

Survival of the fit, or the cunning?

CBS' summer of 'Survivor' hypnotized audiences

BY EMILY PYEATT AND JOSH NICHOLS

For many people in the United States this summer, Wednesday nights meant one thing: the television series "Survivor."

Tonight, that will all come to an end. The show that cast a group of total strangers on an island and allowed them to vote one another off one by one, has dwindled down to just four remaining survivors.

At the conclusion of tonight's show, there will be one remaining cast-away.

That person will go home with \$1 million, thus ending a summer of mayhem over a show originally looked upon as a network experiment.

What was so intriguing about the show that motivated audiences to sit in front of the television for one hour every week and simply watch human nature at work?

It's called live television.

But it wasn't a totally new idea.

You may have previously gotten hooked watching shows like MTV's Real World or Road Rules, but neither of those shows was raved over like CBS' "Survivor."

The show that left its cast on an island in the middle of the South China Sea to test strength of character and physical body stands out from other live television productions, as well as

every other television production. "It's like watching a car wreck - or maybe a bicycle wreck since that's not as violent - but it is interesting because audiences like to feel as if they are participating," said Laurie Thomas Lee, Associate Professor of Broadcasting.

"It is not truly interactive television, but it is more engaging than a sitcom," she said.

Challenging the re-runs summer television programming brings, CBS pitched "Survivor" to test audiences' responses.

The show's success has proved speculation and strategy at work in the broadcasting industry can be a risk worth taking.

Today, CBS emulates constant support by its programming. David Letterman covers the late-night spoofs of the show, while "The Early Show" interviews cast members who have been voted off the island.

The network's promotion has definitely reached the fans.

Devout audiences are now sipping out of beer mugs that read "This one's for my immunity," and wearing "Don't Vote me Off" T-shirts.

Let's hope they don't start making Susan and Kelly dolls (the two remaining

"The show is a microcosm of life that shows the tug between getting ahead and getting along."

Richard Dienstbier
psychology professor

female cast-aways).

"Survivor" has successfully transcended an hour of production that has captured audiences, but it's the psychology that is really interesting.

"The show is a microcosm of life that shows the tug between getting ahead and getting along," said Dr. Richard Dienstbier, professor of psychology. "That's just how life is."

What we consider "real life" does not include eating rats and sting rays for dinner, of course, but it does demonstrate the facades and games people play psychologically just to "get ahead," or gain an advantage over another person.

Audiences have been fed entertainment edited from "real life."

It is not just the vicarious living and adventure audiences have gotten from "Survivor," but an example of an industry at work 24/7 on your senses.

Reality show gets mixed reactions from students

BY MELANIE MENSCH AND JOSH NICHOLS

"Survivor" caught the attention of the nation this summer, not excluding Lincoln, Nebraska.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students had mixed reactions to the show.

Many loved it, evident in the fact that one floor in Cather Hall is having a get-together for the final episode.

But some despised it, including Michelle Villarreal, a freshman English major, who compared the competitiveness and ruthlessness of the program to the book and movie, "Lord of the Flies."

"I was turned off because it's everyone against everyone," she said.

"It's showing bad qualities in people. They're friendly to their faces, but at the same time, backstabbing each other."

Tyler Rains, a freshman athletic training major, didn't even bother to watch it because of the similar shows he's seen on television.

"I didn't watch it because I worked all summer, but I think people are fed up with live TV like Regis, Big Brother and other spin-off shows," he said.

It might be a spin-off, cleverly marketed, short living phenomenon, but to some, that doesn't matter.

They love the drama.

"I can't miss it," said Jason Essel, a senior architecture major who's rooting for Rudy to be the final survivor.

"You can totally connect to the characters on 'Survivor.'"

Essel felt like such a part of the show, that he would actually like to become a part of it.

He filled out an online application to be a member of upcoming "Survivor" shows being planned.

"I'd totally do it if I had the chance," he said.



Black Sabbath tribute is a pounding mix of rap, metal



BY KEN MORTON

The past few years, the worlds of rap music and heavy-metal music have slowly begun to merge. So it shouldn't be a sur-

prise, then, that big names from both genres have teamed at the corporate level.

Priority Records, perhaps the premier rap label of the 1990s, has merged with Ozzy Osbourne's Divine Recordings to forge an alliance that will benefit both sides.

One of the first offerings from the joint venture is "Nativity In Black II: A Tribute to Black Sabbath."

"NIB2" brings together some of the hottest heavy-metal acts to play their favorite Sabbath tunes.

With bands like Static-X, Pantera and Monster Magnet, I expected a lot of screaming and

loud guitars, which is exactly what I got. There's enough testosterone on this album to fuel a small fraternity house for a whole semester. All the chest pounding aside, some of the bands actually turn in some decent performances on the CD.

The songs are quite a bit heavier than the originals, but remember, we're dealing with a totally different generation of music. When Black Sabbath first emerged, nobody out there was heavier or darker. Now Black Sabbath is played on classic rock stations. But the bands on "NIB2" can draw a straight line back to Sabbath, and they stay pretty true

to the originals.

Most of the songs fall into that mid-level hit category - the songs you probably recognize if you're a Black Sabbath fan but probably only hear when you play the album.

To give you an idea of how heavy this CD is, Megadeth, who covers "Never Say Die," almost sounds mellow compared to some of the other bands.

Perhaps the best performance of the album is "n.i.b.," by Ozzy himself and backed by Primus.

Ozzy "covered" another one of his own songs, "Iron Man," on the first "n.i.b." release, but can

you really call a song a cover if the guy who wrote the song sings it?

Legendary bassist Les Claypool finds the right mix of showing off without treading all over the song.

The only hints of any rap are a track by rap-rockers, Hed(pe), and a version of "Iron Man," by Busta Rhymes, which is much more of a remake than a cover.

Ozzy provides a revamped chorus for Busta's version, also entitled "This Means War."

Expect a lot more cross-ventures between these two labels. All parties involved know how to package and sell music, as well as tours. Don't be surprised if more

MUSIC REVIEW

Nativity in Black II: Tribute to Black Sabbath

Musicians: Various artists
Label: Priority/Divine Recordings

★★★ of 4 stars

and more hip-hop acts start showing up on Ozz-Fest.