

STAR NOTES

Cybill Shepherd says a mouthful

By Suzanne Gill

Cybill Shepherd may not have had a series since *Moonlighting*, but she hasn't been idle. She's spent time developing her own productions. According to Shepherd, too many parts require the woman to be either "the victim or the monster."

On Monday, May 4, Shepherd stars in the telefilm *Stormy Weather* on ABC. Her character is a Los Angeles-based private investigator who holds a black belt in karate. (Shepherd, a yellow belt, does some of her own stunts.) This gumshoe lets her fingers do some walking as well, tracking down clues on a computer.

It's the kind of role she enjoys, not only for herself but for the example it sets. An ardent feminist and the mother of two daughters and a son, Shepherd is outspoken in her support of women's causes.

With 4-year-old Ariel bouncing on the bed ("Take your shoes off first"), Shepherd enthuses about the dual joys of working motherhood and deplores the state of child care in America. She warms to her subject, lapsing into a pen talk on how women need to "deprogram" themselves and shake off old stereotypes. She insists women can "have it all" and notes that she breastfed her twins while continuing to work. "I did it for 20 months, and if I can do it with two, you can do it with one!" she urges her imagined audience.

Sure, but can we call you at 2 a.m.?

BITTS AND PIECES

More reality shows, well, virtually

Shifting his focus to the small screen, Oscar-nabbing film director Oliver Stone will executive produce his first project for television, *Wild Palms*. The six-hour "event series," which will air next season on ABC, is based on a comic strip running in *Details* magazine. The strip's creator, Bruce Wagner, will write the series and co-executive produce it with Stone.

The plot centers on a television executive who's involved with the mind-bending technology known as "Virtual Reality," a computer-generated world free from the constraints of time and space.



Oliver Stone

Want more science fiction? How about 24 hours a day? Recently, the USA Network announced that it has acquired the Sci-Fi Channel, a cable network offering programming solely of the science fiction, fantasy and horror genres. For its debut this fall, the channel will air the big-screen blockbuster *Star Wars*. Other programs already slated are the *Star Trek* film series; the popular British series *Dr. Who* and all 1,225 episodes of the gothic horror soap *Dark Shadows*.

In the future, the Sci-Fi Channel will become an arena for groundbreaking computer integration, interactive series and games such as *Virtual Reality*.

Here's good news for TV viewers hoping to see their favorite Hallmark Hall of Fame presentations again. The original television movies, which historically were aired only once or twice before slipping into limbo, may find their way into home-video release. *Sarah Plain and Tall* proved such a success on videotape after its Feb. 19 release that Hallmark has decided to bring back other titles for the home screen. *Forever* reaches the video stores May 7, and *Caroline* is set for a July 3 release. *O Pioneers!* and *The Secret Garden* are expected out later this year.




Veteran newsman Hugh Downs is the longtime co-host of 20/20, Fridays on ABC.



Jeff Daniels stars in the time-travel adventure *Disaster In Time*, premiering Saturday on Showtime.

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