

= NTA Film Network =

The NTA Film Network was an early American television network founded by Ely Landau in 1956 . The network was not a full @-@ time television network like CBS , NBC , or ABC . Rather , it operated on a part @-@ time basis , broadcasting films and several first @-@ run television programs from major Hollywood studios . Despite attracting over 100 affiliate stations and the financial support of Twentieth Century @-@ Fox (which purchased a 50 % share of NTA in November 1956) the network proved unprofitable , and was discontinued by 1961 . The NTA Film Network 's flagship station , WNTA @-@ TV , is now WNET , one of the flagship stations of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) .

= = Origins = =

Parent company National Telefilm Associates was founded by producers Ely Landau and Oliver A. Unger in 1954 when Landau 's film and television production company , Ely Landau , Inc . , was reorganized in partnership with Unger and screenwriter and producer Harold Goldman . NTA was the successor company to U.M. & M. TV Corporation , having purchased U.M. & M. in 1956 .

In October 1956 , NTA launched the NTA Film Network , a syndication service which distributed both films and television programs to independent television stations and stations affiliated with NBC , CBS , or ABC (DuMont had recently gone out of the network business) . The ad @-@ hoc network 's flagship station was WNTA @-@ TV , channel 13 in New York . The NTA Network was launched as a " fourth TV network " , and trade papers of the time referred to it as a new television network .

Unlike the Big Three television networks , the local stations in the NTA Film Network were not connected via coaxial cable or microwave relay . Instead , NTA Film Network programs were filmed and then mailed to each station in the network , a method used by television syndicators in the 1950s and 1960s . However , many local stations agreed to broadcast NTA Film Network programs in pattern (simultaneously) . Landau 's claim to network status was based on the simultaneous airing of the programs .

The NTA Film Network launched on October 15 , 1956 , with over 100 affiliate stations . In November 1956 , it was announced that 50 % of the network had been purchased by Twentieth Century @-@ Fox , which would also produce original content for the network . The film network grew to 128 stations . In September 1957 , the network purchased KMGM @-@ TV (now Fox O & O KMSP @-@ TV) in Minneapolis .

= = Affiliates = =

The following is a list of NTA Film Network affiliate stations in November 1956 .

Later affiliates included KOOK @-@ TV in Billings , Montana (c . 1958 @-@ 1959) , KONO @-@ TV in San Antonio (c . 1958 ? 1959) , WISH @-@ TV in Indianapolis (c . 1958 ? 1959) , and KTVU in San Francisco (c . 1959 ? 1960) . The network purchased KMGM @-@ TV in Minneapolis , in September 1957 .

= = Programs = =

The NTA Film Network aired both films and television series . Among its 1956 ? 1957 offerings were 52 Twentieth Century @-@ Fox films . Premiere Performance , a prime time block of Twentieth Century @-@ Fox films , aired from 1957 ? 1959 . Other film blocks included TV Hour of Stars and The Big Night (both 1958 ? 1959) .

The network 's television programs included :

How to Marry a Millionaire , which aired from 1957 to 1959 , was based on the popular 1953 film of the same name . The series starred Barbara Eden , Merry Anders , Lori Nelson (1957 ? 1958) , and Lisa Gaye (1958 ? 1959) . The final episode aired in August 1959 .

Man Without a Gun , a western series starring Rex Reason and Mort Mills , aired from 1957 to 1959 . The series portrayed Reason as a newspaper editor who brought criminals to justice without the use of guns .

This is Alice , which aired from 1958 to 1959 , starred nine @-@ year @-@ old Patty Ann Gerrity as Alice Holliday , a girl who lived in the fictional town of River Glen , Georgia . The series was directed and produced by Sidney Salkow for NTA and Desilu Productions .

The Play of the Week , which aired from 1959 to 1961 , was a series of 67 televised plays . The program was well received by critics , and received a Peabody Award . The series ended its run on May 1 , 1961 .

Other , lesser @-@ known NTA series included The Bill Corum Sports Show , Man 's Heritage , and The Passerby (all c . 1957) , Official Detective (1957 ? 1958) , Open End (1958 ? 1961) , William Tell (1958 ? 1959) , Assignment : Underwater (1959 ? 1960) , Q. T. Hush (1960 ? 1961) , Sheriff of Cochise / U.S. Marshall (1956 ? 1958) , Alex in Wonderland (1959) , Newsbeat (1959 ? 1961) Juke Box Jury (1958 ? 1959) , The Best of Bishop Sheen (1958 ? 1963) , Danger Is My Business (1958) , Divorce Court (1958 ? 1961) , Glencannon (1959) , Grand Jury (1959) , Mantovani (1959) , Henry Morgan and Company (1959) , George Jessel 's Show Business (1959) , The Mike Wallace Interview (1959 ? 1961) , The Third Man (1960 ? 1961) , The Oscar Levant Show (1960) , Confidential Portrait , Crime Reporter , and Probe (1962) .

In October 1956 , the NTA Film Network also announced provisional plans to telecast live sporting and special events (using network relays) by the 1959 ? 1960 television season .

= = = Timeline of programs = = =

Below is a timeline showing the airdates of the NTA Film Network 's programs and later NTA offerings . The number of episodes that each series aired is given in parentheses . Some dates are tentative , as accurate records for filmed television series were not always kept .

= = = Schedule = = =

Friday 1958 ? 1959

Note : This schedule was announced in May 1958 ; according to the announcement , 17 television stations would follow this schedule for the 1958 ? 1959 television season ; other NTA Film Network affiliates aired the programs out of pattern .

= = End of network = =

In January 1959 , Ely Landau was succeeded by Charles C. Barry , who took over as president of network operations . Landau continued to chair National Telefilm Associates . Despite the 50 % ownership of Twentieth Century @-@ Fox , the film network never developed into a major commercial television network on a par with the " Big Three " television networks ; several modern TV historians regard the NTA Film Network as a syndication service rather than a major television network .

By 1961 , WNTA @-@ TV was losing money , and the network 's flagship station was sold to the Educational Broadcasting Corporation that November . WNTA @-@ TV became WNDT (later WNET) , flagship station of the National Educational Television network , a forerunner of PBS . NTA network operations did not continue without a flagship station , although parent company National Telefilm Associates continued syndication services ; four television series (Probe , Tintin , The Fair Adventure , and A Day With Doodles) were syndicated by NTA between 1962 and 1966 .

The Los Angeles NTA Film Network station , KTTV , went on to become a founding owned and operated station of the Fox television network , which is co @-@ owned with Twentieth Century @-@ Fox and a part of 21st Century Fox .