

Stay Tuned

NBC-TV has commissioned its fourth Perry Mason made-for-TV movie from Viacom. It will star Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale reprising their roles from the original series, as well as Jean Simmons (as Mason's former lover) and Gene Barry. Dean Hargrove and Fred Silverman are the executive producers. No air date has been announced. The previous Mason movie, *The Case of the Shooting Star*, aired Nov. 9, during week seven of the season, and pulled a 23.6 rating/37 share to rank seventh for the week. ■ Mary Lou Retton, 1984 Olympic gold medal winner and now a freshman at the University of Texas in Austin, has signed a multiyear contract with NBC Sports, the first "expert analyst" to be signed for NBC's coverage of the 1988 Olympic games from Seoul, South Korea, according to the network. Retton, 18, will provide analysis during the network's gymnastic coverage leading up to, and including, the 1988 Olympics. ■ NBC has signed up to be the principal sponsor for the American College Theater Festival for the next three years, with a \$450,000 grant to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The ACTF begins in the fall when about 600 college theater departments enter and stage productions on their campuses. Of those initial entries, 60 productions make the move to regional festivals at 12 colleges around the country. Finally, in the spring, from six to nine productions are selected for presentation at the Kennedy Center. Alumni from the ACTF include: Matt Williams, producer-writer for *The Cosby Show*, and Christine Houston, whose play, "227," won the Lorraine Hansberry Award in 1978 and was the basis for the current NBC comedy, *227*.

Promise, the story of a man who is forced to care for his schizophrenic brother after their mother dies, will air on **CBS-TV** on Sunday Dec. 14 from 9 to 11 p.m. James Garner plays the carefree bachelor who must turn his attention to his brother, played by James Woods. The made-for-TV movie will air on **CBS** as the 151st presentation of the *Hallmark Hall of Fame*. Garner and Peter Duchow are the executive producers, while Glenn Jordan and Richard Friedenberg are the producers. Jordan also directed from Friedenberg's screenplay. ■ *At Mother's Request* is a four-hour mini-series from CBS that tells the story of Frances Schreuder, a mother of three who persuaded her 17-year-old son to kill her father. The story made headlines in 1982, and CBS's mini-series will focus on the events leading up to and following the murder. Stephanie Powers will play Schreuder. *At Mother's Request* is based on the Jonathan Coleman book of the same title, and was filmed on location in New York and Salt Lake City. The real Frances Schreuder is currently serving a life sentence for first degree murder in the Utah State Prison. The docudrama will air in two parts, Sunday, Jan. 4, and Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 9-11 p.m. both nights. ■ CBS will air its annual telecast of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* on Friday, Dec. 12, at 8-8:30 p.m. The Peanuts classic from Charles Schulz has won both Peabody and Emmy awards. Nabisco Brands is this year's sponsor. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* was originally broadcast on Dec. 9, 1965. It is a Lee Mendelson-Bill Melendez production in cooperation with United Features Syndicate. (On the same note, the annual *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas* will air on CBS on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 8-8:30 p.m.)

ABC signed producers Bernie Brillstein and Jay Tarses to develop a half-hour comedy with Dabney Coleman in a lead role. Coleman starred in the short-lived comedy, *Buffalo Bill*, on NBC two seasons ago, which was well received by critics. Originally, the deal with ABC was for a midseason replacement show this season, but Brillstein and Tarses had other projects taking priority, so the project has been pushed back to next season. Brillstein Co. said it had a 13-episode commitment, although ABC said the number of episodes "was not written in stone" at this point. ■ *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve '87* will be ABC's evening countdown for the New Year, airing from 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., Dec. 31. Executive producer Dick Clark will M.C. the festivities, joined by Tracy Scoggins of *The Colbys* and Mark Linn-Baker of *Perfect Strangers*. Musical guests include: The Bangles, The Commodores, The Jets, Barry Manilow, Miami Sound Machine and Smokey Robinson. This 15th annual broadcast is produced by Larry Klein and directed by Barry Glazer, for Dick Clark Productions. ■ On Tuesday (Dec. 9), Steve Crowley joins the *Good Morning America* crew as a consumer money advisor. His reports will air on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and cover the gamut of consumer topics, from tax planning to ca-

reers in small business. A graduate of Bryant College and a CPA, Crowley lives in Miami, where his Crowley Financial Services company is also located. ■ Jaclyn Smith, Art Carney, Paul Le Mat and Paul Williams are part of the cast for ABC's rebroadcast of *The Night They Saved Christmas*. The movie will air Christmas Eve, from 9-11 p.m. The plot: A mother and her three children find themselves en route to the North Pole "where they alone can save Santa Claus and his massive toy factory from destruction" by a proposed new oil drilling site, located dangerously close to Santa's workshop. Jackie Cooper directed from a screenplay by Jim Moloney and David Niven Jr. Robert Halmi and David Kappes are the producers of this Robert Halmi production. The movie originally aired Dec. 13, 1984.

Veteran game show host Wink Martindale and producer/writer Jerry Gilden have formed **Martindale/Gilden Productions**. The company said it will develop projects for network, syndication and cable. The first project is a game show development deal with CBS. The program, *Eavesdroppers*, is described as a comedy game, and is being considered, along with other game show pilots, for a spot on the network's daytime schedule.

David Sams, 28, vice president of creative affairs for King World, said he will leave the company to form his own production firm after the NATPE convention. About 40% of the new venture will focus on television (first-run syndication and network product) and theatrical endeavors, while the remaining 60% will involve technological areas such as satellites and VCR's, he said. Sams said he will tap talent from local television markets for his new firm. He said he is leaving on friendly terms and is negotiating with King World to develop future properties for the company. "I think it's going to be a real good open-door situation," he said.

In production: *Broken Commandments*, with Keith Carradine, JoBeth Williams and Terry Kinney, is the story of the investigation of a fatal automobile accident that turns out to be a case of murder. A love triangle and the subsequent murder of one member of the triangle are also part of the plot. The production is for CBS. ■ *Shattered Dreams* concerns a widowed father, played by Matt Salinger, who launches a desperate search for his child, presumed dead, but who he believes is still alive. Lisa Eilbacher and Bonnie Bartlett co-star. Andrew Gottlieb is the producer for CBS. John Llewellyn Moxey directed from a script by Gordon Cotler. ■ *The Dirty Dozen III*, for NBC, headlines Telly Savalas and Ernest Borgnine and co-stars Vince Edwards, Bo Svenson and Vince and James Van Patten. This made-for will be broadcast later in the 1986-87 season.

A professional's guide to the intermedia week (Dec. 8-14)

Network television—ABC: *The Disney Sunday Movie* "The Christmas Star" (Ed Asner stars as a con man who has a change of spirit when two children believe he is the real Santa Claus) Sunday, 7-9 p.m. *Dolly's Smoky Mountain Christmas* (a world-weary entertainer returns home to Tennessee, only to find seven orphan children hiding out in her cabin). Stars Dolly Parton, Lee Majors and Anita Morris Sunday, 9-11 p.m.

CBS: *Hallmark Hall of Fame* "Promise" (James Garner is a bachelor who, after the death of his mother, must care for his schizophrenic brother, played by James Woods) Sunday, 9-11 p.m.

PBS: *The Nutcracker* (Mikhail Baryshnikov's production, danced by Baryshnikov and Gelsey Kirkland) Wednesday, 8-10:20. *Christmas with the Mormon Tabernacle* (features soprano Shirley Verrett) Sunday, 10:20-11:20 p.m.

Network radio—CBS: *Newsmark* "Doing Business After Boesky" (Doug Polling conducts interviews with various business experts, including William Simon, William Proxmire and Ken Alleta) Friday, 2:30-3 p.m.

NBC: *NBC Extra* "The Other Family Member" (Gary Nunn discusses the pros and cons of owning a pet) 90 seconds, Monday-Friday.

Museum of Broadcasting (1 East 53d Street, New York) *BBC Television: 50 Years*, exhibit of over 100 hours of telecasts. Through Jan. 31. *Carnegie Hall: The Radio and Television Concerts*. Over 30 hours of television and radio broadcasts will be presented, and includes a seminar exploring the history and the production of the Carnegie Hall broadcasts. Through Jan. 3. The seminar will be held Wednesday, Dec. 10. Information: (212) 752-7684.