

USC BAND

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familiar ritual of waking her up. She subconsciously reaches over, switches it off and defiantly puts her head on her pillow one last time before she begins her day. While most students are still fast asleep, she and another 200 or so are rolling out of bed and stepping into the shower.

Slowly but surely, small groups

of three to five similarly dressed students emerge from various dorms around campus. They're all heading to the same place with one thought on their mind: "It's game day, and performance time is in a matter of hours ... Go Cocks."

"I love game day, because it's like you've worked all week and now it's time to perform. I've been waiting for this day all week!" Wafer said.

All the time, work and effort Wafer puts into her classes and her major are

well worth it. It takes a strong-hearted lover of music and performance like her to agree to such a busy lifestyle. She's a full-time student, an accomplished piccolo player, and a very devoted individual.

Even though Wafer has lots to do all week long, she tries not to let that stop her from being a great friend and leading a very healthy, happy and fun-filled university life.

The spotlight desk can be reached at gamecockspotlight@hotmail.com.

Midler stars in new sitcom

BY FRAZIER MOORE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Oh, sure. A dream job. That's what everybody says about landing a sitcom.

Bette Midler begs to differ. "Doing a sitcom is the hardest work I've ever done in my life," she says.

This wisdom is not only hard-won, but also newfound. Midler, who had tackled virtually every other branch of show business in her three decades as a star, began shooting her series in August. And yes, it's a sitcom called "Bette" in which she plays a woman, entertainer, wife and mother all very much like herself.

"Bette" premieres Wednesday at 8 p.m. EDT on CBS. Like the whole country doesn't already know.

"I'm telling YOU!" hoots Midler at the huge buildup for possibly this fall's most-anticipated new series. She rolls her eyes theatrically. "Boy, ohhh boy!"

Granted a few days off from filming, she is in a Manhattan hotel suite now, talking up her show. Not surprisingly, she reveals herself to be a dynamo, yet almost demure turned out in cardigan sweater and tweed slacks. "I'm trying to be calm, trying to stay calm," she declares unconvincingly.

On "Bette," she stars as Bette, a multitrait entertainer who, like Midler, has a teen-age daughter (Marina Malota), a reassuring husband (Kevin Dunn) and a gal-pal-slash-manager (Joanna Gleason). James Dreyfus, as her British accompanist, completes the ensemble.

"I totally feel like Alice with her looking glass," says Midler. "I went through the mirror to a parallel universe. I'm living two lives. There's the 'Real Me' and then there's the 'TV Me.' Six episodes in, it's starting to get a little odd."

Even odder than her corresponding identities is the realm of series television that she has penetrated for the first time.

"It's so enormous, so relentless," she confides. "The machine is so big! I've never met a machine like it. And I've done movies, records, concerts — all the machines."

Never fear, she has a dandy rationale for having taken this big step.

With her daughter Sophie headed for high school, Midler figured a sitcom would mean a regular schedule and a manageable workload, leaving plenty of time at home with her kid.

This was based on the series being filmed in New York, where Midler and her family live. At the last minute, "Bette" was shifted to Los Angeles.

"So now I'm in L.A., working like a dog, and my family is nowhere to be seen!" she roars. "Talk about the best-laid plans!"

Mind you, she isn't complaining. This isn't even good-natured kvetching. Her little rant seems fueled by a rich blend of amazement, nervous energy and pride that nothing "Bette" can dish out has thrown her yet.

On "Bette," she is obliged to be brassy, loquacious, all over the place. She lampoons everything and everybody, including herself: her weight, her neuroses, her advancing years (in fact, she's a divine 54). She does lots of physical comedy. She sings.

Who knew? Being Bette on a sitcom is a huge job, even for Midler herself.

"And it goes so fast," she says. "You literally don't know what you did until two weeks after it's done. You think, 'What did I do that for?' Or, 'Hey, that really worked! Why didn't I do more of it?'"

"The third episode I said, 'I can't learn any more dialogue!' So they let me lose my voice. But then I had to express myself in pantomime, which was even harder. I said, 'Bring back the dialogue! All is forgiven!'"

She pauses to savor a laugh, then takes off again.

"Whatever vanity you have — 'But my hair! My lighting!' — forget it! I said, 'Oh, but I'm a big star. They'll do glamour lighting for me, won't they?' No! 'Stand over there in the shadows and shut the (heck) up.'"

The next moment she is bragging about her writers, her co-stars, even her lighting man. She salutes Danny DeVito, who appears as himself on the first episode and asks Bette to guest star on his own prospective TV series ... as his mother.

Then she spins out ideas for future stories that feature more celebrities playing themselves. What about a Broken-Hearts Episode? "Everyone who got dumped this year, all the public dumppees, come on my show. Then we could have Dennis Quaid fighting Hugh Grant over Laura Dern. I could play matchmaker.

"There's a lot of silliness and a lot of bad behavior in Hollywood," says Midler gleefully, "and I want to show it all. The spirit is willing. It's just that the flesh needs lots of rehearsal."

Movie Times

Carmike Wynnsong 10
5320 Forest Drive,
782-8100

Autumn in New York (PG-13) 2:00, 7:30
Bring It On (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45
The Cell (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30
Get Carter (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30
God's Army (PG) 4:30, 9:30
Hollow Man (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
Nurse Betty (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30
Scary Movie (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30
Space Cowboys (PG-13) 1:00, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
The Watcher (R) 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30
What Lies Beneath (PG-13) 1:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:15

Columbia Mall Cinema 8
7201/802 Two Notch Road, 788-7664

The Art of War (R) 2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50
Backstage (R) 9:40
Bait (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45
Bring It On (PG-13) 2:30, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
Nutty Professor 2 (PG-13) 2:40, 5:10, 7:30
The Original Kings of Comedy (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Turn It Up (R) 3:00, 5:00, 7:20, 9:20
Urban Legends 2 (R) 2:50, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
The Watcher (R) 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25

Columbiana Grande Stadium Cinemas
1250 Bower Parkway,
407-9898

Almost Famous (R) 1:30, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50, 10:00
Bless the Child (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40
Bring It On (PG-13) 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
The Cell (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
Coyote Ugly (PG-13) 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05
Digimon (PG) 1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:10, 9:00
Duets (R) 2:15, 5:05, 7:20, 9:45
Highlander: Endgame (R) 1:15, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:35
Hollow Man (R) 1:25, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50
Nurse Betty (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30
Saving Grace (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30
Space Cowboys (PG-13) 1:20, 3:50, 6:45, 9:20
The Watcher (R) 1:45, 4:00, 7:30, 9:45

Dutch Square 14
800 Bush River Road,
750-3576

Almost Famous (R) 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
Bait (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
Bring It On (PG-13) 2:10, 4:30, 7:40, 9:50
The Cell (R) 1:40, 4:10, 7:40, 10:00
Digimon (PG) 2:00, 4:10, 7:10, 9:15
Get Carter (R) 2:10, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00, 12:10

Meet the Parents (PG-13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45, 12:00
The Original Kings of Comedy (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Remember the Titans (PG) 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00
Scary Movie (R) 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:10
Space Cowboys (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
Urban Legends 2 (R) 12:00, 4:20, 7:50, 10:00, 12:00
The Watcher (R) 2:20, 4:40, 7:30, 9:45
What Lies Beneath (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40

Regal Cinema 7
Richland Mall Rooftop,
748-9044

Almost Famous (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Digimon (PG) 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:30
Meet the Parents (PG-13) 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45
The Original Kings of Comedy (R) 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55
Remember the Titans (G) 2:05, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50
Saving Grace (R) 2:15, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
Urban Legends 2 (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05

Nickelodeon
Main at Pendleton, 254-3433

The Color of Paradise 7:00, 9:00

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