

Rock sit-com survives merger

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - Comedian Chris Rock was happy to see "Everybody Hates Chris" survive the merger between the WB and UPN networks.

"I thought I might have to drive a cab," he joked Monday at the Television Critics Association's summer meeting.

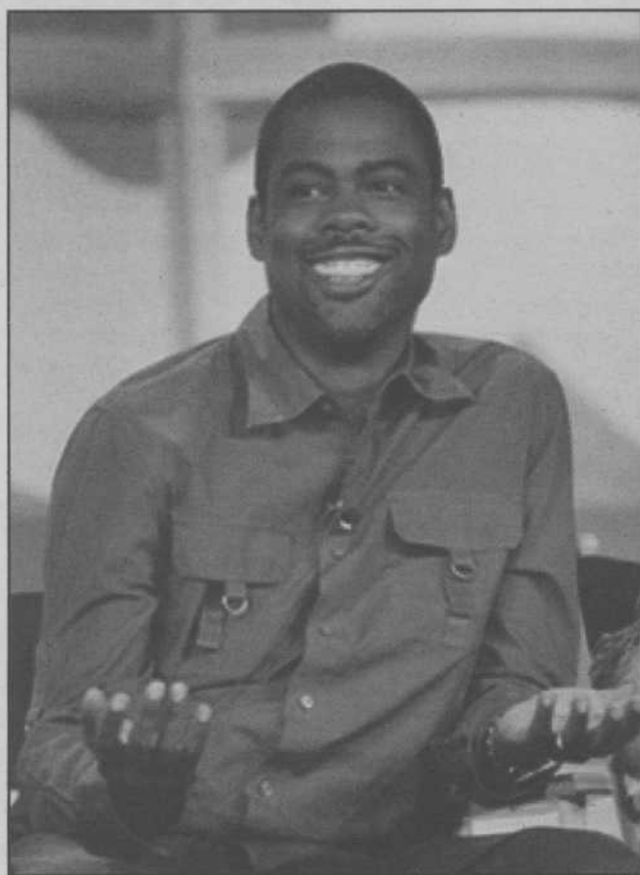
The UPN sitcom based on Rock's childhood in New York's borough of Brooklyn landed on The CW's debut schedule for its sophomore season. Its season premiere is Oct. 1.

The show, in which Rock serves as narrator, a writer and co-executive producer, moves from Thursday to Sunday nights this fall as part of The CW's block of comedies. It also gets an earlier start time, 7 p.m.

"Just make it funny, people will see it," Rock said. "If something is funny, people will know."

Of last season's 22 episodes, Rock said he hated three.

Asked to name the offending shows, he replied, "Oh, I can't do that. I got three uncles I hate, too, but I won't



Chris Rock's show "Everybody Hates Chris," survived the merger of the WB and UPN networks into the CW network.

tell them."

Whoopi Goldberg will appear in two episodes this season, playing Louise, a woman from Queens who moves in next door to Chris' family and whose grand-

daughter is an object of Chris' affections.

"I'm a fan," Rock said. "It's not like stunt casting. Stunt casting to me is like, 'Hey, Shaq just came over.' We got Whoopi Goldberg to

act because she's very funny."

The show's Chris character returns to junior high this season.

"There's going to be a massacre at the school, but it's going to be funny," Rock cracked.

Rock said his real mother approves of her TV counterpart, although she engages in revisionist history when it comes to her son's childhood.

"As my mother gets older, she tries to act like she did nothing wrong," he said. "She's doing her heaven campaign: 'Hey, I didn't yell at you like that.'"

Rock recently finished shooting a movie called "I Think I Love My Wife" and said he plans another national comedy tour in between working on the show.

"I guess it was a little more work than I thought," he said about the first season. "A lot of the UPN people were shocked to see me around so much."

Beyonce, mother sued for clothing

NEW YORK (AP) - Beyonce Knowles and her mother, Tina Knowles, are being sued for \$1.5 million by a former business associate who claims they neglected to compensate him for securing a deal involving their House of Dereon clothing line.

Greg Walker, CEO of Icon Entertainment, filed the breach of contract lawsuit Wednesday in New York State's Supreme Court. He said the mother-daughter duo, who designs the street-chic collection, hired him in August 2003 to help land endorsement and licensing opportunities.

According to Walker, he brokered a \$15 million deal for the 24-year-old singer and her mother to create the clothing line with Wear Me Apparel, Corp., a clothing manufacturer. So far, he claims he's collected only \$25,000 from Knowles' mother.

"Beyonce and Tina Knowles agreed on the terms of our business relationship, but have failed to properly compensate me for reasons unknown to me," Walker said in a statement. "I just want to receive my fair share and move on with my business."

When contacted by The Associated Press, a spokesperson for House of Dereon declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Walker is also suing Wear Me Apparel for neglecting to pay the remainder of his fee. The company has paid him \$85,000, he claims.

Corey Silverstein, the Wear Me Apparel's executive vice president, declined to comment.

Awards

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pished their goals can now help, be mentors and make it easier for those who are struggling. There are many single families headed by women and they need to be encouraged by women. They need new paths, and those who have succeeded can show the way."

More than 10 women will be recognized, and Diana Pollard, Rainbow Medical Center, will receive the top award for Platinum Woman.

Among this year's nominees and their affiliations are: Victoria Napoles, Latin Chamber of Commerce; Susan Smith, founder of Smith & Associates; Sylvia Spencer Brown, GNJ; Minister Sonya Cheltenham, New Antioch; Gwyn Brown, Brown & Associates; Stephanie Smith, council member, City of North Las Vegas; Kathy Jackson, first lady, Tabernacle of Praise, and several others.

Collins considers herself an "ordinary woman" who is inspired by God to pursue various venues in the field of advocacy and community development.

In 1999, Collins said she was given a vision by God that led her to leave an abundant lifestyle for "His purpose" of working with low-income, desolate, public housing communities, which led to her improving the conditions for over 294 families.

A portion AWCA's efforts focuses on empowering women who live in public housing. Collins would like to encourage and support residents of public housing: "These women are struggling in the areas and not feeling accepted by society. But I am here to tell you that you can become anything if you put your mind to it and put Christ first. I am an example of that. Don't count yourself out. Remember: It is not where you start but where you end."

Her community and professional experience includes following her family's tradition of becoming politically involved.

Collins said, "I was influenced by father [Gene Collins, a longtime community activist and former head of the local NAACP chapter]. Ever since I was eight years old, he would involve me in different political and social entities. We did marches and rallies together. I grew up with a heart for the people."

She is also a political grassroots leader, and she has worked on community empowerment projects with famed attorney Johnny Cochran, entertainment business mogul Russell Simmons, comic actress Mo'Nique, and Martin and Yolanda King, among others.

Collins has been an active member on several boards, including the NAACP, Community Police Advisory, Clark County Early Voting, the Nevada Legislative Council subcommittee, and the City of Las Vegas Resident Advisory. Collins is also the Western Region Director of the Truth Hammer Initiative, a voter education and registration program for women.

In 2007, the AWCA Awards will become a separate organization under the umbrella of the AWCA.

Collins stated that, "AWCA will address the problems of women in public housing, such as building self-esteem and makeovers. The awards will still be affiliated with AWCA."

Collins said, "I will continue to be part of NAN, just in a different capacity. I will be building new chapters in different cities and states."

For more information, call (702) 646-9983.

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