



# TRADES

**Monday, May 24, 2010**

## **Paula Abdul to star in CBS dance show**

She's back! Paula Abdul is returning to the judges' table as part of a new primetime talent competition series on CBS. Abdul will be lead judge, executive producer, creative partner, mentor and coach on "Got to Dance," a series from ShineReveille based on the U.K. hit. The show is billed as broadcast's first all-ages, all-genres dance series -- "from ballroom to break dance, bhangra to ballet, and tap to tango." Acts will compete for a panel of judges, with viewers getting to vote for their favorites during the semifinals and finals. CBS is expected to announce Monday that Abdul is joining the series. Since announcing via Twitter last year that she was leaving "American Idol," networks have been courting Abdul for an array of unscripted projects. In January, ABC made her an offer to appear on "Dancing With the Stars," and Fox reportedly has eyed her for Simon Cowell's 2011 singing-competition show "The X Factor." As first reported in The Hollywood Reporter, CBS greenlighted "Got to Dance" in March; from the start, Abdul, the former "Idol" judge and experienced choreographer, was the network's top choice to fill a judges chair on the show. As part of her deal, Abdul will have an array of behind-the-scenes and on-camera responsibilities on the show. CBS, which announced its fall schedule last week, likely will air "Got to Dance" midseason, raising the possibility of Abdul's new show competing directly against "Idol." Next year will be the first time that "Idol" won't have Cowell. The British version of "Dance" debuted this year on Sky 1 and became one of the country's top-rated premium-network series. The series is a Shine Group format, created by Princess Prods. and Shine TV and produced by Reveille. Abdul, Elisabeth Murdoch, Howard T. Owens, Mark Koops and Robin Ashbrook are executive producers. Abdul is repped by UTA. This marks the fourth major network to have a dance-competition series, joining ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" and Fox's "So You Think You Can Dance," with NBC's "America's Got Talent" also having a foot in the genre.

## **Paula Patton eyes role in wedding comedy**

Paula Patton, now onscreen in "Just Wright," is in negotiations to topline the wedding-themed comedy "Jumping the Broom." Television helmer Salim Akil is making his feature directorial debut on the project, which is slated to start shooting in the summer in Nova Scotia. Written by Arlene Gibbs and Elizabeth Hunter, the film follows the clash of two black families from opposite ends of the socioeconomic background at a weekend wedding in Martha's Vineyard. Patton would play the female lead of the wealthy family. Bishop T.D. Jakes, Curtis Wallace, Tracey Edmonds, Glendon Palmer and Elizabeth Hunter are producing. Hunter did a recent polish on the script. If the project comes together, it likely would go out through the Sony label. Patton, repped by WME, played the teacher in the Oscar-

nominated "Precious."

### **Fox renews 'Glee' for third season**

Fox on Monday gave another vote of confidence to freshman hit "Glee," renewing it for a third season. The news comes ahead of the Tuesday finale of this TV season's highest-rated new show. "In just one year, "Glee" has transcended the television landscape and emerged as a global pop culture phenomenon," said Peter Rice, chairman, entertainment at Fox Networks Group. "We are incredibly proud to have talent like (executive producer) Ryan Murphy and the "Glee" cast in our Fox family, and we can't wait to see where Ryan takes the show in seasons two and three."

### **Warner Bros. ready for 'Grudge Match'**

Warners is getting into the ring with Tim Kelleher, picking up the scribe's pitch "Grudge Match." Billy Gerber and Mark Steven Johnson are producing. "Grudge," which seeks to evoke the tone of the 2000 Warners movie "Space Cowboys," revolves around retired boxers Billy "The Kid" McGuigan and Henry "Razor" Sharp, lifelong bitter rivals who are coaxed out of retirement and into the ring for one final grudge match -- 50 years after their last title fight. Kelleher is writing the screenplay. Sarah Schechter is overseeing for the studio. Kelleher, who just signed with ICM, is a veteran TV writer who worked on "In Living Color" and "The Arsenio Hall Show" and who created the comedy "Rock Me Baby" for UPN. "Grudge" marks his second foray into feature writing, after the 1996 Sinbad starrer "First Kid."

### **'Smallville' creators joining 'Charlie's Angels'**

ABC's plan to reboot "Charlie's Angels" is getting a lift from a superpowered writing team. Former "Smallville" executive producers Alfred Gough and Miles Millar are taking over scripting duties on the Sony Pictures Television project, which the network is developing for a potential pilot order and midseason launch. The duo, whose theatrical credits include "Shanghai Noon" and "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor," will replace Josh Friedman, who initially was hired to adapt the project. Gough and Millar launched "Smallville" and ran it for seven seasons before exiting the show in 2008. The rest of the "Angels" team remains unchanged, which includes the producers of the two "Charlie's Angels" movies: Drew Barrymore, Leonard Goldberg and Nancy Juvonen. Goldberg exec produced the original 1976-81 series. "Angels" is one of three few disco-era remakes this development season: CBS' "Hawaii Five-O" made the network's fall schedule, but NBC's "The Rockford Files" struck out. Last week, the CW announced that the upcoming 10th season of "Smallville" will be its last. It will air Fridays in the fall.

