

# A&E Ramblings: Springer stages fights on his show?

By Jason Sheehan  
A&E Editor

Someone please pinch this wily A&E veteran. This latest bit of news can't possibly be true, can it? Jerry Springer stages fights on his show? Oh, it can't be. It just can't be.

But apparently it is. The tabloid television show, *Extra*, and *Rolling Stone* magazine have found former guests who admit they were coached by employees of *The Jerry Springer Show* to get into fights. Of course, the show's producers deny the accusations, but how could anyone believe the vast number of fights that appear regularly on this show are for real?

To add fuel to this conspiracy theory, Springer isn't denying any charges.

"Maybe a producer went over the edge," Springer told the Associated Press. "Maybe a producer got someone to fake a fight, or make up a story." He then admitted staging fights is "totally wrong, against our policy and we'll deal with it."

Springer also said his guests are encouraged to get into their enemies' faces and cause trouble. Is this fountain of verbal diarrhea coming from the same guy who always tries to break fights up on his show?

"Understand, we have no obligation to make the show truthful," Springer said, "because it's entertainment, not news."

Restaurant owner Suzanne Muir, who helped stage a show three years ago, thinks all viewers know Springer's show is fake, similar to the world of professional wrestling where everything is scripted.

"You can tell who his audience is by who he's playing to," she said. "These people have just come from a fresh cockfight or a tractor pull."

Cockfights or no cockfights, Springer is still duping America into believing his show filled with fisticuffs and obscenities is for real.

Editor's Verdict: Have you ever noticed that no one ever bleeds after they get into these so-called fights on the Springer show?

That, in itself, should prove that these allegations are true. Plus, Springer is stupid enough to admit to his wrongdoing. An ethics class taught by Mary Hausch may be the prescription Springer needs to get well.

But you do have to give the guy credit where credit is due. He's great at bagging young, blonde women at baseball games, which was the case at a recent New York Yankees game.

Last season, Ellen DeGeneres came out of the closet in prime time television. This season, Disney-owned ABC is kicking Ellen out of its closet.

Why? Ratings. One of the biggest leaps made in modern television history failed to bring the amount of viewers needed to the Wednesday night time-slot for the show to survive. Bad writing is the reason being used for the show's poor drawing power.

"There was the one terrific

episode, the coming-out episode," Paul Schulman, a TV analyst whose company buys commercial time, told the Associated Press. "It was written beautifully. ...Since then, it's just been a downward spiral. It's just not funny, it doesn't hold its lead-in from *Drew Carey*. There's no real reason for it to be renewed."

So, the woman who broke new ground last May is out of a job.

Editor's Verdict: DeGeneres has proven that it doesn't always pay to be risky. She should have played it safe. Just ask anyone next semester to name the television show whose lead character admitted she was a lesbian. Chances are, that chosen person won't have a clue.

The colorful Dennis Rodman can play a mean game of basketball, but can he act? The Chicago Bulls forward hopes he can prove his critics to be a bunch of pop-

corn stuffing hypocritical fools.

*SOF Special Ops Force*, which begins shooting on location in Montreal from late May and ends in September, will star Rodman in an action role as a covert military operative. The series aired in syndication last year without Rodman's presence.

"Dennis is a natural for such a thrill-a-minute show — his energy, his eccentricities and his image fit perfectly with his new, eyebrow-raising character," Jerry Bruckheimer, the creator of the show, told the Associated Press.

Editor's Verdict: Natural? The only "natural" activities Rodman involves himself in are playing basketball and throwing chairs. He also failed miserably as a professional wrestler last summer when he teamed up with "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan at a WCW pay-per-view. Yeah, way to go Dennis. Keep making yourself look like a fool.

## A&E Calendar

### THURSDAY

**Jaried Student Art Exhibit**, Department of Art, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission Free. For info: 895-3893.

**Violinist Scott Yoo in Recital**, Black Box Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. For info: 895-3801.

**Droodl**, Department of Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Admission: \$10. For info: 895-3801.

**Wendy Lieberman, Mike Burton and David Gee**, Harrah's Hotel & Casino, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Admission: \$14.95. For info: 369-5000.

**Rob Pearson, Ted Alejandro and Ed Gossling**, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Admission: \$14.95. For info: 794-9433.

**The Smothers Brothers**, Orleans Hotel & Casino, Thursday through Sunday at 8 p.m. Admission: \$26.95. For info: 365-7075.

### FRIDAY

**UNLV Choral Ensembles Spring Concert**, Department of Music, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$4. For info: 895-3801.

**Bill Engvall**, Sunset Station Hotel & Casino, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 to \$22.50. For info: 547-7777.

**Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Carousel"**, CCSN Horn Theatre (Cheyenne Campus), Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Admission: \$10 to \$12.50. For info: 651-5483.

**Sheena Easton**, Desert Inn Hotel & Casino, Friday through Sunday at 9 p.m. Admission: \$35. For info: 733-4566.

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