in bowling bags.

We see guns and we hear threats and we're aware of words you never see in the Bible, though they're diplomatically bleeped out.

One of Levi's deputies, Jolin, is a Mennonite, so he's allowed by the Mennonites somewhat more relaxed strictures to carry a gun and drive a car.

When an outsider clips and damages an Amish woman's buggy with his car, Jolin pays him a visit. When he essentially tells Jolin, "Whatcha gonna do about it, pal?", Jolin blasts a hole in his windshield.

"Since the Amish tend to be passive, people outside sometimes take advantage of them," explains Gavin. "And since the Amish don't go to the police, Levi provides a way to handle things like this inside the community."

Officially, Levi's job is to administer the "Amish fund," into which most of the community pays. Since the Amish do not carry traditional insurance, this fund reimburses people for property damage, health costs and other unforeseen expenses.

"Levi basically decides how the money is distributed," says Gavin. "You can see the power this gives him."

Levi himself talks pretty openly to the cameras about how he takes care of business and resolves disputes.

Many of these disputes don't involve money, and that's where Gavin rightly notes that the series provides its most revealing glimpses of Amish culture.

In the first episode, a woman tells Levi she suspects a married female neighbor is being regularly visited by a man who is not her husband, a violation of Amish code so serious that the woman could be shunned.

The neighbor contacts Levi to see if the problem can be resolved without going to the bishop, who might be forced to decree strict punishment.

Levi sends Jolin and another deputy, John, to stake out the house. They have no qualms, nor do they consider the surveillance intrusive. John explains with some amusement that because the Amish have no TV or other media distractions, neighborhood gossip often becomes the primary community entertainment.

"Everybody," he says, "is in everybody's business."

When the man in this case does indeed visit regularly, John and Jolin speak to the woman, who says her husband left her and this man was helping out around the house. When he demanded sexual favors, she says, she told him to leave.

They then track down the man and tell him he'd better not show up there again.

This might seem like a private matter, Gavin says, but to Levi and his associates, it involves the interests of the whole community.

"Levi really sees himself as doing good," she says. "He feels this helps the community be better and more moral."

In return, though, she notes, he takes some rewards not available to the rest of the community.

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"I can pretty much guarantee," Gavin says with a laugh, "that it's the only one in the community."

And how does that work?

A woman named Esther, who is Amish but has some English-world ideas and becomes a central character in this show, says it's simple: The church just looks the other way, because even though it cannot acknowledge the things Levi does, it sees their value.

"What's most interesting about this show," says Gavin, "is those kinds of glimpses into the community.

"Even though the vast majority of Amish are good, observant, pious people, they're still human, and I think you see that here.

"For instance, we find out later in the series that Levi takes some people to a place where there is television and Internet access."

"Amish Mafia" differs from most previous reality shows like "Breaking Amish" and the 2004 "Amish in the City" on UPN, because it doesn't take Amish people outside the community. It stays within, so even though most of the faces are pixelated and Gavin says the producers respected requests for privacy, it's still an unusual inside look.

While TLC took flak for "Breaking Amish" because some of the participants had more worldly backgrounds than the show at first suggested, Gavin says the background of the "Amish Mafia" characters will become part of the story.

"We've been working about two years on this," she says. "It took a long time to get their trust. But once we did, they open up in some remarkable ways."

The difficulty in filming where cameras are forbidden makes Amish shows challenging to create, a dilemma Lifetime will circumvent Jan. 6 with a movie called "An Amish Murder," starring Neve Campbell.

But perhaps the surest sign that the Amish will have an ongoing presence on TV was a recent episode of the CBS sitcom "2 Broke Girls" in which the girls run into two young Amish men, in traditional attire, exploring the action in Brooklyn.

Turns out there's also some interesting action back home.

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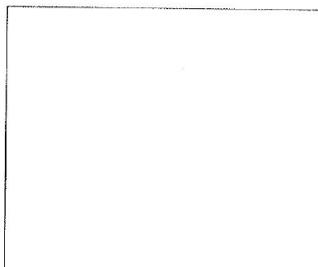
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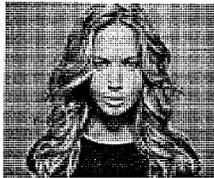


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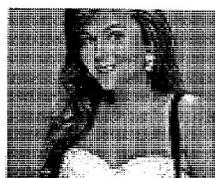
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Alan Beiler, cast member in Discovery Channel's new reality show "Amish Mafia" was introduced as an event planner for Mafia boss, Lebanon Levi, when the show aired on Dec. 12. The fact that he was a professional actor and owned his own production company that features Amish models and actors never came up, but that didn't stop viewers from finding out.

News of his connections to Sabrina High, cast member of "Breaking Amish", recently surfaced. Shortly after the information was published, Alan Beiler's online documents mysteriously disappeared.

But that doesn't stop viewers from accessing his pitch of Amish reality show ideas in the comment section of an article on She Knows Reality TV.

Beiler titles his post "Amish Reality Show - Vie Bish!". Vie Bish! is the name of Beiler's production and modeling agency.

Although Alan Beiler did not suggest a show about the Amish Mafia, he did suggest filming Amish parties, the content of much of the first episode of "Amish Mafia". He also suggested filming "English" people trying to live an Amish lifestyle.

Beiler's suggestions for an Amish reality show were dated Sept. 21, 2005, nearly seven years before the filming of "Breaking Amish" and "Amish Mafia".

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The Discovery Channel series Amish Mafia is a hoax? It should be titled "New Law and Old Order", "Black and Blue Sects", "Still Slurry Still Runs Deep", "Plain Plains People Persevere", "Bishop Rooked by Pawn Queen", "Buggy Boggle Babe", or Sects and the City".

The possible episodes are endless. When the Amish need lumber to make furniture, they go to Oregon and join the tree cutters, then on to Alaska to float logs down the Yukon River to the ocean and meet the Most Dangerous Job fishing fleet and chain the logs together for the journey to Panama and up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Amish Country in Holmes County. Then they mill the logs and make basketball floors for the NCAA tournament again in a large barn Apple Creek, OH. The Amish Mafia could control the sale of tickets and the betting on the playoffs and soon Ohio becomes the new gambling capital of the world. People flock to Kidron and Millersburg by way of the Long-Hair Lines busses and the hotels in Walnut Creek and Wilmot become casinos, tax exempt as the Amish are declared another tribe of Native Americans who have "reservations" about modern society. The Plain People of the plains of the Midwest finally take control of the Amish Territories of PA, OH, MI, IN, WI, MN, IA, CO, WA, OR, CA, TX, FL, AK, etc. and then they overtake the GOP as the dominant conservative political party.

Led by grass roots "Pee Party" meetings at outhouses across Amish Country, the 2016 Amish Conservative Party convenes in a large barn in Apple Creek, OH to nominate as president Levi the Enforcer. The PAC of the Mennonite & Amish Natural Use of Recycled Emissions (M.A.N.U.R.E.) unites the union vote for Levi. With the swing states swinging on free Amish free swings and "free heat" from Amish IR fireplaces, the country goes for an Amish president and the capitol is moved to Kidron, OH, just behind Lehman's Hardware on the old Nussbaum farm. It could happen! Remember the defense plant threat in the "24" series? Thousands were feared dead, (that's thousands of chickens at Gerber Poultry in Kidron). Levi resolves the Middle East problem by turning off all electric power to the Iranian centrifuges



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and the nuclear threat is over. Levi uses stretch limo diesel pickups from Kidron Body instead of gas limos for his staff and the price of fuels falls to an all time low as the US solves the energy crisis by making oil and gas from manure slurry. In the final episode, global warming from the biofuels plant at the palle/mulch factory in Kidron melts the ice in the massive parking lot at the Mennonite Christian High School and again floods the village of Kidron (now a city). The US Capitol is swept down the Brook Kidron, into Sugarcreek, and ends up in the mud of the Mississippi Delta at New Orleans with the rest of the debris from Katrina. The country reverts to a socialistic state like the Amish community is today where people help each other and they don't accept Social Security or Medicare/Medicaid or need fire insurance for their barns and houses or medical insurance for health care. A utopian dream? Go to Amish country, eat a chicken dinner, spread a dollop of Smucker's Apple Butter on a buttered roll, and enjoy some apple pie with creamy Graeter's Ice cream from Orville Milk Co at one of the Amish restaurants and you will become a believer. We could use some Amish Mafia tactics to solve the Financial Cliff Crisis!

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SUSAN

0

533 days ago

I have been saying for years, the Amish are a "money making machine". They call themselves the plain people, yet they set their culture up to be a tourist attraction. They don't pay taxes and all there money stays within their own community. And now, they are a reality show. Living a lie.

Like [REPLY](#)

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APPLECREEKER

0

532 days ago

Like Levi the Enforcer, the Mennonites are the problem. They are the ones who traffic and profit from the Amish culture tours and commercialism. If you see a picture of the Amish, the Mennonites or "Englshers" took it. Don't confuse the Old Order Amish with the Mennonites. Or the Old Order Mennonites with the Amish. Or the "Black & Blue" Mennonites with the Brethren. Or..... you really have to have a scorecard to keep track in Amish/Mennonite Country! Go to Millersburg and ask for Andy Miller and you will get my drift.

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CRYSTAL SCHEWIRE

0

509 days ago

They do indeed pay taxes. I have amish neighbor and I take care of their horse and sometime drive them to places. But they do love money. We call the the Pennsylvania Jews. In lancaster it's all tourist, but in lebanon county where I live, it's not.

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EXHIBIT K



'Amish Mafia': Is it real or fake? Network says it's real; Lancaster Countians doubt it

The Associated Press By The Associated Press

on December 31, 2012 at 11:10 AM, updated February 28, 2013 at 11:24 AM

LANCASTER, Pa. — Discovery Channel claims **its new series, "Amish Mafia,"** has broken viewership records for its portrayal of previously unseen law-enforcers among the Amish community here.

A national ratings system and local feedback indicate people are tuning in in droves to watch Lebanon Levi, Jolin the Mennonite and their gang of "protectors."

A Discovery executive insisted in a recent interview that **the characters** are genuine Amish and Mennonite folks living in Lancaster County, not paid actors. "They are actual people," Laurie Goldberg, Discovery's vice president of public relations, said last week. "These are real people in the Amish and Mennonite communities."

The network also claims that while many events on the show are re-enacted, they are based on actual happenings.

In its first three episodes (and a few spinoffs), the series depicts Levi's crew wielding guns in fancy cars while confronting violators of the Amish community.

Local viewers claim they know better.

"That fighting mentality isn't even there," said Jeffrey Conrad, local defense attorney and former prosecutor who has litigated "scores" of cases involving the Amish. "We can't even get them to file lawsuits when we suggest it."



[View full size](#)

Lebanon Levi (left) is the Amish insider who holds the power and serves as protector of the community for a price.

Discovery Channel

Conrad said he recently did an interview for an ABC news show regarding Amish behavior here —Conrad believed it was in response to Discovery's series. Conrad said the interview was halted when he didn't tell stories of guns, avid partying and other mayhem depicted in the series.

During his seven years as a local prosecutor, he heard of no such "mafia" group. "We would have gone after them," he said.

Other critics have created spoof social-media pages, including one by someone posing as Lebanon Levi, another by someone purporting to be Amish Alvin, and a catchall page, simply titled "Amish Mafia is Fake."

On those pages, hordes of followers post wisecracks and take shots at Discovery's vision of the allegedly untold side of the Amish.

The debate rings on as the network stands by the events, as does a prominent player on the show, local attorney Steven Breit.

Fact or fiction, almost everyone seems to be talking about the series.

"The show displayed another side of the Amish people," Breit said. "Folks in Lancaster County are having a hard time coming to grips with that. You've got people (here) looking at it with a jaundiced eye."

Breit said he doesn't confirm or deny the events on the series, but says he has heard of such activity while defending many Amish folks over the years. "The events are re-creations," he said. "I can't speak for the embellishments."

Local skeptics debunked several story lines and content in the series, including:

Lebanon Levi

- On the show: Levi is the leader with a criminal past who meets clients and other appointments inside a hay-lined barn office. His alleged rap sheet was displayed in the debut episode as proof.
- Reaction: Breit claims to have knowledge of Levi (though he never represented him) and says his criminal record is "verified." Conrad said he asked his Amish connections directly about such a person. "Who?" they responded, according to Conrad. "Across the board, no one heard of him."

A little fuzz-y

- On the show: Listed atop Levi's "rap sheet" and mentioned by a show narrator as the arresting agency is "Lancaster County Police."
- Reaction: Hard to dispute, there is no such thing. There is a Lancaster City Bureau of Police, but no countywide force.

Bad business

- On the show: Members of the "mafia" are shown walking out of local stores tucking away envelopes of money, allegedly earned by protecting local merchants.
- Reaction: At least one local business depicted in the show says it just isn't true. The business claims it never paid out protection fees.

Down by the river

- On the show: Claiming to be based in the heart of Amish country — south-central Lancaster County — one scene shows characters John and Esther chatting on a river bank.
- Reaction: Locals are shaking their heads at this one, too. Many recognized the backdrop as a riverside park in Columbia, where the Amish population is next to nil. Not to mention, the location is on the county's western edge, which would represent quite the hike in a horse-drawn buggy. One Columbia resident said: "I actually saw them setting up for the scene at the Columbia River Park while I was working. Totally staged."

Working professionals?

- On the show: The characters in Levi's crew are the real deal — not paid actors, Goldberg says.
- Reaction: Locals have pointed to some characters' lack of Pennsylvania Dutch — or Pennsylvania German, as experts call it — dialect and accent. Yet Breit says he wasn't paid for his segments on the show, and he isn't aware of any casting call for the main characters.

But are they Amish?

- On the show: Look no further than the series title for proof that Discovery is presenting the characters as genuinely Amish (even though Goldberg said some characters are Mennonite).
- Reaction: There is a big difference between the two faiths. Also, a local professor pointed out, Levi is touted as being an Amishman who was never baptized. Baptism is essential in the Amish faith: Either you're

in or you're out, said Elizabethtown College professor Donald Kraybill, a prominent researcher of Anabaptist culture. Also, Kraybill and others observed, genuine Amish folks wouldn't appear on camera, as the faith forbids it.

The series rolls on with a new episode slated for Wednesday. Breit said he was told only five episodes have been produced, but the network is working on more.

Discovery reported that 3.64 million viewers watched the series premiere on Dec. 12 and 3.41 million tuned in for a sneak-preview show the night before.

Information from: Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era, <http://lancasteronline.com>

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EXHIBIT L

examiner.com

'Breaking Amish' paves way for new the Amish reality show 'Amish Mafia'



Frederick M. Brown/Getty



Emma Riley Sutton
Oklahoma City Top News Examiner
| Follow:

November 11, 2012

The Discovery Channel is following the example their sister station set with their alleged reality show "Breaking Amish" with an Amish docu-series of their own, "Amish Mafia." The report was updated on Nov. 9 with additional details about this new show set to debut in December.

The New York Post reported on Nov. 8 that "Amish Mafia" is about a group of men who work together to "protect" the Amish community in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Four men enforce

justice within the community and the church elders do not appear to mind, despite their "un-Amish" methods. It appears that "**Breaking Amish**" has sparked new interest in the Amish and their way of life.

Levi is the leader of the "Amish Mafia." He is a member of the Amish community in Lancaster, but not a member of the Amish church since he was not baptized. Because he was not baptized, he is able to walk the line between the Amish world and the world

of the English. His three "henchmen" are Jolin, Alvin and John. All four men take the law into their own hands and work together to enforce the laws on the Amish in Lancaster.

Levi and his henchmen will be seen catching an Amish man with a prostitute. "Amish Mafia" will also show the men threatening an Amish man asking for sexual favors in return for lending her money. Most of the scenes will be re-enacted to protect the identities of those involved.

"Amish Mafia" will premier on Wednesday, Dec. 12 on Discovery.

EXHIBIT M

examiner.com

'Amish Mafia' spoiler released during 'Breaking Amish' finale



Frederick M. Brown/Getty



Emma Riley Sutton
Oklahoma City Top News Examiner
| Follow:

November 12, 2012

The Discovery Channel has their own Amish television show which will begin airing in December. A spoiler to this new show aired during the final episode of "Breaking Amish" on Nov. 11. It seems that viewers can not get enough of the Amish.

"Amish Mafia" follows four men who work to protect their Amish community. Not all of their actions are within the laws of the Amish, but church leaders appear to not notice. Seeing that Levi, the leader of the group, was never

baptized in the Amish church, he has more leeway with what he can do.

The trailer shows Levi, John, Jolin and Alvin setting a fire and carrying guns. This would be forbidden, if Levi had been baptized. Seeing he isn't an actual member of the Amish church, he is able to zigzag the line that separates the Amish from the "English."

The purpose of the "Amish Mafia" is to take care of the Amish. One reason for this is that the Amish do not buy insurance and the "Amish Mafia" keeps the Amish in line and prevents them from causing financial trouble in their community.

With "Breaking Amish" ending and no information as to whether or not there will be a **second season of "Breaking Amish,"** this new show just might fill the void. Viewers have proven that they love watching television about the Amish. The "Breaking Amish" cast appears to have paved the way for at least one more television show that exposes the lives of the Amish.

EXHIBIT N

examiner.com

'Amish Mafia:' Premiere date set by the Discovery Channel



Frederick M. Brown/Getty



Emma Riley Sutton
Oklahoma City Top News Examiner
| Follow:

November 13, 2012

Following in the footsteps of their sister station's hit reality show, "Breaking Amish," the Discovery Channel has created another television show based on the Amish. That television show, "Amish Mafia," according to a report dated Nov. 13, is scheduled to air on Dec. 12.

TVByTheNumbers also reported there will be a sneak peak of "Amish Mafia" on Tuesday, Dec. 11. The new show is about a group of men who protect an Amish community in Lancaster,

Pennsylvania. The four men render their own form of peace and justice with the Amish community. That peace and justice doesn't always follow the rules of the Amish.

The "Amish Mafia" consists of four men. Levi is the leader of the group. He is Amish, although he was never baptized in the Amish church. This allows him to operate in ways that could be frowned upon by the Amish. Alvin is another member of the group. He has a shady past. Jolin is also a member of the group. This Mennonite man serves as Levi's "foot soldier." Jolin is the one who has the most leeway, seeing he is not Amish. John is the youngest member. He is the son of Levi's predecessor.

Unlike "Breaking Amish," "Amish Mafia" is not a reality show. Many of the scenes will be re-enactments, to protect the privacy of those involved. "Amish Mafia" will offer viewers a rare look inside the underbelly of the Amish community and how the Amish "take care of their own."

The unusual insights "Amish Mafia" will give viewers a new "Amish fix" and may prove to be as successful as "Breaking Amish." Those interested in the dark side of the Amish community should watch the Discovery Channel on Dec. 11 for the sneak peak into "Amish Mafia."

EXHIBIT O

examiner.com

'Amish Mafia' leader in charge of Amish community's finances



Frederick M. Brown/Getty



Emma Riley Sutton
Oklahoma City Top News Examiner
| Follow:

November 30, 2012

The Discovery Channel is exposing the "Amish Mafia" in their latest television show with the same name. In a report dated Nov. 29, it was revealed that Lebanon Levi, the leader of this vigilante group of Amish and Mennonite men, is also in charge of the community's finances.

The Daily Mail also reported on Nov. 29 that Lebanon Levi uses the community's money, known as "Amish Aid" to help those who have been wronged by crime in the Amish

community. The Amish mafia fight crime and settle injustices that the Amish do not feel comfortable going to the "English" authorities.

An example used in an upcoming episode of "Amish Mafia" of Lebanon Levi taking care of those wronged is when he uses the Amish Aid to take care of a woman who was being blackmailed into performing sexual favors for an Amish man for money. The woman's husband deserted her and she was having financial difficulties. Lebanon Levi stepped in and stopped the man from taking advantage of her and provided the financial assistance she needed.

Unlike "Breaking Amish," the hit series on TLC which recently ended, many of the scenes in "Amish Mafia" are re-enactments. The Discovery Channel chose to do this to protect the members of the Amish community.

The Amish church **denies the existence of the Amish mafia**. Many others in community and familiar with the Amish also deny that the Amish mafia exists. **"Amish Mafia" was called "trash TV"** by a professor at Elizabethtown College who is familiar with the Amish community and their lifestyle. Critics of "Amish Mafia" believe that the Discovery Channel is fabricating the story in hopes of **filling the void left when "Breaking Amish" ended**.

EXHIBIT P

examiner.com

'Amish Mafia' to maintain peace and order on the Discovery channel



Discovery channel



Holly Tong
Nashville Pop Culture Examiner
| Follow:

December 3, 2012

'Breaking Amish' recently ranked as TLC's top rated freshman series. Fans were enthralled with the cast members, and all the speculations and rumors surrounding the show made it that much more interesting. It has become apparent that viewers are fascinated with the Amish community, and now that 'Breaking Amish' is over, it doesn't come as a surprise that another show surrounding their lifestyle is on hand to fill the void.

'Amish Mafia' will begin airing on the Discovery channel on Wednesday, December 12 at 9/8c. The web is already flooding with different opinions on the Amish inspired show, just as 'Breaking Amish' did.

The Discovery channel has provided an inside look at the new series that will surround the lives of four men known as the 'Amish Mafia' in Lancaster County, PA. As their statement reveals, some Amish in this community are simply untrusting of outside law enforcement, so they have regularly turned to a small organized group of these four men for protection and justice.

On Tuesday, December 11, at 10:30 PM ET/PT, viewers will get a sneak peak of these men who supposedly keep the peace in Lancaster, Co.

Understandably, the 2006 school shootings in this country which included five young Amish girls being senselessly murdered, and five more seriously injured by a non-Amish milk truck driver completely shook this community, and further reinforced the need for increased protection and justice for this quiet, peaceful group of people. So, who exactly are these men?

Lebanon Levi is the leader of the pack. He is above the law, and apparently serves a triple role as police, judge, and jury. Though he and his team live within the Amish community, they are also involved in the outside world. They do however keep outside sources from negatively affecting the Amish community, and they keep peace, morality, and principles in order.

Levi's right hand man is Alvin, and he is the point of contact for Levi. The two are lifelong friends. We are told that Alvin has a dark side, and a past, but he loyal to protecting Levi, and the two share a mutual trust. Will some of Alvin's dirty laundry will be airing on national TV? Probably so.

Also, in the mafia is Jolin, who is a Mennonite. Jolin's role is Levi's foot soldier. As a non-Amish member, Jolin's job is to punish offenders of all levels.

John, who is the baby of the group, is also the son of the man who used to be the leader of protection in the community, before Levi took over. As a result, John has a desire to be the man in Levi's role. This can lead one to believe that we are perhaps in store for some male drama, as there may be some animosity between the two men. If there isn't any disagreement between cast members, it likely wouldn't be making its way to the Discovery channel, now would it?

Even prior to this show's airing, the Discovery channel has already acknowledged that the Amish church denies the existence of the 'Amish Mafia.' We have also been informed that some identifying information and property has been changed, and that some of the scenes have been reenacted. Perhaps, this show wants to start out on more of an honest, transparent note than 'Breaking Amish,' did and tell us many truths

up front? However, we can all reassured that there will be controversy over this new series.

Will you be tuning in to 'Amish Mafia' next week? What are your thoughts on this new series?

EXHIBIT Q

examiner.com

'Amish Mafia' sneak peek: Drama, confrontation, stake outs & power struggles



Discovery Channel



Holly Tong
Nashville Pop Culture Examiner
| Follow:

December 11, 2012

On Tuesday, Dec 11, Discovery Channel provided us with an inside sneak peek of what we can expect with the new series, 'Amish Mafia.'

Lancaster Co. PA is one of the oldest Amish settings in the United States. They lead quiet, respectful lives, seeking to be close to God.

However, since the Amish people are so peaceful and have a 'turn the other cheek' attitude, there are people that try to take advantage of that, and disturb the peace. Apparently that is

where the Amish Mafia steps in. This independent defense circle is there to ensure that everything is running in order in the Amish community. They are a group that operates outside of Amish law, and the Amish church denies their existence. Allegedly, the elders just look the other way.

As the show begins, Esther an Old Order Amish introduces us to their way of life. She and her brother John lost their father when they were young. John just happens to be

one of the Amish Mafia members. He is the youngest of the group, and he brings forth a power struggle and a rivalry for Levi, creating male drama. He wants the top position, and wants to edge Levi out of the driver's seat. Esther encourages him to be a soldier for now, and to wait it out.

Levi, the leader of the pack never got baptized in the church, so no one tells him what he can and cannot do. He is said to be the courthouse, the bank, and the insurance company.

One of the cast members describes the leader of the pack this way, "Levi...he's a great guy, but if you cross him...he's not afraid to crack some skulls."

Levi is accused in multiple acts of disorderly conduct. It was recalled that one time Levi had someone put a gun to his chest, and it didn't even phase him...he just broke their arm. Lancaster Co. Police refused to comment on Levi's record. Levi is also in charge of handling the communities' money. If someone cannot work, or has a problem, they make a claim with Levi.

Jolin is Levi's foot soldier and go to guy anytime he needs work done. This Mennonite member is not afraid to get into confrontation. He does some of the work for Levi that the others cannot.

John , Esther's little brother that wants Levi's job is the main breadwinner of his family. Yes, he also appears in criminal reports just in case you're wondering.

Then we have Alvin, Levi's right-hand man. If anyone wants to get to Levi, they must go through him. Guess what? He also has a police record that they will not comment on.

During the sneak peek, we see stake outs, spying, confrontations, and drama. One of the first cases we run across is a woman that has had a buggy accident. The man hit her, and ran. The Mafia comes to her seeking answers. Jolin goes and approaches the man that the woman describes, and is told to get off his property. Jolin lets him know he's not intimidated, and shoots his high-powered gun right through the window of his car that hit the buggy.

We also see the mafia spying on an Amish woman that has another man other than her husband coming over. The guy claimed he was helping her financially since her husband left her. However, the last time he came to give her money, he asked for a sexual favor in return. The mafia intervened to ensure she was being respected.

Alas, we run across a situation in which an important member in the Amish community is meeting prostitutes. He is approached by the mafia who take pictures of him in his shameful infidelity state.

We also learn in this episode that Levi has a thing for Esther. Esther knows it, but knows the ways of him. She said his generosity doesn't come without a price.

Previews for the series premiere reveal that Esther is a wild child....and apparently has a thing for Jolin...or at least he thinks? Ahhh...you know what this means, right? A love triangle, of course. Levi wants to believe that Esther is his woman, but she has eyes for one of his partners in crime.....or peace, whichever you want to call it in this instance.

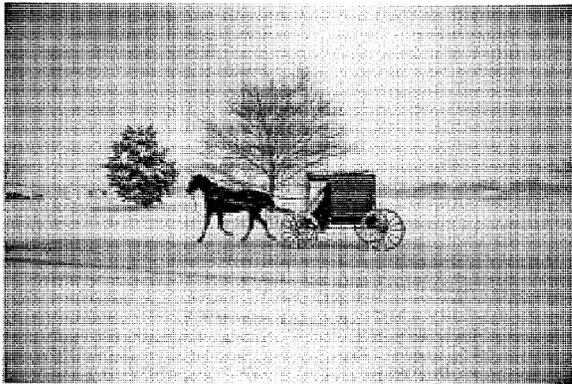
The series premiere kicks off Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 9/8c on Discovery channel.

EXHIBIT R

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' preview on Discovery 'The Devil's Cut: Witness to Wicked'



Getty Photos



Diane Zoller-Ciatto
Edison TV Examiner
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December 12, 2012

"Amish Mafia" starts tonight with this preview episode, titled "The Devil's Cut: Witness to Wicked."

Levi is the head of the Amish Mafia; he is the law enforcer. Being Amish means they are all Christians. Among the Amish are The Old Order Amish who is true to the Amish tradition. They work six days a week. They have no lights except for propane ones. They also have only cold water in their homes. They do not drive cars, and

law and order is enforced by the Amish Mafia, of which Levi is the head. The church officials look the other way when it comes to Levi because he was never baptized, therefore, they have no jurisdiction over him or what he does.

In the Amish community, Levi is the cops, the courthouse, the bank, and he is the insurance company. Steven Breit, a criminal defense attorney with emphasis on Amish individuals charged with criminal offenses. According to the records, Levi has engaged in multiple acts of illegal behavior. The Lancaster Police have refused to comment about Lebanon Levi, as he is known to them.

If somebody has a problem with another person, and they cannot resolve it, Levi is called in. Jolin is his top man; he is a Mennonite, who can drive a car and can do other jobs that the other Amish cannot do. John is another of Levi's men.

One of the non-Amish people in the area hit a buggy and broke the wheel as a lady was driving her buggy home. It was a white four-door car that should have damage. Jolin went to visit the guy who owned the car that hit the buggy and after trying to speak with him, the man told him to get off his property. When he found the car, it had front end damage, so Jolin shot a hold in the windshield through the driver side.

Alvin is Levi's right-hand man; he drives a black Mercedes and is the liaison between the world and Levi; he will protect him at all costs. Alvin has spent time in jail for his actions.

A woman whose face is blacked out goes to Alvin, who brings her to Levi. She is concerned for her neighbor. A man has been visiting her recently, and no married woman should be alone with another man. She is a good person, and rather than go to the bishop, the woman wants Levi to visit her before she goes astray. Adultery can get one thrown out of the Amish community. John and Jolin keep watch at the woman's house, see the man arrive and leave at the same time each day. When he left, they went to see her. She was in a financial bind, the man helped her out, but in return, he wanted sexual favors. They chased him down on a country road and warned him to stay away from her or Lebanon Levi will pay him a visit. Now Levi will take care of her.

Levi does good deeds for the people in the community to keep a good profile. The chain of command is as such; the bishop is the leader, then the preachers and deacons. Levi remains next in line over the parishioners, although not a member of the church.

Levi visited the woman who had the male visitor. Her husband was kicked by a horse and is in a local hospital. He brought her money to pay bills and take care of the family while her husband is away.

A non-Amish taxi driver, commonly known as a "Yoder Toter" is brought to Levi because he has information that a church elder has been hiring him to take him to visit prostitutes. The man is a respected member of the community, and the cab driver is

afraid he will bring diseases home to his wife. He wrote the name and address for Levi, who knows him well.

Levi's guys go to the motel where the cab driver took him. They wait and start taking pictures of him arriving and then knock on the door and take more pictures. John mulls over in his mind if he should keep the pictures and blackmail the official, or hand them over to Levi. He could be in good if he blackmails the man, but if Levi finds out, he could be in worse trouble.

When Levi goes to confront the man, he will not let the cameras film the meeting. Levi admonishes the man and agrees to watch over his business while he goes away to get himself some help with his problem. Levi will take care of everything, starting with putting up "under new management" signs on the man's business. While Levi's underlings all think about walking in Levi's shoes and head the "**Amish Mafia.**"

EXHIBIT S

examiner.com

'Amish Mafia': The Amish party like the 'English'



Frederick M. Brown/Getty



Emma Riley Sutton
Oklahoma City Top News Examiner
| Follow:

December 12, 2012

The Discovery Channel's latest reality show, "Amish Mafia," showed that the Amish know how to party. They can even party like the "English," what people are called by the Amish who are not Amish. In the latest "Amish Mafia" episode, which aired on Dec. 12, it showed a group of Amish young people partying.

Sex, alcohol, television, music and the internet are all against the rules for Amish young people. All of those were present at the "hut party" which was

put together by the "**Amish Mafia**" cast members. There were even non-Amish people there, enjoying the hut party as well as a washing machine and dryer which is used for washing and drying English clothes.

Unfortunately, drugs were also present at the hut party for the Amish young people. This did not sit well with Levi, the leader of "Amish Mafia" cast. He sent his followers to find the marijuana, known in the Amish community as "green corn." They found the marijuana and took care of it. There shouldn't be anymore marijuana at the hut parties.

Many people do not believe that “Amish Mafia” is real. Much like “Breaking Amish,” community members and viewers believe it is staged. Anyone interested in learning the truth about “Amish Mafia” should keep watching. Just like with “Breaking Amish,” the truth should come out eventually.

EXHIBIT T

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' operates outside the Amish law



Discovery Press



Nannette Richford
Bangor TV Examiner
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December 13, 2012

The premiere of Discovery Channel's new reality series "**Amish Mafia**", which aired on Dec. 12, explained the background of the Amish Mafia. Although the Amish Community denies its existence, Lebanon Levi, the head of the Mafia in Lancaster County, PA claims that he and his men protect the Amish community and operate outside the Amish law.

The intro to the show states that the church simply looks the other way, because Levi was never baptized and isn't bound by the laws of the church. Community members describe Lebanon Levi as the cops, the courts and the insurance of the community.

According to Steven Breit, a criminal defense attorney who works specifically with the Amish community in Lancaster County, PA., Levi has multiple court records that indicate Levi has been engaged in multiple accounts of disorderly conduct.

His team, however, insists that Levi is a good man. Community members say that although Levi has done some things not everyone agrees with, he always does them for the good of the Amish community.

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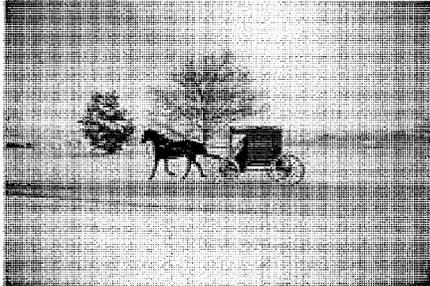
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EXHIBIT U

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' on Discovery 'Devil Comes Calling'



Getty Photos



Diane Zoller-Ciatto
Edison TV Examiner
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December 19, 2012

On tonight's episode of "Amish Mafia" titled "Devil Comes Calling," fans learn about Amish life. When a child starts first grade, that is the time they start to learn English, prior to that, Dutch is spoken in the home. When they graduate from eighth grade, they start working on the farm.

Lebanon Levi is the leader of the "Amish Mafia," and as Esther, the narrator tells the audience, she was out one day and men were whistling at her. She would not say what Levi did, but the men will not be whistling for a long time. Levi called a meeting of his men during a bad rainstorm, but they know it cannot be good. Levi is disturbed that Alan, the black-Amish man was arrested. He was in possession of drugs, and Levi does not want to be associated with drugs. There will be no more parties until the air clears.

John is upset with this news because it puts a hurting on his finances. The barn fights were a good source of income too. The barn fights occur when they rent a barn, hire some fighters and let everyone take bets on who will win. Jolin said that at the end of the night,

they just counted their money.

John wants Esther to go to Levi and ask him to put the fights back on. She does not always want to fight John's battles for him. Esther goes to Levi, but as she asks him for favors, he wants more from her as a woman. Esther knows that Levi is softer when she is around. Peter sees that Levi is different when Esther is around.

Levi tells Jolin that professional MMA (mixed martial arts) fighters are coming in order to fight, so he had better gotten in shape. He is the best fighter in the Amish community, but to keep it quiet until the place and date are set.

A man comes to Levi to tell him that an English man is dressing as Amish and has set up a roadside stand near his home. The man is taking away business from him and his neighbors. Jolin and Alvin went to see the roadside stand. The man was dressed Amish, but did not speak the language. The cameras were not allowed to film it, but the man is no longer selling his wares in Lancaster County.

Levi put John in command of the barn fight. He found out that it is not that easy to set the ring up, but he wants Levi to trust him.

Jolin got ready for the fight by getting another tattoo. Among the Amish and Mennonite communities, tattoos are a sign of the devil. Anyone who gets a tattoo will be excommunicated, but Jolin does what he wants.

It's the night of the fight, and the crowd is there. Jolin looked like he was getting his behind kicked, but he locked in a choke hold and the fight was over. Esther went to see how Jolin was after the fight, but they must keep a low profile so Levi does not know about them.

Levi asked John if he knew Merlin, who is the leader of the Ohio Amish. John knows about him, and so does Esther. John denied it, and Merlin wants to come to Pennsylvania to take over Levi's control over the Pennsylvania Amish community.

Levi told his guys that he wanted to have a buggy competition where teens pimped out their buggies to make them look good. Levi is offering a cash prize of \$2500 for the winner. John wants to win the money, but Levi told him that he must stop thinking about money all the time. Levi told John that the only reason he gave him a job is because of Esther.

As the buggies are all lined up, Merlin drives into the competition with an awesome buggy, and he is spraying champagne and tried to ruin the entire competition. Levi saw John talking to him and knows that John must know him and has lied to Levi. John is now worried. He owes money to Merlin, because after he strutted his buggy like a peacock, in came a tripped up buggy with a motor that took the prize. Conveniently, the winner was Levi's cousin; it pays to know the "Amish Mafia."

EXHIBIT V

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

Lancaster County learns to 'cash in' on 'Amish Mafia'



Discovery Press



Nannette Richford
Bangor TV Examiner
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January 3, 2013

The people of Lancaster County, PA, the setting for Discovery Channel's hit new reality series "Amish Mafia", may not take the reality show too seriously, but they have found ways to cash in on its popularity, reports the **New York Post** on Jan 3.

According to an interview with Jackie Kissel, an employee at Art & Glassworks, the owners and workers at their store found it "hysterical" that their shop was featured on the show,

leading viewers to believe they were protected by the "Amish Mafia".

Although the owners of the store **deny that they are protected** by the Amish mafia, they have responded by posting a sign saying they are protected by Lebanon Levi, the big boss on "Amish Mafia". Kissel reports that they had a good holiday season and hopes the attention brought to the store by "Amish Mafia" will bring in more tourist this summer..

Other storeowners are handing out toy guns to jokingly offer protection from the gangs that "Amish Mafia" claims exist in the area.

Although some residents are amused by the portrayal of their community, others are concerned that and have called the series "organized crime against the Amish". They say it provides a false image of the community and is disrespectful to their values.

The series "Amish Mafia" seems to be following the footsteps of "Breaking Amish", garnering millions of viewers who tune in each week to learn more about the Amish.

Tune in to "Amish Mafia" on Wednesday nights at 9 p.m. ET on Discovery Channel to find out what makes this show so popular with viewers.

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EXHIBIT W

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' tweets & blurbs from 'The Devil's Cut: Dark Bargin'



Wikimedia Commons



Diane Zoller-Ciatto
Edison TV Examiner
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January 10, 2013

Last night's season finale episode of "**Amish Mafia**" was preceded by the interactive episode titled "The Devil's Cut: Dark Bargin."

The episode featured clips from previous episodes to give insight to what had happened during the season. The end result is John working for two mob bosses and making a deal with devils equals a loss on his part. The tweets are verbatim, typos and all.

Discovery: Stay tuned for informative facts introducing you to the Amish underworld...

Discovery: Barn raisings traditionally start at dawn with the frame often erected before lunch.

Tweets from fans also flashed across the screen during this episode at different critical points:

@hampshire_boy "Amish Mafia is awesome! #ForRealDoe"

@MelindaChamberl "Levi should cut all ties with John he's such a sneak! #AmishMafia"

@droblyen tweeted "#Amishmafia this episode is insane."

Discovery: The Amish often hang their clothes under the porch when it rains and next to the stove in the winter.

Discovery: Amish people believe their simple clothing keeps them humble and separate from the world.

@Shane_Heady wrote "Levi Seems Like A Bad Dude #AMISHMAFIA"

@dologavin "Amish Mafia is as good as The Sopranos...Levi is as tough as Tony #AMISHMAFIA"

@MissHeatherFawn "These are some serious gangsters on #AmishMafia"

Discovery: Sheep's wool is used to make Amish coats and blankets.

Discovery: Manure is saved to be used as crop fertilizer.

@Ntellez27 "Merlin has Been hit with the crazy stick way too many times #AMISHMAFIA"

Discovery: Some Amish bibles have German on the left page mirrored by the English translation on the right.

Discovery: Regulations on clothing, including colors and fabrics, vary from church to church.

@SassyMaknae "Levi v Merlin: Battle of the Mafia."

@Bwpeif "Come on John. You know you can't buggy race behind Levi's back"

Discovery: Amish girls learn to operate farm equipment and control large animals as early as age 6.

Discovery: In the Amish community males and females are segregated until Rumspringa.

@lindseymariec16 "Esther needs to stop leading Levi on! #itsrude #AMISHMAFIA"

Discovery: Farming is preferred by the Amish because a rural setting helps maintain their values and way of life.

@MattChiappelli "Alvin ain't no dummy! Esther's games don't get by him. #AMISHMAFIA"

Discovery: Approximately 11 million visitors come to Lancaster each year.

Discovery: Lancaster's tourist industry generates approximately \$1.8 billion a year.

@MzTee75 "I will admit that I'm mesmerized by #amishmafia!"

@JayyCree "She just breaking all the rules & beliefs #AmishMafia"

@Jewels715 "#AmishMafia. Uhhh ohhhhh. Johns in trouble."

@lansummers96 "I'm about that Amish life. #lebanonlevi #amishmafia"

@TheSKYis TheLmit "Levi you are being screwed over, YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT #AmishMafia"

@ThatsSoKisha "Levi# the kinder, gentler Tony Soprano of the Pennsylvania Dutch #AmishMafia"

Discovery: A buggy wheel is held on by only one bolt.

Discovery: Most Amish will not turn a pitchfork upside down because it reminds them of the devil.

@ChelseyRankin "The fruit stand?? Lol what did it do to u!! #amishmafia"

@Discovery "Now that Levi is in Florida, is Lancaster Merln's for the taking?
#AmishMafia #BuggyDragRace"

Discovery: Once a woman joins the Amish church she is forbidden from cutting her hair.

@KINGMALCOLM9 "LEVI NEEDS A TAN #AMISHMAFIA"

Discovery: The Amish associate moustaches with the military and therefore must maintain a clean-shaven upper lip.

@RiZayicek "Big Steve is a caveman #amishmafia"

@kaetifong "Classic line on #amishmafia Don't forget your machete."

@Clay_Valentine "Lebanon Levi is gonna be mad when Esther tells him the truth"

@BossGirl_Kela "Awwwe Levi really likes Esther #AmishMafia"

@KaitlynNelson52 "Welp, didnt see that comin #amishmafia #obsessed"

@BrittSinq "Why can't Levi and Esther just live happily every after??? #AMISHMAFIA"

@melissa_summ "Feeding my Amish obsession. #amishmafia"

@laJohnson94 "#Amishmafia goin is good tonight John in soooo over his head"

@Hannah_Irishhh "they're making buggy races look so epic.. #amishmafia"

@WarEagleAU7 "Nothing like the wind in your hair during an #amishmafia buggy race"

@Alfred_hall "Smoking the tires on the buggy #AmishMafia"

@JonSnavelly "Merlin's got some frequent buggy miles #AmishMafia"

Discovery: Buggies require little maintenance, needing only brake fluid.

@nicole812us "Jon is betraying Levi. He needs to watch out. Working for 2 mob bosses doesn't work. #AmishMafia"

@whitttyyy "Big Steve is a big man!!! @AMISHMAFIA"

@JamesforRiel "This new bearded dude has some serious amish muscle #amishmafia"

@hellohappyswmr "John has to learn one way or another #AmishMafia"

@RalRal_Always "Merlin brought his group in - its going down #AmishMafia"

@sundynightlive "If you're making me choose between Merlin and Levi, I choose Levi #AmishMafia #werd"

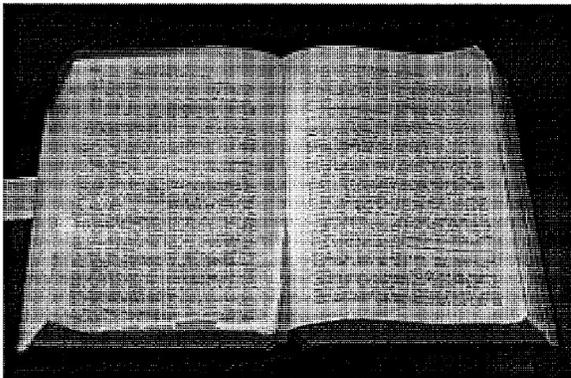
@acann105 "And my love affair with the Amish continues #amishmafia"

EXHIBIT X

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' prepares for 'Amish Exorcism' on Discovery Channel



Wikimedia Commons



Diane Zoller-Ciatto
Edison TV Examiner
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March 2, 2013

"Amish Mafia" is presenting a two-hour special called "Amish Exorcism" on Sunday, March 3. As per the television description of this reality episode; Esther and John resort to an Amish exorcism to save their brother. It also states that Levi tries to rebuild his crew.

In previous episodes of "**Amish Mafia**," there was no mention of a brother to Esther and John. Whether or not this is a blood brother or an

Amish brother is to be determined. As for the promos for this episode which started quite some time ago after the series ended, there was no allusion of an exorcism, but rather someone coming who has a lot of power.

As one promo shows; Esther and John are sitting in a kitchen. John states that "everything is on the line." Esther says that she needs someone else behind her who has the muscles, the guns, the temper, and is possessed by the Devil. She states that "they are not going to know what hit them."

As a prelude to the special two-hour episode, Discovery Channel will present reruns of five previous episodes. Starting with "No Peace for the Wicked," "Fire From the Lord," "Devil Comes Calling," "Fall From Grace," and finally "Holy War."

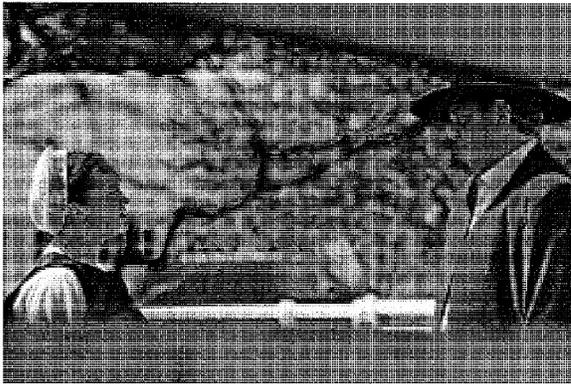
Whatever the outcome, fans are hoping questions will be answered on this special and anticipated episode of "**Amish Mafia.**"

EXHIBIT Y

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' brings a second season of drama to Discovery Channel



Discovery Channel / Nick Lorden



Christine Nyholm
Cable TV & Celebrity Examiner
| Follow:

August 2, 2013

"**Amish Mafia**" returns for a second season of behavior and misbehavior on Discovery Channel on Tues., Aug. 13, 2013 (9 p.m. ET/PT), according to a July 23 media announcement from Discovery Networks. The series brings back Lebanon Levi and his gang as they contend with rivals trying to grab their influence and power in the Amish community in Lancaster, Penn..

The story of Lebanon Levi and his crew continues, as Levi contends with infighting among his ranks and several rivals who try to bring him down. Levi has to rebuild his splintered crew while he battles against the influence of rival Merlin.

Alan Beiler of Amish Mafia: car chase leads to prison

The first season of "Amish Mafia" reigns as the highest-rated series premiere as well as the highest-rated freshman series in Discovery Channel history, according to information from Discovery Networks.

This season, Levi must reconstruct and rebuild his crew after his right hand man Alvin is arrested in Florida. Another key crew member Jolin, quit at the end of season one and Levi has to find a replacement for the trained fighter with ties to the Amish and Mennonite communities. Levi makes the decision to hire Caleb, a young and troubled member of the Brethren community. Levi will need all the help he can get as the newly unshunned Merlin sets his sights on taking over Lancaster and bringing Levi down.

Adding to Levi's problems, his former friend Alan is released from prison, bearing a grudge because he believes that it was Levi Levi turned him into the local authorities, which led to Alan's four month stint of incarceration.

Levi's former love interest Esther also returns, along with her brothers John and Freeman. Esther returns from North Dakota with her brothers in tow, ready to reclaim her family's once proud name from Levi. Esther will be forced with difficult decision because John is still on the run from Levi and there are damaging rumors of Freeman's demonic possession.

The question on many viewer's minds is whether this series of drama and dissonance in the Amish community could possibly be true. There are many who believe it is a hoax. Indeed, the Amish church denies the existence of an Amish mafia. Discovery claims it is a true depiction of the story, although some scenes have been reenacted to protect participants and family members.

"Amish Mafia" is produced for Discovery by Hot Snakes Media, where Eric Evangelista and Shannon Evangelista are executive producers. For Discovery Channel, Matthew Kelly is executive producer with Max Micallef as coordinating producer.

Former Columbo Capo Michael Franzese talks Inside the American Mob

Joe Pistone talks about Donnie Brasco on Inside the American Mob

Beverly Lewis: The Confession on Hallmark Channel

The Shunning by Beverly Lewis a Hallmark movie about Amish culture

Amish Grace a Lifetime movie based on true story

EXHIBIT Z

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Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

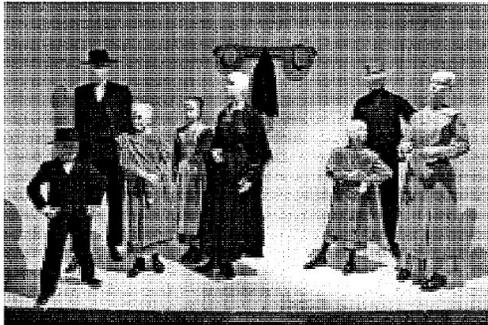
'Amish Mafia' finds more than a few 'Wayward Sons' on Discovery



Diane Zoller-Ciatto
Edison TV Examiner
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August 14, 2013

Related Photo:



Getty Photos

Last night's **"Amish Mafia"** season premiere gave more insight into the Amish community. As Esther related, there are nearly a quarter-million of Amish people in the United States today, with the oldest settlement in Lancaster, Pa.

True Amish do not have electricity, phones or drive cars. One Amish tradition is to rely on each other, rather than outsiders. When they have a problem, they go to Lebanon Levi. He is the head of the Amish Mafia in Lancaster County. He was never

baptized into the church and operates outside of Amish law. Esther knows that he runs the Amish Aid, which is similar to insurance, but because he does not work, she believes that much of the money winds up in his pocket. The Amish community is starting to wonder about Levi.

Jolin was a soldier for Levi, and left last season because he felt he was not treated fairly. Caleb has taken Jolin's place in Levi's crew and has numerous charges against

him in his run-ins with police and has no regard for authority. Levi sent Caleb to visit an English guy, who was selling cell phones to Amish kids. Phones are not allowed in the homes of the Amish, although some families have them located in a booth outside the house that resembles an outhouse. Caleb knows that Amish kids have ways of attaining such devices. Caleb is sent to make sure the man is out of business, and will do whatever to prove himself to Lebanon Levi.

Esther got word that her brother John was arrested. She went to the usual places around the house where Amish people hide their money, because of their lack of trust in banks. John was arrested for a hit-and-run crash and driving while his license was suspended. John used to be in Levi's army, but joined up with Merlin, the leader of the Ohio Amish Mafia, who is at war with Levi. When Esther got him released, she lectured him all the way home. After hearing enough while in there, he was not in the mood for her reprimanding him. Now they both have to consider what to do about their brother Freeman, who Esther believes is possessed by the devil. Last season, a special episode was devoted to his exorcism, and at present they brought him back to Lancaster from Minot, N.D.

Esther knows though they feel that she and John were heirs to his throne, because their father used to do what Levi does before he died, they should lay low for a while.

Caleb is on his way to complete his mission. The man was just standing in a parking lot near his car, operating from the back of it. Caleb arrived in his buggy, warned him not to sell to Amish kids and threw his computers and phones from the back of the car onto the ground and then took a baseball bat to his vehicle as he was seen fleeing from the scene with broken windows and taillights. Caleb swore if he saw him again doing business there, his next ride would be in an ambulance.

Merlin has a vendetta against Levi for having him shunned in his community. After finally becoming unshunned, Merlin now plans to take over the Lancaster community and put Levi out of business.

Esther has joined a sewing circle to make extra money and to get a better "in" in her community. By making friends with the women, she can better know about their husbands' business dealings. She is not welcome in their sewing circle, because when

she asked for a needle, they passed it around the table, then the person next to her put it down on the quilt, rather than handing it to her directly. The Amish ways are more non-confrontational, but they get their point across. When she asked how their families were; they ignored her question and only spoke directly to each other. She was shunned by the women. Traditionally, a woman is usually shunned because of what the men have done, and she has been shunned because of her brothers. This is just this small community, and not the entire church district that has shunned her. She can now find another sewing circle or form her own circle.

Wayne, although short in stature, is Merlin's most loyal follower. He is one tough dude and had defeated much larger people in his quest to prove himself. Merlin met with him because a farmer is selling raw milk, but has extended his business across state lines, which is a federal offense. Raw milk can be deadly, if not pasteurized or homogenized. The Amish drink raw milk, because their bodies are used to it. Merlin does not want the government to intrude in his community, but Wayne has not yet received the money Merlin owes him for succeeding to get him unshunned, and it is truly bothering him. Wayne will take care of this problem for Merlin, but his patience is wearing thin.

Although Jolin is no longer in Levi's army, people continue to come to him for help. He was asked by a woman who bought a horse from a non-Amish person for help. Jolin knows that many times, horses are drugged and do not act the same way during a sale as they do after the sale is completed. This horse is not what the woman expected, and she needs his help.

In Ohio, Wayne is on the way to the farm. When he arrived there, he went into the basement and took a baseball bat to the many full bottles there. He was covered in his own blood from the flying glass, but got the job done. Good thing he was wearing his sunglasses.

Levi went to see Crazy Dave with a job for him. While Alvin was in Florida, he lost his license and cannot drive. Levi wants Dave to go pick him up. Dave has had his share of troubles with the law, and has since come out of an Amish alcohol rehab facility. Levi is giving him another chance to redeem himself by picking up Alvin.

Esther related that Alvin was always Levi's right-hand man and his devotion to Levi was never in question, until he got arrested in Florida. The problem is that now nobody is sure what Levi will do with Alvin; not even Alvin. Because Alvin cannot drive, he is not sure what will happen to his Mercedes, it will be tough going from that car to a buggy. Alvin is very worried having to face Levi.

Esther is now building a quilting place, to help make money for the community. As the producer asked her why she would do this, knowing she does not like to quilt; she had no reply. After seeing Esther and how she operates, she must have her own agenda.

In Ohio, Merlin and Wayne are burning trash. Amish burn their trash, but he claims that Levi does not burn his trash, and he is more English than Amish. Knowing there are many secrets Levi has, he should burn his trash to cover up his operation. Merlin will gladly haul away Levi's trash to dig up his secrets. Levi does not know that Merlin is no longer shunned, and he states that Levi will not see him coming this time around.

Jolin brought the lame horse with the woman to the barn where she got him. When Jolin told him that he was returning the horse for another one, the man put up little protest. Jolin found a better horse and put him in the trailer and rode off.

When Alvin came to see Levi, Caleb gave him a hard time. Levi told him it was alright to let him in. Alvin was contrite when he saw Levi, who chewed him out for drinking and driving. Levi took his car away from him, but realizes the value of him as an employee. He is better than Caleb and Dave, but will have to prove himself once again to Levi.

As Wayne waits for Levi's trash to be put out, he sees Alvin put in on the porch. He calls Levi a lazy bastard for making his lackey do his dirty work, but if he wants to get the info he needs, he must sit in the dark to strike.

Alan Beiler, the black Amish man who used to be in Levi's army, is now on his own trying to get his life in order. He has another agenda, getting even with Levi for involving the police in his business. Using outsiders is against Amish tradition; they handle their own problems, without bringing shame to their community.

As Wayne and an Amish boy go through Levi's trash, the child states that he sure eats a lot of junk food, to which Merlin now knows why he is so fat. However, Merlin found out that Levi has an illegal business, a maple syrup business that the community knows nothing about.

Now that Esther has her quilting circle, she is finding more information about the goings-on in the community. When she asked one woman how her business was going, it was not too good. Then she told Esther about what is going on with Levi.

When Levi was awakened in the middle of the night, by Alvin and a neighbor, there was a problem at Big Steve's house. When they went over there, his house was trashed and Steve was nowhere to be found.

As the producers questioned Alan, he refused to answer any questions about Steve and his promise to take down Levi's army, one at a time. He removed his microphone and walked out on this episode of "**Amish Mafia.**"

As for the rest of the story, please click on the "Subscribe" button above, and you will never miss another post from this Examiner. Thanks!

EXHIBIT AA

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Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' preview: Merlin inspects a house



Getty Images



Mandy Robinson
Oklahoma City TV Examiner
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August 20, 2013

"Amish Mafia" is back for season 2 and going strong. On Aug. 20, the show went to **Facebook** to share a preview for the new episode and Merlin is going to do an inspection on one of the houses. Are you ready for this new episode?

The clip starts out showing Merlin going back to Ohio to deal with something. His neighbor let him know that a lot of English cars are leaving a certain house and they need to figure

out what is going on with it. They have seen them leaving with luggage and more. He thinks that it is an illegal bed and breakfast. This is forbidden by the church and can get you shunned in the Amish.

After looking through the house, they don't find anything but Merlin still isn't sure all is fine. He decides to come back at night and check out the house. Do you think he is going to end up finding something? Sound off in the comments.

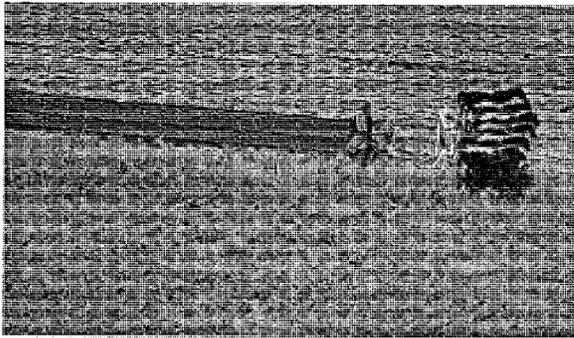
"Amish Mafia" airs new episodes on Tuesday nights on Discovery. Please like my **Facebook** to stay up to date on the latest news.

EXHIBIT BB

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' preview spoiler: Wayne takes care of the chiropractor



Wikimedia commons



Mandy Robinson
Oklahoma City TV Examiner
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August 27, 2013

"Amish Mafia" will air a new episode tonight on Discovery. On Aug. 27, they went to their **Facebook** page to share a big preview for tonight's show. Wayne is going to take care of business.

In the clip, Wayne says that Merlin asked him to take care of this job. He says Merlin still owes him a lot of money for helping get him unshunned.

He heads to the office of a chiropractor. This person is unlicensed and people are actually getting hurt from going to see him for treatments. Wayne goes over there and breaks into the office. Once he gets inside, he starts destroying the entire office. He throws things around and breaks several things in there. The message should get across this way and Wayne is even threatening taking it further if the guy keeps trying to treat people.

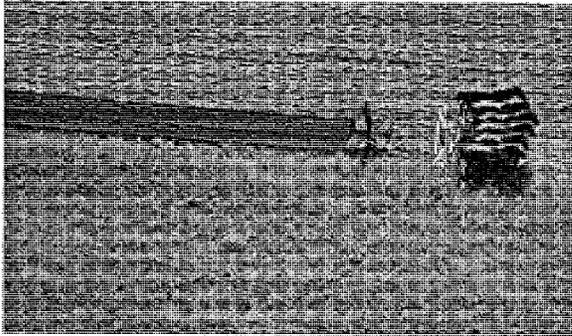
"Amish Mafia" airs new episodes on Tuesday nights. Please like my **Facebook** to stay up to date on the latest news.

EXHIBIT CC

examiner.com

Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' to air 'A Very Amish Christmas' special



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Mandy Robinson
Oklahoma City TV Examiner
| Follow:

December 5, 2013

The show "Amish Mafia" is back with an all new special. On Dec. 5, the show went to their **Facebook** page to confirm that they will be airing a new episode tonight called "A Very Amish Christmas." Are you planning to watch?

Ester explains that an Amish Christmas is all about family and celebrating the birth of Christ. It will be really interesting to see the way that

they do things in an Amish household for the holidays. Now Levi just sees this time of year as a great time to make extra money.

So how does Levi make this extra money? They sell Christmas trees and if someone else close to them tries to sell trees he will put a stop to their business. They also do not have Santa in the Amish country at all. Levi doesn't seem to mind a Santa here and there though.

"A Very Amish Christmas" will air on Dec. 10 at 9 p.m. CST in the Oklahoma City area. Please like my **Facebook** for the latest in entertainment news.

EXHIBIT DD

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Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' locates 'The Bear' on Discovery Channel



Discovery Channel



Diane Zoller-Ciatto
Edison TV Examiner
| Follow:

March 26, 2014

Last night's episode of "**Amish Mafia**," was titled "The Bear." The episode begins, in Indiana, where Merlin has located the most feared man among the Indiana Amish; the Bear. By the looks of him, he is frail and elderly, but is feared.

In Wisconsin, Jolin is on his mission to clean up the town and restore their faith in Amish Aid. A woman comes to Jolin for help because she bought a

blue light from an English hardware store for her very sick child, but it does not work. The Amish are subject to a very rare liver disease called **Crigler-Najjar Syndrome**, where the liver does not rid itself of toxicity. By using a blue light for several hours a day, a baby with this disease can eliminate the toxins, and is one of the very few times the bishop will allow electricity in an Amish home. Often the Amish are taken advantage of by the English, because they have nobody to go to for help.

In Lancaster, Levi is driving when he comes to see Alvin. Levi tells him that he is leaving town because a private investigator is following him and taking videos. He told Levi that he was hired by a private party to investigate him. Now everywhere Levi goes; this man

is there. As Levi talks with Alvin, he drives by again. Now they do not know if he has bugged someone or another party is leaking information to him.

A sign offering Amish Buggy Rides has been spotted by Caleb and Big Steve. These are English people posing as Amish and charging for these rides. As the producer asks Caleb where they are going, he tells him that they are trying to catch up to a man pretending to be Amish giving rides to tourists. As they try to converse with the man in Dutch, he has no idea what they are saying to him. When Big Steve asked him if he had sex with his horse; he replied yes. So Steve took the reins and continued the ride, as Caleb took the whip and used it on the man. He said he would call the police, but Caleb just laughed. When the ride ended, the tourists proclaimed that it was the best buggy ride ever!

In Ohio, Wayne is feeding his chickens when a woman comes to talk to him. She tells him someone is stealing her newspapers, and she believes it is an English person. He promises to take care of it.

In Wisconsin, Jolin is prepared to visit the man with the hardware store. First, he sends in two guys who are told they cannot get their money back without a proof they bought them. He stated they were UV lights, but when they again told him they did not work; he refused to give the money back. When they went out and told Jolin, he told them that the first rule is not to take no for an answer and went back inside with the men. As he resisted giving the money back, Jolin went to look at the lights; they were painted blue and not actually ultraviolet lights. Jolin broke all the lights as the man told him to stop and pulled out money from the cash register. No wonder the kids were not getting better; how tragic.

In Indiana, as Merlin listened to Bear play his fiddle. The man sat in a wheelchair, and Merlin told him he wanted to work with him. He told Bear he could do something for him if he gave him the help he needed. Bear told him he did not need his help. Merlin asked him if he could walk? He told him that he built an empire sitting in the wheelchair. Merlin told him that he was a healer and could help him walk again. Merlin just had to convince him. Then he asked what kind of help he wanted from him, and he told him he wanted to shut down Lebanon Levi with him. He told him that he was hungry for power, but if he could heal him, he would help him take Levi down. Merlin told him that anyone he did

not heal, was because they did not have faith, but Bear told him that he better have the faith!

In Ohio, Wayne goes to watch over the newspaper stand, a job he would normally have sent someone else to do. He put Karrie in hiding and now will be staying on the straight and narrow for a while. He does not want to lose Amish Aid.

In Lancaster, Levi calls Esther to tell her he is going to Missouri, and if she needs anything to see Alvin. When John meets with Castline, he tells him to get in the car, but John knows that if anyone saw him and told Levi, he would be as good as dead. Then he tells John that he needs more than spoiled milk or a beer party.

In Ohio, Wayne is watching for the newspaper thief. When he spotted the man, he gave chase, as he dropped the newspapers, producers remained in the truck. Wayne returned 25 minutes later with the newspapers. When the producer asked what happened to the man who took the papers, he told them that it was nothing they would read about in the newspapers.

In Lancaster, Levi puts his suitcase in his trunk.

In Indiana, Merlin is about to heal the Bear. As he had him lie down in a field, on a blanket, he lit fires around him and prayed for the Lord to heal him. He laid hands over him and continued to pray. Merlin knows he will be walking off a cliff if the Bear is not healed.

In Wisconsin, Jolin is still conducting business for the people. A woman came to ask Jolin what was in a small plastic bag. A carrier pigeon drops this off to her son's room every few days. Amish farmers have been using carrier pigeons for years. This was their method of communication. Now Amish drug dealers are using pigeons to send the wrong message. Jolin offers to speak with her son. He assures her that he will not hurt him, and she agrees.

In Lancaster, Esther goes to Alvin, as Levi told her if she needed anything. She needs money for John's lawyer, but he has no money. Then he tells her to wait until he returns

from Atlantic City. He told her he was going to Missouri, now she knows he is lying to her.

As the producer follows Levi, he stops and picks up a woman who puts her bag in the back seat and gets in the front seat of Levi's car. The producer says to keep driving. As Esther starts packing her clothes, she is angry and is going to Atlantic City to find Levi.

Jolin goes to the child to take care of the drug-dealing pigeon. As Jolin searches the kid's room, he finds more drugs. He also found a cell phone, so Jolin made him call and ask for more. When the pigeon arrived, he told him to take him to the guy who sent the pigeon.

As Merlin is praying as hard as he can, the Bear's men now want to break Merlin's legs, as they carry the Bear, who has not yet taken a step.

In Lancaster, John meets with Castline again. John just heard from his lawyer, who has not heard a thing about him helping John. Castline tells John he never promised him anything. Now he tells John that they know more than he thinks they do, and what John gave him was not hard to come by. He wants something big. Then he told John that he knew Esther is stepping out into the English world. John then told him that he was breaking all ties with him, because he is probably going to jail anyway.

In Wisconsin, Jolin found the source of the marijuana. He let all the pigeons fly away and set fire to the greenhouses.

In Atlantic City, Esther is walking down the street and knows exactly where to find Levi, because he always stays at the same place. She may be Amish, but she is not going to be lied to like the other Amish women. She tells the desk clerk she is his woman, and because she is Amish, does not have identification. When she procures the room number, she goes up to the penthouse to knock on the door. When a woman opens the door, Esther is livid. She comes in and finds Levi, who tells her he wants nothing to do with her and is only pleasing the church by marrying her. He also said he never wanted anything to do with her in the first place. He told her that she used him and betrayed him, and now he is doing it to her. He confessed that she was using him to get her

family's name back, and he stated he knew it all along. She never wants to see him again, but that will be determined on the next episode, so stay tuned.

If you like "**Amish Mafia**" too, please **Subscribe**, so you do not miss another post from this Television Examiner. Thanks!

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Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' finds out about 'Doppel Leben' on Discovery Channel



Discovery Channel



Diane Zoller-Ciatto
Edison TV Examiner
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April 1, 2014

Tonight's episode of "**Amish Mafia**," was titled "Doppel Leben (Double Life)." The episode begins, where it left off with Esther discovering Levi's double life in Atlantic City. She tells the producers that she has known him all her life and never expected this from him. She explains that the more money he gets, the more it goes to his head. He never wants to see him again. She stated that if she is going to be treated this way by Amish men, she

should be English, so she can have some fun.

In Ohio, Wayne is waiting for the church to see if Karrie can join the Amish church. Andrew and Ruck walk into the church with other Amish men as Mary follows behind them as more Amish women and Karrie enter the church. She is asked to step outside as the vote is taken. Andrew stands up and objects and states that Wayne is having carnal relations with her. Wayne tells him that they are just friends, Ruck also agrees

that there is more to their relationship. Wayne knows that Merlin put these two up to this and promises to bring down the wrath of Hell upon them.

As Levi returns he demands that Alvin and Caleb meet with him. When he sees them he screams at Alvin for telling Esther where he was. When he reprimanded them both, Caleb defended himself and Levi tore into him too. He told him if he ever wanted to work for him, to never speak to him that way. As the pair took off, the producer tried to follow them, but they would not stop.

John has been looking for Esther, but cannot find her. He decides to check her old house to see if she is there. Then he went around the community looking for her, but nobody had seen her. The producers stated that repeated calls to her had gone unanswered.

In Ohio, Wayne is watching Andrew's house, because he knows that unless Andrew is perfect, Wayne will find out, and the best way to check on an Amish man is to watch their house. As a taxi pulls up to Andrew's house, he gets out. Wayne knows that when taxis pull up to an Amish house very late, it only means one thing.

In Lancaster, Levi sees that private investigator again parked along the road. He tells the guy he will have him arrested because he has him on camera. When he sees Castline, he pulls him over and demands that he gets this private investigator off his ass. Castline has nothing to do with the guy and tells Levi not to talk to him that way. Castline then states that Levi is becoming unraveled and will start to make mistakes.

Jolin has returned from Wisconsin. Levi called him back because of a serious situation in the community. He calls together, John, Jolin and Big Steve to tell them that a strip joint has been set up by English guys to watch Amish girls take their clothes off. They move from place to place so they are hard to pin down. However, Levi insists that they are shut down for good.

In Ohio, Wayne is now out to get Andrew and wants to prove to the bishop that he is not a true man of God. He brings an unidentified man to a bar where Andrew supposedly hands out on Saturday night drinking and flirting with women. Once they see him going inside, Wayne gives him a camera and tells him to go in and take pictures of Andrew

and his dirty deeds. Once he brings these to the bishop, Preacher Andrew will lose favor with the community.

In Lancaster, Jolin is going after the strip club where English men promise Amish women lots of money. Jolin finds the place, and goes in dressed like an Englishman. The producers supplied Jolin with a hidden camera. Jolin was upset when he came out and told the producer it was bad. Now he is going to get Steve and John and shut the place down.

In Ohio, Wayne goes around putting up pictures on trees so the entire community can see Andrew's sinful actions. Then he goes to the bishop with the pictures, and he is appalled.

In Lancaster, Steve, John and Jolin crash the strip party and come in with axes. They break up everything so they do not return, as the Amish women run out fleeing for their lives.

In Ohio, Andrew is going to see the bishop who summoned him. When he confronted him with the pictures, he was banished from Ohio and told to never show up again. Now Andrew knows what tangling up with Merlin will do.

In Lancaster, Levi summoned Jolin to his hunting cabin; he has no idea why. When Jolin arrived, Levi got a phone call and had to leave. The producer asked him why Levi left, but he had no clue. On the television news, it was announced that Esther Schmucker, a star of Amish Mafia was beaten and had a broken nose, facial bones and several teeth. She stated that she met this guy when she was out with her English friends. He seemed charming and perfect, but he had rage issues. He beat her up and then would not leave her side for four days. Once he left her alone, she went to the police. Levi came to see Esther and put his arms around her and they hugged without saying a word.

She then told him that she had a car and an apartment, a lot of English friends she met along the way, and she got in with the wrong people. Levi promised to protect her and not let anything happen to her. She related that in the hospital, she was told that one more punch, and she would have lost her eye. She showed her broken teeth and

explained how her nose was broken and facial bones in her face were broken in two places. Levi asked her if her family knew about this, and she told him John was on his way over. She knows that Levi does not want to talk to her, but he told her not to worry about the past right now. When John arrived, he told her it is time they all quit the English stuff. Esther related another story where her life was threatened by a man with a knife. Then Levi told her to go upstairs so he and John could talk in private.

The news told the story of the man's arrest who beat up Esther. They did not give his name here, but did on the **news**. Levi met with his men and told them about Esther, then she told them how the English life was her ruination. They then promised to keep the English from corrupting the Amish.

John was waiting in a field, as a figure walked toward him, it was Freeman. Then went to see Esther and when Freeman saw her, he spoke and asked her who did this to you? When she would not answer, he just yelled as loud as he could in anger.

Castline knows that John stopped talking to him, but believes that Levi is planning something. He will seek out his information in other ways. As Caleb is out collecting Levi's Amish Aid, Castline stops him to talk to him and asks if he has anything to share with him. Caleb told him if he gets lonely, he will call him. Castline states that he is going to apply pressure, and hopes they get sloppy and he catches them.

As Levi's crew plans to go to war against those who corrupt the Amish, they ready themselves with weapons, as the season finale is next week, fans will see just what they have planned.

If you like "**Amish Mafia**" too, please **Subscribe**, so you do not miss another post from this Television Examiner. Thanks!

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Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

'Amish Mafia' experiences 'Shepherd's End' on Discovery Channel



Discovery Channel



Diane Zoller-Ciatto
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April 9, 2014

Last night's season finale episode of "**Amish Mafia**," was titled "Shepherd's End." The episode begins in Lancaster as Levi and his crew are waging war against the English people who are corrupting the Amish people. As they raid a motel, they find lots of evidence and warn the owner not to rent rooms to Amish any longer. When he tells them that is how he makes his money, Levi sends in Jolin to give him a message.

In Lancaster, Caleb is tired of the man who has been videotaping and stalking Levi and his henchmen. As they confront him, he will not give them any information about who he works for.

In Ohio, Andrew is spotted stealing Wayne's peacocks. As Wayne drives to his home, he tells the producer that he has to collect Amish Aid, but first has to feed his peacocks

and chickens. When he arrives, he sees that his peacocks are missing and has no idea where his prized birds could be.

In Lancaster, John and Freeman go into a bar which is the first place the Amish kids go when they are breaking English. As John confronts the owner, he tells him that he knows that he lets Amish kids in there who are not supposed to be drinking. He tells John he is there to make money as Freeman stands outside the room listening. When he refuses to heed John's warning, he tells him that if he keeps selling to them, the place will not be there any longer. Then he sends Freeman in who closes the door behind him. When he came back out, Freeman had blood on his face, but nobody else walked out of the door.

Alan Beiler is finally getting out of jail and although many people forgot about him while he was in there, he is about to let everyone know he is out and this time they will not forget him.

Levi is about to visit a man who rents cars to the Amish. Amish are allowed to drive cars as long as they aren't with the church, but the people they rent to are with the church. Esther relates that English who give help to the Amish, who want to live like the English are called shepherds. They spot a shepherd showing an Amish couple how to drive the car they are renting. Then they see them change into English clothes. They could not do this without help from a shepherd. Now after the couple drive away, they intend to straighten the guy out. As Levi, Jolin and Alvin tell the guy he has to stop renting cars to the Amish who belong to the church, he tells them that he will rent to anyone who has money. They then tell him that he better stop it or they will deal with him. He tells them not to threaten him on his own property, so they leave, for now.

Esther let the mafia know who the main guy in Lancaster who makes fake ID's for the transitioning Amish. By carrying a photo ID, it is against Amish teaching, as it is a false idol. Caleb went to the man to get an ID, it will cost him one hundred dollars. As Caleb looked at the samples, he knew many of the guys in the pictures and the man made IDs for different states. While this was happening, the rest of the gang was in the front of the shop. Then Caleb told the man he had a friend who needed one too, the man told him for two the price is \$160. Then Caleb quickly closed the door, when Jolin went in with a gun in the back of his pants. When the man stated he was just trying to make a buck,

they started destroying his equipment. When they left the shop, the producer ran after them and told Caleb to wait up. Then Caleb went after him with a baseball bat and asked if he ever shut up? Then he told him that he was as English as the rest of them.

As Levi was pulling into a driveway, he said that he had to cut off the supply of English temptation. Alvin then drove the car away as a man went chasing after him. Alvin then set the car on fire and drove off with Levi.

Officer Castline relates that John has refused to help him any longer about Levi's activities and related that the information he provided was bull crap anyway. He then knocks on a man's door, it is Alan, and he explains that they both have a common interest in bringing Levi down. Alan does not take too kindly to the police, but he does have a point. Castline tells him that he can do it the right way, or do it the wrong way and get locked up again. With or without his help, he plans to lock up Levi. He leaves as Alan contemplates his offer.

In Ohio, Wayne is on his way to take care of business. He pulls up a driveway and honks his horn loudly. Out walk Ruck and Andrew, who try to stop him from entering the garage, but Wayne comes in with a large pipe and comes out carrying his peacocks. When the producer tells him to wait, there are only two peacocks in there, he already knows. As he asks him what happened to Andrew and Ruck, he is told to shut up or the same thing will happen to him.

Castline is on his way to speak with Levi, who is not aware that charges have not been brought up against him. Castline convinces him to get out of his car and have "just a conversation" with him. As Castline takes him for a drive, he tells Levi that he is doing things in broad daylight that he could get in trouble for. Levi tells him if the media would stay out of it, it would be better, but the officer tells him he is on national television. Levi tells him that the camera guys continue to go to places where he does not want them to go and they are just a crooked as anyone else.

Later, as Levi comes out of the police station with criminal defense attorney, Steven Breit, they will not answer any questions the producer has for them.

Levi states that he has had trouble before, but the private investigator and the constable are following him everywhere. With all that is going on, he has tough decisions to make. He arrives at Esther's house and must speak to her about things, in case something happens to him. She is shocked that he is even thinking about giving up Amish Aid, and knows things must be out of control. He said that Alvin is not aggressive enough, Jolin is Mennonite and Caleb is too hot-headed to be in charge. The problem is, John is the logical candidate, Levi does not trust him, but he is a Schmucker, and the community will be happy with that. When the producer asked Esther if this was her dream; she said not like this. Levi asked her if she still remembered where her father used to take her to her favorite spot? When she replied in the affirmative, he told her if anything happens, to take what is there.

As John gets out of Steven Breit's car, the wording on the screen reads; John was cooperating with local law enforcement in the hopes of avoiding jail time for his current case. On February 21, 2014, John was scheduled to appear before the Pennsylvania District Court. As the cameras followed them into the courthouse, Breit told them he had too much going on with John and to respect their privacy. When they returned from the courthouse, Breit told the cameras that John was found guilty. When asked the charge, he told them it was John's tenth time while driving under suspension and the court had no mercy. He had the sentence cut in half and John must serve ninety days in jail, but he will be filing an appeal.

In Ohio, Wayne tells that the bishop gave him an ultimatum; Amish Aid or Karrie? He wants the respect of the community and Amish Aid is very important to him, but Karrie is also important, as they have been together for a long time. Wayne is pissed that Merlin did this to him and is forcing him to make a choice. Wayne meets with Karrie and asks her to marry him, and now he does not care who the church will put in charge of Amish Aid and he doesn't care.

As Levi is meeting with a farmer who is struggling financially, to help him with Amish Aid, Breit pulls up in his car. He must speak with Levi and asks the cameras to stop rolling. He tells him he has been picked up and questioned by the police, and that John is going to jail. He tells Levi that he has a bulls eye on his back and he tells him to quit the show, and as his attorney he believes it is appropriate. Then Levi gets into his car

and leaves the camera crew and producer behind. As they call after him, he tells them they are done.

On February 25th, Levi told the crew to meet him at a barn in Strasburg, to film him distributing Amish Aid to a farmer in need. As the camera crew drove there, they spotted Levi's car but could not see if he was in the car because of sun glare. When they approached the car, he was not inside, so they went into the barn. Levi was in the loft and looked down at them. He told them to come up there with no cameras, so all monitors and record indicators were turned off, but they continued to record video. In the loft stood Levi, Esther, Caleb, Jolin and John. Levi made sure all devices were turned off, but a cell phone continued to record. He stated that because of them, everyone was after him. The producer told him there was fourteen days of shooting left, but Levi stood his ground and told them no cameras. Esther told them how much trouble they were in because of the cameras being on them, even when they requested that they be turned off (like now).

The producer asked what would they show the, if it's not this? Levi stated that he wanted to show how they take care of people in the Amish way, but they tried to show that it was worse than what it was and they have the cops following all of them around. When Levi told them he just wanted to build his business up again, the producer told he that they could help, but they want no more filming. They stated that the show was over and if they wanted to leave in one piece, to leave now. The producer told them there was no need to get violent, but they told them the worst thing they did was let English people in their lives. As they were ready to smash their phones and cameras, the crew left.

The production spent the rest of the day attempting to re-establish ties with Levi. When they found Steven Breit, he served a cease and desist order to the Discovery Channel to discontinue shooting "**Amish Mafia.**" As of February 26, 2014, production on the show has been halted.

As of now there is just one more episode, so please **Subscribe**, so you do not miss another post from this Television Examiner. Thanks!

EXHIBIT GG

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Behind the scenes: 'American Horror Story' makeup and FX artist shares his secrets with us

Lebanon Levi 'Amish Mafia' to attend car & bike show fundraiser for L.E.E.K.



Discovery Channel



Gail DeLaney
Sioux Falls Reality TV Examiner
| Follow:

May 3, 2014

Lebanon Levi, aka Levi King Stoltzfus, from "Amish Mafia" will make his first public appearance since he allegedly quit the show. Mark you calendars for May 18, 2014 for the 6th Annual Richland American Legion Car and Bike Show.

Lebanon attended the car and bike show last year, according to **Lebanon Daily News**. Rob Miller, vice president of the Richland chapter of Sons of the

American Legion and Richland Legion Riders told Lebanon Daily News that Lebanon helped draw the people in to the event. He said, "Hopefully, he'll still have that draw."

The cost of admission to the 6th Annual Richland American Legion Car and Bike Show is \$15 per carload. Registration starts at 10 a.m. The show kicks off at noon and runs until 3 p.m. at the Richland Legion. The proceeds will go toward the Leek Hunting Preserve in Potter County. L-E-E-K helps the mental and physical healing process of our wounded soldiers. Their **website** states the mission of this organization as; "Provide

a friendly handicap-accessible camp environment and therapeutic outdoor activities like hunting and fishing, LEEK believes in encouraging our wounded heroes to focus on their abilities, without compromising their current physical limitations."

Lebanon will spend time with his fans and pose for pictures. He will have some pictures to sell for a small fee. After you finish visiting with Lebanon, you can check out the vehicles on display. Rob Miller reports that the number of vehicles varies each year depending on the weather. However, they usually have 50 or more beautiful vehicles and bikes to admire.

For those who enjoy looking at vehicles, the show does not discriminate. It is open to any make or model. Trophies will go to the best vehicles from different time periods. They will choose a vehicle to win the commander's choice award and the people's choice award.

If you get hungry during the car show, between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., \$7 will buy you a delicious meal of Chicken and pulled pork. If you want something else, there will be other food vendors because you can buy from.

In 2013, the Richland Legion was able to donate \$7,000 to L.E.E.K.

Lebanon Levi has been a part of several different fund raising parties. He helped raise funds at the Eastern Lancaster County Library in New Holland and at the Matthews Public Library in Fredericksburg. He attended the Palmyra Dairy Queen Car show with the proceeds going to the Children's Miracle Network.

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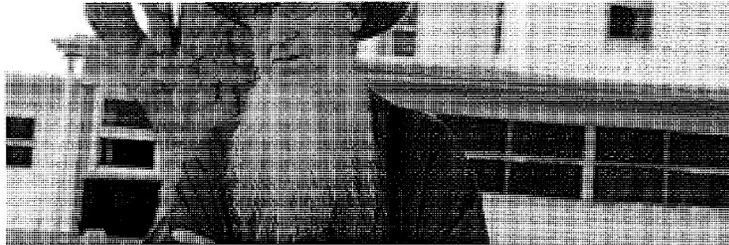
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Amish Mafia



Claim: The series *Amish Mafia* depicts the real-life exploits of Lancaster County "fixers."

FALSE

Examples: [Collected via e-mail, December 2012]

Curious about that new show on the discovery channel "Amish mafia". Seems to be conflicting info about whether is a documentary, entirely fictional, partially true, based on partial truth etc. the show itself seems pretty absurd, somewhat believable at times but more curious about whether such groups actually exist within the Amish world.

"The Amish Mafia". After watching one episode I am wondering if this is a made for TV series, for entertainment purposes only, or if this is supposed to be a true story. There are several things about it that don't line up with what I know about the Amish. However, I also realize that things aren't always what they seem on the surface. A comment was made on Facebook about the series and I would like to find out the truth before I call the producer and state my objections

Origins: On 12 December 2012, the Discovery Channel debuted the reality series *Amish Mafia*, a program which follows the exploits of Lebanon Levi, who, with his three assistants (Alvin, Jolin, and John), works as a "fixer" to protect the close-knit Amish community in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, tackling issues such as tracking



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down the driver of a car who ran into a buggy and confronting a community leader who has been engaging in regular liaisons with a prostitute at a motel:

Untrusting of outside law enforcement, some Amish in Lancaster County, PA have for many years regularly turned to a small organized group of men for protection and justice. Discovery's new series *Amish Mafia* provides a first-ever look at the men who protect and maintain peace and order within the Amish community in Lancaster.

Lebanon Levi is the Amish insider who holds the power and serves as protector of the community for a price. He exists above the law and occupies the role of police, judge and jury. Levi's team engages in a life outside of Amish and non-Amish community codes as he quietly exerts his influence and control. Levi's brand of order is precise as he seeks to keep outside forces from infiltrating the Amish community, while keeping the principles and morality within the community in check.

Levi's team is lean and fearless. Alvin is Levi's right hand man and nobody gets to Levi without going through Alvin first. A lifelong friend, Alvin is at first glance an average passive Amish community member. However, he has a dark side, a past, and most importantly, Levi's complete trust. Alvin will protect Levi at any cost.

		
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Other group members include Jolin, a Mennonite who serves as Levi's foot soldier, and John, the youngest member of the group. As a non-Amish member of the group, Jolin has the freedom and ability to carry out punishments of all levels against offenders. John, the junior member of the group, is the son of the late former protector who maintained peace in the community for many years before Levi took power. John struggles with his desire to follow in his father's footsteps and take Levi's place as the head of the group.

This is a side of Amish society that exists under the radar, and the Amish church denies the group's existence. *Amish Mafia* provides eyewitness accounts of the incidents, misdeeds and wrongdoings within the Amish community, as well as a rare look at Levi and his team members who work together to maintain harmony.

Just how much "reality" (if any) is portrayed in *Amish Mafia* has been the subject of much debate, especially given that Discovery maintains the show portrays "a side of Amish society that exists under the radar, and the Amish church denies the group's existence." The consensus of critics is that the show is both fictional and fully scripted and exploits the reluctance of the Amish to publicly speak out about negative and unrealistic portrayals of their culture. The *New York Times* noted in a review of the series that:

The truth of the events portrayed in "Breaking Amish" has been widely contested, and the veracity of this new show is likely to be the subject of just as much debate.

An early credit warns of "select re-enactments," and since we're never later told whether we're watching staged scenes, it's fairly safe to assume that everything is staged. (A closing credit clarifies that "re-creations are based on eyewitness accounts, testimonials and the legend of the 'Amish Mafia'.")

The fictional vibe is reinforced by the clumsiness of the shakedowns, which seem stiff and awkward even for Amish country, and by the enthusiasm with which the four principals break the law on camera: shooting out a car window, cutting off a suspected adulterer's buggy on the road and forcing their way into someone else's motel room.

Reality TV doesn't get much cheaper or crasser than this, and just to clinch its rock-bottom status, the show fills out its picture of rural menace by momentarily citing the 2006 mass shooting at a Lancaster County Amish school. Mostly, though, it gives us repeated images of its rural desperados waving shotguns and assault rifles and making threatening gestures with baseball bats. (The only time a weapon is used in anger is against that defenseless windshield.)

"Mafia" is supposedly about protecting the Amish, but of course the primary victims here are the Amish. What little tension the series generates depends on portraying them as backward and helpless, and on playing off their reputation for simplicity and rectitude by depicting them as philandering frauds. There's some low comedy in the methods the "mafia" employ, staking out a motel like B-movie private eyes and enforcing church rules against adultery as if they were a Muslim morality squad administering Shariah law.

David George expressed similar skepticism about *Amish Mafia* in *Salon*:

I'm a native of Lancaster County and have an extended family full of Amish people. If the Amish mafia were as vital to peace in the county as Discovery suggests, someone like me — especially with my youthful strays off the straight-and-narrow — would at least have heard of these gangsters, if not have had a few run-ins with them.

However, much as with "Breaking Amish" and other "Amishploitation" productions, the characters in "Amish Mafia" are misrepresented as having been plucked from the core of the Amish community when, in fact, the individuals involved are either on the outer periphery of Amish life, outright fabrications, or are vulnerable or classless enough to make for the kind of personalities TV audiences could find compelling regardless of religious or ethnic affiliations (the business of tabloid and reality television is premised on an ample supply of such people). In the case of "Amish Mafia," thuggery and self-promotion certainly appear to be higher priorities of the featured "bosses" than the tenets of Amish religion.

Michael Shank took an even harsher view of the series in the *Washington Post*:

If anyone thinks that the Discovery Channel is about actual discovery of, say, science, history, space, or tech, as their Web site claims, think again. Or if you think that its sister company, The Learning Channel (TLC), is about learning new insight or information, you are mistaken. After TLC's first run of the reality television show "Breaking Amish," with paid persons assuming the roles of rebellious ex-Amish, the Discovery Channel has produced a more scripted "Amish Mafia," admitting on their site that scenes are reenacted. The show brags a behind-the-scenes "first-ever look at the men who protect and maintain peace and order within the Amish."

They are wrong. The only thing that makes this endeavor a "first-ever" is that it's perhaps the most offensive production yet from Hollywood regarding Amish people, after a long litany of offenses, from "Kingpin," "For Richer or Poorer," "Amish in the City," "Deadly Blessing" and "Witness" among many others. Unfortunately, this trend of Amish and Mennonite mockery is nothing new.

Since their Christian faith doesn't support "graven images" (see the Ten Commandments), and since the Amish prioritize humility and view pride as a threat to community harmony, you won't see Amish spokespersons appearing before the press to defend their culture from a Discovery or Learning Channel attack. For Hollywood, then, they make for easy attack and a prime target.

Last updated: 6 March 2014

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Sources:

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The New York Times. 11 December 2012.

Shank, Michael. "'Amish Mafia' Is a Shameful, Unrealistic Portrayal of Plain People."
The Washington Post. 29 November 2012.

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Lancaster Co. Judge scolds Amish Mafia star Esther and her boyfriend for breaking court order



Esther Schmucker, left, and Imir Williams

Posted: Friday, April 11, 2014 10:14 am | Updated: 12:47 pm, Fri Apr 11, 2014

By BRETT HAMBRIGHT | Staff Writer

A Lancaster County judge scolded a star of "Amish Mafia" and her boyfriend Friday for making a mockery of the local court system.

Judge Dennis Reinaker jailed Imir Williams for an additional 3 months for breaking parole by repeatedly contacting Esther Schmucker, the female lead on Discovery Channel's hit series.

RELATED: [Amish Mafia through the years: Here's why it's fake and always has been fake](#)

Williams is on parole for [viciously beating Schmucker on Halloween](#) in Strasburg.

Reinaker told Williams and Schmucker, seated in the gallery, that neither are taking the court order seriously.

"Courtroom Eight is not a set for the Discovery Channel," Reinaker said. "I am not interested in your ratings."

"You two have been nothing but a nuisance to law-enforcement."

Schmucker immediately contacted Williams when he was originally paroled in December, knowing Williams was under a no-contact order, Reinaker said.

"I'm telling you, Ms. Schmucker, if I could put you and Mr. Williams in Lancaster County Prison, I'd do it," Reinaker said in court. "You were the one who criticized the DA (Craig Stedman) for not charging Williams with a more serious crime for the Halloween beating.

Schmucker nodded her head when asked if she understood the no-contact order, but said nothing.

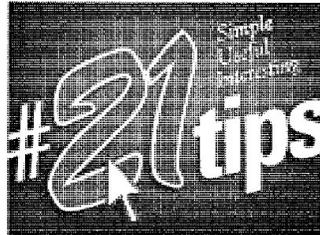
At the hearing, William's parole officer said Williams immediately contacted her after a newspaper article appeared about the couple having contact at Schmucker's Manheim Township home.

Williams also tested positive for marijuana three times after being paroled in December, the officer testified.

Williams told Reinaker he wasn't blatantly trying to break parole, but the judge stopped him.



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"That's pretty much exactly what you did," Reinaker said, raising his voice. "You had contact and you kept having contact."

Reinaker said he "bent over backwards" for Williams by paroling him in time for Christmas.

"I stuck my neck out for you," Reinaker said, while asking for "the truth."

"Let's start over."

Williams said he didn't mean to disrespect the court.

"It's tough; I've never been in this situation. At 25, I have no control over what happens in my life anymore," he said. "I love her to death, but there are circumstances right now... I don't know, man. I don't know what else to say."

After Reinaker sentenced Williams to three more months in prison — with a possibility of work release — he reminded both they are to have no contact.

"Don't send letters, don't call him," Reinaker told Schmucker.

Williams then asked: "So, I'm going back to jail?"

Reinaker told him he could be in the work-release unit if he finds a job.



Brett Hambright is a Lancaster Newspapers staff writer who covers crime and the Lancaster County court system. He can be reached at bhambright@lnpnews.com or (717) 481-6026. You can also follow @BrettHambright on Twitter.

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- 6/13 9 AM Strategic Marketing Blueprint...
- 6/13 9 AM Hershey Gardens Butterfly House
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- 6/13 9 AM Four Surreal Seasons: PCAD...
- 6/13 9 AM Individual Performance: June 13
- 6/13 10 AM The Elegance & Grand Ascent at...
- 6/13 5 PM Fathers Celebration
- 6/13 6 PM Pyro, Ohio
- 6/13 7 PM "The Scrutineer" - The...
- 6/13 8 PM Gilbert & Sullivan's "Trail By...

This Week

13 Fri	14 Sat	15 Sun	16 Mon	17 Tue	18 Wed	19 Thu
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All events

- 6/13 6 PM Family Movie Night: Running Brave
- 6/13 7 PM Full Moon and Creatures of the ...
- 6/14 10 AM 31st Annual Demuth Garden Tour
- 6/14 1 PM Crispus Attucks Men Who Cook:...
- 6/14 7 PM SweetLife
- 6/14 7 PM CANCELLED: Joe Antonelli
- 6/14 7 PM Allegro Orchestra: Going Solo
- 6/14 9 PM Rumba Night
- 6/15 2 PM George Porter Jr. & Runnin'...
- 6/15 7 PM John Nemeth & the Bo Keys

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Steve Rayman · ITT Technical Institute
 She deserves whatever comes her way for being in a relationship with a savage animal.
 Reply · Like · 3 · Follow Post · April 13 at 2:26pm

Mark Wolf · Top Commenter
 Why isn't Esther in jail too? Might interfere with filming?
 Reply · Like · 1 · Follow Post · April 13 at 1:42pm

Mark Wolf · Top Commenter
 One day we'll be reading her obituary.
 Reply · Like · 2 · Follow Post · April 12 at 11:07am

Nana LovesJesus
 SMH SAD.
 Reply · Like · Follow Post · April 12 at 7:34am

Jan Gaul · Follow · Top Commenter · Account Manager at Merlin Communications
 Revealing that he said he "loves her to death", I think that's exactly what she can expect!
 Reply · Like · 2 · Follow Post · April 11 at 5:01pm

Debra Young · Western Michigan University
 This type of behavior trivializes domestic violence. Esther needs to leave this guy alone and move on. This is one of the reasons women are not taken seriously by the courts until someone ends up dead!
 Reply · Like · 6 · Follow Post · April 11 at 1:13pm

Kimberly Williams · Concordia University, St. Paul
 Pathetic and sad! Some of the cast members may have been born Amish but certainly are not now! My husband saw Levi this morning at a Lancaster convenience store and we was wearing sweatpants and a t-shirt, obviously not Amish clothes!
 Reply · Like · 2 · Follow Post · April 11 at 12:54pm

Richard Musser · Top Commenter · Parler Français
 They broke the Local Law and wasted valuable resources Police, Clerks, Judges and people dealing with protection from abuse order, and it's REAL unlike the Show. So YES when someone is WASTING Tax payer dollars I don't care who they are lets hear about it.
 Reply · Like · 3 · Follow Post · April 11 at 11:51am

William Bachmann · Top Commenter
 So...why isn't SHE in jail, too?
 Reply · Like · 9 · Follow Post · April 11 at 10:40am

Kimberly Williams · Concordia University, St. Paul
 In the county I live in, both parties can be put in jail if they break a no contact order!
 Reply · Like · 3 · April 11 at 12:54pm

Nana LovesJesus
 Kimberly Williams
 So why isn't she in jail too?
 Reply · Like · April 12 at 7:37am

Nana LovesJesus
 I agree.
 Reply · Like · April 12 at 7:38am

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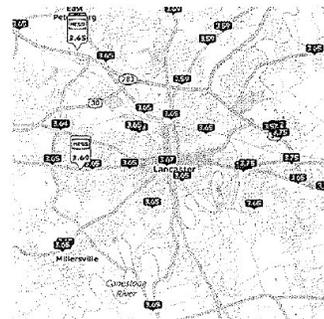
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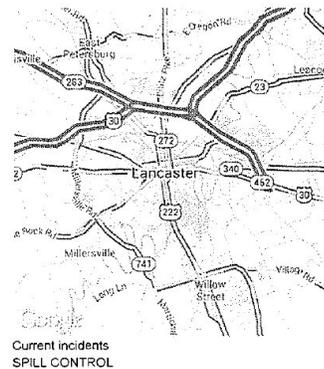
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Lancaster Theological Seminary
Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13
The New School of Lancaster
Resurrection Catholic School
Sacred Heart School
St. Anne School

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Lancaster Barnstormers / Clipper Magazine Stadium
Lancaster County Central Park
Lancaster Recreation Commission
Lancaster Family YMCA
Lancaster YWCA
Lancaster Township Parks & Recreation
Long's Park

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City of Lancaster Zoning Board
Lancaster Township Supervisors

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LancasterHistory.org
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North Museum of Natural History and Science
Phillips Museum of Art

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Lancaster Recreation Commission Adult Sports
Lancaster YMCA Youth Sports
Lancaster YMCA Adult Sports
Lancaster Ice Rink

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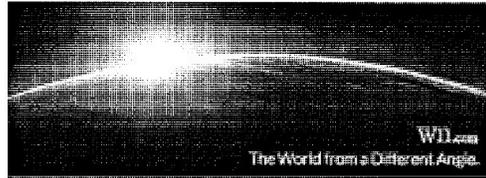
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'Amish Mafia' Recap Season 3 Finale: 'Do you like your face?'

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Well, that was dramatic. The season - and quite possibly the series - finale of "[Amish Mafia](http://wn.com/Amish_Mafia)" (<http://wn.com/Mafia>)" aired on April 8. It was action-packed with scandal, explosions, fights and the scariest question you can ever be asked: "Do you like your face?" Here's what happened: War. After last week's events with [Esther](http://wn.com/Esther) (<http://wn.com/Esther>), the gang has sworn off the [English](http://wn.com/English) (<http://wn.com/English>). So they set out to destroy every business that enables the Amish to mingle with the English. "I don't want any more kids falling victim to the English lifestyle," Esther tells the camera. [Shepherds. First](http://wn.com/First) (<http://wn.com/First>) thing the gang tackles is a local guy acting as a shepherd - someone to...more

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'Amish Mafia' announces 'He Has Risen' on Discovery Channel
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Tonight's episode of "Amish Mafia," was titled "He Has Risen." As the episode begins, Esther recalls the events of last season where she told Levi that John was not taking...
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'Amish Mafia' Recap Season 3 Episode 5: Drug Carrier Pigeons
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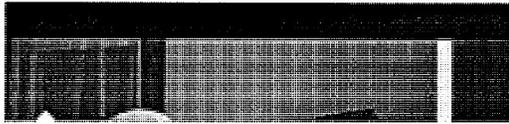
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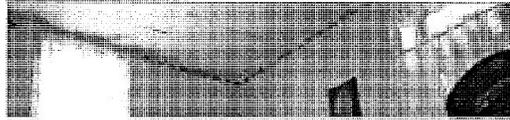
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Dr. Jean Cirillo on Discovery Channel Amish Mafia

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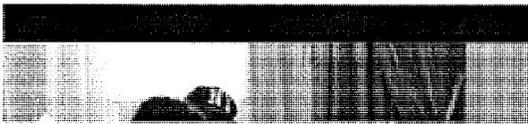
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Published: 13 Nov 2013



Amish Mafia | Premieres Wed, Dec 12 at 9/8c on Discovery

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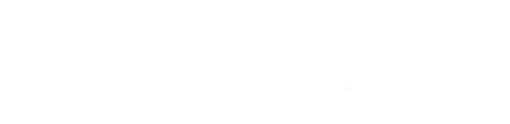
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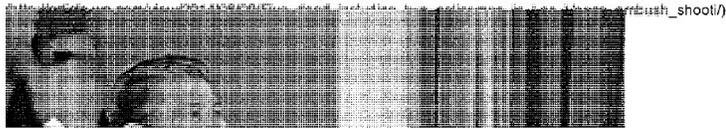
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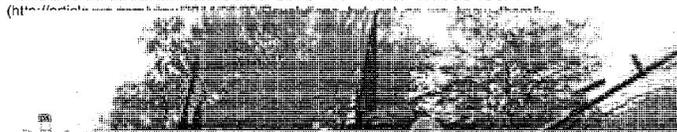
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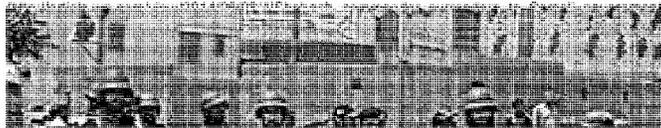
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(http://article.wn.com/view/2014/03/05/Amish_Mafia_Recap_Season_3_Episode_2_Have_you_ever_been_w...)

After "Amish Mafia"'s fiery season three premiere, the series shifted its focus to the relationship drama between its characters. There was also a nice funny subplot regarding Big Steve traveling on a plane for the first time - but, before I get ahead of myself, here's what happened in the Discovery Channel soap opera: Police encounters. Last we saw Jolin and Alvin, the two...

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'Amish Mafia' recap, Season 3 Episode 1: 'Like a cow fart in the wind'

(http://article.wn.com/view/2014/02/26/Amish_Mafia_recap_Season_3_Episode_1_Like_a_cow_fart_in_the_/)

"Amish Mafia" returned to Discovery Channel on Feb. 25 and there was more drama than ever. Here's what went down on the zany soap opera: Meat chopper Levi: Levi explained that he's got everything under control with the church, although there are still a few problems. He said it isn't anything he can't handle though, as he chopped up a pig with a cleaver. Caleb's return. No one...

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'Amish Mafia' sees the 'End of Days' part 2 of 2 on Discovery Channel

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Last night's season finale episode of "Amish Mafia," titled "End of Days," saw Lebanon Levi heed the warning of his attorney, Steven Breit to cut ties with Discovery Channel by putting an end to the filming of the show. Before the declaration was made, the episode was dedicated to putting an end to the English people who corrupt the Amish. As this episode continues the narrator...

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'Amish Mafia' Recap Season 3 Episode 6: Strippers and serious issues

(http://article.wn.com/view/2014/04/02/Amish_Mafia_Recap_Season_3_Episode_6_Strippers_and_serious_i/)

I like to joke about "Amish Mafia." But the latest episode featured some very serious stuff. Sure there was the trademark ridiculousness that comes with every episode of the Lancaster-based soap opera, but there was also a significant amount of time paid to an issue effecting many, many people in America today. That issue is domestic violence, and some of the events depicted in...

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'Amish Mafia' Recap Season 3 Episode 4: Merlin becomes a witch

(http://article.wn.com/view/2014/03/19/Amish_Mafia_Recap_Season_3_Episode_4_Merlin_becomes_a_witch/)

Well, this week's "Amish Mafia" lacked explosions, weird courting rituals and cow farts. But it did see the introduction of a supernatural element into "Amish Mafia." Who knows, maybe next season we'll get vampires? Here's what happened. Witch doctor Merlin. Merlin has been praying and he believes he is being called to become a Braucher, a healer. He believes that power will...

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'Amish Mafia' sees the 'End of Days' part 1 of 2 on Discovery Channel

(http://article.wn.com/view/2014/04/10/Amish_Mafia_sees_the_End_of_Days_part_1_of_2_on_Discovery_Ch/)

Last night's season finale episode of "Amish Mafia," titled "Shepherd's End," saw Lebanon Levi heed the warning of his attorney, Steven Breit by cutting ties with Discovery Channel by putting an end to the filming of the show. Before the declaration was made, the episode was dedicated to putting an end to the English people who corrupt the Amish. As this episode begins, scenes...

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'Amish Mafia,' Bending Rules in Centuries-Old Amish Lifestyle

Aug. 27, 2013
By LINSEY DAVIS via NIGHTLINE

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Alvin, Levi and John, left to right, from the Discovery Channel's "Amish Mafia."

Lancaster County, Pa., is home to the nation's oldest Amish settlement, dating back more than 300 years. Some 50,000 Amish live there, simply and humbly.

But behind the horse-drawn buggies and rolling hills there is said to be an American sub-culture, often brimming with intrigue and controversy, centered around the infamous, so-called "Amish mafia."

Watch the full story on "Nightline" TONIGHT at 12:35 a.m. ET.

"Amish Mafia" is a reality TV series on Discovery Channel that tries to pull back the curtain on what is portrayed as the darker side of this traditional Christian culture and the roughly 250,000 people living in Amish communities across the United States.

The series, now in its second season, follows a man called "Lebanon Levi" and his assistants, who purportedly look after the Amish community in Lancaster County and claim to do the dirty work the church can't.

Where the church deals with moral issues, Levi and his band are said to work as an internal police system that takes care of other matters. They provide financial aid, essentially insurance for buggy accidents, personal injury or property damage. They also keep an eye on the teenagers who take time off to experience the outside world before committing their lives to the sect.

Levi calls himself "The Enforcer."

"I make sure the peace is being kept and everybody is obeying the rules," he said.

The Amish, as a whole, deny the existence of the Amish mafia. Much of the show's content has been strongly criticized by Amish scholars. Questions have even been raised about whether some of the cast members are actors.

So "Nightline" traveled to Lancaster County to get a better understanding of the Discovery Channel show and its characters in the context of the Amish environment.

The series producers say the main cast members, including Levi, aren't actors -- though they haven't been baptized into the Amish church so, technically, the same rules don't apply to them.

"As the time goes on, you choose to have more," Levi said. "I would rather have a computer and watch TV, maybe, drive a car -- and not drive a horse. I would rather have a little bit of air condition instead of sweating all the time."

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The Amish have the reputation of being a peaceful, soft-spoken community with reluctance to adopt many conveniences of modern technology, including cars and electricity. Kids in the community are schooled until the eighth grade, and then join their parents working in the fields or inside the home.

But a subculture within the Amish community is extensively shown on the show -- which includes "barn fights" and "pimp my buggy" competitions.

When asked if he would ever get baptized in the Amish church, Levi said, "It can always happen."

One reason it would is if he decided to marry an Amish woman. Baptism is a requirement for marriage.

Throughout the show, Levi has had a crush on Esther, who often leads him on to help her brother John gain more power in the so-called Amish mafia.

In describing what it was like to grow up Amish, Esther said, "We never had electricity growing up. I never grew up watching movies, television, computers, anything like that. I grew up without electricity, without running water. Those are a lot of things that we did without."

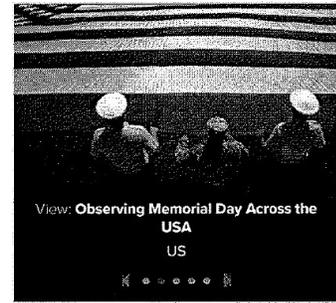
"As I got older, you know, you're exposed more," she added. "Once I started Rumschpringa, and that's when I learned of everything that's out there. And then I wanted more."

In the Amish community, Rumschpringa is a time of freedom from the Amish lifestyle "to experience another side of life," Esther said.

When an Amish person turns 16, he or she is granted an opportunity to give up Amish traditions and do things they have never done before, such as travel, wear modern-day clothes and even go to parties with friends.



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“Amish Mafia” episode review: “He Has Risen”

Posted on February 26, 2014 | By Chuck Miller

Amish Antiques & Crafts

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It's time once again for a new season of Amish Mafia, another series of episodes with our favorite batch of "plain folk" from Lancaster County, Pa. and Holmes County, Ohio. They're back, they're bad and stuff is gonna burn tonight. Two to one odds says Alvin's going to be doing the burning. Time to put on the snark and get ready for a review of the third season of Amish Mafia, beginning with the season debut episode, "He Has Risen." Ha ha, that title sort of reminds me of the old Redd Foxx joke, where Foxx's wife asks him, "Redd, can you rise?" At which point he replies, "Yeah, can you wait until Easter?"

Okay. As always, the Amish Church denies the existence of the Amish Mafia. The Amish Church also denies ever seeing the movie Witness, listening to "Weird Al" Yankovic's "Amish Paradise," or even seeing an episode of "Vanilla Ice Goes Amish." Ice ice baby, indeed...

We get a wrap-up from last season. Buggy goes boom. Here come the Kentucky Amish. Merlin gets horse manure dumped on him. Alan Beiler snitches on Caleb. There's a Bible on Lebanon Levi's front door. Caleb has a "come to Jesus" meeting with Lebanon Levi and Jolin and Alvin.

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And now... Season 3 begins.

Levi's chopping something up. No, it's not Caleb.

And now some unnamed (obscured by shadows) Amish fill us all in – that Levi and his crew beat the bejeebers out of Caleb and left him in the pig barn. So now we arrive at a darkened barn... maybe it's the same barn from last season – man, they made Caleb wait in the pig barn all that time? Aw, Caleb's alive. A little worse for the wear, but he looks okay. That's right, Amish Mafia

includes such justice-enforcing techniques as "stay in this enclosed space for a few months and don't come out until I say so." I thought Caleb was supposed to have been beaten within an inch of his life. Instead, he spent the season finale (and missed the Christmas special) with the equivalent of standing in a corner?

Meanwhile, back in Holmes County Ohio, Wayne's been raising money for Amish Aid and breaking things. Raise some money, ride a little pony, bash something up. Uh-oh – some English kids are running through farmland on all-terrain vehicles. And certainly, Wayne shows up and sees the damage. He'll take care of it. And he lets us know that he doesn't appreciate English kids running their ATV's through farmland. What if Wayne came to your office and put an axe through your desk, he asks. Well, considering Wayne HAS gone to peoples' homes and offices and put his axe through their desks – he did that a few times last season...

Back in Lancaster County... We meet Officer Paul Castline Jr. He packs a baton and a taser and handcuffs. He's a law enforcement officer that trains with advanced firearms. And he's involved with rounding up Amish criminals. And you know who that means – he's been following Lebanon Levi. Hey Castline – you are aware that everybody and his cousin have been following Lebanon Levi for the past three seasons? You have been watching the show, haven't you?

Oh look, it's Jolin the moody Mennonite – he's still collecting the tribute in Paradise, and he and Alvin and Levi get together for a little meeting. Levi alerts his soldiers that the Kentucky Amish are still on their way to Lancaster County. Jolin's and Alvin's mission – stop them before the unwashed Kentucky Amish can cross the border. As always, should either of them be captured or killed, the secretary will disavow any knowledge of their actions. This shoo-fly pie will self-destruct in five seconds. Three seconds, if Big Steve is hungry. Good luck, men.

And over in Perry County, Pa. – Merlin Miller (no relation) has been speaking in tongues and reading the Bible and shouting out loud. And now it's time to rekindle the bromance with Alan Beiler, who's currently spending a three-month enforced vacation at the Perry County Prison. The Kentucky Amish are on hold right now, according to Merlin, until after the Leaders Meeting, when all the leaders of the Amish Aid groups get together and discuss business. You know, like the Five Families and the Corleones and everybody else.

Hey look, Jolin and Alvin are driving down to Hart County, Kentucky, and they find a barn – any barn out there – which might or might not hold Paul and his crew of unwashed Kentucky Amish. Jolin an Alvin run some reconnaissance ... Open the barn door, peek inside ... and we go to commercial.

Coming out of commercial, Jolin and Alvin – Lancaster County's version of Seal Team Six – go in for their two-man commando crew – and they see the Kentucky Amish WERE in the barn, but they've left by now. Probably walking their way toward Lancaster County. Very slowly.

Levi's giving Caleb a job – first some masonry and cinderblock moving – and now it's ime to move some horse manure. The pile of horse manure is so thick, Caleb actually breaks his shovel trying to move the manure pile. Caleb has to invest in some new tools. Do the Amish patronize Home Depot these days?

Oh look, Esther moved in with her mother. And now we get some nebulous description of what happened – August 22, 2013 – John Schmucker got arrested by beating the snot out of someone who was hassling Esther. I wonder if that "someone" was l'Mir Williams. Well, you know this show does have a tendency to get all metafictional in its metaphysicalness...

John comes over to to Esther's place – apparently John has no other place to stay, and he goes back to the house where Esther and their mother are staying. Esther can put him up for a night or two, but she's worried about what Levi might think. I mean, Levi did give her a goat last season, that has to stand for something these days...

And this season, we get to meet our 35th different Amish Mafia cast member ... Ruck Davey.

That's right. He wears a pink robe like he's the second tenor in a choir, he flagellates himself with a cat o' nine tails, and he once Bible-whipped a man about the head just for chewing gum in church. Are you Ruckin' kidding me? Wow, Merlin sure picks a series of winners as friends – Makes the crew of unwashed Kentucky Amish look like a pack of Quakers, don't it?

I gotta tell you, in three seasons with this show, Merlin Miller (no relation) has added a rogues' gallery of Lil' Wayne, Alan Beiler the *schwarz Amish*, Paul and the troop of unwashed Kentucky Amish, John Schmucker (for a little while), Croquet Mallet Mary, some Amish party guy named Flip, and now he's added (What the) Ruck Davey. All he needs now are 8,000 Unsullied soldiers and a herd of Dothraki and he can commandeer the Shoo-Fly Throne from House Stoltzfus and House Schmucker...

Merlin meets with the bishop of Holmes County in an effort to get Ruck Davey unshunned. Surprisingly, Merlin doesn't have to bring any shoo-fly pie to get stuff done. He just reminds the bishop that the aluminum siding on his house came from Merlin Miller's contractors. Merlin suggests it's time for a red rose ceremony. If Merlin gets a red rose, and Ruck Davey gets unshunned, Merlin won't tell the community about what the bishop's been doing outside of the ordnung. Well, guess what. Not only did Merlin get the red rose, he gets to return to next week's episode of *The Bachelorette* for another season.

Jolin and Alvin are still driving through Kentucky, and as they drive past a cornfield... they spot something. And out comes an Amish man. An Amish man with a blurred face. Because you know those unwashed Kentucky Amish all have blurred faces. Jolin and Alvin ask if they know about Paul Miller (no relation) and his horde of unwashed Kentucky Amish. They pass by a few more Amish men... they ask... still no dice. And then... they find someone who knows about Paul Miller. And they give chase. 15 minutes later... Jolin and Alvin walk out of the forest. They tuck in their shirts and straighten their clothes. The producer asks what's going on. What, the producer and the camera crew couldn't chase Jolin and Alvin into the forest like an episode of *COPS*?

We're back in Lancaster County, and Officer Paul Castline is now driving around the neighborhood, looking for them. And Officer Castline is trying to figure out why the Amish are allowing their actions to be filmed and edited into a television show. Next thing you know, Officer Paul Castline is going to wonder why people allow their storage lockers to be bought out by the likes of Barry Weiss and Jenny Grumbles. Officer Paul Castline needs a primer on the workings of reality television, me thinks.

And we're back in Holmes County, and Wayne's about to take a little vigilante justice into his little vigilante hands. Wayne gets some chains and binds the ATV's together, and then takes chains and rope and ties the ATV's to the back of his truck ... and drives off with the ATV's in tow. Dragging them all over the place. And now they're just left with ATV parts all over the road.

Yep. Gotta love little Wayne and his Chevrolet justice.

Levi sends Caleb out to pick up the Amish Aid payments, but nobody wants to give Caleb any money. You know, when you've spent three months cooped up in a barn because you got busy with the bishop's daughter, not even Dale Carnegie can smooth those business relationships over. So Caleb is getting angry... and we don't want to know about him when he's angry. He may be the first Brethren to rip his clothes and turn green.

Meanwhile, Jolin and Alvin continue their reconnaissance behind enemy lines. And they return to the unwashed Kentucky Amish barn... Jolin's packing a rifle, Alvin's packing gasoline. Jolin gets in position. Alvin soaks a rag in gasoline. Jolin warns the camera crew to get down. Oh yeah, they're filming a television show. GUNSHOT – and here come the Kentucky Amish. They run out of the barn and run past Jolin and Alvin. And you all know about Alvin and fire. He loves blowing things up. And sure enough, as Alvin runs away from the barn – IN SLOW MOTION – he gets behind a safe barrier just as the barn goes up in a huge bonfire.

Wayne's running Amish Aid and taking care of his lumber business – but apparently he's got some other things going on. A quick outdoor shave, a change of clothes, maybe a splash of Hai Karate and some Wildroot cream oil for what's left of his hair... and he's on his way to some private time. Cameras not invited. Of course Wayne doesn't realize that when you're filming a reality TV series, you don't have any private time. And cameras may not be invited, but that doesn't mean they stay away.

Jolin and Alvin are trying to escape from their Kentucky bonfire – but there's a pair of Kentucky Amish buggies blocking their path. You are aware that Jolin is driving with Chevrolet power, right? And he puts the pedal to the metal and blasts through the buggies like they were Amish bowling pins. Hey, it was a good thing that the producers put those GoPro cameras all around Jolin's truck, just in case Jolin and Alvin came across a roadblock and the producers needed a decent camera angle for the blockade bust-up, right? Reality television, my big toe.

Tonight's Amish factoid features Officer Paul Castline reminding us that Amish people have criminal pasts and have done horrible things. Monroe Beachy and his Ponzi scheme? Check. Abner Stoltzfus who sold drugs in the Amish community? Check. John Schmucker, who jut got busted for driving without a license for the TENTH time... oh wait, Officer Castline, you forgot that one. Sorree...

And in the final minutes... here comes Caleb, he's about to bust up a fruit stand to someone who hasn't paid Lebanon Levi. And the farmer asks if Caleb is Levi's manure shoveler. So Caleb takes a potato and walks away. And by "walking away," Caleb hot-wires a tractor, which is attached to a manure spreader. And sure enough, Caleb turns on the manure spreader and coats the farmer's harvest with prime grade-A manure. Holy sheee....

A few minutes later, Levi gets a visit from Big Steve. Levi tells Steve that an Amish girl went out on Rumspringa with a boy, and is now in Iowa with no way to get back home. And since Levi doesn't feel like going to Iowa, he sends Big Steve off to retrieve the girl. Oh I can't wait for the

“Amish never been on an airplane before” hijinks. Hilarity ensues!

And now we’re back in Holmes County, where the producers have followed Wayne to an undisclosed location – where a big-busted blue-bloused blonde babe with big big – um – yeah – gives Wayne a big hug and welcomes him in her house. Well now... is this Merlin’s former girlfriend? Is this some new girl that Wayne’s involved with? Is Wayne getting a little sumpin sumpin on the side?

And Jolin and Alvin have been pulled over by the Kentucky county mounties. This can’t be good. I wonder if the Kentucky police department have ever watched an episode of Amish Mafia before... are they aware that they just pulled over the pyromaniac of Lancaster County, who’s riding shotgun with a very moody Mennonite?

Well, we won’t know, because this week’s show is over. And we’re promised previews of Lebanon Levi in the back of a police cruiser, Esther looking like she went five rounds in a three-round fight, Merlin doing his best King Canute impersonation by the seashore, and yes Big Steve acting like a naif on his first airplane flight. Aww...

See you next week!

Ellen Degeneres Lied?

skincareadvisors.org/ellen-secret

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1. *Ellen* says:

February 26, 2014 at 8:40 am

What an action packed hour of quality television! Thanks for the update, now I don't have to DVR the show.

Note: The Times Union is not responsible for po comments written by non-staff members.

Keyword search across all the entries in 1 blog.

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hayo: I think you are a very awesome person and I am glad to be getting to you through your blog. Be well.

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Roz: Can't believe that our good friend who sell us lead-painted children's toy poisonous pet...

Harley-Davidson's warranty voided over patriotism? (14)

Jango Davis: Ok, I see, buried in the original article, it does note that the b pictured is not the one discussed....

Jango Davis: The photo says "David ; on his motorcycle, with flags fluttering background."...

jmac: You're right. It's definitely lower motorcycle. Much higher Reynolds nu on a motorcycle to...

D357: Yes, and that's not the bike in question.

Seeing old wounds with new eyes (3)

Bill W.: I had to get eyeglasses in the or sixth grade (I don't remember exac was a LONG...

Mary Martin: I had to get glasses in F Grade. There were only three choices frames and they were all ugly....

Roger Green: Progressives are the or to go. Had 'em for nearly a decade.

TV's 10 best fantasy action shows of th 1970's (4)

Alasdair Gillis: I loved Buck Rogers w was a little kid. My all time favorite ep was the one where Buck...

Chuck Miller: I could have put Quark listing, but I wanted to keep the post sci-fi and fantasy drama....

Lwoodbluz: What??? No Quark????
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hJB4nGtdU>

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been murdered for us to finally discuss this
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Amish Mafia through the years: Here's why it's fake and always has been fake

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Posted: Tuesday, March 4, 2014 4:00 pm | Updated: 3:19 pm, Tue Apr 8, 2014.

DUSTIN LEED | BRETT HAMBRIGHT

A quick Google search of the phrase "is Amish Mafia real" nets about 7,890,000 results in just 0.23 seconds.

Inquiring minds need to know.

After all, what could possibly be fake about Amish men wielding baseball bats, shotguns and assault rifles while keeping the peace in Lancaster County's Amish community?

Let's settle that score: Amish Mafia is not real. Amish Mafia is fake.

The only thing legit about Discovery Channel's proclaimed "reality" show is the filming is done in Lancaster County. All storylines and character portrayals, according to our

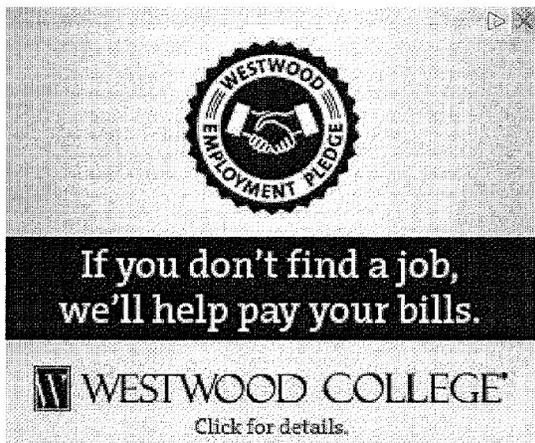


Discovery Channel

Discovery Channel says: "Esther is the matriarch of a once powerful Lancaster Amish family. She's known for being a strong female, something very uncommon in the Amish World."



[View all 11 images in gallery.](#)



research, are not just fabrications, but complete creations of the show's producers. None of these characters actually exist as portrayed on the show. As for the characters in real life, some had Amish/Mennonite upbringings; others didn't.

WHAT DISCOVERY SAYS

A Discovery executive insisted in a 2013 interview that the characters who star in the show are genuine Amish and Mennonite folks living in Lancaster County, not paid actors.

"They are actual people," Laurie Goldberg, Discovery's vice president of public relations, said in that interview. "These are real people

in the Amish and Mennonite communities."

First off, there is a big difference between Amish and Mennonite faiths; the two don't dress alike or share identical beliefs.

On the show, Discovery presents the characters only as Amish who either weren't baptized or never joined the Amish church. That's why, the show claims, they drive vehicles and behave in other ways forbidden for members of the church.

Can't have it both ways, according to multiple local researchers of the faith. An Amishman or woman is an active member of the church.

Also, according to multiple sources, the main characters are paid a per-episode salary.

HOW ABOUT THE CHARACTERS?

First up: [Esther Schmucker](#).

Discovery Channel says: "Esther is the matriarch of a once powerful Lancaster Amish family. She's known for being a strong female, something very uncommon in the Amish World."

She's actually [just a normal Lancaster County girl](#). Regarding her "powerful" Amish family, we found zero evidence of that in our research. What we did find, in court records, were rap sheets full of petty crimes and violations for Esther and her brother and show co-star, John Schmucker.

Here's what Esther really looks like when she's not acting:



Next: [Alan Beiler](#).

Discovery Channel says: "Known locally as the "Swartz Amish" or Black Amishman, Alan Beiler is Lebanon Levi's former events coordinator.

He's [actually a talent manager and producer](#).

Here's what he really looks like when he's not acting:



WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY

If a violent group of Amish “protectors” exists here as represented on a hit reality television series, Steven Echternach and Jonathan Heisse would know about it.

The two local cops are District Attorney Craig Stedman’s liaisons to the Amish community, working with local Anabaptist groups on crimes of all sorts.

And they’ve found zero evidence of the gun-wielding group of Lancaster-based Amish renegades portrayed on Discovery Channel’s hit show, now in Season Three and still attracting over 2 million viewers per episode.

“I can say with absolute certainty that what I’m seeing on Discovery Channel is an exploitation of the Amish culture,” Echternach, Strasburg’s police chief, said in a recent interview.

LANCASTER COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT?

On the show, listed atop main character’s Lebanon Levi’s “rap sheet” and mentioned by a show narrator as the arresting agency is “Lancaster County Police.”

Guess what? There is no such thing.

There is a Lancaster City Bureau of Police, but no countywide force, as the show depicts.

In fact, this is from the city police's official Facebook page in 2013:

“Lancaster City Police Department: NAME CLARIFICATION We are the Lancaster City Police Department. We have been serving Lancaster City for well over 200 years. If you are looking for the Lancaster County Police Department, as depicted on a fictional cable TV show, you may want to look elsewhere.”



Lancaster City Police Department

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We are the Lancaster City Police Department. We have been serving Lancaster City for well over 200 years. If you are looking for the Lancaster County Police Department, as depicted on a fictional cable TV show, you may want to look elsewhere.

Like · Comment · Share · January 2, 2013 at 8:38pm · 🌐

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Local author and historian Brad Igou was so sure the hit television show was a farce, he was willing to prove it.

Igou, president of The Amish Experience in Bird-in-Hand, designed an attraction that would bust the myths surrounding the Discovery series that's breaking network records.

But instead, the Amish Experience was halted after Discovery executives threatened legal action against the tourist attraction.

Click here for an exclusive look at the cease-and-desist letter sent from Discovery Communications to Igou on April 1, 2013.

Igou called the rift a case of "David vs. Goliath."

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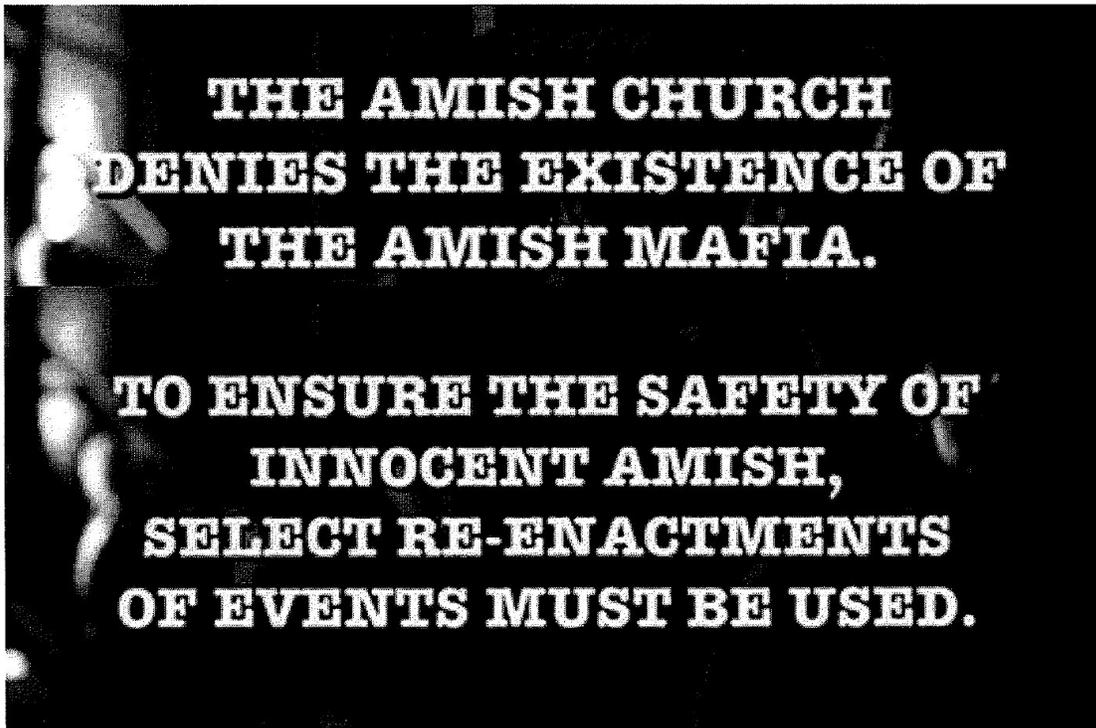
NO ANGELS - CAST RAPSHEETS REVEALED

The Media's Amish Love Affair

THE PLACE THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT

And finally, let's not forget how close Discovery comes to actually admitting that the show is a fraud.

Here are the disclaimers from the opening of the show.



Translation: Genuine Amish people in the community regard this show as phony and Discovery is admitting what you're watching are actually re-enactments.

Posted in Local on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 4:00 pm. Updated: 3:19 pm.

133 comments ▼



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Lawrence Reid · Works at Student (publication)

lol

Reply · Like · May 25 at 8:37pm



Daniel Bell · ★ Top Commenter · Kentucky college of technology

Esther getting hurt IS one of the few realities of the show. The show actually had to write it in after pictures hit the news.<http://fox43.com/news/stories/amish-mafia-star-esther-schmucker-beaten-by-boyfriend/#axzz32ZLgzfBf>

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Published: 02/20/2014 at 8:29 PM

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.com/201.

WASHINGTON – “Duck Dynasty” is not the only unlikely reality show hit with Middle America.

When “Amish Mafia” (<http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/amish-mafia>) debuted on Dec. 12, 2012, the show group of Amish men who deal with wrongdoings and misdeeds in their community scored the highest rating for any Discovery Channel launch in the network’s history, attracting more than 3 million viewers.

As the show enters its third season Tuesday night at 9 p.m., it ranks as the network’s highest-rated program – consistently attracting 2.5 million viewers.

For one cast member, the show is more than a job and a paycheck. It's a way understanding about his community among what he calls "the English" and all the show's popularity to get the Amish more politically active nationally.

Merlin Miller has ventured to Washington in his traditional dress to meet with Congress and his unofficial "political adviser" – none other than WND's found chief executive officer, Joseph Farah, who will make an appearance in a future the show this season.

"The reason I like being a part of the TV show is not to only show America how are, but to show that there are people, like me, who want to bring change to the community," Miller told WND-TV in a recent in-studio visit in which the producer recorded an exchange between Miller and Farah.

One of the changes that Miller represents for the Amish community is the will on camera.

"At one time, the Amish would've never gone on camera, but that's changing, Amish are starting to go on camera more. We're realizing if we don't speak for someone else will."

One of the attractions for the show is the seemingly incongruous title. Aren't they violent? How could there be such a thing as an "Amish Mafia"?

The Amish of Lancaster County, Pa., like many other Amish communities, believe in self-sufficiency and the kind of isolation necessary to preserve their lifestyle. Thus, outside law enforcement, some have for many years turned to a small organization for protection and justice.

The entire nation became aware of why protection is needed following the 2006 school shootings in which 11 Amish girls were killed and five more seriously injured by a non-Amish milk truck driver.

But is the protection really Mafia-style?

While Miller doesn't use the phrase "Mafia" to describe the structure that he is a part of, he says it was chosen to help the average American better grasp how they operate in the Amish community.

"The name Mafia helps English people better understand how the Amish subculture is structured. We have the preachers and different people like that who watch out for the people of the community," Miller said.

He said the show's focus on a different side to Amish life is a strong reason for its success.

"I don't know if I have the answer to what the secret ingredient is for the 'Amish Mafia's' success other than the world being able to see what goes on in the Amish world," Miller said.

While many Americans consider the Amish quaint folks who live a "backward" lifestyle devoid of many of the

technology, Miller doesn't see it that way.

"I don't think we do – we live our lives with family structure, moral structure and a great work ethic," he said

He also pointed out some common misconceptions of the Amish people.

"We pay taxes just like anybody else. We have our own healthcare – it's called Amish Aid," Miller said.



Some Amish even use modern means of communication.

"We do use phones – we have what we call phone 'shanties' and in some places, some Amish are even all cell phones," Miller explained.

The reality TV show star had some final advice to give to the American people – a lesson they can learn from

"My advice to non-Amish people is to keep family, keep your moral values, a good work ethic, and believe in freedoms and the freedoms that our forefathers gave us," Miller advised.

It's advice with which his political adviser concurs wholeheartedly.

23



[\(http://www.wnd.com/2014/02/surprise-coming-in-new-season-of-amish-mafia/\)](http://www.wnd.com/2014/02/surprise-coming-in-new-season-of-amish-mafia/)

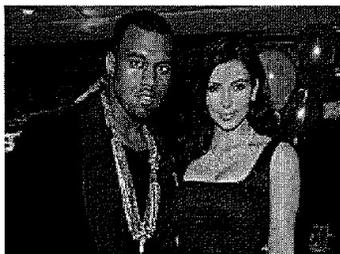
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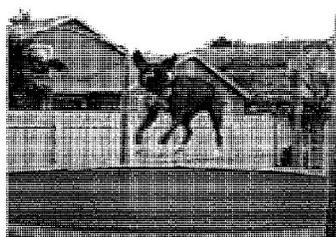


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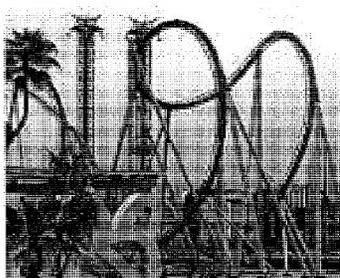


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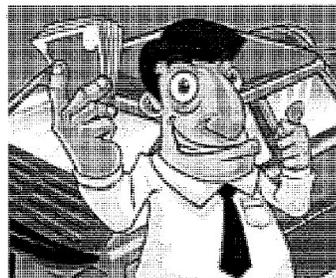


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17 Comments WND

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G21 • 3 months ago

Since our minds develop along with the culture in which we grow up, we tend to be ignorant of the unseen history of the customs we practice.

^ ▾ • Reply • Share >



Guest • 3 months ago

I'm confused about the Amish lifestyle. I have been around them because I lived in their area and worked around them. They condemn the use of automobiles, yet they would ask us for a car. What is the point? If automobiles are bad, and phones are bad, and our way of life is bad, and we a

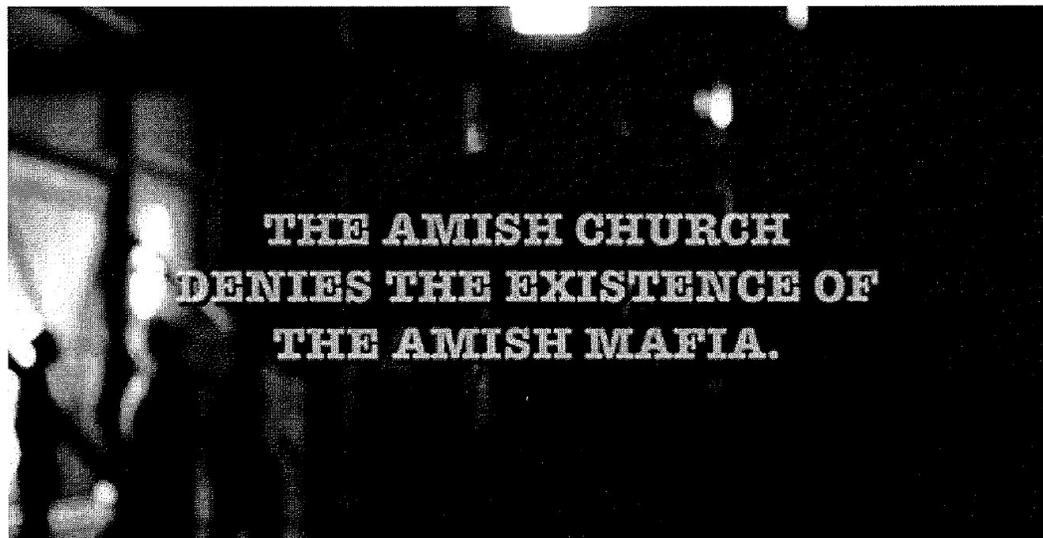
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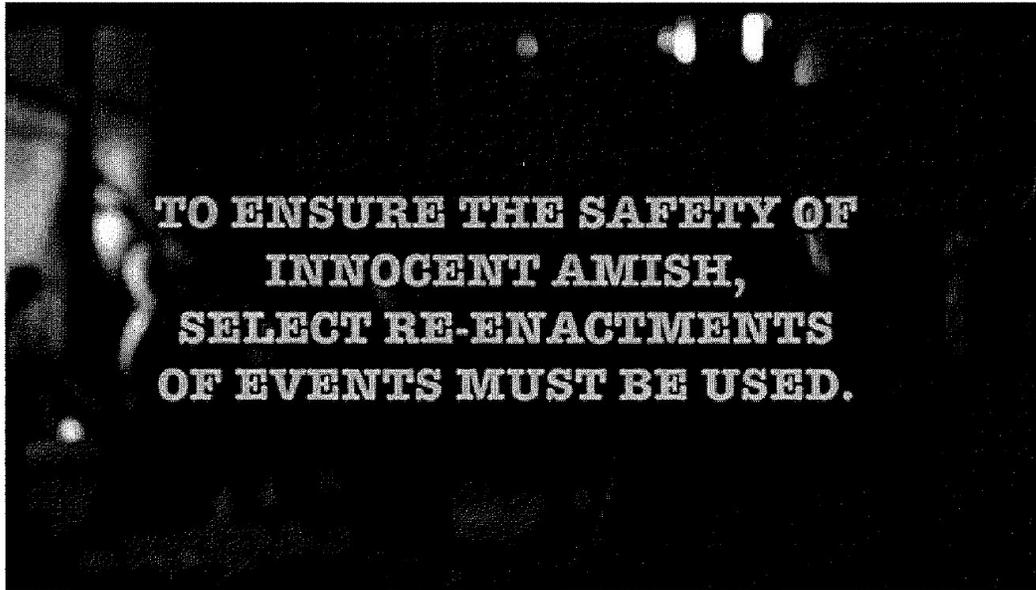
Did you know that aside from buggies and churning butter, Amish people also have to deal with the mafia?! Or, at least that seems to be the case on Discovery Channel's reality show, *Amish Mafia*.

Poor Amish Mafioso. So brave. Such wide hat-brims. So many mechanical bulls and guns and...Hold on, this show might actually be super fake. Let's take a look!

Exhibit A: The Opening Credits



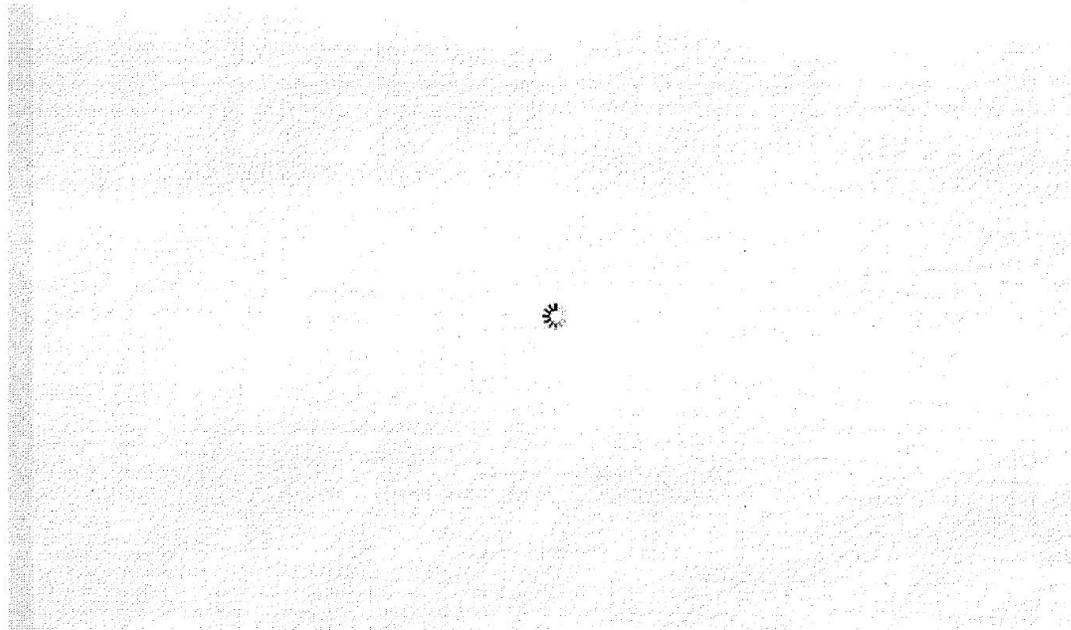
dsc.discovery.com



dsc.discovery.com

OK, so, just to clarify: Amish people say this isn't a thing and the scenes you're about to show us are actually re-enactments...OK.

Exhibit B: Amish Capoeira



yorkblog.com

In episode three of *Amish Mafia*, Jolin competes in a Mixed Martial Arts fight...in a barn...surrounded by hay...Cool!

Except that when York Blog asked Discovery Channel if the scene was choreographed, a spokeswoman replied with, "The fight is a recreate since the actual barn fights are sporting events that would need to be sanctioned."

So...

Bringing into evidence...The Breaking Amish connection



If *Amish Mafia* feels terribly similar to *Breaking Amish*, you may be on to something.

Because both shows shared a producer named Shannon Evangelista and a talent manager named Alan Bieler.

Exhibit Trashy: Baby's First Tramp Stamp



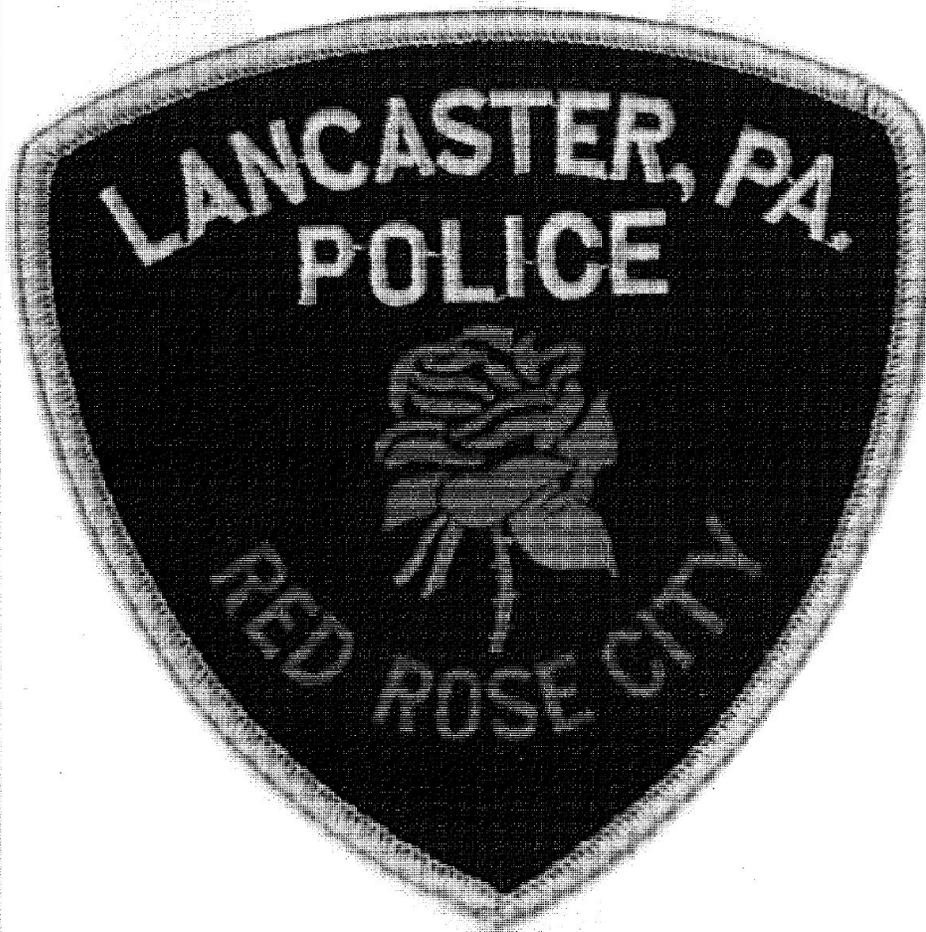
dsc.discovery.com

Here's the deal: Whether you're Amish or a Mennonite, like Jolin here, tats aren't something that should be done. Ever. You're a chosen member of God's tribe and shouldn't defile His perfection with some nasty old ink lest you face the wrath of the community.

In other words, Jolin would face severe punishment for his actions...were this show actually real.

Sidenote*: Studies have shown that Mennonites with more than one tattoo are prone to hoe tendencies. (*Not actually true.)

The prosecution calls the Lancaster PD to the stand

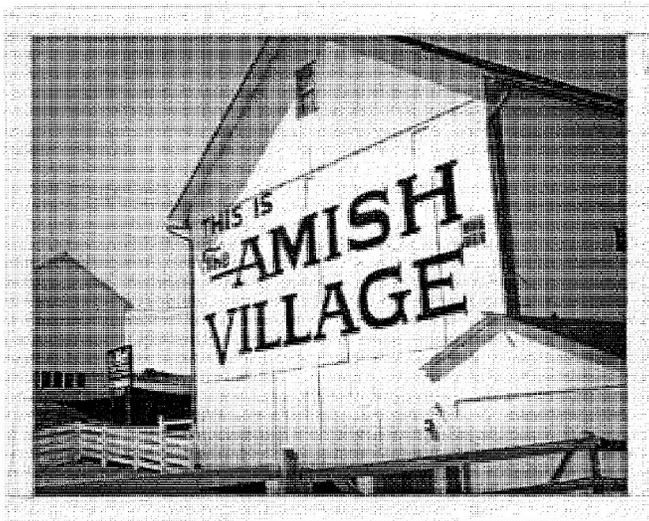


whptv.com

Most of the gangsters we know are pretty familiar with their local law enforcement. Not the folks of *Amish Mafia*, though! In fact, they kinda forgot what their police department is called. Whoops!

In response, the Lancaster City Police Department posted the following to their Facebook: "NAME CLARIFICATION. We are the Lancaster City Police Department. We have been serving Lancaster City for well over 200 years. If you are looking for the Lancaster County Police Department, as depicted on a fictional cable TV show, you may want to look elsewhere."

Exhibit F: "The idea of an Amish Mafia is simply fictional."



whptv.com

That's a direct quote from Brad Igou, the President of the Amish Experience in Lancaster County. He also revealed that before the show aired, the producers asked him for help to *enhance* the Amish culture and make it more interesting. "We just didn't have a good feeling," he continued, "so we just said we don't want to be involved in the show."

False Accusations

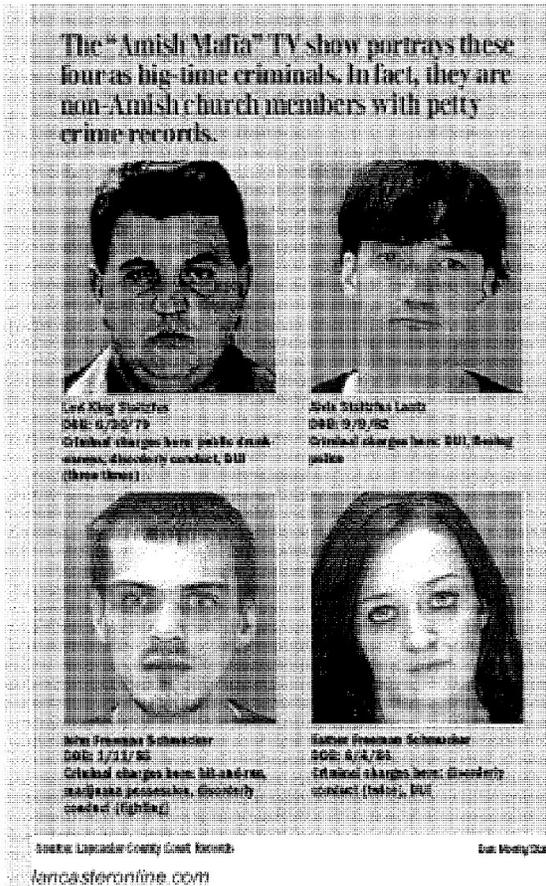


lancastronline.com

Apparently indulging is kind of Lebanon Levi's "thing." Because even though the mafia ringleader claims that local businesses pay him for their protection, including the Art & Glassworks store, that doesn't seem to be the case.

"I went, 'Oh my gosh, that is the funniest thing I've ever seen. Our store protected by Amish?'" said the store owner, Karin Meacham.

Closing Arguments



Let's just cut to the chase: Turns out that the main cast members of the show aren't actually Amish. They are non-Amish church members. Meaning they are Mennonites, at best. So that whole "Amish" part of the "Mafia" thing...yeah, no.

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THE WRAP

Covering Hollywood

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DAILIES | 'Amish Mafia' Season Premiere Don't Let the Dress Fool You (Exclusive Vi

TV | By Jethro Nededog on February 24, 2014 @ 2:11 pm

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On Tuesday's return episode, Merlin makes a dangerous "foot soldier" on the Discovery Channel series

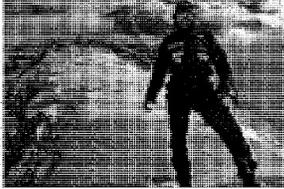
Discovery Channel's "Amish Mafia" returns for a new season on Tuesday amid bitter wars for power and territory.

While Levi struggles to keep outside forces from infiltrating the Amish community in Lancaster, Pa., Merlin's eye is on winning back Holmes County, Ohio. To do so, he sets his sites toward recruiting dangerous new "foot soldiers."

See video: Discovery's 'Bering Sea Gold' Preview: Things Unravel as Sean Finds 'Puddles of Gold'

In **TheWrap's** exclusive preview, Merlin reaches out to Ruck. He's clearly got an ax to grind after being shunned by the community for some time after beating a man down with a bible because he was chewing gum in church. Go figure.

Clearly dedicated to his religion, Ruck is named after the Dutch word for "dress" and he lives up to the name by wearing a ruck every day.



Jump From Mount Everest Is Discovery's Latest Live Stunt

But, don't let the dress fool you, there's some twisted stuff going on here.

See video: Discovery Sets 'Amish Mafia' Return, Releases Teaser

Watch the video above.

"Amish Mafia" returns Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 9/8c on Discovery

Channel.

AMISH MAFIA

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

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2 Comments

theWrap

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Christian girl • 3 months ago

Yikes! Holmes County is just down the road from me. I usually invite people to come to our church but if Merlin came and started to beat down people chewing gum, we'd have a problem. If the show and Merlin are real than he needs some serious mental health.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share



AntiAmish24/7 → Christian girl • 3 months ago

What a crock of crap....could roll into town with my boys and smack them around and they wouldn't be able to do squat about it. Such a fake POS.

^ | v • Reply • Share

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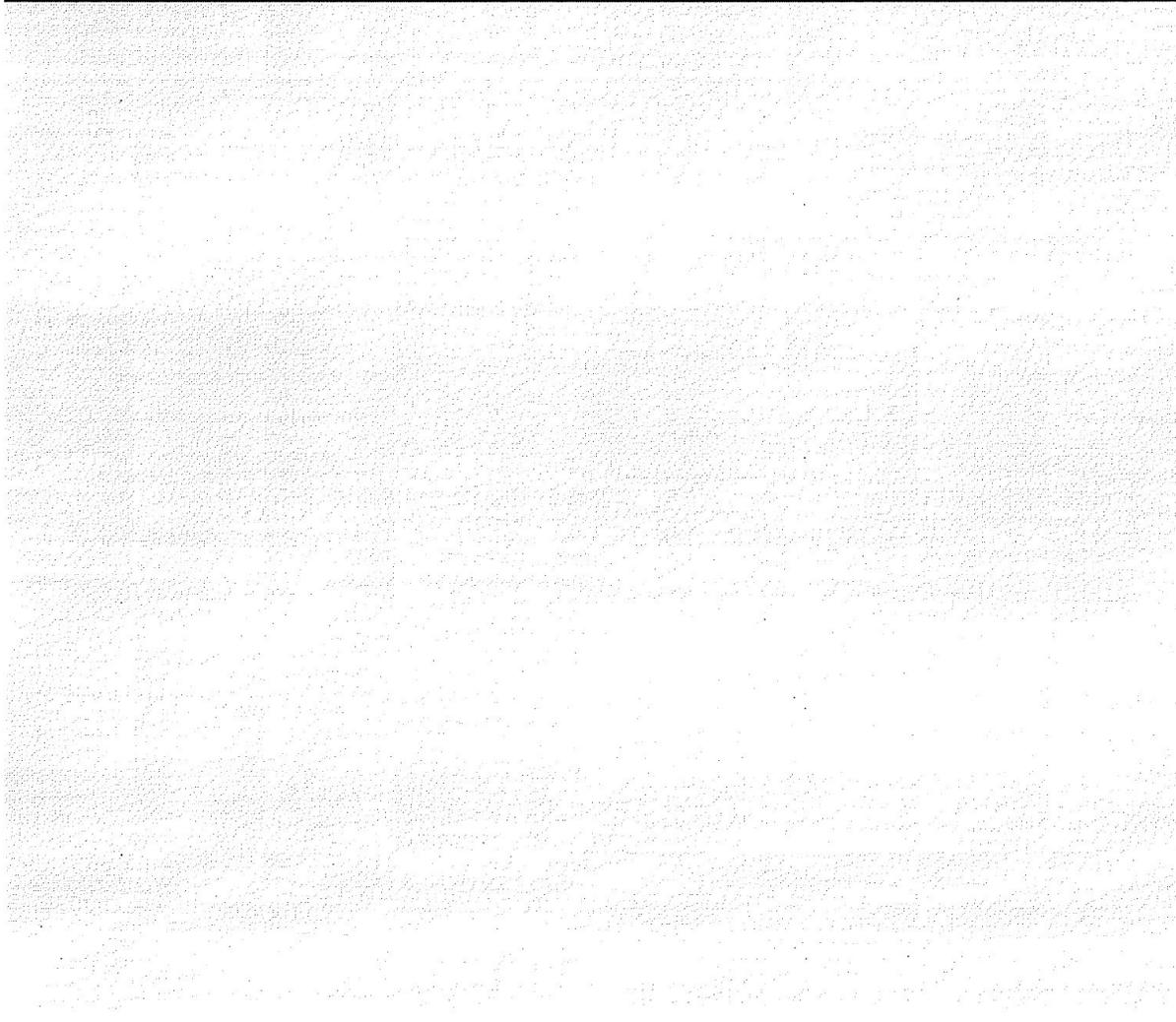


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SALEM

THE Hollywood REPORTER

THE LIVE FEED

YOUR DAILY JOLT OF T

POSTED
NOV
13
2 YEARS

10:49 AM PST 11/13/2012 by Erin Carlson

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The image shows a screenshot of a news article from The Hollywood Reporter. At the top, there are social media sharing options for Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook (with 408k likes), along with links for 'Subscribe', 'Newsletters', and 'Daily'. The main headline is 'SALEM' in large, spaced-out letters. Below it is the 'THE LIVE FEED' section header, followed by the sub-headline 'YOUR DAILY JOLT OF T'. A date stamp indicates the article was posted on November 13, 2012, two years ago. The author is listed as Erin Carlson, with a timestamp of 10:49 AM PST on 11/13/2012. Below the author information are more social media sharing icons for Facebook (121 shares), Twitter (71), Google+ (7), LinkedIn (0), and RSS (10). A 'Comments' section is visible but mostly obscured. At the bottom of the page, the Discovery Channel logo is prominently displayed, featuring a globe icon and the text 'Discovery CHANNEL™'.

RECOMMENDED



[\(/live-feed/breaking-amish-reunion-address-reported-383128\)](#)

TLC's 'Breaking Amish' Confronting Cast History,

The network announced Tuesday that the series will highlight the lives of the accused and the people who were not a part of the Amish community. The series will be a reality show that will premiere on Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. ET. Discovery will also have a post-episode discussion on Dec. 17 at 9 p.m. ET.

The series will feature a group of Amish people who were accused of a crime in the past. The series will be a reality show that will premiere on Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. ET.

This is a side of Amish culture that you don't see on the other side of the camera. It's about the people who were accused of a crime in the past. The series will be a reality show that will premiere on Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. ET.

The series is produced by The Sports Media, and is also produced by Dale and Chris. The series will be a reality show that will premiere on Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. ET.

Fraud Accusations in Reunion

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Breaking Amish: TV Review » }

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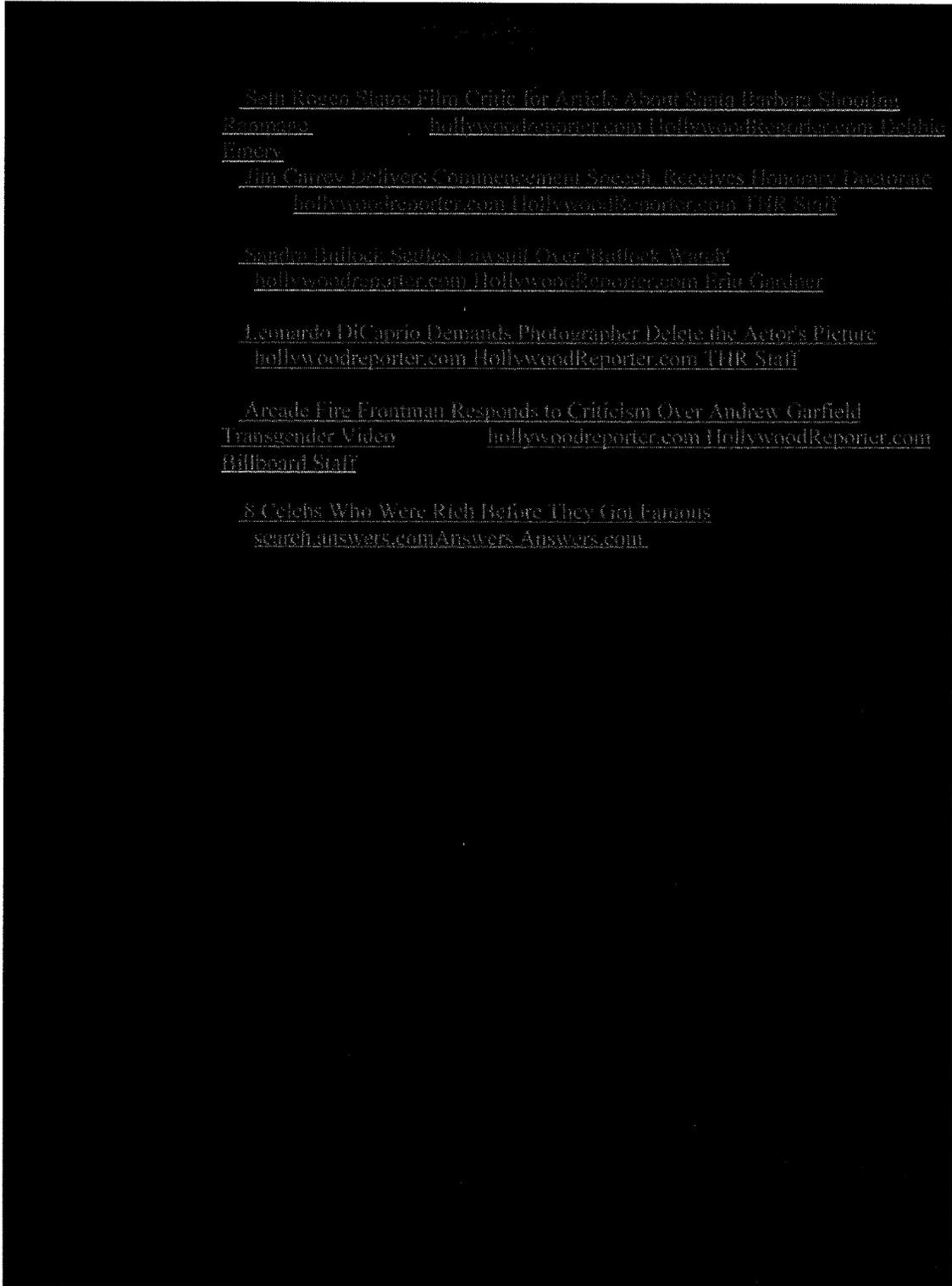
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Amish Mafia

Join the discussion...

Empty • This is just more scripted reality garbage on a new decent channel.

ED • I wonder if a similar movie has been or is being produced.

© Monte • This is your Amish 2.0. The Amish Mafia is the darkest of the dark. It's a real life story of a family that has been in the Amish community for a long time and has been in the Amish community for a long time.

Russ L. Varner Jr • I've read a book on it in the Amish Mafia and it's a real life story. I don't know.

JB • no way in hell im watching it. Now that Dirty Jane is gone, I refuse to watch any more scripted garbage on the Discovery Channel.

Amish Mafia

V I K I N G S

FOR YOUR 2014 IN ALL C

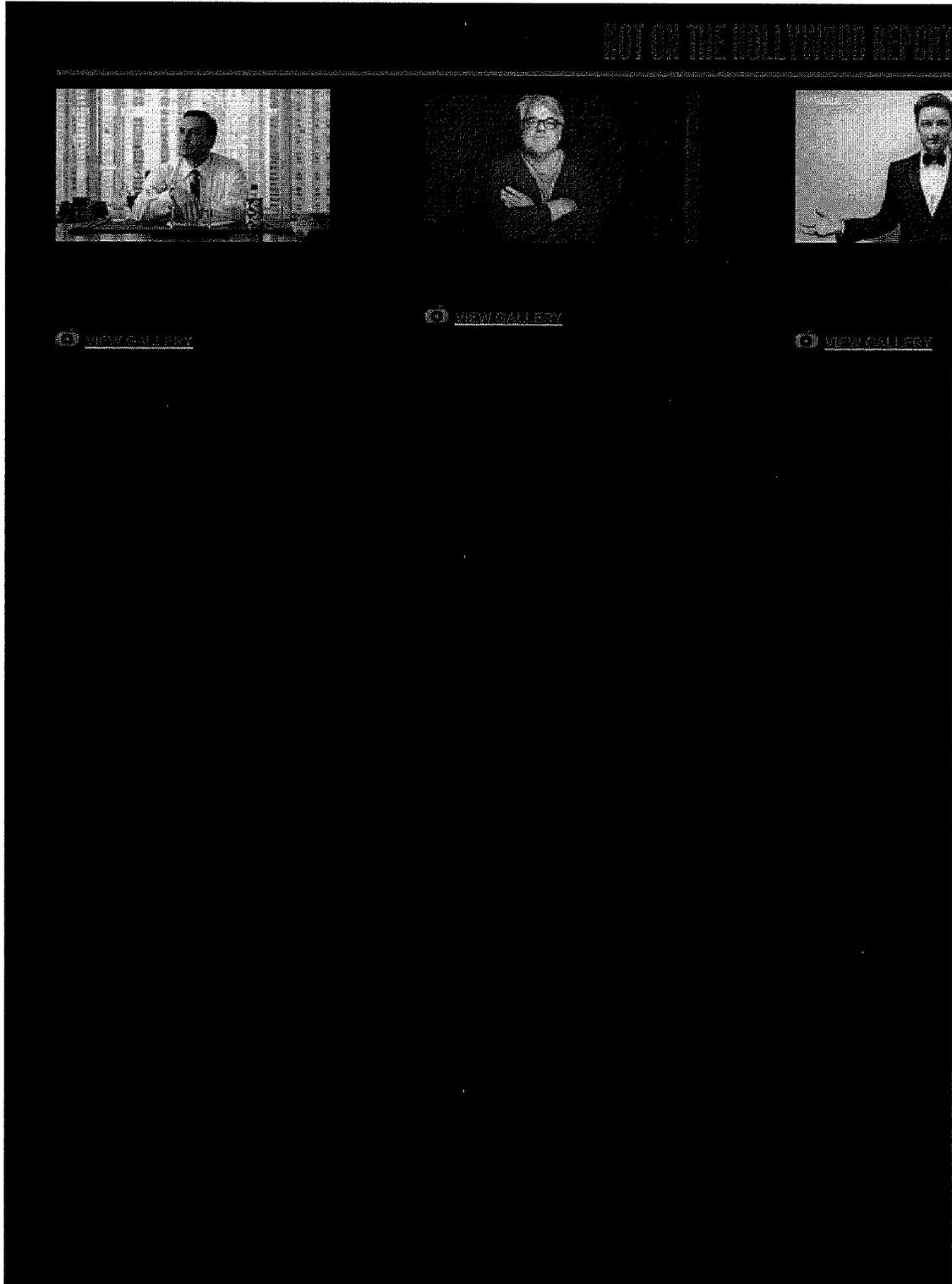
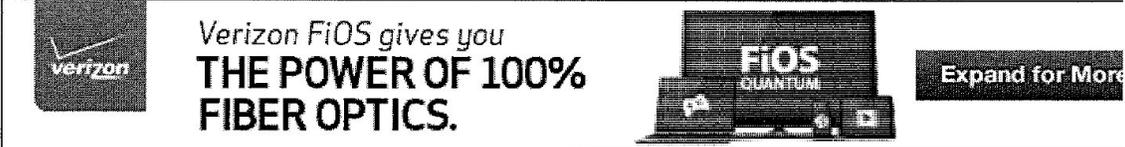


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A banner advertisement for Verizon FiOS. On the left is the Verizon logo. The text reads: "Verizon FiOS gives you THE POWER OF 100% FIBER OPTICS." To the right is an image of a television set with "FiOS QUANTUM" on the screen, and a laptop and tablet below it. On the far right is a button that says "Expand for More".

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Expand for More

May 27, 2014

HUFF
POST RELIGION

My Fascination With the Amish Mafia

Posted: 01/17/2013 5:12 pm

Three nights ago, I awoke to four words that portend nothing good in the family's future. I stood by the side of my bed, staring at me through the dark with those big, 4-year-old eyes. "Daddy," she said, "I threw up."

The bug quickly made the rounds through the whole house until we all were bedded by in the corners of the house with piles of blankets and an emergency receptacle. If, indeed, that's what it is, it feels something like this.

I couldn't concentrate enough to read, so I flipped through the cable channels until some Discovery Channel: something I never knew even existed until that moment.

Amish Mafia

Basically the premise is that the Amish people, being both pacifist and fairly insular, are not insiders and outsiders to do so. Seldom do they (according to the show) call on public officials who will try to take advantage of them. As such, there are a handful of folks (presented as outsiders) outside of the authority of the church, but supposedly with their knowledge to maintain that. This may include running off vendors selling cheap Chinese knockoffs of Amish goods, or selling produce by the roadside. However, because they don't rely on outside banks and insurance, their protectors also supposedly takes protection money from businesses, loans money directly to the police force.

But beyond this, they engage in other profitable ventures, like throwing "hut parties" for young folks to mingle and drink, while also setting up barn fights and other wager-friendly distractions.

Was this for real? It wasn't like I had anything better to do, so I turned the channel on, or watched a long marathon of the reality show about this so-called "Amish Mafia," culminating in a dramatic special called "The Reckoning."

Since I was sick, I am comfortable in admitting I watched it. The whole thing. Including the record new episodes coming in March. It's scandalously dramatic, borders on sensationalism, and its authenticity has come into question more than once.

I'm not particularly interested in determining what is and isn't real-time drama and what is a show, as this smacks a bit of what storyteller Fred Craddock says drives him crazy when he comes up to him and says, after one of his transfixing tales, "So, did that really happen?"

Clearly, he says, that person missed the point.

The point, here, as it is with Craddock, is whether the stories themselves point to a deeper truth. As interviewed on the show indicate, the Amish people are held up by many as a stereotype while this is true in many cases (as is such with many stereotypes), there are also darker truths. A Pennsylvania lawyer confirmed the growing number of Amish prosecutions for drug possession. One cast member on the show confessed to being raped by Amish men in positions of authority.

So while the debate rages about what is factual and what may be conflated in the show, the danger of idealizing a whole culture in our own imaginations, we miss the reality, right before us, of their core. They are fallible, broken and sometimes violent. They aspire to a way of life, and they confess their sins and get back on a righteous path; some bury their darkness beneath lies.

And perhaps the most compelling part of the whole story was the depth of moral relativism and the search for justification. Despite warring factions from Ohio and Pennsylvania vilifying one another, a common mission was for the greater good of their people. Never mind what Amish or "English" law says, never mind if it took guns and intimidation to get the desired result. Never mind if the head of the household had a \$60,000 Mercedes all around town. It was all in service (somehow) of God.

We can learn something about our own selves and our motives from this perspective on the garden. It seems that, no matter how beautiful the garden appears from the outside, the serpent's temptation is just so tempting we'll say or do just about anything we have to in order to sleep at night.

Follow Christian Piatt on Twitter: www.twitter.com/christianpiatt

20 people are discussing this article with **37 comments**

Comments are closed on this entry.

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prophetiksoul

★ 3

12 Fans

The problem with not idealizing the Amish is that the show places a stereotype on top of a stereotype. Idolizing them is a stereotype but then the show entertains our most base

desires with negative stereotypes. My father-in-law grew up Amish but now is Mennonite. One thing I have learned from him and his extended is a common sense idea we should remember: all people are not the same. This show makes no account of the different types of Amish. My father-in-laws fam would involve outside public officials on certain issues. So this show just perpetuates a negative stereotype onto of a positive one.

17 JAN 2013 6:07 PM

★ FAVE ↗ SHARE *** MORE

Ellen P. (Ellen_Polzien)
33 Fans ♥

★ 3

I live in the middle of Michigan's Amish country. I am on dropping-in-on terms with several Amish families. I can tell you that there is no "Amish Mafia." As others have noted, the TV show in question is fraudulent and exploitative of a faith community that, because of its beliefs, cannot defend itself on its own in a world of mass media, infotainment and "spin." I'm concerned that someone who is in a position of promoting intelligent discussion of Christianity in a contemporary context would dismiss the issue of factuality of "Amish Mafia" in his using it as an object lesson about romanticizing various lifestyles as more virtuous than others; what's that thing about not bearing false witness against one's neighbors (especially those who, as noted, cannot defend themselves on a level playing field)? And it also plays right in to the secular assumption that Christians are either hopelessly gullible naifs or else cynical manipulators who play fast and loose with facts in order to further their religious agendas. Although, on the other hand, I guess Piatt has inadvertently proven his own point -- that we are all people who disappoint God and hurt one another in active and passive ways -- people "in bondage to sin who cannot free ourselves," and ultimately dependent on God's grace rather than our own pretensions to holiness or enlightenment.

20 JAN 2013 2:12 PM

★ FAVE ↗ SHARE *** MORE

Karen G. (Proser)
SUPER USER · 55 Fans ♥

Thank you Ellen Polzien. Well said.

21 JAN 2013 6:31 AM

★ FAVE ↗ SHARE *** MORE

3 PEOPLE IN THE CONVERSATION

Read Conversation →

TomMartin

320 Fans · Freedom and equality.

★ 1

The Amish religion is a bad religion that believes shunning former members is a good thing. The fact that first century Christians believed the same does not justify it. Thankfully most Christians have gotten away from that kind of behavior.

18 JAN 2013 5:37 PM

★ FAVE ↗ SHARE *** MORE

c-tom

343 Fans · Badges we don't need no stinking badges

Name a better one?

19 JAN 2013 5:50 PM

★ FAVE ↗ SHARE *** MORE

3 PEOPLE IN THE CONVERSATION

Read Conversation →

IainLStuart

18 Fans

★ 1

This show is crap. It exploits people and feeds some ridiculous stereotypes the world in general seems to have of the Amish (which by the way are no more homogenous than the rest of us; and just as a point of fact there are well over 1000 different Amish churches in the US alone, all with their own ordnungs or traditions). I have stopped watching Discovery because of shows like this. I am disappointed that a 'serious' religious blog and Huffpost would even address this obscenity.

18 JAN 2013 9:39 PM

★ FAVE ↗ SHARE *** MORE

Karen G. (Proser)

SUPER USER · 55 Fans

He addressed it seriouslyhe didn't say it was real..he said a lot was trumped up., and, he made his points and opinion known.What is wrong with that?

21 JAN 2013 6:35 AM

★ FAVE ↗ SHARE *** MORE

2 PEOPLE IN THE CONVERSATION

Read Conversation →

Ana Laura G. (gagymboree2)
3 Fans 

★ 1

Discovery used to be a serious channel but in recent years they just made programs with actors talking about never existed mermaids and other crap the reason why some people believe that every show in discovery is rel is because discovery used to be a serious channel but not anymore this is a perfect example of that , just fake crap once again , TLC is the circus of TV a mean common Discovery channel you go to low

18 JAN 2013 12:50 PM

★ FAVE ✎ SHARE ... MORE

Karen G. (Proser)
SUPER USER · 55 Fans 

Yes, I know..it used to be a very good chnnel to watch.
Nowadays...

I saw that mermaid show.The first time it was described as only a "what if" kind of show--but I saw it was on another day--and you know..they never even mentioned that it was not a real finding. I know few would believe it..but some might, and others will have simply lost any respect for their(Discovery's) writers and producers like you and I have.

21 JAN 2013 6:40 AM

★ FAVE ✎ SHARE ... MORE

Martin Eldred (Martin_Eldred)
SUPER USER · 139 Fans  · Alaskan runner, singer, pastor.

I recently caught this "reality" show as well, although I did not have the "great" excuse of being sick to justify my watching three episodes of the Marathon. Real or not, as you say, it is an interesting look past some naive stereotypes we have about another sub-culture most of us know little about. Beyond that, I probably wasted three hours of my life. Oh well.

17 JAN 2013 6:08 PM

★ FAVE ✎ SHARE ... MORE

Karen G. (Proser)
SUPER USER · 55 Fans 

OK, I agree with your premise that it was interesting and entertaining anyway--but it is not a look past some stereotypes we may have, if the show is all hyped up.

21 JAN 2013 6:44 AM

FAVE SHARE MORE

2 PEOPLE IN THE CONVERSATION Read Conversation →

njova
40 Fans ♥

Omg I love this show lol I don't care if its fake or not its surprisingly entertaining I can't wait for the new episodes in March.
18 JAN 2013 12:03 AM

FAVE SHARE MORE

c-tom
343 Fans ♥ · Badges we don't need no stinking badges

It is fake.
19 JAN 2013 5:52 PM

FAVE SHARE MORE

JanetOber
313 Fans ♥ · Doing what I can, with what I have...

As many have said, the show is fake. There is a Lebanon Levi (I live near Lebanon, PA and have ex-amish friends who know him) and while he grew up Amish, he never joined the Amish church and stopped living/dressing like an Amish years ago. The whole show is one big act.

But Christian, I do like the point you make that "...in idealizing a whole culture in our own imaginations, we miss the reality..." that is so true. Just like Amish, there are thousands of different sects of Mennonites, I grew up in a very strict sect that was almost like Amish. And that lifestyle is only quaint if you aren't in it.
20 JAN 2013 7:15 AM

FAVE SHARE MORE

MissDem
SUPER USER · 58 Fans ♥ · true blue all the way

In the first 10 minutes of the first show - Levi explains that they can do the stuff they do because none of them have been baptised Amish. It's a reality tv show, but it's a good one. :)

21 JAN 2013 2:09 AM

★ FAVE ✎ SHARE *** MORE

4 PEOPLE IN THE CONVERSATION

Read Conversation →

Gabriela_Samaniego

0 Fans ♥

So what if the Amish Mafia exist and the Amish aren't perfect. They admit they aren't perfect. What matters is that they are a very good, holy, and spiritually, psychologically, and physically healthy people. In the non-Amish world broken homes, crime, poverty, health problems, sexual perverseness, murder, abuse, con-artists, scams, and generally deceit are the norm. The point is the Amish Mafia are an anomaly in the Amish whereas in the non-Amish world organized crime and governments that behave like organized crime are the norm.

20 JAN 2013 5:19 PM

★ FAVE ✎ SHARE *** MORE

Theoray

412 Fans ♥

People using religion to make money, bully others, commit crimes - no is that really ture

20 JAN 2013 9:36 PM

★ FAVE ✎ SHARE *** MORE

croneofcaulder

270 Fans ♥ · Gregorian Chant - the original Soul Music

They're outside of the church which is why they can break the rules to protect the vulnerable insiders.

24 JAN 2013 1:32 PM

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HUFFPOST TV

'Amish Mafia' To Premiere On Discovery (VIDEO)

Posted: 11/14/2012 10:09 am EST Updated: 11/14/2012 10:41 am EST

"Breaking Amish" may not be airing this winter, but the mafia is prepared to fill its void.

This December, Discovery will debut "Amish Mafia," a series which takes a look inside protect the Amish people and culture.

"Amish Mafia" centers on Lebanon Levi and his right-hand man Alvin. Not trusting U police, judge and jury for the Amish people of Lancaster, PA. He specifically works to community, while keeping the principles and morality within the community in check." Jolin.

Take a sneak peek of what's to come in the trailer below:



"Amish Mafia" will makes its debut on Tuesday, December 11 at 10:30 p.m. ET on L timeslot on Wednesday, December 12 at 9 p.m. ET.

Will you be tuning in to "Amish Mafia" this December?



34 people are discussing this article with **44 comments**



250
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Jim N. (SpeakupNation)

SUPER USER · 1,555 Fans ♥ · Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the livi

★ 2

Back thee off, or I shall take thee to the mattress!

14 NOV 2012 11:20 AM

↩ REPLY ★ FAVE ↩ SHARE *** MORE



Helen M. (hellyon3too)

261 Fans ♥

Amish people don't speak archaic English. They speak Pennsylvania German.

15 NOV 2012 12:42 AM

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2 PEOPLE IN THE CONVERSATION

Read Conversation →



Arend A. (JohnCochtosten)

SUPER USER · 238 Fans ♥

What has happened to the once great Discovery channel?

14 NOV 2012 11:19 AM

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sami99

22 Fans ♥

just like the history channel

14 NOV 2012 11:28 AM

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3 PEOPLE IN THE CONVERSATION

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Renzo X. (brokenleoheart)

SUPER USER · 240 Fans ♥

★ 1

what?! i don't even... who is watching this?!

14 NOV 2012 1:59 PM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



SlapSammich

1 Fan

★ 1

I'm ashamed that i want to watch this show... really really badly.

I love crap TV though...i watched RuPauls DragRace too.

14 NOV 2012 4:40 PM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



Michael Treya (Theophrastus)

404 Fans · OK, ok... so maybe I'm not "human" per se...

★ 1

Amish Mafioso: Thou hast cast artificial ingredients in this batch of apple butter, Brother Jedidiah...

Jedidiah: Thou hast caught my hands in the midst of committing the most profound hornswoggle. I submit myself to thy tender mercies.

Amish Mafioso: Well said. If thou hast learned from thy experience, tis well to thee. But this batch and thy profits shall be given to the poor in the name of our Lord.

Cue opening theme borrowed from CSI Miami

14 NOV 2012 4:51 PM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



Helen M. (hellyon3too)

261 Fans

They don't talk like that. For crying out loud, where ever did you get that idea? They speak a dialect of GERMAN.

15 NOV 2012 12:42 AM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



3 PEOPLE IN THE CONVERSATION

Read Conversation →



Jim Nelson (blacksmithn)

SUPER USER · 1,117 Fans · Iron, cold iron, is master of them all...

★ 1

I'm waiting for "Pentacostal Police". They read you your rights while speaking in tongues.

14 NOV 2012 5:35 PM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



dansup
514 Fans

★ 1

they'll go medieval on your hiney!

15 NOV 2012 1:44 AM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



Willie12345
SUPER USER · 301 Fans

★ 1

Why can't we leave these poor people alone? As a society, they are more honest, forgiving and kind then we are. I guess by throwing mud on them it makes us feel better.

15 NOV 2012 9:44 AM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



Rodney Cason (stonedog23)
8 Fans

Wille, what do you mean leave these people alone? They obviously are consenting to be on tv and in a reality show. No one is putting a gun to their heads for them to be on tv. They are grown and must be chasing the dollar like most people and networks do.

28 NOV 2012 3:59 AM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



Kathy S. (KathyJM)
55 Fans

★ 1

I don't know how this could be real. First of all, if they are really Amish they don't allow their picture to be taken (be on camera). Second, if they did what they say they do they would be shunned by the community.

ALSO, the local authorities now know who they are and they will be arrested. We

just had a situation in Ohio where an Amish Bishop sent his "group" out to attack men and women and cut off beards and hair. They were all found guilty on Federal Hate Crimes and will be serving time in Federal prison.

This show has to be fake!!!

15 NOV 2012 2:44 PM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



Daniel P. (maverick9808)

SUPER USER · 126 Fans · klaatu barada necktie

they are probably Menonites

16 NOV 2012 8:50 AM

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE



JOE1

1,121 Fans · Don't blame me, I'm not a republicrat.

Yea those pitchforks are sooo scary.

14 NOV 2012 10:51 AM

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May 27, 2014

HUFF POST ENTERTAINMENT

Amish Mafia Shows Deplorable Depths of D

Posted: 12/03/2012 11:25 am

If anyone thinks that the Discovery Channel is about actual discovery of, say, science, hi claims, think again. Or if you think that its sister company, The Learning Channel (TLC), information, you are mistaken. After TLC's first run of the reality television show *Breaking the roles of rebellious ex-Amish*, the Discovery Channel has produced a more scripted *A scenes are reenacted*. The show, which airs in early December, brags of a behind-the-sc protect and maintain peace and order within the Amish."

They are wrong. The only thing that makes this endeavor a "first-ever" is that it's perhaps from Hollywood regarding Amish people, after a long litany of offenses, from *Kingpin*, *For Deadly Blessing* and *Witness*, among many others. Unfortunately, this trend of Amish an

Since their Christian faith doesn't support "graven images" (see the Ten Commandments: humility and view pride as a threat to community harmony, you won't see Amish spokes defend their culture from a Discovery or Learning Channel attack. For Hollywood, then, t target.

So who am I to defend them, and why did my blood boil to see *Amish Mafia* on the Disco Hollywood continues to heckle -- Amish and Mennonite people -- helped raised me in an *Richer or Poorer* got all its clothing for the movie. I grew up Mennonite, knowing full well an absolutely unacceptable portrayal. My father was a Mennonite preacher, as were both bishop to ever enter the United States was my sixth great grandfather -- a far cry from ar *Kingpin*.

Don't get me wrong, there's plenty to shed light on in any closed religious community, es tendencies, like some, but certainly not all, Amish and Mennonite communities. Physical and obsessive-compulsive disorders are not uncommon, for example. Furthermore, I've and tokenized fascination with Amish-Mennonites prevents scrutiny of the veiling of their when scrutinizing women of other faith, notably Muslim women.

There is a deep contradiction in America. Women in Amish Mennonite communities that unnoticed -- by the liberal feminist eye -- while Muslim women of equal cloth covering ge Pennsylvania to Pakistan, from cape dresses and coverings to the shalwar kameez and

But this December, American audiences will not discover or learn anything about that. Not the Amish mafia -- made up of boys, mind you, just look at the promotional pictures -- that aired on Discovery's website, protecting vulnerable Lancaster, Pa. after a school shooting in 2006 that killed five young Amish girls and seriously injured five more.

This is where the show becomes grotesquely offensive because, here, especially, it veers from the truth about the shootings, which were deplorable and deeply saddening, the community came together in grief and forgiveness. My mother, who is Mennonite and who lives and works in this community, can attest to how great the grief was but also to the bigness of heart.

The Amish did not want to respond, as Discovery intimates, by picking up arms against a philosophy that is diametrically opposed to the strong and prevailing Amish Mennonite belief that the school shooting the national media were confounded at how nonviolently the Amish handled it. There are certainly renegades and outliers in every society, and young Amish and Mennonites misbehaving (and I count my younger self among these), to suggest that a community would subversively rely on a "mafia" to keep the peace is a Hollywood producer's basest pitch to a general denominator.

Discovery was definitely scraping the barrel with this one. Imagine for a moment if the Discovery Channel did a similarly distasteful and disrespectful parody of America's Jewish, Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist communities.

If Discovery were dedicated to documentaries that plied the painful parameters of these communities, provided they were done with the intent of healing and not harming. But that is not the Discovery Channel. And there is nothing in *Amish Mafia* that remotely ranks as redeemable.

What a shame. There's much to tell about the Amish and Mennonite communities. The story is an American audience would enjoy the telling of them. Too bad Hollywood won't be there to help with the learning of it.

Michael Shank, who grew up in the Amish-Mennonite town of Kidron, Ohio, is an adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and on the board of directors for the Amish Mennonite Center for Public Justice.

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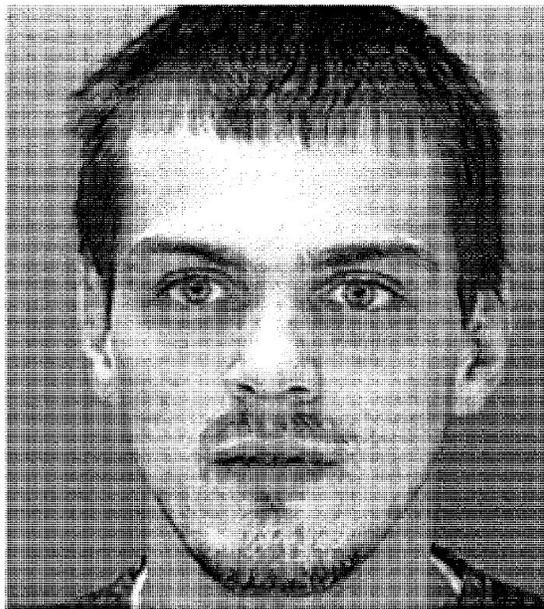
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Amish Mafia's John Schmucker receives jail sentence for December arrest

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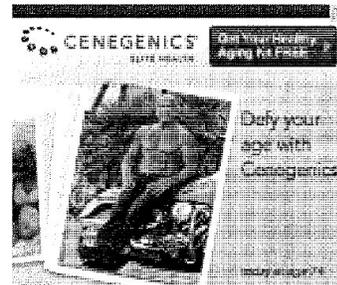
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Season 3 of Discovery Channel's series *Amish Mafia* is set to premiere Tuesday night, but it seems the show's producers are already getting plenty of material for Season 4 as one of the show's stars, John Schmucker (above), was given a fine and a jail sentence by a Pennsylvania District judge on Friday and camera crews were there to capture it all.

But don't think Levi's henchman was busted for assaulting a rabble-rouser or smashing up a buggy, the 29-year-old Schmucker was sentenced to 90 days in prison and fined \$1,000 for driving (a car not a buggy) with a suspended license — for the tenth time!

starcasm on the web:



Mo Kimye

☆ New intimate pictures from Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's wedding — including a shot of baby North!

JUN. 12, 2014 - 17 | RELATED: KANYE WEST, KIM KARDASHIAN



Kim and Khloe Kardashian provided new glimpses into Kim and Kanye West's opulent May 24 wedding in Italy. Kris Jenner has also been really chatty about the nuptials within the past few days, talking about Jay-Z's absence, her favorite part of the ceremony and more...

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According to [Lancaster Online](#), John Schmucker was arrested in Earl Township back on December 8 and is scheduled to begin his sentence on March 31. But, Schmucker's attorney, Steven Breit, reveals he plans on filing an appeal and will request house arrest in lieu of jail time.

"You should be punished for this type of conduct," Breit of the judge's sentencing. "But, driving without a license is not the crime of the century. It's being treated that way." Breit says the ten violation were over a period of years and that his client, prior to the most recent violation, was scheduled to have the suspension lifted in February, 2015.

"Why should he languish in [Lancaster County Prison](#)?" Breit said. "House-arrest is a viable alternative."



John Schmucker is the real life brother of co-star Esther Schmucker (seen together in the above promotional photo), who has been spending her fair share of time in court as well after [her boyfriend Imir R. Williams was arrested](#) for brutally assaulting her back in October. "I lost who I was because of him," Esther later said of the attack, which will be featured prominently in Season 3 judging from a [preview clip](#) that shows Esther with a huge black eye.

Amish Mafia Season 3 premieres Tuesday night, February 25 at 9/8c on Discovery.

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Ho-Ho-Ho-Hum

★ Grumpy Cat begrudgingly agrees to star in Lifetime Christmas movie

JUN. 22, 2014 - 11 | RELATED: GRUMPY CAT



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas for Grumpy Cat! The internet's most famous feline, and that's a heck of a title y'all, has signed up to star in her own live-action holiday film for Lifetime. Find out about the basic plot of the flick, get our pics for who should voice GC and then give us your suggestions.

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Meh-ry Xmas :(

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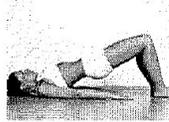
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Somehow Television Got Stupider: New Discovery Series "Amish Mafia"

FILM / TV
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By Steven Lloyd Wilson | Trade News | November 14, 2012 | Comments (40)

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Rock bottom isn't a simple thing that you smack into once, it's more like an onion, layers and layers of deeper and more sob-inducing bottoms, spiraling ever downwards.

So in 2006, a homicidal jackass murdered five Amish women, and in response, a small group of Amish men banded together in order to defend their community. From what? Well if Ben Stiller was involved they would probably keep the neighborhood safe from aliens and laughter, but the reality is probably a much sadder thing if that is even possible. The Amish church has refused to sanction the group, which is about as unexpected as the Yaukees overpaying for a middle aged

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Naturally, the Discovery Channel, in their quest for science and knowledge, has decided to launch a reality television show following the group, which they have dubbed the "Amish Mafia." Nevermind that one of the guys isn't even Amish, that the Amish live without electricity (and thus television), this is totally a legitimate view into Amish life. And people are totally laughing with them and not at them.

The saddest part is that there is probably a brilliant and insightful story to be told here. There's the age old story of the pacifist being driven to the edge and picking up arms at long last. There's the destruction of innocence inherent in the original crime. There's the terrible irony of men taking up arms when there is no enemy; when all the violence they can muster can never confront their real fear of a world far larger and stronger and more complex than anything in their world view. There are really powerful story elements at work here: layers of irony and tragedy. And I'm sure that a reality television crew is totally going to pick up on all that.

An early trailer has been released showcasing the theme song:



We're still waiting for confirmation that someone will throw a punch after having their ice cream pushed in their face.

(source: Cinema Blend)

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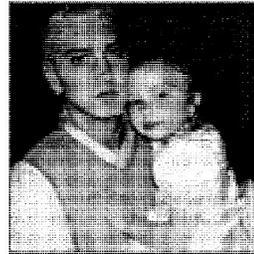
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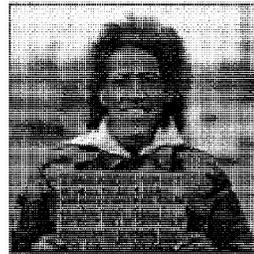
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Wembley · 2 years ago

Well, if anyone is going to 'get medieval on your ass' it would be these guys.

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Robert LeBlanc → Wembley · a year ago

of course this is so stupid, it is so badly acted and scripted it kind of is funny..sadly there really are people who believe it is real....lets watch boo boo,,,

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BlackRabbit · 2 years ago

Hey, I loved their singing! Oh wait, that's the Amish OUTLAWS. Carry on.

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Long_Pig_Tailor · 2 years ago

So maybe we could nuke LA, but before doing so send the people who don't suck text messages to evacuate? That could help, I think.

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Mrcreosote · 2 years ago

The Discovery channel, The Learning Channel, Te History channel. Why are all the channels that should be smart, so so stupid. Go ahead privatize PBS because I need to see "Opera at the Met-Bounty Hunters"

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duckandcover · 2 years ago

Downton Abbey will finally become "Downtown Abbey."



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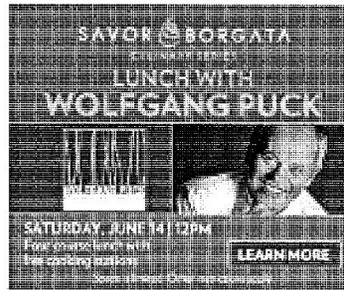
BY JOSH MIDDLETON | FEBRUARY 23, 2014 AT 11:46 AM

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHANE SHOFF



The Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era reports that John Schmucker, the 29-year-old star of *Amish Mafia* has been sentenced to jail after receiving his 10th violation of driving on a suspended license:

Schmucker was ordered to three months in prison and to pay a \$1,000 fine, following a short hearing Friday morning.



District Judge Rodney Hartman convicted Schmucker of his latest driving-under-suspension charge and immediately ordered sentence.

The latest violation happened Dec. 8 in Earl Township, court documents show.

Schmucker's prison sentence begins March 31, unless he files an appeal, which, his attorney said, he intends to do.

Schmucker stars as John in the Lancaster, Pa.-set Discovery Channel series *Amish Mafia*, which kicks off its third season on Tuesday.

Read More About: Amish Mafia, gossip, John Schmucker, Reality TV, TV

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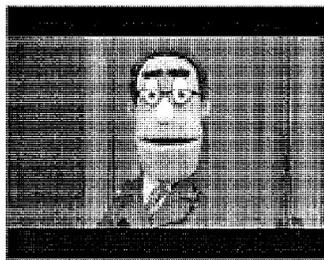


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Rumor: The 'Amish Mafia' TV series is fake



Stars from Discovery Channel's TV series "Amish Mafia."

msn news 8/22/13 | By Dustin J. Seibert of MSN News

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Is the popular Discovery Channel show depicting a group of Amish "enforcers" not actually reality television as advertised?

UNCONFIRMED: The truth about the show's authenticity varies depending on whom you talk to

Stories that Discovery Channel's TV show "Amish Mafia" isn't actually based on reality are surfacing on the Internet. But MSN News spoke to a Discovery Channel spokesperson whose explanation of the show differed from the locals where the show is filmed.

Laurie Goldberg, spokesperson for Discovery Channel, told MSN News, "All the Amish that appear on 'Amish Mafia' are indeed Amish and are listed in their respective official records (such as the Fisher book in Pennsylvania). This show depicts one segment of a multifaceted culture that is not well known."

The show portrays a group of Amish men in Lancaster County, Pa., who use a series of seemingly legally ambiguous methods — akin to the notorious Italian Mafia — in order to police and protect their community.

But some Lancaster locals remain skeptic, according to [Lancaster Online](#) reporter Brett Hambright, who wrote a story on the show.

"The outsiders are curious, but the locals know better," Hambright told MSN News. "They find it more humorous than anything."

Lancaster County District Attorney Craig Stedman told MSN News that he's gotten letters asking why his office isn't acting on the show's alleged illegal activities. He said that while he hasn't watched the show, he's not too concerned about it.

"No one in law enforcement and no one in the justice system is saying there's any basis in fact that there are events occurring consistent with what I understand the show

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portrays," he said. "I have a fairly close relationship with the Amish community here, and there's nothing coming from them that leads me to believe anything is going on."

Snopes questioned the veracity of the show, reprinting a New York Times quote that said, "An early credit warns of 'select re-enactments,' and since we're never later told whether we're watching staged scenes, it's fairly safe to assume that everything is staged."

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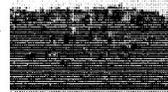


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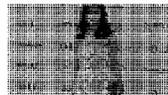


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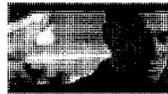
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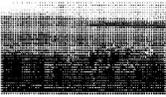


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TV review: 'Amish Mafia'

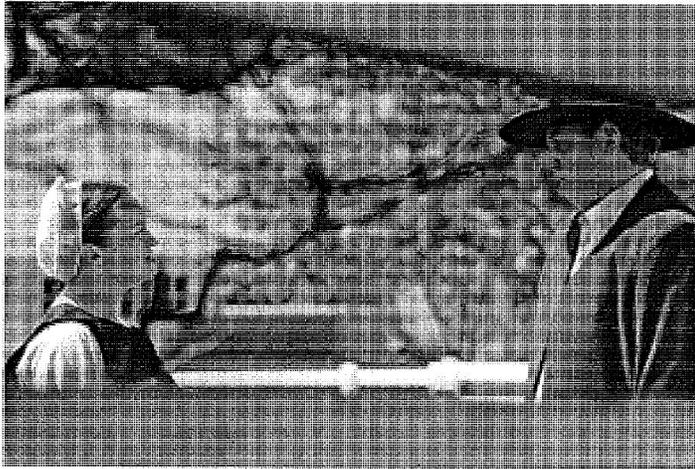
TLC series shows how an insular community's shadow world fills important roles

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Published: Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 6:00 AM
/ Updated: Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 5:09 PM



BY DAVID HINCKLEY

A A A



Esther talks with Lebanon Levi on 'Amish Mafia.'

TITLE:
'Amish Mafia'
NETWORK / AIR DATE:
Tuesday at 10:30 p.m., Wednesday at 9 p.m., TLC

Early reviews of Discovery's "Amish Mafia" have suggested the show is to reality what Tony Soprano was to marital fidelity: not even close.

It's certainly true that the word "mafia" gets your attention, and the use of an unspecified number of "reenactments" raises the question of whether the show could be putting its own gloss on anything it is dramatizing.

But even if "Amish Mafia" may evoke for some viewers the popular and somewhat discredited "Breaking Amish," the show has a running undercurrent that feels interesting and credible.

The "mafia" nominally includes four men led by "Lebanon Levi," who administers the in-house Amish insurance fund for a community not inclined to taking traditional policies.

Levi and his posse have expanded their turf, the show suggests, to protecting the community from exploitation by outsiders and enforcing internal morality.

In the process, it says, they resort to some strong-arming. Levi has also has used his power to accumulate things like a Cadillac, which makes a statement when your sect doesn't drive.

Are the suggestions of intimidation accurate? Or the ominous suggestion that Levi's group is unacknowledged yet unofficially tolerated by church leaders?

Who knows? It wouldn't be the first church with a secret arm.



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What does ring true are a couple of broader underlying suggestions about Amish people.

Because they are an insular community and don't have distractions like TV or video games, they spend a lot of time in each other's business.

Because they avoid outside institutions like police and insurance companies, they would need an internal mechanism to perform some of those functions.

In any group, some folks are going to have crises of faith, or stray in their behavior.

In any group, some will strive to be more equal than others.

In any group, there are people who work to resolve problems short of legal or clerical action.

The real heart of "Amish Mafia" lies in matters like these.

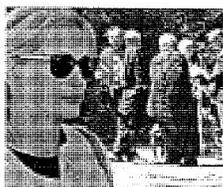
By raising them, the show neither condemns nor suggests any weakening of collective faith.

It does not feel like salacious rubbernecking. It merely suggests that however the Amish choose to live, they struggle with many of the same issues as "the English."

If Lebanon Levi comes off at times as a caricature, the unseen people around him come off as quite human.

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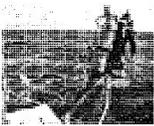
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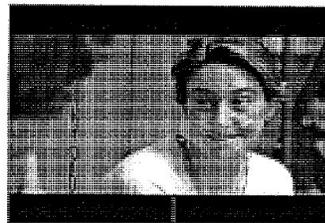


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