



PRESS RELEASE

e.tv launches award-winning sitcom: My Name Is Earl

TX: Sunday 14 December at 7.30pm

On Sunday 14 December at 7.30pm, free-to-air-channel e.tv launches the sitcom, My Name is Earl. This is the first time that a free-to-air channel in South Africa will flight this award-winning comedy series, which consists of 24 episodes.

Earl (Jason Lee) has taken one too many wrong turns on the highway of life. However, a twist of fate turns his life into a tailspin of life-renewing events. Earl wins a small lottery, and, after an epiphany, he is determined to transform his good fortune into a life-changing event as he sets out to right all the wrongs from his past.

Before Earl can begin his journey, his inevitable attraction to misfortune surfaces once again. Seconds after winning the lottery, a car hits him and while unconscious; the winning lottery ticket blows away.

While in the hospital, Earl watches Last Call with Carson Daly, where Carson says that his success is a direct result of doing good things for other people. It is at that moment Earl discovers karma – and in hope of a better life, he sets out to correct every bad thing he's ever done starting with a grade school geek, Kenny (guest star, Gregg Binkley), who Earl used to pick on.

Joining Earl along his quest to cleanse his karma are a few dim-witted friends: hapless brother Randy (Ethan Suplee) and the very sexy Catalina (Nadine Velazquez). Even Darnell (Eddie Steeples), the owner of the Crab Shack where Earl drinks beer, offers his support. But it's Earl's ex-wife Joy (Jamie Pressly) who won't lift a finger to help unless there's something in it for her.

Despite his seemingly limited intelligence, Earl is oddly effective – and the comedy series, like Earl himself, has a voice and style all its own. This show was created and written by Greg Garcia.

Biographies:

Jason Lee (Earl J. Hickey)

A good-looking goof with a flair for comedy, Lee became a professional skateboarder in his teens. He started acting in his twenties with a supporting role in Kevin Smith's 1995 comedy Mallrats.

The movie went bust but Lee and Smith became buddies and worked together on a number of subsequent projects. Although this appealing actor popped up in a handful of major Hollywood releases, he remained primarily an indie darling, known for his quirky performances and strangely named son, Pilot Inspektor.

Ultimately, Lee took a gamble on the small screen as the star and producer of My Name Is Earl, a hilariously offbeat and surprisingly successful sitcom. The rest, as they say, is history.

His character, Earl, is the protagonist and narrator of the show.

Ethan Suplee (Randall “Randy” Hickey)

A large young actor on the upside of 130 kg, Ethan Suplee often portrays dim-witted brutes due to his size. He is a favourite of writer/director Kevin Smith, who has cast him in such films as Chasing Amy (1997) and Mallrats (1995).

Suplee is engaged to Brandy Lewis, who gave birth to their first child, a daughter named Francis Clementine Suplee, on 23 June 2005 in Los Angeles.

Randall, the character, is a criminal, but at heart a sweet and sensitive person, who shows signs of having much more comprehension than he lets on.

Jaime Pressly (Joy Farrah Turner (née Darville, previously Hickey)

Model and actor, Jaime Pressly, was born in Kinston, North Carolina, the daughter of Brenda Sue, a dance instructor and James Liston Pressly, Sr. She has two siblings, a sister, Jessica and a brother, James Liston Jr.

Jaime studied dancing and gymnastics for 11 years before entering modelling in her early teens. At the age of 14, she was already the spokesperson for her modelling agency, International Cover Model Search.

Her parents went through a nasty divorce and as a result, Jaime was legally emancipated from her parents when she was 15.

She portrays Joy, Earl's ex-wife, now married to Crabman.

Nadine Velazquez (Catalina Aruca)

Nadine is a Chicago native and the daughter of Puerto Rican immigrants. She is the middle of three daughters. She started out modelling but then began honing her acting skills in TV commercials and local Hispanic theatre productions.

Her character, Catalina, is a beautiful Latin American immigrant, who works as a hotel housekeeper and is a stripper at Club Chubby.

Eddie Steeples (Darnell "Crabman" Turner)

Eddie Steeples was born in Texas, studied theatre at the St. Louis Repertory, and moved to New York City in the mid-1990s. There he joined an experimental film group, Mo-Freek, and a hip hop group, No Surrender.

Among the Mo-Freek productions he has starred in are Lost in the Bush, Caravan Summer, and People Are Dead. He also starred in the short film Whoa and appeared as a guest on The Chris Rock Show.

Steeples became nationally known when he was cast as the Rubberband Man in a series of award-winning commercials for OfficeMax, and his performance in those commercials led him to be named one of the World's Sexiest Men of 2004 by People magazine. He has also appeared in the feature film Torque, starring Ice Cube, Faison Love, and Jaime Pressley.

His character, known as "Crabman", is Joy's current husband. He works at the Crab Shack and he is part of the Witness Protection Programme.

Synopses:

Epside1:

After a lifelong ne'er-do-well loses a winning lottery ticket, he decides karma is getting back at him for all his misdeeds, so he makes a list of people he's wronged and determines to turn his life around by making amends to all of them.

Episode 2:

Earl tackles two items on his karma list: making up for all the second-hand smoke he's inflicted on the world, and confessing to a man who served time for a crime Earl committed; and Joy decides to kill Earl so she can inherit his money.

Episode 3:

Earl tries to make up for having Randy fix a high-school football game years ago so he could win a bet with a bookie; and after Joy has Earl's car towed, not realizing that all the lottery winnings are in it, she and Earl race to get the car out of impound.

Episode 4:

Earl recalls how years ago he got involved with a clingy girl named Natalie, and faked his death in order to end his relationship with her; when he spots Natalie again, Earl decides to tell her the truth so he can cross 'lying to her' off his list of misdeeds; but making amends to Natalie turns out to be harder than Earl expects.

Episode 5:

To compensate for having made fun of people's accents, Earl teaches English to a group of immigrants; and an old friend of Earl's gets out of prison and tries to go straight, like Earl, but soon returns to a life of crime... including an effort to steal Earl's money.

Episode 6:

Earl decides to make up for breaking Joy's fancy figurine: When he learns that the only way to get a new figurine is to win one in a beauty pageant, Earl agrees to enter the pageant... as the target in a mother/daughter team's knife-throwing demonstration.

Episode 7:

Randy is excited when the County Fair comes to town, but Earl won't attend until he crosses something off the list; Earl chooses a simple entry - making up for having stolen beer from a golfer - but the job proves to be surprisingly complicated.

Episode 8:

Hurt when he isn't invited to Joy and Darnell's wedding, Earl shows up anyway, but ruins it when he accidentally breaks Joy's nose; Earl decides to make up for it by throwing Joy a new wedding, but as the two plan together, they end up in bed.

Episode 9:

Earl decides to make up for having ruined his father's shot at being elected mayor, four years ago; but Carl doesn't want anything to do with Earl, sure that Earl hasn't changed; so Earl registers Carl as a candidate for mayor, without telling Carl.

Episode 10:

Earl and Randy try to win a new car for Joy, as part of Earl's attempt to make up for having ruined a number of Joy's Christmases; Joy's parents come to visit, and Earl discovers that her whole family is keeping secrets from each other.

Ends

Photographs are available on request.