

# AFTERNOON SERIALS HEAT UP FOR A LONG, HOT SOAK 'WORLD' IS DRUGGED



Paul photo by Kevin Casan

Jon Cameron experiments with "designer drugs" on "Another World."

THE next big controversy on the soaps will occur on NBC's *Another World* as "designer drugs" take centerstage.

Designer drugs are chemical copies of heroine substitutes and other substances that are created in makeshift laboratories. They are a problem for law officials because the often fatal drugs are not illegal, since their molecular structure has been altered so it's acceptable by F.D.A. standards.

*Another World* producer Steven Schenkel says the serial will deal with the subject tastefully, "as part of our regular story."

"One of the cops on the show (played by Rick Porter) will begin to understand that many teenagers in town are being pressured into trying these drugs," says Schenkel.

Some workings of a drug-related storyline have already been surfacing on the soap, but

By RICHARD LAERMER

the climax (including a drug overdose) will take place next month.

Also included will be a character's use of the media-hyped concoction called Ecstasy (medically termed MDMA), which was recently banned by the government.

Said to bring on a euphoric outpouring of emotions, NBC News described it as "synthetic heroin so potent that addicts prefer it to



the real stuff."

Producer Schenkel finds that "People told it arouses the sexually, but in real it has been proven cause emotional spair and depress. There is a pit cache," he notes, "to with it. Peer press says this stuff is cool."

But *Another World* won't, he adds, "p' lecturer. From w we found, the use of signer drugs is go on in High Schools in Junior Highs. A It's not just an upp crust, rich indulges — like cocaine thought to be (also) a lower-class blue collar high."

Explaining that "signer drugs" and Ecstasy sell for one-fifth of heroin's street price, Schenkel adds, "K will see it's no gain" (when the suits of their use seen on the show).

It's no accident *Another World* is unveiling its drug tale during the summer, when young people are likely to watch soaps.

"We are going to them see 'peers' who are under some tremendous pressure," he says.

*Another World* regular Nancy McGowan (played by Jo Cameron) will be a victim of drug abuse in the soap. She's described by Schenkel as a "high-spirited, strong kid — really good person — who occasionally gets in trouble."

"She shakes up the tulous Bay City," says Schenkel.

## Liz's son makes suds debut

By TIM BOXER

ELIZABETH Taylor's 20-year-old son Michael Wilding is joining *Guiding Light* as a regular, starting today at 3 p.m. on CBS.

He'll be playing Jackson Fremont, a record producer who becomes interested in the budding music career of Lujack (Vincent Irizarry).

The role was created especially for him.

The producers are taking their time introducing Wilding to *Guiding Light* viewers.

In a suspenseful play, you'll see only the back of his head today as he talks on the telephone phone to

Suzette Saxon, owner of Dallah Records. She's trying to get him to produce Lujack's record albums.

The record producer will actually show his face in town during the week of July 1.

The *Guiding Light* stint marks Wilding's first recurring TV role. This past season he was featured as Jesus in NBC's A.D. miniseries.

His mom is a veteran of two daytime serials. She appeared on *General Hospital* for five days in November 1981, and came on *All My Children* for one day in April 1983.



Elizabeth Taylor's son Michael Todd joins the cast of "Guiding Light" today. His famous mom has appeared on "General Hospital" and "All My Children."



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