

TV review

'Alive TV'

By Miles Beller

PBS' "Alive From Off Center" has in the past been one of the more anticipated treats of summer viewing, a program chock-a-block full of inventive, wry work crafted by a diverse bunch of creative forces.

With summer's return, "Alive From Off Center" is again with us. Though the series has undergone a name change, now titled "Alive TV" and book-ended by vibrant credits resembling animated Rauschenberg imagery, this PBS presentation remains one of the best places to catch some first-rate programming, television that is and does make a difference.

"Alive TV's" first broadcast is devoted to an intriguing piece called "Punch and Judy Get Divorced" that reinvents the venerable puppet show, here featuring 14 human actors operating as the puppets and exploring family life and its discontents, as well as the situation between the sexes ("Does anybody know why my husband of 200 years wants a young girlfriend?" Judy bemoans), this while a kaleidoscopic soundtrack pipes merrily along.

Upcoming "Alive" airings such as "American Flash Cards" and

ALIVE TV: PUNCH AND JUDY GET DIVORCED PBS

Twin Cities Public Television Inc.
Alive TV

Producers Ted Hope, James Schamus
Line producer Robin O'Hara
Directors Mark Pellington, David Gordon
Written and staged by David Gordo
Music Carl Stalling
Music producers Hal Willner, Greg Ford
Production designer Nancy Deren
Editor Bruce Ashley
Director of photography Mike Spiller
Cast: Michael Butler, Stephen Hanan, Alice Playten,
Mary Louise Wilson, Michael Cobb, Bobo Lewis,
Scott Cunningham, Ain Gordon, Karen Evans-Kandel,
Tisha Roth, Deirdre Lovejoy, Dean Moss, Norma Fire, Rodney Hudson

Airdate: Friday, July 3, 11-11:30 p.m.

"Not for Saturday Morning Animations" promise to be as absorbing and thought-provoking as the series' season debut. Indeed, while repeat programming and busted pilots now rise in summer's heat like vampires from moldering coffins, PBS continues broadcasting a great many new, stimulating shows such as "Alive TV" that make summer more than an unnatural graveyard of re-animated dead series and revived deceased primetime productions. □

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