

SONIA CHARA I POTRA
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tv biz

They see dead people

"Smallville" hottie **Jensen Ackles** is excited to start filming WB's "Supernatural," which was just picked up for a fall debut. "It's 'Poltergeist' meets 'The X-Files,' so we'll be doing a lot of weapons training, urban-legends studies and special effects," says Jensen about the show, which follows two estranged brothers ("Gilmore Girls" sweetie **Jared Padalecki** plays the other) who reconnect for a cross-country mission to find their missing ghost-hunter dad. "It's every boy's fantasy, driving fast cars, fighting big monsters," he tells *INSIDE TV*. Speaking of fantasies, what's to become of his character, Jason Teague, Lana's aw-shucks-turned-evil-football-coach-fiancé on "Smallville," which also returns this fall? "He's supposedly dead," says Jensen. "But you never know with these shows, so there's always the potential for him to come back from the dead."



Jensen Ackles (left) and Jared Padalecki play brothers on the hunt for their missing dad.



Better watch your back, Alex!

What is: his next job? "Jeopardy!" superstar **Ken Jennings**, who came in second in the game show's Ultimate Tournament of Champions May 25, will host his own quiz show on Comedy Central come January. While the project is still in development, the channel's Steve

Albani did tell *INSIDE TV* that the former computer programmer from Salt Lake City will be joined by a comic cohost (what, **Alex Trebek** is busy?) and that the show comes from the producer of "Win Ben Stein's Money." But, he says, "It's going to feel very, very different."

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY OF JEOPARDY; COURTESY OF JUSTIN LUBIN/THE WB (2); A.J. SOKLANER/ZUMA; COURTESY OF BANTAM DELL; MICHAEL SIMON/STARTRAKS/PHOTO; COURTESY OF FOX; FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY