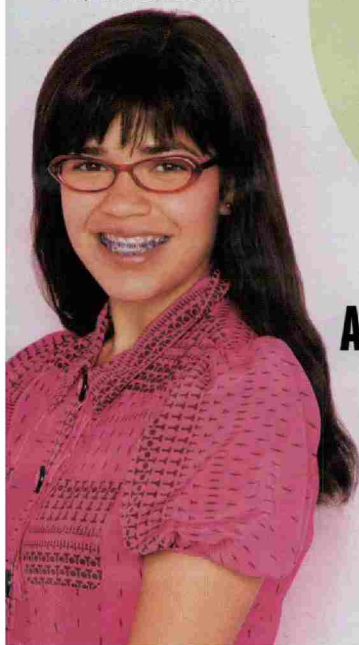


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Blink

ABC Tunes Up Music Video-Style Promos

Start spreading the news: ABC is again using music videos to help hype its lineup. Duplicating a strategy it used last year, the network has put together several videos featuring scenes from its returning shows set to full-length songs. "Dirty Sexy Money" is being touted with a song from Lady Gaga, while the entire ABC lineup gets exposure in a clip set to Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." But this year, ABC is taking things a step further to promote "Ugly Betty."



The network convinced the cast to record a slightly reworked version of the classic "New York, New York" in order to commemorate the show's shifting production from Hollywood to New York. It probably didn't take much to get the actors to lend their voices to the promo. "Betty's" cast includes a number of theater and music veterans, including **Vanessa Williams**, who's had more than a few hit singles during her career. Check out the "New York, New York" and "Bohemian Rhapsody" videos at TVWeek.com. ■ —JOSEF ADALIAN

Tough Cookies

For those of you who might have missed it, the ladies of ABC's "The View" pretty much raked Republican presidential candidate Sen. **John McCain** over the coals on their Sept. 12 show, accusing him of lying about Democratic opponent Sen. **Barack Obama** in his TV ads and mercilessly pressing him about exactly how his running mate, Alaska Gov. **Sarah Palin**, intends to "reform" Washington.



Well, the show paid off

in spades—the edition was the fourth-most-watched in the talk fest's history and also delivered the series' highest-rated week in a year and a half among total viewers. Considering the political hardball these women can play, Blink thinks ABC might do well to bump **George Stephanopoulos** and program a special Sunday political edition of "The View" opposite "Meet the Press" and "Face the Nation"—at least until the election. ■ —TOM GILBERT

No Fox Party

Didn't get your usual invite to the 20th Century Fox/Fox Broadcasting

Tanks a Lot

Warner Bros. Domestic Television Distribution apparently is into "TMZ" for the long haul. This month the distributor is outfitting petroleum tanker trucks with the TMZ logo and the slogan "Keeping Hollywood Real Since 2007" and dispatching them onto Los Angeles' busiest freeways. For two months the tankers will serve as moving billboards for the celebrity-stalking strip, which is entering its second season. WBTD also has launched a series of TV commercial touting the show's "viewer benefits," in which wannabe celebrities express heartfelt gratitude for the lessons they have learned by watching the real stars' everyday behavior—good, bad or just plain odd—on "TMZ." ■ —TOM GILBERT



Emmy bash? Don't worry: You haven't been demoted to the D list. It turns out the News Corp. companies opted to skip an Emmy bash this year. The event, usually held at Spago, had become part of the Emmy-night party circuit for TV types, along with soirees hosted by Entertainment Tonight, HBO, TV Guide and the TV Academy itself. So what was behind the decision to bump the bash? "In the current economic climate we felt it more appropriate to focus our spending on development, production and marketing our programming," representatives for the studio and network said in a joint statement. "We will recognize our Emmy winners individually." Another contributing factor might be the

fact that one of Fox and 20th's big Emmy magnets—"24"—wasn't broadcast this year, denying the studio and network some notable noms. ■ —JOSEF ADALIAN

Staying Put

A Lifetime spokesman assures Blink there is absolutely no truth to Friday's rampant Internet rumors that Emmy-winning D-lister **Kathy Griffin**, following the lead of "Project Runway," would also be defecting from long-time home Bravo and taking her



act to the women's network. Ms. Griffin, who just won a second Emmy for reality program for her "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List," was first reported to be mulling such a move in Friday's New York Post, which cited a "well-placed source" as saying Ms. Griffin was being lured to the Lifetime fold by the promise of a late-night talk show, among other goodies. The news, valid or not, hit the Web like paparazzi at an A-list opening, though it came as something of a shock to Bravo, which termed it "surprising, since we've picked her up for another season of her series." ■ —TOM GILBERT



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