

## 'MUCH DARKER HENRY' OPENS TUDORS

### KING WEDS JANE SEYMOUR IN THIRD SEASON

BY SANDY CAETANO

The Tudor Dynasty comes to a crossroads this season at the hands of England's most scandalous monarch in the return of The Tudors, premiering tonight on CBC at 9 p.m.

Alan Van Sprang, who plays Sir Francis Bryan, says it's these difficulties in King Henry's life, plus the enticing writing, that captures its audiences and keeps them coming back for more.

"(Writer and creator) Michael Hirst creates plots and story lines which are very historically accurate, but so engaging and real, that a modern-day audience can really relate to it," Van Sprang says.

The actor says he brings a sense of danger and humour to the show as Sir Francis, someone the King trusts enough to leave in charge of carrying out his dirty work.

Season three will see the mighty King wed for a third time, choosing noblewoman Jane Seymour (Annabelle Wallis) as his wife.

In his attempts to stomp the revolt against his religious Reformation policies, the King employs ruthless tactics to get what he wants, which are questioned by one of his oldest friends, the Duke of Suffolk (Henry Cavil).

"What the audience has in store for them this season is a much darker show, a much darker Henry," Van Sprang says.

"It was an extremely delicate and worrisome time for the King and he was not at all gun shy, so to speak, when it came to engaging his enemies or even the people closest to him that he didn't trust."



Alan Van Sprang as Sir Francis Bryan in The Tudors.

## SKATERS, FORMER NHLERS GEAR UP FOR REALITY TV



Claude Lemieux and Shae-Lynn Bourne will compete in Battle of the Blades.

Frank Gunn/The Canadian Press

Hockey Night in Canada loudmouth Don Cherry will be among the celebrity judges assessing the axel jumps and death spirals that former figure skaters and NHL players plan to unleash on the reality series, Battle of the Blades.

Blades co-host Ron MacLean says Cherry is a big fan of figure skating, insisting he has often lauded the sport's stars as some of the toughest athletes around.

Battle of the Blades begins Sunday with the first of seven weekly shows live from Maple Leaf Gardens. Teams made up of a female figure skater and a former NHL player will have to master a dance routine and win enough votes from a TV audience to avoid elimination. The last remaining pair will make a combined donation of \$100,000 to their chosen charity.

Teams include Isabelle Brasseur and Glenn Anderson; Christine Hough-Sweeney and Tie Domi; and Jamie Sale and Craig Simpson.

The Canadian Press

### THIS WEEK'S NEW MOVIE RELEASES

Monsters vs. Aliens	Shrink
Management	The Girlfriend Experience
Away We Go	Flood
Superman/Batman: Public Enemies	Steam
Bob's Big Break	The Unit: Season 4

### PRIMETIME LINEUP

8PM	CBC: Dragon's Den (N) Citytv: Mercy (N) Global: Bones (N)
9PM	CBC: The Tudors (N) Citytv: Modern Family (N) Global: Glee (N)
10PM	A: Eastwick (N) CTV: CSI- NY (N) Global: Melrose Place (N)

### REALITY CHECK

**SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE:** Dancers from across the country audition in hopes of impressing the judges.

**AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL:** The contestants try to stand out when Tyra wraps them in vibrant fabrics and photographs them; China Chow serves as a guest judge.

**SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE CANADA:** Time for another elimination.

### LATE-NIGHT GUESTS

Jay Leno Show	Steve Carell
The Hour	Michael Moore
Jon Stewart	John Krakauer
Stephen Colbert	Richard Dawkins
Conan O'Brien	Kate Walsh
David Letterman	Madonna
Jimmy Kimmel	Rebecca Romijn
Jimmy Fallon	Dennis Hopper
Craig Ferguson	Jenna Elfman