

## Vanna as 'Goddess' too much to pass up?

By David Eskota

The News television writer

And now in her television movie debut is Vanna White. Oh, Vanna?

In NBC's *The Goddess of Love*, which airs Sunday at 9 p.m. on WYFF Channel 4, the letter-turning living statue from *Wheel of Fortune* plays an ancient Greek statue of Venus that springs to life when she finds true love.

Well, what did you expect? Lady MacBeth? Revealing vowels and consonants, even on America's most beloved game show, isn't exactly method acting. Has Vanna ever worried about her motivation? Did she live among other game show hostesses for months to immerse herself in the role before tackling *Wheel of Fortune*?

Try as I might, I was unable to obtain a tape of *Goddess of Love* for preview. NBC may have wanted it under wraps to provide maximum entertainment value.

The story opens on Mt. Olympus among the figures of Greek

### PRIME TIME

mythology. After toying with the affections of yet another mortal male, Vanna/Venus is turned into a statue by Greek god kingpin Zeus (the usually respectable John Rhys-Davies). She can return to life only after she cleans up her act, a difficult feat while entombed in marble.

Several thousand years pass. The statue is stolen from a museum and ends up in a garden in Southern California. At a bachelor party, the groom-to-be (David Naughton, the singing spokesman for Dr. Pepper in happier times) slips his bride's ring on the statue's finger. Thinking this is true love, Venus revives and the madcap antics begin.

The oddball cast includes David "Joe Isuzu" Leisure and rock legend Little Richard.

For television programmers,

See TV, Page 9B

TV

Continued from Page 1B

The 25th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death fell in a fortuitous month. November is when ratings services conduct one of their quarterly "sweeps."

Sandwiched between the In-Anderson's special earlier this month and the upcoming "Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald" docudrama heard by the omnipresent Gerardo Rivera, is a sturdy little documentary on the assassination that airs Saturday on the Afters Entertainment cable network.

"Reasonable Doubt," a 1988 film that recently won a CINE Golden Eagle Award for best documentary, is a solid, unsensationalized examination that appears to demolish the government's contention that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the Kennedy assassination.

The documentary's sole topic is the so-called "single-bullet theory," of the Warren Commission, which held that only three bullets were fired at JFK, and that one bullet pierced Kennedy's neck and inflicted three separate wounds on then-Texas Gov. John Connally, who was riding with the president.

Through ballistics and medical evidence, testimony from researchers and other experts, including that from Connally's doctor and Connally himself, film the assassination and the physical layout of the scene of the slaying, the documentary concludes that Oswald could not have acted alone.

Some of it is a rehash of contentions that have been floating around for more than two decades, and no opposing viewpoint is offered, but overall, it is a tidy and compelling work.

And rare among such efforts, the documentary makes no attempt to go beyond available evidence to establish the possible identities or motives of any other gunmen who may have been involved.

After sleepwalking through a string of preposterous movies that threatened to make Elvis Presley a laughingstock, the King blindsided his critics in December, 1968 with a triumphant return to blistering rock and roll in the NBC special "Elvis."

Now considered one of Presley's great performances, the comeback special airs Saturday at 8 p.m. on WAXA Channel 40.

Looking lean and nasty in a black leather jumpsuit, Elvis joined his old backup bandmates from the early days at Sun and RCA records and made a striding return to the music he had abandoned after leaving the Army to appear in cinematic treasures like "Clambake" and "Fun in Acapulco."

On Cinemax Saturday at 8 p.m., rock history is captured in a "Vintage Performances" edition on Jimi Hendrix's spectacular appearance at the Monterey Pop Festival in 1967.

Before dousing his guitar with lighter fluid and burning it onstage, Hendrix and his band The Experience ripped through a 10-song set including "Purple Haze," "Like a Rolling Stone" and "Wild Thing." The footage, most of which has not been seen before, was filmed by documentary director D.A. Pennebaker.

The hour special will be simulcast locally on WCKN-FM 101.