

Cable Comments

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It all began at the Novi Chamber of Commerce luncheon when Steve Myers and I sat next to one another. We shared en-

thusiasm for each of our careers. Steve Myers and his wife Izumi Suzuki own a consulting firm dedicated to eliminating cultural barriers that could hinder business relations between small American and Japanese firms. This in itself I found fascinating, but more so the energy which Steve Myers radiated. I immediately shared with him the wonderful opportunity offered by Community Television. He was pleased because the experience could include his entire family.

As a result of his dedication and his family's enthusiasm, the Myers are a cable television family. Together they produce a cable television program entitled 'Junior Japanese'. Son, Ken, who is ten years old, instructs the class. Daughter, June, helps in the audience of children. Mother, Izumi, prepares the content while pappa Steve is in the Control room.

"This all started out as a father-son activity," says Steve, "but soon the whole family got involved." Producing 'Junior Japanese' enables the entire family the opportunity to work together before and after the show. The entire experience reinforces their belief that language learning can be fun.

In addition to the Metrovision viewing area, the following channels and stations have expressed an interest in showing 'Junior Japanese': GRTV in Grand Rapids; Booth Communications in Birmingham; MetroVision of Livonia; TV22 in Saline and Omnicom in Canton.

The production team included Bridget Dean, Amy Hamlin, Nancy Covert, Izumi Suzuki and Akiko Sakuma who worked on the course content; Keith Croket and Kathy Friedrichs put together the video crew. Amy Hamlin was an educational consultant. All were sponsored by Lee Mamola Architects and World Book/Childcraft.

'Junior Japanese' is delightful to watch. Learning is easy. When, as an adult, you watch children who

are eager to learn and not afraid to make a mistake, it is hard not to pick up a pad and pencil and join in.

Even Cable News Network found the curriculum and unique blend of student-teacher-family a pleasing human interest story. Ken teaches Japanese phrases, customs and vocabulary to his students as well as demonstrating Tae Kwan Do and origami, the Japanese art of paper folding.

This program has been part of the Cranbrook P.M. program and Novi Community Education.

For a period of time the Myers family kept the control room humming as they also produced with other community residents an art and culture talk show called "Vladislav at Victor's". The program was taped at Victor's Restaurant in Novi. Concert pianist Vladislav Kovalsky and Virginia Dickerman, professional tap and jazz dance instructor co-hosted the series. They interviewed painters, sculptors, performing artists, and museum curators. The audience could sup at Victor's while the program was being taped. Kovalsky is an artist-in-residence at Wayne State University and has given concerts throughout Europe and the U.S. Virginia Dickerman still owns her own Dance Studio and lectures on the power of positive thinking.

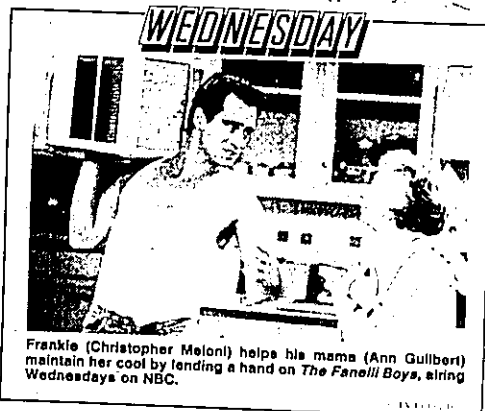
Once again Steve Myers understood the delicate balance of blending talent, business and community



Ken Myers

in a non-commercial environment. Hard work and a lot of time are bottomline factors to every show. Including family, friends and business contacts is also a challenging and rewarding benefit of the creative television involvement.

The Myers family are a perfect example of how to appreciate the opportunities surrounding us. How many times do we go by something and say, "I should do that" and don't because we are too busy. What we find through such an active family is that if one does do now, without delay then all is done and experiences nurture opportunity.



Frankie (Christopher Meloni) helps his mama (Ann Gullbert) maintain her cool by lending a hand on *The Fonz and the Monks*, airing Wednesdays on NBC.