

# THIS Week

**FIRST LOOKS** BY JEFF JARVIS

## Big names: MGM...Neil Simon...Linda Lavin

**Black Magic** (Sat., SHO) is *Eerie, Indiana* for grown-ups, a tale of witchcraft, murder and bowling in a strange town. Judge Reinhold goes there when his dead cousin haunts his dreams, falls into bed with Rachel Ward, then tries to figure out whether she cast a spell on him—or just likes him. Wonderfully wacky. On a 1-to-10 scale, my score: 7

**MGM: When the Lion Roars** (Sun.-Tues., TNT)—Hollywood's best voice, Patrick Stewart, narrates a good collection of clips from great MGM flicks. At three parts, this docu-mini is long but lavish and captivating—especially the first episode, covering MGM's pioneering years of 1924-36. My score: 8

**Oliver Stone: Inside Out** (Sun., SHO)—As if we haven't heard enough from Oliver Stone lately, with the orchestrated fuss around his movie "JFK," now here's more of his self-important blather ("So I went into myself and I pulled out my own feel-



Linda Lavin's an outspoken mom in *Room for Two*.

ings"), plus pathetic tributes from actors (Eric Bogosian: "It's like you're going to lose your whole identity if you can't please Oliver"). For a real show about movies, watch TNT's *MGM*. My score: 1

**Broadway Bound** (Mon., ABC) is the first Neil Simon play to be made for TV; we're lucky to have it. This is the dark side of *Brooklyn Bridge*—the story of two smart brothers trying to be comedy writers who live in Brooklyn with their unhappy family: Anne Bancroft is their unfulfilled

mom, who "doesn't know a thing in this world except how to serve someone." Jerry Orbach is their shlumpy, philandering dad. And Hume Cronyn tries to steal the show as their balmy grampa. "There's so much material in this house," says brother Eugene (Corey Parker), "I don't even have to become a writer. If I could only get enough people to pay for seats in the living room." "Broadway" is bitter but sweet, written with flair and acted with compassion—two stand-out hours of TV drama. My score: 9

**Room for Two** (Tues., ABC) replaces *Coach* for a few weeks and I feared this would ruin my Best Night on TV. But there's hope. This is a great idea—a mother-daughter sitcom. That's a relationship so ripe with sharp humor, I'm surprised TV hasn't had more of them. *Alice's* Linda Lavin stars as Mom, who comes to visit her daughter (Patricia Heaton), the producer of a New York morning show. Mom opens her big yap on the air and becomes a spokeswoman for real women ("We want our self-esteem high and our prices low!"), then moves to town to haunt her daughter. My score: 8