

Camp's in session: 'Dynasty' returns to ABC

Evans and Collins duke it out once more

By Steven Ala McGaw

Susan Sontag wrote her seminal essay "Notes on Camp" many years prior to the advent of ABC's "Dynasty." Prime-time television, however, has offered few series or specials that better exemplify that distinctive style than the high-gloss, high-dudgeon, high-wind adventures of the Carrington clan and its associates.

Now, two years after its cancellation as a series, "Dynasty" returns in a four-hour miniseries airing Sunday, Oct. 20, and Tuesday, Oct. 22, on ABC. John Forsythe is back as Blake, the suave patriarch of the Carringtons. Linda Evans reprises her role as Krystle, while Joan Collins stomps and snarls once more as venomous Alexis, Blake's first wife. John James and Emma Samms return as Jeff and Fallon. Steven Carrington will be portrayed by the actor who created the role. Al Corley (Jack Coleman played the part in later years), and newcomer Robin Sachs plays Adam, a character originated by actor Gordon Thomson.

When "Dynasty" left the air after nine seasons, viewers were left hanging. Could Blake's empire weather a constant barrage of threats, frequently from Alexis? Could love, for anyone, at anytime, survive the continual tumult? Worst of all, when last seen, Krystle was in a coma. There were, clearly, questions to be answered.

Appearing before reporters last July, the "Dynasty" folks (including creators Esther Shapiro and Aaron Spelling) made it clear those questions will not be so much answered as abandoned. Evans described Krystle's unseen, but complete, recovery from the coma as "a miracle." Fallon's infamous abduction by aliens will go unmentioned, as will the fact that Steven looks, well, like his old self again. (The Corley-to-Coleman change was originally explained by a disfiguring accident in Indonesia.)

"Dynasty: The Miniseries" aims simply to offer a second helping of the high-dollar histrionics and matchless glitz that made the original a Wednesday-night staple for millions of viewers. Designer Nolan Miller spoke at length of the

many costume changes. Spelling recalled 91 shooting locations, and newcomer Jeroen Krabbe was touted highly as Collins' love interest in the show.

And what would a trip to "Dynasty" land be without a fight between Krystle and Alexis? Evans said this one has a cat fight royal. "They gave her (Collins) all the great dialogue, and I got all the good punches," the actress reported gleefully.

Summarizing their efforts, Shapiro said the show was designed to be lighthearted and fun. She also maintained the show "should be available to a person who's never seen 'Dynasty.' They should be able to see this, understand what went on and still have a full show."

ABC's hopes for "Dynasty: The Miniseries" are high; the network especially wishes to draw a large female audience opposite the World Series on CBS.

Given sufficient ratings, Spelling and Shapiro speculated that the "Dynasty" denizens could be visited again, perhaps in yearly movies or miniseries. Spelling was particularly optimistic, saying, "Dynasty" will never die. "Neither, it seems, will camp."

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Who asked Grant this question?

By Steven Alan McGaw

Questions:

1. In a film, Cary Grant was once asked the provocative question, "Would you like a leg or a breast?" Identify the speaker and film.
2. Which of the Seven Dwarfs comes last alphabetically?
3. The film *Coming Home* was set in what year?
4. Henry Fonda's last film was...
5. In what 1939 film did Humphrey Bogart play a vampire?
6. Which of Vito Corleone's sons was his firstborn? (Bonus: Who played the role?)
7. Name the actor who played Al Pacino's gay lover in *Dog Day*

Afternoon.

8. What was Elvis Presley's favorite soft drink?
9. Julie Andrews made her film debut in what movie?

Answers:

1. Mary Foy said "Would you like a leg or a breast?" in the King's favorite repartee.
2. Dopey (Dale Gribble) — a key ingredient in the film *Seven Dwarfs*.
3. 1978.
4. The Godfather's oldest son was played by John Cazale.
5. *The Return of Dr. X*.
6. *On Golden Pond*.
7. 1968.
8. Sarsaparilla.
9. *My Darling Clementine*.