



Content Queens: Sweeney, Dubuc Talk Measurement, Multiplatform

The future of TV content took a front seat in L.A. on Thurs, with both Disney co-chair Anne Sweeney and History/Lifetime pres/gm Nancy Dubuc echoing the increasingly common refrain that better measurement across platforms isn't just keyit's a must. Sweeney, speaking at a Variety conference in Hollywood, noted that one recent episode of ABC's "Modern Family" added 4.3mln viewers in live+7 over live+3. In fact, she said Disney has talked to advertisers about basing rates on C7 ratings, and that a few of them "are willing to do it." At a separate HRTS event in Beverly Hills, Dubuc said C7 ratings are often 40-60% higher than C3, so programmers are leaving a lot of cash on the table by not monetizing C7 or measuring alt platforms. "Content can't only be for free," she said. "That model doesn't work. It's quality content that can deliver scale, and at the end of the day advertisers want scale... We've got to have measurement across alternative platforms... It's a model that needs to emerge, and faster than we're moving." But Dubuc predicted cable's TV Everywhere effort "is going to have a huge impact. We're in the midst of seeing that exploding." Sweeney also trumpeted authentication but noted that it's fragmented across distributors and has progressed slowly. "It is piecemeal and, to be honest, it is a little frustrating," she said, noting that Disney treats each show's multiplatform strategy case-by-case. "We're looking at all these windows and figuring out what is the benefit to our brand," she said. "We're very careful about how we window." But at the HRTS panel, BermanBraun founding partner Lloyd Braun said some nets are holding too much back from digital platforms for too long and making it difficult for viewers to catch up before a new season starts. "It's madness," he said, praising Netflix for cannibalizing its own DVD business with streaming because "they knew people were going to demand that stuff... We're not doing that in television, and I think it's a big mistake." -- So does the runaway success of History's "Hatfields & McCoys" mini-series mean more big tent-pole one offs? Not necessarily, said Dubuc, as traditional series remain the "bread and butter" of any successful net. "It will probably only be a couple times a year for us, not every Sunday night," she said. The mini helped History take the #1 spot in the primetime cable race, with the net scoring a 4.1 HH rating.

<u>Retrans</u>: Must be something about summertime. More and more retrans skirmishes keep popping up. **DISH** lost **Hoak** stations Wed, including Lincoln, NE's **KHAS** (**CBS**) and Sioux Falls' **KSFY** (**ABC**). DISH claims Hoak is insisting on a rate increase of more than 200% and has demanded that it eliminate its Hopper ad-skipping technology. "Hoak doesn't

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Submit your colleagues, your boss or even yourself for consideration for the CableFAX 100! This annual cable industry power list will appear in the December edition of *CableFAX: The Magazine.* www.cablefax.com/cablefax100

Please Contact Shannon Nelligan, Senior Marketing Manager, SNelligan@accessintel.com with any questions.

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<u>CableFAXDaily</u>

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respect customer control—they are telling customers they must watch commercials," said DISH svp, programming *Dave Shull*. Hoak claimed it tried multiple times to reach an agreement offering extensions, but that DISH took the signals off. DISH said it was required to stop carrying the stations once the contract expired. Hoak, which owns 25 stations, said it will continue to negotiate with DISH. "[We have] successfully reached deals with every major cable, satellite and telecommunications company that recognizes our fair market value. Without fair and equitable treatment, local TV stations will not be able to continue to provide top quality," the broadcaster said. -- One retrans standoff has come to an end. **Block** and **Time Warner Cable** made nice in a dispute that saw the MSO lose Louisville stations on June 1. Subs impacted were former **Insight** customers who are just getting to know TWC. "We thank our customers for their patience, particularly our newest customers from Insight," the MSO said. "Time Warner Cable has made a long-term investment in the state of Kentucky, and we look forward to many years of strong partnership with our Louisville region customers and with the community."

Charter Changes: More changes at the top for **Charter**. This time it's a departure, with operations pres *Steve Apodaca* leaving. Apodaca, who joined the company in '03, said he's proud of Charter's accomplishments and has the "utmost respect for the leadership team." That team has changed a lot recently, with former **Cablevision** COO becoming CEO in Feb. He brought former Cablevision exects *John Bickham* and *Jonathan Hargis* over as COO and CMO, respectively. "Steve has made many contributions to this industry during the past 20 years, serving 4 of the nation's largest cable companies. I am confident that Steve's hard working, competitive nature will continue to lead him to success," Rutledge said.

In the States: Basic cable TV series were the biggest winners in the **CA Film Commission**'s lottery to determine shows and movies getting \$100mln in annual tax credits. Ten TV series, mostly basic cable shows such as **ABC Family**'s "Pretty Little Liars" and **TNT's** "Rizzoli and Isles," got 36% of the money. Five indie movies for TV or cable TV got 18%.

Innovation: Ten suppliers joined the 3rd CableLabs tru2way home networking interoperability event Apr 30-May 4. Participants showcased sharing of premium content between various IP Digital Living Network Alliance client services including early adoption of HTML5-based clients and cable ops-supplied Remote User Interface program guides. Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Cox offered program guides that integrated tru2way technology with multi-room DVR capability. Comcast and Cox provided HTML5-based program guides that supported playback of linear content.

<u>At the Portals</u>: President Obama is renominating Democratic FCC commish Mignon Clyburn for another term. Her current term expires this month. The next step is Senate confirmation.

<u>What the Hop?</u> CableFAX.com columnist Sam Divine considers cable's responses to DISH's Hopper DVR and its ad-skipping technology—and adds an alternative position. Get his take at cablefax.com

<u>Online</u>: Comcast upgraded its mobile site so subs can confirm or reschedule a service call with smartphones. The site's diagnostics let subs check their Xfinity services with their phones, and there's an interactive remote control code finder.

<u>Programming</u>: "Entertainment Tonight" vet **Mark Steines** will host **Hallmark Channel**'s new fall home improvement-themed series, "Home & Family," premieres weekdays starting Oct 1. -- The adventures with pilots continue: **The Weather Channel Companies** will air a 2nd season of "Ice Pilots," July 16, 9pm.

15-to-Watch: At our Digital Breakfast at the Cable Show, **CableFAX** honored our 2012 Digital Hot List and 15-to-Watch list. Over the next few weeks, we'll be featuring those honorees in our pages as we share some of their answers to our wideranging questionnaires. Lauren DeVillier, vp, digital media, Disney Channels Worldwide: What personal qualities do you think have helped you get to your current position—and which ones (that you either now possess or must work on) will advance you to the next level? Collaboration is key. I work in a very large company with multiple business units. It's important to communicate your business needs openly and authentically, while also stepping back to understand your partners' goals and objectives. Being smart and strategic are important, but having clear communication and integrity with your co-workers is paramount to one's success in any size organization. What digital trend will be the biggest game changer in the next 1-3 years? I see 3 digital trends really defining the kids space: anywhere/anytime consumption, customization and social/crowd sourcing of information. Consumers are in the driver's seat, and they are unbound by time or place. Their growing expectation is anywhere, anytime, any platform viewing and gaming with safe social and UGC hooks. Kids, more and more, are platform agnostic and have the expectation that they will find seamless, quick and easy to access content from their favorite shows wherever they are. Customization is also a key trend to watch. Kids want

BUSINESS & FINANCE

to be part of or immersed in entertainment, not just passive observers. Having participatory experiences are an important part of their interaction with content. They want to influence the outcome and have their voices be heard within their favorite brands. And finally, we can't underestimate the influence of social media. Commenting, liking and sharing are forms of self expression that are engrained in kids today. It's in their DNA.

On the Circuit: NAMIC Mid-Atlan-

tic's 1st annual creative showcase is set for Mon from 6-9pm at Discovery's Silver Spring HQ. For more info, contact Pam Ford at 202-222-2356.

People: New to ESPN is Microsoft's Monica Diaz, who will serve as vp, diversity, inclusion and work life. -- Andy Schwartzman of MAP joined Free Press as part-time special adviser. He will consult on litigation and FCC procedural issues, in addition to training new public interest lawyers, said Matt Wood, policy dir. A top priority is to mentor young lawyers, Schwartzman said. -- CTHRA added 2 new board members: Catherine Houser, evp, HR for Viacom, and Jo O'Brien, svp, CNBC HR. -- Cox moved New England gm Paul Cronin to svp, customer experience. The search for Cronin's successor is underway.

Business and Finance: Verizon declared a quarterly dividend of 50

cents (payable Aug 1) per outstanding share, unchanged from the previous quarter.

Company 06/07 1-Dav Close Ch BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS MSOS CABLEVISION:......11.58 (0.16) TIME WARNER CABLE:.........75.22(0.48)

PROGRAMMING

AMC NETWORKS:	
CBS:	
CROWN:	
DISCOVERY:	50.52 0.22
GRUPO TELEVISA:	19.35 (0.02)
HSN:	
INTERACTIVE CORP:	45.39 (0.31)
LIONSGATE:	
LODGENET:	1.50 0.04
NEW FRONTIER:	
OUTDOOR:	, ,
SCRIPPS INT:	55.17 0.34
TIME WARNER:	35.00 0.14
VALUEVISION:	
VIACOM:	
WWE:	

content

marketing

TECHNOLOGY	
ADDVANTAGE:	2.14 (0.01)
ALCATEL LUCENT:	
AMDOCS:	
AMPHENOL:	
AOL:	
APPLE:	571.72 0.26
ARRIS GROUP:	
AVID TECH:	7.15 (0.25)
BROADCOM:	
CISCO:	16.58 (0.1)
CLEARWIRE:	1.20 0.01

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06/07	1-Day	Company	06/07	1-Day
Close	Ch		Close	Ch
RS/DBS/MMDS		CONCURRENT:	3.98	(0.02)
43.90	(0.28)	CONVERGYS:	14.28	(0.01)
27.65	(0.17)	CSG SYSTEMS:		(0.05)
45.63	0.10	ECHOSTAR:	27.30	(0.32)
19.00	0.12	GOOGLE:		(2.34)
19.47	(0.1)	HARMONIC:	4.38	(0.01)
		INTEL:	25.94	(0.13)
		JDSU:	10.28	(0.07)
11.58	(0.16)	LEVEL 3:	20.77	0.12
63.81	0.06	MICROSOFT:	29.23	(0.12)
	0.26	RENTRAK:		
L:	0.27	SEACHANGE:	7.98	(0.42)
6.92	0.08	SONY:	13.31	(0.28)
19.56		SPRINT NEXTEL:		
AL:47.16	0.12	TIVO:	8.17	(0.23)
16.71	(0.03)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	12.31	0.11
19.03		VONAGE:		
CABLE:75.22	(0.48)	YAHOO:	15.36	UNCH
00.75	0.04			

TELCOS

AT&T:		(0.4)
VERIZON:	41.64	(0.13)

MARKET INDICES

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SET VISIT

Making It Up... for Laughs

Comic writer/actor *Thomas Lennon* stares at a large wine spit bucket, his improv-trained brain churning as he tries to figure out how to heighten the scene. After two takes as an obnoxious but seemingly knowledgeable French wine sommelier, his punchline has been dipping a wine glass into the bucket and drinking from it. It's funny (and of course disgusting). But it's not enough. Director *Ben Berman* asks for another take as Lennon nods, eyeing the bucket as if it were his comedy nemesis. But then something clicks. He does the scene again and, without warning the crew, suddenly submerges his entire head in the bucket as if bobbing for apples and comes up completely covered in red liquid, smacking his lips. *Mmmm*, *'tis gooo-oood*... The

crew struggles not to laugh for fear of screwing up the take. Now Lennon's on a roll. Before long, his character has lost complete control, at one point turning around to pee in the corner. "Oh, I'm sah-ree," he barks dismissively in a drunken French accent. "I d'eed not know 'zis was 'ze White House!" By the time Lennon pretends to pleasure himself under the counter, it's finally time to declare victory and yell "cut." Uproarious laughter ensues, and it's on to the next bit with the next guest star.

How much of this will get into the episode of **IFC**'s newest alt-comedy show "Comedy Bang! Bang!" (premieres June 8, 10p ET) is anyone's guess. But show creator and host *Scott Aukerman* may want to consider letting the wine sommelier sketch play out in real time, at least for the DVD extras. And it's only one of several insane bits packed like sardines into every episode. What's perhaps even more



COMEDY STARE: Aukerman glares at the camera. We're not sure why.

amazing about this quirky series by the network that brought you equally absurd "Portlandia" is that its take on the human condition is largely made up on the fly—with big-name guest comedians and actors improvising their way to hilarity.

But as the show wraps up its initial 10-ep shoot, consisting of many long days in a cramped but cozy Hollywood studio, no one's complaining—especially Aukerman, who describes the experience as "comedy Christmas." And that's pretty accurate considering that the well-respected comedy writer and producer was mostly a podcast sensation before getting a bona fide TV show starring himself. And he didn't even have to beg. "The interesting part is that I never pitched the show to them,"



he says. "They pitched it to me. They were all fans of the podcast. It was a really bizarre process of me not expecting something and being given a huge gift."

Of course, Aukerman didn't come out of nowhere. *Bob Odenkirk*, co-creator of **HBO**'s 1990s comedy series "Mr. Show" and who these days plays sleazy lawyer Saul

> Goodman on **AMC**'s "Breaking Bad," gave Aukerman his first big comedy gig as a writer and occasional performer. There he became entrenched in the alt-comedy scene, and has most recently produced the hilarious "Behind Two Ferns with *Zach Galifianakis*" for **Funny or Die**. As a result, Aukerman cemented relationships with countless comedy A-listers, adding them to his already bulging rolodex. It's all paying off for Comedy Bang! Bang!, as the

show continues to attract top-rate comedic talent willing to endure long hours on the couch in what Aukerman describes as "mock talk." In other words, it's a fake talk show—but one in which any zany question or subject Aukerman brings up requires a "yes-and" response from the guest, who usually has improv training. "There's a level of comfort I have when say *Paul Rudd* sits down across from me," Aukerman says. "I know that if I lob out something about him starting on the broadway stage, he's not going to say 'No I didn't.' He's going to take that and run with it, and be incredibly hilarious with it."

To be sure, those who sit on the couch during the 1st season reads like a who's who of alternative comedy: Along with Rudd, there's *Amy Poehler, Ed Helms, Michael Cera, Seth Rogen* and yes, even *Weird Al Yankovic*, along with more serious thespians like *Jon Hamm* and *Elizabeth Banks*, who also just happen to have considerable comedy chops. "Because it's improv, there's a certain amount of authenticity to it where it doesn't sound like it's scripted or faked," says Aukerman.

For IFC, Aukerman brought the perfect mix of experience, intuition and industry contacts. Execs first tapped him to do 1-minute talk segments for IFC in which some



TV PALS: Host Scott Aukerman (front) lounges with the talented Reggie Watts.

SET VISIT

of his comedy friends could talk about acquired IFC content like "Arrested Development." But during that process, execs also got more and more addicted to his "Comedy Death Ray" podcast, which essentially became a model of sorts for his new IFC show under the CBB banner. "I fell in love with him," says IFC svp, original programming *Debbie DeMontreux*. "I really think he has such a unique, fresh comic voice... it was the kind of alternative comedy that we were looking for at the time. We're always in a constant state of development, and while shopping the marketplace looking for projects, we thought there's somebody right here under our roof who we already admire and respect and who has an amazing network of friends and people he works with on a daily basis." The rest, as they say, is history.

As for whether CBB will get a Season 2, DeMontreux says "we'll see how the show does" but notes that she's definitely a fan of what Aukerman has created. "There wasn't a ton of micromanaging or hand holding on the creative," she says. "We really did believe in Scott and on his vision. I don't necessarily see any place for improve-



ment."

On set, the mood is casual but also somewhat hurried. Segments are packed one on top of the other, with very little time to set up or tear down. After Lennon finishes his wine

IS THAT A WIG?: Amy Poehler plays along with Aukerman—but won't admit that she's follically enhanced.

sommelier guest spot, the crew immediately starts lugging a camera rig out to the parking lot next to the studio where another guest star, none other than Susanna Hoffs of "The Bangles," leans up against the concrete wall tuning an acoustic guitar. She's on hand to do a quick segment in which a wayward boom mic (just go with it) travels around the city taking in the sights and sounds. And there's Hoffs, apparently reduced to playing Bangles hits like "Eternal Flame" on a street corner as passers-bys (who in this case appear to be CBB crew members) drop change in her guitar case. The segment takes less than 20 minutes, and then the crew's immediately tearing down rigs again while the director ushers Aukerman back into the studio for the next segment-this time featuring comedian and musician Reggie Watts, the only show regular other than Aukerman and a sort of one-man band who plays a pseudo-sidekick role. At

one point, Watts tells Aukerman he wrote a song about him, to which a flattered Aukerman cajoles him to play it. It starts out sweet enough but then turns into a rant about how much he hates the host, ending with "I don't see any value in you being alive." A clueless Aukerman just stares at the camera wide-eyed and declares, "I'm gonna be a star."

One thing that probably won't come through in the edited

version of the show is Watts' musical improv chops. No matter what theme, word or phrase anyone throws at him, he's able to turn it into an instant song using the elaborate electronic rig at his fingertips.



BETWEEN NO FERNS: Aukerman and Zach Galifianakis discuss talking dogs.

And in take after take, he's able to churn out highly variable mixes and sounds until he gets it right. Thankfully for this tight production, it usually doesn't take long. Aukerman and Watts have a nice rapport, and their outwardly friendly demeanor makes it all the more humorous when Watts' innocently sings about his wish that Aukerman were dead.

Of course, it's also just another example of the dark sensibility that emerges from this alt-comedy parallel universe. It's out of the mainstream for a reason. In one episode featuring Amy Poehler of "SNL" and "Parks & Recreation" fame, for example, Aukerman opens the show with a special message dedicating the episode to a crew member who died during filming. It seems completely legit until you start watching and realize it's part of a sketch in which the crew member puts himself in ridiculously dangerous situations (like trying to fix the fuse box while standing in a water-filled kiddle pool with a poisonous snake swimming around in it). It's all part of alt-comedy's celebration of absurdity and self-destructive cluelessness that exposes the irrational zeitgeist fueling modern society. Then again, that's probably the exact kind of pointless analysis that Aukerman and his cohorts would poke fun at. So nevermind.

– Michael Grebb

[By the way, check the hilarious and completely nonsensical trailer to promote the Comedy Bang! Bang! June 8 premiere. What does it all mean? We have no idea: http://www.ifc.com/comedy-bang-bang/videos/ comedy-bang-bang-ultimate-teaser-trailer]

PROGRAMMER'S PAGE Spiking the Balls...

TV awards shows are often stuffy affairs in which dressed-to-the-nines celebs sit politely in large theaters or ballrooms trying to look... composed. That's decidedly not the case at **Spike TV**'s Guy's Choice Awards, which airs Sat night and always pushes the envelope. It's no accident that Spike shoots the event in advance; a live feed would require a tape delay longer than Michael Fassbender's... (Make sure to watch Nick Offerman's hilarious segment Sat to understand that reference). In some ways, the Guy's Choice Awards amounts to a testosterone-filled frat party, joined by fearless female allies like Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell and Emma Stone, whose solemn presentation of the "funniest mother f--ers" throughout history wasn't nearly as profane as Seth MacFarlane's cringe-inducingly graphic acceptance. But despite its revelry in loutish fun, Spike TV also took the opportunity to simultaneously pursue a rather noble purpose: Honoring military men and women. At the event last Sat in L.A., dozens and dozens of uniformed veterans walked the red carpet—with stars asking to take their pictures with them, not the other way around. And they were a big part of the event, presenting the Entertainer of the Year award to Justin Timberlake, who was clearly emotional as he stood on stage among lines of troops (And kudos to Spike's "Hire A Vet" initiative that connects vets with companies making an effort to employ them). It was a night of many contrasts: following Matthew McConaughey's light-hearted acceptance of the "Guycon" award, "Guysman" award winner Eric LeGrand, who was paralyzed after a football accident in 2010, stole the show. He told me on the red carpet that he hadn't even planned out what he would say on stage, that he would just speak from his heart. And he did. "The doctors don't know who I am," he told attendees. "I can fight through anything that I want to do... I will rise up from this chair, and I will walk again. You'll see me dance on this stage." Being a guy means a lot of things. But that's being a man. MG [View LeGrand's acceptance at www.cablefax.com]

<u>Reviews</u>: "Dallas," Wed, 9p, **TNT**. "Dallas" is back in all its soapy glory and J.R. (Larry Hagman) is still so good at being bad. Question is, will anyone under 40 watch? - "True Blood," season V premiere, Sun, 9p, HBO. A terrific opener, jammed with blood, guts, sex, vamps, blood, werewolves, blood... you know, the usual. - "Thorne," Tues, Wed, 9p, Starz. Fans of AMC's "The Walking Dead" get an early look at new addition David Morrissey as a wonderfully brooding detective in 2 eps of this dark, excellently filmed import. Wed's ep features Sandra Oh as a flawed British detective. -- "Comedy Bang! Bang!" Fri, 10p, and "Bunk," 10:30p, IFC. "Dying is easy, comedy is hard" is proven again by IFC's attempts. Talk-show spoof "CBIB!" is the funnier of the 2, particularly with guest spots by Zach Galifianakis, Amy Poehler, Jon Hamm and Seth Rogen. [See Set Visit, p5] - "Jersey Shore Shark Attack," Sat, 9p, Syfy. Guidos vs. Sharks with a cast that looks like MTV's "Jersey Shore." This latest bit of Syfy camp isn't winning Emmys and isn't meant to, but it's a spoof worth sampling for Shore fans. - GSN provides a fitting tribute to game show icon *Richard Dawson*, whose contribution to the genre, as a panelist on "Match Game" and host of "Family Feud," is inestimable (Thrs, 7-11p ET).

CableFAX

PROGRAM

AWARDS

Pasia Cabla Donkingo			
Basic Cable Rankings			
	(05/28/12-	06/03/12)
	Mon-Su	n Prime	
1	HIST	4.1	4055
2	ESPN	3.4	3417
3	TNT	2.3	2303
4	USA	1.9	1841
5	DSNY	1.5	1527
6	TBSC	1.2	1248
6	FOXN	1.2	1201
6	A&E	1.2	1151
9	HGTV	1	961
10	ADSM	0.9	922
10	FOOD	0.9	907
10	FX	0.9	891
10	DSE	0.9	68
14	TLC	0.8	804
14	DISC	0.8	798
14	MTV	0.8	744
14	AMC	0.8	741
14	FAM	0.8	735
14	NKJR	0.8	606
20	SYFY	0.7	727
20	BRAV	0.7	711
20	LIFE	0.7	699
23	NAN	0.6	636
23	SPK	0.6	632
23	CMDY	0.6	623
23	BET	0.6	590
23	TRU	0.6	579
23	APL	0.6	579
23	TVLD	0.6	546
23	ID	0.6	487
23	LMN	0.6	480
32	EN	0.5	515
32	MSNB	0.5	502
32	ESP2	0.5	447
32	HALL	0.5	430
36	VH1	0.4	418
36	CNN	0.4	389
36	NGC	0.4	347
36	OXYG	0.4	313
36	NKTN	0.4	228
30 41	TRAV	0.4	220 311
41	HLN	0.3	294
41	DXD		294 262
41	GSN	0.3 0.3	202
41	H2	0.3	231
	⊓∠ OWN	0.3 0.3	222
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Questions? Contact Shannon Nelligan at snelligan@accessintel.com.