3 Pages Today

CableFax Daily Tuesday — May 28, 2013 What the Industry Reads First Volume 24 / No. 102

It's a Wrap: Upfront Season's New Nets, Scripted Fare and Millennial Bliss

Another upfront season is behind us, and in retrospect, a few things were different about this year's collection of Madison Ave brown-nosing sessions. Many nets used the events to break news—like Fox Sports' official announcement of its long-anticipated national sports network, FS1. FX also revealed details about its new net FXX, which will target younger audiences. Whereas last year Nickelodeon produced a big show with big names (UK boy band "One Direction," for example), this season it detailed its strategy for catering to post-Millennials and provided new research to back it up. And most recently, Univision announced an investment in upcoming young adult-themed, English-language net El Rey, which will get carriage on **Comcast**. This brings us to another motif: younger audiences. It appears that everyone has a strategy to capture their cross-platform-devouring eyeballs. (Pivot, Participant Media's soon-to-launch net targeting Millennials, may have a jump on others with its plan to launch as both a pay TV and broadband service). Scripted was also hot. Not only are digital-only outlets like Yahoo! and Crackle crowing about originals, but Crown Media Family Nets, Science Channel, Discovery Channel and Bravo are all dipping their toes in scripted for the first time. Yahoo! and Crackle are betting on comedy. In sum, the upfronts and NewFronts brought us actual news this year beyond the musical acts and canapés. But we'd be remiss for not discussing a few highlights—just for kicks. Most innovative: DirecTV. At its first-ever upfront, the DBS op pulled off (with minor glitches) an addressable advertising demo, which tailored experiences to match attendees' tastes-from preferred theater candy to marital status. Most repeated phrase: "Most affluent audience in cable." Too many networks claim this honor for it to be true. Close second: "We have the reach." Strangest moment: It had to Microsoft's Cirque De Soleil-style dancers. An hour into the "presentation," contortionists still danced and writhed on stage. (It seems the NewFronts are still learning.) Biggest star: DirecTV brought 3 NFL players, including Eli Manning, for advertisers to fawn over. It's probably a tie with YouTube, though, which landed Snoop Lion (formerly Snoop Dogg... don't ask). Biggest announcement: Fox Sports. Fox kept the launch of FS1 a "secret" in order to build buzz but deemed the upfront the right time to announce the network's launch date, name and programming. Best venue: IFC. It's not the actual venue, but rather what they did with it. The net transformed the Roseland Ballroom into an amusement park—with a roller rink, a dunk tank and a yearbook-themed photo booth. Biggest bang: USA. You can't get much bigger than fireworks.

News Separation: The **News Corp** board approved the company's plan to separate the publishing business from the media and entertainment unit. Under the change set for June 28, **21st Century Fox** and the new News Corp will be 2 different publicly traded companies. The board also approved a post-split ratio of 1 share of the new News Corp for every 4 shares of existing News Corp, as part of the separation. In addition, the board authorized a \$500mln stock repurchase program for the new News Corp following the completion of the split. Post-separation, Murdoch will be the chmn/CEO of the renamed 21st Century Fox and exec chmn of the new News Corp, which will include Fox's cable channels. In addition to a few current News Corp directors, the new News Corp board will include investment firm **EXOR SpA** head *John*

CableFAX PR©GRAM AWARDS

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Elkann, **Brunswick Group** partner *Ana Pessoa*, managing partner of **Naya Management** *Masroor Siddiqui* and *Robert Silberman,* exec chmn of **Strayer Education**. The spin seems to be on track for News Corp's fiscal year-end, and **Wells Fargo** analysts are "pleasantly surprised by the buyback authorization," which they believe will be followed by a dividend.

<u>In the Courts</u>: Broadcasters including Fox, NBC, ABC and Allbritton are suing provocatively named Aereokiller in district court, seeking a jury trial and a temporary injunction. The lawsuit accused digital entrepreneur *Alki David*'s FilmOn, which owns Aereokiller, of infringing copyrights by offering their content through Internet and mobile device streaming. The lawsuit followed a recent federal appeals court's decision on Aereo that upheld a lower court ruling that Aereo's services didn't constitute copyright infringement.

DISH Doings: DISH formed a strategic partnership with regional wireless carrier **nTelos** to co-develop a fixed-mobile broadband service within nTelos' markets, including VA, WV, and parts of MD, NC, PA, OH and KY. The service is expected to allow nTelos ad DISH subs, many of whom live in unserved and underserved rural areas, access to HSI at home and on the go. Offering such services to underserved areas is one of the "key products and synergies DISH sees in a potential DISH/**Sprint** combination," **Wells Fargo** analysts said, noting the small mobile carrier is the exclusive wholesale provider of wireless digital PCS services for some Sprint subs. That means whatever product the new partnership develops will probably operate on Sprint's PCS spectrum and could be "easily utilized by a combined DISH/Sprint," the analysts said, arguing that the proposed partnership gives DISH "a head start in the development of a fixed Internet-mobile broadband offering should he (Ergen) be successful in acquiring Sprint for a minimal capital outlay."

<u>ACC Election</u>: The ACC board elected Time Warner Cable group vp, corporate communications, Anthony Surratt, as pres and a member of the executive committee. His 1-year term started at the conclusion of ACC's annual conference Forum '13 and runs till the end of Forum '14. The board also elected 5 other officers and members of the exec committee, including 1st vp, membership, Annie Howell, evp, communications, Crown Media; 2nd vp, programs, Catherine Frymark, svp, communications, Discovery Comm; secretary, Tom Larsen, group vp, legal & public affairs, Mediacom; treasurer, Brian Dietz, vp, communications & digital strategy, NCTA; and at-large Misty Skedgell, svp, corporate communications, Turner.

Tornado Relief: "Healing in the Heartland: Relief Benefit Concert," organized by *Blake Shelton* to aid victims of the tornado that hit the Oklahoma City earlier this week, will be held May 29 and aired on **NBCU** cable nets like **Style, Bravo, E!** and **G4**. The concert aims to raise funds for the **United Way** of Central Oklahoma May Tornadoes Relief Fund.

<u>Press Clippings</u>: Hulu received its 1st round of bids from DirecTV and Time Warner Cable, the New York Post reported. Google, a previous bidder from a prior round in '11, didn't participate. Ex-News Corp chief Peter Chernin also reportedly submitted a bid. -- Deadline reported that AETN will tap BBC vet Jana Bennett to run LMN and Bio.

<u>Advertising</u>: Canoe Ventures has licensed BlackArrow Affiliate, which enables programmers to manage dynamic ad insertion in and around VOD content. [More details at CableFAX Tech - www.cablefax.com/tech].

Programming: Syfy's original series "Paranormal Witness" returns for a 3rd season on June 5.

The Cable FAXIES

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awards

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Executive

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CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	5/24	1-Week	YTD
Company	TICKEI	Close	% Chg	%Chg
		Close	% City	%City
BROADCASTERS/DBS DIRECTV:		63 74	(2.25%)	27 07%
DISH:				
DISNEY:				
GE:				
NEWS CORP:	NWS		(0.3%)	26.71%
MSOS	01/0	15.04	(0.10/)	0.000/
CABLEVISION:				
COMCAST:				
COMCAST SPCL:				
GCI:				
LIBERTY GLOBAL:				
LIBERTY INT:				
SHAW COMM:				
TIME WARNER CABLE				
VIRGIN MEDIA:	VMED	50.31	(0.1%)	36 90%
WASH POST:				
				2011 2 / 0
PROGRAMMING				
AMC NETWORKS:				
CBS:			()	
CROWN:				
DISCOVERY:				
GRUPO TELEVISA:				
HSN:				
INTERACTIVE CORP:				
LIONSGATE:				
SCRIPPS INT:				
STARZ:				
TIME WARNER:				
VALUEVISION:				
VIACOM:				
WWE:	WWE		0.32%	17.62%
TECHNOLOGY				
ADDVANTAGE:	AEY	2.27	(3.81%)	14.07%
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	1.48	10.45%	6.47%
AMDOCS:	DOX	35.81	(1.32%)	5.35%
AMPHENOL:				
AOL:				
APPLE:				
ARRIS GROUP:				
AVID TECH:				
BLNDER TONGUE:				
BROADCOM:				
CISCO:				
CLEARWIRE:	CLWR	3.42	1.18%	18.34%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	7.10	(5.46%)	23.69%
CONVERGYS:				
CSG SYSTEMS:				
ECHOSTAR:	SATS		(4.65%)	12.74%
GOOGLE:	GOOG		(3.94%)	23.46%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	6.10	3.74%	20.32%
INTEL:	INTC		(2.36%)	16.02%
JDSU:				
LEVEL 3:				

Company	Ticker	5/24 Close	1-Week % Chg	
MICROSOFT:	MSFT		(1.72%)	28.30%
RENTRAK:	RENT		(7.15%)	15.34%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	10.94	(0.27%)	13.13%
SONY:	SNE		3.05%	87.14%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	7.33	0.14%	29.28%
TIVO:				
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC		0.41%	37.88%
VONAGE:	VG		(1.82%)	13.92%
YAHOO:	YHOO		(0.72%)	32.31%
TELCOS AT&T: VERIZON:	T VZ		(1.84%) (3.67%)	9.02% 18.77%
MARKET INDICES DOW: NASDAQ:				

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. VALUEVISION:	4.72	21.03%
2. BLNDER TONGUE:	1.10	15.37%
3. ALCATEL LUCENT:	1.48	10.45%
4. HARMONIC:	6.10	3.74%
5. SONY:	20.96	3.05%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS COMPANY

CLOSE	1-WK CH

1. ARRIS GROUP:	
2. RENTRAK:	
3. JDSU:	
4. AMPHENOL:	
5. CONCURRENT:	



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