

## FAMILY FARE

## LET'S TALK

### Burnett narrates 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'

By Sherry Jones

This month, HBO brings Beatrix Potter's classic story *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* to life in an animated musical narrated by Carol Burnett and featuring songs by Sheldon Harnick (*Fiddler on the Roof*).

When Mrs. Rabbit sends her children Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter off to pick blackberries, she warns them to stay clear of Mr. McGregor's garden and ignore the tasty looking vegetables growing there.

Peter, being an average rabbit, decides the temptation is too great and proceeds directly to the forbidden vegetables. After having a joyful time stuffing himself with lettuce, radishes, carrots and more, who do you think Peter encounters — none but the dreaded Mr. McGregor himself.

Realizing how terrified Peter must be as he leads the angry gardener on a high-speed chase through the tool shed and dodges the farmer's hungry white cat, some kindly sparrows come to Peter's rescue, but he learns his lesson well.

Carol Burnett supplies the voice of Mrs. Rabbit, Mr. McGregor's cat and sings many of the songs. With its last airing of the month on Thursday, June 27, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* is a heartwarming story that shouldn't be missed.



Wednesday Entertainment Tonight tracks down Chevy Chase in a soon-to-be-released CIA comedy.

### You can't fake comic Arleen Sorkin seriously

By Polly Vonetas

*Q: I would like to know more about Arleen Sorkin of America's Funniest People. Has she ever appeared on any other show? —Bud Woolery, Lebanon, Ind.*

A: Arlene Sorkin was born in Washington, D.C., on October 14, 1966. She made her acting debut at age nine at Washington's Arena Stage, where she appeared with Robert Prosky, Ned Beatty and René Auberjonois. After attending Boston's Emerson College where she majored in theater arts, she moved to New York City to become a dancer. Instead, she joined a comedy group called The High Heeled Women. During her seven years with that troupe, she performed in Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. She is perhaps best known to television viewers as Calliope Jones Bradford, the offbeat fashion designer and would-be psychic on *Days of Our Lives*. She was one of the first performers to introduce comedy to daytime soap dramas. She has also appeared for three seasons as Geneva, the wisecracking maid on *Duet and Open House*. Her recent performances include a role in the TV special *Funny You Should Ask*, a guest appearance on the series *Room for Romance* and a cameo in the feature film *Love in Venice*.

*Q: If you have the time would you please answer a couple of questions for me? Is Gary Cole (Midnight Caller) any relation to Mark Singer? And who was the actor called Conrad Birdie in the movie Bye Bye Birdie? —C.L.F. Perryton, Texas*

A: Gary Cole grew up in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, where his father was a director of finance and his mother was a school administrator. Mark Singer was born in Vancouver, B.C., where his father, the late Jacques Singer, conducted the Vancouver Symphony. He grew up in Oregon and Texas. The two are not related. Jesse Pearson played the role of Conrad Birdie in the 1963 film *Bye Bye Birdie*.

*Q: My husband and I have been very big fans of Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Where can I get an address to write to them, especially Gene Autry? We would like to have him back on TV like he was before. We would also like to find out where we can get a list of all*



Prankster Arleen Sorkin

*the songs he recorded. —Mrs. & Mr. Ronald Heffner, Ironwood, Mich.*

A: Write to Roy and Dale at 15650 Seneca Rd., Victorville, CA 92392. Information on Gene Autry can be obtained by writing to: Gene Autry, 5858 Sunset Blvd., P.O. Box 710, Los Angeles, CA 90078.

*Q: Could you tell me about Matt Houston's secretary/girlfriend? She also starred as Princess Ardala in the Buck Rogers series. —L. Porter, Holbrook, Neb.*

A: Pamela Hensley was cast as Houston's Harvard-educated business partner, C.J. She is a native Californian who got an early start in her chosen craft. At age 18 she landed a job as a game-show model on *The New Treasure Hunt*. The only child of Dr. Jack Hensley and his wife, Gail, Pamela describes her parents' attitude toward her acting career as "very supportive and slightly amused." A graduate of Canby Hall High School and The Argyle Academy, she also studied in London at Cygnet House College (a private girls' school where she studied literature).

*Q: Could you please tell us the names of Sophia Loren and Carlo Ponti's two sons? They are very handsome, and my friends and I cannot agree on their names. —Laura Denny Knoxville, Tenn.*

A: Carlo Jr. is 22 years old and studies music at Pepperdine University in California. Eduardo, 18, is currently studying at the University of Southern California.