

► Production Notes



SPRING 2003

Another HMS Media documentary premieres on PBS
The Goodman Theatre finds success in 30 seconds
Jazz singer Kurt Elling connects with "Four Brothers"



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Teachers and Mothers Benefit from Educational Programs

Given the extraordinary and often frightening times in which we live, educators are increasing their focus on how children are affected by disasters and tragedies like 9/11. Under the direction of KNB Productions Executive Producer **Nancy Morgan**, HMS produced an educational videotape for teachers and caregivers of young children, titled **HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH DISASTER... WHAT YOU CAN DO**. The program points out the warning signs exhibited by young children in the aftermath of disaster – whether it be a



natural disaster, loss of a parent, or witnessing media coverage of a traumatic event. Shot by an HMS crew in preschool classrooms, the video encourages teachers to pay special attention to the behavior of children who have experienced such trauma, and instructs them on how to accommodate a child's special needs. HMS also participated in a second KNB production, this one on breast-feeding. Our cameras were allowed inside maternity wards and behind the scenes with mothers of newborns to help demonstrate breast-feeding techniques and guidelines on infant care. Both KNB programs were also edited at HMS, and are currently available in the educational-video market.

Dance from the Heart...

HMS Returns to National PBS



HMS is thrilled to announce the national PBS premiere of **DANCE FROM THE HEART**, our documentary on the inspiring collaboration between **The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago** and the wheelchair artists of **Dance>Detour**, hosted by **Ben Vereen**. In March,

PBS stations began airing this moving half-hour special, which earned Mr. Vereen a Chicago Midwest Emmy Award when it first premiered on WTTW. The national broadcast brings to full fruition the dream of Executive Producer **Lucy Lehman**, whose vision and sensitivity to both the arts and to disabilities were the genesis of this very satisfying project. Check your local PBS listings for encore presentations and airdates.

Honoring A Living Legend

When it comes to dance, there's little **Ann Barzel** has not accomplished. She is a noted author, historian, critic, photographer and filmmaker who has devoted her life to the art of dance, and Chicago dance in particular (she also appeared in the HMS Media/WTTW Channel 11 co-production **LONGINGS FOR THE MOON**, a biography of the legendary Chicago dancer, choreographer and teacher Ruth Page). In honor of Ann's 97th birthday, the Dance Chicago festival staged a special performance at the Athenaeum Theatre to benefit the **Newberry Library**, the home of Ann's extensive dance archives. To add a special luster to the evening, HMS produced a series of video vignettes featuring birthday greetings from such dance luminaries as Lou Conte, Edward Villella, Gerald Arpino, Violette Verdy, Claire Bataille,

Arthur Mitchell, Frank Chaves, Gus and Nan Giordano and many others, interspersed with clips of classic performances from HMS' considerable archive of dance performances. The video modules were shown in between electrifying performances by **River North Chicago Dance Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Trinity Irish Dancers, Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago** and a new piece by **Harrison McEldowney** created in Ann's honor. The Newberry had hoped to raise \$50,000 in Ann's honor; by the end of the evening, nearly \$80,000 had been pledged. HMS is honored to have been part of the celebration, and we wish Ann many more wonderful birthdays. Be sure to visit the Newberry Library at 60 West Walton Street in Chicago.

Broadway In Chicago

Wizard of Oz Sing-A-Long

Be honest: When **THE WIZARD OF OZ** is shown on television, can you really resist singing along with all those classic songs?

Broadway In Chicago, the

presenting organization that brings Broadway's finest to Chicago's downtown theaters, is giving audiences the chance to do just that with **SING-A-LONG WIZARD OF OZ**. Audiences are encouraged to croon along to a fully restored remastered print of the film, shown on the big screen, aided by subtitles of lyrics and classic lines. The audience is given such toys as bubbles to blow when Glinda the



BROADWAY IN CHICAGO

Good Witch appears, kazoos to play during the Munchkin March, and magic wands to wave when spells are cast. HMS worked with the BIC creative team at preview performances, shooting extensive footage of the audience playing and singing along, offering enthusiastic testimonials, and even parading onstage during the show's costume contest. We continued working with the BIC marketing team to create an electronic press kit, two television commercials, and a 60-second radio spot which ran on Chicago stations and will accompany the show across the country.

HMS Helps Goodman Promotion Through TV Spots

The Goodman Theatre's annual production of **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** is a Chicago classic, every bit as essential to the holiday season as "The Nutcracker." This year, the Goodman utilized HMS Media's

THE GOODMAN

graphics and Avid-editing capabilities to create a 30-second commercial spot for the production, featuring historical images from the Goodman classic incorporated with graphics generated in the Avid edit suite. So successful was this first commercial endeavor that The Goodman decided to produce a second spot to promote the current season. Both spots have seen heavy rotation on such national networks as CNN and A&E.

Other News & Notes

Not only does the show go on, but the business world was not to be kept down by the economic woes of the past several months. The advent of the fall saw a number of clients initiate major projects with HMS Media, including **Torture Press and Marketing**, which flew HMS Media's multicamera crew to Charlotte, S.C., to create a promotional video for a new national tour of the musical **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER**.

HMS had the opportunity to produce, shoot and edit a four-part series on social work for educational distributor **Magna Systems**, creating programs geared toward college-level students of social work that provide key concepts to those entering or currently working in the social services industry.

HMS Media Brings Chicago Professor's Play to Television

Scenes depict the hardship and hope for peace

North Park University professor **Robert Hostetter** called on HMS to oversee the adaptation of scenes from his play, **THE LONGING**, to video. The multicamera crew utilized a studio space and creative lighting designs to convey the dramatic tension of these scenes – which chronicle oral histories of hardship and hope for peace between Israelis and



Palestinians. A large cast of actors played the roles of those who provided the play's dialogue through their conversations with Dr. Hostetter.

The scenes, shot in 16:9 wide-screen format and edited by HMS, will provide the basis for a potential television special, as well as an educational tool for public forums and classroom use.

Quick Takes: Focus on Chicago Area Performances and Artists

Even in these stressful economic times, the show does go on! HMS' producers, videographers and editors were kept very busy all summer through winter with a full slate of theatrical and dance performances, for which we supply specially priced shoot and edit packages. Some of the highlights of the past few months included the 40th Anniversary concerts by **Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago** (featuring world premieres by **Randy Duncan** and **Davis Robertson**, both featured performers in previous HMS broadcast specials); **Northlight Theatre's** world premiere of **ROUNDING THIRD**, starring **George Wendt** and **Matthew Arkin**; the stunning world premiere of **The Goodman Theatre's GALILEO GALILEI**, directed by **Mary Zimmerman** and composed by **Philip Glass**; and premiere performances by **Mordine & Company** and **Breakbone Dance Theater** at the HotHouse. See below for additional highlights:

Lyric Opera of Chicago

Sweeney Todd
Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci
Thaïs

The Second City

Curious George Goes To War
Thank Heaven It Wasn't 7/11
No Seriously, We're All Gonna Die

Joffrey Ballet of Chicago

The Taming of the Shrew
The Nutcracker
The Diaghilev Dynasty

Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire

Carousel
Funny Girl
Cats

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Sunday in the Park with George
Love's Labor's Lost
Julius Caesar
The Winter's Tale

Steppenwolf Theatre Company

The Time of Your Life
I Just Stopped By to See the Man
Wedding Band

River North Chicago Dance Company

Dance Chicago 2002
North Shore Center for the
Performing Arts

Elling Concert of "Brothers" Creates Jazz

Chicago has always been a hotbed for innovators of jazz music, and is home to one of the most critically acclaimed



young singers in the country, **Kurt Elling**. Having worked with HMS Media on several previous projects, Kurt tapped HMS to provide a multicamera archival taping of the landmark concert **FOUR BROTHERS**, hosted by Kurt and featuring **Jon Hendricks, Mark Murphy** and **Kevin Mahogany**. Produced by Kurt and longtime HMS friend **Tony Karman** at the **Park West**, the Brothers, backed by Kurt's stellar trio (including longtime Elling collaborator **Laurence Hobgood**), the show was an electrifying bridging of jazz generations, and its spontaneous and improvised nature kept the HMS Media crew on its toes. Once the entire performance was shot and edited, HMS welcomed Kurt into our Avid editing suite to create a promotional video for the show, to support efforts to tour it in America and across Europe. Be sure to catch Kurt in concert at the Green Mill every Wednesday he's not touring.

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