



Leslie Odom Jr. (left), who played Aaron Burr in "Hamilton," will star in an upcoming ABC family comedy produced by ex-"Scandal" star Kerry Washington. It's based on the lives of married pastors Toure Roberts and Sarah Jakes-Roberts.

TV Thursday

'LONG' ODDS

Who Naomi Watts could play in the 'Game of Thrones' prequel

By LAUREN SARNER

AND now our Watts has ended. The first casting news for HBO's "Game of Thrones" prequel pilot, "The Long Night," has boiled down to Naomi Watts. Details are scarce, but according to reports, her character is "a charismatic socialite hiding a dark secret." Her co-star will be Josh Whitehouse ("Poldark").

"The Long Night" comes from author George R.R. Martin and showrunner Jane Goldman and is set 8,000 years before the events of "Game of Thrones."

HBO has described the premise as "the world's descent from the golden Age of Heroes into its darkest hour ... From the horrifying secrets of Westeros' history to the true origin of the White Walkers, the mysteries of the East, to the Starks of legend ..."

In other words, don't expect Jon Snow (Kit Harington) to pop up. But that doesn't mean Watts will play a totally unknown character. Put on your nerd hats — here are the most likely possibilities.

1. A Lannister ancestor

Watts looks enough like Jaime and Cersei to play their mom. Since the prequel takes place 8 millennia before Joanna Lannister lived, this isn't possible, but Watts could be a distant forebear.

Luka Nieto, Deputy Editor of "Game of Thrones" fan site "Watchers on the Wall," thinks this is the most likely suggestion.

"The short description ... suggests a cunning, clever court character," he says. "I don't mean to pigeonhole the Lannisters, defining them just by their current generation ... but the fact is a certain legendary Lannister was defined by his cunning as well: Lann the Clever. Could Lann have been a woman after all? It's a theory I've heard before."

2. Daenerys Targaryen's great-great-great grandmother

OK, there are probably about 10 more "greats" in there, but you get the point. The madness that runs in Targaryen blood might just be the "dark secret" in Watts' character description.

3. The Night's Queen

Remember the Night King, the creepy silent figure who was last seen killing (and resurrecting) Dany's dragon at the end of Season 7? In the books' lore, there's a figure called the Night's Queen, who lived exactly 8,000 years earlier. Hmm.

4. Nissa Nissa

In present-day "Games of Thrones," Melisandre (Carice van Houten) believes Jon Snow is a reborn version of legendary hero Azor Ahai. The prequel is set in Ahai's era, and if he appears, he seems likely to carry out his tragic love story with a woman named Nissa Nissa.

5. Eleni

Eleni is a figure in the story's lore who's supposedly the daughter of the sea god and the goddess of the wind. She lived during the Age of Heroes, so the timeline checks out. She also committed herself to a mortal man, displeasing her parents. That would certainly be a "dark secret."

NY Post photo composite



Here's how Naomi Watts could look when she stars in the "Game of Thrones" prequel, "The Long Night."

WHAT THEY'RE WATCHING: Marissa Read & Selyna Warren



"We couldn't have more in common, but our viewing habits tend to be opposite. Marissa loved 'Sharp Objects,' while Selyna goes for the less heavy choice, NBC's 'The Good Place.' One show we can agree on is 'Big Mouth' (Netflix). We're obsessed with all things teen ... and can't get enough of this openly sexual coming of age comedy."

— Marissa Read and Selyna Warren (above, left and right) created, wrote, produce and direct the Awesomeness series "Foursome" on YouTube Premium.



STAYING PUT

"Wheel of Fortune" hosts Pat Sajak and Vanna White — and "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek (above) — have renewed their contracts through 2022. "Wheel of Fortune" is currently in its 36th season and "Jeopardy!" in its 35th season. They're the top-rated game shows in syndication and air back-to-back on WABC/Ch. 7 ("Jeopardy!" at 7 p.m., "Wheel" at 7:30).