

Arts ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

HARD RAIN Paramount Pictures

Tom (Christian Slater) is a young man who has taken a job as an armored car courier along side his Uncle Charlie (Ed Asner), a veteran of the money delivery business. Come hell or high water, Tom is determined to deliver safely the \$3 million that have been entrusted to him. High water comes - plenty of it - when his armored car is caught in the rising waters of an immense Midwestern river flood.

Jim (Morgan Freeman) is equally determined to get his hands on those \$3 million. A career thief who's growing weary of the criminal life, he seizes on the flood as his chance to pull off one last daring job-an armored car robbery that will bag him



Tim (Christian Slater, left) and Jim (Morgan Freeman, right) hid behind gravestones to avoid the sheriff's searchlight in the high-action crime thriller "Hard Rain." "Hard Rain," a Paramount Pictures presentation in association with Mutual Film Company, is directed by Mikael Salomon.

Photo by: Richard Foreman

enough cash to retire to a tropical island forever. His plan goes terribly

awry when Tom, stubbornly determined to protect the cash, refuses to do the easy thing and give up the money.

With a miffed, overburdened sheriff (Randy Quaid) trying to patrol the town with a handful of deputies, Tom relies on help from a courageous young woman (Minnie Driver) to protect the money and his life from the very determined and gun-wielding thieves.

Nothing-not the rising flood, nor a ruthless pursuit, nor a spectacular jet-ski battle in the hallways of a half-

submerged high school-will stop Tom from fighting to save the fortune that's been placed in his charge. Jim and his gang are equally determined to make sure they get what they came for.

Ultimately, they all face a sheriff who has plans of his own. What follows is a desperate chase amid the rising waters, and a struggle that shows people are not always who they seem to be.

Producer Mark Gordon, who also produced the blockbusters "Speed" and "Broken Arrow",



Karen (Minnie Driver, left) is questioned by the sheriff (Randy Quaid, right) in the high-action crime thriller "Hard Rain." "Hard Rain," a Paramount Pictures presentation in association with Mutual Film Company, is Directed by Mikael Salomon.

comments on the distinctive quality of the film: "So many films that depict disaster - which this is not," says Gordon, "are stories about how the natural elements like the twister, like the flood, like the volcano, are the antagonist. In our picture, Morgan Freeman is the antagonist, Christian Slater is the protagonist, and we play the action out against the flood."

Describing his experience with "Hard Rain," producer Gary Levinsohn notes, "There's an enormously experienced technical crew

involved in bringing this film to the screen. Our director, Mikael Salomon, pioneered some of the major effects we see in the movie when he was working on "Backdraft" and "The Abyss." In addition, people like John Frazier, our special effects supervisor, did the special effects for "Twister" and "Speed."

Producer Ian Bryce emphasizes that "Hard Rain" is not just a big stunt movie but actually "a great thriller that keeps the audience guessing, with a good deal of terrific action throughout."

Portland Art Museum Northwest Film Center Annual Reel Music Series Celebrates Music On Film

Portland Premier - Visiting Artist

Friday & Saturday, January 9 & 10

Don McGlynn takes a riveting look at the tortured musical life of the great composer and bass player Charles Mingus. Featuring wide ranging interviews with musicians and critics who were close to Mingus, along with the insights of his wives Celia and Susan, an extraordinary portrait emerges of an artist of unparalleled talent and complex, paradoxical temperament.

Over the course of nine years of digging, McGlynn has also surfaced treasured film and television clips from the 1960s and 1970s, radio broadcasts, interviews and vintage photographs, many unknown, to capture the joy and rage of his life, and the legacy of musical genius that he left behind. (78 mins.)

Portland Art Museum Northwest Film Center is located at 1219 S. W. Park Avenue Portland, Oregon.

For more information call 503-221-1156 or fax 503-294-0874.

"Search For A Host" Contest Ends With A Bang!

Detroit resident Mattie Majors will become the first African-American woman ever to host a game show after being named winner of Game Show Network's "Coast-To-Coast Search For A Host." A single mother, whose hobbies include sewing and gardening, Majors is about to embark on a slightly more adventurous activity as host of Game Show Network's hit interactive program, Trivia Track.

After surviving a rigorous series of auditions, celebrity voting revealed Mattie a clear winner. Contestants were judged on five different attributes including hosting potential, stage presence, command of the game, contestant interaction and energy level. Mattie wowed the panel of celebrity judges that included Wink Martindale, Casey Kasem, Joshua Morrow (Young & The Restless), Marc Summers (Hollywood Squares/Double Dare), and "Ms Universe" Brook Lee, and was thrilled to discover that she beat out the other five finalists from more than 800 hopefuls that auditioned across the country over the past year.

Majors, a media relations director at Detroit Medical Center, is still amazed that she won the opportunity to host Game Show Network's interactive program, Trivia Track. "When I first heard about the auditions, I figured I would just give it a try for fun," Majors said. "I never imagined that I would actually win!"

A long time fan of game shows, especially The Price Is Right and its "smooth" host Bob Barker, Majors unbridled enthusiasm and charming charisma proved to be the winning mix in Game Show Network's nationwide game show host search. She will make her national television debut the week of January 26 at 8:30 p.m.

"The most thrilling part of the entire experience was meeting so many great people," Majors said. "We were so busy having fun, that it really eased the pressure."

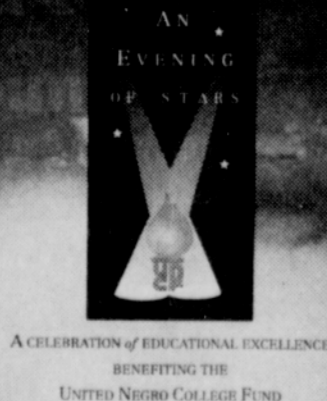
Not only did Majors win the chance to be a game show host, but she also won a prize package worth more than \$30,000 including a brand-new 1997 Jeep Cherokee SE and \$5,000 in cash. Majors said she plans to invest her winnings in the real estate market.



Looking more like an exuberant contestant than a future game show host, Detroit resident Mattie Majors rejoices after discovering she will become the first African-American woman to host a game show in television history.



ONE NIGHT A YEAR,
THE STARS SHINE A LITTLE BRIGHTER.



TUNE IN JANUARY 10TH. CHECK YOUR LOCAL TELEVISION LISTINGS. On January 10th, watch UNCF's all-new "An Evening of Stars" for four hours of entertainment by the brightest stars in the universe, including lead co-host Lou Rawls, Toni Braxton, Vanessa L. Williams, Luther Vandross, Jerry Butler, The O'Jays, Maze featuring Frankie Beverly, and Sinbad. Join these and many other stars for a night of world-class performances to benefit deserving students in need of financial support. But remember, a celestial event like this only comes along once a year.

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