



**NBC ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICITY**

## **Daily News Clips**

October 31, 2006



Liza Minnelli, with Vincent D'Onofrio, stars in a Halloween-themed "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" (Channel 4 at 9) as a woman with tragedy in her past.

Now that post-season baseball is over, Fox is bringing out brand-new episodes of its shows and putting them in brand-new time slots. On "Standoff" (Channel 5 at 8), a boy takes a hostage in a hospital to force a surgeon to operate on his terminally ill sister. Then on "House" (Channel 5 at 9), a married couple experience breathing difficulties and unexplained pain after they are robbed. (Also, David Morse guest-stars as a disgruntled patient in the first of a six-episode arc.)

"Friday Night Lights" (Channel 4 at 8) finds the team's new star, Ray "Voodoo" Tatom, clashing with Coach Taylor, while the injured first-string quarterback is introduced to the quad-rugby game called murderball.

Liza Minnelli guest-stars on "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" (Channel

4 at 9) as a former beauty queen thrown back into the public spotlight 14 years after her daughter was found murdered on Halloween.

PBS's "Nova" (Channels 22 and 26 at 8) reports on astronomers who are closing in on proof that one of the most destructive objects in the universe might be in the center of our own galaxy.

And "Frontline/World" (Channel 22 at 9; Channel 26 at 10) travels to Burma to expose the government's violence and repression of its people.

Cable highlights include comedian Caroline Rhea offering an hour of stand-up comedy in a special cleverly titled "Rhea's

The Washington Post

10.31.06

## WHAT'S ON TONIGHT

9 P.M. (NBC) **LAW  
& ORDER:**

**CRIMINAL**

**INTENT** Raising the dead: tonight, an exiled pedophile confesses to murdering a former beauty queen's daughter on Halloween night in 1992, but



Chris Hastoo/NBC

Detectives Goren (Vincent D'Onofrio) and Eames (Kathryn Erbe) have their doubts. Liza Minnelli (above, with Mr. D'Onofrio), in a role seemingly modeled on Patsy Ramsey, plays the mother originally accused of the crime. Bill Irwin portrays her nosy neighbor, who just happens to be a best-selling author.

The New York Times

10.31.06

terms of both intensity and height, is every bit a match for Hugh Laurie's House.

■ **9:00 (NBC) "Law & Order: Criminal Intent."** Liza Minnelli, last seen on TV in "Arrested Development," plays the doting mother of a murdered beauty contestant teen — whose un-

solved killing suddenly presents new suspects, including another guest star, Bill Irwin.

■ **10:00 (NBC) "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."** Mariska Hargitay returns as Benson, surfacing from her undercover assignment to help with a case that resonates with her own past.

Daily News

10.31.04

B21

**TODAY'S PICK**



Vincent D'Onofrio and  
Liza Minnelli

**LAW & ORDER:  
CRIMINAL INTENT**  
9 p.m., NBC / 4

Liza Minnelli guests as  
the mother of a murdered  
beauty queen.

Newsday  
10.31.06

## Best Bets

What's on Tonight



### DRAMA

**Law & Order: Criminal**

**Intent:** 9 p.m. on WNBC.  
Goren and Eames revisit  
the 1992 murder of a little  
girl after a sex offender  
confesses to the crime.  
Liza Minnelli guest stars.

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New York  
Post  
10.31.04

**Cindy Adams**



## ***Masked and famous***

**Chris Noth:** "Last year everyone complimented me on my get-up as a trout fisherman. But they were just my regular clothes. I hadn't the heart to tell them, so I just said thank you, and that they had nice costumes, as well."

New York Post

10-31-06

## Critic's corner

By Robert Bianco

► Fox's ever-shifting schedule shifts again with the return of **Stand-off** (tonight, 8 ET/PT). Ron Livingston and Rosemarie DeWitt star, though if the ratings don't pick up, that may not be true for much longer. Don't blame them. They deserve better than the scripts they've been given.

► Give great actors better material and, if you're lucky, you get a hit like **House** (Fox, 9 ET/PT). Tonight's first-rate return launches a multi-episode stint by David Morse as a nasty cop who becomes even nastier when confronted by the ever-rude Dr. House (the ever-wonderful Hugh Laurie). We're meant to root for House, but wisely, the show does not make it a lopsided moral battle: As the cop warns him,



NBC

**Minnelli:** A former beauty queen on *L&O*.

"Treat people like jerks, you get treated like a jerk." There's also a patient to treat, of course, in a main story that takes a twist that's strange even by *House* standards.

► Liza Minnelli turns in a touching, restrained performance in a **Law & Order: Criminal Intent** (NBC, 9 ET/PT) outing that also boasts fine work from Tony winner Bill Irwin. Whether their performances in this Halloween twist on the JonBenet Ramsey case are enough to pull you past the eccentric line readings of Vincent D'Onofrio and new regular Eric Bogosian depends on your tolerance for off-kilter performances.

View Bianco's daily video at [bianco.usatoday.com](http://bianco.usatoday.com)

## Law & Order: JonBenet and Liza

By Jill Vejniska | Monday, October 30, 2006, 10:52 AM  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

"Are there any words?"

That's what "Faith Yancy" (wink, wink) melodramatically exclaims during Tuesday's new episode of "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" — the one that starts out like a Xerox of the John Mark Karr case (right down to the doe-eyed accused sipping champagne while in police "custody" on an international flight) and ends with

Liza Minnelli as a distraught Brooklyn stage mom talking to her dead daughter's crypt. So, no, there are no words.

Except to say that this is one you won't want to miss. Not if you want to see "ripped from the headlines" at its best. Or its worst, depending on what you think of TV's growing desire for taking real-life legal pickles and — with a few judicious name-changes here and made-up plotlines there — turning them into entertainment pickle juice.

Nobody ever mentions the words, "JonBenet Ramsey." But nobody has to. We all know who little "Amberleigh Harner" is supposed to remind us of as she twirls around in a harem girl outfit on a videotape shot by her mom (Minnelli) hours before her unsolved murder years ago on Halloween night. Same thing with "Simon Henry Fife," who offers up his impromptu "confession" and press conference in Vietnam, not Thailand. As for "Faith Yancy," the blonde bulldog who even-handedly snarls about Fife on her cable TV show, "If you haven't lost your lunch already ...," Nancy Grace, call your lawyer. You're a victim of identity theft.

Meanwhile, we should all get used to this as more TV shows copy the "ripped from the headlines" formula. Already in this young TV season, Fox's "Justice" and CBS's "Shark" have spun episodes out of the "pretty missing woman" phenomenon and the Duke rape allegations. And this Friday's "Law & Order" episode concerns an actor who goes on a religiously prejudicial rant after his drunk driving arrest. He's played by Chevy Chase. But who knows who he's really supposed to be?

Wink, wink.