



High-definition movies make up most of the offerings on HBO-HDTV, which mirrors the schedule of the regular HBO channel. Fall premieres include

*The Tuxedo* (September 20), *The Ring*, *Road to Perdition*, and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. In December, HBO Films will present *Angels in America* as a two-part 6-hour movie starring Al Pacino, Meryl Streep, Emma Thompson (right), Mary-Louise Parker, and Jeffrey Wright.



Almost all of the prime-time programming on Showtime's SHO HDTV channel is in high def with Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound. Fall movie premieres include *Windtalkers* and *Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course*.



Showtime Original Pictures in HDTV include *Stealing Sinatra* starring David Arquette and William H. Macy in December and *Maldonado Miracle*, the directorial debut of

Salma Hayek starring Peter Fonda, which premieres October 12. Returning in high-def are Showtime Original Series programs *Jeremiah* and *The Chris Isaak Show*.

Though much of its programming comes from sister networks like Animal Planet, Travel Channel, and The Learning Channel, Discovery HD Theater has the advantage of presenting shows in widescreen high-definition. The channel recently switched from



showing loops of the same programming all day to running a variety of shows. You'll also find it available on many more cable systems. Specials on tap include *Casper the White*

*Crocodile*, *Napoleon's Army*, and *Secrets of Future Air Power* in October, and *Sharks Under Glass* (pictured) and *Poisonous Women* in November. Series include *Hollywood Spotlight*, featuring the latest theatrical trailers, and *The Jeff Corwin Experience*.



Most of the shows on ESPN HD are upconverted widescreen simulcasts of whatever's on ESPN, but in August the channel presented 11 Major League Baseball, NFL preseason, and college football games. Similarly, most of its HDTV programming this fall will be Saturday-night college football games and Sunday-night NFL matchups. In July ESPN HD became available nationally on DirecTV. Comcast expects to include the channel on all its HDTV-capable systems by this fall.



HDNet might have wanted to be the next ESPN, but it's evolved into a mix of *Hogan's Heroes* reruns (converted from 35mm film), rock-and-talk shows

like the weekly *True Music*, performance programs like the ten-part *Chick Corea: Rendezvous in New York*, and documen-

taries. But HDNet's big guns are still professional basketball, hockey, and soccer games. For instance, soccer fans can watch the San Jose Earthquakes play the Los Angeles Galaxy on October 18 and 25. The HDNet Movies channel (HDNM) carries about seven older movies a day — fall titles include *Attack Force Z* and *Night Moves*.



Bravo HD+, NBC's first cable network specializing in high-def content, is expected to concentrate on arts, culture, entertainment, and some sports. Programs will



include past seasons of *The West Wing* and a performance of Cirque du Soleil's *Varekai* (left). Planned musical performances will range from Bach to the Goo Goo Dolls, with Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound when the source material contains it. Bravo HD+ was set to launch on July 31, but at press time there was no word on which cable or satellite systems would carry it.



Digital-cable customers of Comcast, Time Warner, and Cox Communications can already get iN Demand's Video-on-Demand (VOD) movie service, which

lets you start and pause a flick at your convenience. This year *The Ring* and *Road to Perdition* were offered in high-definition for the same \$3.95 as the standard versions, and more HDTV movie choices will be on the VOD menu this fall. In September iN Demand was also set to launch INHD, a non-VOD channel with a mix of movies and TV programs in high-def.



The good news is that you can get HDTV by satellite without having to wait for your cable company to offer it. The bad news is that even if your satellite provider has your local network affiliates, they're probably not in high-def. For those, you'll need a conventional antenna.

In July, DirecTV launched an \$11 a month high-def tier that includes Discovery HD Theater, ESPN HD, HDNet, and HDNet Movies — but you have to buy the Total Choice package for \$34 a month to get it. To get HBO or Showtime in high-def, you need to buy the movie package with either of those channels (about \$12 each). You can also get DirecTV's pay-per-view high-def movies for \$5 each, and DirecTV planned to make some NFL games available in high-def this fall for anyone with its \$239-per-season NFL Sunday Ticket.

EchoStar's Dish Network has a basic \$25 a month package for 50 channels that includes some professional and college basketball games. You can also get high-def PPV movies for \$6 each. And it's about \$20 to add the HBO and Showtime premium packages, which include their high-def channels. Discovery HD Theater is \$8, and you can add the CBS high-def station from New York City or Los Angeles as part of a \$6 local-channel package, or for \$1.50 if you're in a rural part of the country.



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— Michael Antonoff