

# Charter re-ups with ABC Family Deal puts programs in 6.2 mil homes through '06

By Jim McConville

**NEW YORK** — Call it one small carriage step for ABC Charter, which reaches an estimated 6.8 million U.S. cable homes, carries ABC Family on its expanded basic tier, which reached 6.2 million homes. ABC Family and Charter Communications declined comment on the deal, but observers called the renewal significant for the network, which must broker carriage deals with several other

The cable network has renewed its cable carriage deal with Charter Communications, ensuring a multiyear deal that will ensure its carriage through 2006.

## AFI: warm thanks to Hanks

Star is youngest to receive career nod

By Gregg Kilday



Actor-producer-director Tom Hanks, at a mere 45 years old, became the youngest honoree to accept the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award as he became the award's 30th recipient Wednesday night.

The honor was bestowed during a dinner at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland that began with whoops and cheers for the Angeles Lakers — the last few seconds of the big game were beamed into the theater. The night ended with a patriotic flourish as Steven Spielberg first introduced Bill Guarnere

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## CAA receives honor for giving

By Chris Gardner

When president Richard Lovett and his partners took over Creative Artists Agency in the summer of 1995 after the departure of co-founders Michael Ovit and Ron Meyer, one of the first major decisions they made was not about clients or a deal, but about philanthropy. The new CAA made its first hire with a non-agent named Michelle Kydd, a nonprofit veteran who was tapped to spearhead the in-house organization that became the CAA Foundation. Since then, the CAA Foundation has focused on educational issues, and on Saturday it will be honored with the 2002 Ameriqwest Capital Champion for Children Award at the Full-

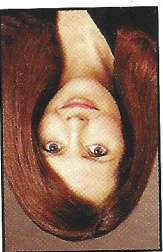
## Deal puts programs in 6.2 mil homes through '06

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## Fox marketing exec vp in Mell

By Maria Matzer Rose



Former HBO marketing executive Roberta Mell has been hired to head up marketing at the Fox Broadcasting Co. The announcement of Mell as executive vp marketing ends nearly 18 months without a Fox marketing chief.

See MELL on page 66

## Becker named DailyCandy CEO

By Chris Marlowe

Adhene Becker, formerly senior vp operations at USA Networks Entertainment Group, has been named CEO of the digitally delivered lifestyle guide DailyCandy. She will work closely with the privately held company's founder and editor in chief, Dany Levy, and will have particular responsibility for business development, marketing, advertising sales and technology. See BECKER on page 64

See CAA on page 64

## Visual artists in effect at festival

By Sheigh Crabtree

In a recent boxoffice behemoth as "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones" and "Spider-Man." The fourth annual Festival of Visual Effects is hosted by the Visual Effects Society and is expected to

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## Hanks

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and Edward "Babe" Hefron, two heroes were portrayed in the HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers," which he and Hanks produced, and then hailed his close friend Hanks as "America's favorite son."

"There's a place on the moon ... called the Lake of Dreams," Hanks, always an eloquent phrase-maker, said in his acceptance remarks. "It turns out, I've walked on the moon, I've explored the Lake of Dreams. It's a good place because they all come true."

The actor, as is also his wont, also paid tribute to his four children — Colin, Elizabeth, Chester and Truman, who were present with his mother on the main dais — as well as his wife, Rita Wilson. "Since 1988, I have been happy in the warm embrace of a big fat Greek family who are here tonight," he said, slipping in a subtle plug for the hit indie movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," which he and Wilson produced.

Amid a chronological sampling of film clips from the two-time Oscar winner's career — abetted by onscreen commentary from Hanks himself as well as testimonials from his impressive list of directors, including Ron Howard, Nora Ephron, Penny Marshall, Robert Zemeckis and Spielberg — Hanks' friends and colleagues paid testament to the star's legendary "niceness."

Howard Stringer, chairman of the AFI Board of Trustees, launched the Medal to Todd Field, writer and Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Award. Firstenberg presented the 12th AFI director and CEO Jean Picker. Before the ceremony began, saluting him.

"Apollo 13," standing and briefly Lovell, the astronaut he played in the appearance of Capt. Jim Hanks appeared most moved by the award ceremony will be broadcast 9-11 p.m. June 24 on the USA Network.

## Effects

Continued from page 4

serving promotion are not what the festival is about," Atkin said. "All of these people share one thing in common, which is a love of story-telling through the use of visual effects." Among events planned is a first-of-its-kind panel on the convergence of feature effects and video games, which will be led by CG artists and technical directors formerly of ILM, Pixar and PDI who have moved on to gaming giant Electronic Arts. Also on tap is a 15-year retrospective of Pixar, an in-depth look at the VFX behind "Spider-Man," a "Blade Runner" retrospective with Trumbull and "creating the character" session with Harryhausen.

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## Becker

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DailyCandy chronicles the latest trends or events in e-mail or text messages sent free to subscribers. The bulletins are supported by advertising and do not accept premium placement or other promotions.

Most recently, the company added new Los Angeles and London editions to its original New York version. Becker's appointment comes as Levy considers several offers to expand DailyCandy into television.

"We are at the very beginning of watching DailyCandy's brand flourish in a variety of vehicles and across media platforms, and I



Becker

Robert Reich, assistant to U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich. O'Donnell and Walsh and a special campaign and also as an associate for the Clinton-Gore presidential campaign and also as an associate for the Clinton-Gore presidential

in 1999 as director of communications, serving as VP before being promoted to her most recent position.

Becker joined USA Networks company," Becker said. "This is just a great

look forward to the challenges we along the way," Becker said. "This is just a great

## CAA

Continued from page 4

with servicing clients, but we wanted to be able to utilize the other partners in education in the community whom we all appreciate very much, but we feel like a true partner in education with Creative Artists Agency."

The foundation has worked on a national level with the U.S. Department of Education, the White House, the National Urban League, the Corporation for National Service and the Children's Defense Fund. In addition, it serves as an outlet for CAA clients to pursue their own philanthropic goals.

"It's a refreshing break to go to simpler activity," said Nashville agent and foundation liaison Jeff Gregg. "Second-graders don't care what we do, so when you walk in a room and their face lights up and they say, 'Can I read with you?' it's very refreshing."

Even Lovett finds time in his schedule. For longer than the foundation has been around, he's taught a weekly course at Venice High School based on curriculum that he created centering on self-esteem, values, practical skills and of a 70-hour workweek and devoting it to children as part of their lives rejuvenates our executives and is exciting for our company," Lovett said, adding that schools that benefit from the foundation's work are Venice's Mark Twain Middle School, Cour d'Alene Avenue School and Venice High and Nashville's Whitsett Elementary.

"They go out of their way and