



Nick Nolte recruits Shaquille O'Neal for his big-time college basketball team in *Blue Chips*.

Trying something a little lighter after *Lorenzo's Oil* and *The Prince of Tides*, Nick Nolte stars in two films this month, playing a basketball coach in *Blue Chips* and an actor in James L. Brooks' *I'll Do Anything*. Also on the plate: another television show remake and a thriller that actually keeps you guessing.

### Blue Chips (Paramount)

With the recruiting stakes for big-time college basketball getting higher and higher, *Blue Chips* emerges as a timely film with a strong cast. Nick Nolte gets top billing as Pete Bell, a college basketball coach under pressure from fans and alumni to bring in big-name recruits, and Mary McDonnell (*Passion Fish*) plays his ex-wife. Real-life basketball star Shaquille O'Neal debuts as one of Bell's targeted "blue chips."

### Blink (New Line)

Following in the footsteps of thrillers like *Jennifer 8*, *Blink* features a vulnerable female protagonist who must face a

killer alone. Madeleine Stowe (*Short Cuts*) headlines as Emma Brody, a visually impaired woman haunted by confusing images of a killer, and versatile Aidan Quinn (*Benny & Joon*) plays John Hallstrom, the detective assigned to Emma's case. Moviegoers can look forward to a thriller with surprises. What a concept.



### When a Man Loves a Woman (Touchstone)

This is no fluff piece. Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan star as Michael and Alice Green, a couple with a loving marriage, two little girls and an idyllic life in a tranquil San Francisco neighborhood. But Alice, a junior high school guidance counselor, has a secret drinking problem that explodes one night with tragic results. While Garcia and Ryan may seem like an unlikely couple, both have the talent and intensity to make this movie a box-office success.

### Shadowlands (Savoy Pictures)

Over the years, New York writer Joy Gresham (Debra Winger) has been corresponding with renowned writer C.S. Lewis (Anthony Hopkins). On a trip to London, the two meet and begin a love affair. This film adaptation of the award-winning biographical play is in the able hands of Richard Attenborough (*Chaplin*). And with Hopkins as the Oxford don, *Shadowlands* is sure to garner critical acclaim.



### Gunmen (Miramax)

You have to wonder how Christopher Lambert still finds work, considering that his last few films (*Fortress*, *Highlander II: The Quickening*) have made about a buck fifty for the studios. This latest thriller is about the hunt for a \$400 million fortune. Expect plenty of both guns and men, in keeping with the creative title, as well as testosterone and dubious acting. Denis Leary (that angry guy from MTV) and Mario Van Peebles (*Posse*) also star.

### I'll Do Anything (Columbia)

I'll do anything is exactly what the makers of the movie must have said. It was supposed to be a musical comedy scheduled for release last fall. *I'll Do Anything*, sans the musical part, stars Nick Nolte as an actor who can't find work in Hollywood. On top of that, he's unexpectedly responsible for his six-year old daughter whom he hasn't seen in years. Expect power lunches and tender father-daughter bonding.



### Romeo is Bleeding (Gramercy)

Gary Oldman (*Dracula*), spurning type-casting once again, is a voyeuristic cop on the edge in *Romeo is Bleeding*. The stellar cast should get your attention. Along with Oldman, this film features Lena Olin (*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*), Juliette Lewis and Annabella Sciorra (with Olin playing a gangster in an interesting twist). Everyone in this flick is double-dealing somebody. You figure the title out.



### Angie, I Says (Hollywood Pictures)

In *Angie, I Says*, Geena Davis revisits the funny and unique personality she showed in *The Accidental Tourist*. Davis is Angie Scacciapensieri, who becomes an unwed mother in her Bensonhurst Italian neighborhood. Everyone has advice and criticism for Angie. But she goes her own way searching for the answers to life's questions. In this case, one of them might be finding a word that rhymes with her last name.

### Car 54, Where Are You? (Orion)

This film, inspired by the '60s television series, hopes to capture the good-natured atmosphere of the original show. Gunther Toody (David Johansen) is the affable one, and rookie Francis Muldoon (John C. McGinley) is strictly by the book. You can tell by their last names that this is no hard-boiled police thriller, because straight action movies need tough names like Tango and Cash. ■ Adam Plantinga, *Marquette Tribune*, Marquette U.



## on the set

Last time we saw this Los Angeles skyscraper, Bruce Willis was doing his best to blow the damn thing up in *Die Hard*. Today, it's been taken over by Brendan Fraser (*Encino Man*), Adam Sandler (*Saturday Night Live*) and Steve Buscemi (*Reservoir Dogs*).

The three are atop the building's parking structure to film Fox's *Airheads*, a movie (to be released in June) about three headbangers who accidentally take over a radio station in order to get their demo played.

The unintentional terrorists and their rock groupie extras casually mill about with faux SWAT team members setting down their M-16s just long enough to grab some coffee, but ironically there are no doughnuts. These guys must not be method actors.

"This film is not a goofy spoof of rock and roll," claims director Michael Lehmann (*Heathers*). "The situation plays itself out as a pretty straightforward hostage drama, but from a humorous perspective. The guys in this band aren't really dangerous, they're just rock 'n' rollers who want their music played." ■ Paul Heltzel, Editor on Fellowship



Just a couple of *Airheads*

## video calendar

January/February releases

**Hot Shots Part Deux** (Fox) 1/5; **True Romance** (Warner) 1/5; **Robin Hood: Men in Tights** (Fox) 1/12; **Menace II Society** (New Line) 1/12; **Heart and Souls** (MCA/Universal) 1/12; **Friday the 13th: Jason Goes to Hell** (New Line) 1/19; **The Coneheads** (Paramount) 1/26; **The Last Party** (LIVE) 1/26; **The Last Action Hero** (Columbia/TriStar) 1/26; **Hard Target** (MCA/Universal) 1/26; **Kalifornia** (Polygram) 2/2; **Poetic Justice** (Columbia/TriStar) 2/2; **In the Line of Fire** (Columbia/TriStar) 2/9; **The Program** (Buena Vista) 2/16; **Son in Law** (Buena Vista) 2/23; **Fortress** (LIVE) 2/23

## quotable

"Part of the grand scheme of the movie is to promote discussion on the concept of tolerance. Even on college campuses, it seems like there is a string of political litmus tests."

—Tom Hanks on the message of his latest film, *Philadelphia*