

34 | **SHOWCASE** | WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008
 CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

GLARE

WITH BILL ZWECKER | e-mail: bzwecker@suntimes.com

OUTTAKES
 "So can we borrow it for our wedding? Can we get the ranch?" | ELLEN DEGENERES, asking first daughter Jenna Hager on today's show whether the Bush family spread in Crawford, Texas, is available for her pending nuptials to Portia De Rossi. Hager, who got married there May 10, replied, "Sure!"

Daddy Joe blocked from Romo huddle

QB recalls waivers on Simpson — at least for now

Jessica Simpson and Tony Romo are back "on," but a college pal of the Dallas Cowboys quarterback tells me it's Romo who's calling all the plays.

"He did agree to go to [sister Ashlee's] wedding — keeping his promise to Jessica," Romo's Eastern Illinois alum chum told me. "But he made it super-clear that if they were to give it another go, her dad had to seriously back off."

Joe Simpson has long been seen as an overbearing presence, as he managed both his daughters' careers. While clearly successful, Simpson has earned a reputation as being a guy extremely difficult with whom to work.

My source says Romo has told Jessica their renewed relationship is "a trial thing," dependent on Daddy Joe "leaving them alone" and stifling his tendency to tell Romo how to run his life, career and endorsement deals.

♦ Romo and Jessica Simpson have been seen together looking happy in recent days, after the solo vacation Jessica took in Mexico following Ashlee's marriage to Fall Out Boy rocker (and ex-North Shore resident) Pete Wentz.

STAR POWER: Mr. Big won't be here for the Friday opening of the "Sex and the City" movie, but Chris Noth could be in our midst later this summer. He's joined the cast of "My One and Only," based on George Hamilton's memoir of his glamorous and adventurous mother, a role given to Renee Zellweger. Noth plays one of her wealthy beaux, and Chicago filming looks to be part of it.

Also heading our way could be Hilary Swank, Ewan McGregor, Richard Gere and Chicago's own Virginia Madsen, the stars of "Amelia," based on the life of ill-fated aviatrix Amelia Earhart. Most of the filming is slated for Toronto, but Our Town could snare a few days of shooting.

ONE ON ONE: Poetry Foundation president John Barr will give a free, one-night-only staged reading of his satiric play-in-verse "The Adventures of Ibn Obici" June 8, at Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theatre — directed by Second City co-founder Bernie Sablins. Author and broadcaster Jennifer Weigel is bringing to life her roving memoir *Stay Tuned: Conversations With Dad From the Other*



Tony Romo and Jessica Simpson, shown in March, are giving their relationship another try — without interference from her dad. TONY GUTERREZ/AP

Side — as a one-woman show. "I'm Spiritual, Dammit!" is scheduled to open Aug. 15 at the Viaduct Theatre. Before that, Weigel will have a pre-Father's Day book signing June 11 at Borders on State. *Stay Tuned* traces Weigel's journey into the world of psychics and mystics — attempting to communicate with her father, beloved Chicago broadcaster Tim Weigel, who died of a brain tumor in 2001.

SEEN ON SCENE: Rihanna and Chris Brown hung out at Excalibur after the "Glow in the Dark" tour. ... While here for the WTTW gala, Tony winner and Winnetka native Christine Ebersole dined at Table Fifty-two. ... Barbara Walters, here boosting her *Audition* memoir, slipped into Le Colonial Monday night, raising raves from the staff for tipping very generously.

HEADED HERE: Chicago native Lisa Zane will be back home for a June 12 gig in the new Club Ravinia cabaret at the North Shore summer music festival. ... Then the one-and-only Tommy



The blood-stained costume Tony (James Gandolfini, above) wore when he was shot is on the block.

'Sopranos' put you in

NEW YORK — Tony Soprano is shedding his wardrobe for charity.

James Gandolfini, who starred on the hit HBO series, is selling off 24 outfits including the clothes splattered with blood when Tony was shot by his demented Uncle Junior.

The black-and-beige polo shirt, white tank top and black pants could fetch up \$3,000.

Proceeds from the June pop-culture auction at Christie's will go to the Wounded Warrior Project, nonprofit group that assists severely wounded soldiers Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dunst got no

Kirsten Dunst says treatment earlier this year was more about getting her head together than getting clean.

"I didn't go to Circle Lodge [in Utah] for alcohol

SEEN ON SCENE: Rihanna and Chris Brown hung out at Excalibur after the "Glow in the Dark" tour. ...

While here for the WTTW gala, Tony winner and Winnetka native Christine Ebersole dined at Table Fifty-two. ...

Barbara Walters, here boosting her *Audition* memoir, slipped into Le Colonial Monday night, rating raves from the staff for tipping *very* generously.