

The Vancouver Sun Entertainment BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR • BART JACKSON • 732-2120 • FAX 732-2521 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1995

COLUMN

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Tony Martin and Tina Vitale are getting married at least 25 more times this summer and you're all invited...

KEROUAC CANCELLED Kerouac: The Essence of Jack, originally scheduled to play the weekend at the Gastown Theatre, has been cancelled...

DEADLINE IS FREE Canoeist Theatre is celebrating the 40th anniversary of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream with free outdoor performances...

MORE MOM It's tradition time at the Arts Club Theatre. Mom's the World's taking a break this week to accommodate the comedy festival...

BAN BOMB, ROCK THE JOINT Onepopos marks the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima with a 50-cent coin to raise awareness and money for the campaign to end nuclear testing...

PRIZES FOR TUNES The Third Annual Pacific Music Industry Awards Show has been announced for Oct. 25, 1995. The venue has not been decided. The awards will honor talent and achievement amongst B.C. artists and industry personnel...

TELEVISION

The dove dons spurs



NO MORE MR. NICE GUY? Expect a new Clay Moore says Eric McCormack

Lonesome Dove went a-dirt in its first year, but Eric McCormack says gritty action will attract younger viewers in the new season

PETER WILSON Vancouver Sun



I was part of an ongoing walk-up call for Lonesome Dove's Eric McCormack. A couple of weeks ago the romantic star of the Alberta-based western television series was riding in the Calgary Stampede parade...

Backed by a first season, McCormack admits, Lonesome Dove somehow managed to be both well acted and extremely filmed while remaining, essentially, adult — lacking the gritty action needed to attract younger audiences, especially those in their 20s...

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"We were stuck with these vicious characters. We had West, who could do no wrong and Hannah, who represented all of womanhood and virtue. And Moore who was supposed to be a bad guy, but couldn't be that bad because they didn't want to lose him."

Painful path to parental joy a real-life drama for Deirdre Hall

JAMIE FOULMAN Vancouver Sun Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — When TV star Deirdre Hall contemplates the debate over surrogate motherhood that continues to rage throughout North America, she experiences genuine emotional pain...

This is a practice that Canada's Royal Commission on Reproductive Technology wants to outlaw through criminal legislation about surrogacy...

"I had never initially considered doing the role myself. But after long soul-searching, I decided to do it. I had to be a surrogate mother for my own child. I had to be a surrogate mother for my own child. I had to be a surrogate mother for my own child."

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DEIRDRE HALL: Call for outlawing of surrogate motherhood

TELEVISION

Art of NYPD Blue writing is in balancing entertainment and realism

LOS ANGELES — The time the showings were over, the energy was spread over three blocks of New York's Queens district. Two police officers were dead, traffic was snarled for miles in all directions and nearly a dozen pedestrians were lying injured in the street...

Good writing is what about awards but about whether viewers will buy into the gritty reality of New York's streets week after week...

"You can't allow ourselves to become so steeped in the procedural reality that we lose sight of what makes good drama."

"NYPD Blue is a drama about life. The first step as the writer is to sit down and listen to someone tell you the story, and try to feel as much of his language as you can as he's telling it — 'oh, man, what a ———ing mess, ——— and there's your story'."

"You can imagine Dennis as an actor reading the lines as you write them, bringing them alive on the screen. You just have absolute faith that the cast on this show is going to bring it to life."

ALEX STRACHAN IN LOS ANGELES Mills says, is more than just recreating a real event in photographic detail. The writer has to get inside the hearts and minds of everyone on the scene — and do it in such a way that it appears effortless, as though real-life events are actually unfolding in front of the viewer's eyes...

Then there are the actors. "You can't just imagine the look on a writer's face when he sits down to write a scene with Dennis Franz," Mills says, "because you know that actor is going to plant his feet in what you give him."

Life on NYPD Blue has always been easy — but it has been worth it. "When you listen to cops tell stories, the things they see at part of their everyday job, you hear things that are so bizarre and unbelievable that no one could ever tell them on the screen," Mills says. "It's a responsibility, a calling, even, to be true to the material, without sensationalizing it."

For the most part, the writers on NYPD Blue have been successful. At a recent retirement party for real-life New York police officers, the cast of NYPD Blue was besieged by officers thanking them for telling their story...

"Without the soap elements, you'd have had Fox show, Cop. You have to explore their personal lives. Why would you not want to? It's a drama — a television drama. This has been the best year in a long time for drama because there were so many good ones. If we can sustain our level of quality, I'd like to think we're hanging in at the level they're at, this could be a new golden age for television."