

| THE NEW SEASON TELEVISION |

# Primal Needs (Reality Edition)

**R**EALITY shows are usually classified along structural lines — competition shows, makeover shows, dating shows, etc. This snapshot of the 2008 fall reality television season takes a different approach. We've grouped the shows by the primal human need to which they respond. Because reality isn't worth much without a roof over your head, some food on the table and a new pair of harem pants, after all.

Defining a reality show is also a subjective exercise. We've taken a broad view: any nonfiction (and nonnews, nonsports or nontalk) show that's roughly in prime time (sorry, "Flip This House"); is on one of the six major English-language broadcast networks or one of the Top 25 nonnews cable channels, as they were ranked by Nielsen at the beginning of the year (sorry, Animal Planet, CMT, National Geographic, Oxygen, Travel and WE, among others); and is presenting new episodes between now and the end of the year (sorry, "Deadliest Catch" and "American Idol"). The resulting 120-plus shows represent a good share of what's new in reality. Some of these series won't actually appear, and shows that aren't on this list will, because when it comes to reality, the networks will change their minds on a dime (or for a dime).

MIKE HALE

## SHELTER

With HGTV leading the way (and drawing more than a million viewers throughout prime time), shows about buying, remodeling, repairing and selling houses predominate. **CHECK OUT:** "The Stagers" (HGTV, Tuesdays at 9:30). How to make your house look like it's worth more than it is.

