

# Exterminators off on a comic spree

# TV

## CHOICE

IT'S very funny, it's superbly scripted by Ted Roberts, it's finely acted and directed, the cast is brilliant and wonder of wonders it's a local production screened on a commercial station. It's **Willing and Abel, The Exterminators**. The tragedy is it only has a few more weeks to run. Why? Are we all so bloated on TV moron fodder we don't know a good thing even when we're standing in it? Not enough murders, rapes and robberies by the second?

Willing and Abel get called in for a spot of exterminating and it's not just the cockroaches who cop it when these clever characters crack the codes which access the computers of shonky land developers who pose as classy real estate investors.

Doubling your money, launching missiles or ripping off little old ladies is all a game when the air heads are in control.

The show features Max Gillies who impersonates all the world leaders with sublime accuracy: there's Ron playing darts in the oval office whimpering for just

**Willing And Abel: 9, 8.30pm**

**In The Mountain: SBS, 9.30pm**

*Times and programs may vary*

one little missile, there's Bob playing golf and crawling to the frogs while kookaburras kill themselves laughing, there's Maggie calling for tea, the French posturing their pants off. While the Australian land development company chiefs could be heading to Rio with one-way tickets because there's more than a few bottom of the harbour schemes lurking beneath their scams the world hovers on a military disaster.

There is a wealth of irony and an unnerving dose of reality implicit in this good humoured and delightful program. Hopefully it will not get lost in the too-good-for-the-masses file and will re-surface as a repeat or launch into a well earned new series.

The cast includes Shane Withington, Grant Dodwell, Tina Bursil, Martin Vaughan, Colleen Clifford, Rebecca Rigg, Lucius Borich and Kerry McGuire. More please.

The difference between material and spiritual values is the issue in **Raining in the Mountain** (SBS 9.30pm). Filmed with the artistry and delicacy of a moving Chinese brush painting it is set during the Ming Dynasty in 15th century China at a prestigious Buddhist monastery where big treasure and heightened consciousness are at stake. Starring Luo Kai Lu, Xu Feng and Tian Feng it's all about the jockeying for position, power and wealth something which could seem very out of place but Buddhists with their catholic predilections have been around a lot longer than most of the others who are only just beginning to catch on after one or two thousand years. A fine example of Hong Kong cinema.

— BERWYN LEWIS



Max Gillies . . . playing the world's leaders