

On Public Television

Fall Season Is Blockbuster

The fall season on North Carolina Public Television explodes with the promise of TV worth watching. After topping all three commercial networks in the August Emmy Awards for public affairs, PBS continues to bring home the gold, right into the homes of its viewers. The season lineup includes blockbuster series, many of which were years in the making, in the areas of history, science and literature. With the record of 19 Emmys, including Outstanding Investigative Journalism and Outstanding Coverage of a Single Breaking New Story, PBS is the network to watch in the areas of news and documentaries as well. Accompanying these developments, public television remains true to its legacy of educational and entertainment programming for adults and children alike.

"We're not stuffy anymore," says Susan Weil, PBS senior vice president of programming. Weil was commenting on this new fall season, hailed by critics as both lively and extraordinary.

"Heritage: Civilization of the Jews" was five years in production. Filmed in 19 countries on four continents, this milestone event for the network and the nation promises to be well worth the wait. Nine episodes document the dramatic course of Jewish experience through 3,000 years of Western civilization. One of the most ambitious productions ever undertaken by public television, "Heritage" premieres Monday, October 1, 9 p.m., over the nine channels of the UNC Center for Public Television.

"The Brain" will provide viewers with the most comprehensive look ever offered at the remarkable three-pound "machine" that encompasses memory, vision, movement, drives, emotion and learning. An attempt to capture one of nature's most mysterious and complex creations requires notable sophistication in production procedures. "The Brain" utilizes special effects including computer animation, time-lapse photography and three-dimensional modeling, as well as human-interest case histories to provide a captivating look at this awesome organ. "The Brain" begins Wednesday, October 10, 8 p.m.

In addition, the fall bill of fare includes familiar offerings. "Myster!"'s new season opens with the wel-

come return of the feisty, irreverent British barrister Horace Rumpole. After having been lured into retirement by She Who Must Be Obeyed (his wife Hilda), the irascible criminal lawyer escapes the Miami sunshine to reclaim his drafty London quarters in the Old Bailey. His gruff manner, sardonic wit, and passionate sense of justice surprisingly intact, the claret-swilling, poetry-spouting Rumpole becomes embroiled in six new cases both in and out of the courtroom. The two-hour premiere airs Thursday, October 11, 8 p.m.

In its third season, "Nature" captures in stunning wildlife in its most intricate, moving and baffling forms. This critically-acclaimed public television series, continually praised for its beauty and excellence by the industry and international wildlife organizations alike, returns Sunday, September 30, 8 p.m. Narrated and hosted by George Page, "Nature"'s record of success is further supported this season by an unprecedented co-production arrangement with BBC's Natural History Unit.

The same network that brings "Sesame Street," "The Electric Company," and "3-2-1 Contact" to children's programming continues to delight and instruct youngsters with "Wonderworks." Star-studded casts appearing in dramas, comedies, fantasies and adventure will provide entertainment for the whole family when "Wonderworks" premieres Sunday, October 7, 7 p.m. The 26 exciting tales focus on the growing-up years and family relationships. The stories have warmth and humor and illustrate some of the "rites of passage" that young people experience.

"The Voyage of the Mimi" takes children on learning adventures weekday afternoons at 5:30. A marine biologist, an oceanographer and three young research assistants meet with unexpected encounters when they sail aboard the ketch "Mimi." Their experiences observing whales and their shipwrecked sojourn on an uninhabited island on the Gulf of Maine lead to explorations in the fields of math and science. Each expedition arrives at a different destination, examining a theme raised in the drama.

When the familiar change of the seasons rolls around, the coming of fall heralds anything but the predictable with the return

of "Great Performances" and "Masterpiece Theatre."

You won't want to miss a single program in the "Great Performances" series this fall. The show-stopping premiere, "Baryshnikov by Tharp with American Ballet Theatre" combines the formidable credits of choreographer Twyla Tharp with the talents of Mikhail Baryshnikov.



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