

## BUTTS AND PIECES

### What are brothers for?; HBO strikes up the 'Band'

Crime doesn't pay ... as well as show business. On a recent edition of BET's *Live from L.A.*, Keenan Ivory Wayans, executive producer and star of *In Living Color*, commented on his brother Damon's new film, *Mo'Nasty*. "It's sort of an autobiographical sketch of Damon. There was a period when Damon thought he was the smartest guy in the world, and that got him into a little trouble (with the law). That was the turning point for him — what made him realize that what he got into was not where he wanted to be ... I went to New York and convinced his parole officer to let him come out here (to Los Angeles) and got him into comedy."



Damon Wayans

And the *Band Played On*, journalist Randy Shilts' controversial best seller about official and public responses to the outbreak of AIDS in the early 1980's, may become a motion picture after all. NBC once owned rights to the project, but after hesitating for three years, decided to pass. After HBO Pictures acquired the production rights, Joel Schumacher, who directs the trashy 2000 *Malibu Road* for CBS, was to direct, but he, too, backed out. Now Roger Spottiswoode (*Under Fire*, *Shoot to Kill*) has accepted the assignment, working under executive producers Aaron Spelling and E. Duke Vincent (*Melrose Place*).

The muppets take Orlando? Jim Henson Productions and The Disney Channel have struck a major distribution deal, it was announced recently. The agreement provides for Henson's live-action series *Fraggle Rock* to air on Disney; the animated version was already airing on the channel. The Disney Channel will also begin airing the popular Henson films *The Muppet Movie*, *The Great Muppet Caper* and *The Dark Crystal* and will extend the channel's window for the Emmy-winning series *Jim Henson's Mother Goose Stories*.

## CABLE NEWS

### Additions to Family; leave it to Weasel

By Dan Rice

The pony express rides again. The Family Channel has purchased 65 episodes of *The Young Riders* for an exclusive run weeknights and Saturdays beginning Tuesday, Sept. 1. The cable channel has also picked up 66 episodes of *Life Goes On*, which will air Monday through Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons beginning Monday, Aug. 31.

For a journey through the past, hitch a ride on TBS Sunday, Aug. 30, as *National Geographic Explorer* leads an archaeological expedition to the pyramids at Giza, Egypt. Host Robert Ulrich goes on location as *Egypt: Beyond the Pyramids* details the study of the people who constructed the enigmatic pyramids.

Moving to the totally fresh, Sunday also marks the debut of the HBO Comedy Hour: *Pauly Shore*. The MTV veerjay and star of *Encino Man*, who describes himself as "the Weasel," delivers a performance that's guaranteed to teach you some new phrases.

"Ain't that tuff enuff?" On Saturday, Sept. 5, The Nashville Network's *The Texas Connection* welcomes The Fabulous Thunderbirds and their guests, Lou Ann Barton, W.C. Clark and Delbert McClinton.

Dive, dive! *Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken* debuts Sunday on The Disney Channel. Based on a true story, the film stars Gabrielle Anwar as a Depression-era girl who joins a stunt show as a high-diver on horseback.



Friday on *Entertainment Tonight*, Kyle MacLachlan discusses *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*.



Saturday on Cinemax, Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman star in Michael Curtiz's *Casablanca*.



Milla Jovovich and Brian Krause star in *Return to the Blue Lagoon*, debuting Tuesday on Showtime.