

ON TV THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

▶ **"Barbara Walters Oscar Special"** ABC considered moving this annual tradition to earlier in the week and focusing on the red carpet instead. Happily, they came to their senses. Walters gets cozy with Helen Mirren, Eddie Murphy (r., with Walters), Jennifer Hudson and Oscar host Ellen DeGeneres. (ABC, 7 p.m.)

■ **"The 79th Annual Academy Awards"** Can this year's show nab viewers with an honest-to-goodness horse race? No one really knows what will win Best Picture, ensuring genuine suspense. (ABC, 8:30 p.m.)

■ **"The Marines"** The Oscars are almost unbeatable, so PBS is sending in the Marines — via this new documentary about the culture and history of the Corps. (PBS, 9 p.m.)

■ **"Crossing Jordan"** A defense lawyer is shot and presumed dead. He's fully conscious but unable to move or speak and endures the nightmare of being taken to a morgue and being prepared for an autopsy. We know the feeling. (NBC, 10 p.m.)

MONDAY, FEB. 26

■ **"The Black Donnellys"** In this spin on "The Sopranos" (with a bit of "GoodFellas" thrown in), four brothers work their way into the Irish mob in New York City. (NBC, 10 p.m.)

▼ **"Building a Dream: The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy"** Oprah (below) puts the spotlight on the academy she has built in South Africa with the hope of educating female leaders of tomorrow. (ABC, 10 p.m.)



■ **"Great Performances — Sting: Songs From the Labyrinth"** Since Sting ventured far away from rock with his dedication to the lute (celebrated in this concert), that Police reunion couldn't have come a moment too soon. (PBS, 10 p.m.)

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

■ **"To Iraq and Back: Bob Woodruff Reports"** ABC News journalist Bob Woodruff describes the roadside bombing that almost killed him and his recovery at Bethesda, and tells stories of other recuperating vets. (ABC, 10 p.m.)

■ **"Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?"** Jeff Foxworthy hosts this game show in which adults compete against kids in basic categories like math and geography. And you thought you'd never need to know the capital of Iowa. (Fox, 9:30 p.m.)

■ **"Dirt"** Vincent Gallo plays a washed-up child star who takes the magazine staff hostage until they devote an issue to him. We can see this happening for real. (FX, 10 p.m.)



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

■ **"America's Next Top Model"** The season premiere of this reality series finds 30 contestants at "model boot camp" ("Hit the floor and give me 30 makeovers, you maggots!") before the pool is reduced to the top 13 women. (The CW, 8 p.m.)

■ **"Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?"** Another night, another episode. And you thought you'd never need to know the capital of South Carolina. (Fox, 9:30 p.m.)

■ **"Deal Or No Deal"** New York Yankee Jason Giambi is the latest celeb to pop onto this hit game show to help out a contestant. (NBC, 9 p.m.)

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

■ **"Nashville Star"** The season finale of this "Idol"-with-a-twang reality show means country music will be crowning a new star. Host Jewel also performs. (USA, 10 p.m.)

■ **"Survivor: Fiji"** This once-massive hit might have remained special if it hadn't decided to air two editions a year, instead of making people wait for it. (CBS, 8 p.m.)

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

■ **"Monk"** The season finale of "Monk" finds our hero (Tony Shalhoub) in the hospital with a nosebleed — and naturally stumbling upon a murdered doctor. (USA, 9 p.m.)

■ **"Eddie Izzard: Unrepeatable"** Probably the funniest — and certainly the cleverest — standup comic today, Izzard's new special covers everything from "Star Trek" to Laundromats. (BBC America, 10 p.m.)

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

■ **"Great Performances — Jerry Lee Lewis: Last Man Standing"** "The Killer" performs duets with Norah Jones, Don Henley, Chris Isaak, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson and more. A whole lotta shakin' will, in fact, be going on. (PBS, 8 p.m.)

■ **"Robin Hood"** The debut of a 13-part BBC series, with Jonas Armstrong as outlaw Robin of Locksley and Keith Allen chewing up the scenery as the Sheriff of Nottingham. Already renewed for a second season. (BBC America, 9 p.m.)

Michael Giltz