

MEDIA MONITOR

by Steve K. Walz

'Angie' star Donna Pescow lucks out

Traditionally second season (January) TV series have little if any chance of becoming Nielsen winners, unless you happen to be 'cradled' in a time-slot between two established network hits. Such is the case with ABC's smash, 'Angie,' which rocketed to the top of the ratings heap on the basis of its lead-in show, the uproarious 'Mork and Mindy.'

'Angie,' which details the rags-to-riches story of a Philadelphia waitress meeting and falling in love with a well-to-do doctor, stars Brooklyn born Donna Pescow. For Donna, 'Angie' represents the apex of her meteoric rise to stardom after receiving critical acclaim as John Travolta's girlfriend in 'Saturday Night Fever.'

If opportunity knocks...

But as Donna tells it, she almost blew the opportunity to play the Angie Falco Benson character. "I spoke to Gary Marshall (executive producer) about the show a year ago, but at the time I was unavailable. Yet I read the script and loved the concept, and eventually everything worked out well. I'm really surprised everything happened so fast. To follow 'Mork' is the best thing that could have happened to us," Donna recollected.

"Angie does what most people think about doing..."

Ironically, there are distinct similarities between Donna and the two successful roles she has played. 'Saturday Night Fever' was filmed in and around Brooklyn and concerned the goings on between Brooklyn's Italian teenagers. Donna was born and raised in Brooklyn's Sheepshead Bay, a predominantly Jewish and Italian neighborhood. After trying to rid herself of the stereotypical Brooklynese accent, Pescow was told to



resurrect it for the flick.

'Angie' is situated in a middle-class Philadelphia Italian neighborhood where the distinctive accent is the norm for the territory. "A good portion of Angie is me, although she may deal with a given situation quicker than me. In reality we're both pretty definite and impulsive. Angie does what most people think about doing," said the green-eyed 25-year-old.

Success

Donna attributes the show's success to the "wonderful company of actors" that are seen on the program. "There's lots of input between the actors and writers and that's true of any series that has the same people week in and week out. Of course, our time position helps, too," she chuckled.

"Overall I just think it's a great

story to work with. There hasn't been too much done about Philadelphia lately and here we have two newlyweds dealing with each other and the outside pressure of the social structure."

Reflecting upon her own personal success during the last two years, Donna philosophically pointed out, "It takes knowing your craft and really being prepared to work. In acting, you have to keep your instruments in tune. For me, 'Fever' opened a lot of doors. It was like going from the minors (she has been doing stagework) to the major leagues. In order for me to feel successful, I have to be proud of everything I do."

Post Scripts: 'Angie' will be seen in a new time-slot for the fall '79 season. It will follow 'The Ropers' on Saturday night over ABC.

TV COMPULOG SERVICES, INC.

Glossy 'Goldengirl' is slightly tarnished

by Steve K. Walz

It's the dawn of the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics. Goldene Serafin (played by seductive Susan Anton), a heretofore relative unknown, streaks to the summer games as a member of the American squad on the basis of her lightning-quick victories over the ranking female track stars.

This darling of the media, this 'Goldengirl' of America, is a statuesque blonde of Amazon proportions, equipped with a disarming figure.

Inquiry

Sports agent Jack Dryden (portrayed by James Coburn) is summoned by a conglomerate of businessmen and the adoptive father of the girl, Dr. Serafin (Curt

Jurgens), to spearhead their quest—market the girl as a commercial commodity after she has won three Olympic gold medals.

Mr. Dryden is intrigued with the idea of marketing this 'wonder woman' under the assumed condition that she wins, but when he is told how she is going to win and in which events she will participate, he becomes obsessed in finding out what makes Goldene tick.

First he encounters and participates in a controlled press conference whereby Goldene is programmed to respond to the usual questions (in this case pre-taped) thrust at a star after a given event. Then he is witness to Goldene's punishing workouts in almost round-the-clock fashion.

After cross-examining the girl's 'father,' who tells Dryden that he nurtured her from age four with a

Film Clips



regimen of vitamin injections in order to produce a physically superior being. Dryden becomes suspicious of the good doctor's theor-

ies and of the subject herself.

Goldene is initially reluctant to respond to Dryden's prying about her early train-

ing methods, but eventually titillates the sports agent with the information that in order to get the desired response, her teachers used a vibrator as a reward stimulus. A bemused Dryden shoots back with a line

himself. "Boy, we've come a long way since Pavlov, haven't we?"

But Dryden isn't finished. He consults a geneticist and is convinced that Goldene has been treated not with vitamin injections but with hormone shots, reminiscent of the Nazi eugenics programs during WWII.

Has Goldene's father pursued these theories in order to prove himself to the medical establishment and the world as a whole? Can Goldene possibly be aware of the risks her father has taken with her life?

TV COMPULOG SERVICES, INC.

Gosmic Signs

AQUARIUS



(January 20 - February 18) Your mate or a close associate may provide the lift you need, as situations take a turn for the better and vitality is restored.

PISCES



(February 19 - March 20) Long-term gains are made by seeking practical, unemotional answers to organizing your daily routine on a sounder basis.

ARIES



(March 21 - April 21) You can have what you want if you'll find a common ideal and unite on a mutual goal.

TAURUS



(April 22 - May 21) Misplaced papers or misunderstood dialogues may create difficulties. Health or job may be affected, too.

GEMINI



(May 22 - June 21) Accept delays in a light-hearted way, and don't let touchy nerves react oversensitively to life's little bumps and bruises.

CANCER



(June 22 - July 23) Ignore rumors and innuendoes circulating at work or throughout the neighborhood.

LEO



(July 24 - August 23) Sensitive conditions surrounding family and financial matters could create unrealistic worries.

VIRGO



(August 24 - September 23) Financial backing and support may be a necessary part of your plans for the immediate future.

LIBRA



(September 24 - October 22) Efforts to communicate your ideas or look for advancement through your work will pay off.

SCORPIO



(October 23 - November 22) Your drive to get ahead could irritate others, some of whom could be definite assets to your aims.

SAGITTARIUS



(November 23 - December 22) The accent is on romance, travel, gains through original enterprises and educational programs.

CAPRICORN



(December 23 - January 19) Don't do things you'll regret when confronted by obstacles and frustrations in getting what you want out of life.