

A portrait of Crystal Gayle with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a red sequined spaghetti-strap dress and gold hoop earrings. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a solid reddish-brown color.

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TV
SHOWTIME

A starring role for Crystal Gayle

A new sister act for CBS

Loretta Lynn and Crystal Gayle, who are sisters in real life and friendly rivals on the country music circuit, will dominate CBS' picture tube next Wednesday. Each will appear on separate variety programs -- Loretta as one of the performers on "A Country Christmas" (9, Ch. 8) and Crystal as star of her first network special (10, Ch. 8).

The "Country Christmas" show, first introduced last season, will be a star-studded gathering which was taped recently at various locations around Tulsa, Okla. Among settings are a chicken ranch and two large farms, one containing a half-century old barn where the show's Christmas dinner sequence takes place.

Loretta's companions will include her husband Mooney, their twin daughters Patsy and Peggy, plus Minnie Pearl; David Soul, with actress Lynne Marta and his son Jon; Roy Clark and his family, George Gobel, the Oak Ridge Boys and ex-Playgirl centerfold turned country singer, Barbi Benton.

ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE PERFORMING guests are affiliated with the country music scene, no country songs will be heard on this special occasion. Song selections will be traditional Christmas carols and popular Christmas tunes.

Crystal Gayle's TV outing an hour later will be minus any yuletide trimmings, however. It was taped in and around Nashville and New York City and focuses largely on songs from the 60s and selections from her just-released album, "Miss the Mississippi."

Perhaps the most notable statistic of this telecast is that it will mark the directorial debut of noted women's photographer Francesco Scavullo who has photographed Crystal in a variety of settings and moods, allowing her in turn to be a honky tonk night club chanteuse, a homey country girl and New York sophisticate. Scavullo's vision of Crystal is pictured on the TV Showtime cover.

Joining Crystal on screen will be singers Judy Collins, B.B. King, the Statler Brothers and magician Doug Henning who among other stunts will seemingly transform Crystal into a tiger.

Although big sister Loretta won't be on the show, Crystal's manager-husband Bill Gatzimos was on the scene -- as executive producer.

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Sports on television

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SIC: Live coverage of the final rounds, from the Bardmoor Country Club in Largo, Fla. (4, Ch. 8).

UCLA, live from South Bend, Ind. (8, Ch. 43).

Monday, Dec. 10

NFL FOOTBALL: Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Houston Oilers (9, Ch. 5, 23).

COLLEGE ALL-AMERICAN FOOTBALL TEAM (1:15 a.m., Ch. 5).

Tuesday, Dec. 11

NCAA BASKETBALL: Notre Dame vs.

Friday, Dec. 14

BROWNS '79: Highlights of the Browns-Oakland Raiders game; preview of the final game with the Cincinnati Bengals; feature on this year's rookies and how they did; computer predictions (7:30, Ch. 3).

NFL GAME OF THE WEEK (2:45 a.m., Ch. 5).