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BATT CHANNELS

'Creative schizophrenia' helps actor change roles

By JERRY BUCK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Peter Strauss shrugs at the notion that it was a difficult transition for him to go straight from seven months of filming the miniseries "Tender Is the Night" to another four months on "Kane & Abel."

"Maybe it's creative schizophrenia," he suggests. "It's training. That's what I'm supposed to do. I'm an actor. It's my responsibility to shift like that. When I was younger I did repertory theater. You changed characters all the time."

Strauss spent seven months in France and Switzerland working on "Tender Is the Night" as the phlegmatic Dick Diver. He stars in this British adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel about a psychiatrist who marries a mentally unstable woman after World War I.

"When I finished, I had just 10 days to get that Polish accent for 'Kane & Abel,'" he recalls. "I had a Polish musician badger me. He wasn't a tea-

cher. It was just a matter of listening and putting it together. The Polish dialect is not like any other dialect. You don't lose it in time. You improve your use of articles and verb tense. And I had to do it out of time sequence."

"Kane & Abel," which spans six decades of the 20th century, was filmed in Toronto, New York and France.

The contrast between the two miniseries and the two characters played by Strauss is enormous.

"Tender Is the Night" moves with a pace so slow it would take a glacialist to measure it. "Kane & Abel" gallops at a fast clip. It's grab, hold and hang on. And Strauss' Abel is as lively and driving as Diver is stoic and withdrawn.

Showtime pay television network will show the six-hour "Tender Is the Night" in four parts, beginning Sunday night and ending in late November. It also stars Mary Steenburgen, John Heard and Sean Young. CBS will telecast the seven-hour "Kane & Abel" in three parts on Nov. 17, 18 and 19. Sam Neill plays Kane and the all-star cast includes Veronica Hamel.

"It was very interesting to see how one country

interprets another's literature," says Strauss, referring to the BBC version of "Tender Is the Night." "I want the show to be successful. The English made an English approach to Fitzgerald. British viewers loved it. I don't want to go on record saying I don't like it. Let's just say the pacing is not 'Miami Vice.'"

About "Kane & Abel," Strauss says, "I'm not one of those people who find making pictures fun. You would have thought Abel would be a fun part, but toward the end he goes through some very emotional times. I can't shut myself off from that. But I will say that working with director Buzz Kulik was wonderful and I'd work with him again. I can't say that about BBC."

Besides learning a Polish accent, Strauss also had to learn to be a waiter for scenes early in the miniseries.

"I'm the worst waiter in the world," he says. "I trained at La Chaumiere at the Century Plaza Hotel. I wanted to train well enough so that when I came through the door people would say 'this is not an ordinary waiter.' Do you know why waiter's pants have a back pocket? To put the tip they cut from a cigar." □

daytime

	KPRC	3 KBTX	6 KCEN	8 KUHT	11 KHOU	11 KTVT	13 KTRK	15 KAMU	20 KTXH	CSPAN	36 KTVV	39 KHTV	WTBS	WGN	CBN	USA
McCaw	31	5	6	26	24	2	13	4	25	17	11	10	29	33	12	34
7:00	Today	CBS Morning News	Good Morning America	Sesame Street	CBS Morning News	Plasticman	News		M.A.S.K.	Today In Washington Week In Perspective	Today	Challenge Of The GoBots Robotech	I Dream Of Jeannie Bewitched	Bozo	Leo The Lion	Cartoons Cont'd
7:30	"	"	"	"	"	Robotech	Good Morning America	Farm Day A.M. Weather	Voltron	"	"	"	"	"	Skippy	"
8:00	"	"	"	Mister Rogers	"	Superfriends	"	Sesame Street	Superfriends	"	"	Bugs Bunny And Friends Munsters	Hazel	"	Ben Casey	Calliope
8:30	"	"	"	Reading Rainbow	"	Bullwinkle	"	"	Scoby Doo	"	"	"	I Love Lucy	Beverly Hillbillies	"	"
9:00	Hour Magazine	\$25,000 Pyramid Search Your Luck	Hour Magazine	Educational Programming	\$25,000 Pyramid Headline Chasers	Dick Van Dyke	Good Morning Houston	Secret City	Movie: "The Damned Don't Cry"	House Floor Debate	Your Number's Up Sale Of The Century	Dating Game	Movie: "Tight Spot"	Waltons	700 Club	Candid Camera Peyton Place
9:30	"	"	"	"	"	Divorce Court	"	Body Electric	"	"	"	Break The Bank	"	"	"	"
10:00	Wheel Of Fortune Scrabble	Price Is Right	Three's A Crowd All-Star Blitz	"	Price Is Right	Ironside	Donahue	Mister Rogers	"	"	Wheel Of Fortune Scrabble	Catch Phrase	"	Big Valley	"	Heartlight City
10:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3-2-1 Contact	"	"	"	I Love Lucy	"	"	Bachelor Father	"
11:00	Super Password Search For Tomorrow	Young And The Restless	Ryan's Hope News	Sesame Street	Young And The Restless	Medical Center	Ryan's Hope	Sesame Street	INDAY News	"	Super Password News	Vega\$	Perry Mason	Little House On The Prairie	Bill Cosby	Movie: "Thieves"
11:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	Loving	"	All About Us	"	"	"	"	"	Dobie Gillis	"
12:00	Days Of Our Lives	News	All My Children	Body Electric	News	Death Valley Days	All My Children	Modern Maturity Capitol Journal	It's A Great Life	House Floor Debate	Days Of Our Lives	Laverne & Shirley One Day At A Time	Movie: "The Silence"	Midday News	Farmer's Daughter Patty Duke	"
12:30	"	As The World Turns	"	World Of Cartooning	As The World Turns	Movie: "Man Trouble"	"	"	What's Hot! What's Not?	"	"	"	"	INDAY News	"	"
1:00	Another World	"	One Life To Live	Yan Can Cook	"	"	One Life To Live	Nature Of Things	Gidget	"	Another World	Alice	"	All About Us	My Little Margie	Alive & Well
1:30	"	Capitol	"	New York's Master Chefs	Capitol	"	"	"	Leave It To Beaver	"	"	Gunsmoke	WomanWatch	It's A Great Life	I Married Joan	"
2:00	Santa Barbara	Guiding Light	General Hospital	Timmy And Lassie Secret City	Guiding Light	"	General Hospital	Presente	Heathcliff	"	Santa Barbara	"	Bugs Bunny And Friends	What's Hot! What's Not? Scooby Doo	700 Club	Joker's Wild
2:30	"	"	"	"	"	Casper And Friends	"	Living With Animals	Voltron	"	"	Captain Harlock	"	"	"	Bullseye
3:00	America	Body Language	Transformers	Sesame Street	Divorce Court	Captain Harlock Robotech	Movie: "Halloween With The Addams"	Sesame Street	Jetsons	House Floor Debate	Dallas	Robotech	Flintstones	Heathcliff	Medical Center	Chain Reaction Jackpot
3:30	"	Diff'rent Strokes	Little House On The Prairie	"	Press Your Luck	"	"	"	He-Man	"	"	Challenge Of The GoBots	Brady Bunch	M.A.S.K.	"	"
4:00	Jeopardy	Andy Griffith	"	Mister Rogers	Newlywed Game	Challenge Of The GoBots	Family	Mister Rogers	Princess Of Power	"	Newlywed Game	Happening Now	Leave It To Beaver	Transformers	Tic Tac Dough	Make Me Laugh
4:30	People's Court	People's Court	Jeffersons	Timmy And Lassie	Price Is Right	Gilligan's Island	Buchanan H.S.	Electric Company	Zerk The Jerk	"	Price Is Right	Diff'rent Strokes	Ichabod Crane	G.I. Joe	Go	Gong Show
5:00	News	News	M*A*S*H	Frugal Gourmet	News	Laverne & Shirley	Live At Five	3-2-1 Contact	Brady Bunch	Viewer Call-In	Jeopardy	Dukes Of Hazzard	Andy Griffith	Jeffersons	Name That Tune	Cartoons
5:30	NBC News	CBS News	ABC News	Audubon	"	Diff'rent Strokes	ABC News	Business Report	Bewitched	"	NBC News	"	Carol Burnett And Friends	WKRP In Cincinnati	Green Acres	"
6:00	News	News	News	MacNeil / Lehrer Newshour	CBS News	Three's Company	News	MacNeil / Lehrer Newshour	Gimme A Break Private Benjamin	Nat'l Press Club	News	Diff'rent Strokes	Mary Tyler Moore Sanford And Son	Barney Miller	Courtship Of Eddie's Father	Radio 1990
6:30	Wheel Of Fortune	Benson	Wheel Of Fortune	"	Entertainment Tonight	One Day At A Time	"	"	"	"	Diff'rent Strokes	Bosom Buddies	"	Benson	Don't Eat Daisies	Dragnet