

ENTERTAINMENT LAW NEWS

by Steven C. Ameche, Esq.

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KINGWORLD BREAKS NEW GAME SHOW

KingWorld International recently launched a new game show involving an audience interactive hook. "**The Vault**" teams show participants with home viewers through telephone access. Home audiences can help players answer questions, however, participants in the game must barter part of their winnings to the home caller. The contestant and the home viewer squabble and negotiate during the show over how much a correct answer is worth. "One of the attractions that the audiences find in the new game show is the home audience interactive element." said Steven Friedman, Vice President of KingWorld International Programming.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE FOR SAG

Even with the news blackout making information very difficult to obtain, many industry insiders still believe the recent WGA settlement has taken much of the wind out of SAG's bargaining power. "They don't want to go out alone without the WGA...there's safety in numbers...with the economy and the major lay-offs by the studios, striking would just make them look bad." said one high-profile entertainment lawyer. Certainly SAG's humble approach is different than last years militant behavior during the commercial strike campaign, which recently included the highly publicized suspension of a guild member who crossed the picket line.

DISNEY BEGINS LAY OFFS

Nearly 1000 Disney employees were terminated on Friday as the entertainment giant began its planned trimming of 4000 jobs. The layoffs are a result of a weak economy that has threatened the companies advertising sales and theme park attendance.

BUYING FRENZY SLOWS AFTER WGA SETTLEMENT

Production funds have been depleted as many studios and networks stockpiled property just before the recent WGA contract deadline. Casting has decreased dramatically. "I've been calling my own phone line to make sure it's still working." said

one executive from a major agency. Many industry people believe the studios are waiting to see what happens with the SAG negotiations before they begin any new production. The news blackout is blamed for much of the hesitation and concern by the studios. "Everyone thinks we have some sort of inside info on the negotiations...we don't know anymore than anyone else." explains one high level studio executive. Most likely we'll see a decline of film activity in the near future since so many productions were calendared for completion by June 30, 2001.

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **Gary Sinise**, the cast and crew of Broadway's "**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**" for their recent Tony award. Gary also recently completed filming an independent film with **Tony Shalhoub** (Big Night). Cindy Landon recently hosted a benefit for the American Cancer Society at her Malibu estate. Guests at the event were entertained by rock legends **Pat Benetar** and **Neil Geraldo**. Pat continues her acting career with a recent guest appearance on **Family Law** where she portrayed a rock star determined to open a drug rehab center at her Beverly Hills home despite criticism from neighbors. **Sherry Lansing** recently hosted a party in her Bel-Air home for the former mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa. Also present at the event were industry heavy weights **Jack Valenti** and **Jonathon Dolgen**. **Rick Springfield** will be performing at a benefit in Decatur, Illinois on August 10, 2001 for the historic Lincoln Square Theatre. The theatre will be naming a balcony after Rick for his help in the fundraising drive.



E-mail: scameche@aol.com

Visit our web site at www.stevenameche.com

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