

## USCCB rates video releases

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are reviews of video and DVD releases from the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Classifications do not take into account the extra content in DVD releases, which has not been reviewed.

### 'ANTWONE FISHER'

Inspirational true-life story of a troubled naval recruit (Derek Luke) who with the help of a Navy psychiatrist (Denzel Washington) learns to cope with the emotional devastation wreaked by childhood rejection and physical abuse. Some violence including depictions of child abuse, an implied sexual encounter and minimal rough language and profanity. The USCCB classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

### 'RAISING HELEN'

Pleasant enough story about a spirited single gal (Kate Hudson) who is given custody of her nieces and nephew (Hayden Panettiere, Abigail Breslin and Spencer Breslin) when her sister unexpectedly dies in a car accident, forcing the career-minded young woman to re-evaluate her priorities. Brief, mild sexual innuendo, implied underage drinking and a few instances of crass language. The USCCB classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

### 'THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT'

Singing, dancing historical survey of the best of the MGM musicals charms the eye and ear with romantic fantasy. It was written, produced and directed by Jack Haley Jr. The selection of excerpts from these musicals demonstrates effortlessly why their appeal endures from generation to generation. The USCCB classification is A-I — general patronage. The MPAA rating is G — general audiences. Also new to DVD are "That's Entertainment II" and "That's Entertainment III."

# Series touts solid, functional family

Mark Pattison/CNS

WASHINGTON — It's good that Americans can see a solid, functioning family on the WB series "7th Heaven," said Catherine Hicks, the Catholic actress who plays Annie Camden, the mother of seven on the series.

It plays in sharp contrast to the prevalence of divorce in the United States. "It's breaking the heart of the nation," she told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from the "7th Heaven" set in Hollywood.

"Divorce, divorce, divorce," she added. "It's broken the hearts of thousands of families. '7th Heaven' is sort of an image of a functioning family that's not going to break up."

Hicks, herself married with a daughter, said she uses some of Annie Camden's backbone off the set. "I apply Annie's environment at home," she said. "She's helped me bark out some commands I really would shrink from."

"7th Heaven" is entering its ninth season on the WB network. It's been the network's top-rated series in five of the past six years. To refresh fans on how it all began, a DVD set of the series' first season has just been issued.

Since its inception, some of the child characters have adopted the character qualities of their older siblings. David Gallagher, who played earnest preteen Simon Camden, emerged as a teen heartthrob in his own right, following in the footsteps of Barry Watson, who plays elder brother Matt. (Both actors returned to the show this fall after hiatuses of one and two seasons, respectively.)

Mackenzie Rosman in the first season was impish kindergartner Ruthie. "Mackenzie, she's getting pretty," Hicks noted, and now experiences some of the teen angst originally assigned by scriptwriters to Beverley Mitchell, who plays elder sister Lucy. Inheriting Ruthie's wide-eyed innocence, in turn, are Lorenzo and Nikolas Brito, who play twins Sam and David Camden; the twins were born during the show's fourth season.

"7th Heaven" doesn't exactly mirror present-day family life, according to Hicks. "I think married couples argue more than the Camdens," she said. On a personal level, she added, "I'm a working mom and I love my one child," as opposed to stay-at-home Annie, who's raised seven kids.

A member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in the Westwood section of Los Angeles, Hicks majored in both theology and English literature at St.



WB/CNS

Actress Catherine Hicks, a lifelong Catholic, plays the wife of a Protestant minister on the WB television series "7th Heaven." In an interview with Catholic News Service, Hicks said "divorce is breaking the heart of the nation."

## TVReview

Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind. She then won an acting fellowship and earned a master's degree in fine arts at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Originally in TV soap operas as a professional actress, Hicks parlayed playing Marilyn Monroe in a made-for-TV movie into a lead role in the short-lived series, "Tucker's Witch." For much of the decade before her daughter, Catie, was born in 1992, she had featured roles in several TV series and movies. She took two years off after Catie's birth before returning to the screen. Two years after her return, Hicks landed the role of Annie Camden, wife of minister Eric, on "7th Heaven."

Hicks said fans tend not to confuse her with her character on the series. "They'll say, 'There's the mom on '7th Heaven.'" People come up to me and say, 'Thank you. We love your show. It's helped our family so much,'" she said.

# Grand Opening

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