

Friday

January 3, 2003



ENTERTAINMENT

C1

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BEST BETS

Clear Lake

WHAT: Bay Area Chorus auditions.
WHEN: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.
WHERE: Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, 1311 El Dorado Blvd.
INFO: (713) 684-6030.

Blunt reality

Fox show asks what's more important — money or love?

Host of two new reality series from Galveston

By CARLA GILLOGLY-TORRES
The Daily News

GALVESTON — The premise of the show is a little mean some might say, but Fox has an original reality series that is sure to make a few women angry. And there's one woman from Galveston who knows how it all turns out.

"Joe Millionaire," which airs Monday at 8 p.m., takes 20 single women to France who hope to hook up with a multimillionaire. Much like "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire" and "The Bachelor," these women will vie for this one man's affection. What these women don't know is that their millionaire is actually a construction worker from Los Angeles who makes about \$19,000 a year.

Galvestonians will recognize a familiar face on the show — Alex McLeod, the show's host.

McLeod is making her network debut on Fox after being sought out by the network to be the host of "Joe Millionaire."

"I am thrilled to be a part of a show with such a high profile concept," said McLeod.

Luckily, she said, she didn't have to audition for the part, but Fox did make her sign confiden-



COURTESY PHOTO

Alex McLeod is the host of "Joe Millionaire" and "Best of Both Worlds."

tiality agreements galore before finally agreeing to her contract. So don't expect to get any tips from McLeod on who the final contestant is or what her response was to the \$50 million lie. You'll have to watch the seven-part series to find out.

McLeod is also one of two hosts on the series "Best of Both Worlds" on A&E, and you can catch her on re-runs of "Trading Spaces" on TLC.

"Best of Both Worlds" is a really, really cute show," said McLeod.

The show takes two people and sends them to the same destination — Hong Kong on Jan. 17 — only one travels in luxury and the other on a fixed budget. Viewers see how different their experiences are in the same destination.

"The show is unusual because you watch two people actually go on a trip instead of telling you where you should travel," said McLeod. "I am so proud of this project as viewers will see a very different me than on 'Trading

Spaces' because in this show, it's really me on vacation, and I was required to do a lot of physical stunts for the first time which required a lot of courage on my part — hanggliding, surfing, cow roping on horseback and landing on the roof of my hotel in a helicopter."

McLeod grew up in Galveston and is the daughter of Doug and Joanie McLeod. She attended University of Texas where she received a degree in speech communications. From there, she has had the good fortune of hosting many reality series and starring in a few TV sitcoms such as "Married with Children" and "Ned and Stacy" and in many commercials.

Don't bother asking her isle family about "Joe Millionaire's" results. All she could tell her family and friends was that she was shooting a romantic reality series in France.

"Let me tell you, it definitely has its romantic moments and I don't think the reactions get more real on this type of show," said McLeod. "I knew the concept of the show from the beginning. I felt sympathetic for the women, but I suppose when they sign up for these reality shows they know anything can happen and it usually does."