TNT Falling Skies

Problem
How does a network promote a new science fiction series with a big name at the helm?

Solution
Use traditional OOH formats in unusual ways to catch the audience’s attention.

Background
TNT wanted to create excitement behind the launch of a new sci-fi show executive produced by Hollywood heavyweight Steven Spielberg. This was the tentpole show of the network’s launch season and the network wanted to position it as the network event of the summer.

Objective
The account team decided to market Falling Skies as if it were an epic motion picture. The agency wanted to encourage media hype by targeting adults 18 to 49 in key media influencer markets - New York and Los Angeles - with unique media formats and selections during tease and launch phases. TNT also wanted to build reach and continuity in top Turner Broadcasting markets.

Strategy
The first phase was a teaser campaign, which used local unique and spectacular media to create a grassroots feeling and establish the brand essence. The second phase promoted Falling Skies as the television event of the summer in select markets with a heavy up in New York & Los Angeles and rollout in key Turner markets to promote tune-in and summer viewership, both by using traditional media in non-traditional ways and securing unique non-traditional media to bring the theme and feeling of the show to life.

Plan Details
Tease Phase
Markets: Boston, Los Angeles, New York
Flight Dates: May 2-29, 2011
Out of Home Formats Used: Airport Building Rooftop, Bus Benches, Graffiti Murals, Retail Store Gatefronts, Station Domination, Subway Tunnel Advertising, Subway wraps, and Walls-capes

Launch Phase
Markets: Los Angeles, New York
Out of Home Formats Used: Bulletins (Intersection domination of bulletins with glowskin and extensions, dueling billboards), Digital Bulletins, Escalator Wrap, Ultra Super Kings
Turner Rollout Markets: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Nashville, Orlando, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC

Flight dates: June 6-26, 2011


Results
TNT’s sci-fi drama *Falling Skies* pulled in the best ratings for a new cable series launched this year (2011) – 5.9 million viewers. One of the passengers on a Virgin America flight from New York to Los Angeles even posted a video of the airport advertisement on YouTube.