



Eric Stoltz and Mary-Louise Parker try to balance their careers and romance in *Naked in New York*.

Celebrity ensemble casts seem to be the theme this month. Here are some that might be worth a \$5 tub of popcorn:

Naked in New York (Fine Line)

Eric Stoltz stars as Jake Briggs in a romantic comedy about a recent college grad trying to have a career and a serious relationship. After graduation, Jake finds himself in the enviable position of having his first play produced off-Broadway. His aspiring career, however, is causing his love life to suffer, as Jake's romantic interest Joanne (Mary-Louise Parker) gets left behind in his search for success. The film is based on the life of director Dan Algrant, who was also co-writer of the movie. The cast includes Ralph Macchio of *Karate Kid* fame, Kathleen Turner and Tony Curtis.

The Paper (Universal)

The cast alone is enough to make big news in this movie directed by Ron Howard. Michael Keaton, Glenn Close, Robert Duvall, Marisa Tomei and Randy

Quaid headline in a flick about a common day in the life of newspaper editor Henry Hackett (Keaton). Of course, a common day includes dueling with his managing editor (Close), dealing with his pregnant wife (Tomei) and contending with a rival newspaper that wants to hire him. Oh, and did we mention he can free two innocent young men charged with murder if he can expose a major scandal for the morning edition? *The Paper* promises to be an intriguing, if a bit overly glamorous, look at newspapers with cameos by real-life journalists.

Serial Mom (Savoy)

This month Kathleen Turner stars as the heavy in yet another dark comedy. Director John Waters' script portrays the



typical perfect suburban family. What the kiddies don't know, however, is Mom (Turner) takes time out from buying the groceries to become a serial killer. (Don't mind the bloody knife in your cereal bowl, junior.) Talk show host Ricki Lake shares the screen as Turner's boy-crazy daughter in this off-beat comedy. Just hope the kid doesn't bring home any potential boyfriends Mommy doesn't like.

House of the Spirits (Miramax)

Every month needs at least one serious release. *House of the Spirits* is April's let's-get-reflective flick. Based on the best-selling novel written by Isabel Allende, *House of the Spirits* follows the life of the Trueba family from the sleepy 1920s to the 1970s. The transition from flappers to bell-bottoms is re-enacted by an all-star cast including Meryl Streep, Jeremy Irons, Glenn Close, Winona Ryder, Antonio Banderas and Vanessa Redgrave. Bring the tissue box for this one.



Jimmy Hollywood (Paramount)

Joe Pesci's back as an out of work actor who — no joke — starts a vigilante group to combat Hollywood's rising crime. He does Brando, he does Cagney, he takes hoods hostage in his girlfriend's bathroom. *Jimmy Hollywood* also stars Christian Slater as his hapless sidekick. Slater plays William, a character the actor describes as "out there." Does Slater take any other type of role? Word on the street is that Slater steals the show.



Major League II (Warner Bros.)

As with all successful movies, a sequel is born and the cast reunited for another (they hope) financial jackpot. Rick Vaughn (Charlie Sheen) has exchanged his funky-out 'do for Armani suits while cleanup hitter Pedro Cerrano (Dennis Haysbert) has traded his voodoo religion for Buddhism. Other than the superficial changes, look for a similar story line and goofy hijinks that made the first *Major League* somewhat of a cult hit on college campuses.

Four Weddings and a Funeral (Gramercy)

In what may be the sleeper of the month, this romantic comedy centers around a thirtysomething British bachelor, Charles (Hugh Grant), who finds himself surrounded by women yet unable to commit to any of them. Will Charles finally settle down when he meets American beauty Carrie (Andie MacDowell)? He has to make it through four weddings and a funeral, hence the title, before he actually decides. Directed by Mike Newell (*Enchanted April*), *Four Weddings* follows a recent succession of British films garnering critical acclaim.

Here are some other movies you might want to check out this month: *Cops and Robbers*, Chevy Chase's chance to revive his career; *Surviving the Game*, starring Ice-T; *Holy Matrimony*, starring Patricia Arquette and directed by Leonard Nimoy; *Clifford*, with Charles Grodin and Martin Short; *The Favor*, with Harley Jane Kozak (*Parenthood*), Elizabeth McGovern and Brad Pitt; and *Color of Night*, with Bruce Willis. ■ Danita Arbuckle, *Ball State Daily News*, Ball State U.



on the set

■ Paramount is wrapping up Harrison Ford's *Clear and Present Danger*, which was filmed in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Mexico. It has an all-star cast including Anne Archer, James Earl Jones and Willem Dafoe; look for this action-thriller this summer.

■ The highly anticipated *Interview with the Vampire* is shooting internationally in Paris, London, New Orleans and San Francisco. As we all know by now, Tom Cruise will star as the vampire Lestat in Warner Bros.' big-screen version of Anne Rice's novel. Neil Jordan (*The Crying Game*) directs a hunky cast including Antonio Banderas, Brad Pitt, Stephen Rea and Christian Slater.

■ Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte have teamed up for *I Love Trouble*, to be released this summer by Touchstone. A film about two rival reporters working at a Chicago paper, *I Love Trouble* is shooting in Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Wisconsin.

■ Also in the works: Fox's *It Happened in Paradise*, slated for a year-end release. The film stars Nicolas Cage, Jon Lovitz and Dana Carvey. And Universal's *The Little Rascals*, scheduled for a summer release, is shooting in Los Angeles.



The fugitive goes CIA this summer.

video calendar

April releases

Fearless (Warner Bros.) 4/6; **The Age of Innocence** (Columbia/TriStar) 4/6; **A Bronx Tale** (HBO/Savoy) 4/6; **Malice** (New Line) 4/13; **Cool Runnings** (Buena Vista) 4/13; **Carlito's Way** (MCA/Universal) 4/13; **The Saint of Fort Washington** (Warner Bros.) 4/20; **Another Stakeout** (Buena Vista) 4/20; **Tout Le Matin du Monde** (Buena Vista) 4/20; **Flesh and Bone** (Paramount) 4/20; **Mr. Jones** (Columbia/TriStar) 4/20; **Ruby in Paradise** (Republic) 4/20; **Josh and S.A.M.** (Columbia/TriStar) 4/27; **Ernest Rides Again** (Monarch) 4/27

quotable

"In a lot of movies, you see relationships and people falling in love in slow motion and everything's perfect. But in this film... you see our characters struggle and bicker and make mistakes."

— Eric Stoltz on *Naked in New York*