

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Brand Nubian

Pamela Anderson's

Anderson's

V.I.P.



Personal bodyguards realize that they need a figurehead for their struggling agency, they persuade her to join them with the promise that she'll live a glamorous Beverly Hills lifestyle, and never be in danger. She gets the glamour, but from week to week as head of V.I.P. — as in Vallery Irons Protection — she is also in a lot of danger.

.....Each week, the Beverly Hills-based series will feature a familiar face from the worlds of television, sports and film in a cameo role as a celebrity needing protection. "V.I.P." also has a regular fantasy sequence in which Anderson Lee imagines herself in luxurious and sexy surroundings, only to be brought down to earth in humorous fashion. "J.F. Lawton did a very clever thing in setting up a first-act fantasy segment that shows off a side of Pamela that everyone expects to see, then undercuts it with humor," says show-runner and executive producer Morgan Gendel. "I know it's going to be a fun show to watch" adds Anderson Lee, who displays a new, soft side to her character in the series. "It's got humor, and it shows the bright, colorful, behind-the-scenes California that everybody wants to see."

.....Besides a great cast, Lawton is determined to give the show big-screen values. "We're going to tell big stories with big action every week," Lawton says. "We want to ramp up the level of quality all around: writing, visuals, photography. It's a great looking show." Adds Gendel, "We've got the rare writing staff that is as adept at adrenaline-rush action as it is withly humor."

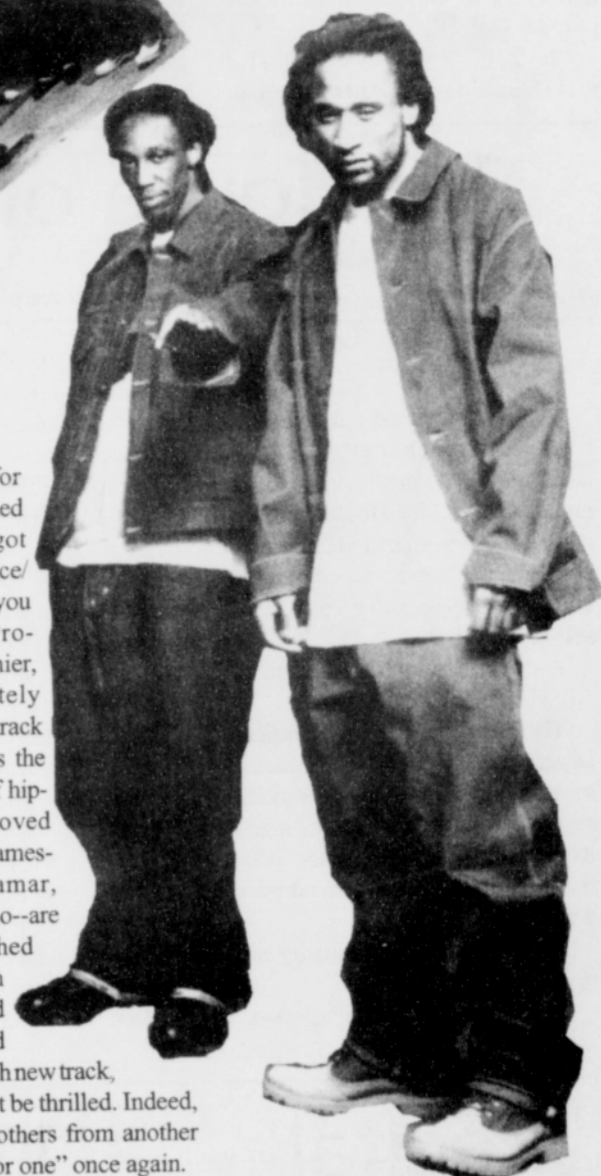
Blending action and humor in a fast-paced adventure series, "V.I.P." takes a behind the scenes look at an elite bodyguard agency protecting the rich and famous in glamorous Beverly Hills.

.....Starring Pamela Anderson Lee and executive produced by J. F. Lawton, ("Pretty Woman," "Under Siege") Morgan Gendel ("Nash Bridges," "Law & Order") and Anderson Lee, "V.I.P." is produced by Lafitte Productions and distributed by Columbia TriStar Television Distribution.

.....Marking the return to television of Anderson Lee, who won worldwide fame in "Baywatch," "V.I.P." premieres in September 1998 and has been sold to more than 200 stations representing more than 98 % of the country, including a major deal with all 22 Fox owned and operated stations. "The premise is a little bit like 'Pretty Woman,'"

says creator and executive producer Lawton. "A beautiful girl comes to Los Angeles and is propelled into a world where she's surrounded by all this glamour. The audience can enjoy the fun of imagining what it would be like to have all these things. There's a Cinderella element to it all."

.....Anderson Lee plays Vallery Irons, a small-town girl who comes to Southern California looking for a break but winds up working at a fashionable hot dog stand. One of her customers, a top action-movie star — Brad Cliff — invites her to a film premiere. While walking down the red carpet, a crazed fan pulls out a gun. The hunk turns into a coward and Vallery saves the day. Eager to defend his reputation, Cliff tells reporters that Vallery is his bodyguard, and she goes along to save his embarrassment. Suddenly she's on every major magazine cover in the country. When a group of real profes-



There are few pleasures in life greater than hearing that your favorite new-school rap group has reformed. Your memories begin to soar back to the last time you saw them rocking the mic in a humid club, like bold hip-hop superstars. Or, as the boombox that is your mind begins to quickly rewind to the group's blazing singles of yesteryear, you easily recall a time when those tracks served as the soundtrack to your life.

On "The Return," the single from Brand Nubian's latest disc Foundation, Lord Jamar proudly proclaims, "You ain't heard us all together in several years/it's like a federal crime, you

had to settle for rhymes that lacked substance/we got that in abundance/pro-Black and you know that." Produced by DJ Premier, this appropriately titled comeback track perfectly captures the reunion of one of hip-hop's most beloved groups. As their names—Puba, Lord Jamar, Sadat X and Alamo—are turntable scratched Primo style from an array of their old recordings and grafted onto a fresh new track, one can't help but be thrilled. Indeed, these hip-hop brothers from another mother are "all for one" once again.

'Roseanne Show'

In her new incarnation as a daytime talkshow host, Roseanne is a legitimate heir to Dinah Shore's couch.

Finally, she's moved beyond her personal travails to remind us why Roseanne's domestic goddess oeuvre hit so big when the Denver housewife-cum-standup-cum-sitcom star arrived on the national landscape at the tail end of the Reagan era.

For some time now, Roseanne has insisted she would make a killer talk show host if she was just given the chance to speak directly (read: without network and studio interference) to her hard-core audience. She was right. The multifaceted star has the goods for daytime TV, even if it may take a while for host and producers to figure out how all the parts should fit together.

At her best, Roseanne's humor has always revolved around the truism, so often overlooked by showbizzers, that the American public is infinitely hipper and funnier than most TV writers give it credit for. For the assembly line nature of daytime talk shows, Roseanne is all-purpose: part showbiz celebrity, and part earthy mom, one who was pushing the notion of girl power long before the Spice Girls were even in puberty.

Hands down, though, Roseanne is funniest in her celebrity interviews, which have been better, and longer, than the average chat show session. What's not to like about a host that puts John Waters through a series of Rorschach tests, or gives Kirstie Alley her very unpolitically correct opinion of Scientology.

Roseanne stands out from the rest of the yak pack by serving up sassy, heartfelt opinions, usually with punch lines. She's not diplomatic, or even particularly polite, and doesn't pretend to be. Some days she's dressed as if she just stepped out of a chic Melrose Avenue boutique; other days she dons a drab gray sweat suit.

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