

Morris Chestnut: The “When the Bough Breaks” Interview

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

Morris Chestnut has been appearing in television and movies for the past two decades. In 2014, he shot the feature film “Heist” (aka “Bus 657”) opposite Robert De Niro and Jeffrey Dean Morgan, as well as “The Perfect Guy” with Sanaa Lathan.

The year before, he starred in “The Best Man Holiday,” a hit sequel which had the fifth-largest opening ever for an R-rated romantic comedy. The picture also garnered Morris an NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Actor In A Motion Picture. Previously, he’s starred opposite Halle Berry in “The Call” and opposite Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy in “Identity Thief.”

On TV, he was a series

regular on “Legends,” and was featured on “American Horror Story,” too. And he enjoyed a recurring role on “Nurse Jackie,” for which he won the 2014 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor In A Comedy Series.

Here, he talks about his latest outing as John Taylor opposite Regina Hall and Jaz Sinclair in “When The Bough Breaks,” a psychological thriller directed by Jon Cassar.

Kam Williams: Hi Morris, thanks so much for another interview.

Morris Chestnut: Thank you for your time, Kam.

KW: Congratulations on your TV series, Rosewood, which has been doing so well. The last time we spoke was just before the first season’s premiere.



Morris Chestnut and Jaz Sinclair star in the psychological thriller ‘When the Bough Breaks’

MC: Thank you. This movie was a bit of a departure from that, but I’ve definitely been having a great time doing the show.

KW: What interested you in “When the Bough Breaks”?

MC: Once I read the script, I liked its fresh perspective and how it took a different take on

the genre. I was also looking forward to working with Regina Hall again and with director Jon Cassar. Also, it was an opportunity for me to be the lead in a thriller, so I jumped at it.

KW: Well, Jon’s certainly a veteran director with dozens of credits and a couple of Emmys on his resume, but this is scriptwriter’s Jack Olsen’s first produced script. Were you at all worried about that?

MC: No, there are people who’ve never had anything made before, and their first script can

be great. Plus scripts are often tweaked and nuanced. You can’t make something out of nothing with a screenplay, but when it’s really good at the core, you can make some adjustments. So, I never concern myself with whether a scriptwriter has written one before. I might do that before reading an unsolicited script. But if a studio or certain agents suggest I check something out, I don’t even ask. I just judge it based on my first reading.

KW: How was it reuniting with Regina Hall?

MC: I love working with her. Until now, Regina only did comedy. But I knew she had the talent to do drama, because she’s such a terrific actress.

KW: What did you think of Jaz Sinclair performance? This is only her second film, but it might very well be the breakout role of an emerging ingenue.

MC: Jaz is incredible! She’s a tremendous talent that Hollywood and the world need to be on the lookout for. I also enjoyed working with Michael Kenneth Williams the rest of the cast. We had a great time together.

KW: The film certainly does offer a unique variation on the “obsessed other woman” theme in that she’s a surrogate mother.

MC: Right! Some people have compared it to “Fatal Attraction” or “The Hand that Rocks the Cradle,” but it’s an interesting take since she has her baby inside of her.

See CHESTNUT on page 8

Sully cont’d from pg 6

triggering a fire or disintegrating upon impact. Instead, the 155 souls aboard found themselves simply floating downstream as the cabin slowly filled with icy water.

Sully ordered his passengers and crew to disembark into the inflatable life rafts and onto the wings where they were soon rescued by the commercial ferries and emergency vessels rushing to the scene. Amazingly, not a single life was lost in the crash quickly dubbed the “Miracle on the Hudson.”

Directed by Clint Eastwood, Sully revolves around not only a reenactment of the death-defying stunt but around the subsequent investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. What we learn here is that while Captain Sullenberger was publicly being celebrated as a national hero under an avalanche of positive press, the wisdom of his water landing was simultaneously being questioned behind closed doors by the NTSB’s brass.

It seems that the specialists assigned to investigate the matter suspected that the missing Flight 1549 engine sitting at the bottom of the sea might have

been operational, meaning the plane could have been brought down on terra firma without incident. If this were the case, then a reprimand rather than acclaim would be in order for Sully. Ultimately, divers did locate the left engine, thereby enabling the government bureaucrats to belatedly confirm that the second-guessed skipper did deserve his many accolades after all.

Kudos to the team of Clint Eastwood and Tom Hanks for successfully conveying the enviable amalgam of guts, smarts and stoicism exhibited by level-headed Captain Sullenberger in the face of impending demise. Pack the Kleenex, if you plan to stick around for the film’s closing credits featuring an oh so sweet reunion of the real-life Sully and many of the grateful folks whose lives he saved.

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated PG-13 for peril and brief profanity

Running time: 96 minutes

Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

View a trailer for ‘Sully’ at TheSkanner.com.

IN MY LIFE
A MUSICAL THEATRE TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

FEATURING RENOWNED TRIBUTE

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! ABBEY ROAD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 | 7:30PM | ALL AGES

NEWMARK THEATRE • 1111 SW Broadway | Portland, OR
\$40-\$60 tickets available at TicketsWest.com, Portland5.com,
by phone (800.273.1530) and at the Portland’s Box Office

Portland Center Stage at
THE ARMORY
128 NW Eleventh Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97209
503.445.3700 | pcs.org

SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 16

BOOK AND LYRICS BY
Howard Ashman

MUSIC BY
Alan Menken

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

DIRECTED BY
Bill Fennelly

NICK CEARLEY AND GINA MILO IN LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. PHOTO BY KATE SZROM

SEASON SUPERSTARS
TIM & MARY BOYLE
LEAD CORPORATE CHAMPION
UMPQUA S-A-N-K
LEAD CORPORATE CHAMPION

SEASON SUPPORTING SPONSORS
The Wallace Foundation
ART WORKS
OSON ARTS
MARK SPENCER
Portland Center Stage receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

SHOW SPONSORS
GBD
Hoffman Construction Company
THE MARK & ANN EDLEN FAMILY
KPF/ GLUMAC
CHRISTINE & DAVID VERNIER