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delivering quality television to the whole family, whether at home or in the classroom."

BITS AND PIECES

Downs proves a good student; PBS upholds its traditions

That would look nice in the rumpus room. Longtime television personality Hugh Downs recently received a special certificate in geriatric education from New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine. The co-host of ABC News' 20/20 is the only non-physician ever to complete the course.

Downs, who holds a post-Master's degree in social gerontology from Hunter College, attended various seminars and patient conferences in addition to the five-day course.

"I've been interested in gerontology since I was 30," Downs says, "when I did a television program on longevity, and I'm delighted about getting this certificate." My interest in geriatric medicine is sharpened by the fact that the more time goes by, the closer I move to becoming my own laboratory."

They keep making those TV movies. CBS has cast Melissa Gilbert-Brinkman as an amnesiac au pair girl in the psychological thriller *With a Vengeance*. Michael Gross and Jack Scalia co-star. Produced by CBS yet intended to air on Showtime is *Double Jeopardy*, an upcoming two-hour drama starring Bruce Boxleitner.



Hugh Downs

Rachel Ward, Kim Cattrall and Sally Kirkland.

PBS reaffirmed its role as the leading producer of diverse, non-commercial programming by committing almost \$89.9 million to support 20 of its trademark series for future seasons starting in the fall of 1993. PBS executive Jennifer Lawson says that "continued support for our signature programming, such as *Sesame Street*, *The MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour*, *Nova* and *Great Performances*, ensures that PBS will uphold its tradition of

STAR NOTES

This Klingon's going back to Nam

By Dan Rice

Tony Todd is an actor whose craft has taken him to foreign lands and strange worlds. Currently Todd can be seen (but not recognized) in his recurring role as Klingon leader K'urn in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. His transformation into the washboard-headed alien means a 3 a.m. makeup call for the nearly three-hour process. "It's not as tedious as that sounds," Todd says. "It actually helps you get into character. You're sitting in front of the mirror and with each layer you find yourself emerging into it."

The K'urn character will be part of the upcoming *Star Trek* spin-off, *Deep Space Nine*, due in syndication in January. "Some people can say that the new generation is a cleaner universe. Well, this is the flip side of it," Todd explains. "It takes place in a penal colony, so you're going to have darker characters, a scruffier-looking crew—the rejects."

Todd, whose feature film credits include *Bird*, *Lean on Me* and *The Last Elephant*, will make his next big-screen appearance opposite Virginia Madsen in the romantic thriller *Candyman*. He has also completed production on *Excessive Force*, a story of Chicago cops battling corruption. And Todd is excited about his future role in Oliver Stone's next Vietnam War epic. Stone "discovered" Todd on the stage and cast him in *Platoon*, a movie which really fired up Todd's career.

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Ridley Scott's *Thelma & Louise*, starring Geena Davis, debuts on Showtime on Saturday.