

# No. 6

press packet



## Contents:

- ☐ *Wall Street Journal* coverage; and
- ☐ *New York Daily News* coverage

## Television

## PILOTS

*How to find quirky new TV shows on the Web that haven't yet hit the networks*

TELEVISION NETWORKS are now rolling out their pilots for new fall shows, but starting next week, audiences can watch a different crop of pilots—episodes that writers and producers have made on their own, in hopes of selling them to networks. These will screen next week at the New York Television Festival, an event devoted to independently produced TV pilots, modeled on the film world's Sundance festival. Three pilots from last year's festival were picked up, including the fishing series "Versus," which will have its premiere this month on the cable channel OLN. This year, the 22 pilots in competition will also play on the Web, where viewers can watch them free, beginning Wednesday. Below, three comedies in the lineup.

HOW TO FIND IT: Go to [www.tv.msn.com/nytvf](http://www.tv.msn.com/nytvf).

—John Jurgensen



#### ◀ A/V Club

The show focuses on an awkward teen named Beth, who transfers to a new school and finds refuge among the obsessed members of the school's audio-visual club. Stars and creators include Rebecca Feldman, one of the creators of the Broadway musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," and Sarah Saltzberg, who stars in the musical.



#### ◀ Free Love Forum

Created by a New York comedy troupe, this show is made up of sketches, including one about a therapy group based on "mandatory sharing" and a commercial for "Muttonopoly," a board game played with cuts of meat.



#### ◀ Pizza Time

A spoof of the hit Fox series "24," this show about a pizza parlor trying to deliver its pies in its guaranteed delivery time uses split screens and a ticking clock to ratchet up the drama. One of its producers, Todd Holland, was also a producer of the Fox comedy "Malcolm in the Middle."

**WATCH IT!**  
24/7 News, Sports, Biz  
& Entertainment Videos  
REGISTER | HEADLINES

DAILY NEWS  
**Entertainment**

**DAILY DISH**  
CLASSIFIEDS | HELP

## NYC festival for pilots helps rookies take off

By MARISA GUTHRIE

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

So you think you have a great idea for a new television series. But you have no agent, no connections and no clue?

No problem.

The New York Television Festival, which kicks off today with a star-studded red carpet premiere of the NBC drama "Kidnapped," is a mecca for new ideas, and it's miles away from the derivative Hollywood system.



NBC

**NBC's 'Kidnapped,' with Dana Delany and Timothy Hutton, is getting a premiere at the N.Y. Television Festival.**

"It really is a meritocracy," said festival director Terence Gray.

The festival received more than 200 submissions this year, its second in existence. Industry leaders picked 22 pilots, which will be shown over the next several days at the Museum of Television and Radio and the DGA Theater. (For schedule and ticket information, go to [www.newyorktelevisionfestival.com](http://www.newyorktelevisionfestival.com).)

"The conventional pitch process - where you really have to have an agent and some experience and know people in the industry - that locks out a lot of people," said Gray. "The festival offers all these people the opportunity to be seen."

Some selections do have the pedigree of experience. Todd Holland ("The Larry Sanders Show") is the producer of "Pizza Time," which Gray described as a "spoofish takeoff of '24' set in a pizza parlor."

But the majority of the selections are from performers and writers whose names have rarely appeared even in the most minor credits. Technology and the Internet, however, have created opportunities for fledgling producers.

"The technology has caught up to the inspiration," said festival spokesman Eben Russell.

But not everything now clogging the Internet can be described as inspirational, and separating the wheat from the chaff can be daunting.

"We're a filter system for user-generated content," said Gray. "If you're a television executive with a limited amount of time, would you rather search this vast expanse of pilots (on the Internet) or would you rather watch the 22 best pilots?"

Just as film festivals like Sundance infused the movie industry with a new energy, an independent movement for the small screen can be a big boost for that sector's creative process.

Film festivals, said Gray, "created a whole new business. You really got back to storytelling and great characters. And to us, that's what has defined the independent movement.

"There's only good that can come from creating access for people who never had it before."

**Originally published on September 12, 2006**



[Fresh stories hot off the site every day via RSS!](#)



[Have stories like this emailed right to your inbox!](#)



[Email this story](#)



[Printer-friendly version](#)

---

[Home](#) | [News & Views](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Business](#) | [Boroughs](#) | [City Life](#) | [Services](#)

All contents © 2006 Daily News, L.P.  
[Terms and Conditions of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)