

## Talk-show beat for Rivera

**G**ERALDO Rivera, best known for his investigative TV reporting, will try a new tact this month with his own daily talk show.

"Geraldo" will begin its week-day run on Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. but WWOR-TV (Ch. 9) will kick-off the syndicated one-hour series with primetime broadcasts on Sept. 9 and 16 at 8 p.m.

Rivera stresses that the talk show format won't lessen his reporter's instincts. "A show has to be either entertaining or informative. I'm going more toward information."

He said the program will focus on newsmakers — not celebrities pushing a new movie or book.

Rivera also will continue to produce and star in three primetime specials a year for Tribune Entertainment.

Each "Geraldo" show will open with a video tape about the topic to be discussed; afterwards, Rivera will introduce guests on the set or via satellite. The audience in a Times Square studio will be encouraged to ask questions, he said.

"AIDS Assassins" will be one of first topics Rivera plans to cover. The debate will be over whether a Florida prostitute's having sex with clients, even though she knows she has the deadly ailment, should be considered attempted murder.

Other topics will include the fate of women who are "abandoned" by their husbands, the use of fetal tissue to combat Parkinson's disease, and the

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treatment of women in criminal cases.

Rivera also will interview Marla Hanson, the model who was the victim of a brutal slashing in a dispute with her landlord.

On another show, he will orchestrate a debate between Guardian Angel Lisa Silwa and lawyer Alan Dershowitz over the defense attorney's tactics during the trial of Claus von Bulow.

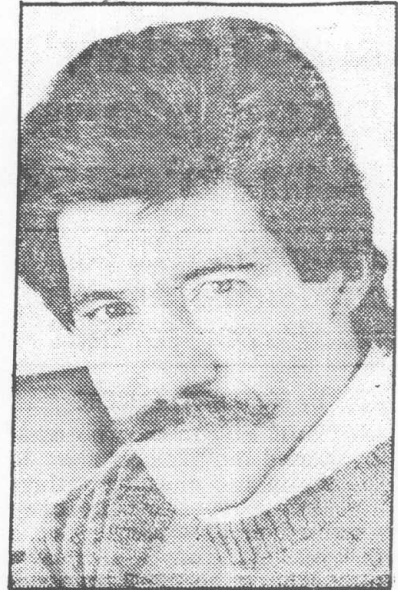
Surrogate mother Mary Beth Whitehead also has agreed to be interviewed on the show by Rivera.

Rivera said he had hoped to include a discussion with successful surrogate parents on the show, but Whitehead would not agree to the interview with them.

"I don't believe in interviews with conditions," said Rivera. "I agreed reluctantly but told her I would tell the audience her demand and I did."

Rivera also plans a show on the Willowbrook State School for mentally retarded children, which will be closing on Sept. 17.

In 1972, Rivera broke the scan-



**GERALDO RIVERA:**  
*Reporter at heart.*

dalous story about abuses at the institution. That story brought him national attention and a network job at ABC News.

Rivera was fired from ABC News last year after publically criticizing ABC News president Roone Arledge for pulling a "20/20" piece off the air about Marilyn Monroe and her links to the Kennedy family off the air.

Rivera said he holds no grudges against Arledge.

"He gave me a break and fought off my critics for 10 years," said Rivera.

"Geraldo" will be broadcast in syndication on more than 90 stations throughout the U.S. Rivera is owner of the production company that produces both the talk show and his specials.