

FAMILY FAIRIES

CABLE NEWS

STAIR NOTES

'When a Tree Falls' calls for ears to hear

By Chris Carpenter

For a child watching the world go by from a leafy backyard perch, picturing his strong, silent friend as a team of paper is unimaginable. For others, it's business as usual.

When *a Tree Falls*, a special airing this month on many PBS stations, takes an honest, even-handed look at the issues surrounding timber harvesting. It's must viewing for families even remotely interested in preserving a legacy of forestlands for posterity.

In the backwoods of coastal South Carolina, timber has historically lost in the race for progress. Pointing no fingers and assessing no blame, this program features instead the growing pockets of resistance — including a grade-school teacher supporting Project Learning Tree and the Wildlife Action group — whose messages are taking root. Trees are one of our few renewable resources, they stress, and we're selling out future generations by not putting back what we take.

When *a Tree Falls* delivers an effective, eloquent message in simple stories from ordinary people.

"We feel we are the experts in our own backyards," says one Wildlife Action volunteer.

When *a Tree Falls* offers a sharply focused view of a bigger issue in microcosm, begging in a small way for discerning ears to listen for every branch that falls.

Shooting this eagle no golfer's dream

By Dan Rice

Kamisquaugog is a Chippewa Indian phrase meaning "eagle come home." It is also the name of a lake in Minnesota, part of a wilderness area where the bald eagle, now classified as an endangered species, survives relatively unthreatened. On Thursday, June 18, A&E's *Nature's Kingdom* looks at the work of conservationists to save America's mascot in *Eagle Come Home*.

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on," A&E Stage presents *The Tempest*, Shakespeare's last play, on Tuesday, June 16. The 1963 production stars Maurice Evans as Prospero, Lee Remick as Miranda, Roddy McDowell as Ariel and Richard Burton as Caliban.

East meets West in the true story *Iron & Silk*, premiering Friday, June 19, on The Disney Channel. Mark Saltzman wrote and stars in the film adapted from a memoir of his experiences in China as an English teacher and student of the martial arts.

The cutting edge of cinema is honed by independent filmmakers, who are celebrated this month by Bravo with a festival of works beginning Saturday, June 20. Also on Saturday, the cable channel airs *Champlin on Film: American Directors — The Next Wave*, a roundtable discussion with directors including Martha Mifflinton (*Rambling Rose*) and Joseph B. Vasquez (*Hangin' With the Homeboys*).

'Aloha' flashbacks: Elvis remembered

By Steven Alan McGaw

Marty Pasetta's career dates back to the early days of television and he credits his experience in live broadcasting with preparing him for the many big events and specials he's produced over the years. Pasetta helmed 17 Oscar telecasts, as well as several American Film Institute tributes, the People's Choice Awards and specials featuring George Burns, Carol Burnett and Alabama. He also was responsible for Elvis Presley's *Aloha from Hawaii* special in 1971, a landmark live-by-satellite concert that reached an international audience.

Pasetta recalls approaching the Presley show with some trepidation, especially in his first meeting with the reclusive star.

"We met in Las Vegas," Pasetta says. "I went up to his hotel room and he had three bodyguards. When Elvis came in, they all sat down and took out their guns and laid them on the table." Shaken, Pasetta decided to go ahead with what he'd planned to say.

"I took a breath and said 'Elvis, I went to your show in Long Beach. You just stood there. You're fat, you're slow and you're boring.'"

Pasetta and Presley eyed each other silently. "Then he took off his glasses," Pasetta recalls, "leaned back in his chair and started laughing. Elvis said, 'Not many people are ever honest with me like that.' We became friends from that moment on."



Wednesday on USA, Bron Denny plays a wily chief of detectives in *The Diamond Fleece*.



Jaclyn Smith plays a rape victim accused of murder in *The Rape of Dr. Willis*, Tuesday on CBS.



Melanie Chartoff and Corin Nemec are uneasy allies in *Parker Lewis Can't Lose*, Sundays on Fox.