

CBS STUDIO CENTER NEWSLETTER

January 2009

New Kids on the Lot!

Written by Kristin Miller

After 25 seasons at Paramount Studios in Hollywood, the # 1 entertainment news show *Entertainment Tonight*, with sister show, *The Insider*, moved its entire base of Los Angeles operations to Stage 4 at CBS Studio Center. The newsmags began their 28th and 5th seasons respectively on September 8th. *ET* and *The Insider* now broadcast from one of the largest HD production facilities in the country. *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Insider* also mark a milestone in television history as the first syndicated newsmagazines to be produced in HD.

The new studio includes two soundstages, each measuring 12,000 square feet (up from 8,200 at Paramount); 28 new non-linear edit bays with cutting-edge Avid-based technology; two new HD master control rooms; nine graphics work stations; three promo creation rooms; two voice over rooms with three voice over booths; an expansive newsroom of 1400 square feet; separate talent suites; and several storage facilities housing a historic videotape library.

"It's one thing to convert to HD. It's entirely another to uproot your entire base of operations and move 10 miles," said Linda Bell Blue, executive producer of *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Insider*. "Our custom built newsroom, stages, and production facilities have been built from the ground up to help the *ET* and *The Insider* staff lead the way into the next generation of newsmagazines."

Over 125 miles of coax and fiber cable was used to complete the new space. The newsroom, three times its former size, was specially built to accommodate *ET* and *The Insider's* staff of 200, previously housed in two separate sound stages. The newsroom took over the famed Todd A-O scoring stage where countless films have been scored since the 1930s.



Entertainment Tonight and *The Insider* and their new sets come to CBS Studio Center after 25 seasons at Paramount.

ET and *The Insider's* two cutting-edge sets are specifically designed for the HD wide screen experience and feature four 103-inch plasma displays, a walkway between the two sets and LED lighting to set different moods. These new sets, designed and built by Steve Bass, designer for past Emmy and Grammy awards shows, "will take everyone's breath away," said Linda Bell Blue.

Currently in its 28th season, *Entertainment Tonight* is produced and distributed by CBS Television Distribution and is taped in Studio City, Calif. Linda Bell

Blue is executive producer. Mary Hart is anchor; Mark Steines is co-anchor. Kevin Frazier is weekend anchor and correspondent; Jann Carl is primary substitute anchor and weekend anchor. Leonard Maltin is film historian/correspondent. Cojo and Thea Andrews are correspondents.

Currently in its 5th season, *The Insider* is produced and distributed by CBS Television Distribution in Studio City, Calif. Linda Bell Blue is executive producer. Lara Spencer is anchor; Victoria Recaño, Cojo, and Cheryl Woodcock are correspondents.

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Drive within the 8 mph speed limit.

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Avoid blocking the roads when parking.

The Security Dept. would like to remind everyone that the Safety Hotline is anonymous and confidential. If you observe an unsafe situation, please report it by calling extension 6078. There is also a safety suggestion box located at Carla's Café.

CBS NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Marsha Gorodkin
DESIGN - Elizabeth Gulick



Production Schedule

CSI:NY
(CBS Productions/ CBS)

ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT
(CBS TV Distribution/ CBS)

THE INSIDER
(CBS TV Distribution/ CBS)

GARY UNMARRIED
(ABC Studios/ CBS)

SAMANTHA WHO?
(ABC Studios/ ABC)

THE GAME
(CBS Paramount Network TV/ CW)

RITA ROCKS
(Rita Rocks Productions LLC/ Lifetime)

UNTITLED DANIELS/SCHUR PROJECT
(NBC Universal/ NBC)

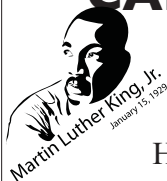
THE KARENSKY'S
(NBC Universal/ NBC)

SHARK TANK
(L.C./ ABC)

GREEK
(Zeta Beta Productions/ ABC Family)

ALLIGATOR POINT PILOT
(Steve Stark Productions, Inc./ Lifetime)

CALENDAR



january

Happy 2009!

1/07	35th Annual People's Choice Awards
1/08	Norma Petty's Retirement Party - Carla's Café
1/11	66th Annual Golden Globe Awards
1/19	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday observed
1/20	Presidential Inauguration
1/24	20th Annual Producers Guild Awards
1/25	15th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards
1/26	Chinese New Year

Congratulations

66TH ANNUAL GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Comedy or Musical
Christina Applegate - Samantha Who?

35TH ANNUAL PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Nominated Favorite TV Comedy
Samantha Who?

Winner Favorite Female TV Star
Christina Applegate

Winner Favorite New TV Comedy
Gary Unmarried

15TH ANNUAL SAG AWARD NOMINATIONS

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series
Christina Applegate - Samantha Who?

Tracey Ullman - Tracey Ullman's State of the Union



QUESTION

In an episode of *Seinfeld*, entitled "The Good Samaritan" (1990), what triggers Michael Richard's character "Kramer" to suffer blackouts?

ANSWER on page 6

The Night Brigade: A Look at the After Hours Sub-Culture of Production

Written by
R. Chett Hoffman

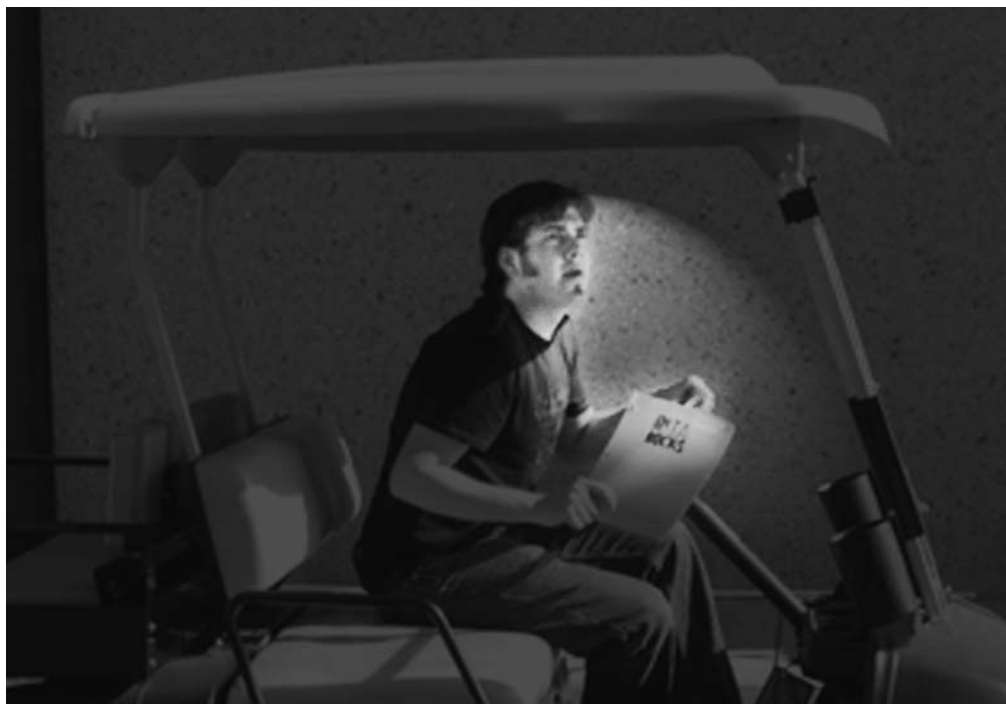
It's coming close to 1:30 in the morning, you've all gone home. Do you know how safe your production is?

No, you don't. But THEY do. Who is "they," you ask? Well, I'll tell you: the night PA's. That's right, the night PA's, or "script PA's" as some shows call them, are part time office assistants, part time stage assistants, and full time creatures of the dark.

These night owls lurk in the shadows, copying and running scripts all over The 'Rad while everyone else sleeps soundly in their beds. On the golf cart, on the copiers, and always on the move, these fearsome, underappreciated, production assistants lead the Night Brigade only to be stopped by one dreaded foe; the broken copier.

It haunts every night PA's' dreams; the thought of an unreachable paper jam, an unavoidable smudge, or, worse, the dreaded "call for maintenance" screen featuring the cartooned freak who dances like Nero as Rome burns. Because when the copier breaks that late at night, it's not just an annoyance, it's a sudden halt in your production. See, for most new shows, credit is not established with big name vendors such as Xerox so, more often than not, people get stiffed with a less than desirable model of copier that lends itself to unexpected malfunctions and occasional meltdowns.

Yet it is in these desperate times that the night PA's, whose number can reach almost dozens, find a sense of community. "It's a lonely job," explained Matt Pabian, night PA of MRC's Roommates at Bungalow 6, "but it's refreshing to see someone else driving a golf cart at midnight sharing the misery." And when his copier breaks down, he, like the others, turn to this Lot sub-culture for help. A shared copier, a borrowed box of brads, or even the weighted sigh from another person in a



R. Chett Hoffman, PA for *Rita Rocks*, making the "Night Rounds"

similar situation can make all the difference. "I go into a dark place in my head," he explains, "then I go to *Surviving Suburbia* to use their copier." And like that, with a few transported reams of paper and a revised ETD, the Night Brigade continues as it always does; darkly, passionately, and overlooked. Always in the shadows and always on the clock.

So the next time you're in your bed, thinking that the world of production as been put on hold - that some magical 'pause' button has ceased all work that needs to be done - think about the night PA's. Think about the world that moves while we sleep. But don't think too hard, for the darkness may consume you like it does...the night PA's!

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ON THE LOT

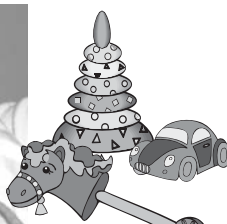
Announcements

Entertainment Tonight and *The Insider* were two of the eight highest rated first-run syndicated shows in the recently concluded November sweeps for CBS Television Distribution.

CBS Television Distribution was also a genre leader during the November sweeps with *Entertainment Tonight* as the #1 entertainment newsmagazine and *CSI:NY* as the #1 weekly off-net hour.

Congratulations

Norma Petty has retired as of December 31st! Norma has worked at CBS Studio Center for over 25 years; the past ten years as the Telecommunications Department Manager. We wish her luck and happy retirement!



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Simple Shopping Tips

Keep reusable/canvas bags in your car and use them when shopping.

Why It's Important – The average American consumer uses between 500-1000 plastic bags each year. This means that in the U.S. we consume approximately 100 billion plastic bags every year, and we only recycle about 2%. Using reusable bags cuts down on waste in our landfills as well as the energy and resources necessary to create so many bags.

If you are taking your clothes in for dry cleaning look for "perc" free dry cleaners, or cleaners that advertise either (1) wet cleaning or (2) CO2 cleaning.

Why It's Important – PERC or perchloroethylene is the standard solvent in conventional dry cleaning. It is a central nervous system depressant that is a listed hazardous air pollutant and that the EPA considers a health and environmental hazard. An EPA compiled list of "wet cleaners" and CO2 cleaners nationwide at www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/garment/gcrg/clean_guide.pdf. (Created in 2001).

If in the market for a new television, take energy consumption into account when making your purchase.

Why It's Important – Each television consumes different amounts of energy based upon its type and size. Some televisions are much more energy efficient than others, for instance an LCD TV consumes up to 2/3 less energy than a standard television. Check out a breakdown of energy consumption per television monitor at CNET. <http://reviews.cnet.com>

Use a reusable coffee mug rather than a disposable cup.

Why It's Important – It's estimated that Americans consume more than 16 billion paper cups each year. That equates to approximately 252 million pounds of waste in our landfills...each year. Starbucks alone estimated that it used 2.3 billion cups in 2006.

Learn which foods are harvested in your area and try to purchase those foods that are grown locally.

Why It's Important – Produce from many domestic sources will travel up to 1000 miles before reaching your dinner table. Purchasing those foods grown at local farmer's markets and groceries helps to cut down on these "food miles" and also helps to support local farming organizations. A directory of farmer's markets can be found at <http://farmersmarket.com/>

Purchase goods that come in bulk or that are in concentrate form.

Why It's Important – Purchasing goods in bulk reduces overall consumption of packaging materials thereby reducing resource consumption and resultant waste. Goods that are in concentrate form also require less packaging while providing the equivalent amount of use.

Recycle your old, unused cell phones.

Why It's Important – The average American upgrades their cell phone on an average of every 9 months. The old phones can't be thrown away because they contain hazardous chemicals that can leach into groundwater. Proper recycling of phones prevents pollution and also provides cheap phones to people who otherwise couldn't afford a new model; all with less energy consumed. More Info at http://www.electronicrecyclers.com/recycling_program.aspx

Don't purchase bottled water.

Why It's Important – It takes approximately 1.5 million barrels of oil to make all the water bottles used in the U.S. each year, and most people don't realize that EPA standards for tap water are actually more stringent than FDA standards for bottled water. Yet every day Americans pay a price up to 1000 times greater than tap water for it. Save resources and money by purchasing a reusable water bottle and taking it with you when you are on the go.

For more information, please visit the Environmental Media Association at:

<http://www.ema-online.org/>

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ANSWER



Entertainment Tonight's Mary Hart

Kramer's blackouts were triggered whenever he would hear Mary Hart's voice anchoring her TV show, *Entertainment Tonight*.



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