

## Clips

### Gorby inks for mini

British company Directors International has secured exclusive worldwide television rights to produce former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's life story. The \$4 million four-part mini-series will be filmed at Gorbachev's holiday home this summer, executive producer John Cairns announced Tuesday.

### Reel Gold for Stone

"JFK" director Oliver Stone has won the Reel Gold Award, an honor recognizing special friends of the Independent Feature Project/West. The award will be presented Saturday at Raleigh Studios in Hollywood.

### Slot exchange

FBC's "Roc" and "In Living Color" are trading time slots, starting March 29, a Sunday, when "Roc" moves to 8 p.m. with "Color" to follow at 8:30 p.m. Rap star Tone Loc will help "Roc" make the switch with a guest appearance.

### Honors for Burns

Emmy-winning writer Allan Burns will be this year's recipient of the Valentine Davies Award, presented by the Writers Guild of America West to a member whose contributions "have brought dignity and honor to writers everywhere." The award will be bestowed by Mary Tyler Moore on March 22 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

### 'Rivers' rolls on

"The Joan Rivers Show" will be back for a fourth season, Tribune Entertainment executives told staffers in New York on Tuesday. Speculation had been high that Tribune might pull the plug on the talker, but ratings improved.

### Ladd presenting

Oscar nominee Diane Ladd has been named a presenter for the ACE Eddie Awards dinner March 21 at the Beverly Hilton. She'll present the best edited episode of a TV series Eddie.

### RooArt to Warner

Warner Music International has signed a joint venture agreement with one of Australia's leading record labels, rooArt, which will see Warner market and distribute rooArt releases to the world marketplace. RooArt is run by INXS manager Chris Murphy.

## News

# Battle lines drawn over CPB

*Flap about funding for programs reminiscent of NEA confrontations*

By David Kelly

WASHINGTON — A major battle is being waged in the Senate over funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that is beginning to sound similar to the wars fought over the National Endowment for the Arts.

A group of senators had put "holds" on the CPB funding bill to express their dissatisfaction with CPB, which already received a \$746 million appropriation for 1991-93. Those holds were effectively nullified Tuesday by an 87-7 vote in favor of bringing the issue

to the floor for debate. Those opposing were Sens. Trent Lott, R-Miss.; Bob Dole, R-Kan.; Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo.; Jesse Helms, R-N.C.; Larry Craig, R-Idaho; Robert Smith, R-N.H.; and Don Nickles, R-Okla.

Republican senators on Tuesday claimed the CPB, which funds PBS, has received a free ride — getting billions in taxpayer dollars while thumbing its nose at Congress' mandate to show balanced programming.

On the other side, Democratic senators such as Al Gore, D-

Tenn., accused the Republicans of holding "Big Bird and Mr. Rogers hostage" in a shameless attempt to play politics with the equivalent of a national trust.

The issue revolves around CPB funding for fiscal year 1994 (\$310 million), 1995 (\$375 million) and 1996 (\$425 million). The total is a

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## Give Buchwald what Landis got, Maslansky says

(AP) — Columnist Art Buchwald flew to Los Angeles from Washington to hear producer Paul Maslansky testify Tuesday that Buchwald should have made as much from "Coming to America" as did the film's director, John Landis.

But outside court, Buchwald professed not to care about damages he might win in his suit against Paramount Pictures.

"My lawyer cares," the humorist said. "But I make a very good living at what I do and I'd be very happy to receive a nice settlement for one reason: people judge you in this country by how much money

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## Ehrlich exits as 'Miller' producer

By Barry Layne

NEW YORK — In the first of what will probably be several key production changes at the freshman late-night talk strip, producer Ken Ehrlich has left as producer of Tribune Entertainment's "The Dennis Miller Show," Tribune confirmed Tuesday.

Ehrlich will be succeeded by Laurence Ferber, executive producer of Tribune's "The Joan Rivers Show," the syndicator said.

Ferber, who will serve as executive producer, said he will be at his

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## Foster senior vp prod'n at Simpson/Bruckheimer

Lucas Foster has joined Don Simpson/Jerry Bruckheimer Films as a senior vp production.

In the newly created position, Foster, who was most recently vp production with Lynda Obst, will be responsible for acquiring and developing new material for Simpson and Bruckheimer as well as completing development on existing projects and taking them into active production.

The company is based at Walt Disney Studios in Burbank.

In a statement, Bruckheimer said, "Don Simpson/Jerry Bruck-

heimer Films is committed to expanding its presence in the theatrical arena through increased product acquisition as well as a stepped-up production schedule. Lucas' experience and track record in both development and production will prove invaluable in achieving this goal. Both Don and I are extremely pleased that he has joined us."

Before working with Obst, Foster was vp production for Scott Rudin from 1988-90. While there, he was responsible for the com-

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## Big 3 split DGA variety noms

Directors Guild of America Awards nominations for outstanding directorial achievement in a TV musical or variety show, announced Tuesday, went to veteran TV directors Hal Gurnee, Jeff Margolis and Walter C. Miller.

Gurnee, director of NBC's "Late Night With David Letterman," won an Emmy last year but has yet to win a DGA Award — this despite the fact that he's been nomi-

nated in each of the past five years.

Margolis, director of ABC's "63rd Annual Academy Awards," won the DGA award last year for his direction of the "62nd Annual Academy Awards."

Miller, director of CBS' "1991 Tony Awards," won the DGA award in 1986 for "Liberty Weekend" and in 1988 for the "100th Birthday Celebration of Ir-

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## 'Rose' may blossom in rerelease

By Anita M. Busch

After a long, uphill marketing battle, "Rambling Rose," which brought Oscar nominations for Diane Ladd and Laura Dern, may be rereleased through theaters in Los Angeles, according to New Line Cinema.

The distributor said Tuesday it is planning a March 11 rerelease for the Seven Arts feature through

one General Cinema theater, one Cineplex Odeon theater and one Mann theater. Currently there are no firm bookings, according to New Line. Seven Arts is a domestic distribution partnership formed by Carolco Pictures and New Line Cinema Corp.

The rerelease would be a major coup for the only film with Oscar

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