

MARK HARMON IS HANDSOME, IS THAT *REALLY*

“I’m trying to broaden the spectrum,” says Mark Harmon, “because I like to put myself out there, I like playing for high stakes.”

“Broadening the spectrum,” which Harmon feels he has done with the upcoming comedy *Summer School*, is never the easiest thing for an actor to bring off. And it’s especially hard if the actor is a dark-haired, blue-eyed 35-year-old, so classically hunkish that last year a *People* magazine cover story dubbed him “the sexiest man alive.” Still, Harmon’s spectrum is considerably broader than it was a decade ago. “At that point,” he says, “I was specializing in big-city cops”—first in guest shots on *Adam-12* and *Emergency* and then on his own series, *240-Robert*.

But a few years later, while spending his days as dashing wet-looking-and-Armani’d Fielding Carlyle in the prime-time soap *Flamingo Road*, he appeared by night on a small Los Angeles stage, cowlicked, tweedy and totally convincing as a cuckolded associate prof in *The Wager*. “Originally, they wanted me for the role of the jock in the play,” recalls Harmon, once a UCLA quarterback and also the son of gridiron-star-turned-sportscaster Tom Harmon (and retired actress Elyse Knox). “I held out for the high-risk part.”

More recently, Harmon began his current role as an outdoorsy pitchman for Coors beer, saw his promiscuous *St. Elsewhere* surgeon killed off by heterosexually transmitted AIDS and played mass murderer Ted Bundy in the four-hour TV drama *The Deliberate Stranger*. Wanting “something lighter after Ted Bundy,” he took on the role of a teacher—again—in *Summer School*, his first crack at carrying a theatrical feature.

“The title,” notes Harmon, relaxed during a New York visit after wrapping the movie, “is maybe a tad misleading. It suggests a much broader [read “more juvenile”] comedy than the film turned out to be.” So, in fact, did the script—at first glance. “But after meeting with [director] Carl [All of Me] Reiner and finding out what he

