

SON OF ELDORADO!

By TONY PURNELL

Soap fans set for sunny Fiesta in the old haunts

A NEW Costa Del Soap is set to rise from the ashes of Eldorado.

Fiesta will use the same set and technicians as the £10 million BBC flop.

"Our aim is to make Fiesta into what Eldorado should have been," said film director and screenwriter Gregory Dark.

He is working on the project with his father John who was executive producer of Eldorado and is part owner of the set in the hills above Malaga.

Dark said: "There were a lot of

things wrong with the Eldorado show but we think the BBC made a big mistake when they pulled the plug.

"Thousands of fans visited the set during the summer. They looked as if they were still in a state of shock. It was as if a close relative had died.

"We tried to buy the copyright to continue Eldorado in its original form but the BBC

refused to even enter into negotiations."

The old town and shopping plaza of Los Barcos, deserted since the cameras stopped rolling five months ago, will be given a complete face lift.

"Viewers won't recognise the place when we have finished with it," said 43-year-old Dark.

"There will be the inevitable comparisons with Eldorado but

Fiesta will have much more believable characters.

"Fiesta will still be about expats but there will be less of the 'them and us' attitude.

"They will be more integrated into the Spanish way of life," said Dark, who has lived on the Costa Del Sol for two years.

He said they were confident that the new soap - planned for screening two-nights a week - would be taken up by the ITV networks.

He added: "With a purpose built set which is already paid for we reckon we can produce episodes cheaper than The Bill."