



**Updated 'Loonatics' coming to television**

NEW YORK — Bugs Bunny and his pals are being updated for the future — way in the future.

The WB network will take the famed Looney Tunes characters as models for a new children's series, "Loonatics," that will air on Saturday mornings starting this fall. The characters' descendants — Buzz Bunny and the like — will be superhero action figures for the cartoon set in the year 2772.

The network's animators have re-imagined Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Wile E. Coyote as sleek new figures for a modern age.

"We all flipped for it," David Janollari, president of the Kids' WB, said this week. "We just said, 'Wow, what a great way to take the classic Looney Tunes franchise that has been huge with audiences for decades and bring it into the new millennium.'"

**Dance, dance**

This month's USABDA dance will be at the Youngstown Manchhoe, at 6:15 p.m. today. Fox-trot lessons will be the opener, with general dance starting at 7 p.m.

**Tsunami relief concert scheduled at Kent**

KENT — Two Indian instrumentalists will perform at Kent State University to help raise funds for tsunami victims. Sitarist Nishat Khan, accompanied by tabla master Abhiman Kaushal, will appear in an 8 p.m. March 1 in F.W. Ludwig Recital Hall, Music and Speech Building.

Both Khan and Kaushal are on the faculty of the University of California Los Angeles. They are donating their services, allowing all proceeds to be used for tsunami relief efforts in India.

The concert is sponsored by Kent State University's Center for the Study of World Music and Kent's India Music Circle. Tickets for the performance will be: \$15 students, \$25 regular admission, \$45 Patron and \$75 Sponsor.

Tickets and more information can be obtained at the Kent Chamber offices, 138 E. Main St., (330) 673-9855; at the School of Music box office, (330) 672-2172; or at the door on the day of the performance.

**Anything Goes**

YOUNGSTOWN — The University Theater at Youngstown State University will present "Anything Goes" Saturday through next Sunday and March 4-5 in Ford Theater, Bliss Hall.

With music and lyrics by Cole Porter and a new book by Timothy Crouse and John Weideman, this 1934 classic is filled with familiar songs.

Tickets are general seating and may be reserved by calling the University Theater box office at (330) 941-3105, between 10 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays. There is no admission charge for YSU students with I.D. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for non-USU students, senior citizens, alumni, and groups of 5 or more.

**Benefit dance**

GIRARD — Big Daddy Burl will entertain at 8:30 p.m. March 5 in the Creekside Golf Dome for the benefit of the American Cancer Society. Donation is \$5 per person, which will go to the Niles Relay For Life scheduled May 6-8 at Bo Rein Stadium in Niles.

The dome is at 1300 N. State St. For more information, call (330) 841-4970. Trumbull County Relays also will be held May 13-14 in Warren, May 20-21 in Liberty, June 10-11 in Cortland and June 17-18 in Lordstown.

**Artists association**

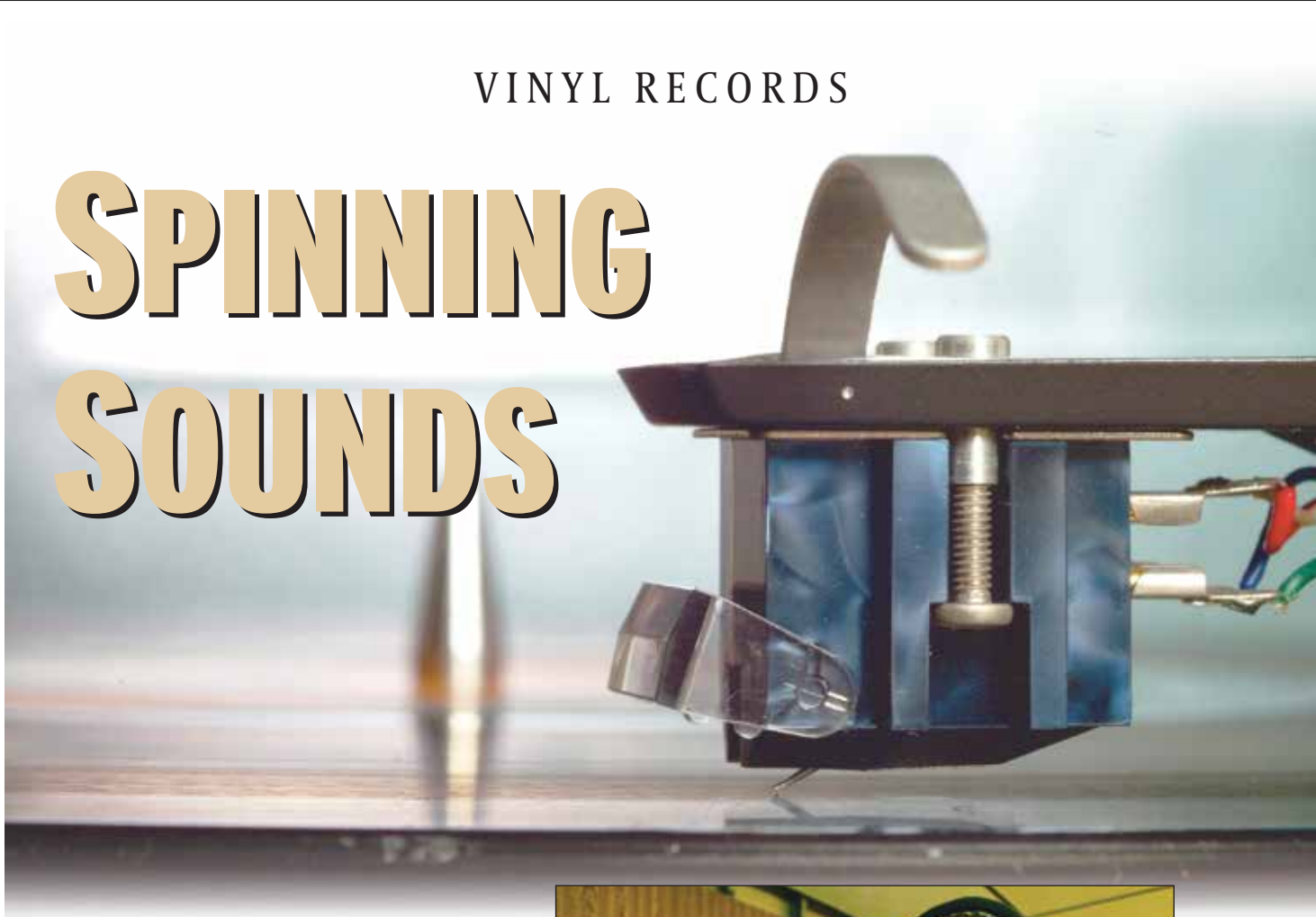
NEW CASTLE, Pa. — The Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts has created the Hoyt Artist's Association, a guild for practicing artists in the traditional fine arts media. The organization, open to artists in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, will have two annual shows, quarterly meetings, Web site listings, a newsletter and marketing opportunities.

Membership is open to people 18 and older living within 100 miles of New Castle. A group of 3-5 works must be presented in person for viewing by a panel of judges. If accepted dues are \$45 a year.

The first screening is March 5. Works may be picked up March 12. For information or to get an application, call (724) 652-2882, ext. 14.

VINYL RECORDS

## SPINNING SOUNDS



*For many, records bring sounds of the past to the present.*

tion, and believe that CDs cannot compare with vinyl. Dave Richardson of New Castle, Pa., is a true audiophile, and eagerly shares his knowledge about the highest quality recordings and equipment. Many of his vinyls are from Mobile Fidelity, half speed masters, the original stamps, recorded at half speed, which gives them a better sound quality.

"They were pressed in Japan by JVC, Japanese Victor Corporation, which bought the rights to RCA Victor. They used high definition virgin vinyl. Japan didn't have stringent air quality control, and vinyl is a pollutant. In the '80s, right before the downfall of records, companies were using old vinyl melted down, and the quality wasn't good." Do Richardson's vinyls have "cracks and pops"? Absolutely not! He tells of listening to a Japanese CD of Miles Davis worth about \$35 on a \$5,000 CD player. It sounded phenomenal, until he heard the same recording, redone on a 45 speed lp. "The difference was unbelievable," he said. "It sounded like Miles was in the room."

The other group of people who really love their vinyl are DJs, particularly those who do dance clubs. Jonathan Laughlin and Shannon Landess, of Sam Goody's in Alliance explain "scratching."

"The DJ can play two records at once, blend them, mess with the speeds. The equalizer can bring out the guitar, lessen drums. They can enhance and distort various aspects of the recording. It is a way of controlling a pre-recorded sound, and can't really be done with a CD."

See Vinyl on Page D3



**RARE VINYL:** Ron Hrehovcik, owner of Underdog Records, shows off a colored vinyl record. The rare records often are worth more to collectors.

**Analog format gives a richer, warmer tone**

So, how do vinyl records work?

Al Simones of Purple Phrogg Records in North Lima can supply a wealth of information to anyone wanting to know technical stuff about recording. Since he also is a recording artist, he knows the ins and outs of the recording industry.

"Analog and digital recording are currently both available to artists. If you are your own producer, you can demand analog, and many artists do," he said.

"Analog is recorded on magnetic tape, while digital is done on computer, which is why it loses its warmth. Before we purchase a recording, it has gone through three stages. First is the initial recording. Then it is mastered, that is, a blending of tracks, mix of tones of each instrument, and adjustment of volume, etc. The final recording is the format in which it is mass

produced, that is, CD or vinyl. On a CD, you will find the letters A and D, meaning analog and digital. For instance, a CD could be originally recorded, then mastered in analog, and the letters would be AAD, because, since the final format is CD, it would end in digital. Likewise, a recording could be originally done and mastered digitally, then recorded on vinyl. This doesn't usually make sense, because the 'warmth' of the vinyl is lost, however, some artists who record on CD still choose to release some vinyls."

Dave Richardson of New Castle provided insight into the way the sound is produced. "In mono recordings, the needle only vibrates from side to side," he said. "In stereo, there is also an up and down movement; up supplies sound to one channel, and down to the other."

**WEB SITES AND OTHER INFO**

**VINYL SOLD HERE**  
**Flipside Records**, 940 N. Hermitage Road, Hermitage, Pa. (724) 342-0824. Store houses 2 million records. www.flipmail.com/flipmap.htm  
**Purple Phrogg Records**, 11675 Market St., North Lima. (330) 549-0141. www.psychedelic-music.net; click on Simones.  
**Underdog Records**, 6181 Youngstown-Hubbard Road, Hubbard. (330) 534-2241.

**ONLINE**  
[www.recordsbymail.com](http://www.recordsbymail.com), more than 1 million records in stock.  
[www.all-vinyl.com](http://www.all-vinyl.com).  
[www.vinylrecords.co.uk](http://www.vinylrecords.co.uk).  
[www.musicstack.com](http://www.musicstack.com).  
[www.vinyltap.co.uk](http://www.vinyltap.co.uk).

**COLLECTORS**  
[www.vinyl-record-collectors.net](http://www.vinyl-record-collectors.net).  
[www.recordcollectorsguild.org](http://www.recordcollectorsguild.org).  
[www.helsinki.fi/~tuschno/records](http://www.helsinki.fi/~tuschno/records)  
[www.earthwaverecords.com](http://www.earthwaverecords.com).

**CHRONOLOGIES**  
[www.edisonnj.org/menlopark/birthplace](http://www.edisonnj.org/menlopark/birthplace)

**TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT**  
**Audio Arts**, 6826 Market St., Youngstown. (330) 758-2158.  
**Golden Gramophone**, 2858 W. Market St., Akron. (330) 864-4411.  
[amusicdirect.com](http://amusicdirect.com).



**LOOKING FOR AN AUDIENCE**

# Some of best shows get worst news

*Despite critical acclaim, they might not make it.*

By LYNN ELBER  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — "Arrested Development" star Jason Bateman and the sitcom's creator, Mitchell Hurwitz, were assessing the cuddle quotient in a show that viewers may soon lose the chance to embrace.

"There are a surprising number of hugs in the show. We just make jokes about how they [the characters] never hug," said Hurwitz. "So even when Michael's mother hugs him, he says, 'What are you doing? Why are you squeezing me with your body?'"

Bateman, who stars as Michael in the acerbic Fox comedy about the dysfunctional Bluth family, offers a

solution: "You've got the Pax network if you want a good hug."

But he and the rest of the "Arrested Development" clan might be in need of comfort: Fox is halting production after 18 episodes, shy of the usual 22, bringing the season — and maybe the series — to a premature end April 17.

"American Dad" takes its 8:30 p.m. Sunday slot starting May 1. The animated comedy about a CIA agent and his family scored in a post-Super Bowl preview and Fox awarded it the premium real estate after "The Simpsons."

With the football extravaganza as launching pad, "American Dad" drew 15 million viewers. For its sophomore season to date, "Arrested Development" is averaging 6 million weekly viewers, down from last season's average audience of 6.2 million.

The lack of interest persists despite rave reviews and awards: a Golden Globe for Bateman in January and a best-comedy series Emmy last year.

It's not the only program suffering a gap between quality and ratings. "Jack & Bobby" (9 p.m. Wednesdays), the WB's drama about the formative years of a future U.S. president, can't stoke viewer interest despite a critically acclaimed first season.

Although a relatively new network like WB doesn't demand "American Idol"-size ratings, the 2.7 million average weekly audience for "Jack & Bobby" is scant compared with the nearly 6 million watching WB's most-watched series, "7th Heaven."

Worthy shows have come and gone many times before, but the irony is acute for the latest endangered pair: "Arrested Development," which

is ferociously clever and daringly breaks the laugh-track, multicamera sitcom mold, arrived as the genre cried out for rejuvenation.

**'Around the side door'**

With the passing of "Friends," "Sex and the City" and (at the end of this season) "Everybody Loves Raymond," observers have lamented the mostly uninspired retreats that are left.

"Arrested Development" wasn't entirely startling — "Seinfeld" reveled in the crassness of its characters; "Curb Your Enthusiasm" saw its cynicism and raised it.

But the Fox show was asking a sitcom family to be received as something other than inherently warm and loving, and derived its dry humor from the characters' odd, morally suspect behavior.

That audiences would take awhile to adapt was understandable,

**CBS**



Catherine Bell

## 'JAG' aims to appear more hip

*It must get younger viewers if it wants to please CBS.*

By DAVE MASON  
 SCRIPPS HOWARD

If "JAG" returns next season, the military series will no longer have to hide the palm trees.

Instead, it will embrace the beach. Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie, the Marine lawyer played by Catherine Bell, will be reassigned to the San Diego JAG office if CBS picks up the series despite its poor showing among advertiser-coveted younger viewers, "JAG" creator-executive producer Donald Bellisario said.

Bellisario said he has had to film just the bottom of palm trees to maintain the illusion that the show, which films just north of Los Angeles, is set in the Washington suburb of Falls Church, Va.

He said in a phone interview that, if renewed, the series will continue to film in Ventura County, but will do a lot of shooting at the San Diego Naval Air Station and that city's port. Bellisario said he plans to use the San Diego beaches, along with changes in music and filming and the addition of young actors, to make "JAG" more hip.

**Back to the original focus**

"I don't need anyone at CBS to tell me that for the show to be picked up, it has to appeal to young people," Bellisario said.

He also plans to make "JAG" return to its original focus: the courtroom. Recent seasons have featured missions to Afghanistan and elsewhere, and Bellisario said he plans to concentrate less on Iraq because viewers see enough about that in the news.

The move to San Diego and a hipper approach won't hinder the stories, Bellisario said. He explained that he isn't changing the plots.

"It doesn't pose any problem because the West Coast JAG office in San Diego handles most of what happens in Iraq and the Pacific," Bellisario said, but added he will still feature scenes at JAG headquarters in Falls Church.

Bellisario said he won't learn until April whether CBS will renew the series, which he said has won its night in the overall ratings even as it failed in the young demographic. "JAG" airs at 9 p.m. Fridays.

**Elliott leaving series**

The final episode this season will tackle the relationship between Mac and Cmdr. Harmon "Harm" Rabb in a way that Bellisario said will be surprising and a little ambiguous. After 10 seasons, David James Elliott, who plays Harm, is leaving the series.

"If the show is not picked up, the fans will put their own idea on how it ended and how the Mac and Harm relationship was resolved," he said. "Some fans will say they're together, and other fans will say, 'That's the end of it.'"

Bateman said.

"If anybody says this show is not accessible, which I think is not really accurate or fair or deserved, perhaps that's what they're talking about," the actor said. "It's around the side door for laughter. You have to watch two episodes to understand what our joke is. Then, if you're in that gear, it delivers nonstop."

Adds Hurwitz: "I think people understand dealing with adult parents and adult siblings, and that's at the core of every show."

**Relationships are key**

Relationships also are central to "Jack & Bobby," which stars Christine Lahti as the loving but eccentric single mother of a boy destined to be a leader (Logan Lerman) and his older brother, Jack (Matt Long).

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