

## ACTOR MARK SLADE LEARNS WAY TO GET A ROLE—WRITE THE STORY

Mark Slade who starred in the syndicated series, "Salty," which was distributed by 20th-Fox TV, has learned one way for an actor to get work is to write his own story.

After the windup of "Salty," Slade decided to try his typewriter, and wrote a two-page synopsis for a potential screenplay about a retarded man who wants to be a cop, patterning the character after a cousin and a man he knew in his home town. Spelling / Goldberg Prods., which produces "The Rookies" on ABC-TV, liked it well enough to give a go-ahead, and Slade then wrote a 25-page treatment. Then came the first and second drafts, and S / G bought the

screenplay, but didn't have a guestar for the role.

Exec producer Len Goldberg, who shares that stint with Aaron Spelling, tapped Slade for the role in seg rolling Monday with regular Georg Stanford Brown of the series making his directorial debut. Hal Sitowitz is producer.

Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, via Eunice Shriver, and Mrs. Tom Sarnoff, prexy of the California Special Olympics, have provided technical information. Slade remarked the only caution he got from exec producers Spelling and Goldberg when he scripted was that it should protect their series regulars, a point he agreed with. Slade wrote and directed on "Salty," but terms this his first major teleplay.

Slade, incidentally, starred in the theatrical film, "Benji," a picture on which the canine star—Benji — got more than he did, \$15,000, he discloses with a grin. Benji also got a piece of the action, proof a dog's life is not all that bad.

