



IMTA ALUM ASHTON KUTCHER RETURNS HOME IN “*THE RANCH*”

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“*The Ranch*” premieres on Netflix on April 1st

“We decided to take it to Netflix because they really let you make the show you want to make, and we knew we wanted to try some different things. We want these people to talk like real people, so this show has really irreverent language in places, and it’s not your same old family sitcom. It’s definitely got a little bit more edge to it.” – Ashton Kutcher

Since his debut in Hollywood in 1998 as Kelso on the hit comedy “*That ‘70s Show*,” IMTA alum Ashton Kutcher has forged a path that few could have imagined when he competed at IMTA in 1997. From TV shows such as “*Punk’d*,” “*Miss Guided*” and “*Two and a Half Men*” to numerous theatrical films such as *Dude*, *Where’s My Car*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, *The Guardian*, *What Happens in Vegas* and *Jobs*, Kutcher has become one of the industry’s most prolific actors, jumping back-and-forth between TV and the big screen, as well as a successful producer of films and TV shows through his production company, Katalyst Films.

Now Kutcher returns to series television in the new Netflix series “*The Ranch*,” heading a strong cast that includes Sam Elliott, Debra Winger, Elisha Cuthbert and Kutcher’s “*That ‘70s Show*” cast mate Danny Masterson. Kutcher plays Colt, a failed semi-pro football player who returns to his family’s Colorado ranch to help run the family business with his brother and father. “He’s had a 15-year failed football career, and the highlight of his life was his high school state championship,” explained Kutcher. “So he comes home, a little bit with his tail between his legs, not unlike a lot



of 30-year-olds that go off and they get their college degree, and they try to get a job in this world where getting a job is pretty tough no matter what degree you have, and you end up living with your parents when you’re 30-something. ... But he still has that confident arrogance of a small-town hero. Everybody in this town knows who he is from the state championship that he won them, but they also know who he is because he’s made some headlines for doing some other stupid s—.”

Kutcher, who is also a producer of “*the Ranch*,” said one of the benefits of doing a series with Netflix is that there is not the same time 22-minute time limit imposed on a half-hour series that applies to network television. “Our shows are about 30 minutes. There’s a lot more content there, and there’s more thoughtful storytelling, and there’s heartfelt moments.” He added, “Another part of the convention that we’ve really broken is with music. There’s country music in it. It’s not a show about country music, but there’s music that lies underneath the scenes that I think changes the emotional dynamic of the show.”

While Kutcher is totally happy to be back on a sitcom series, he has not given up on more dramatic roles on the big screen. He recently filmed *The Long Home* with James Franco, Josh Hartnett, Josh Hutcherson, Courtney Love, Timothy Hutton, Tim Blake Nelson and Giancarlo Esposito. Based on the novel of the same name by William Gay, the film tells the story of a young man in 1940’s rural Tennessee who unknowingly ends up working for a man who killed his father ten years previously, a situation further complicated when he falls for the man’s daughter. No release date has yet been scheduled.