

SHORTER AND FUNNIER IN 1965-66 continued

by now, after *Peyton Place*, and that more pilots of this type might still be under secrecy wraps.

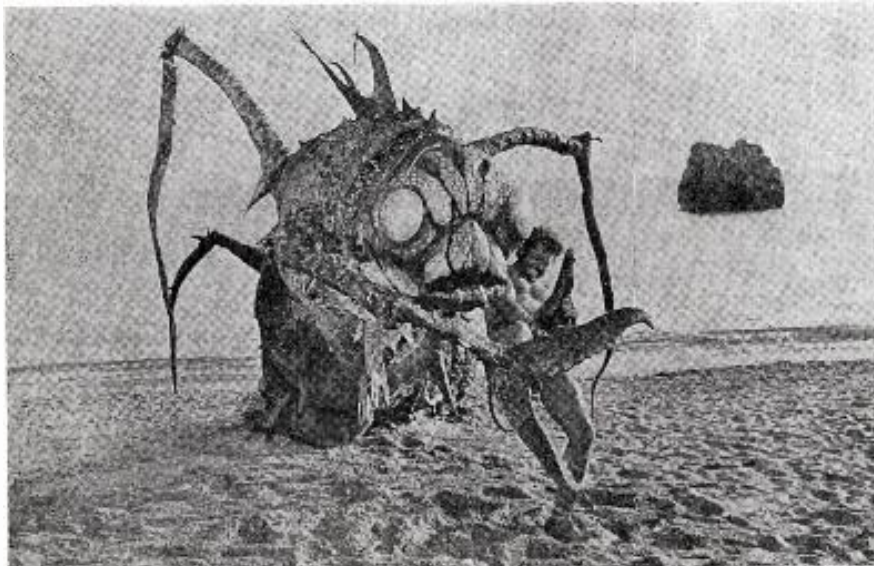
"All the movie studios are looking through their shelves for old films which could be rewritten as nighttime soap operas," he said.

But he warned of a long lag-time between a soap opera's introduction and its acceptance unless it has a blockbuster title such as *Peyton Place*.

Network by network, here is the 1965-66 look as it appeared last week on the basis of properties in hand, under consideration in script and in some cases already in pilot form:

ABC-TV

ABC-TV believes it has succeeded this season in emphasizing half-hour



This is all in the day's work for Hercules in ABC-TV's 'Hercules' series. With Gordon Scott in the lead role and Albert Band as the producer-di-

rector, the pilot is being produced in color by Joseph Levine's Embassy Pictures with scenes in Italy and Yugoslavia.

entries in its 8:30-10 p.m. periods and in 1965-66 hopes to capitalize further on the move. As a result, ABC-TV has more half-hour pilots and possibilities than one-hours. Estimates at the network are 14 half-hour series and about half that many one-hours being considered. At least 10 of the 14 half-hour series are in pilot form or near that stage.

ABC-TV also expects that it will have 14-16 hours per week returning next season, and hence will have fewer hours to reprogram than at any time in the past several years.

Its list of possible new half-hours:

My Man St. John, comedy about a millionaire, script by Abe Burrows from an idea by Cleveland Amory and starring Burl Ives, produced by Beresford Productions Ltd. with United Artists TV.

Meet Me in St. Louis, based on the movie of that name, by MGM-TV with Paul West as the producer, and possibly with the pilot in color.

Frank Merriwell, a Desilu production developed with Leslie Stevens; *Take Her, She's Mine*, a 20th Century-Fox production based on the motion picture of that name but not yet cast; *The Bette Davis Show*, comedy starring Miss Davis as an interior decorator and filmed by Four Star Television with Aaron Spelling the producer; *Thompson's Ghost*, a fantasy comedy from Bing Crosby Productions by Elliot Lewis and starring Bert Lahr.

Western Entry ■ Pilot for a western entry, *Legend of Jesse James*, will be shot in color by 20th Century-Fox and will star Chris Jones, a new actor from

Buck Houghton for 20th Century as a one-hour series or as a two-part entry in the style of 20th's *Peyton Place*; and *The Big Valley*, a western produced by Four Star Television and starring Barbara Stanwyck.

Other one-hour possibilities on ABC-TV are *Diamond Jim*, produced by ABC's Selmur Productions starring Dale Robertson and Jeff York and dealing, as in the movie of that name, with a big spender of the 1890's (with some western settings); *Crisis*, a Hubbell Robinson-produced original drama series that utilizes ABC production units around the world and will have Robert Alan Aurthur as producer; *Will Banner*, a western-type series about a small-town sheriff, produced through QM Productions (Quinn Martin).

CBS-TV

CBS-TV is reported to be developing 12 one-hour pilots and 18 half-hours but the network is playing its hand close to the vest and remains silent on the chances for any specific shows. The major trend for CBS in 1965-66 appears to be the variety-show format, with a premium on established performers.

Big-name talent lined up by CBS for possible one-hour variety shows includes Barbra Streisand, Robert Goulet and Steve Allen and it's understood that the network is in negotiation with three additional "names" for similar formats.

Among CBS-affiliated hopefuls scheduled for pilot production within the next three weeks:

Selena Mead, a half-hour series about a female detective, starring Polly Bergen and adapted from the Selena Mead stories by Pat McGer. Jack Webb is the producer.

My Son, the Doctor, a half-hour comedy from Desilu about a young pediatrician who uses his mother as a receptionist, produced by Hal Goodman and written by Larry Klein.

The Wild West, a one-hour western with Rory Calhoun in the lead and Mike Garrison the producer.

Shows with scripts already in or being written and ultimately destined for CBS screening rooms include:

The Love Birds, a half-hour situation comedy from Desilu with Dorothy Loudon the star.

Quest, a one-hour contemporary drama anthology with some episodes to carry over to following weeks. The pilot is reported in the casting stage with Herbert Brodtkin as executive producer. One star will be cast in varied leading roles.

The Bravos, an hour drama of the post-Civil War West to be produced by MGM-TV with Jack Lord the star. Pilot writer is Adrian Spies; David Victor, the producer.

Replacement ■ *For the People*, hour