

## Pilots in production: a sneak preview

**NBC is first to make program commitments for fall; ABC has no formal announcement but is giving trial run to several shows; CBS testing three pilots**

*St. Elsewhere*, *Gavilan*, *Mama's Family*, *Cheers*, *The Devlin Connection* and *The Powers of Matthew Star*.

Those new NBC programs are the first to be committed—at least publicly—for the 1982-83 prime-time season. While the three networks have about another month before they begin unveiling their fall line-ups, NBC is offering an early word.

These six shows, however, represent only a small part of the program scheduling options open to the networks now considering their pilots and development projects. The list the networks will be choosing from follows:

MTM Enterprises is producing *St. Elsewhere*, an hour set in a Boston teaching hospital. *Gavilan*, an hour drama with Robert Urich as a former CIA operative, comes from MGM, with Len Goldberg as executive producer.

*Mama's Family*, from Joe Hamilton, is a half-hour comedy based on the "Eunice" segment of the *Carol Burnett Show*; it stars Vicki Lawrence and Ken Berry with guest appearances by Burnett, Harvey Korman and Betty White.

Another half-hour comedy, *Cheers*, has Charles Bros./Burrows/Paramount production credits and is about an ex-baseball player who buys a bar and hires an unlikely waitress.

The other two hours committed had been delayed from the 1981-82 season. Given Rock Hudson's heart surgery, *The Devlin Connection* detective story (John Wilder/Viacom) now has a fall 1982 launch date. *The Powers of Matthew Star*, (Harve Bennett/Paramount), about a teen-ager with super powers, had to wait until star Peter Barton recovered from burn injuries.

Beyond the early NBC commitments, the three networks will be selecting their new entries for 1982-83 from these pilots and projects:

■ Beginning in April, NBC has scheduled three series for limited test runs: *Teachers Only*, from Carson Productions/NBC, with Lynn Redgrave and Norman Fell; *Shape of Things*, from George Schlatter, "focusing on society ... from the women's point of view," and *The Joke Book*, a Hanna Barbera animation.

■ Other possible comedy series include *Penthouse A*, from Embassy, about the son of a wealthy but irresponsible father; *The Academy*, from Embassy, about a boys' military school; *Little Darlings*, Miller Milkis Boyett/Paramount, based on

the theatrical film; *3 to 6*, Redwood/Universal, with Bob Denver as a struggling writer who runs an after-school center; *Fit for a King*, Metromedia, about a royal family in a small principality; *Kangaroos in the Kitchen*, David Gerber, about an animal talent service.

*The Rainbow Girl*, InterMedia/MGM, Ann Jillian in a mix of singing, dancing and comedy; *Family Ties* (considered the "class" of its comedy pilots by NBC), EBU/Paramount, a radical couple during the 60's now raising conservative teenagers; *The James Boys*, American Flyer/Warner Bros., a young father raising his son alone; *Dad*, Warner Bros., four generations of men living together; *The Love Birds*, Warner Bros., a marital comedy, and *The High Five*, Orental/Columbia, about the first all-black low-power television station.

The dramas are *Towheads*, Rod Amateau/NBC, two competing tow truck companies in the South; *Red White and Blue*, InterMedia/Marvel, three people who want to "clean up" crime in New York; *Knight Rider*, Glen Larson, a modern-day Lone Ranger with a super car; *Remington Steele*, MTM, a female detective; *The Doctors Brennan*, Paramount, father and daughter doctors with Andy Griffith; *The Second Family Tree*, Saracen Productions/Comworld, remarriage; *The Firm*, Titus Productions, father and daughter lawyers; *The Voyagers*, Universal, a swashbuckling, time-traveling cop, and *The Circle Family*, Cy Cermak/MGM, based on the film "Every Which Way But Loose."

■ ABC trial runs airing or soon to be given test slots, are the comedies *9 to 5*, IPS Films/20th Century-Fox, based on the film; *Police Squad*, Zucker, Abrahams, Zucker/Paramount, a cop show spoof; *No Soap, Radio*, Mort Lachman/Alan Land-sburg, an "off-the-wall comedy/variety,"

and *Joanie Loves Chachi*, Garry Marshall/Paramount, a spin-off of *Happy Days*. ABC is also testing the dramas *T.J. Hooker*, Spelling-Goldberg, a police show, and *The Phoenix*, Mark Carliner Production, about a being from another time. In addition there are two nonfiction shows; *Inside America*, Dick Clark Productions, a magazine with Clark as host, and *Counterattack: Crime in America*, QM Productions, with George Kennedy.

ABC also has another 10 comedy pilots in house: *Callahan*, Carsey/Werner Productions, with a "Raiders of the Lost Ark"-type hero; *Scared Silly*, Aaron Spelling, about bumbling private investigators on supernatural cases; *At Ease*, Aaron Spelling, an Army sitcom; *For Better or Worse*, Witt-Thomas-Harris, about a doctor and his lawyer wife; *Heavens*, Spelling/Weintraub, set in a department store; *The Odd Couple*, Paramount, a remake with a black cast; *The Quest*, Stephen J. Cannell Productions, "four people tied by their heritage to a mythical place"; *Star of the Family*, Paramount, about a fireman whose daughter wants to be a rock star; *Stepping*, 20th Century-Fox, second marriages; and *Condo*, Witt-Thomas, two families in a condominium.

On the drama side, ABC has *The Outlaws*, Universal, about unjustly convicted men on the lam; *Modesty Blaise*, Paramount, a spy adventure with a female James Bond type; *The Renegades*, Paramount, about street kids working with the police; *Tales of the Brass Monkey*, Universal, set on a Pacific island in the 1930's, and *Rooster*, Glen Larson/20th Century-Fox, about a police psychologist and an ex-cop. Others involving private investigators or detective stories are: *The Big Easy*, Paramount; *Massarati and the Brain*, Aaron Spelling; *Matt Houston*, Aaron Spelling, and *Travis McGee*, Warner Bros.

ABC also is developing projects for Farrah Fawcett and Lindsay Wagner.

■ At CBS, the only multiepisode tests

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