

FAMILY FAIR

LET'S TALK

'Videosyncrasy' aims for wholesome videos

By Christy Bergshien

Terrified to let your kids watch MTV? You have an alternative. It's called Videosyncrasy, and it's on the Family Channel every Saturday night.

The cable network's introduction of the new 60-minute program in September was two-fold in purpose. The first was to attract a larger teen audience. The second was to offer a more wholesome music-video alternative.

"Music is the universal language of young people. We want to turn kids on to music with values without compromising on the enjoyment," says show host Jimmy Hodson.

That means no heavy metal and no rap. Instead, the program showcases artists such as Paul McCartney, Bruce Hornsby and Wilson Phillips along with a smattering of Christian musicians.

"Being that The Family Channel is trying to reach the entire family, there is definitely a fine line of something being too sexual or too provocative like Warrant's 'Cherry Pie' for a teen show," says producer Jeanine Davis. "Plus, we want to keep kids from getting absolutely into sex and drugs that can ruin their life."

The approach seems to be working. Viewership is high, and the program is the fourth largest in the country. It has agreed to pick up the show for another 52 regular episodes and three prime-time specials.



Kirstie Alley (pictured) co-hosts The Movie Awards with Robert Townsend, Wednesday on CBS.

There's more to Ruth Warrick than Phoebe Tyler role

By Polly Vonetes

Q: On the soap opera All My Children, I have been missing one of its original stars on the past several episodes, and I'm wondering where she is these days. In real life she's the beautiful and talented Ruth Warrick. Though in her seventies, I still find her very attractive and still a treat to look at. So, where is this sexy senior now? —Mr. H.G. Garis, Rockingham, N.C.



Ruth Warrick

"As I very seldom answer questions concerning the daytime stars I find it very difficult to keep up with their 'comings and goings.' However, in your case I made an exception because there are many of my readers who are in that age group, and you, with just a few words, are letting them know that there is still life after 40, 50 and 60 years of age. Warrick, as you have surmised, is a fascinating, multi-dimensional woman. Besides acting on television, she recently starred in a production of *Butterflies Are Free* at Montclair State College in New Jersey, and in *Legends* at Upland's Althea Dinner Playhouse in Kansas City, Mo. She has written her autobiography, *The Controversy of Phoebe Tyler*. Last winter she went to Moscow, where she was part of "The Global Forum" group that met with Mikhail Gorbachev about problems facing the world's environment. She is currently producing a play by Vladimir Gubarev which tells the story of Roald Z. Sagdeyev, a Russian physicist who recently married Susan Eisenhower. If staying busy keeps you young, then Ruth Warrick is *young*."

Q: A few weeks ago I saw a television movie called Five Things. It starred a young man called D.W. Moffett. This is the first time I have ever seen him perform. Can you please tell me something about him, his background, as well as other programs he has appeared in? —Juunita Vasquez, Brownwood, Texas.

A: Donald Warren Moffett was born in Highland Park Ill., and was raised in Wilmette, a suburb of Chicago. As a student, D.W. would perform in school plays, although he had stopped acting by the time he graduated high school and attended Stanford University, majoring in International Relations. After graduation he went to work for a large banking concern in Chicago, handling farm loans. He found himself at 22 years of age "lending money to

people who for generations had been on these farms, and telling them they could not afford to go on. I decided I had to do something else." At a friend's suggestion, he turned to acting. He joined the St. Nicholas Theatre Co. and performed in their ensemble theater company. He soon, with a friend, formed his own acting ensemble company and became its producing manager. In 1984 he accepted an offer to join an off-Broadway production of *Balm in Gilead*. Eventually he found himself starring on Broadway in *The Boys of Winter* followed by *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Guest starring roles on *The Equalizer* and *Miami Vice* led to his starring role in the TV film *An Early Frost*. In 1987 he starred as Tony Danza in the CBS series, *The Oldest Rookie*. His film credits include *Wheels of Terror*, *Lisa* and *The Misfit Brigade*.

Q: My question for your column is: How I can send fan mail to Bette Midler? My friend and I would both like to write her. It would mean a lot to both of us. P.S. Have you ever printed a letter from North Dakota? —Karl Schwab, Devils Lake, N.D.

A: Yes, Karl, I have answered letters from North Dakota before. I love my letters from North Dakota. Now, to get to your question: Write to Bette Midler, 9481 Readcrest Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Send your questions about the world of entertainment to: Polly Vonetes, Let's Talk, P.O. Box 17748, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0748. Because of the volume of mail, only questions of general interest can be answered.