

Entertainment Outlook

Whit Bissell made dozens of films

By Dick Kleiner

Q. Please settle a dispute between my best friend and me. I say that the character actor, Whit Bissell, was in every picture that was ever made. My friend says he was only in every Western that was ever made, plus "The Caine Mutiny." Seriously, can you provide any information on him? — D.P., Oxnard, Calif.

A. It only seemed as though he was in every picture ever made. But you are right, in that he was not only in Westerns. He was in dozens, perhaps hundreds, of others — from "Hud" and "Airport" to "I Was a Teen-Age Frankenstein." He's 74 now and pretty much retired.

Q. My wife and I have a disagreement. She says that Leonard Nimoy didn't play on the series "Mission: Impossible," and I say he did. Who's right? — M.H., Egton, W.V.

A. Nimoy played a character named Paris on "Mission: Impossible" from '67 to '71. I think you would be justified in asking where Mrs. H. was during those years.

Q. Is the actress who plays Margo on "The Bold and the Beautiful" the same one who played J.R. Ewing's

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girlfriend, Mandy, on "Dallas"? I feel I saw her on "Dallas" but a member of the family disagrees with me. — R.G.G., Wendell, N.C.

A. Sorry, your memory is gone. Mandy was played by Deborah Shelton, and Margo is played by Lauren Koslow.

Q. You have to settle a dispute. I say that Nichols in "Star Trek IV" was played by Stuart Pankin (of "Not Necessarily the News" on HBO) even though the credits list him as being played by Alex Henteloff. It has to be the same person, isn't it? — R.K., West Trenton, N.J.

A. No, it isn't. Stuart Pankin is Stuart Pankin and Alex Henteloff is Alex



Whit Bissell Leonard Nimoy

Henteloff. Alex, before he became an actor, was a noted folk singer.

Q. Many years ago, I saw a great movie, "Helen of Troy." It was from '56, with Hugh O'Brian as Achilles. Helen and Paris were played by two very good actors. What were their names? And why hasn't such a great movie been released on video? — V.M.P., Killeen, Texas.

A. First, you are all alone out on that Texas limb thinking it was a great picture. About the best anybody else said was that it was so-so. It was an Italian/American co-production,

with Rosanna Podesta and Jacques Sernas in the leads. O'Brian's name does not appear on my cast list, but Brigitte Bardot did have a small part in it.

A. It was a TV movie called "The Two Worlds of Jennie Logan," with Lindsay Wagner, Marc Singer and Linda Gray. And it was a good one. My list has it available on cassette.

Q. There was a TV show, seven or eight years ago, called "The Two Lives of Jenny Logan," with Lindsay Wagner. Was it a movie or a TV movie? She played a woman who tries on an old wedding dress in the attic and goes back in time. — I.M., Platteville, Wis.

(Send your questions to: Ask Dick Kleiner, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10166. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

'Rock On' is newly released video

By Ethlie Ann Vare

Before this column was named Video Beat, it was called Rock On — named after my northern California radio show by the same monicker. And the theme song for that radio show was (what else?) "Rock On," David Essex's closing title tune from the 1975 movie "Stardust."

Now we come full circle, in a way, as a new version of "Rock On" is being released as a video. Performed this time by soap star Michael Damian ("The Young and the Restless"), the clip promotes the movie "Dream a Little Dream." Cast members Corey Feldman, Corey Haim and Meredith Salenger are featured in the video, along with Damian. It's being directed by Mark Rocco (actor Alex Rocco's son), who also directed the movie.

• Three original U2 tunes on the "Rattle & Hum" film sound track were disqualified from being nominated for the Best Song Oscar when the Academy judges decided that none of them contributed to the film's story.

Concert numbers on film can get Academy Award consideration, apparently, only if the performances

are part of a dramatic sequence, as they were in Prince's "Purple Rain."

• That lanky fellow wearing the aviator jacket in Eddie Money's video for "The Love in Your Eyes" is none other than '60s super-drummer Ginger Baker. Aviation is not simply an affectation for Baker: After Cream disbanded, he named his next band Ginger Baker's Airforce. And he owns the desert airstrip Money used for the video's location.

• Revlon cosmetics is thinking about capitalizing on the popularity of young popster Debbie Gibson by creating a cologne named after her latest album, "Electric Youth." The fragrance, endorsed by Gibson, would be sold not only through cosmetics counters but at record stores as well.

• Some statistics for you, courtesy of the Recording Industry Association of America: Record sales (and we include cassettes and CDs here) were up 18 percent in 1988 over 1987. And the 1987 total — \$5.5 billion in sales — was 19 percent higher than 1986. In

the past 10 years, industry volume has increased by more than \$2 billion per annum.

Cassette tapes now account for 59 percent of recorded music sold. LPs are a mere 18 percent of the total (down from 34 percent two years ago), and compact discs are up to 20 percent (from only 3 percent two years ago.)

In dollar volume, however, the costly CDs account for 32 percent of total sales. Pre-recorded music videos make up 9 percent of all recorded music sales.

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