

LET'S TALK

'Oz' filmed in Technicolor; helpful Hindman history

BY TAYLOR MICHAELS

Q: I have a \$100 bet that says "The Wizard of Oz," starring Judy Garland, was filmed in color. My wife believes that it was later colorized. Who owes whom? —M. Nielsen, Portland, Ore.

A: Tell your wife to pay up. The Aug. 16, 1939, *Variety* review says, "Except for the opening and closing stretches of prologue and epilogue, which are visioned in a rich sepia, the greater portion of the film is in Technicolor. Some of the scenic passages are so beautiful in design and composition as to stir audiences by their sheer unfoldment."

Q: I'm a big fan of the Canadian sketch comedy show "The Kids in the Hall." Could you please tell me how the five actors on the show formed their comedy troupe? Where can I write to them? And is there an album release of the show's funny songs and theme music? —M. Girvan, Kingston, Penn.

A: The Kids came together when Kevin McDonald and Dave Foley met a comedy duo called The Audience (Mark McKinney and Bruce McCulloch) at a 1984 midnight comedy fest in an old movie theater. Scott Thompson soon joined the budding troupe. After becoming a Toronto comedy club favorite, they were relocated to New York by producer Lorne Michaels "to toughen them up." An hour-long special for HBO and Canadian television led to regular HBO specials. Last year, CBS picked up "The Kids in the Hall," making it the first original cable production to gain a network slot. The writing, in which the actors are quite involved, earned an Emmy nomination in July. The show has returned for a second season on CBS. There is currently no release containing the silly sketch songs, such as "Terriers." The theme music is played by Toronto's Shadowy Man from a Shadowy Planet, which serves as an intermission band during "Kids" tapings. They don't yet have a U.S. album release. Incidentally, the title comes from Jack Benny, who used comedy bits from aspiring writers and then credited them by saying, "That's one from the kids in the hall." Write to them in care of CBC, P.O. Box 500, Station A, Toronto, Ont. M5W1E6.

Q: We need your help! My family



Judy Garland visits Oz

is going crazy trying to figure out where we've seen Earl Hindman (the guy behind the fence) from "Home Improvement" before. Can you help us? —C.B., Rome, N.Y.

A: Hindman spent 10 seasons in the role of Bob Reid on the popular ABC daytime drama "Ryan's Hope," and also had a recurring part on the CBS detective series "The Equalizer." His film credits include "Talk Radio," "Three Men and a Baby," "Silverado," "Taps," "The Parallax View" and "Greased Lightning."

Q: Could you please give me a bit of information on two movies I saw when I was young? They are "Night Must Fall," a scary film starring either Robert Young or Robert Montgomery, and "Night Club Lady" (also scary), in which a woman gets stung by a scorpion. —Rose Ann Pickett, Greenville, Ohio.

A: "Night Must Fall" (1937) was directed by Richard Thorpe and stars Robert Montgomery, along with Rosalind Russell and Kathleen Harrison. The screenplay was by noted playwright John Van Druten, and the film was remade (much less effectively) in 1964. "Night Club Lady" (1932), based on a novel by Anthony Abbot, was directed by Irving Cummings. Adolphe Menjou plays police commissioner Thatcher Colt, who solves a murder marked by the clever use of a scorpion. Skeets Gallagher co-stars as Colt's sidekick, Tony.

Send questions to Let's Talk, Features Department, TV Data Technologies, P.O. Box 961009, Fort Worth, Texas 76161-1009. Because of the volume of mail received, personal replies cannot be sent.

TV SPORTS

Fox warms up for World Series

BY MICHAEL SCOGIN

While the 1993 World Series doesn't begin until Saturday, Oct. 16, on CBS, the party begins Friday, Oct. 15, on Fox, when Sharon Stone, Jerry Seinfeld and Dennis Miller gather for "Baseball Relief: An All-Star Comedy Salute." The special benefits Comic Relief's National Pediatric Care Program for Homeless Children.

The all-star lineup also includes Boyz II Men, Rita Rudner, Michael Richards, James Earl Jones, Garrett Morris, Marsha Warfield, Victoria Jackson and Father Guido Sarducci. Entertainment stars are joined by baseball's Mark Langston of the California Angels and Mike Piazza of the Los Angeles Dodgers. The program features a special tribute to baseball great Willie Mays.

Comic Relief receives proceeds from ticket sales to distribute funds to Health Care for the Homeless Projects in 23 American cities. Comic Relief events, including the annual HBO special, have raised over \$20 million to provide health care and related services to more than half a million homeless people.

"Throughout the years, baseball has inspired children to dream of hitting grand slams," says Boh Zmuda, president of Comic Relief. "With 'Baseball Relief,' we want to provide homeless kids with the health care they need to achieve their own dreams."



PBS takes an inside look at the international fashion industry in "The Look" on Monday.