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## **MAD HOUSE** **The Stagers**

Before I forget, and kindly forgive me for mentioning this: Bravo is previewing its new series, *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, tonight at 11pm et/pt. The show debuts next month but, come on, you have to check it out tonight, right?

Now, back to a show that sounds infinitely classier than any of the *Real Housewives*, HGTV's *The Stagers*. Before your eyes glaze over, just stick with me for a minute on this one.

Home design shows aren't exactly a hotbed of loony characters. More often, interior decorators on home design shows are nice and pleasant. There's nothing wrong with that.

But, every now and again, loony, real-life characters are a lot of fun. Just look at any reality show that's stuck around for proof of that.

*The Stagers* is chock full of real, loony characters.

The show is about interior designers who furnish and decorate homes that are on the market. They pretty up the homes in order to lure buyers and big dollars.

The designers on *The Stagers* are topnotch – the homes almost always look fantastic after they're finished.

But the great part about *The Stagers*, which sets it apart from most other home design shows, is that the stagers are mad, insane and utterly whacky people. And they're a lot of fun to watch.

Truth be told, the show seems to be toning down the lunacy. I hope not – and I guess we'll find out tonight.

There are three stagers, with various assistants roaming around.

Designer *Bridget Savereux* is, what's the best word? Frantic, wild, crazy? She designs beautiful interiors but not be belittling people – most often her mom, another designer on the show, *Maureen Powers*.

But my favorite is *Matthew Finlason*. He runs around a lot, has occasional meltdowns and is pretty much a mile-a-minute in a good way.