

Sunday, September 7, 1980

Austin American-Statesman

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says all screens alike

tion company in TV — this isn't the network doing it, it's the production company — never wants to take risks. The production company doesn't want to try anything new and different that might offend the network, and the network is the production company's bread and butter."

His "Scared Straight" TV movie was based loosely on the documentary about the campaign in Rahway, N.J., to show teen-age kids the seamy side of prison life so they would be so scared of going to prison they would straighten out.

The producers of Cook's film decided that message could perhaps be gotten across even stronger in a dramatic form. Cook tells his tale using three separate story lines, from the viewpoints of some kids, some convicts and some parents.

Of late, Cook has become something of a specialist in dramas based on truth, particularly ones involving kids and crime. He has another coming about the exploits of some teenagers who ride the New York city subway system, to protect people from muggers and other threateners.

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