

Style & Substance



Touchstone Television

The Queen of Style is about to meet her mismatch.

When life gives you lemons,
make lemonade.

When life gives you lemons,
*make lemon meringue pie,
then save the extra peel
for door wreaths
and potpourri.*


J E A N S M A R T

STYLE

&

N A N C Y M C K E O N

SUBSTANCE

SERIES PREMIERE MONDAY, JANUARY 5 9:30/8:30c CBS Check Local Listings www.cbs.com 

MONDAY'S NEW RECIPE FOR LAUGHS!
Cosby, Everybody Loves Raymond, George & Leo New Time, Style & Substance New Show.



Touchstone Television

"STYLE & SUBSTANCE"
Credits

Chelsea Stevens..... JEAN SMART
Jane Sokol..... NANCY McKEON
Terry..... HEATH HYCHE
Trudy..... LINDA KASH
Mr. John..... JOSEPH MAHER
Earl..... ALAN AUTRY

A half-hour comedy for CBS-TV
airing on Mondays
at 9:30 PM (ET/PT)

* * *

Domestic diva Chelsea Stevens is a modern day juggernaut of style and taste,
who lives in an efficiently ordered world of her own chic creation, totally
oblivious to the chaotic and hysterical reality surrounding her.

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Visit the Touchstone Television website at www.tvplex.com

Production Staff
(Credits Not Contractual)

Created By.....	PETER TOLAN
Executive Producer.....	PETER TOLAN
Co-Executive Producers.....	RUSS WOODY
	IAN PRAISER
Consulting Producers.....	DeANN HELINE
	EILEEN HEISLER
Supervising Producer.....	DAPHANE POLLON
Produced By.....	MICHAEL PETOK
Co-Producer.....	GARY JANETTI
Co-Producer.....	DONALD CAPEN
Executive Story Editor.....	DONALD BECK
Director of Photography.....	BRUCE FINN
Production Designer.....	KEN JOHNSON
Editor.....	LESLIE TOLAN
UPM/1st Asst. Director.....	TOM SEIDMAN
Second Assistant Director.....	MARCIA L. LAPPIN
Music By.....	BRAD HATFIELD
Casting by.....	LIBERMAN/HIRSCHFELD
	CASTING, C.S.A.
Associate Producer.....	WANDA ARMSTRONG
Set Decorator.....	MELINDA RITZ
Property Master.....	RON WOODS
Script Supervisor.....	SARAH DISTAD
Costume Supervisor.....	VIVIAN G. DOBAY
Key Costumer.....	MICHAEL FITZPATRICK
Make-up Artists.....	TOMMY COLE
	ANN LEE MASTERSON
Hair Stylists.....	SUSAN ZIETLOW-MAUST
	PHILLIP ACKERMAN
Technical Coordinator.....	NANCY SHERMAN
Production Sound Mixer.....	EDWARD L. MOSKOWITZ, C.A.S.
Series Debut: January 5, 1998	

"Style & Substance" is produced by The Clouldland Co.
in association with Touchstone Television

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Contacts: Carla Princi
818/560-4676



"STYLE & SUBSTANCE"
Series Description

A shortage of shiitake mushrooms or no homemade marmalade for the oven-fresh scones are the kinds of crises that can send the world of Chelsea Stevens (Jean Smart) into a tailspin. It's not exactly that she's shallow so much as she has worked hard to achieve her notable status and feels she has a certain standard to uphold. The author of countless books on home decorating and home entertaining and the star of "how-to" videotapes that can turn anyone into the perfect hostess and homemaker, Chelsea Stevens also hosts her own television show where she reaches the largest number of her devoted, fawning fans and admirers. She has guested on countless daytime and late night talk shows, graced the covers of magazines worldwide and created an empire finally worthy of the reigning domestic diva.

Chelsea is forced to accept the fact that her company is now owned by the Ferber Corporation of Omaha, and she has to be accountable to its new representative in her office Jane Sokol (Nancy McKeon). Jane is grounded, practical, honest and determined to do a good job while making a name for herself in the big city. She is also a little tentative about her solo foray into the worldliness of New York and out of the protective cradle of America's heartland and her ex-fiancé. Obviously, Jane encounters severe culture shock when she shows up at the office to meet Chelsea for the first time. It's beyond her comprehension as a well-raised midwestern girl that Chelsea would "steal" her purse and then rifle through it to learn more about her. Chelsea sees it as an innocent way to get to know each other while Jane is just astonished by Chelsea's actions!

Jumping right into her commentary on Jane's purse, Chelsea is horrified to discover that Jane clips coupons for macaroni and cheese from a box, teases Jane for her beauty regimen when she finds tweezers in the bottom of the purse and chides Jane for having a package of Hostess snowballs, even though Chelsea then appropriates one for herself. Jane is annoyed yet tolerant until Chelsea finds a photo of a man and proceeds to relentlessly pummel her until Jane reveals that he is her ex-fiancé Steve, information so much more personal and private than she would ever want to share with anyone at work, much less with Chelsea ten minutes after they have just met.

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Exasperated, Jane turns to Chelsea's other employees for help or support, neither of which comes forth in much abundance. Mr. John (Joseph Maher), a sophisticated, mincing perfectionist of an interior designer, has been with Chelsea for years and, out of pure necessity, has adapted to her eccentricities by agreeing with everything she says. He readily admits that she's a freak, but Mr. John is at a stage in his life where he's much more interested in his boyfriend Guy, which rolls off his tongue with the French pronunciation, than he is in trying to understand, let alone change, Chelsea Stevens. Trudy (Linda Kash), who originally coined the "freak" title for Chelsea, is tough, loud, opinionated, abrasive and the best food stylist in New York. She may be on a run of losers in the male companion department, but she can use lard and Quaker State 30-weight motor oil to make the most beautiful hot fudge sundae ever photographed. Chelsea's naive, overwhelmed assistant Terry (Heath Hyche) is oblivious to Jane's dilemma as he has enough problems of his own trying to take a correct telephone message for the first time in his career or mastering the technical complexities of operating the office's intercom system.

Ever the manipulator, Chelsea lures Jane to her expansive Connecticut farmhouse under the guise that she is finally willing to sign the budget agreement when in fact she's just lonely and wants Jane's company. Chelsea keeps Jane waiting because, as Jane later finds out, she was obsessively sorting her linens by thread count. As Jane surveys the cozy great room hoping to gain more insight into Chelsea, Earl (Alan Autry), a handsome hunk of a southern gentleman enters with a load of wood for the fireplace. He introduces himself as Chelsea's gardener-property caretaker-spiritual advisor, but offers Jane little help in discovering Chelsea's true self.

As Chelsea and Jane adjust to each other, there are indications that this arrangement might work after all. In an unguarded moment, when Chelsea isn't "on," she admits to Jane that she's a little lonely after her separation, especially when she discovers that her husband was the one in the relationship that everyone liked. As "Chelsea Stevens," she can throw the most fabulous dinner party for twelve, but she just can't find the twelve to fill the seats anymore. Meanwhile, Jane decides to believe in herself and sends her ex-fiancé back to Omaha alone. She is determined to make it on her own in the Big Apple. Taming and managing her homemaking handful will prove to be a challenge for Jane unlike any other she has encountered in her life. In the meantime, Chelsea will continue to be Chelsea, professing the pleasure she finds in the exquisite taste of her favorite spice, cardamom.

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Future episodes will continue to explore the colliding worlds of Chelsea and Jane, such as when Chelsea tries to wrangle away from Jane a rare Chinese plate that Jane received from her deceased grandmother to when Jane's apartment is appropriated for a magazine shoot after Chelsea decides it's "just perfect!" With no place to stay, Jane ends up as a house guest at Chelsea's house where Chelsea has her up at the crack of dawn milking cows, kneading dough and planting perennial borders in the yard -- much more than Jane bargained for...before breakfast! Jane continues to try and keep some control over the domestic diva when Chelsea decides she's going to be a guest on a political talk show to prove that her scope of intelligence extends beyond making scones, and when Jane tries to get Chelsea to make a good impression on the big boss visiting from corporate headquarters. Both experiences are handled in true Chelsea style...much to Jane's dismay.

Back at the office, Judy continues to have problems keeping a man, and the ones she does attract are much more than she bargained for; Terry remains overwhelmed by just about everything, so much so that at one point his job is in jeopardy; Mr. John continues to carry on and on about his relationship with Guy, someone Mr. John's parents don't know about until Guy delivers an ultimatum that if Mr. John doesn't tell them he's gay, Guy walks, and Earl's day job as Chelsea's gardener and caretaker in no way compares to his all-the-time job as Chelsea's spiritual advisor.

"Style & Substance" is produced by The Cloudland Company in association with Touchstone Television. The series was created by Executive Producer and writer Peter Tolan. Ian Praiser and Russ Woody are the co-executive producers with Michael Petok as producer and Donald Capen as co-producer. Jay Sandrich directs.

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Contacts: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676



A POTPOURRI OF HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE STYLISH WORLD OF CHELSEA STEVENS

Chelsea Stevens, America's foremost authority on style and gracious living, lives in a world of chintz-covered sofas, newly planted window boxes, homemade bread baking in the oven and a half-finished sweater on a loom in the corner. Freshly arranged flowers abound, and an artistic, creative, almost boundless energy seems to permeate the air she breathes. Unfortunately, most common folk just can't handle the altitude, but for those who may be up for the challenge, Chelsea took the time to offer a potpourri of her most helpful hints that can set anyone on the road to a classier, more stylish and gracious life style.

- Scented floating candles in the toilet bowl provide a warm welcome to guests attending your holiday party.
- Moments before your guests arrive, use a vented hairbrush to comb the fringe on area rugs so it is straight and facing in the same direction.
- When a close friend asks you to help redecorate their dreary apartment, don't gasp out loud when it looks like Ikea meets the Black Hole of Calcutta. Instead, offer a can of kerosene and a book of matches as your housewarming gift.
- Show that you love your pet by a regular regimen of moisturizing the paw pads on their tired little feet.
- If you dare to wear cashmere in June, make sure you have an extra set of dress shields in your pocketbook.
- When the Italian feast you're creating to celebrate the birthday of Marco Polo is stressing you out, don't put your head in the oven. Instead, take a time out for aromatherapy: put your feet up, close your eyes, lean your head back and gently wave a piece of fresh prosciutto in front of your nose. Before you can say Mama mia! the experience will take you halfway to Tuscany.
- When your mother-in-law insists that your special sauce needs more salt, resist the temptation to pummel her with the cast iron trivet hanging above your stove. Justifiable homicide is hard to prove in most states and the District of Columbia.

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"STYLE & SUBSTANCE" CHELSEA'S HELPFUL HINTS/Page 2

- Manipulation through the use of tears, done correctly, is an old-world art form. Chelsea recommends conjuring up images of things that make you sad such as wet suede, spoiling food in the refrigerator during a power failure and people who flick their cigarette ashes in the potpourri.
- From personal experience, Chelsea recommends keeping a fire extinguisher handy in the kitchen in case you misjudge the amount of rum you've just added to the pear flambe.
- If someone dares tell you that perfect is tough to maintain, remember Chelsea's one word response to that, preferably shouted at a high decibel level: "Barbarian!"
- The sure-fire lunch for landing a man is a homemade duck sausage sandwich on fresh baked focaccia with roasted bell peppers picked from the garden and mustard dill mayonnaise served on bone china with a garnish of caramelized edible pansies from the flower box outside the kitchen window.
- There is no experience quite like making love on 200 thread count Wedgwood blue Italian linens with Pavarotti on the CD player.
- A lemon slice in the dog's water bowl each morning is the perfect way to say "I Love You" and get his day off with a lilt in his appreciative bark.
- Store bought pie is shocking, just shocking!
- In addition to the requisite pots, pans, cutlery, china and assorted spices, a fine chef's well-stocked kitchen should also include a flashlight, melon baller and an always-chilling bottle of good chardonnay.

When your hostessing-impaired friends try to convince you that there's a cold, ugly world out there that doesn't care about dainty doilies and homemade jams, remember what Chelsea Stevens has to say about that: "I know the world is ugly. That's why I try to get people to see the beauty of simple things. When we grow our own vegetables, when we bake our own bread...Could there possibly be crime or poverty?...In a world that smells of freshly baked bread? I don't think so!" There's no place quite like Chelsea's world.

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676



Touchstone Television

**TWO DIVERSE PERSONALITIES INHABIT
THE WORLD OF "STYLE & SUBSTANCE."**

chemistry: the composition, structure, properties and reactions of a substance.

American Heritage Dictionary

Hollywood talks about chemistry all the time. Bogart and Bacall had it. Tracy and Hepburn had it. Lucy and Ricky had it. But then, Lucy and Ethel had it, too and let's not forget Laverne and Shirley and Mary and Rhoda. All the great teams, whether they be lovers, partners or friends, had chemistry, and, in the case of the comic actors, it was the chemistry that made it funny. Everyone involved with "Style & Substance" agrees that it is the pairing of Jean Smart and Nancy McKeon, those two actresses specifically, that make the show work. "Everybody can relate to a work experience where you are working with someone who is clinically insane and yet you have to deal with them daily," said Executive Producer Peter Tolan as he explained the primary relationship in the series. "Chelsea and Jane work because of the chemistry between Jean and Nancy."

"The chemistry between us just happened," said Smart. "The fact that Nancy and I have now become friends just increases it, and you can see it every week on the show." "It's either there or it isn't," added McKeon. "You can't manufacture it."

Chelsea and Jane are a classic example of the old adage that opposites attract. The conflicts that grow out of their opposing views on nearly everything are at the core of the storytelling and comedy of the show. "Chelsea is a nut job," said McKeon. "She's lovable and means well, but she just doesn't live in the real world." It's McKeon's character who remains grounded and keeps Chelsea's business on an even keel. The Nebraska based corporation that employs Jane sent her to New York to manage Chelsea's affairs. "Jane is an earnest young woman who's done everything right: liberal arts degree and then on to business school," explained Tolan. "Her first big responsibility is running Chelsea's office, and, while Jane works and works and works, Chelsea is off in her own little world. Jane gets frustrated because she lives in the real world."

"Chelsea is ultimately harmless," adds Tolan. "She's just one of those people who is completely and totally self-absorbed. It's not mean spirited; she just lives in a perfect world of her own creation

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where she's got all the answers. She sees it as easier than living in the real world."

Tolan is also very quick to point out that Chelsea is only tolerable because of the balance that Jane provides, and McKeon's skill and timing allow Jane to be the ballast for this ship. "Jane is the eyes and ears of the audience, the character the audience can relate to inside the world of this crazy character," said Tolan. "Nancy is just a nice person, and the audience responds to that. The fact that she's a terrific actress is our treat. She's doing some very funny stuff, and not just playing the straight man all the time." Tolan confessed that his favorite scene in the pilot was probably the purse scene where Chelsea has taken Jane's purse so she can go through it to find out more about her. The fun begins when Jane discovers that Chelsea has the purse. "Watching the two of them play the scene is very musical. They get into each other's rhythms. You can tell they've been working at their craft for a long time."

Veteran Director Jay Sandrich, who is directing most of the series' episodes, heartily agreed. "They react beautifully to each other," he said during a break in rehearsals. "Often one of them or the two together will find moments of humor that I wasn't expecting." Sandrich is no stranger to chemistry and great comedy teams. His career includes a stint as an assistant director on the most classic sitcom of all time, "I Love Lucy," where he observed Lucy and Ethel working together. This experience foreshadowed his work with Mary and Betty White, as the happy homemaker on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." "I'm always asking him to tell me about Mary," laughed McKeon. "I would consider it a great compliment to be mentioned in the same list as those characters," said Smart.

"In a weird way," said Sandrich, "these two ladies basically need each other. What's fun is to watch how they get their own way with one another, and to watch the relationship grow." Fun is the other word that comes up a lot when people talk about life on the set of "Style & Substance." In fact, it often just sounds like a mutual admiration society.

"We clicked right away," commented McKeon about her co-star. "Jean just made me feel very comfortable. She's so generous as an actress. She's so open and talented. And we have fun!"

"I think for the first time, this role finally convinces me that I am funny," admitted Smart. "But Nancy helps make me funny, and I don't ever forget that."

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Both actresses are convinced that their work on the series is a collaborative effort with director Sandrich in control of the reins. "Jay is one of the greats. He's a sweet man who gives you amazing confidence," said McKeon. "Jay is so easy going, he makes it comfortable for us to explore different things in a scene. He imbues the set with confidence," added Smart. "When you're working with talented people, they're up there because they have a point of view on things. What I try to do is encourage them and help them find the best way to play a scene," explained Sandrich. "Then, paying them probably the highest compliment a director could pay his actors, Sandrich talked about the director's role of stepping aside. "With this group, I sort of stay out of their way and shape the things they give me. And it's funny stuff!" Ah, chemistry!

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676



Touchstone Television

**JEAN SMART AND NANCY McKEON
INHABIT THE WORLD OF ELEGANT LIVING
IN TOUCHSTONE TELEVISION'S TASTEFULLY CLASSY
NEW COMEDY "STYLE & SUBSTANCE"
PREMIERING MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1998, 9:30 PM (ET/PT) ON CBS**

Jean Smart ("Designing Women") and Nancy McKeon ("Facts of Life"), two versatile and talented comedic actresses, return to series television when they unite in a world of elegant living, fashionable style and exquisite taste in Touchstone Television's sophisticated new half-hour comedy series **"Style & Substance," premiering Monday, January 5, 1998, 9:30-10:00 PM (ET/PT) on CBS.**

Smart brings her talents to the part of Chelsea Stevens, a modern day juggernaut of style and taste, whose self-made empire includes a plethora of books and videotapes on home decorating and entertaining, and even her own television program where she can preach proudly of her homemade preserves. This well-to-do domestic diva lives happily in an efficiently ordered world of her own chic creation, totally oblivious to the chaotic and hysterical reality surrounding her. Chelsea's perfect world is always tasteful and clean and the people in it always stylish and friendly, and most importantly, no one ever wears synthetic fibers.

"The thing you have to understand about Chelsea," said Smart when asked about her character, "is the fact that she is so passive aggressive. It is amazing *and* part of her charm."

McKeon as Jane Sokol, new manager of Chelsea's business enterprises, collides with Chelsea and her world on almost a daily basis. A transplant from Omaha, Jane is determined to make it in the big city and carve out a successful career for herself, but unfortunately, these goals require her to work in the swirling vortex that is Chelsea's designer home decorating world. The practical and level-headed Jane finds herself constantly jousting with Chelsea's impractical, "never take no for an answer" attitude, and Jane soon learns that logic and reason have very little relevance to America's premiere hostess. "Chelsea is lovable and always means well, but she's a nut job, which makes it difficult for Jane who just wants to please everyone all the time," commented McKeon.

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Jane's first assignment is to win Chelsea's approval of the new budget, but Chelsea is far too interested in learning everything she can about this new inhabitant of her world to be bothered with triviality like financial affairs. Trying to be the tough new manager proves to be difficult for Jane when Chelsea thoroughly invades her private life, from prowling through her purse to offering unsolicited relationship counseling. The two women couldn't be more opposite, and yet both find themselves intrigued by the other. When Jane's ex-fiancé from Nebraska arrives, she must decide whether to pursue her career in New York or return with him to Omaha. Luckily for Jane, Chelsea has all the answers for her, or so Chelsea insists. What proves even more perplexing is the fact that Jane ultimately finds herself agreeing with know-it-all Chelsea.

"It's a complicated relationship," said Executive Producer Peter Tolan. "It's not exactly the mongoose and the cobra, but Chelsea is extremely manipulative and she can do it without leaving any fingerprints. Jane can be manipulated pretty well about half the time, but the other half she stands up for herself. And that's the challenge for Chelsea." It's that tug of war that is at the heart of the series.

Joining Jane in the madcap kingdom of Chelsea Stevens are Mr. John (Joseph Maher), the sophisticated, sycophant interior designer; Trudy (Linda Kash), the company's abrasive yet brilliant food stylist and Terry (Heath Hyche), Chelsea's naive, incompetent yet likable assistant. Mr. John and Trudy, who admit to Jane that Chelsea is indeed a freak, constantly find great humor in Jane's frustrations with her, while Terry, who consistently struggles to get telephone messages right (and has yet to succeed in that quest), is innocently oblivious to Jane and Chelsea's struggles. At Chelsea's Connecticut farm house, Earl (Alan Autry), a handsome hunk of a southern gentleman, serves a hyphenated function as Chelsea's gardener-property caretaker-spiritual advisor. In some odd way, everyone's eccentricities seem to bond them in their daily quests for survival in Chelsea's world.

"Style & Substance" is produced by The Cloudland Company in association with Touchstone Television. The series was created by Executive Producer and writer Peter Tolan. Ian Praiser and Russ Woody are the co-executive producers with Michael Petok as producer and Donald Capen as co-producer. Jay Sandrich directs.

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676



"STYLE & SUBSTANCE"
Production Notes

The birth of **"Style & Substance"** in the computer of Emmy Award winning creator and writer Peter Tolan almost didn't happen since Tolan initially wasn't inclined to write a show about a homemaking diva. However, the more he thought about it, and the more he considered the idea of embellishing the diva with the personality of a completely self-absorbed woman who creates the perfect world she wants to live in regardless of the reality surrounding her, the more interested he became in exploring her world. When he finally sat down to write, Tolan found that the protagonist and her foil clicked for him immediately. "The characters of Chelsea Stevens and Jane Sokol just came to life," Tolan said. "Once they were solid in my mind, the script almost wrote itself."

When the time came to cast the actors who were to bring life to the finished script, Tolan felt Jean Smart would be the perfect Chelsea Stevens, but Smart wasn't really ready to commit to the rigors of a weekly series and initially passed on the project. However, Tolan was persistent because he knew Chelsea had to be played by an actress as skilled at the craft as Jean Smart otherwise Chelsea would come across as someone for the audience to hate, which was definitely not his intention. "I finally realized I could have a lot of fun bringing out the totally self-absorbed side of Chelsea," said Jean Smart. "And I adore Peter Tolan. No one writes as smart as he does."

Discussions for the part of Jane Sokol quickly found Nancy McKeon on the top of the list. A favorite of CBS Entertainment President Leslie Mooves, McKeon possessed the likable qualities Tolan knew were necessary in order for Jane to be the eyes and ears of the audience. "Jane is who the audience relates to and uses to get inside the crazy world of Chelsea Stevens," said Tolan. "Nancy possesses an incredible ability to connect with the audience."

"After working on several series, I've come to understand that the one thing that matters the most in the half hour format is the writing," said McKeon, who has developed scripts in the past in her producing endeavors. "When I read this script, I knew it was a project I wanted to be a part of. Peter Tolan is one of that small handful of top elite television writers," she continued, echoing Smart's appreciation for Tolan's script, "and it's a pleasure everyday to work with him."

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Once Tolan, Smart and McKeon were firmly in place, it was time to find the right director. When Tolan first moved to Los Angeles and was pitching projects at GTG Enterprises, he met veteran director Jay Sandrich, and was familiar with the director's vast television resume, so it was no surprise that Tolan sent the script to Sandrich with an offer to direct "Style & Substance." "I thought it was so funny and so different," said Sandrich, recalling how he became involved in the series after reading the script. "The writing just jumped off the page at me. And by then I had heard that Jean was doing the show, and I'm a big fan, so it was the right choice for me."

"I knew the kind of show I envisioned was a classically structured, filmed half hour comedy," said Tolan, much like Sandrich's work on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and the work of his early days as an assistant director on "I Love Lucy," the most classic sitcom of all time. "I wanted someone with Jay's assured stance to guide this show, so he was the natural choice." With visions of Lucy and Ethel and Mary and Rhoda in their minds, the creative team knew they were in for a wild, fun ride with Chelsea and Jane as long as Sandrich was at the controls.

Joseph Maher, Linda Kash and Heath Hyche were added to the cast to further inhabit the world of Chelsea and provide other points of view and commentary on the craziness found in the business environment working for Chelsea Stevens. At times the three support Jane, but at other times they find great humor in leaving Jane to travel alone where they have already been themselves, the hysterical insanity of Chelsea's world. Alan Autry provides some sexual energy to Chelsea's home environment in the role of Earl, her gardener, caretaker and spiritual advisor. While no sexual relationship exists, there is a playful, flirting quality to the cat and mouse antics between Chelsea and Earl.

In keeping with Tolan's vision for his characters' environments, Production Designer Ken Johnson created a non-traditional business office from a New York City, Soho-type warehouse space which now includes Chelsea's private office, as well as the front office and test kitchen. The stainless steel appliances in the kitchen area blend with the bleached wood counter top and the utilitarian work desks for Trudy and Terry and other staffers. Set Decorator Melinda Ritz created an eclectic sense of style in terms of the decor by filling the glassed-in garden with hanging and standing plants, arranging sunflowers in a watering pail pot on the kitchen counter, hanging framed sketches on the painted brick walls and filling lots of available

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counter and wall space with stylish kitsch. Chelsea's office is cozy with a glass wall to the garden terrace, an overstuffed chair full of pillows, a functional, creatively cluttered table desk with larger, colorful modern art on the walls segueing to framed articles and magazine covers featuring the office's chief occupant.

For the home of America's foremost authority on homemaking, style and taste, Johnson created a two story expansive Connecticut farm house with open beams supporting the great room's ceiling with an open kitchen at one end looking out onto a cozy living room with an overstuffed chair by the fireplace and a recently occupied loom with spools of yarn sitting off in the corner. Ritz filled the space with hanging copper pots, a glass front sub-zero refrigerator, open shelves filled with pottery and baskets, a homemade quilt covering a sofa scattered with floral-print throw pillows and arts and crafts creations hanging on the walls.

For a series about style and taste, fashion and grooming have to be a top priority for Smart and McKeon, but they feel safe and well cared for in the hands of the production team. Costume Supervisor Vivian G. Dobay, Key Costumer Michael Fitzpatrick and Set Costumer Annette Gagnon dress Jean and Nancy in designer business suits and evening clothes that are perfectly appropriate to their characters. Key Makeup Artist Tommy Cole and Assistant Makeup Artist Ann Masterson work closely with Key Hair Stylist Susan Zietlow-Maust and Assistant Hair Stylist Phillip Ackerman to give the women their contemporary looks. "We've got the best hair, makeup and costume people in the business working on this show," said McKeon. "They're open to our input, but they're so good at what they do, we don't have to worry."

The sets were ready, the script rehearsed, the camera blocking in place, the cast groomed and dressed just waiting for the audience to settle into their seats. It was time for all the preparation by this cohesive creative team to pay off in the production of a classy, sophisticated new show called **"Style & Substance."**

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Contacts: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676



Touchstone Television

JEAN SMART
Chelsea Stevens in "Style & Substance"

Jean Smart, known for a wide range of acting roles in theater, television and film, returns to episodic television comedy as Chelsea Stevens, a one woman empire peddling style and taste to the masses, in Touchstone Television's new half-hour comedy series **"Style & Substance."** "Chelsea is incredibly self-centered and has a hard time relating to somebody who doesn't know how to live her kind of life," said Smart, "but she's just basically insecure."

Best known for her role as Poplar Bluff, Missouri's Charlene Frazier on the long-running series "Designing Women," Smart was born in Seattle where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts from the University of Washington. Upon her graduation, she worked in local theater for several years before making her mark in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in "Much Ado About Nothing," "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and "A Moon for the Misbegotten."

Smart made her Broadway debut in "Piaf" and has also appeared in "Laughing Wild," "It Had to Be You" and the off-Broadway production of "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" for which she received a Drama Desk Award nomination. Garnering rave reviews, Smart also starred in "Marvin's Room" at Los Angeles' Tiffany Theater with Mary Steenburgen. She most recently appeared in Nicky Silvers' off-Broadway production of "Fit To Be Tied."

Filmgoers will remember Smart as the off-beat, saucy neighbor Mrs. Dittmeyer in the feature film "The Brady Bunch" where she starred with Shelley Long and Gary Cole. She has also appeared in "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey," "Mistress" with Robert DeNiro, "Flashpoint" with Kris Kristofferson and Treat Williams, "Protocol" with Goldie Hawn, "Project X" with Matthew Broderick and "Fire With Fire" in which she co-starred with Virginia Madsen.

In addition to her long run on "Designing Women," Smart has also starred in the CBS series "High Society" with Mary McDonnell and in countless made-for-television movies. She worked with Director Peter Levin in "A Stranger in Town" and in the critically-acclaimed "Overkill," both for CBS. She starred as Sally, the life-long

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"STYLE & SUBSTANCE" JEAN SMART BIO/Page 2

friend and confidant to Timothy Dalton's Rhett Butler, in "Scarlett," the long-awaited sequel to "Gone with the Wind." Smart also starred opposite Peter Strauss in "The Yearling" and with Robert Pastorelli in "The Yarn Princess." Her other film credits include "A Seduction in Travis County," "Locked Up: A Mother's Rage," "A Fight for Jenny" and "A Place at the Table."

Smart, who collects Roseville pottery, currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and son.

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676

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Touchstone Television

NANCY McKEON
Jane Sokol in "Style & Substance"

Nancy McKeon, who has all but grown up on television, plays Jane Sokol, a smart, practical, level-headed, ever-honest manager of the Chelsea Stevens empire, in Touchstone Television's new half-hour comedy series **"Style & Substance."** "Jane is smart, honest, real and wants everyone to like her 100% of the time," said McKeon. "That kind of dilemma makes for great comedy."

Born April 4, McKeon landed her first job in the industry at the age of two while accompanying her brother Philip to an audition for a television commercial. Several years later, when Philip was cast as Linda Lavin's son on the hit series "Alice," the McKeon family moved from Queens, New York to Los Angeles. She got her first TV role at the age of 12 on ABC's "Starsky & Hutch," but is best known to television audiences for giving life to the street-wise tomboy Jo Polniaczek on the long running NBC series "Facts of Life." McKeon has also guest starred with Dennis Weaver on the police drama series "Stone."

Along with her roles on series television, McKeon has also appeared in the made-for-television movies "Question of Love," "A Mother's Gift," "In the Child's Name" and "Cry for Help," the Tracy Thurman story, as well as in the CBS miniseries "Love, Honor & Obey: The Last Mafia Marriage."

In 1992, McKeon made her feature film debut in "Where the Day Takes You" co-starring with Dermot Mulroney, Kyle MacLachlan, Laura San Giacomo and Christian Slater. She has also appeared in the independent feature film "Teresa's Tattoo."

In an ongoing effort to find more challenging roles, McKeon took on the added responsibilities of producing when she returned to series television in "Can't Hurry Love" in 1995. She not only starred in and helped develop the series but also served as one of its producers. She has also produced and starred in the television movie "Firefighters" playing the first female firefighter in the Los Angeles Fire Department and in "Strange Voices" where she portrayed a woman suffering from schizophrenia.

McKeon currently resides in Los Angeles.

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676

97/12



Touchstone Television

JOSEPH MAHER
Mr. John in "Style & Substance"

Veteran character actor Joseph Maher brings his considerable talents to the role of the urbane, stylish and sophisticated Mr. John, Chelsea Stevens' sycophant interior designer, in Touchstone Television's new half-hour comedy series "**Style & Substance.**" "Mr. John is a sharp-witted interior designer who never stops going on about his gay lifestyle and his partner Guy," said Maher. "What's interesting is that there are so many gay characters on television today, but there aren't any older ones. I feel a real responsibility to play him with some class."

Maher's career has taken him from regional theater to the stages of London and Broadway, interspersed with countless performances on television and in feature films where he has starred alongside such talents as Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino, Dame Maggie Smith, Julie Harris, Jamie Lee Curtis, Barbra Streisand and Whoopi Goldberg.

A native of County Mayo, Ireland, Maher was born December 29 and immigrated to Canada at the age of twenty-two where he worked on the amateur production of a small play. That job led to a role on Canadian television, and before he knew it, he was on a nine-month tour with the Canadian Players. He was soon cast in a role in the off-Broadway production of "The Hostage" and thereafter decided to stay in New York as he continued to get work. After debuting on Broadway as an understudy in the production of "The Chinese Prime Minister," Maher played Gordon, the shy music teacher and ultimately the lover of the title character in "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie." Later, while at night appearing in the Broadway production of "The Royal Family," a play based on the life of the Barrymores, he spent his days in front of the camera on the soap opera "Another World."

Maher has also appeared in "The Importance of Being Earnest," a London production of "What the Butler Saw" which garnered him a 1991 Olivier Award nomination for Best Actor and in "Loot," a Manhattan Theater Club production for which he received a Drama Desk Critics Award and a Tony Nomination. He also received Tony Award nominations for his Broadway work in "Spokesong" and "Night and Day."

(more...)

"STYLE & SUBSTANCE" JOSEPH MAHER BIO/Page 2

His feature film work includes "Mars Attack!" with Glenn Close, "Surviving Picasso" with Anthony Hopkins, "Sister Act" with Whoopi Goldberg and "For Pete's Sake" with Barbra Streisand. He has also appeared in "OK Garage," "Just Tell Me What You Want" and "Heaven Can Wait."

On television, he was a series' regular on "Anything But Love," "Goode Behavior" and "Laurie Hill," where he worked alongside a then virtually unknown Ellen DeGeneres. His other television appearances include "Seinfeld," "Chicago Hope," "*thirtysomething*," "Moonlighting, "The Martin Short Show," "Little Gloria: Happy at Last" and "Murder, She Wrote," among many others.

Maher spends his free time writing and admits to being an avid movie-goer. He lives in the Los Angeles area.

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676

97/12



Touchstone Television

LINDA KASH
Trudy in "Style & Substance"

Linda Kash plays strong, tough, opinionated and abrasive Trudy, Chelsea Steven's food stylist, in Touchstone Television's new half-hour comedy series **"Style & Substance."** "If Trudy was stuck with you on a deserted island," said Kash, "you would surely survive, but you might not want to."

Born on January 17 in Montreal and raised in Toronto, Kash is one of five children of classical musician parents. She attended the Stratford School and planned on pursuing a career in "serious" theater until she took a summer course at Second City in Chicago. Her new-found love of comedy kept her performing and directing with Second City for several years until a pilot that she co-wrote was sold and brought her to Los Angeles in 1991.

She has appeared in the feature films "Waiting for Guffman," "Ernest Rides Again," "The Events Leading Up to My Death" and "Urban Safari."

Her extensive television credits include roles in shows such as "Seinfeld," "3rd Rock From the Sun," "She TV," "Partners in Love," "Maniac Mansion," "Street Legal," "Max Glick," "My Talk Show," "The Jim Henson Hour" and "The Second City 15th Anniversary Show."

Kash's theater credits include appearances in "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse and a Baby," which won her a Dora Award for Best Writing in a Musical/Revue, and in "Family Secrets," "Blood Brothers," "Bordering on Madness," "Not Based on Anything by Stephen King," "The Tempest" and "Of Mice and Men," to name a few.

In addition to her Stratford School and Second City Workshop experience, Kash has also studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, as well as with various acting coaches, including a clown workshop.

In her spare time, Kash, an orange belt in judo, likes to paint, listen to music and create pottery. She resides in Los Angeles with her husband, actor Michael Riley.

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676

97/12



Touchstone Television

HEATH HYCHE
Terry in "Style & Substance"

Heath Hyché joins the cast of Touchstone Television's **"Style & Substance"** in the role of Terry, Chelsea Stevens' innocent, naive and confused assistant.

Born April 5 in Birmingham, Alabama, Hyché found the theater during his studies at Auburn University where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and appeared in such productions as "A Doll House," "Isis and Osiris," "She Stoops to Conquer" and "Ah! Wilderness." The college stage segued to standup comedy on the road where Hyché toured the southeast college and club circuit.

In 1995, his manager suggested it was time to see what Los Angeles had to offer, and Hyché made the move to the west coast. His very first television audition was for the casting director assembling the supporting players for FOX's "Roseanne's Saturday Night Special." He returned to Alabama where he received a call-back to meet Roseanne herself. Hyché vividly remembers when she said, "Yeah, you're great. You got the job." Hyché has also guest starred on "Comics On Delivery" and "The Jeff Foxworthy Show" and appeared as a guest on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." He made his feature film debut in "Odd Couple II."

Since moving to Los Angeles, Hyché has taken up horseback riding, his newest form of relaxation. He's continually amazed at the mountain areas one can ride in that exist in the middle of such a huge city.

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676

97/12



Touchstone Television

ALAN AUTRY
Earl in "Style & Substance"

Alan Autry, best known for his portrayal of Deputy Bubba Skinner in the long-running series "In the Heat of the Night," joins the cast of Touchstone Television's new half-hour comedy series **"Style & Substance"** as a handsome hunk of a southern guy named Earl who works as the gardener, handyman and spiritual advisor to Chelsea Stevens at her Connecticut home. Autry describes Earl as, "Will Rogers in need of a little therapy. Politically Earl has a republican mind and a democratic heart."

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana on July 31 and raised in California's central valley, Autry's acting career actually started on the football field of the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree while becoming the tenth highest rated passer in the nation in his sophomore year. That kind of performance caught the attention of the pro scouts, and Autry was soon the starting quarterback for the Green Bay Packers. It was there that he met avid football fan Robert Altman who suggested he try acting and eventually cast him as Alfre Woodard's boyfriend in the Alan Rudolf-directed film "Remember My Name," which Altman produced.

Autry's other feature film credits include "Amazing Grace and Chuck," "At Close Range," "Southern Comfort," "North Dallas Forty," "Popeye" and "World Gone Wild." His television movies include "The Big One: The Great Los Angeles Earthquake," "Proud Men," "Dangerous Company" and the Dan Curtis miniseries "The Intruders." Autry has guest starred on the TV series "Newhart," "St. Elsewhere" and "Cheers" and, in addition to "In the Heat of the Night," has most recently appeared in the TV series "Grace Under Fire" for one season.

Autry is also a writer and producer who has recently formed his own production company, Dirt Road Productions, that will soon release its first film, "Puncher's Chance," set in the world of boxing.

When not working in Southern California or on location, Autry makes his home in Fresno, California with his wife Kimberlee and their three children, Lauren, 16, Heather, 11 and Austin, 16 months.

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676

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Touchstone Television

About The Production Team
"Style & Substance"

Peter Tolan (Executive Producer) - Tolan has been an actor, playwright and film and television writer. His theater credits include "Stay Carl Stay," "Pillow Talk," "Best Half-Foot" and "Laughing Matters." He has a shared writing credit on the screenplay for the Warner Bros. feature "My Fellow Americans" and is currently working on an updated version of the film classic "A Face in the Crowd" for director Barry Levinson. Tolan's television credits include "Murphy Brown," "Carol & Company," "Home Improvement," "The Long Game," "Good Advice," "The Larry Sanders Show," "The Peter Tolan Show" and "The George Wendt Show." In addition to working on "Style & Substance," Tolan is also executive producing a new show for comic Dave Chappelle for FOX. Tolan won an Emmy for his work as a producer on "Murphy Brown" and has been nominated for five Emmys for Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series. He has won seven CableAce Awards for his work on "The Larry Sanders Show," three for Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series. "The Larry Sanders Show" won the prestigious Peabody Award during his tenure as executive producer.

Ian Praiser (Co-Executive Producer) - Ian Praiser's television credits include work as a writer, story editor, producer and executive producer on "Rhoda" "Three's Company," "Taxi," "The Associates," "Bosom Buddies," "Semi-Tough," "Domestic Life," "ALF," "Carol & Company," "Living Single," "Love & War," "Caroline in the City," and "Suddenly Susan." He was also a writer on "The Tracy Ullman Show" and won an Emmy Award for its "I Hate Paris" episode. He has also created several television pilots and co-wrote the feature film "Coming Attractions."

Russ Woody (Co-Executive Producer) - Russ Woody holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Chico State University and was a comedy writer at MTM Productions where he wrote for such series as "Hill Street Blues," "Newhart" and "St. Elsewhere." He has also been a staff writer on the comedy series "Slap Maxwell." In addition, Woody served as producer on "Murphy Brown," "Room for Two," "Cybill" and "Good Sports." In 1990 he worked for Imagine Entertainment as producer on the television series "Parenthood." Woody makes his home in Los Angeles with his wife Catherine Campbell and their two sons, Henry and Joe.

(more...)

Jay Sandrich (Director) - Veteran director Jay Sandrich directs nine of the first twelve episodes of this midseason series. His career began as an assistant director on the most classic television series of all time, "I Love Lucy." He has directed some of television's greatest comedic talents over the years with his work on such series as "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "Golden Girls," "Soap" and "The Cosby Show." He has also directed the film "Seems Like Old Times," and the telefilms "For Richer, For Poorer" and "London Suite."

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Contact: Carla Princi
(818) 560-4676

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James Sorenson/Touchstone



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(Clockwise from left to right) Despite their differences and idiosyncrasies the gang at the office, Mr. John (Joseph Maher), Trudy (Linda Kash), Terry (Heath Hyche), Jane Sokol (Nancy McKeon) and Chelsea Stevens (Jean Smart), always finds a way to be a family in **"Style & Substance,"** airing Mondays at 9:30 PM (ET/PT) on CBS.

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Scott Humbert/Touchstone



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(Top left to right) Jean Smart, Nancy McKeon, Heath Hyche, (bottom left to right) Linda Kash, Alan Autry and Joseph Maher star in **"Style & Substance,"** airing **Mondays at 9:30 PM on CBS.**

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James Sorenson/Touchstone



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Jean Smart stars as Chelsea Stevens, the diva of domesticity and Nancy McKeon stars as Jane Sokol, the transplant from Omaha determined to keep Chelsea fiscally sane, in "Style & Substance," airing Mondays at 9:30 PM (ET/PT) on CBS.

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Scott Humbert/Touchstone



Randy Tepper/Touchstone

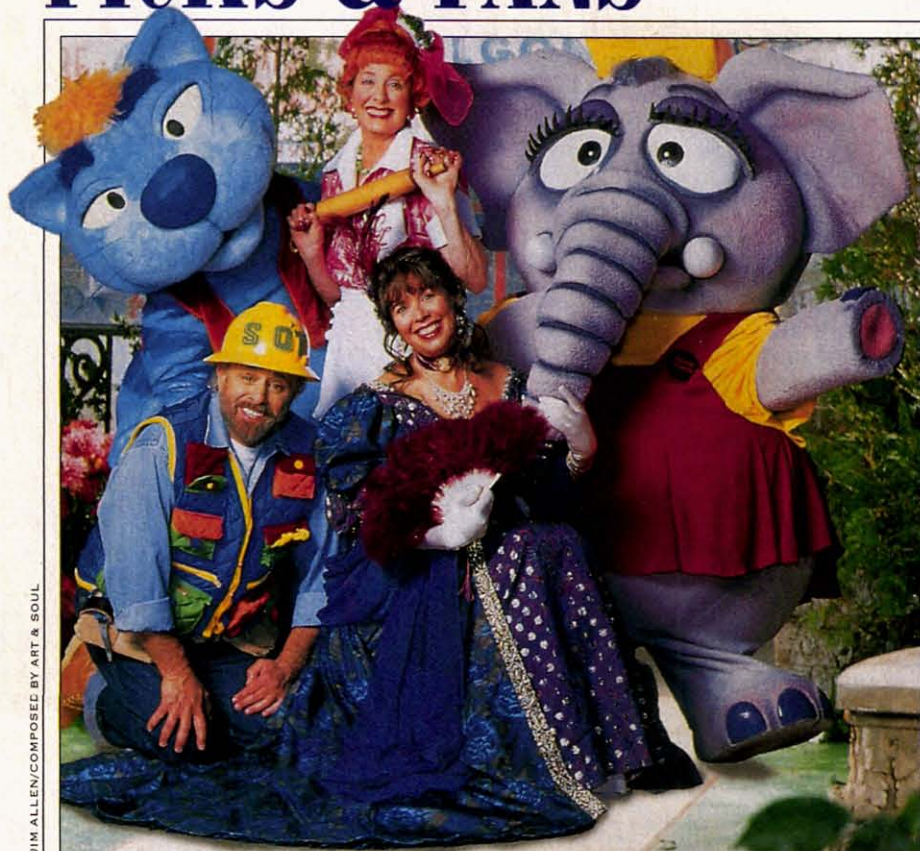
(Top photo) Jane Sokol (Nancy McKeon) learns the hard way that not only does Chelsea Stevens (Jean Smart) like to rifle through her new employee's purse to learn more about her; (bottom photo) but to make a cake in Chelsea's honor is not necessarily a good thing as it will never compare to the lovely creation she whips up herself in **"Style & Substance" airing Mondays at 9:30 PM (ET/PT) on CBS.**

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PICKS & PANS



JIM ALLEN/COMPOSED BY ART & SOUL

TUBE: Lilienstein (top), Morrison (left) and Hampson brighten *Skinamarink TV*.

TUBE

by Terry Kelleher

■ BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE

Disney Channel (Weekdays, 10 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 7 and 7:30 a.m. ET)

■ SKINMARINK TV

The Learning Channel (Mondays-Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. ET)

The magic needed to charm a preschooler is hard to define, harder to capture. But these shows have displayed it consistently since premiering in the fall.

Created by Mitchell Kriegman (*Clarissa Explains It All*) and produced by Jim Henson Television (run by the late Muppet creator's son Brian), *Bear in the Big Blue House* stars a sociable, orange-furred 7-footer of the ursine persuasion whose grace belies his bulk (he cha-chas like a dream). Bear and Tutter, a slightly hyper mouse (pet in-

terjection: "Oh, hickory-dickory!"), share a commodious, comfortable home, where they regularly entertain Treelo the lemur, Pip and Pop the otters and a little bear named Ojo. The puppetry is enormously clever, the production design is practically perfect (what could be more inviting than the soft colors and soft pillows of Bear's living room?), the songs are catchy and not syrupy, and the day's lesson (from the principle of sharing to the law of gravity) is subtly reinforced in Bear's concluding talk with Luna, the womanly moon. The thing is, we never like to leave. Does Bear have a spare room?

Skinamarink TV is not as imaginative as *Bear*, but it's bright, breezy and fun. The series features Sharon, Lois & Bram, the Toronto-based songsters formerly seen on Nickelodeon's *Elephant Show*, in a half-hour package of gentle TV parodies that might be viewed as a kids' version of that north-of-the-border classic SCTV. The spoofs of game shows, sitcoms and such may

not reach the level of adult-pleasing humor found on *Sesame Street*, but the format allows lots of time for Sharon (Hampson), Lois (Lilienstein) and Bram (Morrison) to do what they do best: perform old songs with affection and infectious enthusiasm. They also interact amusingly with two human-size animal characters, cheeky C.C. CopyCat and Ella Acapella, a sweet young pachyderm.

Grades: *Bear*, A; *Skinamarink*, A-

■ MARTHA STEWART LIVING

Syndicated (check local listings)

■ STYLE & SUBSTANCE

CBS (Mondays, 9:30 p.m. ET)

Why do some people take shots at Martha Stewart, the famous cooking, gardening and decorating maven (and, according to her publicity bio, "arbiter of taste")? Look at her TV show, which went daily this season after four years as a weekly

People weekly ONLINE

THIS WEEK

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM: Chill out with the stars of *Scream 2*, Courteney Cox, David Arquette, Jerry O'Connell and Jamie Kennedy, who talk about working with director Wes Craven, palling around together and what they really think about horror movies.

PICTURE THIS: So you think you know everything about the stars? Pit your celebrity savvy against other users with PEOPLE Online's live, multiplayer trivia challenge.

TUNE UP: Sample the CDs reviewed in this issue (page 29) from audio clips on the Web. Featured artists include Billy Lee Riley, Chico DeBarge, Lou Christie and Loreena McKennitt.

PEOPLE Online is available on Pathfinder, on the World Wide Web (<http://www.people.com>).

TUBE

half-hour. Shortly before Christmas she demonstrated how to bake the perfect fruitcake—after citing an informal survey of her friends to prove that folks sort of like the oft-maligned confection. Something in her tight smile suggested that anyone who responded, “Fruitcake? Yecchhhh!” was transferred summarily to her enemies list.

Stewart is a tempting comic target, and the new series *Style & Substance* comes out firing. Not at her, of course, but at a fictional central character whose resemblance to actual persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Chelsea Stevens (Jean Smart) is a divorced mistress of the domestic arts with a magazine, a television show, a staff full of lackeys (except for new office manager Jane Sokol, played by Nancy McKeon) and zero friends (not even fruitcake fanciers). Despite an obsessive-compulsive personality that drives her to prepare hors d'oeuvres at 5 a.m., Chelsea's advice to an imperfect world boils down to four words: “Be more like me.” The Jan. 5 premiere, written by executive producer Peter

Tolan (*The Larry Sanders Show*), is often deliciously funny, and Smart (*Designing Women*) clearly savors her plum role. But the series risks losing its edge if Chelsea reveals too much of her lonely, vulnerable side to Jane. Watching an upcoming episode, we kept thinking, “Get Chelsea some therapy,” when we should have been laughing with abandon.

Meanwhile, if you want to learn to fashion picture frames out of birch bark, the real Martha Stewart continues to provide such useful household information in a manner that is direct, polite and authoritative, though not especially warm. Her show could use a dash of humor, even if her life is not exactly a sitcom. Grade for both: **B**

■ PREY

ABC (Thursdays, 8 p.m. ET)

A better title for this drama series might be *Dead Meat*, since it has the misfortune of being scheduled opposite *Friends*. (The previous victim in this time slot, the worthy *Nothing Sacred*, has been switched to Saturdays.) But the show may appeal to two



▲ **MARTHA STEWART LIVING** She may smile, but Stewart's show is not for laughs.