

TV series hopes to survive quick death

Frazier Moore
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eric Schaeffer likes to talk about, and dramatize, issues other people hold in isolated silence.

Such as eating disorders. That's a topic he served up brilliantly on his seriocomic series "Starved." But for whatever reason, viewers didn't treat themselves to "Starved" during its brief run on FX five years ago.

Now Schaeffer has an even less appetizing idea for a series: suicide, and people who have given it a try.

"Gravity," his offbeat new dramedy, focuses on a support group for otherwise diverse New Yorkers whose common bond is their

failed attempts to end it all - and their shared urgency to try again.

The cast includes Ving Rhames as the support group's leader, a burly ex-Major Leaguer whose bungled attempt has left him in a wheelchair. Rachel Hunter plays an over-the-hill supermodel who attempted suicide after her agent proposed that she appear on a "Where Are They Now?" special.

As Lily, Krysten Ritter is a sexy lost soul who flat-lined after scarfing down a hunk of chocolate cake she spiked with crumbled codeine tablets.

And Schaeffer plays a cop who investigates Lily's suicide attempt, then, in the guise of his continuing investigation ("suicide is a crime," he informs her), indulges in what seems like obsessive vigilance.

"Gravity," which premieres Friday at 10:30 p.m. EDT on the Starz network (in Canada on Movie Central and The Movie Network), is funnier than it sounds. It is also cringingly twisted at times and occasionally very sad.

And it will prove readily relatable to viewers, whether they might think so or not - or so Schaeffer insists.

"We all know that we're lots of things, all the time, and that's what makes us human," he declares. "But for some reason, in our movies and our TV shows and when we're talking to each other, we're not allowed to say that."

To do so, he goes on, would mean "accessing conflicting beliefs in our own personality."

Schaeffer seems to work over-

time accessing conflicting beliefs in personalities - especially his own. In "Starved," he drew upon a real-life paradox: the eating disorder that continues to plague him today, despite his yoga-toned, 5-foot-8-inch, 165-pound frame. He says he fantasizes about dropping 15 pounds. If only.

"It's OK in daylight hours," he says one recent morning between healthy bites of a grapefruit in a diner near his Upper West Side apartment. "The problem is: Do I eat cake and ice cream, and how MUCH of it will I eat, and how often, late at night, alone, on my couch? That continues."

Fortunately, suicide isn't such a pressing matter for him.

"But I have an ability to slide into a dark side," he allows.

He's been sober for 27 years, he says, adding, "I used to smoke cigarettes, and my own personal belief is that there's a self-hate attached to smoking - some slow form of suicide for people who smoke a drug that everyone knows will kill you years earlier than you're supposed to die."

Death on any terms has his attention more than ever at age 48. It terrifies him.

"I'm depressed a lot," he sums up, "but I'm a pretty happy-go-lucky guy in the midst of my angst. I'm pretty much a lover of life."

The New York native's credits as actor and indie filmmaker include "Fall," "If Lucy Fell" and his 1993 breakthrough film, "My Life's in Turnaround," whose sequel he is now editing.

Never the Twain shall meet

The Associated Press

ELMIRA, N.Y. — Hal Holbrook has performed on stage as Mark Twain far longer than Twain did himself.

His 56 years of one-man "Mark Twain Tonight!" shows reached a milestone in Elmira, N.Y., last night, which is the centenary of the author's death.

The Emmy Award-winning actor has been gluing on a bushy moustache and pontificating in a gravelly twang since his first full-fledged Twain impersonation in 1954.

He won't need to pencil in wrinkles when the curtain comes up at a renovated vaudeville theatre that bears the humorist's real name, Samuel L. Clemens.

Elmira is where Twain wrote most of his best-known works, from his "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" masterpiece to "Life on the Mississippi," a memoir of his days as a steamboat pilot.

Hello Dave, good morning and good night

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Late night will meet morning again when David Letterman drops in next week on "Live with Regis and Kelly."

"Live" officials say the CBS "Late Show" host will join Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa on April 30. That'll be his first visit since Philbin returned to the air after heart surgery in April 2007.

During that appearance, the two compared scars and swapped stories about their bypass operations.

Other stars lined up for "Live" guest shots include Robert Downey Jr. on April 29, with Betty White, Gwyneth Paltrow, Tom Selleck and Russell Crowe appearing the following week.

"Live" is syndicated and airs on weekday mornings.

Fox fight heats up

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's getting rough between Jon Stewart and Fox News Channel commentator Bernard Goldberg.

Goldberg told Stewart to "find some guts." In response, Stewart brought a gospel choir to "The Daily Show" on Tuesday to curse him out.

Last week, Stewart's show did a segment about how Fox News commentators criticized Tea Party opponents for judging the movement based on the bad actions of a few. Stewart played tape of Fox personalities, including Goldberg, making generalizations about liberals.

Goldberg pleaded guilty. But on "The O'Reilly Factor," he urged Stewart to be tough on liberal guests. He said Stewart thinks he's edgy, but is Jay Leno with a smaller audience who gets to swear.

Responded Stewart: "If you think I'm Leno with an f-bomb, you know less about comedy than you do about politics."



Diandra Douglas arrives at Manhattan federal court for the sentencing of her son Cameron Douglas in New York.

AP photo

Douglas son gets new address for next five years

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A judge sentenced Michael Douglas' son on drug charges to five years in prison, calling it his "last chance to make it."

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman announced the sentence after hearing 31-year-old Cameron Douglas apologize with his father in court, admitting that he had squandered a lot of opportunities to turn his life around.

Early in a sentencing hearing that stretched more than an hour, the judge said he was not confident Cameron Douglas would turn his back on drugs after pleading guilty in January to charges that he dealt large quantities of methamphetamine and cocaine.

He said he had read at least 37 letters from family, friends and supporters who "believe he has finally bottomed out in terms of his addiction and may be ready to turn his life around."

Berman, though, said: "In my estimation, that will be a very difficult chore. I think this case and this sentencing may well be his last chance to make it."

A charge of conspiracy to distribute drugs carried a mandatory 10 years in prison, but the judge said the government had agreed that Douglas qualified for a lesser sentence. It had been revealed at a pretrial hearing that Douglas had tried to co-operate.

Berman said letters written on Cameron's behalf failed to note the damage drugs do to society.

New CD a tad late

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Jayhawks' debut album finally will be available on CD - nearly 25 years after it was released.

Fans know the Minneapolis band's self-titled debut as "The Bunkhouse Album," since it was first released by Bunkhouse Records in 1986. Only 2,000 vinyl copies were originally pressed.

Now, Lost Highway Records will release "The Jayhawks" on CD and vinyl on May 18.

The reissue includes all 13 tracks on the original release. It also includes an eight-page booklet with new photos from the recording period and a new essay by Jayhawks co-founder Mark Olson.

The Jayhawks began playing in 1985 and are credited with helping invent alt-country. The band reformed with Olson and co-leader Gary Louris in the lineup for a Minneapolis concert last summer.

Live Music from Multiplatinum Recording Artist
SEAN ASHBY

Saturday, April 24th
at the Twisted Cork

Doors open at 7pm,
show starts at 8pm

Tickets are \$10
Available only at the
Twisted Cork

the twisted cork
RESTAURANT

Mon-Thu: 11:00-11:00; Fri, Sat: 11:00-12:00;
Sun: 5:00 - 10:00
Phone: 250 561-5550
1157 5th Avenue

Check Out Our Menus Online www.twisted-cork.com

WIN 2 TICKETS TO SEE...

Jeff Dunham
PLUS \$100 GIFT CARD FOR

54 NORTH 54
FINE DINING OF PRINCE GEORGE

Wednesday May 12th
7:00 pm @ CN Centre

JEFF DUNHAM CONTEST TRIVIA

1. Where and when was Jeff Dunham born?

2. What is the name of Jeff Dunham's pepper character

3. On what NBC sitcom did Jeff Dunham make an appearance?

4. Which character is considered Jeff Dunham's sidekick?

5. Fill in the blank from a famous Achmed quote "Silence! I ____ you!"

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

Please attach your 5 answers and drop off at the
Prince George Citizen
150 Brunswick St, Prince George, B.C.

General Rules

1. On a separate sheet of paper please mark down your answers to the 5 trivia questions

2. Completed entry form and answer sheet should be dropped off at the Prince George Citizen

3. Employees of the Prince George Citizen and Buy and Sell and their immediate family are not eligible

4. Deadline for entries is Monday May 3rd at 5:00pm

CN CENTRE

the prince george

citizen
it's what matters to you

00659764

One of Vancouver's Best Bands
INCOGNITO

Fri, April 23
Sat, April 24
at the Legion

Tickets \$25 (\$20) at Books & Co. and the Legion
Door 7:30 pm • Dance 8:30 pm

For info: www.bluesnorth.com

PRINCE GEORGE
CITIZEN
Your community newspaper since 1916

00659764

671812