

► Production Notes



WINTER 2004

Generous grant kick starts new dance documentary
Translating theater to television for Lookingglass
Hearing the lion's roar... down under



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HMS Media Comes Through...

The Lookingglass with David Schwimmer

Recently, HMS Media undertook one of the most challenging and exciting theater collaborations in its history, courtesy of **David Schwimmer** and **Lookingglass Theatre Company**. While Schwimmer is best known for NBC's **FRIENDS**, his longest running project is actually Lookingglass, the theater company he co-founded with fellow acting classmates from Northwestern University.



Director David Schwimmer consults with HMS Media executive producer Scott Silberstein during the shooting of **RACE** at Lookingglass Theatre Company.

Having successfully led a campaign to build a new downtown Chicago home theater space in the Water Works building, Schwimmer kicked off Lookingglass' season by directing **RACE: HOW BLACKS AND WHITES DEAL WITH THE AMERICAN OBSESSION**, adapted by Schwimmer and Joy

Gregory from the book by **Studs Terkel**. Schwimmer and the HMS production team got acquainted while shooting **RACE's** broadcast clips (which aired nationally on **THE TODAY SHOW**, **DATELINE** and **ACCESS HOLLYWOOD**, and locally on **ARTBEAT CHICAGO**), and decided to produce a multicamera version suitable for broadcast. Shot over a weekend of three performances with two additional shoots for close-ups,

the result is the most complete and intimate theater-to-television translation HMS has ever produced. HMS thanks Lookingglass' production and administrative team, **RACE's** extraordinarily generous and gifted cast, and especially David for entrusting this very special project to HMS.

Audiences Wanted

Grant Provides Support for New Dance Doc

HMS has begun production on **The Chicago Dance Television Project**, a special broadcast event to air on **WTTW Channel 11**. The project seeks to attract mainstream audiences to Chicago's dance scene. Area audiences may learn that there are dozens of compelling and entertaining dance companies presenting a wide range of diverse and thrilling work. The Chicago Dance Television Project plans to reach out to audiences who have yet to sample the Chicago dance world, and turn them into devoted fans.



Steadicam operator John Ford shoots **Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago**.

HMS has begun production through the generosity of **The Chicago Community Trust**, which has supported this project by providing a grant through the **Chicago Dance & Music Alliance**. Special thanks to **Sarah Solotaroff** and the Chicago Community Trust for their vision and support not only of the Chicago Dance Television Project, but the entire Chicago dance community.

The Great White Way – North of the Border

Over the last few years, HMS Media has become a production company of choice to shoot multicamera promotional footage for tours of Broadway shows, including **LES MISÉRABLES**, **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** and **FOSSE**. This fall, HMS made two trips to Toronto, Canada, to create new promotional videos for two of Broadway's hottest shows, **MAMMA MIA!** and **THE PRODUCERS**, both of which are being presented by **Mirvish Productions**. This was HMS' fourth venture with **MAMMA MIA!** and its theatrical management



teams at **Nina Lannan Associates** (having previously shot the show in Chicago, Boston and Providence), and our first with **THE PRODUCERS** and **Richard Frankel Productions**. Thanks to **Amy Jacobs** at Nina Lannan, **Ronni Mandel** and **Casey O'Brien** at RFP; **Laura Matalon** and **Marya**

Keefe at **TMG The Marketing Group**; and **Alistair Hepburn**, **John Karastamatis** and **Sue Toth** at **Mirvish** for making our first multicamera shoots in Canada so successful!

Lion King Roars Into Chicago

Disney's **THE LION KING** made its Chicago debut this past spring to packed houses and rave reviews. HMS took part in this whirlwind of activity by covering the show's press conference, backstage interviews, opening night at the **Cadillac Palace Theatre**



and the following gala celebration. The events were shot for the Channel 7 network in Australia, where **THE LION KING** will be opening soon. In addition to the events at the theater, HMS also taped standups with a reporter around the city to capture the Chicago premiere's excitement for Australian television. Thanks to **Margie Korshak Inc.**, **Disney Theatricals** and **Channel 7 Australia** for including HMS in the **LION KING** experience.

Apple Tree Theatre

20 Years and Still Shining

Apple Tree Theatre in Highland Park celebrated its 20th anniversary with a look back at its North Shore roots and the artistic spirit that has flourished since the theater first opened its doors. HMS was happy to collaborate with producers **Karen Dillon**, **Penny Rotheiser** and **Beth Rosen** to create a short documentary that was presented at the 20th anniversary gala. The program included interviews with some of Chicago's finest acting talents, and archival images highlighting many memorable productions. Among the interviewees were **Eileen Boevers**, founder and Executive Artistic Director; Artistic Director **Ross Lehman**; **Mary Ernster**; and **Daniel J. Travanti**.

Quick Takes: News and Notes

HMS was on hand to witness aspiring Chicago dancers at the auditions for ABC Family's **DANCE FEVER**. With a large crew, elaborate lighting and audio scheme, and multicamera setup at the Excalibur nightclub, HMS taped hundreds of contestants vying for a chance to advance in the series' dance competition...

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The Miss Teen International Pageant made a new home in the Windy City this summer, and our crew was there to capture the two-day event at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. From preliminary night to the crowning of Miss Teen International 2003, the pageant was covered by our three cameras and switched live to tape. Thanks to **Mel Richardson**, **Rusty Wilcoxon** and the **Mrs. International** organization for calling on HMS to cover this year's pageant...

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Mmmmm, donuts... **Margie Korshak Inc.** tapped HMS to shoot grand openings for **Krispy Kreme's** Naperville and Union Station stores, along with all the festivities – including free donuts!...

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Cambria Consulting hired our crew to shoot arbitration courses at Chicago's Kent School of Law for the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service (FMCS). The shoot took place over two days and included lectures led by professional arbitrators, a mock arbitration session, and testimonials from the course participants. The footage will ultimately be utilized as a Web-based teaching tool...

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The **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** brought in an HMS crew to shoot **Maestro Daniel Barenboim** at the piano as part of a Web-based presentation for concert goers, introducing them to one of the major themes of the CSO season – the music of Beethoven and Schoenberg. The Maestro offers thoughts and plays excerpts of the composer's works on the CSO Web site, www.cso.org.

Dance, Music and Theater

HMS' dance, music and theater shoots continue at a frenzied pace. Recent shoots include:

Lookingglass Theatre Company

The Secret in the Wings

Steppenwolf Theatre Company

Man From Nebraska

Chicago Shakespeare Theater

The Taming of the Shrew
Rose Rage

River North Chicago Dance Co.

Fall concert

Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago

Fall concert

Lyric Opera of Chicago

Faust

The Joffrey Ballet

Romeo and Juliet

Ballet Légere and Salt Creek Ballet

The Nutcracker

Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire

Annie Get Your Gun

Mordine and Company

Fall concert

Documentary Celebrates Camp's 75th Anniversary

For those not aware of HMS Media's history, the company was actually formed in the North Woods of Wisconsin over 25 years ago. Co-founders **Matt Hoffman** and **Scott Silberstein** met at camp in the summer of 1977, and the dream began; however, instead of rising to the top of the charts as their generation's version of The Beatles, Matt and Scott became music and television professionals. This past summer, the birthplace of HMS Media, **Camp Nebagamom**, celebrated its 75th season. In honor of this milestone, HMS collaborated with camp director **Roger Wallenstein** to produce an hourlong documentary chronicling the camp's history. Through interviews and archival footage, the program highlights the friendships and personal bonds forged over the decades, as well as the customs and traditions that make it a magical place for those who have called Nebagamom home for the summer. Many thanks go to Roger and **Judy Wallenstein** for involving HMS in this historic event, as well as **Nardie** and **Sally Stein** for their generous support during the documentary production process.



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