

between *Mission: Impossible* and *MacGyver*.

Other high-profile weekly hours scheduled for debut next fall are MTM Television's *The Cape*, focusing on astronauts and the space program; MGM Worldwide Television's *Poltergeist: The Legacy*; and Maxam Entertainment's *Psi-Factor*, a pseudo-reality series hosted by Dan Aykroyd that will delve into reports of paranormal experiences.

On the talk show front, Twentieth Television is readying two shows for NATPE: *Flashpoint with Leslie Abramson* and *Donna Willis M.D.*

Sources say the half-hour strip hosted by defense lawyer Abramson will be marketed as a companion for news or magazine shows.

The hour, health-oriented strip hosted by Willis, a researcher at Johns Hopkins University, will be pitched as a highbrow alternative to other early fringe talkers.

Warner Bros. Domestic Television Distribution's *The Maureen O'Boyle Show* has a leg up on other early fringe newcomers for fall 1996. The show has secured the news lead-in slot on NBC O&Os covering 21% of the country.

MCA Television will point the finger at the talk audience again next fall with *He Says, She Says*, a strip focusing on battles between the sexes. MCA also is getting ready to unveil *Justice*, a new legal-oriented reality strip.

Multimedia Entertainment has started pitching a talk show hosted by



Hopeful talkers Leah and Jai Hanes (l) and Donna Willis

stand-up comic Pat Bullard, currently a writer and co-producer on ABC's *Grace Under Fire*. Multimedia is also talking with Nashville-based producer Jim Owens about distributing *Crook & Chase*, the talk/variety show hosted by Lorianne Crook and Char-

lie Chase that ran in syndication from 1986 to 1990.

Maxam and Four Point Entertainment aim to bridge the generation gap among talk show viewers next fall with *J & I*, an hour strip hosted by Leah Hanes and her 19-year-old daughter, Jai. ■

Paramount gets real for fall

Plans new video clip show for 1996

By Cynthia Littleton

Take one part *Cops*, one part *I Witness Video*, one part *America's Funniest Home Videos*, put it all together in a magazine format and you've got *Real TV*, a new strip in the works from Paramount Domestic Tele-

vision for fall 1996.

The half-hour show will present video clips of dramatic and unusual events culled from a variety of sources, including amateur photographers, government agencies—ranging from the FBI to the U.S. Postal Service—and security cameras at myriad locations around the world.

Real TV also will draw on movie and TV outtakes and other celebrity footage. In some instances, the show's hosts will close out a segment with a follow-up report on the subjects featured in the clip.

Paramount is offering the show on a cash-plus-barter basis, with Paramount retaining 1 1/2 minutes of the 7 minutes of advertising time. Paramount began pitching a pilot to stations in Los Angeles last week, though the permanent hosts are not likely to be named until after the NATPE convention in January.

Paramount executives say the show's strength is its ability to run in a variety of dayparts, as well as the simplicity of the concept. "It's going to be a fast starter for stations because we already know viewers are hooked on reality-based programming," says Joel Berman, president of distribution, Paramount Domestic Television. ■

Libra chief's star rises

Lance Robbins, president of Saban's Libra Pictures, has been named president, motion pictures and television, Saban Entertainment. In his new post, Robbins will oversee production of motion pictures, television movies and series for prime time, as well as continue to develop international co-productions. He joined the company in 1990 as vice president of Libra Pictures, the separately formed, live-action, non-children's programming arm of Saban Entertainment. Under his tenure, Libra has established a Canadian co-production relationship that yields seven to 10 movies a year produced in Vancouver and Toronto. Robbins also oversees production of Saban's *Sweet Valley High*, now in its second season in syndication, and is developing several live-action projects for the Saban Kids Network and the United Paramount Network.

—SC



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