

ABC thinks young for fall

Bochco, Carsey-Werner weigh in with new shows; network axes 'Jackie Thomas'

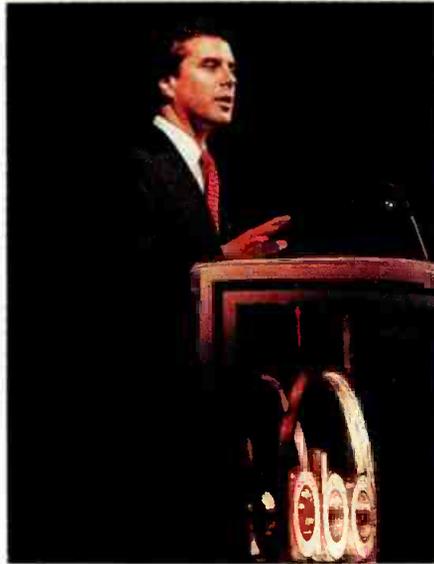
By Steve Coe

ABC has replaced eight hours of programming for fall, including *The Jackie Thomas Show*. The new lineup, announced last week, includes 11 new series—seven comedies, four dramas—from what Ted Harbert, president, ABC Entertainment, calls "our best development season in years."

By "programming as aggressively as we have," says Harbert, "we are maintaining ABC's commitment to continue to be the dominant network in attracting the young adult audience." All seven nights of the schedule represent some change from this past season.

Not returning for the fall are *The Jackie Thomas Show*, *Homefront*, *Doogie Howser, M.D.*, *Civil Wars*, *Delta*, *Life Goes On*, *Sirens*, *Jack's Place*, *Home Free* and *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*.

While many of the departing series from this season suffered from mediocre ratings, several of the now-defunct shows were critically acclaimed. There was a grassroots effort led by Abigail Van Buren (*Dear Abby*) to convince the network to keep *Home-*



Ted Harbert unveils the fall lineup.

front on the air, and *Civil Wars* was named by several consumer groups as one of the few quality dramas on television.

ABC's effort to target a younger audience is evident in the premises of six of their seven new comedies. Children play an integral part in all of those shows, as single mothers with children are featured in three of the new sitcoms. *Joe's Life* features an

out-of-work electrician who stays home to take care of his children; *Boy Meets World* looks at life through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy, and *George* stars George Foreman as a retired boxer who establishes a youth center.

Although Steven Bochco lost one series from the schedule with the departure of *Doogie Howser*, his new drama, *NYPD Blue*, was picked up.

Two veteran ABC actors will resurface in new series in the fall. Judith Light, late of *Who's the Boss?*, stars in *Phenom*, and Peter Onorati, from *Civil Wars* and *Cop Rock*, returns in *Joe's Life*. Also, Daniel J. Travanti, who starred for six seasons in NBC's *Hill Street Blues*, will star in ABC's new drama *Missing Persons*. Although *The Wonder Years*, starring Fred Savage, aired its series-ending episode last week, a member of the Savage family will be back on ABC next season. Savage's younger brother, Ben, will star in *Boy Meets World*.

In addition to the new shows, *Dinosaurs* has been renewed and will return to the network's mid-season

ABC 1993-94 SCHEDULE

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 8-9 Day One † | 8-8:30 Full House | 8-8:30 Thea* | 8-9 Missing Persons* | 8-8:30 Family Matters | 8-8:30 George* | 7-7:30 America's Funniest Videos |
| 9-12 Monday Night Football | 8:30-9 Phenom* | 8:30-9 Joe's Life* | 9-10 Matlock † | 8:30-9 Boy Meets World* | 8:30-9 Where I Live † | 7:30-8 America's Funniest People |
| * New series † New time | 9-9:30 Roseanne | 9-9:30 Home Improvement | 10-11 PrimeTime Live | 9-9:30 Step By Step † | 9-10 The Paula Poundstone Show* | 8-9 Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* |
| | 9:30-10 Coach † | 9:30-10 Grace Under Fire* | | 9:30-10 Hangin' With Mr. Cooper † | 10-11 The Commish | 9-11 The ABC Sunday Night Movie |
| | 10-11 NYPD Blue* | 10-11 Do the Strand* | | 10-11 20/20 | | |

NYPD Blue Tuesday at 10 p.m.

