

LIFE

WHAT TO STREAM

Here are some options after 'Succession'

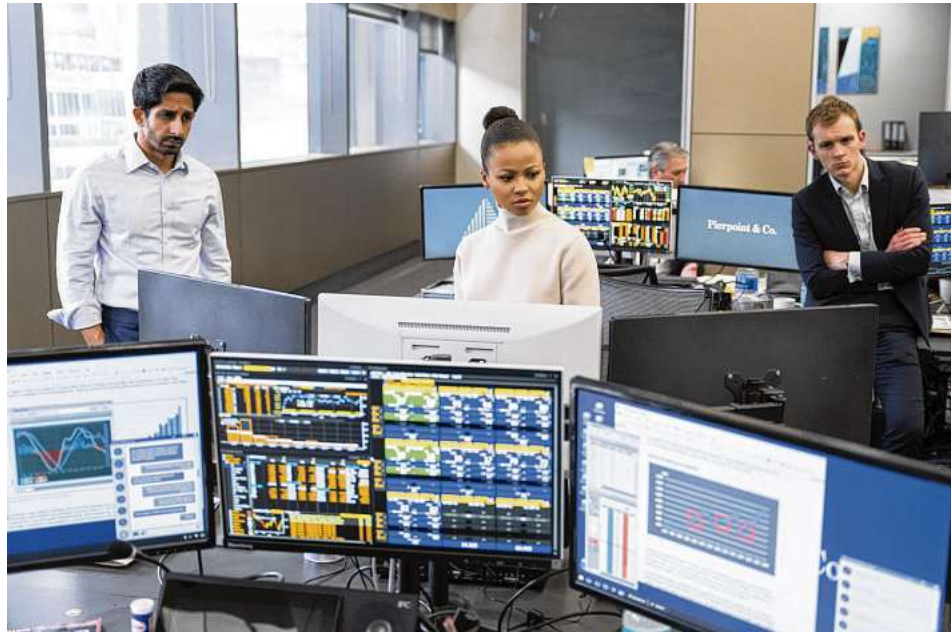
By Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

The series finale of "Succession" gripped discerning viewers on Sunday night, lighting up social media with fervent discussion about the fates of the Roy siblings and the future of Waystar Royco. Series creator Jesse Armstrong and longtime director Mark Mylod stuck the landing, leaving fans surprised, satisfied and ultimately wanting more.

The loss of "Succession," as well as Bill Hader's Hollywood hitman series "Barry," leaves a gaping hole in the Sunday night television lineup, but if you're jonesing for more content that might scratch the "Succession" itch, here are a few suggestions.

On Max, there are two recent series that touch on the same themes as "Succession" in different ways. First up, the financial drama "Industry," which follows the young people who work at an investment bank in London. If you're yearning for the austere office-core look of "Succession" plus the inscrutable business dialogue, as well as the interpersonal power plays, "Industry" may be the one for you. It also has a sizzle of steamy sexuality that wasn't present in "Succession."

But it's the Max comedy "The Other Two" that shares an overlapping sensibility with "Succession" in terms of its media satire. Created by former "Saturday Night Live" head writers Chris Kelly and Sarah Schneider, "The Other Two" is the sharpest, and most brutal, skewering of the current media landscape. The comedy follows the Dubek family after youngest brother Chase (Case Walker) becomes Justin Bieber-famous after blowing up on social media. Mom Pat (Molly Shannon) follows suit with a talk show that results in Oprah Winfrey level fame and fortune. The titular other two siblings, Cary (Drew Carver) and Brooke (Heléne Yorke), are strivers desperate for fame, whose scheming always lands them in tragically absurdist scenarios. The third season just debuted a few weeks ago, packed with jokes and inci-



Sagar Radia (from left) as Rishi Ramdani, Myha'la Herrold as Harper Stern and Harry Lawtey as Robert Spearing in HBO Max's "Industry." SIMON RIDGWAY/HBO MAX/TNS



Heléne Yorke as Brooke in "The Other Two." CONTRIBUTED

sive observations about the vacuity of the media industry. A famous family with complicated dynamics and siblings who are always jockeying for power will slot right into that "Succession"-shaped hole in your heart.

One could also look to the influences of creator Jesse Armstrong, who got his start on the British comedy series "Peep Show" (streaming on Tubi and The Roku Channel) and the Armando Iannucci projects "The Thick of It" (BritBox) and "In the Loop" (Tubi, AMC+). But it's more telling to look at how he pitched the project, after reading biographies of towering figures of media and money — Rupert Murdoch, Sumner Redstone and Robert Maxwell. Armstrong positioned "Succession" as "Festen-meets-Dal-

las," referring to the 1998 Danish Dogme 95 masterpiece "Festen" (also known as "The Celebration"), and the blockbuster 1980s prime-time soap.

"The Celebration," directed by Thomas Vinterberg, takes place during a birthday party for a family patriarch and follows the emotional fireworks that ensue, captured with a riveting naturalistic aesthetic akin to the faux documentary style of "Succession." "Dallas," of course, kept audiences glued to every move of the Ewings, a Texas oil family, much in the same way audiences have hung onto the shifting alliances of the Roys. Stream "The Celebration" on the Criterion Channel, and "Dallas" on Amazon Freevee.

"Succession" also provided a look at the inner

lives and lifestyles of the ultra-wealthy, and those who serve them. For more "eat the rich" material, look no further than, of course, Bravo. Not "The Real Housewives," but rather, seafaring sister "Below Deck." This reality show set in the world of international yachting will call back to the scenes of the Roy family aboard their own massive mega-yacht, but the upstairs-downstairs structure of "Below Deck" means this reality show is more like "Downton Abbey" on the high seas. We follow along with the crew of a mega-yacht as they welcome different groups of guests each week. "Below Deck" — which now also includes the spin-offs "Mediterranean," "Sailing Yacht," "Down Under" and "Adventure" — is the platonic ideal of a reality show because it has a little bit of something for everyone: a young, attractive crew of deck hands and stewards who work hard and play harder, chef drama, exotic locations, nautical danger and, of course, demanding and clueless wealthy guests. If you're missing the Roys, there are equally terrible and even more entertaining rich people to gawk at on every iteration of "Below Deck."

Katie Walsh is the Tribune News Service film critic and co-host of the "Miami Nice" podcast.

WELLNESS

Helping animals via a wildlife highway crossing

By Dr. Barton Goldsmith
Columnist

I feel like a proud papa. My community, along with a bunch of civic, private and local agencies, is creating the world's largest (and one of a very few) wild animal crossings over a busy 10-lane freeway. And no tax dollars were spent.

Located a mere 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles are the Conejo Valley and Agoura Hills, where the new crossing is going up at Liberty Canyon. The hashtag connected with the project (#SaveLAcougers) is an homage to P22, a famous cat that roamed Los Angeles for years. Unfortunately, he recently fell ill and had to be euthanized, but he was a big inspiration for getting this project off the ground.

P22, also known as the "Hollywood Cougar," was a male mountain lion who gained fame in 2012 after being photographed crossing the 101 Freeway near the Cahuenga Pass. Since then, he has become a symbol of the challenges facing wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains and the need for safe crossings to help wild animals move between fragmented habitats.

This magnificent animal had been tracked by researchers since he was a kitten, and his movements provided valuable insights into the behavior of mountain lions in urban areas. He crossed several busy roads and highways during his travels, including the 405 Freeway (the busiest in the world) and the 101 Freeway (the second busiest.) In 2015, P22's journey across the 101 Freeway near Liberty Canyon sparked renewed interest in the need for a wildlife crossing in the area. The crossing was approved by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in 2017, and construction began in 2021.

The Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing will span 200 feet over the 101 Freeway and will feature natural vegetation and water sources to help animals feel comfortable while crossing. The crossing is expected to be completed in 2023 and is seen as a crucial step in pro-

The Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing will span 200 feet over the 101 Freeway and will feature natural vegetation and water sources to help animals feel comfortable while crossing.

tecting the genetic diversity of wildlife in the region.

I'm taking a video of the construction every time we drive by; it truly is like waiting for a baby to be born. Until recently, I had only read about and seen pictures of environmentally integrated architectural designs and builds like this, and just knowing that they exist has to make any animal and nature lover smile. Now watching it take shape near where I live adds to the tapestry of my life and reaffirms my faith in what we can do as human beings.

Helping these animals that we have displaced is a civic duty and one we should all take part in. Some people will always complain when a project like this gets created that there is so much need in the world right now, the money could have been better spent another way. Perhaps, but I am choosing to highlight this project because it touched my heart.

Please follow my lead and promote the projects and people you believe need our support, and let your local newspaper know, or just post it on social media. The right people will find it and help you spread the word.

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Moving

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delivering groceries and other items to local homes.

Matevia began to take steps to address his weight. He started by cutting out sugar and white flour, noodles and rice, and he stopped drinking sugary sodas and drinks. He lost about 20 pounds of excess weight.

Around Thanksgiving of 2021, Matevia's mother-in-law won a membership to a local gym in Kettering called Workout Anytime. At 85 years old, she wasn't going to use it, so she asked the family if anyone wanted it.

"I said I would take it, even though I had never stepped inside a gym in my life," Matevia said. My brother-in-law wanted it, but I promised him I was going to use it."

At the end of that year, Matevia, then 54 years old,



David Matevia in 2021 at his all-time high weight of 310 pounds. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

walked into a gym for the first time. He took advantage of the 24-hour access and went in to walk on the treadmill late at night, when the crowds were likely to be



David Matevia with his son, Jackson (left), and daughter Riley (on floor) in 1997.

the lowest. Suffering from arthritis in his knees, Matevia was limited in what he could do without pain. And doctors told him he'd eventually need knee replace-



Naturally thin for most of his life, Matevia was often teased for being "too skinny." He is shown on his wedding day in 1991.

ment surgery. "I couldn't run," Matevia said. "At first I could only do about 10 minutes, but I kept pushing myself." Holly Surface, the owner

of Workout Anytime in Kettering, has helped Matevia achieve his fitness goals from the outset.

"Holly was the first person I met when I went in," Matevia said. "She showed me everything and how it all worked."

Matevia continued using only the treadmill for about six months before deciding to try weightlifting. The staff encouraged him to push himself, and before long, he was working out five to six days each week. He still mostly goes at night so he can continue his delivery job during the day. He now weighs 245 pounds.

After the free membership expired, he signed up again.

"It's the best decision I've ever made, hands down," Matevia said. "The last time I saw my doctor, he said it didn't look like I needed to have my knees replaced!" Surface and her husband

have owned the business for three years and have been involved in the fitness industry for many more years. Surface said people like Matevia continue to make a huge difference in her life, as well.

"David was embarrassed to even walk in here," Surface said. "I told him he had no reason to feel uncomfortable here. What I really love is hearing the stories and helping people reach their fitness goals."

Today, Matevia admits controlling his diet is the most difficult part of his health journey. Exercise, he said, is much easier than people think it is.

"I sat there all this time and developed all these health issues," Matevia said. "If I had started in my 20s, it would have made a big difference. But at least I did start. This has really changed my life."

S-E-X

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Lei, a sociology professor at Rutgers who recently co-authored a paper that examined why fewer young adults are having sex. "They are busy with other domains of life." Researchers also noted that hundreds of thousands of young adults identify as asexual.

Rising computer use may play a role in the trend. Young adults increasingly form relationships through playing video games with

people they do not physically meet, Lei said. These distant relationships sometimes interfere with the formation of sexual relationships.

A Pew Research Center report from 2015 found equal numbers of men and women played video games but that young adult times were more than three times as likely as young adult women to identify as serious "gamers."

Young adults also have access to endless amounts of free pornography online, a departure from the porn

magazines, videotapes and DVDs many of their parents bought. Much of the most popular online porn features violence or coercion, which gives some young adults a flawed perspective on sex and turns others off it entirely, said Debby Herbenick, director of the Center for Sexual Health Promotion at Indiana University Bloomington's School of Public Health.

"Those kinds of behaviors are really, really normalized among young people," she said, referring to rough sex.

Sex also has a correlation with income. Young adults who make less money were more likely to go without sex than peers making more.

Much recent discourse about lack of sex among young adults has revolved around so-called incels, young men who contend — often in vile, misogynistic terms — that dating apps like Tinder make it easier for women to find conventionally attractive, wealthy or otherwise high-status men and ignore everyone else.

Erin Tillman, a certified sex educator and executive

director of the nonprofit Sex-Positive Los Angeles, said it makes her sad when she hears men blame women for not wanting to have sex with them. She said those men could likely change their perspective and find intimacy.

"They hold the cards in terms of making themselves better," she said.

The sexless trend has the potential to lower rates of unplanned pregnancy. And it could also reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections, though that has not yet happened.

Herbenick does worry about young adults who want sex but aren't having it. "It can feel really lonely if you feel like people are rejecting you or wouldn't be interested in you," she said.

But Tillman remains optimistic, noting the latest group of young adults, like every new generation, is finding its way and approaching sex differently than their parents.

"I'm not worried, because people are just basically finding different ways to connect with each other," Tillman said.