



I Know, Let's Put on a Show!

The Daily Show
Comedy Central



You might think you've stumbled upon a cable-access show if you tune into *The Daily Show*, until you notice that the host is wearing a suit and has no signs of acne. As the well-groomed master of ceremonies, Craig Kilborn plods through what's supposed to be an amusing take on the day's headlines, making time literally stand still—quite a feat in comedy. And amid your own sighs of disgust, you'll hear the hollow guffaws of the show's new studio audience every time Kilborn smirks at one of his own jokes. (At least it's not just the crew laughing these days.) It's

possible someone is paid to pass out bottles of Mickey's Big Mouth to the studio audience at the door, because the program's writing can't be inspiring the belly-laughs.

Amazingly enough, there are guests on this show, too. The twist is that Kilborn asks the guests five random questions and gauges their level of wittiness based on the answers. Some, like professional comedians, are able to think on their feet. But if the guest happens to merely squirm in his chair or look quizzically at Kilborn after each question, it's simply unbearable to watch—even if you do get the booze at the door.

—Christy Groz



Suddenly a Sitcom Star?

Suddenly Susan • NBC



In one episode of *Suddenly Susan*, NBC's vehicle for the buoyant and bushy-browed Brooke Shields, our star Susan is pitted against that bureaucracy, the power company. This copy editor-turned-columnist at a hip San Francisco magazine has had her flip switched. That pesky ex-fiancé (peeved at being left at the altar) didn't bother to pay the bill. Rather than recoiling like the old Susan would have, the new one fights back via a scathing column about the "system." In doing so, she is asserting not only editorial

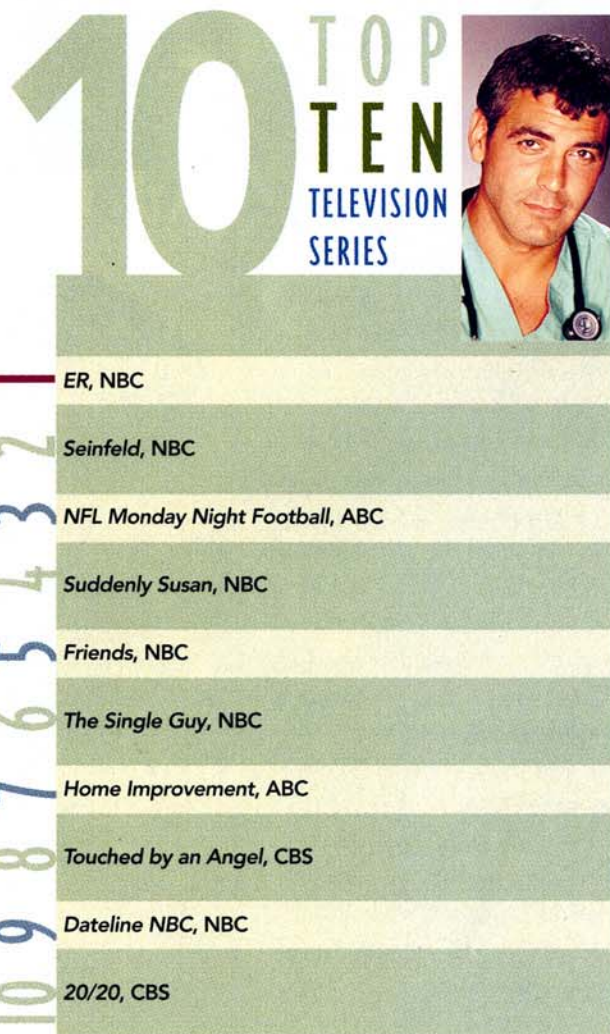
Shields plays sassy straight out of Acting 101

muscle, but also her prowess as a woman finding her own.

"Suddenly Susan, you're interesting!" exclaims her editor (played by the unlikely Judd Nelson), when he learns of her newfound lust for independence. But *Suddenly Susan*, the show, is not nearly as edgy. Shields plays sassy straight out of Acting 101, and the jokes from her two-dimensional mag cohorts are visible miles away. With dimpled cheeks and ruffled brow, she stamps and sputters like Shirley Temple which—coming from a six-foot tall former model—just isn't as cute.

Slipping into Susan's skin has proven to be less snug than Shields' old pair of Calvin's. Susan is indignant and awkward; Shields is intelligent and confident. Susan is trying to prove her own self worth; Shields is struggling to become a sitcom actor. They are both tall, albeit slightly lanky. But in the end, quite likable and very hard working, which may very well save this show from becoming suddenly canceled.

—Rebecca Kraus



Source: Billboard Publications Inc. Week ending November 24, 1996