



TRADES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

ABC greenlights game show 'The Six'

ABC has given a series order to a classic Russian game show in which teams work together to solve puzzles. In "The Six" (originally titled "What? Where? When?"), six players must collaborate to solve nontrivia logic games within 60 seconds. ABC has ordered six episodes from Merv Griffin Entertainment. "When was the last time you saw a group dynamic that wasn't about backstabbing?" Merv Griffin Entertainment TV president Roy Bank said. "Here, there's no voting, no eliminations. You make money only as a team." The top-rated Russian version of "Six" has been on the air since 1975, the same year Griffin's "Wheel of Fortune" debuted in daytime. The ABC version has tapped U.K. personality Vernon Kay to host. The show seeks to distinguish itself from other quiz shows by its logic-based questions.

'Avatar' sales overwhelm video charts

Fox Home Entertainment's "Avatar" catapulted to the top of all three national video charts its first week in stores. The title's home video performance was powered by a burst of out-of-the-gate sales that saw the top-grossing theatrical film of all time sell 6.7 million units its first four days in stores, 2.7 million of them on Blu-ray Disc. According to the Nielsen VideoScan First Alert sales chart, the next biggest-selling release of last week was another 20th Century Fox release, "Crazy Heart," which sold just 5% as many copies as "Avatar," followed by DreamWorks/Paramount's "Lovely Bones," which finished at No. 3 with 2.9% of "Avatar" unit sales.

'The Hobbit' not delayed; on track for 2012

"The Hobbit" is coming to theaters sooner than you think, but later than you initially thought. Let's clear it up. Warner Bros. is scheduling Peter Jackson and Guillermo del Toro's two-part adaptation of "The Hobbit" for December 2012 and December 2013. A confusion over release dates surfaced earlier today when Imax announced an overall, 20-film, three-year deal with Warners. In outlining which films would be included, Imax incorrectly gave 2013 as the release date for the first "Hobbit" movie. But 2013 is two years later than the 2011 release date that New Line and MGM targeted for the first installment when the two companies originally announced the movies in December 2007.

Ricky Gervais to host Globes again

Ricky Gervais will return to host NBC's telecast of the Golden Globes again next year. The Emmy-winning comedian will host the 68th annual Golden Globes on Jan. 16, 2011. The unusually early announcement books the host a nearly nine months before the show. "I can't believe they invited me back after awful things I said," Gervais said in a statement. "Let's see how far I can go this time." This year's telecast hosted by Gervais was up 12% from the previous year (17 million viewers, 5.5 rating in the demo), though critics were mixed on his performance.

Thomas Haden Church exiting 'Episodes'

Thomas Haden Church is leaving Showtime's upcoming comedy "Episodes." Church ("Sideways") is departing because of a supposed scheduling conflict with another project. Actress Claire Forlani is also exiting the show and has been replaced by British actress Tamsin Greig. "Episodes" is in pre-production in London. The show stars former "Friends" star Matt LeBlanc playing a version of himself being cast in a bastardized U.S. version of a beloved British comedy. The network has ordered seven single-camera episodes from creators David Crane and Jeffrey Klarik.

Central Talent Booking