

## Stars gather to promote, celebrate Special Olympics

### Meetings emotional — experience for all

By Steven Alan McGaw

Celebrities often are asked to lend their time, talents and, most of all, fame, to various charities, fund drives, causes, etc. To their credit, most are agreeable; their motives appear to be sincere and the aid of a big name is undeniable. Occasionally, however, the emotional tie between the organization or cause and the celebrity in question is readily apparent; they are there because they really want to be.

This seems to be the case with the gallery of stars from movies, television, music and sports that put their name and fame behind the Special Olympics. Look for many luminaries to lend their time and support to a cause that obviously touches many hearts in "The International Special Olympics All-Star Gala," a two-hour

special airing Thursday, August 15, on ABC.

The Special Olympics program offers intense athletic training and competition for young people challenged by mental retardation. In events mirroring the real Games, Special Olympians compete in swimming, gymnastics, volleyball, and various track and field activities. Held this year in Minneapolis/St. Paul, the International Special Olympics plays host to dedicated competitors from around the world.

The celebrities take part in all phases of the Special Olympics. Arnold Schwarzenegger is on hand, for instance, for the moving torchlighting ceremonies in Athens, along with Special Olympics International Chairman Sargent Shriver. Randy Travis, Jon Bon Jovi and Gerardo contribute exciting performances to the lavish opening festivities before a crowd of more than 60,000.

The stars also participate in quiet

moments related to the games, like Debbie Gibson's intimate visit with a determined young gymnast in Longmont, Colo., and Bon Jovi's journey to the capital of the Navajo nation in Arizona to meet a Special Olympian. These scenes, along with inspiring profiles of four competitors traveling to the Games, help to depict the human panorama behind the staging of an event that assumes larger worldwide significance each year. The program also makes clear the very personal attachment the celebrities feel for the Special Olympians and the games in general.

Other celebrities scheduled to appear in "The Special Olympics All-Star Gala" include Whoopi Goldberg, Fred Savage, Kirstie Alley, Wayne Gretzky, Branford Marsalis and former Olympian Florence Griffith Joyner.

(From left) Film star Arnold Schwarzenegger and hockey great, Wayne Gretzky join Special Olympians (l-r) Carol Nordham, Blair Williamson and Janet Culbertson in "The International Special Olympics All-Star Gala," Thursday, August 15, on ABC.

THURSDAY



Stephen King guests as an irascible bus driver in Thursday's episode of *Golden Years*. The CBS series, also written by King, stars Keith Szarabajka and Frances Sternhagen.

*Après*  
A Physician Referral Service  
COSMETIC SURGERY

Office surgery at Bloomfield will make your surgery affordable.

Free Consultation and Confidential Information.

Breast Enlargement, Fat Suction  
Face Lift, Nose and Eye Surgery

Financing Available 1-800-34-APRES  
332-3332  
1-800-342-7737