



NIGHT OWL LISTINGS

FROM 2:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

5:00 **SPORTS** LateNight

6:05 **MOVIE:** Jacknife (Drama, 1969) Two Vietnam vets come to terms with both

the past and each other. Robert De Niro, Ed Harris. R

MOVIE: The Benny Goodman Story

(Musical Biography, 1955) Goodman's life from youth to his debut at Carnegie Hall is depicted. Steve Allen, Donna Reed

Celebrities entertain in 'Circus of the Stars'

Training requires solid commitment

By Mary Ann Townsend

Celebrities from stage, screen and television leave those mediums behind to take on death-defying feats in the 15th Annual Circus of the Stars, airing Wednesday, Nov. 21, on CBS.

With Robert Urich, Whoopi Goldberg, Joan Van Ark and Richard Crenna serving as ringmasters, the two-hour extravaganza features more than two dozen stars performing acts of physical skill and mental endurance, some of which required three months of training.

This year the aerial acts are more difficult and sophisticated than ever before, with John Buchanan (*Family Man*), Dah-ve Chodan (*Uncle Buck*) and Shane Butterworth (*Saved By the Bell*) on the trapeze and Tony Catreiro (*Doctor, Doctor*), Victoria Rowell (*The Young and the Restless*) and Lisa Rinna (*The Hogan Family*) on the high wire.

The feats of these performers are augmented by celebrities who have trained to work with animals.

David Soul, who takes eight Bengal tigers through their paces, discovered he had more to do than learn the commands. For two weeks before he even stepped into the cage with the big cats, he had to take a crash course in Polish, since that was the language used by the animals' original trainer.

"And sometimes," Soul smiled, "I throw in some Italian — 'Bella, bella' — for good measure."

The actor, who played on *Starsky and Hutch* for four-and-a-half years, said he had no idea what kind of commitment he was making when he took on the task. "I thought the process would mean saying, 'Hi, how are you, Ma'am' once or twice a week to a docile tiger, and that would be the show. Like the kid who hears he has to practice the piano every day, I thought, 'I can't do this — I'm too busy.' And I am. But I found something within me that said, 'I really want to do this.'"

Actor Dick Van Patten made a commitment of a different kind. He agreed to tackle an act never before done on a *Circus of the Stars* show. Van



David Soul issues commands to eight ferocious Bengal tigers — in Polish.

Patten will enter the cage with an American black bear and two Himalayan bears who are neither muzzled nor declawed and who have all of their teeth.

"I have great respect for these animals," Van Patten said. "And I have fear, make no mistake about that. Because, if you don't have a little fear, it's not very healthy. I know the bears can take me out in seconds if they dislike me or if I do something wrong. I can't wear any jewelry or belts or anything that will attract or annoy them."

Other animal acts include Morgan Brittany, who is dubbed queen of the elephants, and Anthony Quinn, who plays "now you see him, now you don't" with an elephant.

Although the elephant acts may seem tamer than the acts with the more ferocious animals, the stars work just as hard in perfecting their acts for the 15th Annual Circus of the Stars, according to Phil Braverman, who has been producing the popular wild animal acts since the show's beginning. "Celebrities in animal acts are expected to train seven days a week for two solid months," he said.

"You can train a star to run through the paces and perform magnificently," Braverman said, "but the most important thing for our stars to remember is that they must always be the dominant animal in that cage."

CABLE NEWS

Kennedys highlighted in cable programs

By Christy Bergslien

Bobby Kennedy: In His Own Words airs Tuesday, Nov. 20. HBO takes a poignant and intimate look at the life of Robert F. Kennedy. Rare and never-before-seen footage will be shown, and Kennedy's own voice will be dubbed over the track.

Traveling back in time, actor Robert Hays will attempt to rewrite history and save John F. Kennedy in *Running Against Time*. The USA Network's world premiere movie airs Wednesday, Nov. 21, and stars Catherine Hicks and Sam Wanamaker.

The real-life story of mountain climber Molly Higgins is re-enacted in *Storm and Sorrow*, premiering Thursday, Nov. 22. In 1974, Higgins and a group of international climbers attempted to summit Peak Lenin in the USSR. But Higgins (played by Lori Singer) had no ice-scaling experience. The scenery in the Lifetime production is spectacular and not to be missed.

A *toon parade* airs on TNT Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23. It's merriment on the march as the adventures of Tom & Jerry, Bugs, Daffy, Porky, Popeye and the Pink Panther broadcast in two three-hour specials.



Clarence Gilyard Jr., as Conrad, asks Ben to defend a photographer on NBC's *Mallock*, Tuesday.