Monday through Thursday May 18-21, NBC's Late Night with David Letterman will broadcast from the Ziegfeld Theatre in Las Vegas (the third time the show has gone on location in five years). The show will feature Vegas acts, as well as "Stupid Pet Tricks" by local pets.

NBC Productions has signed Hayley Mills to star in What Now, Mrs. Davis?, a half-hour, comedy pilot to be considered for the 1987-88 season. The story of an enthusiastic sixth grade teacher deeply involved in her students' lives is written and produced by Samuel Bobnick and directed by Peter Bonerz, with Peter Engel as executive producer.

Beginning April 30, in Chicago, Zev Braun Pictures Inc. and Interscope will begin production of The Father Elements Story, to be telecast during NBC's '87-'88 season. Louis Gossett Jr. will play the title role in the story of a priest who fights church hierarchy for the right to adopt a young man (Malcolm-Jamal Warner). Carroll O'Connor co-stars with Ed Sherin directing.

Next fall, in its third season on ABC, The Disney Sunday Movie will present EarthStar Voyage, the "most lavishly budgeted film ever for Disney Television," according to president of network television, Gary Kriel. Principal photography has begun at the site of the 1986 Expo in Vancouver, under executive producer Martin Starger and director James Goldstone. A space colonization story, the two-part series will star Duncan Regehr, Julia Montgomery, Peter Donat and the spaceship designed by "ghostbusters" art director John F. DeCuir Jr.

Oprah Winfrey will host the 14th annual Daytime Emmy Awards on ABC-TV, live at 3 p.m. ET on June 30, from the Sheraton Centre hotel, New York. Nominations will be announced May 14. Bill Carruthers is executive producer and director, and Joel Stein is producer of the joint presentation by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

ABC Sports will televise The 1987 Kentucky Derby, 4:30 to 6 p.m. ET, May 2, with commentators Jim McKay, Al Michaels, Jack Whitaker and Lynn Swann.

George Stevens Jr. will produce and Dwight Hennion will direct the ABC Life Achievement Award special, The American Film Institute Salute to Barbara Stanwyck. Production and air dates have not been set.

Grant Tinker/Gannett Entertainment has appointed its first creative producer. GTG executive VP Stuart Ewen Jr. has announced that Hill Street Blues co-creator Michael Kozoll, leaving MTM Enterprises, will develop weekly television programing to fulfill commitment to CBS Television.

Four-time Tony Award winner Angela Lansbury will host the 41st annual Tony Awards, to air June 7, 9-11 p.m. ET on CBS. Nominees will be announced May 11. Produced by Don Mischer, the ceremony is presented by the League of American Theatres and Producers and the American Theatre Wing.

CBS-TV has three films in production for future broadcast: After the Promise, about a Great Depression era widower's eight-year fight against overzealous social workers and institutions to win back custody of his four sons, stars Mark Harmon and Diana Scarwid. The director is David Greene. Tamara Ayassov is producing for Tamara Ayassov Productions in association with New World Television.

Open Admissions is the story of an inner city teacher and student struggling to teach and learn. The Viacom Productions movie for CBS stars Jane Alexander, Michael Beach and Estelle Parsons. It is based on Shirley Lauro's script and Broadway play. Open Admissions, and is directed by Gus Trikonis. Steve Phillips is executive producer.

Principal photography of Mayflower Madam, a biographical CBS movie about socialite Sydney Biddle Barrows, starring Candice Bergen, is scheduled to be completed today (April 27) in New York. Robert Halmi is producer for Robert Halmi Inc. Lou Antonio directs.

CBS will air Baby Girl Scott on May 24, starring John Lithgow and Mary Beth Hurt star as parents further and further enmeshed in a medical, moral and legal dilemma over the fate of their premature and severely damaged infant daughter. The Beth Potter Production, directed by John Korty and produced by Bill and Pat Finnegan, will air at 9 p.m. ET.

CBS has announced air dates for three animated May specials: Garfield Goes Hollywood, from the Jim Davis comic strip, starring Lorenzo Music (Garfield), produced by Film Roman Production in association with United Media, will air at 8 p.m. May 8, Cathy, from the Cathy Guisewite strip, starring Kathleen Wilhoite (Cathy) and produced by Lee Mendelson-Bill Melendez Productions, will air at 8:30 p.m., May 15, following the 8 p.m. telecast of Blondie & Dagwood, from the Chic Young strip, starring Loni Anderson (Blondie) and produced by Marvel Comics and King Features Inc., with Toei Animation Co.

HBO has begun production of Dear America, a collection of letters written by U.S. soldiers in Vietnam, read by a sizable cast, including Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe, Ellen Burstyn, Robert De Niro, Sean Penn, Eric Roberts and Martin Sheen, as voices over war footage and veterans' home movies. Produced by Tom Bird and Bill Couture and directed by Couture, and slated for November release, the special will also feature music by Bruce Springsteen the Doors, Rolling Stones and other recording artists.

HBO and Moffitt-Lee Productions (producers of Not Necessarily the News, winner of a record 11 ACE Awards) have signed a new two-year deal under which NNTN will expand to an hour format (nine editions are planned), and Moffitt-Lee will develop a new 1988 series as well as other "outlets for their creative energies," according to HBO senior VP original programming, Bridget Potter.

CBS Music Video Enterprises, with director Andy Morahan and producer John Diaz, have produced the one-hour music special, Cyndi Lauper In Paris, (working title) for HBO. Filmed March 12 at the Zenith theater, the final date of Lauper's world tour, the special uses 14 cameras "to convey all the excitement of her high-energy stage act." Also in post production is On Location: Rosanne Barr. After playing Dangerfield's wife in On Location: Rodney Dangerfield last September, Barr has garnered her own hour-long comedy special produced and directed by Fuccio Urbisci and taped April 11 at Mayfair Theater, Santa Monica, Calif.

The BBC has provided Arts & Entertainment with an American television premiere, Mutiny in the Trenches, a four-part mini-series about Percy Toops, a petty criminal turned stretcher-bearer who steals a captain's uniform and becomes, in turn, a hero, mutineer and most-wanted fugitive. Starring Paul McGann, the series begins May 20 at 8:30 p.m. ET.

Beginning May 25, The Discovery Channel will air a half-hour TV magazine Dief Mosaic, set to run Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Thursdays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 2:20 a.m. (all ET) thereafter. In its third year of production at the department of television, film and photography at Gallaudet University, an education and resource center for the hearing impaired, the series' subject is deafness although it has been developed to work for both hearing and hearing impaired audiences.

On May 19 at 3 p.m. ET and May 20 at 8:30 p.m. ET, The Learning Channel will air a half-hour special on the first week of the longest relay run for peace, The Peace Run, a 103-day event with an estimated 20,000 volunteers passing a torch, beginning with Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis, hosted by Bruce Springsteen's saxophonist Clarence Clemons. And beginning May 5, CNN, with the intent "to be the network of record" plans daily gavel-to-gavel coverage of congressional investigative hearings on the Iran/Contra affair, to be co-anchored by Reid Collins and Bernard Shaw.

On May 5 from 5:30-7 p.m., the Museum of Broadcasting, 1 East 53 Street, New York, will preview The Dubk Water (scheduled to air on ABC May 12), starring Tom Conti, directed by Robert Altman and based on the play by Harold Pinter. The three persons here named will be present at the screening to discuss and answer questions about the production.

And on May 2 and May 9, the Museum will offer children an opportunity to participate in the recreation of radio adventure programs, including The Lone Ranger, Superman and Little Orphan Annie. Call (212) 752-7654 for further information.