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Television in review

ABC-TV gains another opening in U.S.-Soviet Iron Curtain

By Rick Du Brow
UPI Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Another opening in the American-Soviet television Iron Curtain was achieved Tuesday night when ABC-TV presented a one-hour special about the women of Russia, filmed in their homeland.

Offhand, one recalls several of the American video programs shot in the Soviet Union in the past few years — ABC-TV's study of Russian education, NBC-TV's brilliant documentary "The Kremlin" and CBS-TV's conversation with a noted scientist in Moscow.

And following the assassination of President Kennedy, Soviet officials asked ABC for some documentary footage they had noted, for showing on Russian television.

According to network sources, the video "exchange" is still, however, pretty much a one-way operation in the sense that there is reported to be considerably less effort on the part of the Soviets to show American live objectively on their television.

And the narration on Tuesday night's program, "The Soviet Woman," noted that there were restrictions in filming, though not as much as usual. Nevertheless, the importance of seeing the people of competitive nations, whenever possible and as human beings, is self-evident.

Despite the filming restrictions, which occasionally tried to force Tuesday night's effort into the flavor of a happy brochure, it is to the credit of producer-director-writer William Weston that he and his crew cut through the puffs for some revealing work.

An interview with Minister of Culture Ekaterina Furtzeva, in which she defended official control of artists, was a more effective indictment of this way of thinking than one could compose.

Also interviewed was Mme. Nikita Khrushchev, who, through an interpreter, sent warm greetings to U. S. viewers, asked for closer ties with

American women and said it was possible — in her opinion — that a female might become president of the Soviet Union.

Considering the obstacles, the low-pressure hour was really worthwhile, with diplomatic narration laced with criticism covering the loopholes of attempted Soviet press agency.

The Channel Swim: Jack Lemmon will emcee the Academy Awards show on ABC-TV in April. Dick Van Dyke visits CBS-TV's Danny Kaye program next Wednesday. Elia Kazan is interviewed for an hour this Friday on NBC-TV's "Today."

NBC-TV cancelled its scheduled Dec. 22 repeat of Jacqueline Kennedy's White House tour. Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps director and brother-in-law of the late President John F. Kennedy, is interviewed on the same network's "Meet The Press" this Sunday.

Lost Oregon City man found safe

GRANTS PASS (UPI) — Harley Herman Johnsen, 44, Oregon City, lost since Monday while searching for a lost gold mine, was found safe Tuesday afternoon.

Josephine County deputies found Johnsen in a cabin about 40 miles south of here following a search Monday night and Tuesday. Officers said Johnsen and a friend, John Hughes, were to search for a gold mine in the Onion Mountain area. Hughes reported that he waited at a designated spot in a ravine near Onion Mountain Monday afternoon but Johnsen didn't show up.

Johnsen told deputies he found the cabin and waited because he thought he would be discovered there. Bloodhounds were flown from The Dalles, but Johnsen was found before they were put to use.

'Shot in the Dark' seen appropriate name

By Ventura Scott
UPI Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — The movie "A Shot in the Dark" may be the most appropriately titled picture of all time.

Its producers, the Mirisch Brothers, have been firing around in the dark with the frenzy of a marksman caught by a blackout in a shooting gallery.

The brothers bought the property last year after the play succeeded on Broadway. They signed Anatole Litvak as director and Sophia Loren as the star.

They also hired two writers to turn out a screenplay, and then contracted Walter Matthau to repeat his Broadway role.

Then, as the saying goes, the lights went out.

Director Hospitalized
First Litvak became ill and was hospitalized in Paris where the picture was scheduled to be filmed. He was replaced by director Blake Edwards who saw the script differently than his predecessor.

This necessitated uncoupling the two writers and hiring a new one.

Next, the production site was moved from Paris to London. Marvin Mirisch explained it was originally scheduled for the French capital to please Litvak. Additionally, Edwards speaks no French.

When it appeared everything was finally ready to roll, Sophia became ill and was unable to fulfill her contract.

A Few Changes
"We began to suspect that things weren't going our way," Mirisch said with a grin. "At this point we had a script that in no way resembled the original play. We didn't have a

leading lady, and we were shooting in a different city than we'd planned." The brothers did have Peter Sellers, however, and the entire picture was being written around him.

Evans again pleads innocent

PORTLAND (UPI) — Robert Evans, 27, Honolulu, pleaded innocent to a charge of first degree murder for the second time in Circuit Court here Tuesday.

The plea was necessary because Evans was reindicted by the Multnomah County Grand Jury last month to make the murder charge against him more specific.

Evans is charged with the strangulation slaying of Idaho

Final German actress Romy Schneider was hired to replace Italian actress Sophia Loren. But it developed that Romy was stuck in "Good Neighbor Sam" longer than expected in Hollywood.

cattle heiress Irene Davis, 41, Payette. Her body was found in a room at the Portland Hilton Hotel last August.

MEMORIAL DUE

PORTLAND (UPI) — Organized labor will hold a memorial for the late President John F. Kennedy at the Labor Temple tonight. J. D. McDonald, president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, will preside.

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"We shuffled our schedule around for her," Mirisch sighed, "but it wasn't possible. So we hired another German girl, Elke Sommer, to play the leading lady."

Matthau Wants Out

By now the script was so changed that Matthau's role was reduced to a fraction of what it was on the stage. He

wanted out. The Mirisch boys agreed and signed George Sanders in his place.

"We kept shooting the picture with all these changes," brother Marvin commented. "And believe it or not Edwards is a week ahead of schedule. We just hope there won't be any more changes made."

The picture is a sequel to the

yet-to-be-released "Pink Panther" which Edwards also directed. It portended trouble in the first place. Originally "The Pink Panther" was to have starred Ava Gardner and Peter Ustinov. It wound up co-starring Peter Sellers and Capucine, along with David Niven. "I think we're getting used to switching things around," Marvin said with a tired grin.

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