

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Dennis Haysbert Co-Stars With Michelle Pfeiffer In Orion Pictures Release

## LOVE FIELD

It is the day after the assassination of President John Kennedy and Paul Cater, an African-American pharmacist from Washington, D.C., is trying to leave Dallas with his small daughter. At a bus station, his path crosses with blond Dallas housewife Lurene Hallette, who, in her sympathy for Jacqueline Kennedy, is drawn to the same destination.

This is "Love Field," starring Dennis Haysbert and Michelle Pfeiffer, a film about race and relationships in the segregated South. "My character Paul Cater is running away while Michelle's character, Lurene, is running to something," explains Dennis. "Our paths cross

and circumstances continually throw us together. Both of us are alone and lonely, and as we cross the country a reluctant bond forms between us."

Dennis grew up in a family of nine children in San Mateo, California. His mother is a homemaker and his father was a deputy sheriff assigned to San Francisco Airport security. Drawn to acting and sports, he opted for drama and attended the College of San Mateo. He later moved to the Pasadena branch of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Ever since a guest starring role on "Lou Grant," Dennis has been seen all over the television dial. He had recurring roles in "Buck Rogers In The 20 Century" and "Just The Ten



Of Us." And he was a regular in two ABC series, "Off The Rack" and "Code Red." But one of his most personal roles was in the TV movie "Gambling's White Tiger." "The reason that film meant so much to me was because Coach Robinson of Gambling was my father's best friend while they were growing up," he recalls.

This month, Dennis has a featured role in the CBS mini-series "Queen" the sequel to Alex Haley's acclaimed "Roots." It's the saga of Haley's grandmother from slavery to the 20th century. Dennis portrays Davis, a union organizer, who is the father of Queen's first son.

Haysbert's motion picture debut was "Major League," an offbeat baseball

story starring Tom Berenger and Charlie Sheen. His character was "Pedro Cerrano," a Cuban with a shaved head, a goatee, and a voodoo shrine in his locker. This was followed by Orion's "Navy Seals," a film about an elite military team. Last fall, Dennis co-starred with Tom Selleck in "Mr. Baseball," another baseball comedy. These baseball roles have been good practice for his hobby—playing competitive, modified, fast pitch baseball in L.A.'s Show Business League.

Dennis is married to actress Lynn Griffith Haysbert and the couple has a two year old son. He's attracted to roles that both entertain and educate audiences. He wants audiences to get something back. "I want people to respect me and to know that I am respectful of them," Dennis explains. "I would like them to see me as a guy who cares."

An Orion Pictures presentation of a Sanford/Pillsbury Production, "Love Field" is directed by Jonathan Kaplan ("The Accused") from a screenplay by co-producer Don Ross. The film is produced by Midge Sanford and Sarah Pillsbury and executive produced by George Goodman. The cast includes Brian Kerwin, Peggy Rea, Louise Latham, Beth Grant and Stephanie McFadden in her acting debut. "Love Field" features an orchestral score by Academy Award-winner Jerry Goldsmith, and will open nationally on February 12th.

## MOVIE REVIEWS

By Linda McClain



## SOMERSBY

Set in the post civil war era a young mother, Laurel Somersby (Jodie Foster) waits six years for her veteran husband to return. When he finally does, he's somehow different. He's smaller, has weight loss and his shoe size is two sizes too small. Could that be from the weight loss. Sure it is, but he is nicer, more attentive and much more desirable. Could the war have changed him that much?

Remember the 'Good ole days' when the 'Negroes' knew their place and many found that place hanging at the end of a rope in the middle of town. Hanging there, while white children played with the decaying corpses? Do you remember the time when the southern accented word 'nigra' rang out like a melody? Well, if you don't, you need to see this movie for a little dose of the way it was. However, in Somersby the history lesson is mild. Racial insults and disrespectful innuendo is sparingly sprinkled throughout to give the story a touch of realism. Even the Knights of the Gardenia (I believe that was their name) makes an appearance to torture a black man for the supposedly wrong doing of a white man.

Yet compassion and racial kindness flood the screen. With the determination of the towns people, black and white, working together to rebuild their lives and the entire town. But to do so, someone must die.

James Earl Jones delivers a riveting performance of the presiding judge over the murder trial. When he confronts the Knight and sentences him to sixty days for contempt of court, the movie theater audience roared with laughter and hand clapping.

A word of warning, the wife's pregnancy is so predicable, at least to us women, when she faints in the audience shouted, "she's pregnant." I did too. But I just whispered it.

How did Jack Somersby (Richard Gere) know his wife had a baby girl, when he entered the room directly after the birth of the child? No one told him! Ultra-sound available back then.

But the most blatant example of lax camera work is the court room screen. If you start to get dizzy while watching it, relax. The camera toggles back and forth between focused and unfocused to such a degree, its distracting.

Yet this remake of The Return of Martin Guerre is refreshingly heart warming, and renewing of faith in mankind. It is well worth the Full Price!

# MARTIN

Pledges Its Support To The National Association For Sickle Cell Disease, Inc.

Martin Lawrence has chosen to give a portion of the proceeds from these calls to the National Association For Sickle Cell Disease in support of our efforts to find a cure for sickle cell disease. The national Multiple Sclerosis Society will also share in the proceeds from this national promotion.



On February 11, and 18, 1993, "Martin", Fox's most successful hit of the season, will have a very special three part story that will benefit the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, Inc.

The producers of "Martin" contacted the organization in January and told them about a special three part story line that will involve viewers of the show. Martin and his girlfriend Gina (Tisha Campbell) break up and begin dating other people, with television viewers deciding the final outcome in a special 900 number vote. The telephone lines will be open from February 11 through 16 so that viewers can vote on who should apologize first: Gina or Martin. Two different

endings will be filmed, and the poll results will determine which is broadcast for the third episode. Each call will cost 75 cents.

Martin Lawrence has chosen to give a portion of the proceeds from these calls to the National Association For Sickle Cell Disease in support of our efforts to find a cure for sickle cell disease. The national Multiple Sclerosis Society will also share in the proceeds from this national promotion.

We are encouraging our friends, supporters and the general public to watch "Martin" which airs on FOX, Thursday, 8:30 - 9:00 P.M. ET/PT. Be

Continued on page 8

The Portland Observer

AND ORION PICTURES PRESENT AN UPCOMING RELEASE

MICHELLE PFEIFFER

"A TRIUMPH..."

- Jeanne Wolf, JEANNE WOLFS HOLLYWOOD

"THOROUGHLY CAPTIVATING..."

- Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER



LOVE FIELD

SANFORD/PILLSBURY production MICHELLE PFEIFFER "LOVE FIELD" DENNIS HAYSBERT BRIAN KERWIN  
 coproducer DON ROOS music by JERRY GOLDSMITH editor JANE KURSON, A.C.E. production designer MARK FREEBORN director of photography RALF BODE, A.S.C.  
 executive producers KATE GUINZBURG and GEORGE GOODMAN writer DON ROOS producer SARAH PILLSBURY and MIDGE SANFORD director JONATHAN KAPLAN  
 Prints By Deluxe Orion PICTURES Release

PICK UP YOUR COMPLIMENTARY TICKET FOR TWO!! FOR AN ADVANCED SHOWING ON FEBRUARY 11, 1993.

Available at The Portland Observer Office, 4747 NE Martin Luther King Boulevard