

BITS AND PIECES**Mickey Rooney's autobiography chronicles career, broken romances**

Mickey Rooney is on the road promoting his new autobiography titled *Life Is Too Short*. The book chronicles his celebrated friendships, box-office hits, broken romances and his addiction to pills.

Nell Patrick Harris, Bob Goldthwait and Dorian Harewood are among those who will provide the voices of rodents and bugs who live in the basement of the White House. The animated series, *Capitol Critters*, will air on ABC.

Sidney Sheldon's best-seller *Memories of Midnight* will be produced as a four-hour miniseries for fall syndication by the Tribune Premiere Network.

Parents in Oxnard, Calif., pulled hundreds of children out of the classroom to visit the filming location of a *New Kids On The Block* music video — for nothing. The story had been concocted by Q-105 DJ Mike Reynolds as an April Fool's joke.

Gunsmoke III: To the Last Man has begun production in Tucson, Ariz., for later broadcast on CBS. Janice Arness, who starred for 20 years on TV's longest-running series, co-stars with Jason Lively and Pat Hingle.



Mickey Rooney

Neil Simon scripts worthy of note

By Steven Alan McGaw
Congratulations to playwright and living theatrical institution Neil Simon, recently awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play *Lost in Yonkers*. Here, then, is an all-Simon quiz!

Questions:

1. Who played Paul in the film version of *Barefoot in the Park*?
2. Simon's first success as a playwright came with...
3. Simon wrote the screenplay for this hilarious 1972 film that starred Charles Grodin and Cybill Shepherd. Seems pretty easy, huh? a.) Name the film. b.) Name the director. c.) Cite the short story on which the movie is based and the writer.
4. In 1976 and 1978, Simon wrote the screenplays for two films that parodied detective/suspense films. They are...

5. In *The Odd Couple*, Oscar and Felix's two chirpy neighbors are...
6. Simon's screenplay for the film *Only When I Laugh* was loosely based on one of his plays. The play was...

Answers:

1. Robert Redford
2. Come Blow Your Horn
3. a) The Apartment (1960), b) *Death of a Salesman* (1947), c) *My Fair Lady* (1956)
4. Murder by Death and The Cheap Detective
5. The Gibson Sisters
6. The Gingerbread Lady

Gregg Binkley plays a new Barney Fife on *Into the Night Starring Rick Dees*, weeknights on ABC.Thelma goes into labor during a performance by guest-star James Brown on *Amen*, Saturday on NBC.Jonathan Pryce is "The Man from the Pru," and a murder suspect too, on PBS' *Mystery!*, Thursday.**TRIVIA, ETC.****Neil Simon scripts worthy of note**

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