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THIS WEEK » HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY
JUNE 8

REALITY

HERE COME THE NEWLYWEDS
ABC, CITY-TV, 10 p.m.

Heaven help us, it's a hit. Launched two weeks ago, the hybrid reality series/game show hosted by Canadian Pat Bullard appears to have found its niche with a regular audience of five-million-plus U.S. viewers. Slated for an eight-episode run, the series began with nine couples put through a battery of mental and physical challenges designed to test the strength of their marital bond. Tonight, the seven remaining couples take separate meetings with a "tantric educator." Later, the wives visit a hardware store, where they have to locate various items described to them via cellphone by their husbands. Highly entertaining television, even if the stereotypes date back to *The Flintstones*.

DRAMA

HOUSE
Fox, Global, 8 p.m.

TV's most reliable medical drama since *ER's* departure, *House* holds up on repeated viewing. Tonight, the cantankerous Dr. House (Hugh Laurie) and his team are presented with the case of a famous fitness trainer who blacks out while filming an infomercial. The diagnosticians suspect steroids, or vitamin deficiency, but further testing suggests the patient has an unusual slimming secret. In non-medical storylines, the sexy hospital administrator Cuddy (Lisa Edelstein) is forced to share office space with House. As always, the mad medic doth protest too much.

DOCUMENTARY

THE ANATOMY OF BURLESQUE
Bravo!, 9 p.m.

Long before strip bars in strip malls, there was burlesque. And this heartfelt profile comes from a qualified

source: Produced by ex-stripper Lindalee Tracey, the program pays tribute to contributions of Mata Hari, the Minsky brothers and Mae West. A classy look at a now-tacky profession.

DRAMA

NURSE JACKIE
The Movie Network,
Movie Central, 9 p.m.

Edie Falco of *The Sopranos* takes the title role in this new Showtime series. Merging medical drama and black humour, the show revolves around Jackie Peyton, a strong-willed New York emergency-room nurse with a near-clairvoyant ability to ascertain each patient's ailment. Nurse Jackie is also hooked on Vicodin and other painkillers. The eclectic supporting cast is rounded out by Haaz Sleiman (24) playing a gay Muslim nurse and Paul Schulze - who played a priest on *The Sopranos* - as Jackie's pharmacist boyfriend and unwitting drug supplier. Early buzz on this series says it's a keeper.

TUESDAY
JUNE 9

HEALTH

REMEDY ME!
W, 8 p.m.

This week's hidden gem, *Remedy Me!* will appeal to those people who require a second medical opinion. Each entry in the documentary series follows two people suffering from the same ailment. The conditions range from excessive gas to PMS, and the patients have exhausted all the conventional medical modalities. This evening's program spends time with Jean-François and Jaymie, who both grind their teeth. Both have sustained aching jaws and cracked molars. Jean tries something called Integrative Energy Healing, while Jaymie opts for massage therapy.



Does the Saunders portrait depict Shakespeare? OLIVIER LEGER

REALITY CHECK
BATTLE OF WILLS

"Two portraits both alike in dignity - with rival claims whereon we base our tale - herein contend for authenticity: by provenance, by probe, by paper trail. The first, a royal gallery's vaunted prize 200 years unchallenged, now must face an heirloom piece that, in its owner's eyes, hath better call to merit pride of place." So goes the prologue to this excellent hour investigating the relatively unknown countenance of William Shakespeare. Montreal director Anne Henderson focuses on two well-known images: the "Chandos portrait" hanging in Britain's National Portrait Gallery, and a more youthful visage done by John Saunders, which retired engineer Lloyd Sullivan says has been in his family for generations. The first time we see Sullivan, he's struggling through seven-foot-high snowbanks at his Ottawa home carrying his boxed treasure to the trunk of his sedan. He's off to another round of verification tests, shown here in their exhaustive detail. The detective work is fascinating to witness, so too are the attitudes, both snooty and awestruck, from celebrated art dealers and collectors. » *Sunday, 8 p.m. on Bravo!*
» *Catherine Dawson March*

Also new:

- » *Raised to Be Heroes*, Saturday, 8 p.m., Documentary channel (available for free all this month). The 2006 film looks at Israel's Refuseniks, a group of soldiers who will die for their country, but not in a war against Palestinians.
- » *World's Tallest Children*, Sunday, 10 p.m., TLC. What's it like to be 7-foot-4 at age 13? Or 5-foot-9 by the time you're 11? The hour-long show tones down the freak-show element by researching the children's long-term health challenges and day-to-day struggles.
- » *Paris Hilton's My New BFF*, Thursday, 9 p.m. on Star, MuchMusic. Speaking of children, the spoiled one starts a new round of playground antics. Apparently, last season's "best friend forever" let the limelight go to her head and Paris had to dump her.

DRAMA

MENTAL
Fox, Global, 9 p.m.

This summer tryout series about a radical psychiatric think House, but better-looking - has earned respectable U.S. ratings. The stories ar steeped in reality and newcomer Chris Vance is a fin the unorthodox Dr. Jack Gallagher. Tonight, he tries to communicate with a famous philosopher named Cideo (David Carradine), who slipped into a catatonic st after suffering a lightning strike that killed his wife. Complicating the case is D Gallagher's growing attraction to the patient's free-spirited daughter, played by Canadian ingenue Estella Warren. *Mental* is worth a look.

DRAMA

QUANTUM LEAP
Vision, 9 p.m.

Remember this show? Airt from 1989 to 1993, *Quantum Leap* starred Scott Bakula as Dr. Sam Beckett, a scientist bouncing through time following a botched experiment. Sam was faithfully accompanied on his time journeys by hologram sidekick Al (Dea Stockwell), who provided celestial advice as needed. Tonight's show finds the pair switching places: Following the Second World War, Al must find a way to reunite veteran with the woman he left behind, while Sam tries to communicate with Al's time master, known as Ziggy. *Go retro-TV.*

REALITY

THE LITTLE COUPLE
TLC, 10 p.m.

Bill Klein and Jen Arnold are your typical newlyweds, except that both are well under four-feet tall. The new series makes much ado of the tiny pair's struggle to get by in a supersized world. Tonight, they dive into the job of finding a new home. Bill wants sprawling ranch house in the suburbs; the more practical Jen wants something closer to the city, and her job. The little couple are just like most married couples, only littler. Just be grateful they don't have eight little kids.