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TV Monday

THE EX FACTOR

El Moussa: 'Very good chance' for 9th season of 'Flip or Flop'

By MICHAEL STARR

THE upcoming eighth season of HGTV's "Flip or Flop" may not be its last — even though divorced stars Tarek El Moussa and his ex-wife, Christina, are working on solo TV projects.

"I think there's a very good chance," Tarek says when asked about a possible ninth season of "Flip or Flop." "We're currently shooting Season 8 and we have a few months left and that should premiere this summer."

"We're super-excited," he says. "We haven't been on the air for about a year now so we're ready to get back on."

Just how Tarek and Christina will find the time to work together on another season of "Flip or Flop" — should it be renewed — remains to be seen.

Tarek, 37, is currently shooting a pilot for a just-announced (untitled) HGTV house-flipping show

set in South Central LA that, if successful, will be turned into a series. He'll also star in a digital series for hgtv.com, premiering this summer, that will track his personal life "as a single dad" who "works hard and then goes home to spend quality time with his kids."

Meanwhile, Christina, 35 — who married English TV personality Ant Anstead in late December — has a new solo eight-episode HGTV series, "Christina on the Coast," premiering in May. (Tarek and Christina have two children: daughter Taylor, 8, and son Brayden, 3.)

"With a pilot, the shooting is limited — we're shooting one episode at one time, whereas with 'Flip or Flop' we might be concurrently shooting six, seven, eight or nine episodes at the same time," Tarek says. "So, shooting-wise, [the pilot] is very light for now. I'm not there every day."

"What I really like about [the pilot] is that it has so many differ-



Tarek El Moussa and his ex-wife, Christina, star on "Flip or Flop," returning for an eighth season.

ent things," he says. "One, it has to do with house-flipping. It has the business aspect of real estate, and design. People love remodeling houses. It also has real-life situations with people that really have it all on the line. The stories are very compelling and different than anything I've shot before."

"There are real feelings of love, stress ... it's the real deal," he says. "To shoot the show itself, it's a re-

modeling show, so we have to wait for construction. I'd say we're a little more than halfway done."

Tarek and Christina split up two-and-a-half years ago, so they've now appeared together as exes in two seasons of "Flip or Flop." Has the initial awkwardness between them abated somewhat by now?

"Oh yeah, of course," he says. "Today it's the best it's ever been."

Time heals. It's been two-and-a-half years now and life goes on. That's it. At the end of the day we have one shot at this thing, so let's try to be happy and positive and focus on tomorrow instead of yesterday."

Still, there's a limit. Tarek is asked if there's any chance he'll appear on "Christina on the Coast."

"I doubt that," he says.