



Wednesday, December 30, 2009

'Dunham Show' not renewed for Season 2

Jeff Dunham scored the most-watched series premiere in Comedy Central history, but his "The Jeff Dunham Show" won't return for a second season. Following Dunham's record-breaking October series debut that drew 5.3 million viewers, the puppet master's audience dropped 55% for episode two. His December episodes drew between 1.3 and 1.8 million viewers. Asked whether "Jeff Dunham" has been canceled, a Comedy Central spokesperson said, "We have no plans to renew the series at this time." Even near the end of his run, Dunham still earned a higher average rating than fellow Comedy Central series newcomer Daniel Tosh, whose series "Tosh.0" scored a 25-episode second season renewal. The difference is the cost of production -- and to some degree, critical reception. Dunham's series was part of a larger overall deal with Comedy Central, so the cable channel continues to be in business with the ventriloquist who is one of the highest-grossing standups in the country. Under Dunham's pact with the Comedy Central, he will topline another special for the network targeted for fall 2010, following his blockbuster 2008 special seen by 6.6 million viewers, as well as a tour, a DVD and consumer products release.

Palm Springs fest feting Cotillard, Tarantino

Adding the final names to its guest list for its awards gala, the Palm Springs International Film Festival announced it will present Marion Cotillard with its Desert Palm Achievement Award and will honor Quentin Tarantino with its Sonny Bono Visionary Award. The awards gala will be held on Jan. 5 at the Palm Springs Convention Center. Cotillard, who received the fest's Breakthrough Performance Award in 2008 for "La vie en rose," is currently appearing on screen in the musical "Nine" and was seen earlier this year in "Public Enemies." Tarantino, whose "Inglourious Basterds" was released this year, will receive the award named after the festival's founder. "Following a distinguished career in French cinema, Marion Cotillard has firmly established herself as a major actress in American films. Her performance in Rob Marshall's 'Nine' is nothing short of breathtaking," festival chairman Harold Matzner said.

'World News' steady under Diane Sawyer

ABC's "World News" has held steady under new anchor Diane Sawyer. In its first three days on the air last week, "ABC World News with Diane Sawyer" averaged 8.6 million total viewers and a 1.8 rating/7 share among adults 25-54. That is up 6% in total viewers and flat in the demo from the newscast's season-to-date average under Sawyer's predecessor Charles Gibson. Sawyer also increased the viewership gap between "World News" and the CBS' "Evening News with Katie Couric" (6.2 million, 1.5/5) to its largest size in 11 months. NBC's "Nightly News with Brian Williams" (9.4 million, 2.3/8) continues to be broadcast newscast leader, which dominates among younger viewers.

GLAAD makes it official at Sundance

GLAAD and the Sundance Institute are taking their relationship to the next level. While the LGBT

media advocacy and anti-defamation organization has held its Queer Lounge for filmmakers at the Sundance Film Festival the past six years, it will become an official institute associate for the first time at the 2010 fest. Queer Lounge has traditionally been the venue for LGBT-related panels and for gay and lesbian filmmakers to meet and host news conferences. CineGLAAD, a multiday event presented by Bud Light and Abreva, will widen the Lounge's reach and visibility. Throughout the festival, GLAAD will host cineGLAAD at the Filmmaker Lodge, located on the second floor of the Elks Building on Main Street in Park City. Through panels and networking, cineGLAAD will celebrate and elevate films with LGBT content and the voices of filmmakers whose storytelling includes the visibility and inclusion of the LGBT community.

CBS dominates Monday night ratings

CBS' Monday lineup showed its resilience by dominating a rerun-filled night. Repeats of CBS' flagship comedies "The Big Bang Theory" (3.0 rating/8 share in adults 18-49) and "Two and a Half Men" (2.7/7) were the highest-rated programs of the night by a mile, with a rerun of another CBS series, drama "CSI: Miami" (2.2/6) coming in third. The only other program to cross the 2.0 demo rating mark Monday was ABC's broadcast of "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" (2.1/6), though that number is expected to go down in the finals as ABC's preliminary ratings were inflated by NFL pre-emptions in Chicago and Minnesota.

Central Talent Booking