

# Actors to play John Wayne sought

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Hollywood, which mourned John Wayne by saying there would never be another like him, now is trying to find two more just like him.  
ABC and CBS both have bought three-hour dramatized television biographies of the superstar and the hunt is on for actors to play Wayne.  
The ABC project will be produced by Batjac Productions, which

was Wayne's own company and now is presided over by his son, Michael, who will serve as producer.  
The film biography will be called "The Duke," and son Michael noted there never has been an authorized written biography of his father.  
The key word is authorized. Maurice Zolotow, who has made a career of writing about Hollywood

and its stars, wrote an unauthorized but not unflattering biography of Wayne, and that will form the basis of the CBS three-hour drama to be written by Paul Monash.  
The CBS version, to be called "Shooting Star" and produced by Warner Bros., will begin shooting in September.  
No one is saying when either drama will go on the air, although it looks like a horse race with the ratings prize going to the network that gets on the air first.  
The key to a successful John

Wayne bio is casting and there Batjac might have an advantage. The obvious choice to play Big John is look-alike son, Patrick, and his brother suggested he might star in the ABC-Batjac film.  
CBS, which has a script in hand, could try to snare a hot "name" like Nick Nolte, or could go with an unknown.  
Part of the problem is that everyone who comes to mind to play Wayne is too old or too short or too Eastern. They don't hardly make 'em like that no more.

The three network ratings race goes on, even during the summer rerun doldrums, and ABC continues in the lead, trailed by CBS in second and NBC in the cellar.  
One of the few original summer replacement shows to break up the dreary schedule of repeats pulled a surprise by turning up among the top-rated shows for the past week.  
The winning sitcom is "Detective School," and its star, James Gregory (Inspector Luger on "Barney Miller") is a delight.  
The top programs in the country for the week ending Aug. 5, according to the A.C. Nielsen Co., were:

- 1: Three's Company; 2: Taxi; 3: WKRP in Cincinnati; 4: M-A-S-H; 5: Lou Grant; 6: Vegas; 7: Detective School; 8: Laverne & Shirley; 9: Mork & Mindy; 10: (tie) Charlie's Angels and Barney Miller.

# PBS begins repeats of Shakespeare plays

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Even PBS has fallen victim to the television rerun disease — but at least that oasis in the vast wasteland is repeating Shakespeare.  
In what it calls a Summer Mini-Shakespeare Festival, PBS presented three of last season's BBC-Time-Life Shakespeare plays, starting with "As You Like It" on Aug. 7, "Measure for Measure" on Aug. 8 and "Henry VIII" on Aug. 9 (check local listings).  
"Romeo and Juliet" and "Julius Caesar" will be reserved for repetition during the school year — Oct. 20 and Nov. 3 respectively.

That leaves perhaps the best of last season's Shakespeare plays unrepeatable — Derek Jacoby in "Richard II," and thereby hangs the tale of the 1980 PBS Shakespeare schedule.  
In January the new series will kick off with "The Tempest" and "Twelfth Night," not necessarily in that order.  
Then will come "Richard II," making a historically appropriate appearance before "Henry IV, Part One," "Henry IV, Part Two" and "Henry V," wrapping up Shakespeare's version of the War of the Roses. Anthony Quayle plays Falstaff.  
The season will end with Jacoby's "Hamlet," which he first will take on tour to Australia, Japan and China.

Contemplating the BBC's continuing tour de force with its complete Shakespeare evokes an irritating memory of nationalistic complaints that American public television should shun the BBC productions in favor of American actors.  
Another repeat of note enters the scene in September, when NBC repeats "Holocaust" on four successive nights beginning Monday, Sept. 24.  
The strategy is designed to lure

viewers away from ABC, which opens its new season on that date. NBC and CBS begin their new seasons on Sept. 17, which is when the A.C. Nielsen Co., officially starts counting in the ratings race.  
Television viewers are odd about repeats. They will watch a series episode each time it comes around in almost the same numbers they watched the original.

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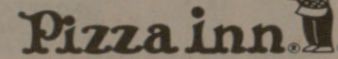
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