

'Roc' begins second season on the air — live

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for commercials. Executive producers Vic Kaplan and Jeff Abugov will cope by clocking rehearsals and having a couple of filler announcements on hand, as well as a short version of the show's closing credits.

Meanwhile audiences will be kept on their toes by the possibility of a flub—or outright disaster—inherent in the live format.

It's a challenge Dutton obviously craves, and when it comes to his feelings about working in traditional television, he doesn't mince words.

"When I say there's no challenge (in taping a series), I mean you can stay there till four in the morning, shooting that stuff. You don't have to learn your lines.

"I'm more than sure that we had one of the sweetest (taping) schedules in Hollywood. We started at 7:30, and we were finished by quarter after nine. In my opinion, 22 minutes of television doesn't deserve any more than that. If you have a conscientious cast, and a profession cast.

"You go through life wanting challenges, and I certainly do, and that just wasn't challenging enough. It wasn't fulfilling enough."

Dutton expects the behind-the-scenes staff to have the most challenging job.

"It's going to be on the production staff and the writers because we can't afford to crank out a script and then say, 'Oh, this script doesn't

work, so let's just take a day off to make it—you guys go shopping, and then we'll work on the script."

"The writing staff will have the hardest task in cranking out, at least, shootable scripts from day one. And from that point on,

hopefully, the scripts will get better.

"And I think next year, this time, we'll say, 'Aw, man, live is no problem.'"

On Monday, Aug. 10, it's time to put on the pads and strap on the helmets once again, as ABC kicks off its 23rd season of Monday Night Football with a preseason matchup between the New Orleans Saints and the Chicago Bears, live from Soldier Field in Chicago.

CBS airs taped highlights of the PGA Championship from Belle River Country Club in St. Louis, Mo., on Thursday, Aug. 13, and Friday, Aug. 14.

Preseason football and the PGA Championship lead the day in sports on Saturday, Aug. 15. On NBC, it's the Denver Broncos at the Minnesota Vikings, live from the Metrodome in Minneapolis. CBS plans live third-round coverage of the PGA Championship. Later that night, it's the Cleveland Browns at the New York Giants on CBS, live from the Meadowlands in New Jersey.

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