August 31-September 6, 1992

## 'Roundhouse' adds punch to Saturdays

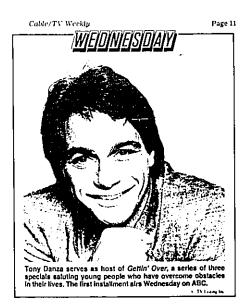
By Chris Carpenter

On a night when anyone old enough to have a driver's license is elsewhere, Nickelodeon offers Snick, or Saturday Nickelodeon, two hours of prime-time programming for kids. The second of Snick's four distinctly different series is Roundhouse, a bare-bones variety show that makes up for a small budget with his energy. with big energy.

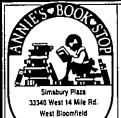
Call it Sonny and Cherwith oversam-pling, Donny and Mariesans disco, but a more appropriate label might be In Living Color for pre-teens. Round-house producer Buddy Sheffleld, a former Color writer, doesn't discount that comparison.

"I created a lot of the sketches that some of you probably hate," Sheffield recently said of his old job at a press gathering, "and ... a lot of kids watch (In Living Color). If they're going to watch that kind of show, we might as well give them one that has the right kind of values and is planned for them and not pick them up by accident."

True to at least one trait of its Fox True to at least one trait of its Fox ancestor, Roundhouse is peopled by an extremely talented ensemble cast that delivers both deft humor and dance moves with synchronous timing and acrobatic vigor. Wedged beat Explains It All and The Ren & Stimpy Show, Roundhouse makes a solid case for a new Saturday night fever.







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