

Time Warner companies. "I'll be working with Bob Miller [executive vice president and group publisher of Time Warner magazine company and Time Warner Publishing Ventures] to try to find ways to develop some television shows from resources in the publishing side." Paratore said many of the Time Warner magazines were being looked at for possible development but none had been singled out.

More immediately for Telepictures, Paratore is bringing comedy and drama writers together from the writing and production stable at Lorimar Television, with reality writers and producers to develop hybrid shows that feature elements of both genres.

Telepictures will operate separately from other Time Warner production outlets (Lorimar and Warner Bros. Television), with the exception of network projects, for which Telepictures will use the writing and production talents from the ranks of Lorimar Television.

"We are trying to maximize the existing resources of the company rather than duplicating another whole new overhead," said Paratore, in explaining why Telepictures will be working with Lorimar on network projects only.

Paratore's first move in expanding the company was bringing in David Auerbach, Viacom's vice president, drama development and current comedy, as vice president, development, responsible for the development of prime time reality programming in association with Lorimar.

The first two "hybrid" shows with reality elements for network prime time are currently in development. One of the projects is a pilot for ABC—a reality series based on the legal system, produced by Dan Blatt. The other, for CBS, is being produced by former CBS executive vice president Barbara Corday, who has a production agreement with Lorimar Television.

Corday is working with Judith Paige Mitchell on a show about relationships in the 1990's. Both projects are half-hour shows that, if ordered, will be ready for fall.

The division is also working on *How'd They Do That?*, an hour-long pilot for CBS, which will explain how things are done, from human interest stories to technological advancements. Telepictures will deliver the pilot to CBS by the end of April and is cur-



Jim Paratore to lead expansion

rently working on signing a host for the project.

Although many of the new efforts of the company are in the prime time network arena, Paratore said the company's priority remains first-run syndication. "Syndication is the bread and



David Auerbach tackles reality

butter of the company," he said.

On the syndication side, Telepictures currently produces *The Jenny Jones Show* and is also producing the new late-night talk show *Nighttalk with Jane Whitney*, which debuts on March 30 on a regional basis. ■

CLUSTER PRIMED FOR 'CATWALK'

FranklinWaterman to produce an hour drama with other foreign co-production partners for fall 1992 rollout

By Mike Freeman

Claster Television, an independent distributor solidly entrenched in the children's programming business, is making a move into the teen-adult arena with the introduction of *Catwalk*, a live-action prime time vehicle for the 1992-93 syndication season.

Following a litany of recent prime time series projects from Paramount Domestic Television, Warner Bros. Domestic Television Distribution (with The Television Consortium, an ad hoc network of independent stations) and Rysher Entertainment, Claster Television President John Claster says that he is confident that he will clear the teen-oriented hour drama in 80% of the country within the next six weeks despite increased competition and the late launch date.

Billing *Catwalk* as a cross between the highly rated Fox series *Beverly Hills, 90210* and the recent theatrical "The Commitments," Claster says the series centers on the lives of six



Claster's 'Catwalk'

middle-class teenagers who join together to form a band. According to series creator Jeff Franklin, whose Los Angeles-based FranklinWaterman production company steered the project to Claster, six actors are accomplished singers and composers who will perform all the musical numbers in the series, although he stresses that most of the music will be laid down as background soundtrack to emphasize dialogue and action elements.