

Rysher TPE signs deal with '90210' co-star

Gabrielle Carteris will produce 10 specials; long-range plans include possible talk show

By Mike Freeman

Ryscher TPE, hoping to further tap into the youth market, has signed *Beverly Hills, 90210* regular Gabrielle Carteris to a production/distribution agreement.

First up from Carteris's GABCO Productions is a series of 10 specials, *Lifestories with Gabrielle Carteris*, which will merge HBO's previously produced *Lifestories* docudrama series into a "contemporary issues" talk show.

Other elements of the exclusive two-year production deal with Rysher TPE call for Carteris to host a yet-to-be-developed talk show strip and other telefilm projects, although the actress says her 10-month production sched-

ule on *90210* has put a talk strip or weekly on the shelf for now.

Last August, Rysher TPE launched the teen/young adult talk magazine strip *Wavelength*, which has had a disappointing early performance (.9 rating/3 share, NSI, Sept. 20-24) in the metered markets. However, Rysher TPE officials think Carteris's exposure as a social issues advocate will lead to stronger sampling of *Lifestories*.

The development deal grew out of a *Face the Hate* special on racism that Carteris hosted and co-executive produced last summer with Rysher TPE's in-house development executive, Gay Rosenthal. Carteris says that Rosenthal and Rysher TPE President Keith Samples approached her about "ex-



Gabrielle Carteris of '90210'

panding" her relationship with the independent distribution company.

The first of the *Lifestories* specials begins production in December for an anticipated April 1994 broadcast window, with Rysher TPE offering the monthly releases to stations on a yet-to-be-determined barter basis. ■

JERRY LES M