

'Boston Legal' a nearly perfect nighttime snack

Tom Selleck guest stars on an episode of "Boston Legal" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14) that includes all of the cute and "touching" tricks and comedic quirks that viewers of "LA Law," "Ally McBeal" and "The Practice" have come to expect from writer/producer David E. Kelley over the years.



Kevin McDonough

Let's start with the cute. Shirley Schmidt's (Candice Bergen) ex-husband Ivan (Selleck) surprises her with news of his impending (and sixth) marriage and asks Shirley to be his "Best Man." He says it's because Shirley remains his best friend, but it's clear that he still carries a torch for her. Meredith Patterson guest stars as Missy, Ivan's much younger bride-to-be. She's a chirpy musical-theater type, who may or may not be a snide dig at Broadway's Kristin Chenoweth. Her efforts to work numbers from "The Sound of Music" into her vows provide plenty of opportunities for the sardonic Murphy, I mean Shirley, to roll her eyes and cluck in exasperation.

On the poignant front, Alan (James Spader) and Denny (William Shatner) take on the defense of a man (Maury Chaykin) accused in the mercy killing of his Alzheimer's-stricken wife.

This resonates with Denny, who feels his own faculties are fading away. It also provides an opportunity for Alan to make his cause-of-the-week speech, this time about "death with dignity."

As on "Ally McBeal," these lawyers spend an awful lot of billable hours in cabarets. When Paul (Rene Auberjonois) hears Missy belt out a song about being her daddy's little girl, he gets all misty and "suddenly" remembers that he has a daughter, a former drug addict he hasn't spoken to in some seven years.

Gosh, I wonder if they'll get back in touch by episode's end?

Watching "Boston Legal" is a lot like eating a large tub of ice cream before going to bed. It's sweet, but it can make you a little nauseated, too.

You know you shouldn't be stuffing yourself at 10 p.m., particularly with a confection so contrived and artificial. But the ingredients, consisting of equal parts romantic wish fulfillment, political righteousness and throwaway sexual gags, can be pretty easy going down.

Television-themed DVDs available today include "The Dick Cavett Show: Comic Legends," a four-disk collection of 14 episodes featuring interviews with comedians, including Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Carol Burnett, Bob Hope, Groucho Marx, Jack Benny and others.

The controversial 1999 Fox comedy "Action" starring Jay Mohr as an amoral movie producer is also available on DVD today. When Fox aired "Action," the dialogue

required a steady stream of bleeps from the network censors. The DVD edition dispenses with them.

Tonight's other highlights

- Coverage of the XX Winter Olympic Games (8 p.m., NBC) continues.
- The top-12 female vocalists perform on "American Idol" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-G). This marks the first night that viewers can vote to save their favorite.
- Teens fear the reaper in the 2003 horror movie "Final Destination 2" (8 p.m., WB, TV-14, D, L, V).
- "Nova" (8 p.m., WFYI, WTU) explores the 70-year effort to understand neutrinos, the invisible particles at the heart of matter.
- "Frontline" (9 p.m., WFYI, WTU) offers "The Insurgency," featuring chilling interviews and never-before-broadcast footage of Iraqis who have taken up arms against American forces.

Cult choice

An affectionate look at the garage-band era, the 1996 musical "That Thing You Do!" (8 p.m., Fox Movie Channel) boasted a cast of up-and-comers (Tom Everett Scott, Liv Tyler, Steve Zahn, Charlize Theron and Giovanni Ribisi, among others) under the direction of Tom Hanks.

Series notes

On two episodes of "NCIS" (CBS, TV-PG, V), McGee under suspicion (8 p.m.), an effort to clear his name (9 p.m.) ... On two episodes of "According to Jim" (ABC, TV-PG), between covers (8 p.m.), toys (9 p.m.) ... A backstage pass on "Rodney" (8:30 p.m. ABC, TV-PG, D, L) ... A donor in need on "George Lopez" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).

Late night

Matthew Fox appears on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Kathie Lee Gifford and Augustana appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC) ... "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" is pre-empted ... Craig Ferguson hosts Carl Reiner and Nadine Velazquez on "The Late, Late Show" (12:37 a.m., CBS).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

TUESDAY EVENING					FEBRUARY 21, 2006					
	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WTTV	Friends (CC)	Every-Raymond	Final Destination 2 (R) (03) ** Ali Larter, Michael Landes. Horror. (CC)				Sex and the City/Will & Grace		Sex and the City/Will & Grace	
WRTV	The Insider (N)	Be a Millionaire	Accord- Jim	Rodney (N)	Accord- Jim	George Lopez	Boston Legal "Live Big" (N) (CC)		News (CC)	Nightline (11:35)
WISH	Inside Edition	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Probie" (CC)				CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		News (CC)	Late Show
WTHR	Jeopardy! (N)	Olympic Zone	XX Olympic Winter Games (CC)							News (CC)
WFYI	Business Rpt.	Across Indiana	Nova The beginnings of creation.	Frontline "The Insurgency" (N)			Power of One in Kenya		Tavis Smiley (N)	Time Goes By
WWDY	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Black Knight (PG-13) (01) ** Martin Lawrence. Comedy. (CC)				News	Access H'wood	South Park	South Park
WTUW	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Nova The beginnings of creation.	Frontline "The Insurgency" (N)			Independent Lens "Almost Home" (N) (CC)			Charlie Rose (N)
WHMB	The 700 Club (CC)		Harvest (CC)		High School Basketball Pike at Lawrence North.		In Spirit-Truth		Paid Program	Wisdom Keys
WCLJ	Dr. Carl Baugh	Against Odds	Behind Scenes	Joyce Meyer	John Hagee	Bill Gaither	Praise the Lord (CC)			
WXIN	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	American Idol Twelve female hopefuls perform. (N) (CC)				News (CC)	Geraldo Large	Seinfeld (11:05)	Drew Carey
WIPX	Balderdash	Family Feud	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye (CC)		Early Edition (CC)			Doc "Till Death Do Us Part" (CC)	It's a Miracle	Paid Program
WTBU	Ron Phillips	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Celebration			Joel Osteen (CC)	This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice
A&E	Cold Case Files (CC)		Murder on the Tracks (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Airline (CC)	Airline (CC)	Crossing Jordan (CC)	
AMC	The Jerk (R) (79) ** Comedy.		Rambo: First Blood (R) (82) *** Sylvester Stallone. Drama.				Insomnia (R) (02) *** Al Pacino.		Hilary Swank. Suspense. (CC)	
AP	The Most Extreme "Oddities"		Natural World "Hammerhead"		The Most Extreme "Appendages"		Profiles of Nature (CC)		Natural World "Hammerhead"	
BET	106 & Park	BET.com Count	How Stella Got Her Groove Back (R) (98) ** Angela Bassett.				Comicview		In Living Color	In Living Color
BRavo	The West Wing (CC)		Inside the Actors Studio (CC)		Kathy Griffin: Allegedly Performance. (CC)				Queer Eye for the Straight Guy	
CNBC	XX Olympic Winter Games (5)		On the Money		Mad Money		The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch		On the Money	
CMT	Dukes of Hazzard		True Grit "Ronald Reagan"		100 Greatest Duets Concert Artists perform.				Evening Shade	Evening Shade
CNN	The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now (CC)		Larry King Live (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)			
COM	Com.-Presents Reno 911! (CC)		Daily Show	Colbert Report	Chappelle's	South Park	Distraction (N)	Mind of Mencia	Daily Show	Colbert Report
DISC	Dirty Jobs "Chick Sexer" (CC)		MythBusters "Stinky Car" (CC)		Dirty Jobs "Micro Algae Man"		Stunt Junkies	Survivorman	Deadliest Catch "Man Overboard"	
EI	EI News (N)	EI News	50 Best Chick Flicks: Sex, Cries and Videotape Movies.				Hollywood Baby Boom 2 (N)		Saturday Night Live (CC)	
ESPN	College Basketball Illinois at Michigan. (CC)		College Basketball Alabama at Arkansas. (CC)						SportsCenter (CC)	
ESPN2	College Basketball Xavier at Dayton. (CC)		NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)						Quite Frankly With Smith	
FAM	Smallville "Covenant" (CC)		The Parent Trap (PG) (98) *** Lindsay Lohan. Reunited twin girls try to get their parents back together.				The 700 Club (CC)			
FNC	Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Hannity & Colmes (CC)		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
FOOD	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Emeril Live "Pacific Rim Cuisine"		Hot & Spicy Fiesta		\$40-a-Day	\$40-a-Day	Iron Chef "Battle Ray" Ray battle.	
FOXMV	Sky Riders (6) (PG) (76) ***		That Thing You Do! (PG) (96) *** Tom Everett Scott. Comedy-Drama.				The Rose (R) (79) *** Bette Midler, Frederic Forrest. Musical.			
FOXSM	NBA Basketball New Orleans Hornets at Indiana Pacers.		Pacers		Knockouts	Sports Report	Sports Report		Best-Sports	
FX	X2: X-Men United (PG-13) (03) *** Patrick Stewart. Fantasy. A right-wing militarist pursues the mutants.		The Shield "Man Inside" (N) (CC)				The Shield "Man Inside" (11:04)			
HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		The Seventh Stream '01 ** Scott Glenn, John Lynch. Drama.		M*A*S*H (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)		
HGTV	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Design Remix	Decorating Cnt	Mission: Orgnz	House Hunters	Buy Me	Parents House	Designer Finals
HIST	Modern Marvels (CC)		Modern Marvels (CC)		Man Moment Machine (CC)		Modern Marvels (CC)		Modern Marvels "Bulletproof"	
LIFE	Homecoming (PG) (96) ** Anne Bancroft. Drama. (CC)		It Runs in the Family (PG-13) (03) ** Michael Douglas. (CC)				Will & Grace	Will & Grace		
MSNBC	Hardball (CC)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Rita Cosby Live & Direct		Scarborough Country		The Situation With Tucker Carlson	
MTV	Direct Effect		True Life "I Have OCD"		Wild & Out	Wild & Out	Casting Couch	R. Wrdl Chal.	There & Back	Wild & Out
NICK	Oddparents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	All Grown Up	Full House (CC)	Hi-Jinks (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Cosby Show
OXY	Personal Velocity (6:30) (R) (02) *** Kyra Sedgwick.		Gia (R) (98) *** Angelina Jolie. Based on the rise and fall of supermodel Gia Carangi.				The Ellen DeGeneres Show (CC)			
SCIFI	Blood Surf (R) (00) * Archie Adamos, Joel West. Horror. (CC)		Octopus (PG-13) (00) * Jay Harrington, Carolyn Lowery. Action. (CC)				World's Most Amazing Videos			
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		King of Vegas (N)			
TBS	Every-Raymond/Every-Raymond		Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Seinfeld (10:10)	Seinfeld (10:40)	Bait (11:10) (R) (00) * Jamie Foxx.	
TCM	Sounder (6) (G) (72) **** (CC)		Fried Green Tomatoes (PG-13) (91) *** Kathy Bates. Drama. (CC)		Coal Miner's Daughter (10:15) (PG) (80) *** Sissy Spacek. (CC)					
TLC	Rides "Tonight's Ride" (CC)		Overhaulin' (CC)		Overhaulin' Dream convertible.		Miami Ink (CC)		Miami Ink (CC)	
TNT	Law & Order "Star Crossed"		Law & Order "City Hall"		Law & Order "Identity"		The Closer "Good Housekeeping"		Cold Case "Maternal Instincts"	
TOON	Foster's Home	Ben 10	Grim Advent.	Codename: Kid	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Grim Advent.	One Piece (CC)	Dragon Ball Z	Futurama (CC)	Family Guy
TVL	Good Times	Good Times	Little House on the Prairie (CC)		Andy Griffith	Sanford & Son	Good Times	Good Times	Happening!	Cheers (CC)
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		Johnny English (PG) (03) ** Rowan Atkinson. Comedy. (CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)			
VH1	Celebrity Fit Club		40 Greatest Pranks				The Flavor of Love		Web Junk 20	Kelly Trapped
WE	Dharma & Greg	The Jewel of the Nile (PG) (85) ** Kathleen Turner, Danny DeVito. Adventure. (CC)			Secret Lives of Women (CC)		Secret Lives of Women (CC)		Secret Lives of Women (CC)	
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)
DISN	The Emperor's New School	That's So Raven (CC)	Recess: School's Out (G) (01) ** Voices of Andy Lawrence. Comedy, Animated. A former principal wants to ruin summer vacation. (CC)		American Drgn	Sister, Sister	The Suite Life	That's So Raven (CC)		
ENC	Cool Runnings (6:15) (PG) (93) *** Leon. Comedy. (CC)		The Accidental Spy (PG-13) (01) ** Jackie Chan, Eric Tsang, Vivian Hsu. Action. (CC)		Elf (PG) (03) *** Will Ferrell. Comedy. A man leaves Santa's workshop to search for his family. (CC)		The Mambo Kings (11:15) (R) (92) *** Armand Assante. (CC)			
HBO	Independence Day (5:30) (PG-13) (96) *** Will Smith. (CC)		Assault on Precinct 13 (R) (05) *** Ethan Hawke. Action. Gunmen attack a crumbling police station to kill a gangster. (CC)		Dealing Dogs Dogs bought and sold for medical research. (N)		The Upside of Anger (11:15) (R) (05) *** Joan Allen. (CC)			
SHOW	Tombstone	WEEDS Added Value (7:45)	Stark Raving Mad (R) (02) * Seann William Scott. Comedy. Thieves use a rave as cover for a robbery.		Sleeper Cell: Know Enemy		Sleeper Cell Darwin tries to steer a young boy away from terrorism.		The L Word "Lone Star" Jenny injects hormones into Moira. (CC)	
MAX	Flight of the Phoenix (6:05) (PG-13) (04) ** Dennis Quaid. (CC)		Spartan (R) (04) ** Val Kilmer, Derek Luke, William H. Macy. Suspense. Special-operations agents investigate slave traders. (CC)		Meet the Fockers (PG-13) (04) ** Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman. Comedy. Future in-laws clash in Florida. (CC)					
TMC	Sketch Artist (6:30) (R) (92) *** Jeff Fahey. Suspense.		Phat Beach (R) (96) ** Jermaine "Huggy" Hopkins, Brian Hooks, Gregg D. Vance. Comedy. (CC)		Ski School (R) (91) ** Dean Cameron. Two skiers hold a contest to see who is king of the slopes.		The Misadventures of Margaret (NR) (98) * Parker Posey. (CC)			
STARZ	The Alamo (6:40) (PG-13) (04) ** Dennis Quaid, Jason Patric. War. Outnumbered Texans fight to secede from Mexico. (CC)		Guess Who (PG-13) (05) ** Bernie Mac, Ashton Kutcher, Zoe Saldana. Comedy. A black man meets his daughter's white boyfriend. (CC)				G.I. Jane (10:50) (R) (97) *** Demi Moore. Drama. (CC)			

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Nick Lachey wants shot at spousal support

Nick Lachey wants what's his, and maybe what's Jessica Simpson's.

In papers filed Friday in response to Simpson's Dec. 16 divorce filing, Lachey said he was reserving the right to seek spousal support, even though she has asked the court not to give him any.



LACHEY

The singing couple, who starred in the MTV show, "Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica," had no prenuptial agreement.



SIMPSON

He cited irreconcilable differences for the dissolution of the three-year marriage. The 32-year-old Lachey also asked the court to confirm jewelry and other personal effects are separate property, as well as his earnings from after the date of separation and other unspecified assets.

Lachey said they separated

Dec. 13, although she claims it was Nov. 23.

The 25-year-old singer-actress reportedly earned more than \$30 million last year, including earnings from her big-screen debut playing Daisy Duke in "The Dukes of Hazzard" movie.

NEW YORK

Ex-con domestic diva, The Donald point fingers

Sometimes there is too much of a good thing.

Martha Stewart believes her version of NBC's popular reality show featuring Donald Trump flopped in the fall because of too much "Apprentice."

Her show was supposed to be the sole show, starting out by having her fire Trump on the air, she told Newsweek for its issue on newstands Monday.

"Having two 'Apprentices' was as unfair to him as it was unfair to me," she said. "But Donald really wanted to stay on."

Trump refuted the domestic diva would have given him a pink slip, citing the fact that he co-owned the show featuring him as a boardroom boss.

"I wish she would be able to take responsibility for her failure," Trump said Sunday night in Dallas.

BY RICHARD N. OSTLING

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

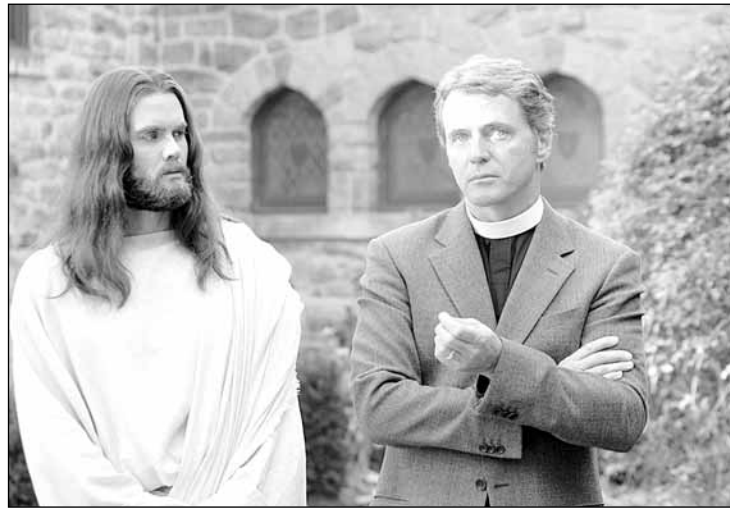
Before memories fade about "The Book of Daniel" show, which NBC-TV canceled after only three weeks, it's worth pondering Hollywood's latest treatment of Jesus, Christians and the clergy.

Some liberal Episcopalians thought this drama (or was it satire?) might attract new churchgoers.

Conservative Episcopalians said the series displayed how liberalism has corrupted their denomination. Some aimed boycotts at advertisers and NBC.

(Fresh from that fuss, NBC apparently dropped plans for Britney Spears to spoof Christian TV on "Will & Grace" by hosting a "Cruci-fixin's" cooking show. This hilarity would have aired on Holy Thursday as Christians commemorate the Last Supper on the eve of Jesus' crucifixion.)

"The Book of Daniel" portrayed Episcopal priest Daniel and his family and flock. Plots involved Daniel's addiction to painkillers, his daughter's pot-dealing and arrest, his wife's alcohol dependence, his son's promiscuity, his bishop father's



AP PHOTO

Garret Dillahunt (left) as Jesus Christ and Aidan Quinn as Daniel Webster starred in "The Book of Daniel." NBC canceled the show after three weeks.

adultery, his in-laws' criminality and a Roman Catholic priest's mob ties.

Homosexual characters were prominent. Daniel seemed ineffectual, and parishioners came across as wealthy snobs or, in one instance, racist. The black maid was a thief. Priest and parishioners took the Lord's name in vain.

Episcopalians smirked about NBC's gaffes in attire, terminology and other church details.

Apparently, television exerts little effort on religious accuracy. More significant, there was a striking religious divide over the program's device of having Jesus materialize regularly to chat with Daniel.

Conservatives complained that NBC's Jesus was offensive fiction, unrelated to the morally commanding figure in the four Gospels. Liberals tended to enjoy Jesus' boys-will-be-boys, nonjudgmental attitude.

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Mattinee prices for all shows Fri-Sun & holidays before 4PM and Mon-Thurs before 6PM. Advanced Ticketing available at MovieWatcher.com OR (317) 884-1780. R-Rating requires ID.

GREENWOOD PARK 14
Madison Ave and Fry Road

Times for Tuesday-Thursday, February 21-23, 2006

- DATE MOVIE (PG-13) 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 8:15
- EIGHT BELOW (PG) 1:00, 4:10, 7:25
- FREEDOMLAND (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
- CURIOS GEORGE (G) 2:20, 4:30, 7:30
- FINAL DESTINATION 3 (R) 2:40, 5:10, 8:00
- FIREWALL (PG-13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:50
- THE PINK PANTHER (PG) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40
- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) 1:50, 4:20, 8:05
- NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 1:45, 4:15, 7:15
- UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
- GLODY ROAD (PG) 4:45, 7:35
- BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 1:10, 4:05, 7:45
- THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:30
- WALK THE LINE (PG-13) 3:40
- GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) 1:00, 7:10

*SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT. No passes or discount coupons.

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- 8 BELOW (PG) Mon-Thurs 7:00
- DATE MOVIE (PG-13) Mon-Thurs 5:00 7:00
- CURIOS GEORGE (G) Mon-Thurs 5:00 7:00
- FINAL DESTINATION 3 (R) Mon-Thurs 5:00 7:15
- FIRE WALL (PG-13) Mon-Thurs 5:00 7:15
- PINK PANTHER (PG) Mon-Thurs 5:00 7:15
- WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) Mon-Thurs 5:00 7:15
- WALK THE LINE (PG-13) Mon-Thurs 7:00

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