

CABLE OVERVIEW

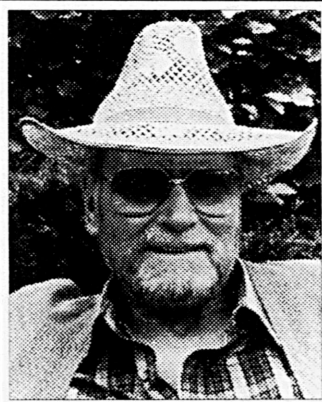
A&E goes on safari; TLC profiles Olivier

by JOHN CROOK

A remote region of the Sudan serves as a backdrop for a breathtaking glimpse of nature at work, in "Safari: Mysterious Journey," premiering on The Discovery Channel, Thursday, July 29. The cornerstone of this hour-long documentary is the migration of a million White-Eared Kob antelopes, captured on film for the first time by the husband-and-wife camera team of Richard and Julia Kemp. The program includes spectacular scenes of the Murle and Kichepo tribes of the area, ambushing the animals at a river crossing, along with violent stick-fighting duels among warriors. Unfortunately, the tribesmen's traditional way of life and the antelope on which they depend are in peril because of the environmental threat posed by oil exploration.

Not long before his death, one of the world's greatest actors allowed a film crew to visit him at his Sussex home. The results are on view in "Laurence Olivier: A Life," a three-part special starting Thursday on The Learning Channel. (Parts 2 and 3 will air on consecutive Thursdays in August.) The self-effacing Olivier, who often asked interviewers to address him simply as Larry, speaks candidly about his childhood, his early years on the stage and his success in Hollywood. Many of his colleagues, including Peggy Ashcroft, John Gielgud and Douglas Fairbanks Jr., also are interviewed.

Stanley Kubrick turns 65 on Monday, July 26, and TNT pays tribute with two airings of his magnum opus, "2001: A Space Odyssey." On Thursday, the cable channel's summer series called "Our Favorite Movies" continues, as Jason Alexander (George on "Seinfeld") introduces the 1963 adventure movie "Jason and the Argonauts," which features excellent special effects work by Ray Harryhausen.



Laurence Olivier

Michael Caine stars in "Blue Ice," a made-for-HBO thriller he also co-produced, premiering on the premium channel on Saturday, July 31. Caine plays a former intelligence agent who finds himself being drawn back into the world of international intrigue. Also in the cast are Ian Holm, Sean Young, cabaret star Bobby Short and Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts.

Cowboy soul meets country sizzle with "Chris LeDoux & Suzy Bogguss - Ropin' and Ridin'," taped in concert at Bally's Hotel and Casino in Los Vegas. The hourlong special airs Monday on The Nashville Network.



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