

**Standing firm.** Despite continued protests, CBS-TV says it's sticking with decision to cast Vanessa Redgrave in made-for-TV movie about concentration-camp survivor. Two representatives of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies and Fania Fanelon, author of "Playing for Time," book on which movie is based, met last week with CBS executives to argue that network is being insensitive in casting acknowledged supporter of Palestine Liberation Organization in such role. Statement issued by network after meeting with Broadcast Group President Gene Jankowski and Vice President Gene Mater, however, said two principles are "far more important than the question of casting: whether an individual's personal and political views should be considered more important than his or her artistic ability, and whether any individual or group should have the power to veto." At press conference, Rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper of Wiesenthal Center asked why CBS doesn't have as much concern for Fanelon's rights and said network was doing "great disservice" to her and other Holocaust victims. Fanelon said she's against blacklisting but said Redgrave could play other roles. Letter-writing campaign to CBS is said to be planned but no advertiser boycott.

**In the marketplace.** ITC Entertainment's *Entertainment Volume Two*, 16 films including "Boys from Brazil," "Capricorn One" and "Movie Movie" and stars ranging from Sophia Loren to Gregory Peck, has been sold in 56 markets during first 10 weeks of availability including 10 of top 10 . . . . Janus Television's "Classic Mystery Theater" package, ranging from "The Third Man" to "Seance on a Wet Afternoon" has 16 sales so far in various market sizes . . . *Intergalactic Thanksgiving*, first-run animated special distributed by Viacom, is up to 155 markets, representing 90% clearance. It's another holiday special done in association with Toronto-based Nelvana Productions. . . . And from archives of King Features Syndicate and Republic Pictures, Gold Key Entertainment has acquired Flash Gordon and Dick Tracy serials for distribution.

**Radio notes.** *Interview*, syndicated radio program currently heard on 150 stations nationwide, has prepared 1970's version of classic Halloween thriller, "War of the Worlds." Prepared by producer Jeff Wayne, show is to be picked up by 50 more stations than usually carry *Interview*. Principals behind show are Jim Ladd and Jack Morris. And Weedeck Corp., new Los Angeles-based syndicator, is offering two new programs aimed at black audience: *In Studio* and *Pop Rhythm Review*. On-air host for shows is long-time disk jockey, J. J. Johnson, six years with KDAY(AM) Los Angeles. *Studio* is hour weekly music and interview show; *Review* comprises 10 three-and-a-half minute features weekly.

**Hat in the ring.** Samuel Goldwyn Co., Hollywood, has made its first entry into pay-cable market with licensing deal for five feature films with Home Box Office. List includes: "Billion Dollar Hobo," "They Went That-a-Way and That-a-Way," "Where Time Began," "Proud Rebel" and "Whoopie."

**OPT's cup running over.** Operation Prime Time consortium of network affiliates and independents will offer 24 hours of original programming in 1980, triple its highest previous output. In addition to three four-hour productions, OPT has six projects slated for dual forms, either two-hour special or five strip half hours. They are *Solid Gold '79* (Paramount, February); *The Gossip Columnist* (MCA TV/Universal, March); *The Girl, the Gold Watch and Everything* (Paramount, April); *Tourist* (20th Century-Fox, June); *Mom, the Wolf Man and Me* (Time-Life/David Susskind, October), and *Yogi's First Christmas* Hanna-Barbera. Time-Life also is planning documentary on Smithsonian Institution for OPT.

**More names on the door.** Kent Burkhart/Lee Abrams & Associates, pioneers of all-disco radio format and of modular programming for all-rock format, have expanded company name to Burkhart/Abrams/Michaels/Douglas & Associates Inc. New partners, Lee Michaels and Dwight Douglas, have been program consultants with firm for several years. Although all consultants at firm work with most music formats, Michaels concentrates on "Superstars" rock radio and Douglas deals primarily with top 40.

**Olympic trade.** Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee, which is heading 1980 winter Olympics effort, is offering radio stations designation as "Official Olympic Radio Stations." With title comes exclusive market use of logos, terminology, specially produced Olympic ID's as well as tickets and premiums for promotional purposes. In exchange, stations conduct fund-raising for Olympic committee.

**From Broadway to TV.** Inspired by success of stage show, "Beatlemania," Lexington Broadcast Services next January will be testing half-hour pilot of same name for possible fall TV series. Barter effort is supported by Procter & Gamble, and pilot featuring Beatle look- and sound-alikes and guest stars has already been taken by five NBC owned-and-operated TV's.

siderably below a number of ABC series of last season that were canceled. (The network had five regular series last year averaging a 30 share or better that did not return this season.)

*Salvage* stars veteran actor Andy Griffith and deals with a salvage crew that often take on exotic assignments. Last season, for example, one episode dealt with a rescue of stranded astronauts and featured an unauthorized space shot. The two-part episode that will open the show next week will center on the crew's attempts to redirect an iceberg that is headed for San Francisco Bay. The program's executive producers are Harve Bennett and Harris Katleman.

Because the show will be airing in the 7-8 time period, Columbia and ABC have had to alter its basic format to increase its appeal to young people. According to a Columbia spokesman, "some of the more adult themes" have been discarded and there will be a greater emphasis on the "science fiction" elements.

There has also been added a new 11-year-old character called Michelle (played by Heather McAdam) who is almost "like another member of the salvage team." A strong relationship develops in the new episodes between Michelle and team regular Melanie (Trish Stewart) that, according to Columbia, leads eventually toward a single-parent adoption. Much of the action in the new episodes will feature the Michelle character.

According to Al Schneider, ABC broadcast standards and practices vice president in New York, "from the moment" the new programs were begun "they were prepared for children." The network will continue the practice begun with the two situation comedies of separating program content from commercials with slides.

In addition to the three *Salvage* episodes scheduled, the network has lined up a number of specials for the Sunday night time period opposite CBS-TV's powerful *60 Minutes* and NBC-TV's long-time children's hit, *Disney's Wonderful World*. On Nov. 18, the network will air "The Story of Esther," a Bible story starring Tony Musante and Olivia Hussey. Through December, ABC has scheduled a number of holiday specials: "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "The Year without a Santa Claus" and "Rudolph's Shiny New Year."

## RCA secures rights to Paramount films for SelectaVision

When RCA starts marketing its SelectaVision videodisk system, its programming catalogue will be strong on Paramount Pictures fare. A new, nonexclusive RCA/Paramount licensing agreement provides for 75 current features as well as the right to future films that Paramount releases to the home video market.

Among the movies are "Grease," "Saturday Night Fever," "Godfather I and