

'Miracle Worker' sets sight on spreading Lamaze gospel

By Loraine McClellan
staff writer

Patty Duke Astin began her press tour for Em-

bassy Home Entertainment's first original home video production, "The Lamaze Method," in Farmington Hills where home-video got its start with a company then known as Magnetic Video.

Acting as hostess to members of the media as well as instructors for local instructors of the Lamaze method of painless childbirth, the Academy Award winning actress talked about her own Caesarian births, her family, her stage and film career, her love of reading and language, and the explosion of television being used as a medium for education and instruction, all with equal candor and graciousness.

Narrating the "The Lamaze Method" is the first job of its kind for Duke Astin who started her show business career at the age of 8. And the videotape is the first of an original educational series begun by Al Eicher, senior vice president of Embassy, which concentrates on the acquisition, production and distribution of entertainment and educational programs for video-cassettes and videotapes for the worldwide video and educational marketplace.

"The Lamaze Method" is one of the first video-cassettes of special interest expected to flood the book stores this year.

And while Duke Astin says she is thrilled to be in on the ground floor of television used as an educational medium, she says, "I pray it will never replace books. Reading is my vacation time and I am very protective of that."

DUKE ASTIN said she never would consent to do the video narration of anything she didn't believe in; and because she didn't have first hand experience in the painless method of childbirth, researched it herself.

"The Lamaze method, certainly the most well-known of the natural methods, seems to have the most number of satisfied customers," she said, backing it up with statistics which show that 3.8 million women will get pregnant this year and 1.2 million will opt to take the Lamaze prenatal classes.

"The relaxation techniques are worth the price of the tape by themselves," she continued. "These were an accidental bonus for me. I've used them for on-stage anxiety attacks and once for foot surgery."

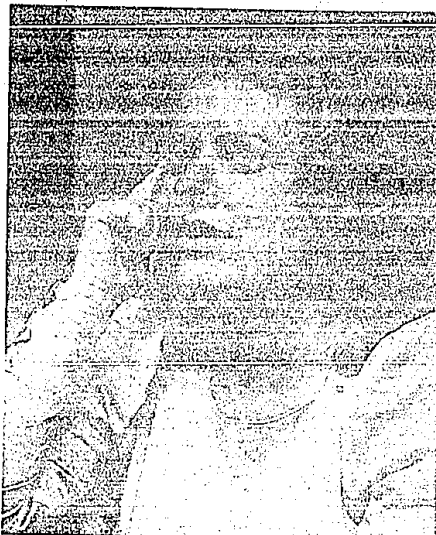
Duke Astin stresses that the at-home video viewing is not to be used in lieu of going to classes, but rather as a complement to the classes, a brush-up of what has already been learned in class.

"Seeing, watching, has always been an easier way for me to learn," she said.

"I could listen to a tape for hours trying to get an accent and never get it better than 'seeing' someone talk with that accent. Does that sound strange? Well, I got a Tennessee accent once just by sitting in a restaurant in Tennessee watching those people talk."

As narrator of "The Lamaze Method" she says she somehow feels responsible for recommending it.

"For the good of my own psyche I have to be very wary on that score," she says. "I did commercials when I was a kid, but was never the spokesperson for a product. But because I have access



This is the first time Patty Duke Astin will narrate an instructional videotape.

to the media, I take quite to heart anything I say publicly be it on religion or politics or childbirth methods.

EICHER SAID he felt fortunate that the filming of "The Lamaze Method" dovetailed in so well with Duke Astin's schedule.

"The Lamaze instructors and the couple who did all the exercises in the tape were all first-timers and she held us all together," he said.

The 45-minute tape incorporates the latest exercises and research developed by the American Society for Psychoprophylaxis on Obstetrics, which supervised the production.

The birth method, first introduced in 1951 by French obstetrician Fernand Lamaze, is based on the concept of mind over pain. The tape demonstrates three basic areas of the method: relaxation, breathing and explosion techniques. Lamaze instructor Marilyn Libresco leads an expectant couple, Marieme and Mark Ellington, through the demonstration.

The tapes will be available in video stores throughout the country by the end of the month.

Eicher's next home videotape stars Iriene Mandrell and is called "Tax Exercise." The one after that features the Chinese chef, Stephen Yan, who shares his know-how with a wok.

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— Patty Duke Astin

Staff photos by Randy Borst



'The Lamaze Method' videocassette will be available at video stores at the end of the month.

Tarabusi will see relief with sewer construction

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"The whole idea is to have it done this year," Bisell said. "The roads will be open during the entire project."

Farmington Hills City Council Monday adopted a road paving special assessment of approximately \$217,532 for the 126 households in the neighborhood south of Colfax, between Farmington and Gill roads.

That means that each household would receive an assessment of about \$1,686 with the largest home in the area receiving an assessment of approximately \$2,026.

Before the road paving project can begin, however, the drainage problem must be solved. Otherwise a permanent pavement won't last for long because the standing water will break up the subsoils beneath the roadway, Bisell said.

Plans call for installing a main line storm sewer and ditching, he added.

Although homeowners are required to pay for the new road paving, the drain improvements will be paid for with \$198,000 of the city's total 1984-85 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money.

In addition to the CDBG money targeted for the drain improvements, homeowners are also receiving financial help from the city worth \$28,000 and

another \$74,000 in Act 51 road funds (gas and weight tax money) toward the total road paving costs.

Without using the additional money, including CDBG funds, the cost of installing storm sewers, ditching and paving would cost each household approximately \$3,900 compared to the final assessment figures.

Homeowners may pay their assessments over 10 years. They will be charged interest based on the sale of bonds which will be sold to build the improvements. The city charges homeowners 1 percent interest above the interest charged when the city sells the bonds.

But if a property owner wants to avoid paying interest charges, payment in full is required when the bill is sent along with the summer tax bill. The first special assessment payment will be interest free if it is paid when the summer taxes are due.

The Tarabusi drain improvement was chosen as the priority project for CDBG money from among 13 total suggested projects.

While the other 12 projects were considered necessary, the Tarabusi project took top billing because the improvements would benefit the most people. The other projects also could be paid for through other methods.

This was also the first year that the Tarabusi area has been eligible to receive CDBG money.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Car accident injures 3

Three people were injured Tuesday in this two-car accident at the intersection of Grand River and Gill Road in Farmington. A westbound vehicle turned from Gill into the path of a car traveling east-

bound on Grand River, according to Farmington Police. One driver was issued a ticket for failing to yield to an oncoming vehicle.