

Sullivan returns to network TV for 'After the Headlines'

By JOHN CROOK

Kathleen Sullivan is good-naturedly aware of the rich irony in her being the host of a where-are-they-now special.

"I know," she says, laughing. "That's what's so great about all this. I think it's very funny."

"After the Headlines," an hour-long special airing Tuesday, June 14, on NBC, marks Sullivan's first network appearance since she lost her job as co-anchor of "CBS Morning News" in 1990. She says it's taken her that long to find a project that appealed to her.

"I saw things differently than a lot of my colleagues did," she explains, recalling her years as a broadcast journalist. "I wanted to do television that spoke to the best interests of people. I believed in quoting people accurately, and I had some real high standards. And I got caught up in those a little bit, and I learned my lessons."

"But at the same time, I wanted to do something that just felt really good. And everything that came along was something that I really didn't want anything to do with," she adds, with another chuckle.

"This is wonderful. It speaks to the best in us. Not our mistakes. It speaks to our hopes, a little to our fears, but it gives you such a good feeling about who we are, as men and women. I wanted to be associated with a show that brought

hope and light. This does that. It's not just about heat. It's about light."

"After the Headlines" takes five major news stories from the past and takes a look at how their major figures were affected by their brush with fame, Sullivan explains.

"I start the show by talking about how Andy Warhol said everyone is going to have 15 minutes (of fame)," she says. "But what happens after the spotlight is gone? What happens after your name is thrown about the world by satellite?"

"We take you to these people's lives, where they are now. It gives us an understanding of what happened 30 years ago, 50 years ago, seven years ago. Because they have now a most interesting perspective, now that they've been out of the limelight. They have a really great understanding. I'm not an interrogator. What's different in this is that we are really listening to people's stories. We don't tell them for them. I'll set it up, I mean, remember, I was a news commentator for a lot of these people. I did these stories. So I say, remember what we saw and what we knew then? And then these people can bring us up to date."

Sullivan talks of the show with the fervor of a tent evangelist, the operative phrase here being "oh, my gosh."

"First you look at them and go, 'Oh, my gosh, she used to be a

blonde and now she's a brunette, oh, my gosh, what HAPPENED to her?'" she says. "Then you go into 'Oh, really?' and 'Oh, my gosh, what was that like?' and 'Oh, how did you handle that?' You learn life's lessons firsthand in a very clear, loving, kind way. The format, and the way that these pieces are structured, brings out the best in people. You fall in love five times."

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34	WTYS	Detroit
42	COMETV	Farmington
42	WOPR	Detroit
42	CSPAN	Government
42	TBS	Atlanta
42	WGN	Chicago
42	WADL	Mt. Clemens
42	CICA	Toronto
42	CTND/EWTN	Birmingham
42	THN	Knoxville
42	VH-1	Video Mts. 1
42	LIFE	Lifetime
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