

Chiller on Par Radar

By NICOLE LaPORTE

Following his successful remake of "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," Marcus Nispel will direct "Turn" for Radar Pictures at Paramount.



Nispel

Based on a Japanese film by the same name, "Turn" is a supernatural thriller about a woman who slips into a coma after an accident and finds upon waking that she is in a parallel reality — a completely empty city, where she is forced to relive the same day over and over again.

Executive producer Roy Lee calls it a "horror version of 'Groundhog Day.'" Radar owner Ted Field will also exec produce, along with Doug Davison and Brooklyn Weaver.

Producing for Radar is Joe Rosenberg. Co-producing are

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INSIDE

5 Staying busy

With "Friends" behind him, David Schwimmer will star in a feature and direct a pilot.

BIZ FEELS LABOR PAINS

Studios & agencies gird for worst with guilds in turmoil

By CLAUDE BRODESSER

Studios and talent agencies are becoming increasingly alarmed at the upheaval within Hollywood actors and writers guilds.

With the unions due at the bargaining table this spring, many see harbingers of the de facto writers and actors strike of 2001 that threw a massive wrench into the production machinery and roiled development waters for nearly a year.

The Writers Guild of America West is facing a constitutional chal-

lenge and questions over the legitimacy of its new president, appointed two weeks ago when the incumbent resigned over eligibility questions. In addition, a large percentage of the membership is backing a hard-line stance on DVD issues. Meanwhile, the Screen Actors Guild's notoriously unpredictable membership remains a wild card.

With the potential for labor strife clearly increased, talent agencies are shoring up as many jobs as possible for writer clients in the near term. Studios are similarly

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SCRIBE TRIBE TROUBLED

By DAVE McNARY

Hollywood writers find themselves with a major headache.

The ongoing leadership problems at the WGA West threaten to diminish the guild's clout at upcoming contract negotiations. WGA members say that should the disunity remain, it will take away the leverage of a credible strike threat as the May 2 contract expiration approaches.

"I don't see how this can help us," animation writer Stan Berkowitz said. "But part of the reason why it seems that the WGA is in disarray is that it is a true union and a democracy. It exists only because the writers want it to exist."

Three weeks ago, WGA West president Victoria Riskin stepped



Holland

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Kudocast ratings give Globes a golden spike

By RICK KISSELL

The Golden Globes re-established itself as a ratings dynamo Sunday night, attracting the kudocast's largest audience ever on NBC.

One year after it was tackled for a loss opposite CBS' coverage of the American Football Conference championship game, the "61st Annual Golden Globe Awards" on NBC matched a five-year high in adults 18-49 (9.9 rating/23 share)

Globes parties, page 22

and averaged a big 26.7 million viewers overall, according to preliminary Nielsen nationals.

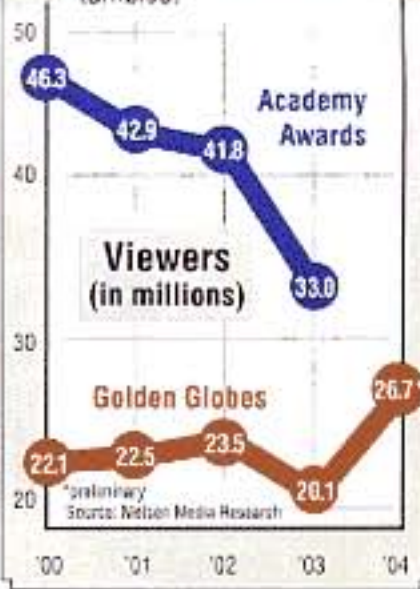
This would make it the largest audience on record for the Globes, which didn't become a television event until NBC took over from cabler TBS as network host in 1995. Prior to this year, the biggest previous tune-in came in 1998 (24.3 million).

It's also the closest the Globes have been in ratings relative to the Academy Awards: Last March on ABC, the Oscars averaged a record

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GLOBES GAINING

Ratings for the Golden Globes have risen while the Oscar numbers have tumbled.



New Line 'Sex Talk' draws pair

By MICHAEL FLEMING

New Line Cinema has set "Malibu's Most Wanted" helmer John Whitesell to direct Ryan Reynolds in the comedy "Sex Talk."

Reynolds will play a sports reporter who gets switched over to become the host of a sex talk-



Whitesell

show. He finds sports terminology helpful in describing problems and remedies for sexual dilemmas and takes pleasure in shocking the strait-laced female co-host assigned to him. Eventually, he falls in love with her.

Script was penned by Analisa LaBianco and Tempest Farley and rewritten by Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel. "Sex Talk" is being produced by Lynn Harris and Team Todd's Suzanne and Jennifer Todd. Reynolds takes on the New Line project just after completing "Blade 3" for the studio alongside Wesley Snipes.

FOX HEIGHTENS REALITY DATING WITH 'GROOM'

By JOSEF ADALIAN

Fox and LMNO Prods. are looking to have a tiny bit of fun with the relationship-based reality show genre.

Net has wrapped principal photography on a two-episode unscripted miniseries dubbed "The Littlest Groom," a "Bachelor"-like skein in which a four-foot-five single guy named Glen will attempt to find reality-show love by dating a dozen different little women. Skein will feature all of the usual dating show con-



Darnell

ventions, from group dates to group gropes in the hot tub.

There's just one tiny twist: At a certain point, bachelor Glen, 23, will have to decide between dating women his own size or women of average height.

Fox reality czar Mike Darnell said LMNO topper Eric Schotz had

the big idea to do a dating show with little people.

"It's not a parody, but it is a humorous take on the romance shows that have been on the last couple of years," Darnell said. "I was already doing 'My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance,' so it seemed like this might be a fun little stunt."

Indeed, "The Littlest Groom" will serve as a lead-in for the final two episodes of "Fiance." "Groom" bows Feb. 16, at 8 p.m. and wraps its

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E! skein will peel layers of plastic surgeon's life

By DENISE MARTIN

It's "Nip/Tuck" for reality TV.

E! Networks has ordered a series pilot for an unscripted series chronicling the day-to-day business of a Beverly Hills-based plastic surgeon.

Tapping into the success of plastic surgery shows including "Extreme Makeover" on ABC and the FX sudser "Nip/Tuck," the docudrama "Face Value" will take on the doctor's perspective as he tends to patients' needs, either serious or purely cosmetic. Cameras will follow him into his home life, and patients and office staff will also make their way into the storyline.

"This world is really in the zeitgeist right now," said E! Networks senior VP of programming and development Lisa Berger. "We've found a high-profile surgeon with a really rich life. He does his share of the wealthy Beverly Hills crowd, but he also does pro-bono work at a clinic in downtown Los Angeles. Even the people are characters — his receptionist, who'll be planning her wedding during the show, had him do her own plastic surgery."



Berger

Primetime project for E! sister cabler Style Network comes from executive producers Rick Leed ("Home Improvement") and Donald Bull ("The Osbournes"). Leed just completed production on the TLC spec "Extreme Plastic Surgery."

"Plastic surgeons are often misunderstood. Most are very dedicated and honorable guys that do cases we don't hear about, such as people in accidents and burn victims," Leed said. "It's a pretty amazing world with lots of larger-than-life characters, as you can probably imagine."

Pilot nears production

Style is in pre-production on the pilot, slated to air some time in first quarter next year. Berger further noted that "Face" may air on both E! and Style.

She added that the half-hour would likely receive a 13-episode pickup. Show is in keeping with Style's upcoming lifestyle-centered originals, including the Nick Scotti project "Brini Maxwell" and the makeover series "How Do I Look?"