

## Briefs

### Negative publicity

"The Cosby Show's" Lisa Bonet wants a federal judge to order the National Enquirer to hand over a negative of her baby daughter. She alleges the negative showing her then month-old daughter, Zoe Kravitz, was stolen by a drug store clerk from the Reseda, Calif., pharmacy that developed her photographs. Bonet has sued the American Drug Stores Inc. chain for unspecified compensatory damages and \$5 million in punitive damages.

### Dallas theater saved

The Dallas movie theater where Lee Harvey Oswald was captured following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been saved from demolition. The Italian renaissance-style Texas Theatre was built by billionaire Howard Hughes and opened in 1931. But the fate of the building had been in doubt since United Artists Theatres Inc. closed it in December for financial reasons. This week, UA agreed to sell it to the Texas Theatre Historical Society for \$175,000.

### Wagoner gatecrasher

A woman driving a pickup truck crashed through the gate at the Nashville, Tenn., home of Grand Ole Opry star Porter Wagoner and then fled, police said. Officers obtained warrants charging Glenda Kniphfer with trespassing and vandalism, both misdemeanors, after the incident late Tuesday. She was being sought Wednesday. Police said she had been ordered off the property before.

### Shoot start

Paramount Pictures' danceable comedy "Stepping Out," starring Liza Minnelli, has started principal shooting in Toronto, with Lewis Gilbert ("Shirley Valentine") producing and directing Richard Harris' adaptation of his own play. John Dark is serving as co-producer; Bill Kenwright is executive producer. Release is slated for spring 1991.

### Shoot start II

Principal photography also began this week in Moscow for Andre Konchalovsky's "The Projectionist," starring Tom Hulce and Lolita Davidovich. Shooting in the Soviet Union will continue for four months, with several scenes to be shot behind the walls of the Kremlin. Claudio Bonivento produces from an original screenplay by Konchalovsky and Anatoly Usov for Bonivento Film Prods. and Mosfilm.

# Odyssey caught in capital crunch

Odyssey Entertainment Ltd., the Los Angeles-based independent film company, said it faces a capital shortfall that may force it to curtail operations or possibly even fold, according to company documents.

"The company has incurred substantial operating losses since its inception that raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern," said Odyssey in filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. "Cash flow from foreign sales and distribution operations is not sufficient to finance current operations, and the company has a substantial and immediate need for additional financing..." whether or not a previously an-

nounced merger goes through as planned.

Simultaneously, the company reported on Wednesday improved earnings for the first quarter ended June 30, posting net income of \$263,916, or 6 cents a share, vs. a net loss of \$948,721, or a loss of 21 cents a share, in the same period a year earlier.

Revenue soared to \$4.8 million from \$435,733 a year ago, lifted by returns from "Q&A," which Tri-Star Pictures released. Regarding the murder drama "Q&A," Odyssey said in a statement that it "has foreign distribution rights and participates through a joint venture in a percentage of the domestic

revenues."

The year-ago loss was restated to reflect discontinuation of Odyssey's TV commercial arm. Also, the current figures include a \$500,000 management service fee to Double Helix Films Inc. Company shareholders

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## Think grows up with 'Amendment'

By PAULA PARISI

In a move to broaden its scope beyond the children's fare for which it has become known, Shelley Duvall's Think Entertainment has acquired TV rights to the adult-themed novel "The Amendment," which deals with the subject of abortion.

"We're branching out into more adult fare, and we loved the title and the concept of this," said Think president Dennis Miller.

The novel, by Sue Robinson, revolves around a mother whose daughter has been killed by the authorities in an illegal abortion clinic in a future America where abortion

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## Bean in for Smith as CFO at LIVE

LIVE Entertainment has hired Theodore Bean as executive vp and chief financial officer, replacing Roger Smith, who will move to LIVE's controlling shareholder, Carolco Pictures, as executive vp.

Bean is expected to join LIVE, the Los Angeles-based music and home video marketer, around Sept. 10. He is executive vp and chief financial officer of PACE Membership Warehouse, a unit of K mart Corp.

LIVE chairman Wayne Patter-

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## VH-1 buys vintage ABC news specials

NEW YORK — VH-1 has acquired nine one-hour original ABC News programs highlighting top news stories from the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

The programs, "Great TV News Stories," reinforce VH-1's commitment to its target 25-49 age group audience, which grew up during the

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## Lee rebuts anti-Semite claim, lashes out at 'double standard'

Director-writer-actor Spike Lee made a formal reply to charges of anti-Semitism made against him and his most recent film, "Mo' Better Blues" — with a formal op-ed piece in Wednesday's New York Times.

Lee, who is based in Brooklyn, defended his portrayal of Jewish nightclub owners in "Mo' Better Blues" by noting that "all Jewish nightclub owners are not (exploitative), that's true, but these two are."

The filmmaker, currently in production on "Jungle Fever," also described the "double standard" by which he is measured by journalists

and film critics. Taking note of the fact that he gets "more heat from black people about my depictions of blacks than I do from white people," Lee wondered why no one has written "about the racist images in Walt Disney films like 'Song of the South' and 'Dumbo.'"

Lee also mentioned film writers' lionization of the 1915 D.W. Griffith film "Birth of a Nation," and asked why those journalists who scrutinize his work "don't write long, critical articles" about a film Lee said "was used as a recruiting tool by the Ku Klux Klan?"

"If we're gonna play the game of

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## New World gets Irving TV rights

New World Entertainment and producers Diane and Mel Sokolow have bought the rights to Clifford Irving's "Trial" to develop as a two-part miniseries for NBC.

John Gay ("Fatal Vision," "Blind Faith") has been set to write the teleplay based on the novel to be published by Simon & Schuster this fall.

Irving gained notoriety in the early 1970s, when he wrote and sold to a publisher what he claimed was an autobiography of the late billionaire

Howard Hughes. The book turned out to be a fake and Irving spent 17 months in jail for fraud.

"Trial" is the first project to be produced under the Sokolows' new exclusive television deal with New World for the production of miniseries, telefilms and series.

Among other projects under way are "Guest of Emperor," based on the novel by Janice Young Brooks, which is being developed as a telefilm for NBC, with Walter Halsey

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## BAFTA salute delayed by crisis

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts has notified the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences that it has postponed its plans for a "Salute to American Television" in October.

That scuttles the plans of 100 ATAS members, led by ATAS president Leo Chaloukian, to journey from Hollywood to London to witness and participate in the salute.

"The volatile and potentially very dangerous situation in the Middle East makes postponement of our 'salute' inevitable," said BAFTA director Tony Tyrne in a letter to ATAS.

"It would be inappropriate and insensitive to proceed with a salute, intended to be a happy celebration party, that might well coincide with the United States, supported by Britain and other allies, being engaged in an horrific war situation."

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