Last week CBS, The CW and SHOWTIME held their annual Winter Press Tours for print, broadcast and online television critics in Pasadena, CA.

- At CBS’s opening executive session on Wednesday, Jan. 11, CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler reported on the Network’s “phenomenal year” and “great first half of the season” (#1 in viewers and A18-49 and up in all ratings categories). Among specific achievements, she pointed to

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the re-launch of TWO AND A HALF MEN (with Ashton Kutcher), “terrific transitions” on CSI (with Elisabeth Shue and Ted Danson) and the successful launches of the hit comedy 2 BROKE GIRLS and dramas UNFORGETTABLE and PERSON OF INTEREST. She also noted the continued ratings growth of NCIS, HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER, THE BIG BANG THEORY and MIKE & MOLLY. Tassler went on to talk about the creative passion CBS brings to what the Network does. "We have," she said, "an extraordinary group of executives, all of whom put their personal careers secondary to the success of their shows and the work that they do. That's one of the reasons why we've all been together for so long. We're a terrific team. We have tremendous respect for each other, but more importantly, respect for our medium, respect for the producers that we work for."

Other highlights of CBS’s Tour included sessions with the stars and executive producers of CBS’s top-rated Monday comedy block: MIKE & MOLLY, TWO AND A HALF MEN, 2 BROKE GIRLS and HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER. Also on the agenda were sessions on NCIS (TV’s #1 series), the third season return of UNDERCOVER BOSS and the new comedy ROB, starring Rob Schneider, which premiered Jan. 12 #1 in viewers and key demos in its Thursday 8:30-9:00 ET/PT timeslot. In addition, CBS THIS MORNING hosts Charlie Rose, Gayle King and Erica Hill, and Executive Producer Chris Licht (VP, Programming, CBS News), appeared live via satellite from Studio 57 in New York.

SHOWTIME’s Tour was held on Jan. 12 with an executive session and Q&A with Entertainment President David Nevins, followed by special presentations with the stars of SHAMELESS, THE BORGIAS, INSIDE COMEDY and HOUSE OF LIES. In his opening remarks, Nevins reported that SHOWTIME now has more than 21 million subscribers, having added about 2 million over the course of 2011. He also noted the “swell of attention” for HOMELAND (the Network’s highest-rated freshman series ever), the return of DEXTER for two more seasons (which delivered its highest-rated season-to-date), and the “great numbers” for the recent premieres of HOUSE OF LIES, SHAMELESS and CALIFORNICATION. Other subjects touched upon included a new show with sports pundit Jim Rome and branded, high-impact filmmaker-driven documentaries, including ones about Dick Cheney (from Oscar and Emmy winner R.J. Cutler) and Richard Pryor (with Marina Zenovich, who directed the very memorable film about Roman Polanski -- “Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired”).

THE CW presented THE Bad-Ass Boys Of The CW, featuring HART OF DIXIE’s Wilson Bethel, THE VAMPIRE DIARIES’ Joseph Morgan, SUPERNATURAL’s Jared Padalecki, RINGER’s Kristoffer Polaha, NIKITA’s Shane West and GOSSIP GIRL’s Ed Westwick; and REMODELED, with star and executive producer Paul Fisher. The CW also held a cocktail reception to celebrate the final season of ONE TREE HILL.

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On the Awards Front... CBS was prominently in the winners circle when the annual 2012 People’s Choice Awards were announced on Wednesday, Jan.11. Among the winners were 2 BROKE GIRLS (Favorite New TV Comedy), HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER (Favorite Network TV Comedy/Favorite TV Comedy Actor, Neil Patrick Harris and Favorite TV Guest Star, Katy Perry) PERSON OF INTEREST (Favorite New TV Drama), and The CW’s SUPERNATURAL (Favorite Network TV Drama and Favorite Sci/Fi/Fantasy Show.) ... On Jan. 15, SHOWTIME’s HOMELAND received Hollywood Foreign Press Association Golden Globe honors for Best Television Series - Drama and Best Performance by an Actress In A Television Series - Drama (Claire Danes). In addition, Matt LeBlanc won for Best Actor in a Television Comedy or Musical (EPISODES).

In Other Television News...

- THE NFL ON CBS’s broadcasts of the AFC Wild Card and Divisional Playoff games on Sunday, Jan. 8 (Pittsburgh-Denver); Saturday, Jan. 14 (Denver-New England) and Sunday, Jan. 15 (Houston-Baltimore) averaged 36.087 million viewers -- the highest overall viewer average for the first three playoff games for the AFC television package in 25 years (CBS records go back to 1987-88). The three matchups also scored the highest HH rtg/share average in 16 years. (Source: NTI)

- For the week ending Jan. 6, THE TALK delivered its largest audience since July and matched its best key women demographics of the season. (Source: NTI)

- CBS Television Distribution has sold the new syndicated first-run talk show JEFF PROBST to stations in more than 80% of the country for a fall 2012 launch. The program is now sold in 24 of the top 25 markets. New sales include top-rated television stations from key groups including CBS, Dispatch Broadcast Group, Gray Television, Raycom Media, Sinclair Broadcast Group, Hearst Television and many others. A regular fill-in for Regis Philbin on “Live With Regis and Kelly,” Probst has hosted all 23 editions of CBS’s reality hit SURVIVOR and continues in that role on the show. He is a four-time Emmy Award winner for Outstanding Reality Host and the only winner since the award was created in 2008. ... In addition, CTD’s Rachael Ray -- two-time Emmy Award winner for Outstanding Talk Show -- has been renewed nationwide through the 2013-2014 television season, which will take the show through its 8th season. Station groups renewing the show include: CBS, ABC, Gannett Broadcasting, Cox Television, Meredith Broadcasting, Media General, Post-Newsweek, Hearst Television, Allbritton Communications, LIN Television Corporation and Scripps Media, among others.

Jeff Probst

Rachael Ray

CAPITOL NEWS: On January 19, CBS RADIO will launch an all-news format on 99.1 FM in Washington, D.C., serving residents of the metropolitan area, including Virginia and Maryland suburbs. Robert Sanchez, who previously served as Assistant Director of News and Programming for WCBS Newsradio 880 in New York, serves as Program Director for the station, while veteran DC broadcaster Michelle Komes-Dolge, who previously served as News Director, Managing Editor and Producer at WTOP-FM (Hubbard Broadcasting), has joined the team as News Director. The move to all-news at 99.1 comes as a result of an agreement with Family Stations, Inc to acquire 107.9 FM which now serves as the home for “El Zol,” CBS RADIO Washington DC’s Spanish-language station.

"CBS RADIO’s history in all-news is rich in tradition and recognized nationwide for its excellence. There is no one more regarded in this field, nor anyone with the journalistic expertise and capability to put forth a product with such instant credibility. We have perfected this format over many decades and we’re thrilled to expand the options for the D.C. community who have a distinct passion for news." -- Dan Mason, President and CEO, CBS RADIO.

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PEOPLE

Jeff Glor, who was named Special Correspondent for CBS THIS MORNING in November 2011, has additionally been named anchor of the Sunday edition of the CBS EVENING NEWS.

Amy Coleman has been named Executive Producer of CBS Television Distribution's new syndicated first-run talk show JEFF PROBST, which is set for a fall 2012 launch. Previously she worked at Harpo Productions as a Supervising Producer on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

At CBS Sports Network, Dan Weinberg has been named Senior Vice President, Programming. He most recently served as Vice President, Licensing, Major League Baseball. ... Veteran Sports Illustrated journalist Jon Heyman has joined CBSSports.com to cover Major League Baseball along with baseball columnists Scott Miller and Danny Knobler, and "Eye on Baseball" bloggers Matt Snyder and C. Trent Rosecrans. ... At SHOWTIME, Golden Globe and Tony Award nominee Liev Schreiber ("RKO 281"/"A View from the Bridge") has been cast in the title role in the pilot RAY DONOVAN, a drama about Hollywood's best professional "fixer," which starts production in early 2012.

At CBS Films, Colin Farrell ("In Bruges," "Crazy Heart"), Sam Rockwell ("Iron Man 2," "Frost/Nixon"), Academy Award-winner/ Tony Award nominee Christopher Walken ("Hairspray," "Catch Me If You Can") and Academy Award-nominee Woody Harrelson ("The Messenger," "Rampart") have all signed on to star in "Seven Psychopaths," an action-comedy written and directed by Academy Award-nominated Martin McDonagh ("Six Shooter").

IN MEMORIAM

Retired CBS Newsman Richard Threlkeld

Retired award-winning CBS News Correspondent Richard Threlkeld died in a car accident in Amagansett, NY on Jan. 13. He was 74.

Threlkeld, who joined CBS News in 1966, worked at the company for 25 years, where he anchored a national morning news program, reported extensively from overseas and helped launch the news program CBS SUNDAY MORNING. Alongside Lesley Stahl he served as the co-anchor of "CBS Morning News" (1977-79). He served as a correspondent, anchor and bureau chief for 15 years, reporting on the CBS EVENING NEWS, SUNDAY MORNING and the "CBS Reports" documentary series, "The Defense of the United States," before leaving to join ABC News in 1982. He returned to CBS News in 1989.

Threlkeld was one of the most experienced combat correspondents in broadcast journalism, covering for CBS News the Vietnam War (he was with 60 MINUTES Correspondent Bob Simon at the fall of Saigon), the Persian Gulf War, the war in Lebanon and the invasions of Panama and Granada. Back home, he reported on such major domestic stories as the Patty Hearst kidnapping and trial, the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, and the presidential campaigns of Bill Clinton, George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter and Lyndon B. Johnson, among others. In 1996 he was posted to Moscow where he remained until he retired from CBS News in 1998.

Over the course of his career, Threlkeld won numerous awards, including the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Silver Baton, several Emmy and Overseas Press Club Awards, and a New York State Bar Association Award. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Betsy Aaron (a former CBS, ABC, NBC and CNN correspondent), two children, two grandchildren and a brother, Robert.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This newsletter may include "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual factual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. CBS Corporation's news releases and filings with the SEC, including its most recent Form 10-K and Form 10-Qs, contain a description of factors that could affect future results. The forward-looking statements are made only as of the date of this document and we do not undertake to update any forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events. For more information about CBS Corporation, see the Company's news releases and filings with the SEC which can be found at www.cbscorporation.com, in the "News" and "Investor Relations" sections, respectively."