



'Malcolm in the Middle' Revival Honours Stars Von Bergen and Mars

Description

Not everyone returned for the revival of *Malcolm in the Middle*, called *Life's Still Unfair*. This new series has sparked a lot of talk since it was announced, particularly about Erik Per Sullivan, who played Dewey. Audiences noticed his absence, but some other characters also do not appear.

While many familiar faces return, some characters like Cynthia and Jessica are missing. Two important characters, however, are referenced in the show despite not appearing.

In episode 4, viewers see the Wilkerson family celebrate Lois and Hal's 40th anniversary. The show remembers Commandant Edwin Spangler, a villain in earlier seasons. Actor Daniel von Bergen passed away in 2015. At the party, Francis and his military friends toast to him, showing their respect.

Another absence is Kenneth Mars, who played Otto, Francis' boss. Mars died in 2011. Though Francis' parents cannot thank Otto, the show updates viewers about his wife, Gretchen. She appears at the anniversary party and now works as a cow doula, offering help to Piama, who is expecting a baby.

Although Spangler and Otto are not there, their influence on Francis remains important in this revival.

Vocabulary List:

1. **revival** //rɪ'vaɪvəl// (noun): a new version of something from before
2. **sparked** //spɑːkt// (verb): caused something to start quickly or suddenly
3. **absence** //æbsəns// (noun): the fact of someone not being there
4. **referenced** //ˈrɛfərənst// (verb): mentioned something by name or idea
5. **villain** //ˈvɪlən// (noun): a bad character who causes trouble
6. **influence** //ˈɪnfluəns// (noun): the power to change or affect someone

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What is the title of the revival of 'Malcolm in the Middle'?

Option: Life's Still Unfair



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- Option: Malcolm's Return
 - Option: Middle Age
 - Option: Dewey's Story

2. Which character was notably absent from the revival?

- Option: Dewey
- Option: Cynthia
- Option: Jessica
- Option: Hal

3. Who celebrated their 40th anniversary in episode 4?

- Option: Francis and Piama
- Option: Lois and Hal
- Option: Cynthia and Jessica
- Option: Spangler and Otto

4. Which actor passed away in 2015?

- Option: Daniel von Bargaen
- Option: Kenneth Mars
- Option: Erik Per Sullivan
- Option: Francis

5. What profession does Gretchen have in the revival?

- Option: Cow doula
- Option: Veterinarian
- Option: Teacher
- Option: Nurse

6. In what year did Kenneth Mars pass away?

- Option: 2011
- Option: 2015
- Option: 2010
- Option: 2005

True-False

7. All characters returned for the revival of 'Malcolm in the Middle'.



8. Cynthia and Jessica are present in the revival.
9. Francis toasts to Commandant Edwin Spangler at the anniversary party.
10. The revival does not mention Otto at all.
11. Gretchen is expecting a baby in the revival.
12. The influence of Spangler and Otto on Francis is acknowledged in the revival.

Gap-Fill

13. Erik Per Sullivan, who played Dewey, did not return for the _____ revival.
14. The show remembers Commandant Edwin Spangler, a villain in earlier _____ of the series.
15. Married couple Lois and Hal celebrate their 40th _____ in the revival.
16. Kenneth Mars, who played Otto, passed away in _____ 2011.
17. Gretchen now works as a cow _____ in the revival.
18. The influence of Spangler and Otto on Francis remains _____ in the revival.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Life's Still Unfair 2. Dewey 3. Lois and Hal 4. Daniel von Barga 5. Cow doula 6. 2011

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. new 14. seasons 15. anniversary 16. the 17. doula 18. important

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL2

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