

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.

Neil 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. James Arness, who starred for 20 years on TV's longest-running series, co-stars with Jason Lively and Pat Hingle.



Mickey Rooney

Men and women from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard will fill the audience and be selected as the contestants on *The Price Is Right* in a special Memorial Day salute to be broadcast May 27 on CBS.

Ethel Rolle, who played the gruff but kindly matriarch on television's *Good Times*, has been inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in Oakland, Calif. "It is so good to be appreciated," an emotional Rolle said. "An Oscar could never shake me up like this."

TRIVIA, ETC.

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. *100 Men*
3. a.) *The Heartbreak Kid*, b.) Elaine May, c.) *A Change of Plans*, by Bruce Jay Friedman
4. *Murder by Death* and *The Cheap Detective*
5. The Pigeon sisters
6. *The Gingerbread Lady*



Gregg Kinkley plays a new Barney Fife on *Into the Night* starring Rick Dean, 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.