### Television



BY MICHAEL D. CLARK c.2003 Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — "Tejano's future arrived at the Astrodome on Sunday evening."

So said the Chronicle's review of Selena's performance at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on Feb. 26, 1995. The reviewer was right. but not in the manner he suspected.

Selena — the toast of Tejano who was on the verge of crossing over to pop radio — was shot by the founder of her fan club 33 days later. In many respects, Tejano's future for mass appeal died with her

Eight years after the Texas native was slain, her albums are still celebrated. Last year EMI Latin rereleased her entire catalog and produced "Ones." a new compilation of hits that remains at No. 15 on the Billboard Latin pop albums chart.

Just released is the DVD of her rodeo set, "Selena Live: The Last Concert." The performance was issued as an audio CD two

For the approximately 64,000 people who packed the Astrodome that day, "Selena Live" is a chance to relive a moment that has grown more poignant since her death.

For the rest of us who weren't there or hadn't latched onto the Tejano craze sweeping Texas, "Selena Live" allows us to mourn what we missed. In addition to the 55-minute concert, the DVD includes a scrolling biography of her career, surround-sound and stereo options and a "Selena," which includes an interview with star Jennifer Lopez.

DVD footage of Selena is real treasure

The additions are passable extras, but the footage of Selena is the treasure

The performance opens with Selena arriving at the rodeo's rotating stage in a horse-drawn carriage. Wearing the maroon pantsuit that has become as synonymous with Selena as the "Boy Toy" belt is with Madonna, she is accompanied by her guitarist husband, Chris Perez, and bassplaying brother A.B. Quintanilla, who leads her backing band, Los Dinos, through a disco medley. Hustling her way through English versions "I Will

Survive" and "Funky Town." Selena can already be seen appealing to both English- and Spanishspeaking audiences. Viewers get a preview of the crossover assault she was preparing with her mix of disco synthesizers and live cumbia conga.

Selena is striking, but concentrating on her vocals reveals how easily she could have been one of the divas Lopez and Britney Spears became a few years after her death. Selena combined the brassy, strong vocal talent of Christina Aquilera with a Jessica Simpson style of innocent flirtation

Some songs like "Tus Desprecios" and "Amor Prohibido" rely on keyboard melodies that have not aged as well. Selena v Los Dinos are at their best in the concert when A.B. Quintanilla's bass licks, Art Meza's percussion and Jay Martinez's drums dance in coordination with Selena's arm gestures and leg kicks on "Bidi Bidi Bom Bom."

The doo-wop of "El Chico del Apartamento 512" documentary on the making of the 1997 movie and the cheers for top-charting "Como la Flor" are

evidence of how Selena integrating American and Mexican musical Making her way off the stage she tells the crowd in Spanish that "we will see each other real soon." After watching "Selena The Last Live: Performance " it's

hard to believe that vigils for the 10th anniversary of her death are less than

QPI file photo

## New TV channel rolls the dice on viewer interest in gambling

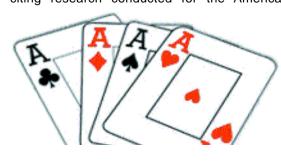
RY I YNN FI RER **AP Television Writer** 

LOS ANGELES — Creators of the Casino and Gaming Television network are betting that a national interest in gambling will translate into a desire to watch it on TV.

The new network is scheduled to launch in 2004 as a digital cable and satellite channel with shows such as "Winning Hand," with poker experts offering tips on the game, and "Dusk 'Til Dawn," a tour of night spots in Las Vegas, Monaco and other gambling destinations.

The number of Americans who bet represents a vast potential audience, said David Hawk, cofounder and co-chairman.

More than 50 million Americans made more than 300 million visits to casinos last year. Hawk said. citing research conducted for the American



Gaming Association.

Other "niche" channels, such as the Golf Channel, have succeeded with a smaller pool to draw from. Hawk said. About 25 million people visited golf courses last year, half the number of casino-goers, he said.

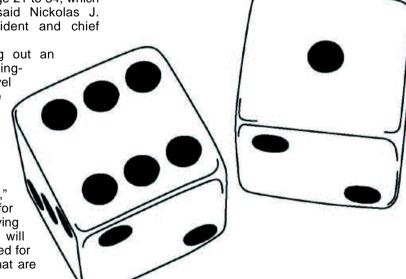
The new channel, being announced Monday, will target the young male crowd, age 21 to 34, which valuable to advertisers, said Nickolas J. Rhodes, the network's president and chief executive officer

Television has been dealing out an increasing number of gamblingthemed shows, including Travel Channel's hit series on the World Poker Tour and the upcoming "Celebrity Poker Showdown" on Bravo. Still, it remains to be seen

whether gambling shows will be successful.

"That's the ultimate question," said Bill Carroll, an analyst for Katz Television, a media buying "The marketplace will determine if there really is a need for any of these digital channels that are

The network, which plans to raise \$75 million in operating capital by first guarter 2004, is negotiating carriage deals. The goal is to reach 1 million homes initially and be in at least 20 million



# 'Born Rich': Lifestyles of the rich and aimless

BY KEVIN D. THOMPSON **Cox News Service** 

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — You want to hate them. You really do.

They have more money than you or I will in 10 lifetimes. They jet-set around the globe. They buy a \$600 pair of shoes on a whim. They routinely splurge on \$900 bottles of Cristal champagne because . . . they can.

They're young, spoiled and ridiculously wealthy. And they'll never have to work as long as they live because their parents are loaded.

They are the subjects of "Born Rich," a surprisingly candid HBO documentary that offers a rare peek into the lives, burdens (!) and social customs of the young Trumps, Vanderbilts, Newhouses and Bloombergs.

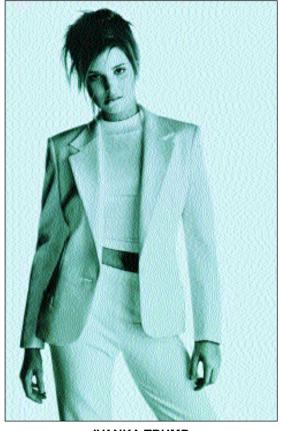
"Born Rich." a 2003 Sundance Film Festival selection, was made over a three-year period by Jamie Johnson, a 23-year-old first-time filmmaker with a unique insight into the trust-fund set — he's heir to the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical

Johnson, who graduated from New York University in May with a degree in medieval history. says making the film was therapeutic.

"I was 20 years old and in a year I was going to turn 21 and come into my inheritance, and I knew I needed to figure out a lot before that happened," says Johnson, who found out he was wealthy in the fourth grade when a classmate spotted his dad's name in Forbes list of the 400 richest people

"There were so many stories, even in my own family, of people who had been in the same situation. They were young, they were healthy, they seemed to have everything going for them, and yet they seemed to have lives that were unfortunate."

Johnson interviewed 10 of his privileged peers to talk about the "voodoo of inherited wealth," including Ivanka Trump (she worries about living in her parents' sizable shadow); S.I. Newhouse IV (he



**IVANKA TRUMP** 

lives in a campus dorm, where he feels "safe"); Georgina Bloomberg (she says having the last name Bloomberg "sucks"); and Josiah Hornblower (part of the Vanderbilt and Whitney families, his uncle once took him to New York's Grand Central Station and proudly boasted, "This is yours").

All of the subjects are refreshingly honest about the pros and cons of living with money they haven't

Luke Weil, for instance, is a gaming-industry heir who is as bratty as he is rich. When talking about

prenuptials. Weil rants he would never marry an "ungrateful b---h" who refused to sign one.

It's no surprise that Weil, probably embarrassed at how bad he sounded, sued Johnson for defamation of character and tried unsuccesfully to have his interview removed from the 75-minute documentary

Johnson says it took three years to make "Born Rich" because so many rich kids turned him down — including a moneyed Rockefeller and an heir to the Campbell Soup fortune.

"People have a lot of reservations talking about money in general, and most kids who are born rich are told from a very early age not to talk about money," he says.

That Johnson was able to coax candid interviews out of the film's participants no doubt had a lot to do with his position. Newhouse, for example, is his old high school buddy

"The interview I did with Jamie was really just an extension of conversations that we had always had with each other about how our lives worked and how we felt about it." Newhouse says.

Says Trump: "I definitely wouldn't have been involved with this project if it was anyone other than Jamie. He's one of my best friends, and I felt very comfortable talking to him, which was good and bad because I let down my guard a little bit more than if I was talking to anyone else. It really limited the B.S.-ina."

To Johnson's credit, instead of standing on the outside looking in, he puts himself in the film. "Born Rich" details the ugly publicity, bitter divorces and nasty estate battles that plagued the Johnson & Johnson dynasty over the years.

The film also includes some very pointed conversations Johnson had with his father, who didn't want his son to make the film because he thought it would cause "ill will."

Johnson asks his clearly uncomfortable father why he was always so nervous talking about money and wonders aloud what he should do with

In that poignant moment, Johnson represents the classic example of a wayward son seeking guidance from his wisdom-rich father.

And dad's advice? Collect historic documents, papers and publications

"As a career?" Johnson says in amazement. Later, he adds quietly, "There are no courses in

college about how to be a hardworking and productive rich person. It's something you've got to figure out for yourself." Of all of the subjects in the film, Trump and

Hornblower come off as the most grounded — and likable. Hornblower talks movingly of his bouts with depression, guilt and a serious identity crisis. He left Trinity College for two years to work as a machinist in the Texas oil fields with Hispanics and Cajuns to help sort out his emotions.

"I was an alien to them," he says. "But working hard makes me feel good.

Meanwhile, Trump, the incredibly poised 21-yearold daughter of The Donald and Ivana, talks about how hurt and confused she was after learning about her parents' celebrated divorce in the New York Post before they told her.

Then there are such poster-child spoiled brats as Stephanie Ercklentz, a finance heiress and daughter of well-heeled socialites, who yaps too much about the joys of shopping.

Christina Floyd, daughter of pro golf legend Ray Flovd, also sounds like a snobbish rich kid when she casually mentions how members at her chichi country club probably wouldn't be too "excited" if an African-American showed up.

It's obvious the subjects in "Born Rich" want viewers to see them as real people who, like the rest of us, also have real problems. That may be true, but it's hard to be sympathetic when you can practically see the silver spoons spilling out of their

Still, Johnson's thoughtful and earnest film does a commendable job of raising the curtain on a world most of us will never know anything about.

## First D.C. sniper movie aired last week, but was it too soon?

BY BEN NUCKOLS **Associated Press Writer** 

BALTIMORE — Less than a year after the arrests of John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, the first movie about the shootings that terrorized the suburbs and exurbs of the nation's capital is here.

"D.C. Sniper: 23 Days of Fear," which aired last Friday on USA, was admittedly rushed through production to be finished while the shooting spree was still fresh in people's minds.

Following books about the sniper probe by Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose and two Washington Post reporters, this relatively evenhanded docudrama doesn't reveal much.

And while it's nearly impossible to replicate the feeling of waking up every morning wondering if there's going to be another shooting, the movie does capture both the pervasive anxiety of the region and the stunning randomness of the attacks.

"The main question would be, 'Was it too early?' And my answer to that is, 'This is America. We move on very fast," says Charles S. Dutton, who stars as Moose. "I didn't want to do anything exploitative or disrespectful to the victims' families, and I don't think

Not only does Dutton bear a passing

resemblance to Moose, he also has ties to the area. A Baltimore native, he lives on a farm in Howard County, Montgomery's neighbor to the north.

"I was physically here during just about all the shootings, and those guys were captured maybe 15 miles from my place." Dutton said by phone from his home. "So although I was maybe 30 miles north of where everything was happening, you could still really feel the anxiety in my area.'

Director Tom McLoughlin and screenwriter Dave Erickson, who also collaborated on USA's "Murder in Greenwich," did as much research as they could in the time they had speaking with investigators and Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan, among others.

But Moose, who was embroiled in a dispute with the county's ethics commission over whether he could write his book, was not involved with the project. And Dutton, who was performing on Broadway throughout preproduction, came to the set cold.

"I've never met Charles Moose. He wasn't on the set. I finished the play April 4, flew to Vancouver April 5 and we were shooting April 6. I had no rehearsal time," Dutton says. "So one thing I didn't try to do is try to capture his speech patterns or dialect because I really didn't have time to work on that." Dutton did, however, study tapes of

Moose's news conferences. "At the podium, he had a certain pensiveness. You could see him thinking before he answered a question. That was really fun to play, that introspection."

"D.C. Sniper" cuts quickly between the investigation and the alleged shooters. Muhammad (Bobby Hosea) and Malvo (Trent Cameron), as they pick out their targets, elude dragnets and try to initiate communication with investigators. While certain elements are exaggerated, it's still shocking to see their phone calls ignored and see them slip away from police because they didn't match what investigators were looking for.