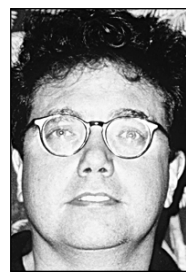


CBS' credibility not so high with 'Armed'

Like most reality fare, "Armed & Famous" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) is amusing, cheesy and disturbing.



Kevin McDonough

According to CBS, minor celebrities Erik Estrada ("Chips"), Jack Osbourne ("The Osbournes"), La Toya Jackson, Jason Acuna ("Jackass") and former WWE performer Trish Stratus all volunteered to become real members of the Muncie police force.

We see them undergo training (for about 10 minutes) and emerge fully uniformed, and armed with Tasers and handguns. They are then each teamed with a Muncie police veteran and sent out on patrol.

In the logic of reality hybridizing, this is "Surreal Life" meets "Cops," and, as such, it seems to work. Estrada goes on a drug bust at a squalid house and helps apprehend a cocaine dealer who happens to be a 75-year-old woman. The toothless perpetrator seems tickled to be seen in the company of the "Ponch."

We're made to believe that these are real criminals and real victims of real tragedies. At the same time, we're supposed to chuckle at the notion of La Toya Jackson wielding a weapon and of Stratus being shocked by a Taser. Now clean and sober, Osbourne is one heck of a marksman. The mind reels.

Let's hope Muncie got a big fat check for selling out the dignity of its police force. And let's not even think about the civil-liberties implication of rogue actors being deputized for our amusement. Have we reached the point at which celebrities can do anything?

During the first season of "Saturday Night Live" (now available on DVD), Albert Brooks presented a short film about fulfilling his lifelong desire to perform heart surgery.

In this prescient piece of absurd theater, his patient went along because Brooks was a semi-famous comedian. Did Brooks know he was predicting the future?

We live in an era with no distinctions between entertainment and reality. As long as it appears on screen, it's fair game. "Fake news" is more trusted than journalism. Once a feared and controversial figure, Henry Kissinger now delivers punch lines on "The Colbert Report."

We're supposed to laugh when real people don't know how to react properly to the contrived outrages of Tom Green, Ali G or Borat. Is anything real anymore? How can we be entertained when media short-circuits our genuine reactions to events?

I half expect CBS to reveal that this is all a spoof and that everybody, cops and criminals alike, are really actors playing along. In which case, my review is only an indignant residue of my having been "Punk'd."

• And while we're on the subject of truth and fiction, did "Leave it to Beaver" star Jerry Mathers die in Vietnam? Did Johnny Carson shock Zsa Zsa Gabor with a crack about her cat? These and other tall tales are explored and dissected on the six-part series "Myths and Legends" (10 p.m., TV Land).

• Repeats of "The Sopranos" (9 p.m., A&E, TV-14) move to basic cable. Edited episodes of the astounding first season will unfold every Wednesday night. If A&E is looking for serious drama fans, why did it schedule "The Sopranos" against "Lost" (returning in February)?

Tonight's other highlights

• During the hunt for a missing congressman, Alison is distracted by the vision of a boy trapped in a well on "Medium" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

• Scheduled on "Primetime" (10 p.m., ABC): medical mysteries.

• Snacks attack on "Top Chef" (10 p.m., Bravo).

Cult choice

Atlanta businessmen embark on a fateful canoe trip in "Deliverance" (10:30 p.m., AMC).

Series notes

A visit from the beyond on "One Tree Hill" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14) ... Kelly's jealous boyfriend strikes on "In Case of Emergency" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

Late night

Peter O'Toole and The Hold Steady appear on "Late Show With David Letterman" (12:05 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts John Edwards and Mindy Smith on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Jerry O'Connell and Giada De Laurentiis appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

WEDNESDAY EVENING JANUARY 10, 2007

	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	Beauty and the Geek (N) (CC)	One Tree Hill (CC)	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Sex and the City	Will & Grace			
WRTV	The Insider (N)	Extra (N) (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Presidential	In Case-Emer	Primetime "Medical Mysteries" (N)	News (CC)	Nightline (11:35)		
WISH	Inside Edition	Entertainment	Armed & Famous (N) (CC)	Presidential	Criminal Minds	Aftermath" (CC)	CSI: NY "Oedipus Hex" (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)		
WTHR	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Friday Night Lights (N) (CC)	Presidential	Deal or No Deal	Medium "The Whole Truth" (N)	News (CC)	Tonight Show			
WFYI	Business Rpt.	Farmers' TV	Science Investigators (N)	China From the Inside (N) (CC)	China From the Inside (N) (CC)	China From the Inside (N) (CC)	Tavis Smiley (N)	Time Goes By			
WNDY	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Wicked Wicked Games (N) (CC)	Watch Over Me "Payback" (N)	News	Access H'wood	Bernie Mac	South Park			
WTIU	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Science Investigators (N)	China From the Inside (N) (CC)	China From the Inside (N) (CC)	China From the Inside (N) (CC)	China From the Inside (N) (CC)	Tavis Smiley (N)	BBC World			
WHMB	The Harvest Show News and music.										
WCLJ	Billy Graham Classic Crusades	Behind Scenes	Grant Jeffrey	Secrets of Bible	Van Impe Pres	Praise the Lord (CC)					
WXIN	The Simpsons	Seinfeld (CC)	Bones "The Blonde in the Game"	Presidential	Til Death (CC)	News (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Scrubs (CC)			
WIPX	Growing Pains	Growing Pains	Mama's Family	Mama's Family	Diagnosis Murder "Hot House"	Charlie's Angels	Time Life Music	Paid Program			
WDTI	David Reagan	John Hagee	Rod Parsley	Joni Lamb	Celebration	Jimmy, Karen	Wisdom Keys	This Is Your Day	Believer's Voice		
A&E	CSI: Miami "Dead Air" (CC)		CSI: Miami "One of Our Own"		The Sopranos "Pilot; 46 Long" Power struggle. (CC)			The Sopranos (11:11) (CC)			
AMC	Volcano (5.45) (PG-13) (97) ** (CC)		The Beach (R) (00) ** Leonardo DiCaprio, Tilda Swinton, Virginia Ledoyen. Drama. (CC)		Deliverance (R) (72) *** Jon Voight. Adventure.						
AP	The Most Extreme (CC)		Blue Planet: Seas of Life (CC)		Anaconda Adventure (CC)			Miami Animal Police (CC)			
BET	106 & Park		Access Granted		American Gangster (CC)			The Wire "The Target" (CC)			
BRavo	Top Chef (CC)		Top Chef "Holiday Spirit" (CC)		Top Chef "Seven" (CC)			Top Chef "Unhappy Customers"			
CNBC	On the Money		Fast Money		1 vs. 100 (CC)			The Big Idea With Donny Deutsch			
CMT	100 Greatest Love Songs		100 Greatest Love Songs		100 Greatest Love Songs			100 Greatest Love Songs Concert			
CNN	The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now (CC)		Larry King Live (CC)			Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)			
COM	Scrubs (CC)		Scrubs (CC)		Daily Show		Colbert Report		Mind of Mencia		
DISC	MythBusters "Exploding House"		Mega Builders "Madrid's Big Dig"		MythBusters (N) (CC)			MythBusters "Bullet Proof Water"		Futureweapons No place to hide.	
E!	E! News (N)		The Daily 10 (N)		Goldie & Kate: The El True Hollywood Story (CC)			Starveillance		High 90210	
ESPN	College Basketball Duke at Georgia Tech. (CC)		College Basketball Oklahoma State at Kansas. (CC)			NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Denver Nuggets. From the Pepsi Center in Denver.			SportsCenter		
ESPN2	College Basketball Pittsburgh at DePaul. (CC)		College Basketball Oklahoma State at Kansas. (CC)			College Basketball Oklahoma State at Kansas. (CC)			Quite Frankly With Smith		
FAM	Smallville "Splinter" (CC)		Mrs. Doubtfire (PG-13) (93) *** Robin Williams, Sally Field, Pierce Brosnan. Comedy. (CC)			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 Budget-friendly menus. Challenge			Good Eats		Ham on Street	
FOXMV	Hot Chocolate (92)		Film School		Say Anything... (PG-13) (89) ** John Cusack, Lone Skye. Romance.			Weekend at Bernie's (PG-13) (89) ** Andrew McCarthy. Comedy.			
FOXSM	Pacers Live		NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics. From TD Banknorth Garden in Boston.			Pacers Live		Final Score		FSN Live	
FX	Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story		Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo (R) (99) * Rob Schneider. Comedy.			Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo (R) (99) * Rob Schneider. Comedy.					
HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger "Break In"		Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)		Mystery Woman: Sing Me a Murder (05) Kellie Martin. Mystery. (CC)			Matlock: The Investigation (87) **			
HGTV	If Walls Could		House Hunters		Designed to Sell		Buy Me		Design-Dime		
HIST	Modern Marvels "Pirate Tech"		Modern Marvels Behind the scenes at the Magic Kingdom. (CC)			Modern Marvels "80s Tech" (CC)			Modern Marvels "The Telephone"		
LIFE	Still Standing		Still Standing		Reba (CC)		Reba "The Will"		Love Lessons (00) ** Patty Duke, Max Martini. Drama. (CC)		
MSNBC	Hard Ball (CC)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann			Scarborough Country			No Place for a Child Indiana child welfare system.		
MTV	Sucker Free		Rolling Stone		Exposed		Exposed		The Real World		
NICK	OddParents		Jimmy Neutron		SpongeBob		SpongeBob		Full House (CC)		
OXY	What a Girl Wants (6:30) (PG) (03) * Amanda Bynes. Comedy-Drama.		Tease "Celeb Look-a-Like" (N)			Janice Dickinson Modeling			Janice Dickinson Modeling		
SCIFI	Maximum Velocity (PG-13) (03) Dale Midkiff, Wendy Carter. Action. (CC)		Falcon Down (R) (00) Judd Nelson, William Shatner. Action. (CC)			Code Red: Rubicon					
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation			The Godfather (R) (72) **** Marlon Brando. Drama. A mafia patriarch tries to hold his empire together.					
TBS	Every-Raymond		Every-Raymond		Every-Raymond		Every-Raymond		Sex and the City		
TCM	A Ticklish Affair (6:30) (63) ***		Too Late the Hero (GP) (70) ** Michael Caine, Cliff Robertson, Ian Bannen. War.		Hell in the Pacific (G) (69) *** Lee Marvin. Drama.						
TLC	Amazing Medical Stories (CC)		The Secret Lives of Sleepwalkers		Untold Stories of the E.R. (CC)			Hypersexual Behavior (CC)		The Secret Lives of Sleepwalkers	
TNT	Without a Trace "Coming Home"		Without a Trace "Transitions"		Without a Trace "Second Sight"			Without a Trace "Risen" (CC)		Las Vegas (CC)	
TOON	Foster's Home		Foster's Home		Pokemon-Battle		Gym Partner		Camp Lazlo		
TVL	Little House on the Prairie (CC)		Andy Griffith		Andy Griffith		Andy Griffith		TV Land Myths		
USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit			Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)			Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)		
VH1	I Love New York (6:30)		40 Dumbest Celeb Quotes Ever			Surreal Life Fame Game			The White Rapper Show		
WE	Dharma & Greg		Hope & Faith		Hope & Faith		Hope & Faith		Dirty Dancing (CC)		
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos		Home Improve.		Home Improve.		Becker (CC)		Becker (CC)		
DISN	Phil of the Future (CC)		That's So Raven "Mr. Perfect"		Life Is Ruff (05) Kyle Massey, Calvin Wheeler, Kay Panabaker. Comedy. A teenage slacker adopts a stray dog. (CC)			Life With Derek "Middle Man"		Phil of the Future "Phillin' In"	
ENC	While You Were Sleeping (6:15) (PG) (95) *** Sandra Bullock. (CC)		Stealth (PG-13) (05) ** Josh Lucas, Jessica Biel, Jamie Foxx. Action. Three pilots combat artificial intelligence. (CC)			Deep Rising (10:05) (R) (98) * Treat Williams, Anthony Heald. Suspense. Jewel thieves face a deadly monster in the South China Sea. (CC)					
HBO	Mr. & Mrs. Smith (6) (PG-13) (05) ** Brad Pitt. Action. (CC)		Rome Mark Antony runs Rome while Caesar pursues Pompey.		Rome Vorenus and Pullo are marooned in the Adriatic Sea. (CC)			Inside the NFL (N) (CC)		Real Sports (CC)	
SHOW	Game 6 (6:30) (R) (05) ** Michael Keaton. Comedy-Drama. (CC)		The Longest Yard (PG-13) (05) ** Adam Sandler, Burt Reynolds. Comedy. Prisoners train for a football game against the guards. (CC)			The L Word "Legend in the Making" (CC)			Boxing Samuel Peter vs. James Toney.		
MAX	Tremors (6:45) (PG-13) (90) ** Kevin Bacon, Fred Ward, Finn Carter. Horror. (CC)		Problem Child (PG) (90) * John Ritter. A 7-year-old terrorizes his unsuspecting adoptive parents. (CC)			The Hills Have Eyes (R) (06) ** Aaron Stanford, Kathleen Quinlan, Vinessa Shaw. Horror. Bloodthirsty mutants hunt fresh meat. (CC)					
TMC	Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (6:40) (PG) (04) *** Jim Carrey. Comedy. (CC)		11:14 (R) (03) *** Henry Thomas, Blake Heron. The lives of 10 people converge in a small town. (CC)			Monument Ave. (R) (98) *** Denis Leary. Honor among thieves is put to the test by a fatal shooting. (11:35) (97) ***					
STARZ	Memoirs of a Geisha (4:50) (05)		My Favorite Martian (7:20) (PG) (99) ** Christopher Lloyd, Jeff Daniels, Elizabeth Hurley. Comedy. (CC)		Underworld: Evolution (R) (06) ** Kate Beckinsale, Tony Curran. Horror. Vampire warrior Selene seeks revenge for her betrayal. (CC)			A Lot Like Love (10:50) (PG-13) (05) ** Ashton Kutcher. (CC)			

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

PARIS Jolie says she wouldn't have adopted like Madge

Angelina Jolie says she was horrified by attacks on Madonna about her adoption of a toddler from Malawi but suggested the pop singer took a risk because of the African country's adoption laws, a French magazine reported.



JOLIE

"Madonna knew the situation in Malawi," the 31-year-old actress was quoted as saying in this week's edition of Gala, a gossip magazine. "In that country, there isn't really a legal framework for adopting. Personally, I prefer to stay on the side of the law."

Jolie and Brad Pitt, 43, have three children: 5-year-old Maddox, adopted from Cambodia; 2-year-old Zahara, adopted from Ethiopia; and another daughter, Shiloh, who was born to the couple in May.

Madonna, 48, and her 38-year-old husband Guy Ritchie are adopting a 1-year-old boy.

LOS ANGELES

Swank gets star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Hilary Swank and her mom came to Hollywood 16 years ago with only \$75 in their pockets. On Monday, the two-time Oscar winner received the ultimate sign that the move paid off: a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



SWANK

"I remember my mom using a roll of quarters to call agents from a pay phone and telling agents they should sign me," said the emotional 32-year-old during the dedication ceremony.

In 2000, a then-unknown Swank walked away with the best-actress Oscar for her chilling portrayal of murdered transgender teen Brandon Teena in "Boys Don't Cry."

Five years later, she won another best-actress Oscar as the scrappy and determined boxer Maggie Fitzgerald in "Million Dollar Baby."

By BRIDGET BYRNE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON

Lindsay Duncan, one of the stars of HBO's "Rome," can't quite decide whether it's funny or sad to look back to her first TV role, which also was set in the Eternal City.



DUNCAN

In 1975, she played a bit of eye candy, a girl called Scrubba, in a campy farce about Roman revelry called "Further Up Pompeii!" "When I say, 'I had no idea what I was doing,' I had no idea.

I didn't even know how television was made, and it was live, so it was a kind of nightmare, though perhaps a very funny nightmare," Duncan recalls. "When I went to the audition, I was asked to show my legs, which I did, God help me, not that I've got anything to be ashamed of."

She certainly hasn't. Now a mature beauty and a major star of the London and Broadway stage, the 56-year-old actress is the manipulative Servilia of the Junii, lover of Caesar and mother of one of his assassins, Brutus, in the epic series about the tempestuous struggle for power in early Rome.

"To play such an aristocratic woman you need someone who can carry that off with great

aplomb," says Bruno Heller, co-creator of "Rome." "Someone who can bring genuine gravitas and dignity."

"There's always a kind of undertone of humor," he adds, "and such intelligence there that you believe that this is a woman, who, though she is not running the Republic, is manipulating the politics in such a way that she is the First Lady of Rome."

"Rome" returns Sunday at 9 p.m. for its final 10 episodes. Caesar is dead and Gaius Octavian, son of Servilia's rival, Atia of Julii, is worming his way to power, so Servilia's fate is in the balance.

"She has a bumpy ride, poor woman," says Duncan, exhibiting more sympathy for Servilia

than the Roman matron ever earned in real life.

Because of the decision to end "Rome" after just two seasons, Servilia's fascinating storyline is one of several in the intricate drama that had to be speeded up to what Heller calls "the money shot," the death of Anthony and Cleopatra.

Duncan regrets that but delights in the whole experience of the ambitious and lavish undertaking, which employed a stellar cast of actors and a wealth of craftspeople, expert in set, prop and costume design.

The Scottish-born Duncan said she's praying to "whatever deity I can summon" that she'll have another chance to work on "a show of this scale again."

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ERAGON (PG) 12:30 5:00 7:30
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FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) 12:50 3:45 6:30 9:45
HAPPILY NEVER AFTER (PG) 12:30 3:50 6:50 9:30
THR3E (PG-13) 1:50 4:30 7:50 10:25
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:15 10:30
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) 2:40 6:20 9:00 9:50
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 1:30 2:00 4:20 4:50 7:00 7:30 9:40 10:10
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) 1:10 3:40 6:40 9:10
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) 12:45 3:30 6:10 8:50
ERAGON (PG) 1:40 4:15 6:45 9:20
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) 1:45 4:45 7:45 10:35
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