

# In the Know...

## Celebrity Scoop

### Checking in with Danielle Savre

By Jay Bobbin  
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In a sense, Danielle Savre's career has caught fire.

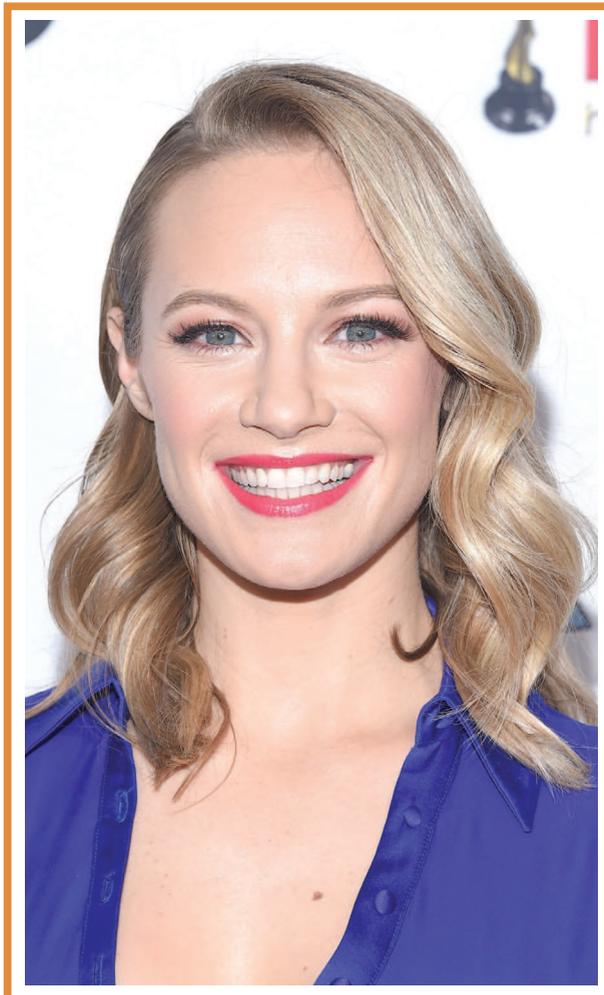
A familiar face from her work on series including "Blue Bloods," "Supernatural" and "Too Close to Home" as well as her leading roles in Lifetime movies ("The Perfect Stalker," "The Wrong Car"), the actress now is co-starring in one of broadcast television's most prominent midseason projects: the Seattle-set firehouse drama "Station 19," which is following its parent show "Grey's Anatomy" in ABC's Thursday lineup.

The spinoff casts Savre — whose sister, Stephanie, actually is a firefighter in Los Angeles — as athletic and ambitious Maya Bishop, and she's taken to the role naturally. "We met with our technical advisers, then we just went for it," the friendly performer says, though she adds that wearing the equipment required by the occupation is its own challenge. "You feel so much lighter at the end of the day when you take it off. It weighs about 20 lbs., easily."

However, Savre gladly carries another sort of weight that goes with her "Station 19" part: "I'm playing sort of a superhero. I've played so many characters who have been victims or are always crying and upset. I've always had to struggle against something."

Savre's struggle is against sharks as she plays a conservationist in "Deep Blue Sea 2," a direct-to-home-video sequel to the 1999 thriller that debuts Tuesday, April 17. Combined with "Station 19," it's giving her a very visible season of acting, and one she feels she's paid her dues for.

"It's so surreal," she muses. "I'm just proud, proud that everything I've done up to now has brought me to this place. I've had a lot of opportunities, and I think it also means that persevering does work. I've stuck with it, and I feel very lucky



to be here."

**Birthdate:** Aug. 26, 1988  
**Birthplace:** Simi Valley, Calif.  
**Current residence:** Calabasas, Calif.

**Marital status:** Single  
**Other television work includes:** "The Perfect Stalker," "Blue Bloods," "Too Close to Home," "The Wrong Car," "Perception," "Supernatural," "Hollywood Heights," "Drew Peterson: Untouchable," "The Glades," "Outlaw," "CSI: Miami," "Kaya," "Heroes," "Close to Home," "Malcolm in the Middle," "The Closer," "Charmed," "Summerland," "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," "Grounded for Life," "The X-Files," "One on One"

**Movie work includes:** "Deep Blue Sea 2," "Adulterers,"

"Wild for the Night," "Knock Knock," "Jarhead 2: Field of Fire," "Wild About Harry," "Boogeyman 2," "The Final Season," "In the Land of Women," "Bring It On: All or Nothing"

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# Cover Story

## End of a 'Scandal': Creator-producer Shonda Rhimes' ABC drama signs off

By Jay Bobbin  
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After seven seasons of twists and turns, "Scandal" almost certainly has some tricks left up its sleeve.

But it had better play them fast.

The Shonda Rhimes-created-and-produced ABC drama about the lives, loves and ... yes, scandals of power players in the nation's capital airs its finale Thursday, April 19. Many Gladiators (or "Scandal" fans) made the series hugely popular on social media as well as television, and they're sure to tune in to see whether crisis-management expert Olivia Pope (played by Kerry Washington) gets to live happily ever after. And that easily could go either way.

Expectedly, the last story's details have been kept under wraps. Still, certain to get their last "Scandal"-ous hurrahs are Washington's fellow cast regulars Tony Goldwyn, Bellamy Young, Jeff Perry, Katie Lowes, Darby Stanchfield, Guillermo Diaz, Joshua Malina, Scott Foley, Cornelius Smith Jr., George Newbern — and Joe Morton, who won an Emmy Award as Olivia's duplicitous, espionage-drenched father Eli.

"What's great about knowing the series is going to end is that we don't have to worry about being picked

up," reasons Morton, who also directed one of the last "Scandal" episodes. "People have been very effusive about saying how much they love the show, and how sad they are to see it go away, and that's a good feeling as well. I think we want to go out on top, as opposed to being one of those shows where people say, 'It used to be so good!'"

Having portrayed one of "Scandal's" most shifting — and, for that matter, shifty — characters, Morton has enjoyed the curveballs the series frequently has thrown at him: "Our reactions at table reads have probably been the same as the audience's reactions ... people yelling and screaming and pointing and crying or whatever. We've gotten to experience what the audience has, and then we've gone back to work."

The conclusion of "Scandal" is directed, as more than 20 of its other episodes have been, by Tom Verica. He's an executive producer of the show and a longtime Rhimes associate now on the staff of her new ABC law drama "For the People"; he also played the now-late Sam Keating on her "How to Get Away With Murder."

"It's kind of bittersweet," Verica allows of doing much to wrap "Scandal" up. "Even though I'm working on 'For the People' now, part of the deal early on between Shonda and myself was for me to go back and direct the finale of 'Scandal.' Though I was looking forward to it, I also was lamenting it a bit, because I knew it would be the last one. That is quite a family that's been assembled there. They're all my friends, but it's the end of an era."



Joe Morton is among the stars of the series finale of "Scandal" Thursday on ABC.