

B&C EVENTS

## NAVRATILOVA, VIEIRA AMONG 4TH ANNUAL 'WOMEN OF NEW YORK' EVENT SPEAKERS

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS HALL OF FAME **Martina Navratilova**, analyst for Tennis Channel, and **Meredith Vieira**, host and executive producer of NBCU's upcoming syndicated talk show *The Meredith Vieira Show*, will both participate in featured Q&As conducted by *B&C* editor-in-chief Melissa Grego at the fourth annual "Keynotes & Cocktails: Women of New York" event on April 24.

The annual off-the-record gathering, designed to serve the women of the TV, media and entertainment community, will once again be held at the Grand Hyatt New York next to Grand Central Terminal. The proceedings kick off with a networking cocktail hour at 2 p.m., sponsored by *The Dr. Oz Show* and Sony Pictures TV. The two-hour program follows, with the event concluding at 5 p.m.

Featured panelists this year are: **Nomi Bergman**, president of **Bright House Networks**; **Mindy Borman**, executive producer of *The Dr. Oz Show*; **Shari Cohen**, executive director, investments at **Group M**; **Marjorie Kaplan**, group president, **TLC** and **Animal Planet**; **Jo Ann Ross**, president, network sales, **CBS**; **Lia Silkworth**, executive VP-managing director of **Tapestry**, a division of **SMG Multicultural**; and **Cyma Zarghami**, president of **Nickelodeon Networks Group**. In addition, **Kelly Wallace**, **CNN Digital** correspondent and editor-at-large, will serve as featured moderator for the event.

Among new sponsors and partners this year, **TVGN** is sponsoring the stage, sponsor **Tennis Channel** will be giving away a U.S. Open prize pack to one attendee, **Boots** is the beauty partner and **Uber** is the event's transportation partner. For more information and to register, log on to [www.bcwomenofny.com](http://www.bcwomenofny.com).



## THEY SAID IT!



Josh Charles as Will Gardner on CBS' *The Good Wife*

"The decision most importantly wasn't ours, it was Josh's. And the blessing, if there was one, was that he gave us a chance to write the character out.... Honestly, I'm really shocked that this secret was kept."

-David Zucker, president of television, Scott Free Productions and executive producer of CBS' *The Good Wife*, speaking to *B&C* editor-in-chief Melissa Grego during last week's Banff World Media Festival's Content Industry Connect summit on the decision to kill off Josh Charles' character, Will Gardner, in the March 23 episode.

"I think [the NFL gets] one more night. Probably a Saturday. Simply because Saturday is a wasteland on TV right now. So an NFL game on the NFL Network or broadcast TV would probably work relative to other options available to TV networks or the NFL Network. After that, they go backwards."



-Dallas Mavericks owner and *Shark Tank* star Mark Cuban, in a March 24 Facebook post following up on comments he made a day earlier about the NFL "imploding" in 10 years. Over-saturation was one of many reasons Cuban cited.

## CNN AD SALES HEAD OUT IN TURNER RESTRUCTURING

Turner Broadcasting restructured its ad sales organization last week, which resulted in former media buyer Donna Speciale being named president for TV and digital sales and long-time CNN sales chief Greg D'Alba leaving the company.

Under the new structure, **Katrina Cukaj**, executive VP of CNN ad sales and **Andrea Ching**, senior VP, news and Turner digital ad sales, will report to Speciale. Other digital sales executives will also become part of the unified organization.

On the sports side, **Rich Calacci**, senior VP, sports digital/Bleacher Report ad sales, and **Seth Ladetsky**, senior VP, sports digital ad sales, will now report directly to **Jon Diamant**, executive VP of Turner sports ad sales.

D'Alba departs Turner after more than 27 years, having most recently been in charge of sales for CNN and for Turner digital ad sales.

The restructuring occurs as the industry's upfront sales season moves into high gear.

-Jon Lafayette



## STAT OF THE WEEK

**\$22.7 BILLION** Approximate amount that Facebook has spent on acquisitions (and patents deals) since 2012, including last week's \$2-billion purchase of virtual reality company Oculus.

## launchPAD: Amazon's 'Update on Our Video Business'

**UNVEILING PLANNED:** April 2

**AVAILABLE TO MARKET:** TBD

**NEW FEATURES:** Amazon's widely rumored introduction of a set-top box could be accompanied by the rollout of an ad-supported streaming TV service distinct from its subscription Prime offering. Recent strides by Roku and Google ChromeCast, among others, are making it much easier for consumers to connect TVs to the Internet and move content between devices.

**PLUSES:** Amazon's box is likely to be as value-priced as the company's Kindle devices. According to many reports, they will offer access to a range of apps, not just Amazon Prime content.

**MINUSES:** The hype surrounding the unveiling in New York suggests the box will finally reach the market after multiple delays. But bigger delays could bedevil a full-blown streaming TV service given all of the stakeholders. Another challenge is how it would coexist with e-commerce on Amazon's site. —Dade Hayes



## INCOMING DISNEY/ABC TV GROUP PRESIDENT SHERWOOD: 'I HAVE QUITE A BIT TO LEARN'

Last week, Walt Disney Co. CEO Bob Iger stuck to his word that finding a successor to outgoing Disney/ABC Television Group president Anne Sweeney would be quick and come internally when he named ABC News president Ben Sherwood as her successor.

"The transition that Bob Iger and Anne have conceived basically means that I will work very closely with Anne over the months ahead," Sherwood told *B&C*'s Daniel Holloway. "There are things that I know and things that I do not know about this sprawling portfolio within the Disney/ABC media group, and so I have quite a bit to learn. We're going to be working very closely on all of that."

To read more of Sherwood's conversation with *B&C*, addressing digital media, ABC's future and one very Disney moment, go to [broadcastingcable.com/March31](http://broadcastingcable.com/March31).



Sherwood

### AEREO WATCH

Last week, Aereo filed its opening brief in the Supreme Court, framing its service as the natural inheritor of free TV and home-taping rights. For all the latest Aereo news, check out *B&C*'s one-stop shop at [broadcastingcable.com/March31](http://broadcastingcable.com/March31).