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Subject: 2021 Fall TV preview!
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News on nursing in the media

Are nurses getting the respect they need to save lives?

September 30, 2021

Fall 2021 TV Preview!

More good portrayals of nursing are coming on the BBC's *Call the Midwife* and Netflix's *Virgin River*. On the new *Ordinary Joe* (NBC), the lead character is a nurse in one of three alternative timelines. But *Bob Hearts Abishola* (CBS) will return with a nurse who decided last season that high achievement required her to become a physician. *Ratched* (Netflix) will likely have more battle-axe and other stereotypes. And otherwise, the prime-time landscape will be dominated by physician-centric shows, including the new *Good Sam* (CBS) and *Doogie Kamealoha, M.D.* (Disney+).

September 2021 – As U.S. television production has ramped back up, the fall prime-time season is back, with a few helpful portrayals of nursing amid a slew of damaging physician-centric shows—and sadly, some losses among the few good nurse characters.

Two new shows promise more of the standard Hollywood model. CBS's *Good Sam* (premiering mid-season), about a female heart surgeon managing

New shows



[Ordinary Joe](#)

Returning shows



other surgeons including her own father, looks like another festival of physician awesomeness. Same for Disney+'s [Doogie Kamealoha, M.D.](#) (Sept. 8), in which a whiz kid becomes a physician before turning 16. Every major clinical character on those shows seems to be a physician. But on NBC's [Ordinary Joe](#) (Sept. 20), which examines three different paths a man's life might take, one path involves becoming a seemingly skilled and autonomous nurse, although early episodes suggest the show does not include much nursing.

Among returning shows, [Call the Midwife](#) (BBC/PBS; Oct. 3) will return for a 10th season about the exploits of skilled and [autonomous](#) nurse-midwives in 1960s London. It's still the best show on television for nursing. Netflix's [Virgin River](#) (2022), which is partly about a smart, resourceful nurse practitioner (NP) in a remote California town, will be back for a fourth season.

The veteran shows [Chicago Med](#) (NBC; Sept. 22) and [The Resident](#) (Fox; Sept. 21) will also return. They mostly focus on physicians, but [Chicago Med](#) has also had three major nurse characters, and [The Resident](#) has had possibly the strongest single nurse character on U.S. television in NP Nic Nevin. Unfortunately that character and one of the [Chicago Med](#) nurses [are leaving their shows](#).

The CBS sitcom [Bob Hearts Abishola](#) (Sept. 20) has a competent Nigerian-born nurse as one of its two leads, but last season she vowed to abandon nursing for medicine, reinforcing the [wannabe-physician stereotype](#).

Among Canadian shows that made it to the U.S. last year during the pandemic, [Transplant](#) (NBC; mid-season) will return with a physician-dominated portrayal of a Syrian physician's work in Toronto. But it's not clear if the U.S. will see the second season of [Nurses](#) (NBC). That Toronto hospital drama features five knowledgeable young nurses who make a real difference for patients, but who are also inexperienced and often intimidated.

Shows that surely will continue to air in the U.S.



[Call the Midwife](#)



[Virgin River](#)



[Chicago Med](#)



[The Resident](#)



[Nurses](#)

include [Grey's Anatomy](#) (ABC; Sept. 30), [The Good Doctor](#) (ABC; Sept. 27), and [New Amsterdam](#) (NBC; Sept. 21), all offering a vision of hospital care in which physicians do everything that matters.

And [Ratched](#) (Netflix; 2022) will return with its iconic battle-axe character and other nurse stereotyping, which was at least mitigated in the latter half of the first season, as the characters softened and even performed a few redemptive acts.

[Read the full 2021 fall TV preview...](#)



[Bob Hearts Abishola](#)



[Ratched](#)

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Presentations

How can nurses become fierce advocates?

Sandy Summers delivered an empowering message to new graduates at graduation speech at Widener University's Nightingale ceremony last week

In a short, compelling address, Sandy Summers welcomes new graduates to the field of nursing and inspires them to become fierce patient advocates--to put patients' interests first. Sandy explains her holistic vision of nursing advocacy and shares strategies to help nurses find their voices. She highlights areas in need of our advocacy and offers perspectives on how to overcome the resistance we meet when we challenge the world to do better. Nursing advocacy saves lives, and our patients need us to do it. So please join Sandy and let's get started!



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[See the speech!](#)

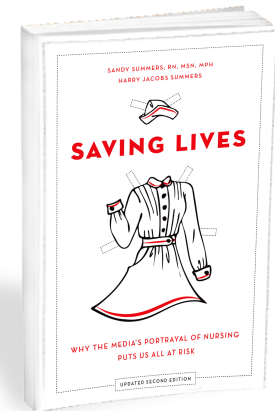
Books

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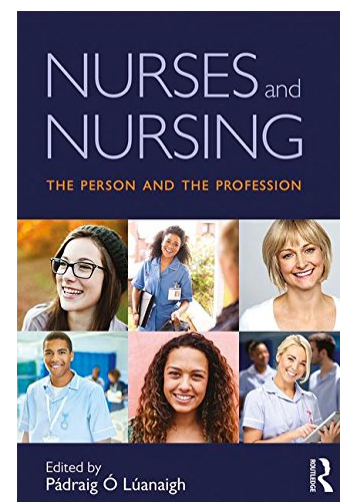
Learn more about Saving Lives!



Think about the future

New international text *Nurses and Nursing* leads off with chapter by Truth leaders

The exciting new textbook *Nurses and Nursing: The Person and the Profession* includes a chapter on nursing's image by Truth leaders Sandy Summers and Harry Jacobs Summers. Edited by Padraig O Luanaigh, RN, EdD, the thought-provoking new textbook from Routledge "draws on international contributors with a range of backgrounds to explore, engage with and challenge readers in understanding the many aspects and elements that inform and influence contemporary nursing practice." Our chapter is "Nursing's public image: Toward a professional future." We thank Dr. Luanaigh for the



opportunity to be a part of this important new project. Please consider this book for your classes in professionalism, nursing and society, and nursing leadership. [Click here to request a free copy for review now!](#) See [more about the book here...](#)

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