

SPOTLIGHT

By John Crook

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Q: “Men in Trees” has been struggling to find its audience. What has that experience been like?

A: I’ve been calling us “The Little Show That Could” from day one. We were on death watch for so long! I remember that Anne (Heche) told us that ABC had said that they had a master plan and that we just had to have faith. She is really good at rallying the troops. In a way, it was the best thing that could happen to us, because we were able, on an underwatched evening and without a lot of fanfare, to strengthen and really find what our show was.

Q: What kind of feedback did you get at the recent Television Critics Association winter press tour?

A: I don’t walk into a party like that and expect a bunch of people to talk to me, but I was shocked. Some of them seemed, despite their original intentions, to be charmed by what we’re doing.

Q: When you read the script, were you struck by how different “Men in Trees” was from other shows?

A: Yes, last season I did a crime procedural pilot in which I played a forensic investigator. I remember one scene where I was sitting next to a woman in a tiny bikini who had been bludgeoned over the head, plucking glass shards from her hair, and I remember thinking, “I don’t want to do this for seven years.” When I read my role in “Men in Trees,” where I wasn’t just some wife or girlfriend or Corpse Girl, I thought, “This is a character I would like to spend a long time in.”

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Emily Bergl of ‘Men in Trees’ on ABC