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First news of TV's fall schedule

TORONTO – English Canada's fall TV schedule is taking shape.

At the CBC, *Street Legal* will return for 22 new episodes. The award-winning *Degrassi Jr. High* will be back for 16 new programs. *Beachcombers* returns for its 17th season with Janet-Laine Green joining the cast. *Danger Bay* also returns for its fifth season. *The Raccoons* will be back for its third season. The future of *Hockey Night in Canada* is, as of yet, undecided.

Muppeteer Jim Henson will be shooting a pilot for a series with the CBC, tentatively entitled *The Jim Henson Show*, and Newfoundland's Codco have taped 11 half-hours. Watch for this troupe's brand of satire before *The National* in a new weekly format. And don't be surprised if Anne Murray has a *Christmas Special*.

New TV movies include *Mamma's Going to Buy You a Mocking Bird*, directed by Sandy Wilson and starring Linda Griffiths; *The Squamish Five*, about the Litton bombing; *Two Men*, starring John Vernon and Jan Rubes; and Jeannine Locke's three-hour dramatization of *The Private Capital*. Mini-series include *Glory Enough for All*, starring R. H. Thomson and Robert Wisden as insulin discoverers Drs. Banting and Best. Patrick Watson's series, *Democracy*, is expected in the new year.

Canada's largest private network, CTV, has announced two new half-hour Canadian prime-time comedy series, *The Ropes* with Nicole Stoffman (of *Degrassi Jr. High*) and produced by Producer's Group International, and *Secret Identity* from Sunrise Films, the producers of *Danger Bay*. The network's highest profile TV movie will be *The Jeweller's Shop*, based on an early play by Karole Wojtyla, now Pope John Paul II. Starring Ben Cross, it was produced by Alliance in association with European partners.

Canadian made mini-series include *Murder in Paradise*, about the 1943 murder of Sir Harry Oakes, and *Gabrielle Chanel*, starring Genevieve Bujold. Alliance is involved with the production of this one as well. New kids' series include *Putnam's Prairie Emporium*, set in a Dickens-like general store, produced by CKCK in Saskatchewan, and *5,4,3,2,Run*, a game show for children produced by the B. C. affiliate, CHAN.

Global will begin showing the Toronto-made action series, *Diamonds*, and has another full season of *Adderley*. Also made in Toronto: *T And T*, starring Mr. T and running 26 half-hours. Global also will program John McGreevey's new series, *Return Journey*, which runs eight hours, with star names taking viewers to their country of birth or choice.

TV Ontario's big series next year will be the British import, *The Singing Detective*. The eight-hour series was written by Dennis Potter (*Pennies from Heaven*). Other series: a three-part

Acting, which stars Michael Caine, Jonathan Miller and Simon Callow; 26 new episodes of *Dr. Who*; and the new episodes of the popular *Yes, Minister*. And last, but certainly not least, Elwy Yost is back for yet another season of *Saturday Night at the Movies*.

CFTO-TV lockout continues

TORONTO – On June 7, CFTO-TV, CTV's largest affiliate, locked out 285 NABET employees. The technicians, newsroom employees, office staff and production workers had earlier voted 81 per cent to strike after a federal conciliator was unable to bring about an agreement.

The workers' salaries are at the top range for the industry and the two sides are close on wages. CFTO has offered six, five and five per cent over three years, while NABET wants seven, six and six. The union has also asked the company to pay a larger share of the benefits, including more for vacations.

However, the strike/lock-out centers on the issue of contracting out of work to non-unionized employees. NABET wants to tighten its jurisdiction over all CFTO-related productions, while the company is sticking to limiting the union rights to the representation of workers hired by Glen-Warren Productions, its wholly-owned production arm. Both corporate entities are, in turn, owned by Baton Broadcasting. Douglas Basset, Baton's president, has been accused of union-busting. He has offered station employees separate contracts if they return to work, guaranteeing them full employment. Basset has been quoted as saying, "The union doesn't represent the employees." To date, over 60 employees have returned. Many of the high-profile on-air staff remained on the job.

The dispute could drag on through the summer and emotions run high. ACTRA, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Ontario New Democratic Party support NABET and locked-out workers have initiated a telephone campaign, urging advertisers not to buy time on the station. Workers have even picketed Blue Jays baseball games, which are transmitted across the CTV network by Glen-Warren. NABET has charged CFTO of biased news coverage of the strike and recently filed a complaint with the CRC.

In the meantime, Basset reports a profit for Baton of \$16.5 million on revenue of \$180.1 million this year, compared to \$15.3 million on revenue of \$170.9 million last year.