



# TRADES

**Wednesday, January 27, 2010**

## **NBC, Conan O'Brien back in business**

Conan O'Brien is getting "Justice" at NBC after all. Days after the network severed ties with O'Brien as host of "The Tonight Show," it picked up an hourlong pilot from O'Brien's production company, Conaco. Additionally, NBC has ordered multicamera comedy pilot "The Pink House." Both shows hail from UMS. The untitled O'Brien project, known as "Justice," was written by John Eisendrath. Described as a new take on a law show with a larger-than-life character at the center, it follows an ex-Supreme Court justice who quits the Court to start his own legal practice. Eisendrath is executive producing, with O'Brien, his longtime executive producer Jeff Ross and Conaco's David Kissinger also expected to serve as exec producers

## **Clint Eastwood voted favorite film star**

America loves Clint Eastwood and Oprah Winfrey best. In an annual poll from Harris Interactive, Eastwood was the favorite movie star and Winfrey was the top TV personality. The No. 2 spot on the TV list went to Glenn Beck, and the choice is already the source of some online angst. The Huffington Post, for example, says that Beck's Fox News buddy Bill O'Reilly is upset at being outranked: O'Reilly is at No. 10. Jay Leno is third on the TV list, but the poll of 2,276 adults was conducted from Dec. 7-14, so it doesn't reflect whether opinions have changed -- for better or worse -- since Leno's dramatic retaking of the "Tonight Show" from Conan O'Brien. It's interesting to note, though, that Leno was first in last year's poll. O'Brien didn't crack the Top 10, though David Letterman is ranked No. 9. Ellen DeGeneres was fourth, while her new "American Idol" partner Simon Cowell was absent from the list. Filling out the Top 10 were Hugh Laurie, Charlie Sheen and Mark Harmon.

## **ABC greenlights crime drama pilot**

ABC on Tuesday night picked up a crime drama pilot from writer Richard Hatem and director Gary Fleder. The untitled project, from ABC Studios, centers on a beautiful female detective who teams with a disgraced ex-cop to solve crimes and untangle the conspiracy that sent him underground. Hatem ("Miracles") wrote the script, with Fleder on board to direct. Both are executive producing with Bert Salke and Chris Brancato.

## **Fox expands current department**

While current departments have become an endangered species as more and more broadcast nets fold those programming efforts into their development units, Fox is bucking the trend with two promotions and a hire. Shana C. Waterman and James Oh have been upped to vp current programming, while David Steven has moved from comedy development, where he was a manager, to current, where he'll serve as a director. All three report to Marcy Ross, exec vp current programming. In making the announcement, Fox entertainment president Kevin Reilly stressed the importance of "investing in top-notch talent" to keep the network's series strong and praised Fox's

current department for being responsible in part for Fox's first fall season ratings win.

**Duo in talks to direct Steve Carell project**

Glenn Ficarra and John Requa are in negotiations to direct Warner Bros.' untitled Steve Carell/Dan Fogelman project. Written as a spec by Fogelman, the comedy with dramatic elements follows a father deals with a marital crisis while managing a relationship with his children. Carell is attached to star and is producing via his Warners-based Carousel Productions. Denise Di Novi is also producing. Carousel principals Charlie Hartsock and Vance DeGeneres are exec producing.

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