

TV's 'Emperor' needs lessons in restraint

January has not run its course, but those compiling a list of the most annoying new programs of 2006 should keep "The Emperor's New School" (7:30 p.m., Disney) in mind.

A spin-off of the 2000 theatrically released cartoon "The Emperor's New Groove," this cartoon features the voice of J.P. Manoux as Kuzco, the provisional teen leader of a fictitious cartoon kingdom.



Kevin McDonough

But before he can take his place on the throne, he must graduate from high school. This is not as easy as it sounds, because Kuzco is shallow, self-centered and given to rattling on endlessly about everything that's on his empty mind.

Manoux appears to be doing a very manic, very obvious David Spade impersonation. For the record, Spade provided Kuzco's voice in "Groove."

Like Kuzco, most of the other characters are loud, frazzled, over the top and never speak when they can shriek.

This is the kind of kids' cartoon that gives kids' cartoons a bad name. The kind that gives parents a headache as it drives them from the room. That make Moms and Dads rue the day they had kids who would inflict cartoons like "The Emperor's New School" upon them.

Patrick Warburton provides the voice of Kronk, the rival to the teen emperor. Other contributors include Eartha Kitt and Wendie Malick.

Way back when MTV was new and exciting to some, a brash young singer with popsicle-colored hair and a heavy Queens, N.Y., accent burst upon the pop scene with a "She's So Unusual" reputation.

Her name was Cyndi Lauper, and she had all the earmarks of a novelty act, a flash in the pan and the singer most likely to wind up on a "where are they now" roundup.

But unlike Toto, Wham! and Dexy's Midnight Runners, Lauper has endured. More than 20 years after "Time after Time" became a No. 1 single, Lauper appears on "Classic in Concert" (7 p.m., VH1 Classic), performing her songs with young artists including Pat Monahan of Train, Shaggy, Ani DiFranco and Scott Weiland.

News anchor Bob Scheffer will conduct an exclusive interview with President Bush.

Segments of this conversation will appear on "CBS Evening News with Bob Scheffer (6:30 p.m., CBS) as well as the Sunday-morning program "Face the Nation" (10:30 a.m., Sunday, CBS).

The president will deliver his State of the Union address next week.

Three people who missed a doomed airliner discuss their brush with fate on the documen-

tary special "I Missed Flight 93" (10 p.m., A&E). A feature-length movie about Flight 93 and its passengers will appear on Monday night on A&E.

Tonight's other highlights

Anne Archer guest stars on "Ghost Whisperer" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG).

The star of "Ray" performs songs from his new hit album on "Jamie Foxx: Unpredictable" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-PG).

A sex offender moves down the block on "Close to Home" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14, V).

Scheduled on "Dateline" (9 p.m., NBC): an interview with a woman who escaped death at the hands of a serial killer.

A grating great Dane and a bummed-out boxer go on the canine couch of the "Dog Whisperer" (8 p.m., National Geographic).

A deep-sea fishing vessel takes on water on "The Best & Worst of Tred Barta" (9 p.m., OLN).

Organ trafficking on "Numb3rs" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

The president makes an unpopular move on "Battlestar Galactica" (10 p.m., Sci Fi).

Cult choice

The stars of the first season of "American Idol" appear in the 2003 quickie beach movie "From Justin to Kelly" (8 p.m., Family).

Series notes

Press coverage on "Living with Fran" (8:30 p.m., WB, TV-14) ... Parallel wives on "Trading Spouses" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14) ... A case reviewed after six years in prison on "In Justice" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-14) ... Tax woes on "DiFranco and Scott Weiland" ... Sisters share a flat on "Twins" (9:30 p.m., WB, TV-14, D).

Late night

Pierce Brosnan and Marv Albert appear on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Joaquin Phoenix, Jo Koy and Alanis Morissette on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

FRIDAY EVENING

Table with columns for time slots (7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and various TV programs like Friends, The Insider, Ent. Tonight, etc.

JANUARY 27, 2006

Large table listing TV programs for January 27, 2006, including American Idol, The Emperor's New School, and various news and entertainment shows.

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

Hair band celebrates Hollywood star

It was girls, girls, girls when Motley Crue, the bad boys of '80s heavy-metal music, received the 2,301st star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



AP PHOTO

"We're across the street from the Erotica Museum and Frederick's of Hollywood. This is a perfect place for us to be," bassist Nikki Sixx told an estimated 600 screaming fans Wednesday.

Sixx joined drummer Tommy Lee, guitarist Mick Mars and singer Vince Neil at the ceremony in front of the Musician's Institute on Hollywood Boulevard.

Lee pretended to cry. "I think there's something in my eye," he said.

Motley Crue formed in 1981, enduring a breakup, death and drugs to become one of the world's top touring groups, with 40 million albums sold.

Singles such as "Girls Girls Girls," "Smokin' in the Boys Room" and "Dr. Feelgood" about sex, booze and highjinks propelled the band to rock star status during the 1980s.

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. Absent musician faces prison time

Victor Willis, the original policeman in '70s disco band the Village People, skipped a court hearing where he was due to be sentenced on drug and gun charges and now faces more than three years in prison, prosecutors said.

Willis, 54, had been scheduled to surrender Tuesday after four months on the run, but he failed to show up for the hearing in San Mateo County Superior Court, prosecutors said.

It was his second no-show.

Actress loves headstrong heroine of 'Jordan' CALENDAR

By FRAZIER MOORE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

In no particular order, here are some things Jill Hennessy loves:

- Motherhood.
• Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," which (along with "Sesame Street" and "Dragon Tales") is about the only TV she has a chance to watch.
• The sensory delight of robust, stinky cheese.

Getting back to Manhattan, like now to publicize her TV series, "Crossing Jordan."

Hennessy is also pretty fond of "Crossing Jordan," where she plays a headstrong, sassy medical examiner whose detective work extends beyond autopsies.

The NBC series, in its fifth season, airs 10 p.m. Sunday, and despite tough competition (like that upstart ABC hit "Grey's Anatomy") it has rounded up viewers as doggedly as Jordan Cavanaugh tracks down killers.

"She's dysfunctional but also very strong, pro-active, comedic, yet dark," says Hennessy, nibbling from a gloriously overripe cheese plate whose aromas could make Jordan's corpses stand up and salute.

At 36, Hennessy is a TV veteran. A svelte brunette with an alto voice and a larky manner, she got her show-biz start in her native Toronto doing improv comedy. But she first won notice after coming to Manhattan and landing the role of Claire Kincaid, the brainy, straight-arrow assistant district attorney on "Law & Order." She

Franklin Heritage, Inc. presents CLASSIC CINEMA ON A CLASSIC SCREEN January 27th & 28th at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Aircraft Theatre Downtown, Franklin

Advertisement for Annie Hall, including showtimes and admission prices (\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$3 children under 12).



AP PHOTO

Jill Hennessy portrays Jordan Cavanaugh on NBC's "Crossing Jordan." It airs at 10 p.m. Sunday.

played Claire for three seasons before departing a decade ago.

Hennessy returned to series TV in the fall of 2001 after several years' success in television and theatrical films. Even so, "Crossing Jordan," which is set in Boston but filmed in Los Angeles, initially presented her with a complex mix of hopes and misgivings.

"On the one hand, you worry, 'Oh, it's going to get monotonous. I'm afraid of stagnating,'" she explains during an interview at a Greenwich Village trattoria.

"Then production starts, and it's a constant day-to-day evolution: 'OK, what does the network want, what do the creators want, how do the actors feel?'"

Hennessy had signed on expecting a quirkier, more comic show led by Jordan as a skilled but screwball heroine. She wanted "Crossing Jordan" to cross genre lines.

Instead, the series seemed drawn "down a straighter, forensic-procedural path," she recalls. "But it's always been a push-and-pull with the network. They wanted more of a 'Law & Order,' 'CSI' feel. And (series creator) Tim Kring wanted more character, more comedy."

She heaps praise on Kring, on her show's writers, and on her co-stars (who include Miguel Ferrer, Jerry O'Connell, Kathryn Hahn, Ravi Kapoor and Steve Valentine).

It's clearly a show she's proud of. "But sometimes it's kind of terrifying," she admits, "because you don't know which way you're gonna go and you feel powerless. I try to contribute as much as I can, but I also realize it's not my show: I'm not the creator, I'm not the network."

Whoa! Doesn't series stardom confer a hefty dose of power? "Not as much power as it might seem," she insists. "I think you have to force your way into that position, and I don't really want to do that."

"It can be frustrating, it can be exciting," she sums up. "It keeps you on your toes."

Advertisement for AMC Greenwood Park 14, listing movie titles and showtimes.

Today Meetings

Greater Greenwood Toastmasters, 6:45 a.m., Sunshine Cafe, State Road 135, Greenwood. Information: 513-7697. Kiwanis Club of Franklin, 11:30 a.m., Franklin Memorial Christian Church, Carl Scheib, ACT Services JJ Memorial Meeting (Alcoholics Anonymous), 7 p.m., Tara Treatment Center, 6231 U.S. 31 South, Franklin. Al-Anon, 7 p.m., Tara Treatment Center, 6231 U.S. 31 South, Franklin.

Saturday Event

Winners Circle Men's Breakfast, 8 to 9:30 a.m., Piper's Cafe, 172 Melody Ave. in Greenwood, off State Road 135. Cost: \$8. Reservations: 535-5973. Meetings: Overeaters Anonymous, 10 a.m., Concordia Lutheran Church, 305 Howard Road, Greenwood. Tara Men's Meeting, 7 p.m., Tara Treatment Center, 6231 U.S. 31 South, Franklin. A Program For You, Jan. 11 a.m., 50 N. Home Ave., Franklin. United We Stand Group, 8 p.m., 50 N. Home Ave., Franklin.

Advertisement for ShowPlace 16, listing movies and showtimes.

Advertisement for Matinee Movie Magic for Moms and Dads, listing movies and showtimes.