

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Upfrontly Speaking: Discovery Highlighting Digital, Scripted & Live Events

Discovery Comm used its upfront to announce that it's partnering with **Imagine's Brian Grazer** and **Ron Howard** to launch digital studio **New Form**. The jv will be helmed by **Kathleen Grace** and will focus on "high-quality, scripted and unscripted programming for today's digital viewers." At its upfront presentation at NYC's Lincoln Center, Howard took the stage and called Discovery an "inspiring partner to challenge us." The venture will "generate great, scripted programming" in short-form online. And **New Form** will be on the lookout for new talent. Ad man **Joe Abruzzese** is excited about the advertising opportunities for digital. "Super fans are spending more time with us than ever," he told the crowd, pointing to Discovery's 4 standalone digital networks, 90-plus **YouTube** channels and now the new venture. **New Form** chief creative officer **Grace** most recently served as head of creative development for the YouTubeSpace LA, a 41K square foot facility dedicated to YouTube content creators and collaboration. Of course, there was still plenty of talk about the linear side of the business. Not surprisingly, given the success of "Skywire Live with Nik Wallenda," **Discovery Net** has a few high-profile, live events in the works. **Wallenda** will attempt to cross the Chicago skyline untethered this fall in "Skyscraper Live with Nik Wallenda." Next month, the net premieres "Everest Jump Live," featuring **Joby Ogqyn's** wing suit flight off the summit. Then there's something called "Survival" (wt), a 42-day live event in which 8 survivalists will try to make it to the end (the weakest will be extracted). Their struggles will be streamed 24/7 with viewers able to play a role in helping them out as they struggle (who else just got a scary "Hunger Games" vibe?). There will be a mix of pre-recorded and live eps on TV. On the scripted side, Discovery has "The West," with eps chronicling **Jesse James** to **Buffalo Bill**; new series include "Tree People," a community who call the treetops of the Pacific Northwest their home, and bike build competition series "#Bikerlive." Some of the highlights from the rest of the portfolio: **Oprah** was at the event to tout **OWN** and its ratings successes. She introduced the net's very first original scripted movie, "My Name is Love," announcing that **Toni Braxton** had just signed on to play singer **Darlene Love**. "We are in the midst of writing the next chapters, literally, of our network," **Oprah** said. She seemed most excited about upcoming series "Belief," a 7-part docu-series exploring the origins of faith. It's "the reason why I put my name on the channel," she said. -- Scripted isn't being left out of **Science's** slate following the suc-

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cess of movie "The Challenger Disaster." "Challenger was the network's most watched program of 2013. We're building on that success with 'Spies of Los Alamos,'" announced *Eileen O'Neill*, Group President, Discovery Channel, Science Channel and **Velocity**. The film is about the creation of America's biggest military secret—the atom bomb (slated for 3Q15). -- **TLC's** new series include "Risking It All," families who move off the grid and "Psychic Matchmaker" (the title says it all). **Animal Planet's** new slate features its first scripted movie, "Revenge of the Whale," starring Martin Sheen and inspired by Herman Melville's "Moby Dick." **Investigation Discovery** tapped *Roseanne Barr* to host "Momsters: When Moms Go Bad," featuring moms who stop at nothing to help their kids, and is teaming with *Vanity Fair* on a new series. Newly rebranded American Heroes Channel gm *Kevin Bennett* called the net "an intersection of military and history programming." Upcoming series include "The Raid," which looks at how outfits such as the US Rangers or the Navy Seals have changed the course of a battle through their strength and courage.

Jaunt Secures Funding: Virtual reality is looking to be the next big thing. **Jaunt**, a startup that develops tools for cinematic virtual reality content, scored \$6.8mln in funding from investors such as **BSkyB**, **Sling Media** co-founder *Blake Krikorian*, **Redpoint Ventures** and **Dolby Laboratories** chmn *Peter Gotcher*. The move came after **Facebook's** \$2bln purchase of **Oculus VR** last week and Sony's announcement last week to develop a virtual reality headset for PS consoles. In addition, Jaunt announced that its advisers include *Babak Parviz*, creator of **Google Glass**, **IMAX** chmn *Brad Wechsler*, film dir *Mark Romanek*, and *Bernd Girod*, a professor of electrical engineering at **Stanford University**.

Carriage: As of Opening Day, **MLB Net's** distribution has increased 40% since its '09 launch. It has added 20 new affils since the '13 World Series, including **Armstrong**, **Shentel**, **Fidelity Comm** and Canadian op **Rogers**. Three-year-old **MLB Net Strike Zone** has added 15 new distribution partners, and is currently carried by **Bright House**, **Cox**, **DirecTV**, **DISH**, **AT&T U-Verse** and **Time Warner Cable**.

Closing the Book: **Liberty Media** is selling most of its stake in **Barnes & Noble** to qualified institutional buyers, slashing its stake in the bookseller to about 1.7% from 17%. The sale is expected to settle on Tues. As a result, Liberty chief *Greg Maffei* will cease to serve on the board as of the closing. However, Liberty svp *Mark Carelton* was re-elected to the board.

TVE: **Fox Sports** live streaming TV Everywhere app Fox Sports GO will offer nearly 100 **MLB** games this season—all the games televised on **Fox** and **Fox Sports 1**. This includes, for the 1st time, live streaming of the All-Star Game, NLDS, National League Championship series and World Series. Baseball has its first at-bat on the app Sat with a doubleheader showcasing Minnesota vs Cleveland (1pm ET) and San Fran vs L.A. (4pm ET).

SeaChange Gets CTO: Multiscreen video software vendor **SeaChange** tapped *Shiva Patibanda* as svp and CTO. As gm of SeaChange's Silicon Valley-based In-Home business, Patibanda is responsible for the creation and delivery of SeaChange video gateway software. He founded **VividLogic** in 1999, which offers software for set-top boxes and other CE devices. The company was acquired by SeaChange in 2010.

NBCU on Crackle: A new multi-year deal brings **NBCU's** film library to **Crackle's** free, ad-supported streaming service. Crackle users now have access to feature films such as "Miami Vice" and "Jarhead." More than 140 library titles will be rolling out over 3 years.

DirecTV Masters Golf: In time for the 2014 Masters Tournament, **DirecTV** is teaming with **CBS Sports** and **ESPN** again to offer its 6-screens-in-1 Masters Mix channel and an TV app featuring every statistic, scorecard and tee time. And new for the app this year: HD graphics, player bios and head shots, and the ability to navigate app features while still viewing the full broadcast video. The channel mix will feature the main **CBS Sports/ESPN** feed, 2 featured group channels, "Amen Corner," coverage of the most famous stretch of Augusta National, holes 15 and 16, and "Masters in Depth," along with a continuously running leader board featuring live tee times, scoring and leaders' locations on the course. Each extra channel has its own announcers.

Deals: **Tribune Digital Ventures** will acquire **TV by the Numbers**, a research and editorial source for analysis of TV ratings and programming news. Terms weren't disclosed. Tribune Digital, the tech and innovation arm of the **Tribune Company**, will relaunch its **Zap2it** website with a renewed focus on helping visitors find programs to watch

BUSINESS & FINANCE

across linear and streaming services. TV by the Numbers has powered the TV Ratings editorial content on Tribune's Zap2it site since 2010.

Obit: Legendary TV sports director *Sandy Grossman* passed away Wed. He was 78. Grossman handled broadcasts first for **CBS** and later **Fox**, directing 10 Super Bowls. "Sandy was part of the original heart and soul of Fox Sports. He was a brilliant director and a thoughtful colleague," said **Fox Sports** pres/COO *Eric Shanks*. "He mentored many of us here and throughout the sports TV industry, and we learned more from him than he could imagine. On behalf of everyone at Fox Sports, we extend our deepest condolences to Sandy's family who are in our thoughts and prayers. He'll be greatly missed."

Honors: **Time Warner Cable** exec *Sean Coar*, **Fusion** CEO *Isaac Lee*, **Cablevision's** *Nodir Nazarov* and **Fox Broadcasting's** *Shana Waterman* are the recipients of **NAMIC's** '14 Next Generation Leader Awards. They will be recognized during a breakfast during the **Cable Show**, May 1, 8am PT.

People: **Nick** vet *Jane Gould* was named svp, consumer insights and research for **MTV**. -- **Allscope Media** launched direct response arm, **Allscope Direct**, tapping former **Zenith Direct** CEO *Joe Shain* to lead the division. Allscope's clients include **Nat Geo**, **Travel Channel** and **Harper Collins**.

CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	04/03 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	04/03 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DIRECTV:	78.64	0.66	CONVERGYS:	22.25	0.17
DISH:	63.85	(0.22)	CSG SYSTEMS:	26.15	(0.42)
ENTRAVISION:	6.29	(0.3)	ECHOSTAR:	48.82	0.19
GRAY TELEVISION:	10.34	(0.46)	GOOGLE:	569.74	2.74
MEDIA GENERAL:	17.54	(1.12)	HARMONIC:	7.18	(0.09)
NEXSTAR:	37.77	(1.16)	INTEL:	26.41	0.52
SINCLAIR:	26.53	(0.63)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	71.59	(0.81)
MSOS					
CABLEVISION:	17.35	0.49	JDSU:	14.07	(0.23)
CHARTER:	124.90	(1.6)	LEVEL 3:	40.18	(0.92)
COMCAST:	51.12	0.22	MICROSOFT:	41.01	(0.34)
COMCAST SPCL:	50.05	0.27	NIELSEN:	45.31	(0.14)
GCI:	11.36	(0.05)	RENTRAK:	58.70	(2.14)
GRAHAM HOLDING:	729.90	4.54	SEACHANGE:	10.56	(0.01)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	41.60	0.20	SONY:	19.09	(0.2)
LIBERTY INT:	30.21	(0.07)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	9.40	0.01
SHAW COMM:	23.51	(0.71)	TIVO:	13.13	(0.12)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	141.48	0.93	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	39.13	(1.12)
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	33.74	0.15	VONAGE:	4.31	(0.08)
AMC NETWORKS:	76.17	0.60	YAHOO:	35.76	(0.88)
CBS:	62.62	(0.73)	TELCOS		
CROWN:	3.85	(0.06)	AT&T:	35.63	0.26
DISCOVERY:	83.74	(0.46)	VERIZON:	48.12	0.30
DISNEY:	81.69	0.02	MARKET INDICES		
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	34.07	(0.35)	DOW:	16572.55	(0.45)
HSN:	60.28	0.21	NASDAQ:	4237.74	(38.72)
LIONSGATE:	26.92	(0.99)	S&P 500:	1888.77	(2.13)
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN:	57.24	1.01			
SCRIPPS INT:	75.94	(0.4)			
STARZ:	33.87	0.51			
TIME WARNER:	66.75	(0.31)			
VALUEVISION:	4.78	(0.22)			
VIACOM:	87.33	(0.15)			
WWE:	28.41	(0.63)			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	3.21	(0.17)			
ALCATEL LUCENT:	4.13	(0.03)			
AMDOCS:	46.30	(0.21)			
AMPHENOL:	93.74	(0.26)			
AOL:	44.01	(0.01)			
APPLE:	538.79	(3.76)			
ARRIS GROUP:	28.17	(0.18)			
AVID TECH:	6.50	0.20			
BROADCOM:	31.21	(0.02)			
CISCO:	23.09	0.10			
CONCURRENT:	8.46	0.18			

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PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

When Bigfoot Meets Hillbillies

There's something about bearded hillbillies these days. In addition to **A&E's** hugely popular "Duck Dynasty," the 1st season of **Destination America's** "Mountain Monsters" was the net's best series ever among all key demos. Season 2, which premieres Fri, is a continuation of monster hunting by AIMS (Appalachians Investigating Monster Sightings) as they seek to prove legendary local beasts like the Hellhound, Yahoo, Fire Dragon, and Hogzilla aren't just old wives tales. "I don't think we ran out of steam in the original format [Season 1 only has 6 eps]," exec producer *Caroline Perez* told us. In the new season, as AIMS get more comfortable with the camera, "we started to see a lot more personalities from them." And as the team finds more evidence of monsters, "there's a greater reflection of danger... It's certainly more intense not by our own design," she said. For a quick first look, the cameo-clad AIMS boys are just like the duck commanders, except they have cleaner and shorter beard. There's also the familiar rough-and-tumble sensibility and brotherly love among team members. But unlike "Duck Dynasty," this is a band of hardcore hunters and trappers having spent a lifetime with the mountain wilderness as their home and playground. Speaking of the bearded reality TV, it's probably a deeper sociological question, according to Perez. "Maybe the audience is looking for something that's a little more back to the basics," she said. That said, "at the end of the day, beard gets you to sample the show. You need to have more than just the beard to have a successful show." On a side note, when it comes to beard, apparently length doesn't matter: "Huckleberry" Lott, who heads up security at "Mountain Monsters," beat *Willie Robertson* from "Duck Dynasty" to win the Best Beard in the 2013 Viewers Voice Awards, **Channel Guide's** annual reader poll. *Joyce Wang*

Reviews: "Game of Thrones," Season 4 premiere, Sun, 9p, **HBO**. As characters on "Game of Thrones" caution with fear-laden voices, "Winter is coming." Considering the series' track record with marriage ceremonies—last year's Internet-paralyzing 'Red Wedding' and this season's disruptive nuptials (you'll see)—a more useful warning might be "The caterer is coming." Still "Game" fans will love this season's intrigue, character development, backstabbing (literally and figuratively) and bloodletting (literally only). -- "Turn," premiere, Sun, 9p, **AMC**. It's difficult to assess this series about Revolutionary War spying after just the pilot. Clearly it has potential, though. It educates and entertains; production values are solid and Jamie Bell as an initially reluctant rebel is terrific. "Turn" bears watching. -- "Susan Boyle: Her Secret Struggle," Wed, 10p ET, **Ovation**. It's hard to believe but until recently Scottish singer *Susan Boyle* had never sung with a live band or done a solo concert. Her on- and off-stage battle with anxiety was partly to blame. This short film is an intimate look at Boyle's journey toward conquering her fear and provides musical glimpses of her fine voice. -- "Veep," Season 3 premiere, Sun, 10:30p, **HBO**. We love when series improve yearly. This season's "Veep" is its best yet, with egomaniacal VP *Selina Meyer* (*Julie Louis-Dreyfus*) seeking to become POTUS. An enjoyable hoot. *Seth Arenstein*

Basic Cable Rankings (5/24/14-5/30/14)			
Mon-Sun Prime			
1	TBSC	2.7	2598
2	USA	1.6	1580
3	DSNY	1.5	1469
3	FOXN	1.5	1410
5	HIST	1.4	1339
6	AMC	1.2	1209
6	TNT	1.2	1115
6	DSE	1.2	85
9	A&E	1.1	1108
9	HGTV	1.1	1032
11	NAN	1.0	956
12	ESPN	0.9	909
12	TLC	0.9	906
12	FX	0.9	878
12	ADSM	0.9	870
12	DISC	0.9	867
17	FOOD	0.8	828
17	LIFE	0.8	801
17	FAM	0.8	798
17	BRAV	0.8	772
17	ID	0.8	635
22	SYFY	0.7	684
22	SPK	0.7	668
24	TVLD	0.6	607
24	MTV	0.6	597
24	CNN	0.6	595
24	CMDY	0.6	580
24	BET	0.6	551
24	TRU	0.6	527
24	HALL	0.6	520
24	DSJR	0.6	355
32	MSNB	0.5	523
32	APL	0.5	483
32	VH1	0.5	454
32	H2	0.5	327
32	HMC	0.5	267
37	NGC	0.4	373
37	ESP2	0.4	368
37	EN	0.4	368
37	LMN	0.4	355
37	WE	0.4	345
37	TRAV	0.4	343
37	OWN	0.4	308
37	OXYG	0.4	290
37	NKJR	0.4	289
37	AHC	0.4	251

*Nielsen data supplied by ABC/Disney

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