

# ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS NEWS

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July 29, 2001

*Issue 30*

## KINGWORLD TAKES ON "DR. PHIL"

Oprah regular **Phil McGraw** has secured his first TV station pact deal for the fall 2002 season. The new talk show will be aired by New York's WCBS. It's rumored that several other CBS owned stations are also considering picking up the Harpo Productions developed property. Many insiders believe other KingWorld/Oprah stations may be picking up the program, however, KingWorld CEO **Roger King** has stressed that he'll be seeking bids from the station community in general and not just KingWorld affiliates. The new talk show will be airing in an afternoon slot.

## REDSTONE UP, SONY AND MGM ON THE SLIDE

Viacom second-quarter profits have increased due to the media giant's cable network unit. The network sparked a 25% jump to \$390 million on a 6% increase in revenues. Viacom's cable network includes MTV, Nickelodeon and others. Meanwhile, Sony Corporation, the world's largest audio-visual electronics maker, took it on the chin posting a 90% decline in first quarter earnings. Sony has indicated the loss as stemming from a 13.1 billion yen recall for its mobile handsets and poor international sales in its mainstay electronics sector -- What's the worst that could happen? Ask MGM Chairman **Alex Yemenidjian**. The news goes from horrible to just plain miserable over at MGM with the Santa Monica based company sporting a 35.9 million quarter loss. The decline in profits is attributed to two major box office flops: "What's the Worst That Could Happen" and "Josie and the Pussycats". Both films were produced by Universal Studios. MGM now looks to "Legally Blonde" for help in boosting the next quarter profits.

## DRAMA IN THE WEST WING

**Allison Janney, Richard Schiff, Bradley Whitford and John Spencer** have all agreed to remain in the White House as the West Wing cast has settled a much publicized salary dispute. All actors have agreed to stay with the show through the 2005 season. Variety reported that each of the actor's salaries will more than double from \$30,000 per episode to nearly \$70,000. At least one of the Emmy award winning show's actors has expressed

a sigh of relief and looks forward to just "business as usual...without all the drama".  
Couldn't imagine West Wing without drama...

## OTHER NEWS

The Riviera Country Club recently provided the lush backdrop for the annual Los Angeles Free Clinic benefit. Attending the KingWorld sponsored golf tournament were **Andy Garcia, Kevin James, Kerry McCluggage, Andy Friendly** and **Jason Bateman**. The event raised nearly \$200,000. **Gary Sinise** was honored by Major League Baseball recently when he was asked to throw out the first pitch at Shea Stadium while the Cubs were in town playing the Mets. Sinise is rumored to be an avid Cubs fan. Actress/pop singer **E.G. Daily** (Voice of "Babe" and "Tommy Pickles") will be performing a special show at a Los Angeles venue, "The Gig Hollywood" on September 16, 2001.



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