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#### **Reunion Is** Made For Die-**Hard Fans** Friends is about that time in your life when your

by CHARLENE BADASIE - May 28, 2021 in TV SERIES

After being delayed for over a year due

to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic,

HBO Max has finally reunited Jennifer

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friends are your family.

Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer for the highly anticipated Friends: The Reunion special. Directed by **Late Late Show** producer Ben Winston, the unscripted gathering is the first time in 17 years that the *Friends* stars have been brought together since the show ended its ten-season run in 2004.



lot. It's filled with some emotional

reminiscing. The opening credits are

(obviously) set to the show's theme song

greetings and a good dose of

and leads into a live interview hosted by late night television host James Corden. Seeing the entire cast reunite to talk about their time on the series is very rare because journalists aren't even allowed to ask the stars any **Friends** related questions during other press events. Designed to be a celebration of the beloved comedy series, the interview is

intertwined with everything from table

reads to trivia games, and some very

During **Friends: The Reunion**, a few

celebrity guests stop by (in person or via

video) to share fan-favourite moments

cool archive clips.

from the show and to discuss the impact **Friends** had on their lives. There's also a very special guest who joins Lisa Kudrow for a duet of **Smelly Cat**. Created by David Crane and Marta Kauffman, the hugely popular sitcom made its NBC debut on September 22, 1994, and followed the lives of a group of

twenty-something New Yorkers. The

premise for the series was based on Crane and Kauffman's own experiences living in New York in their 20's surrounded by their tight circle of friends. Warning: Mild Spoilers Ahead!



perfect actor/actress for each character

is the most interesting part of *Friends*:

The Reunion.

Ross Geller was written specifically with David Schwimmer in mind. But the show's creators had to persuade him to accept the part because, after a few bad experiences, the actor had quit television in favour of theatre. Lisa Kudrow was chosen to play Phoebe

Buffay after other actresses failed to

**Mad About You** and an incredible

actor. Interestingly, the other actor

Unagi.

ended up playing "fake Joey" in a later

episode of *Friends* called *The One With* 

audition, Kudrow got the part.

impress. Thanks to her performance on

Matt LeBlanc had very little acting experience when he landed the role of a lifetime as Joey Tribbiani. But it wasn't easy as the audition process "went down to the wire" with LeBlanc and another

Courteney Cox was originally considered to play Rachel Green. But the actress didn't "feel like she was a Rachel" and read for the part of Monica Geller instead. The showrunners loved her joyful, rich interpretation of the character and the role was hers. Casting Chandler Bing was a little difficult but thankfully Matthew Perry

brought him to life with a special

comedic sparkle. Although he was

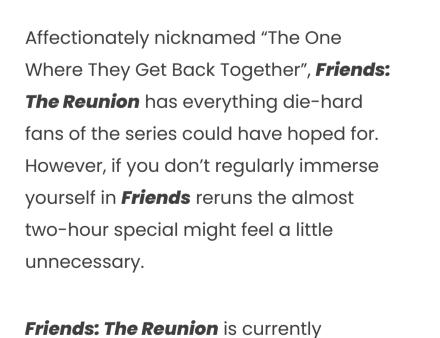
it was deemed the stronger show.

working on another project at the time,

he was moved over to *Friends* because

Spoiled, self-involved Rachel Green was

last part to be cast. And the creators knew it would be hard to find an actress who could make viewers love her in spite of her flaws. After seeing countless actresses, Jennifer Aniston ultimately won everyone over and the rest is history.



available on HBO Max. The special will air exclusively on DStv in South Africa on Sunday, May 30th at 20:00 and will be available to stream via **Showmax** from Monday, May 31st.

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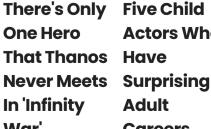
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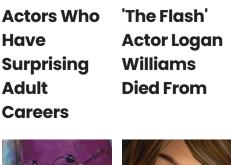
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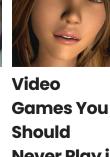


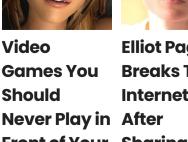
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