

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## BRUCE WILLIS Boyz To Men Make Pepsi-Cola Television Commercials

They shouldn't have put him in the water, if they didn't want him to make waves.

**STRIKING DISTANCE**

COLUMBIA PICTURES

STARTS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

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Tops In The Nation! Boyz II Men, the favorite musical act among American teens, relax during the recent taping of their first television commercial for Pepsi-Cola's Slice flavor line at the Paramount Studios in Hollywood. The velvet-voiced group from Philadelphia are, from left, Wayne "Squirt" Morris, Nathan Morris, Michael "Bass" McCary and Shawn "Slim" Stockman. Named the favorite musical act among black and white American teens, Boyz II Men's contract with Pepsi puts the 20 to 22 year old quartet onto a path followed by other super stars, including Michael Jackson, Ray Charles, Lionel Richie and Tina Turner.

sical acts TLC, En Vogue and Mary J. Blige respectively.

In signing a multi-brand ad contract with Pepsi-Cola Company, Boyz II Men joined a celebrated line of pop performers to star in Pepsi ads, including Michael Jackson, Ray Charles, M.C. Hammer, Lionel Richie, Robert Palmer, David Bowie, Tina Turner, Rod Stewart, Gloria Estafan, Glen Frey and others. "Teens are continually attracted to the newest artists," said Jeff Campbell, Senior Vice President, Brand Development, Pepsi-Cola Company. "What's unique is that Boyz II Men are more popular now than when they debuted. In the ten years we've traced teen's musical tastes, it's extremely rare to see a group become even hotter after first coming on the scene."

Campbell noted that the group's debut album, "Cooleyhighharmony," took the music industry by storm, selling five million copies in the U.S. and approximately two million abroad, the most ever for a R&B group. Their chart-burning single, "End of the Road," also broke Elvis Presley's 30-year record by sitting on top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart for 13 consecutive weeks.

Boyz II Men, the newest of Pepsi's celebrity sales force, first got to know one another when they met in 1988 at the High School of Creative and Performing Arts. Making up the quartet are: Wanya "Squirt" Morris, 20; Michael "Bass" McCary, 21; Shawn "Slim" Stockman, 20 and Nathan "Alex Vanderpool" Morris, 22.

### SPELLING CONTEST

Students who won county spelling contests participated in the Oregon Spelling contest Saturday, Sept. 4, at the State Fair.

Students in grades kindergarten through 5 competed, followed by grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. The event was held on the floral garden stage.

The contest was not like the traditional spelling bee. Students had ten seconds to spell each word on paper after it was pronounced, used in a sentence and pronounced again. Mike Donahue, news anchor for KOIN-TV, gave the words.

Boyz II Men, one of the music industry's hottest young recording acts, has joined the Pepsi Generation.

The velvet-voiced quartet from Philadelphia, ranging in age from 20 to 22, made their first television

commercial for Pepsi's Slice flavor line, during a recent all-night session at Paramount Studios in Hollywood.

Boyz II Men is currently the favorite musical performing act among teenagers, according to a

new nationwide survey conducted by Chicago-based Teen Research Unlimited. Both black and white teen ranked Boyz Men as their favorite.

The survey gave second, third and fourth-favorite rankings to mu-

### Miss Jr. Black America Celebrates Its 9th Anniversary

Now in its 9th year, the Miss Junior Black America Scholarship Pageant through the continued commitment of local communities, business leaders, social and civic organizations in addition to national sponsors, has become a star studded gala. The pageant has evolved into a week-long list of festivities at the Hilton

Hotel in sunny Los Angeles, California, July 27, 1994 through August 1, 1994.

All interested teens are encouraged to compete for college scholarships. For further information, please call (213) 612-7776. Veronica Avery is chairing the national search committee.

## S I N B A D

(David Bryan on "The Sinbad Show")

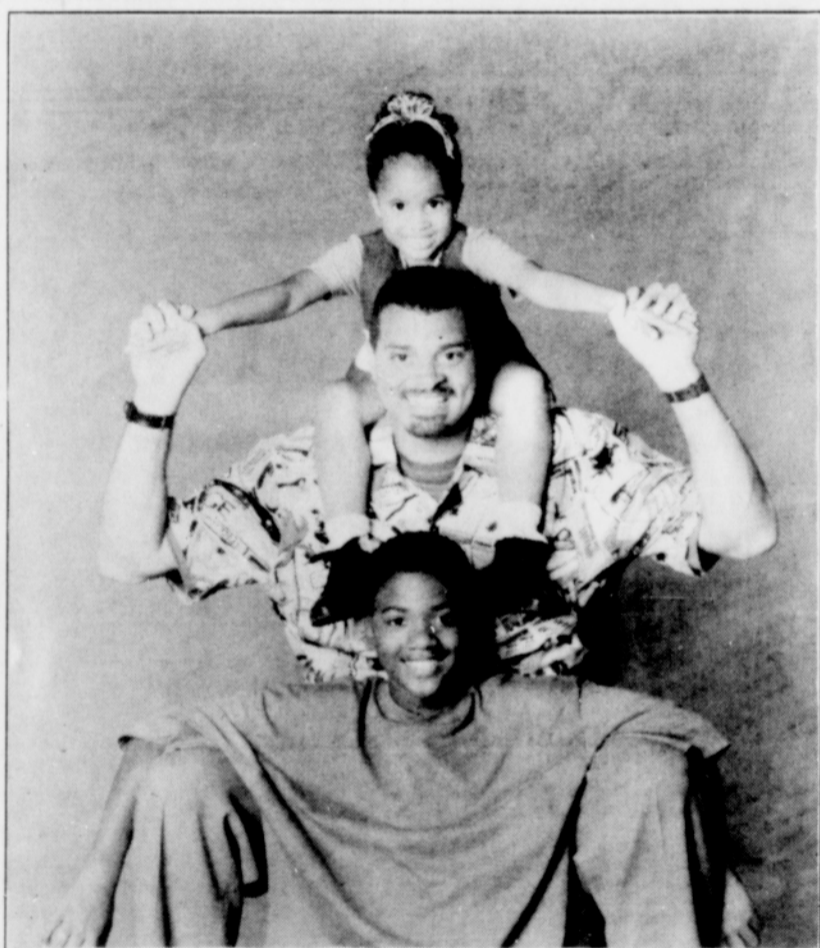
Sinbad stars as David Bryan, a successful bachelor who takes in two foster children and suddenly realizes that his carefree single life is history, in "The Sinbad Show," airing Thursdays, 8:30 Pm (ET/PT) on FOX.

"Once you have kids, your life changes. When you're single, you just run and enjoy life, go into malls and actually get the stuff that you went into the malls to buy. Once you have kids, you're just lucky to get some stuff," says Sinbad.

It's an understatement to say that Sinbad is a unique individual, and there is nothing understated about the 6'5" tall comic who forged a career for himself out self-belief, conviction and sheer determination.

From an early age, Sinbad wanted to make people laugh. But this did not become a career ambition until a knee injury ended his dream of professional basketball while on scholarship at the University of Denver. It was while serving in the Air Force and making his fellow corps men laugh that eventually put him on the road in the early '80s on his self-christened "Poverty Tour."

Traveling from city to city, by bus or by car, which often doubled as his hotel room, Sinbad started his career by appearing in comedy clubs. He would often arrive unannounced and gain a spot on



Sinbad (center) stars as bachelor David Bryan, who decides to become a foster father to a brother-sister pair as played by Erin Davis (top) and Willie Norwood, in "The Sinbad Show," airing Thursdays at 8:30 PM (ET/PT) on R/FOX.

the night's roster with an impromptu audition to stunned club owners, who he almost always won over.

For Sinbad, it wasn't one big break, but a long chain of little breaks that brought him to where

he is today. Along the way, he often relied on the good graces of people he ran into—taxi-cab drivers, fast-food franchise owners—who he asked for help along the way. He would sign an I.O.U. of sorts and

make good on his promise, keeping a long list of names and addresses of whoever helped him out.

In 1983, he came to national attention performing on "Star Search," coming close to the show's coveted \$100,000 grand prize. He continued from there and later won a role as Redd Foxx's son on "The New Redd Foxx Show."

Following that, Bill Cosby cast Sinbad in a co-starring role on "A Different World," which he appeared in for four seasons. While appearing in the popular series, he also served as host of the late night variety series "It's Showtime at the Apollo."

During his stint on "Showtime," he recorded his first comedy album, "Brain Damaged," which was the basis of his first HBO Comedy Special of the same title. His most recent HBO Comedy Special, "Afros and Bellbottoms," brought him further accolades.

His feature film roles include "Necessary Roughness," and the recently-released "Coneheads" and "Meteor Man."

Born November 17 in Brighton Harbour, Michigan, Sinbad currently lives in Los Angeles and has two children.

"The Sinbad Show" is produced by Murphy/Strawther Productions in association with Touchstone Television.

Touchstone Television is part of Walt Disney Pictures and Television.

### FALL CLASSES FOR YOUNG ACTORS

Oregon Children's Theatre Company announces two 8-week after school workshops for actors in grades 3 through 8 scheduled to begin October 12 in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Drama Skills Lab will challenge actors ages 8-11 to create and script an original performance using improvisation and theatre games. Young actors 10-14 can select the Audition skills Lab, which will focus on analyzing, interpreting and performing monologues and scenes from contemporary theater. Both work-

shops will culminate in showcase performances for a panel of local theatre directors on the last day of class, December 7. Classes meet Tuesdays, 4-5:30 PM, with Thanksgiving week off. The workshop fee is \$75.00. For registration information please call the Oregon Children's Theatre Company at 228-9571. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Year round classes are now being offered by Oregon Children's Theatre Company at the request of

many parents and students who participated in our last two summers' workshop sessions sponsored by the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Winter, Spring and Summer 1994 will provide a variety of workshop experiences from Shakespeare to Musical Theatre Skills, with a strong emphasis on process and the involvement of theatre professionals. Our goal is to help students develop confidence and self esteem, as well as an appreciation of theatre and its value to our community.

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