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TV Review: NBC "Medium"

By Paul Griffitts

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Last night I watched the new NBC show named, "The Medium". The premise of the show is that Allison Dubois (Patricia Arquette) is a strong-willed young mother of three, a devoted wife and law student who begins to suspect that she can talk to dead people, see the future in her dreams and read people's thoughts.

Ok now what happens from there is more medium then good from my viewing perspective. Allison Dubois a.k.a. the Witch of Endor (I Sam. 28:7) and her 6 year old encounter a kid in the school yard who hit it off with the shy 6 year old, the only trouble is that the kid died 5 years ago in a car accident outside the school.

This presents a problem for the 6 year old little girl who doesn't want to give up her playmate that only she (and unfortunately the viewer) can see. But Mom to the rescue who explains that in the afterlife there is a place where everybody hangs out (everybody who is dead that is) and can groove together and look down on us and watch us like we are a movie for their entertainment.

Now the little boy is lonely and Mom explains to the little girl that he needs to let go so he can go to the good place and be with his grand parents.

This is the same old rehashed rhetoric that has been out there for years. The Medium is tired before it even gets started. Not to mention that the idea of life after death has been debunked over and over again by most reputable Bible Scholars.

This show is an attempt by the writers to soft sell a spiritual evil. Alas I have come up with a plot ending episode. A Christian Believer comes along and casts out the familiar spirit of Allison Dubois and she is healed. A big thumbs down for The Medium

Paul Griffitts has been a Biblical Researcher for over 30 years and is currently involved in the Website www.believer.com. A resident of Washington State Paul writes for Believer.com's RSS Feed.

Is Al Michaels Still The Best NFL Play-By-Play Announcer?

By Adam McFarland

When ABC "traded" Al Michaels to NBC this off-season to be their number one play-by-play announcer for their new Sunday night NFL football package, it became clear that he is still perceived to be the best play-by-play announcer in the business. However, is that perception still a reality?

Michaels began his career back in 1986 on ABC's Monday Night Football, where he remained until switching to NBC for the 2006 season. While at ABC, Michaels was part of several broadcast teams including the likes of Dan Dierdorf and Frank Gifford, Boomer Esiason, Dennis Miller and Dan Fouts, and most recently John Madden. Despite the frequent changes, Michaels always remained because of his innate ability to convey an array of information to the casual viewer.

With NBC's recent signing of Michaels and John Madden to man their Sunday Night NFL booth, it shows that Michaels is still the most sought after announcer in the business. NBC decided to woo Michaels over Fox and CBS lead play-by-play announcers Joe Buck and Jim Nantz respectively, as well as veterans Dick Enberg and Mike Patrick, and newcomers Kevin Harlan and Gus Johnson..

The amazing thing about Michaels (and probably the reason why NBC chose him) is that he is nearly flawless. He rarely misses a call, is always up to date with the latest news, knows the rules, and adds just enough humor. His only real "flaw" may be his desire to mix in references to the point spread and over/under of games despite the fact that the NFL would rather he not.

Of those mentioned above, Buck, Harlan and Johnson have talent but are still too raw, while Enberg is on the tail end of his career. Both Jim Nantz and Mike Patrick can certainly make their cases as the best play-by-play announcer in the sport.

Nantz (paired with Phil Simms) likely was not targeted because of his value to CBS as a college basketball announcer. I doubt that CBS would likely let him go, at least not without a fight. Michaels on the other hand, did not have an NFL job with ABC after MNF moved to ESPN. His only job on ABC was with the NBA, something he wasn't particularly good at.

With Sunday Night Football moving to NBC, Mike Patrick was left out of the NFL, which is an absolute travesty. Patrick, who will now work College Football for ESPN, handled the ESPN Sunday Night booth with Joe Theisman and Paul Maguire with phenomenal skill. Theisman and Maguire would often engage in pointless arguments and make erroneous statements, and Patrick was able to pull it all together into a somewhat presentable booth. His abilities were most recognizable when he missed time in the 2004 season and was replaced by Pat Summerall for a few games. Those broadcasts were absolutely unwatchable. It is likely that he wasn't considered for the NBC job because he didn't come packaged with a respectable partner (like Michaels does with Madden) and because he doesn't have the name recognition of Michaels. Both reasons are understandable, but make no mistake his skills are on par with Michaels.

In an industry with remarkable turnover and constant competition, Michaels has remained at the top of his field for nearly twenty years, as evidenced by his new deal with NBC. This is a testament to his

dedication and work ethic in an extremely difficult and demanding industry.

Disagree? Make your opinion heard! Rate and review sports announcers at Announcers.SportsLizard.com.

Adam McFarland owns the

Network (

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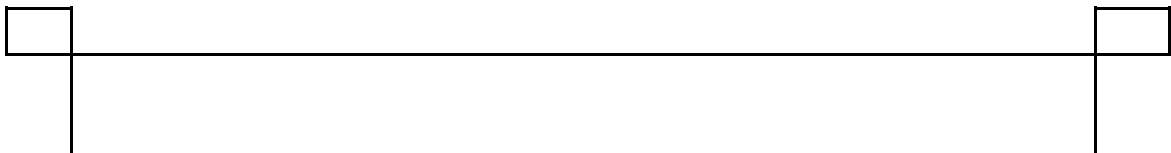
network of sports sites including collectibles, movies, books, video games, and more.

recently won honorable mention in the Microsoft Start Something Amazing

Awards and was featured in the February 2006 issue of Tuff Stuff Magazine.



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