

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - CALENDAR

Wed, Aug 3, 1994

Dear Calendar:

Boy, was your "Hollywood's Real True Lies" article just in time. After believing an executive at Aaron Spelling Television when he told us he could produce our national petite modeling show, he subsequently overbilled us, using "production companies" and "staff" (I use both terms gingerly) who aren't listed in any Hollywood entertainment directories and who have questionable experience.

We didn't find this out until the Spelling executive made a non-contractual demand for more money or he'd pull out. Not a big deal, except we'd paid him half the budget and it was only two days before the show. The executive at Spelling cancelled the 5-day production by informing us he didn't insure our company as required by him on the contract with us. Unfortunately, the 90 modeling hopefuls and their families, who had flown in from all over the country, were told that they couldn't be in their show that they had taken half a year to prepare for. They had been chosen from over 15,000 entries nationwide. They had expected to appear on national television and before they left, they told their family, co-workers, friends, and sponsors that they were going to Hollywood to be on the show. Over a thousand people were anticipating seeing their special contestant on national television.

The upset contestants went on the local news, CNN, and Hard Copy, not to mention a not-too-accurate story by J. Michael Kennedy of the LA Times in the Metro section ("Collapse of Pageant Takes Dreams With It" 4/25). Of course, the spin wasn't going to go against anyone at the TV Show Goliath, Spelling Television. Not even when we showed blatant lies and fraudulent representations to the media concerning this executive at Spelling trying to pass himself off as a producer, using Spelling's offices, phones, computers, printers, and other equipment to sell his image to us as a completely trustworthy, believable and experienced producer.

Even an agent from the William Morris Agency, (a friend of this Spelling exec) was involved, telling us that their talent, who we were hiring for the show, was going to help get our show "packaged" and sold by the William Morris Agency. The agency was paid \$10,000 of our money by the Spelling exec for "use" of their talent (a comedian and a director), even though the show was cancelled and the comedian never showed!

I could write a book about the bizarre and fraudulent accounting receipts and statements from this con artist at Spelling Television (new computer, printer, ginseng, cigarettes, and \$40,000 paid to a "theater" that isn't listed in the database at the California Film Commission.) We think the really "big" players, like Spelling, have power over the media, and nobody will care that

our company was made out to be responsible for the cancellation of its own show in national media coverage, not to mention the loss of millions of dollars in revenue and

credibility for our company. Nobody wants to step on the toes of anyone connected with Spelling Television, the giant of lowbrow television shows. The media will jump on his media bandwagon and give him story-after-(free promotion) story about his "Models, Inc." series premiere. The wonderful idea of promoting the modeling world in a television series was just too juicy of a story to pass up for the press.

Of course, the petite models in our show didn't have a chance, not only are they denied modeling careers by modeling agencies that don't accept petite women, but their one chance at glory in their own exclusive petite show was shutdown by an exec at a company that was getting free press for promoting their own show glorifying those modeling agencies who turn petites away.

Nobody said that life was fair, but justice is what the civilized world fights for. We won't stop until we get ours. If you print this, you have bigger "orbs" than we thought.

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