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Select a budget: Monday, May 3, 2010 Go

BC-MCT-ENTERTAINMENT-BJT — entertainment (2550 words)

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
Entertainment Budget for Monday, May 3, 2010
Updated at 8 p.m. EDT (0000 UTC).

Adds REDGRAVE-OBIT:LA, REDGRAVE-APPRECIATION:LA, TV-SHEEN:LA, TV-COLLEGEINC-PREVIEW:LA

TOP STORIES

Katrina documentary is no laughing matter for Harry Shearer

MOVIE-SHEARER:KC—The Big Easy is on a roll. The Saints won the Super Bowl. Crowds packed the French Quarter during a local music festival last month. In every neighborhood devastated by the 2005 Katrina disaster, signs of recovery are popping up like spring blossoms.

Harry Shearer, though, is worried. Worried that tragedy will strike again. Worried that the next Katrina might not happen in his adopted home of New Orleans, but in Sacramento, St. Louis or any of hundreds of cities that are protected by levees.

That's why Shearer — a satirist best known as Derek Smalls of the mock metal band Spinal Tap and the voice of many "Simpsons" characters — is personally bankrolling a film to sound the alarm.

Shearer, who has divided his time between New Orleans and Los Angeles since 1995, just completed the first edit of his documentary "The Big Uneasy." He is rushing to finish the film and arrange a live digital premiere in movie theaters across the country on the fifth anniversary of the Katrina disaster.

850 by Aaron Barnhart in New Orleans. MOVED

TEXT | HTML | ARCHIVE PHOTOS

Live from New York! It's ... Betty White!

TV-BETTYWHITE:MS—If any state had the right to claim Betty White as its Beloved Elder, it would be Minnesota. She played one of us in her two most iconic roles — happy homemaker Sue Ann Nivens, who scandalized Minneapolis in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," and naive Rose Nylund, whose St. Olaf roots informed her every earnest reaction on "The Golden Girls."

But these days, everyone wants to adopt the comic legend. At age 88, White has reluctantly agreed to host next weekend's edition of "Saturday Night Live," a gig sandwiched between her scene-stealing turn in "The Proposal" and the start of her umpteenth sitcom, "Hot in Cleveland," which debuts in June on TV Land.

Last week she took time to talk about the pressures of live TV, the Facebook groundswell that led to "SNL" and other topics.

800 by Neal Justin in Minneapolis. MOVED

TEXT | HTML | ARCHIVE PHOTOS

In new basketball flick, rapper Common has game

MOVIE-COMMON:TB—Common performed during a high school basketball all-star game last month (the Jordan Brand Classic in New York), but he never played in one when he attended Luther High School South on Chicago's South Side.

He was a ball boy for the Bulls, but that's as close as he would come to being a member of an NBA team.

And yet, the 6-foot-tall rapper relates to the NBA superstar he plays in "Just Wright," which opens in theaters May 14, better than he did to any of his other film roles.

For one thing, he's not a gun-toting tough guy in "Just Wright," as opposed to just about every movie he has been in lately — he was a detective in "Date Night," a soldier in "Terminator Salvation" and a weapons expert in "Wanted." For another, he says he and his "Just Wright" character, Scott McKnight, share several qualities.

"Because some of his characteristics are similar to mine, some things came naturally for me," said Common, whose real name is Lonnie Rashid Lynn Jr.

"He has a lot of love for his mom, he's in a field where popularity comes to you, and he's definitely a sensitive guy."

750 by Luis Arroyave in Chicago. MOVED

TEXT | HTML | ARCHIVE PHOTOS

TELEVISION

Sharon Osbourne is staying on TV — but not watching herself

TV-OSBOURNE:TB—Minutes after watching a man stuff 12 snakes in his mouth onstage at the Chicago Theatre on Tuesday, "America's Got Talent" judge Sharon Osbourne sat upstairs in her dressing room, unable to get the image out of her head.

"The look of them all hanging out of his mouth, I wanted to throw up," Osbourne said during a production break. "Didn't you? It was disgusting."

Osbourne likely won't watch the segment when the talent competition returns to NBC in June, and not just because it made her uneasy. Rather, "it's the most boring thing in the world watching yourself" on TV, Osbourne said. "I can't do it."

250 by Luis Arroyave in Chicago. MOVED

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[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [ARCHIVE PHOTOS](#)**'Chuck' fans hit the street to get more people to tune in**

[TV-CHUCK:LA](#)—With the fate of the beleaguered action-comedy series still unknown, “Chuck” enthusiasts hit the streets Monday to rally support. Dressed in the show’s Buy More clothing (short-sleeve button-down shirts, name tags, ties, et al), the Chuck-sters are roaming high foot-traffic areas equipped with footage from the show in an attempt to encourage potential viewers to tune in.

It’s not the first time fans of the series, now in its third season, have taken action.

250 by Yvonne Villarreal in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Charlie Sheen’s contract talks appear to be following the script**

[TV-SHEEN:LA](#)—Over the next few weeks, there will be breathless updates about the talks between Charlie Sheen’s camp and Warner Bros., producers of his hit sitcom “Two and a Half Men” and CBS, which carries the show on its Monday night lineup.

Already we’ve gone from Sheen saying through people close to him that he’s done with the show to talks between the two sides are making progress. In other words, this is not about persuading Sheen to come back as much as it is deciding on his price tag.

It’s an old script that usually plays out the same way.

500 by Joe Flint in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Remembering the Lone Ranger’s ‘faithful Indian companion,’ Tonto**

[TV-TAKEFIVE:ND](#)—This month, TCM airs the latest in its “Race in Hollywood” series with an in-depth look at the portrayal of Native Americans in the movies. That puts us in mind of Jay Silverheels, perhaps Hollywood’s most prominent Native American actor. After playing various Indian characters in mostly B-movies, he found fame on TV as Tonto, the Lone Ranger’s “faithful Indian companion” in the 1949-57 Western. Here are five things you may not have known about Silverheels and Tonto.

200 by Andy Edelstein in New York. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Eric Stonestreet is part of ABC’s ‘Modern Family’**

[TV-TINSEL:MCT](#)—Eric Stonestreet, who plays the melodramatic half of the gay couple on ABC’s “Modern Family,” isn’t worried about being typecast.

While he was shooting the first episode of “Modern Family” he was also playing a convicted rapist and murderer on “Nip/Tuck.”

“I played Oliver Platt’s legal intern on ‘The West Wing,’ on ‘CSI,’ I was the handwriting documents technician. I’ve killed a bunch of people on TV. People ask if my parents have a problem with me playing a gay man on TV, I say they were more upset with me killing people.”

1250 (with trims) by Luaine Lee in Studio City, Calif. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**‘College, Inc.’ premiering Tuesday on ‘Frontline’**

[TV-COLLEGEINC-PREVIEW:LA](#)—Let’s hear it for “Frontline,” which continues to take on topics for no earthly reason save they’re important.

In this week’s “College, Inc.,” you won’t meet lovely coeds who are stripping to make tuition or nerdy con men amassing small fortunes through prefab thesis papers. No, it’s all those Universities of Phoenix, whose signs are becoming more ubiquitous than lap-band billboards, and their fellow for-profit colleges that the show’s indefatigable correspondent Martin Smith has in his sights.

600 by Mary McNamara in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**MOVIES****Summer movie preview: from ‘Robin Hood’ to motherhood**

[MOVIE-SUMMER:ND](#)—Iron Man, Shrek, Edward Cullen and MacGruber — it must be the summer movie season.

More and more, summer means familiar names and faces, some from movies you recently saw (“The Twilight Saga: New Moon”) and others from long-ago favorites like “The Karate Kid,” being remade with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan, and 1978’s “Grease,” being re-released with added sing-along subtitles.

Even “Robin Hood,” the Russell Crowe vehicle and one of the season’s most anticipated films, seems like a remake of sorts. The mythical hero has brand recognition, having been adapted for the screen countless times since the early 1900s with Errol Flynn, Douglas Fairbanks and Kevin Costner, among others, stepping into the role.

1700 by Rafer Guzmán. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)**Looking back at big summer blockbusters**

[MOVIE-SUMMER-BLOCKBUSTERS:ND](#)—While “Jaws” often gets tarred for having kick-started the cynical summer-movie machinery, it’s not “Jaws”’ fault. “The rap against it is long-standing—that it turned the movie business into etc., etc.,” said The Wall Street Journal’s Joe Morgenstern, who in 1975 was the film critic for Newsweek. “But every time I see it, I marvel at how good it is.” So are a lot of films that have come out in summer. And among the top moneymakers of all time, very few have not been summer releases (Nos. 1 and 2, “Avatar” and “Titanic,” came out in December). Qualitatively speaking, though, it’s been a progressively mixed bag since 1975.

850 by John Anderson. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Approach these anticipated seasonal blockbusters with a few simple formulas in mind**

[MOVIE-SUMMER-FORMULA:MS](#)—So you want to be a Hollywood executive? Here’s all you need to know. The formula for a summer blockbuster has four elements, out of which three must be present: big actor, big director, big budget and big effects.

1500 by Colin Covert in Minneapolis. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)**‘Babies’**[Packages & Pages](#)[Illustrations](#)[Caricatures](#)[MyMCT](#)

[BABIES-MOVIE-REVIEW-ADV07:OS](#)—Friday release—“Babies” is a French-made documentary about babies from those four corners of the world—Namibia (on the dusty, fly-covered plains of Africa), Mongolia (on the dusty, fly-covered steppes of Asia), Tokyo and San Francisco.

450 by Roger Moore. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

‘The Square’

[SQUARE-MOVIE-REVIEW:KC](#)—On a pure storytelling level, “The Square” is wonderfully effective, a sort of a cinematic python that slowly squeezes until it’s hard to catch your breath.

350 by Robert W. Butler. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

What does a ‘producer’ produce?

[MOVIE-BARRYWOOD:OC](#)—Seriously, there are producers who do real work. I’ve met a few of them. But the title “producer” may be the most abused of any in Hollywood, with the possible exception of “show business legend.”

850 by Barry Koltnow. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

DVDS

Despite its Southern stereotypes, make time for ‘No Time for Sergeants’

[VID-DVDWEEK:SA](#)—Key to its success was the captivating performance of Andy Griffith, who portrayed Pvt. Will Stockdale, a Georgia hillbilly drafted into the U.S. Air Force, in the original Broadway, TV special and movie versions. The movie, which was directed by Hollywood veteran Mervyn LeRoy and became one of the biggest box-office hits of 1958, makes its DVD debut this week (Warner Home Video, \$19.98, not rated).

900 by Bruce Dancis. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

DVDs to be released Tuesday

[VID-DVDWEEK:SA](#)—Here’s something we’ve all — well, some of us, anyway — been waiting for: the first releases from Roger Corman’s Cult Classics series. Two films will be released Tuesday: “Rock ‘n’ Roll High School,” the 30th anniversary special edition on Blu-ray and DVD, and “Suburbia,” the collector’s edition DVD.

250 by Jim Carnes. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

MUSIC

The Deftones have new perspective, new album

[MUS-DEFTONES:SA](#)—The Deftones’ “Diamond Eyes,” out Tuesday, is the Sacramento band’s first CD without Chi Cheng on bass. Yet his presence suffuses the album.

“It’s all about him,” Deftones drummer Abe Cunningham said. “How could it not be?”

Critically injured in a November 2008 car accident, Cheng remains in a minimally conscious state.

Cheng’s accident and subsequent struggles devastated his band mates before helping them gain new perspective, Cunningham and Deftones lead singer and guitarist Chino Moreno said in telephone interviews.

900 (with trim) by Carla Meyer in Sacramento, Calif. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

MUS-RIFFREPORT:MCT (PopMatters.com) will not move this week.

STAGE

Actress Lynn Redgrave has died at 67

[REDGRAVE-OBIT:LA](#)—Lynn Redgrave, a member of the distinguished British acting family who became an overnight sensation playing the title character in the 1966 film “Georgy Girl,” and later achieved acclaim on stage as both an actress and a writer, has died. She was 67.

Redgrave died Sunday with her children at her side at her home in Kent, Conn., said her publicist, Rick Miramontez.

1000 (with trims) by Dennis McLellan. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Lynn Redgrave had polish and pedigree, but maintained accessibility

[REDGRAVE-APPRECIATION:LA](#)—Although I never met Lynn Redgrave, the news of her death Sunday at her home in Connecticut after a long bout with breast cancer feels oddly personal, a little like hearing about the passing of a former neighbor for whom you secretly maintained an affectionate regard.

Of all the illustrious acting Redgraves, she was the most accessible, the one we could easily identify with, maybe even imagine taking out to lunch. Vanessa Redgrave, her older sister, has always been loftier, less compromising, an artist and an activist on a grave mission. To Vanessa’s tragically unbending Antigone, Lynn was the levelheaded Ismene, the sibling not built for radical extremes, who preferred everyday humanity to the glories of myth.

800 by Charles McNulty in Los Angeles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

A score to settle with Tony musical nominees

[STAGE-TONYS-COMMENTARY:ND](#)—Here’s a new problem — or, for the more upbeat among us, a new challenge — for the Tony Awards.

When the nominations are announced Tuesday morning, history may be written in the category of musical score. That is, there may not be a category.

Broadway is facing what’s likely to be an unprecedented situation. There are eight eligible new musicals for the season that officially ended Thursday. This is a generous number, especially in recent years and especially because many received enthusiastic reviews and — hardly irrelevant to Tony voters — many are doing good business.

But only two musicals — “Memphis” and “The Addams Family” — have eligible music and lyrics.

700 by Linda Winer in New York. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

At 62, Bernadette Peters can still sing like an angel

STAGE-PETERS:MS—It seems impossible that Bernadette Peters just turned 62 — until you realize she received the first of her seven Tony nominations in 1971 and made her first film in 1973. She still has the baby-soft voice and perfect rosebud lips, but Peters has achieved the kind of legendary status that comes only with decades of acclaim. Her last two times on Broadway, she was nominated for Tonys (winning her second in 1999 for “Annie Get Your Gun”).

She just finished shooting a film scheduled for next year and has written another book for children about her passion for domestic pets.

Peters called from her New York apartment last month to chat.

650 by Graydon Royce in Minneapolis. MOVED

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