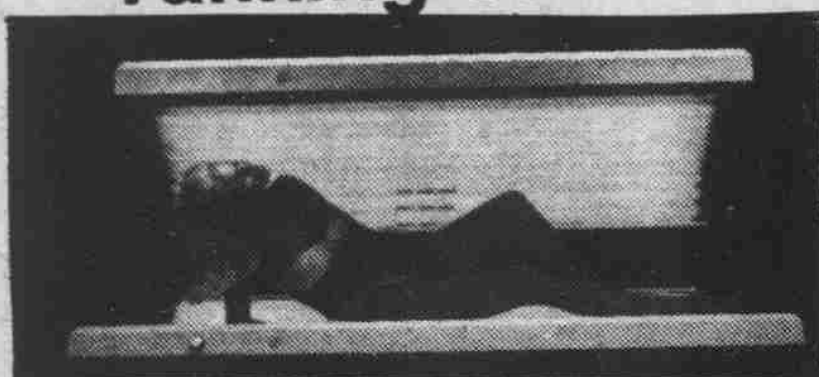


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In "Over the Top," Sly Rocky Rambo can't stand it when you make fun of his hat

Check out the Dream Girls

Joe Bob Briggs

At the Drive-In

My favorite teevee show is called "Dream Girl USA," which comes on Channel 21 Sunday morning right after rodeo and right before Jimmy Swaggart, and the basic idea is you take all your rejects from the Miss Providence, R.I., beauty pageant and you ask 'em to come out to Hollywood and stay at the Hilton three days and sing "Oklahoma" with their hands on their hips and wear stiletto high heels and answer the weekly "think on your feet" question, which is always somethin' like, "What is your favorite Bee Gee and why?" Then, all the time they're doing this, there's a panel of judges, guys like Ziggy "The Animal" Liebowitz, head of Liebowitz and Frick Productions, and Wilhelmina Swanson, head of The Swanson Agency, which did all the casting for "Rat Patrol: The Second Edition." And the celebrity judges are hittin' these automatic electronic gong buttons that flash points up on the screen, so as soon as Desiree Dillard from East Winnebago, Kan., stops poundin' out the "Christian Hits of Amy Grant" medley on a baby grand piano and grinnin' like a Siamese jackal, they can zap a big ole "27" up on the screen to show that she didn't do diddly, and then whoever's left over at the end gets to come back for the semifinals and try to win some more nail polish.

It's great.
I watch it every week.

Here's the best part of the deal: the "up close and personal" interviews with the contestants. Like here's one with Faith Jeridan of Stillwater, Okla., who's a daycare assistant at Interstate 40 Baptist Church when she's not having her body waxed in preparation for "Dream Girl USA":

"When I really feel like splurging, I have my boyfriend take me to Baskin Robbins. On most days I eat yogurt. You have to when you're trying to watch that figure. But then

I'll say to myself, 'Faith, you DESERVE some of the banana-nut surprise,' and I just feel so GUILTY. But that's what I like about life here in Stillwater. It's the kind of place where you can take it easy, be with your friends, be whoever I want to be, and someday I hope to be able to use my personal skills as a people person to settle down and do something wonderful with my life in the advertising and public relations field. That's why 'Dream Girl USA' is so important to me. This is a great country, and God loves you."

I'm telling ya, WATCH THIS SHOW. You don't believe me. I KNOW you don't believe me. You CANNOT get this on the network.

Speaking of body meat, this week we have the greatest Sly Rocky Rambo flick since "Rambo Second Blood." Sylvester wrote it, but here's the good part Sylvester did NOT direct it. It's called "Over the Top," where Sly is a trucker headed to Vegas for the arm-rasslin' championship, only first he has to pick up the son he abandoned 10 years ago, wait for his ex-wife to die of a heart attack, break down the gate at the evil grandpa's mansion, go to jail, and say, "Remember, Mike, the world meets nobody halfway," about nine times, 'cause that's the Message of the Movie. So much for the plot.

What makes this a highly decent flick is the director, the Ragin Israeli himself, Mister "Delta Force," you know who I'm talkin' about Menahem Golan. Menahem's the guy who went to see Sly two, three years ago and said he'd give him about 75 million bucks to make this flick, and Sly said "Whah" and they closed the deal on the spot. And then Menahem went out and got Stirling

Silliphant, the guy who wrote "Route 66" and about 97 other TV shows, to work with Sly on the scripter-rooney, and what we got is Stallone without any Cobra baloney. And then came the most important decision of all: Menahem had the meeting where they said, "Sly, your wife can't be in the movie this time." And after Sly stopped bawlin', they made the movie. It's great.

No breasts. (Susan Blakely was the only possibility.) Three arm-rasslin' contests, includin' the great Texas grunt-off. Two motor vehicle chases. One dead body. Gate-crashing. Drive-In Academy Award nominations for Bruce Way, as John Grizzly the arm rassler, for gulpin' Valvoline and swallowin' cigars to psyche out his opponents; Robert Loggia, for sayin', "There's ALWAYS a way to bend the law"; David Mendenhall, as Sly's kid, for bein' Mikey on "General Hospital" for six years and livin' to tell about it; Sly Rocky Rambo, for sayin' "I need this truck"; Menahem Golan, the Ragin' Israeli; and Rick Zumwalt, as Bob Bull Hurley the all-time greatest arm rassler, for sayin' "I drive truck, break arm and arm rassler. That's what I know. That's what I do. I try to cripple the man." Four stars.

This week's Drive-In Videos: "Pay or Die" (1979) Filipino kung fu queen Marie Lee joins up with a transvestite and a 300-pound fortune teller to kickbox some slopehead mobsters. Imelda Fu. One star.

"Jungle Holocaust" (?) "true account" of a guy who discovered some Stone Age cannibals eatin' dirty flowers, gettin' the spider-torture treatment, watchin' crocodile brain surgery, rapin' a native girl and tellin' her how he'll build her a great place in Malibu once they get out. Unfortunately, she gets turned into a Swanson TV dinner. Ferdinand Fu. Three stars.

Joe Bob says check 'em out.

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