

The Wolfe Pack
The Nero Wolfe
Literary Society

A NERO WOLFE MYSTERY

A&E To Produce Its Second Weekly Hour-Long Drama Series, "Nero Wolfe"

The Reviews

Starring Oscar Winner Timothy Hutton and Maury Chaykin

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After the excellent ratings garnered by the March premiere of *The Golden Spiders: A Nero Wolfe Mystery* (3.2 million households), A&E has ordered into production its second weekly series, *Nero Wolfe*, a one-hour drama based on author Rex Stout's classic series of detective novels.

Reprising their roles for the series are Oscar-winner Timothy Hutton who stars as Archie Goodwin, Wolfe's hardworking and bemused assistant, and distinguished veteran actor, Maury Chaykin, who once again will portray the brilliant and eccentric Nero Wolfe, a man with little patience for people who come between him and his insatiable passions for food, books and orchids.

Marking another major expansion in the network's drama programming, that included the recent announcement of Sidney Lumet's *100 Centre Street*, A&E's first-ever weekly drama, *Nero Wolfe* will begin production this fall in Toronto and is scheduled to premiere in 2001.

In making the announcement, Allen Sabinson, Senior Vice President, Programming, A&E Network, said, "A&E has long enjoyed a reputation as the premiere home of mystery on American television. The response to our *Nero Wolfe* movie by our discerning mystery audience and the critics was totally favorable so we're thrilled that Tim and Maury and our filmmakers will bring one of the world's nastiest detectives and his long-suffering legman back to A&E as a weekly series. We're committed to making original drama series a mainstay of the strong A&E schedule and we see *Nero Wolfe* as a natural as we continue to work to achieve that goal."

Michael Jaffe and Howard Braunstein will executive produce *Nero Wolfe* along with Tim Hutton. Sue Murdoch will serve as producer of this Jaffe-Braunstein production which will be distributed internationally by Pearson International Television. Jaffe-Braunstein movies for A&E have included *The Golden Spiders* and, along with Michael Brandman Productions, *Small Vices* and the upcoming *Thin Air*, both adaptations by Robert B. Parker of his best-selling Spenser novels starring Joe Mantegna. Jaffe-Braunstein Films will also produce for A&E, Sidney Lumet's upcoming *100 Centre Street*.

The series *Nero Wolfe* will premiere in 2001 with a two-hour opening episode adapted from Stout's *The Doorbell Rang*. Michael Jaffe adapted this book for film which features Nero squaring off with J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI. Tim Hutton will direct *The Doorbell Rang*.

Nero Wolfe is the hero of seventy-two mystery novels written by Mr. Stout between 1934 and 1975. Nero never seems to break a sweat, instead leaving his legwork to his hardworking aide de camp Archie. Only when Archie and the police are totally stumped does Nero deign to solve the endless string of mysteries that have come his way.

Pearson Television International, the distribution arm of Pearson Television, is an international leader in production, broadcasting and global program distribution. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pearson plc, the international media group.

Winner of five 1999 Emmy Awards including Best Miniseries for *Horatio Hornblower*, A&E Network offers discerning viewers a unique blend of original, upscale programming featuring its signature series *Biography*, original movies, intriguing mysteries and engaging documentaries. The A&E website is located at www.AandE.com, the *Biography* website is located at www.Biography.com, and the *Mysteries* website is located at www.Mysteries.com.