The Portland Observer

INACTION

Box Office Hits for 98



"Private" moment: Tom Hanks in "Saving Private Ryan"

1. Saving Private Ryan

2. Out of Sight

3. There's Something About Mary

4. Velvet Goldmine

5. Life is Beautiful

6. Happiness

7. The Truman Show

8. Love and Death on Long Island

9. Elizabeth

10. Rushmore

The magic of the award-winning Will Vinton Studios joins forces with the comic genius of Eddie Murphy in "The PJs," the first stop-motion animation series ever to air in primetime.

Set in a big city housing project, the "foamation" series smashes cultural sterotypes and taboos as it takes a satirical look at urban family values.

Created by Murphy and Larry Wilmore & Steve Tompkins, "The PJs" is produced by Imagine Television, Eddie Murphy Productions and Will Vinton Studios in association with Touchstone Television and premieres Sunday, January 10, at 8:30 PM (ET/PT) on Fox.

The series moves to its regular time on Tuesday, January 12, at 8:30 PM(ET/PT).

Voicing Thurgood Stubbs, Murphy stars as the cantankerous superintendent of the Hilton-Jacobs Projects. All Thurgood wants is to be left alone with his recliner and his beloved "Wheel of Fortune." But

whether it's a flood of water from faulty plumbing or a flood of complaints from the tenants, it seems there's just never enough time to kick back and relax with a "forty," Thurgood's beverage of choice.

Thurgood's wife Muriel (Loretta Devine, "Waiting to Exhale") is the calming force in his life. Sweet as can be, her feathers never get ruffled and she seems to find the good in anybody or any situation.

Focus

She keeps a journal of her life because that's what her hero Oprah does. While Thurgood and Muriel have no kids of their own, they act as surrogate parents to Calvin (Crystal Scales), a bright 10-year-old who idolizes Thurgood, and his friend Juicy (Michele Morgan) whose parents are so overweight they can't fit through the doorway to their apartment.

Rounding out Thurgood and

Mrs. Avery (Ja'net DuBois), and uptight, 73-year-old resident who's angry even when she's happy; Sanche (Pepe Sernal), Thurgood's chess buddy who can only speak through a voice box which is constantly on the fritz; and the very colorful Haiti Lady (Cheryl Francis Harrington) who sees voodoo as a solution to everyday problems.

loyally by his side in Imagine

Television's new comedy series

"The PJs," premiering midseason

Television and Touchstone

Murial's extended family in the projects are Muriel's older sister Bebe (Jenifer Lewis, "Dreamgirls") and her Korean husband Jimmy (Michael Paul Chan), who have the sex drives of a couple of teenagers.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY **ANNOUNCES** AUDITIONS FOR **ROMEO & JULIET**

Open auditions are announced for Concordia University's Spring production of Shakespeare's tragic romance, Romeo & Juliet. The production opens on

April 10, 1999 and runs for 3 weekends. Roles available all ages,

particularly middle and high school students. Young people are particularly needed to audition. Auditioners should be prepared to perform a 2-minute monologue as well as reading from the script. Scripts are available for viewing (not for checkout) at the Concordia University library or any Shakespeare play book. What: Auditions for Romeo & Juliet Who: Middle School, High

School students

When: February 6 & 7 1999, by appointment - callbacks Feb. 8 Where: Concordia University Fine Arts Building NE 27th and Highland (North

of Ainsworth) on the Concordia **University Campus** How: call 280-8614 (10 am - 2 pm) to schedule an appointment,

or leave a message anytime

As superintendent of the Hilton-Jacobs Projects, Thurgood Stubbs presides over the builing's plumbing and maintenance problems with pride as his beloved wife Muriel stands





on Fox.