Focus

Talk Show Host Stars in Upcoming Film



Mari Marrow and Martin Lawrence engage in some hankypanky while the building Lawrence should be guarding is robbed in the action-packed comedy 'National Security' which opens nationwide on Friday, Jan. 17th.

Mari Marrow plays opposite Martin Lawrence in 'National Security'

lumbia Pictures' hilarious, actionpacked comedy National Security, starring Lawrence and Steve Zahn,

ery, a cocky L.A.P.D. cadet who police the following day. would probably be a great cop if he bellious attitude gets him thrown popular BET talk show, 'Oh Drama,' has to settle for a job as a lowly ance was on the popular syndisecurity guard with "National Se- cated series Baywatch. She went curity."

into jail and eventually winds up M.A.N.T.I.S. working for National Security, as

night on the job, Earl decides to kill played by Morrow. While the two Guest.'

Mari Marrow plays Martin are utilizing a vacant office, the Lawrence's sexy girlfriend in Co-business Earl should be securing is being robbed right under his nose. Just as things are getting steamy between them, Earl notices the crimiopening nationwide on Friday, Jan. nal activity going on outside the door and leaves her handcuffed to Lawrence plays Earl Montgom- a pipe, only to be found by the

Most recently known to TV auweren't such a show-off. Earl's re- diences as one of the hosts on the out of the police academy and he Morrow's first television appearon to secure a recurring role on After a run-in with an uptight ABC's Family Matters, and guest police officer, Hank Rafferty (Zahn), spots on a number of popular shows Earl accuses him of harassment. including The Fresh Prince of Bel-Hank loses his badge, is thrown Air, The Jackie Thomas Show and

Morrow has gone on to work with some of the industry's most During a usually uneventful talented actors including Denzel Washington in Virtuosity and time by engaging in comical Mekhi Pfeifferinthe Acapulco Film sexcapades with his girlfriend, Festival winner, 'An Uninvited



Ashariti laughs as she poses with her awards at the 30th annual American Music Awards Monday in Los Angeles. The singer won Favorite New Artist-Pop or Rock 'n Roll Music and Favorite New Artist-Hip-Hop/Rhythm & Blues Music. (AP Photo)

NEUCONER ASHANTI BRINGS HOME TWO HONORS

turned out to be missing in ac- album. tion at the 30th annual American Music Awards, including Eminem, winner of a leading four American Music Awards.

R&B sensation Ashanti who did attend the event - won two honors for favorite new hipartist.

"Definitely got to say, thank God for giving me the strength to do this," said Ashanti, best known for the singles "Foolish" and "Happy."

She entered the competition based on record sales and a survey of about 20,000 listeners. led with listener support in some of the categories Eminem won, including favorite pop/rock al-

(AP) - The biggest winners bum and favorite hip-hop/R&B

The rapper, recognized for his album "The Eminem Show," designated his "8 Mile" co-star Mekhi Phifer to accept the hiphop prize on his behalf.

Others absent when their names were called at Monday hop/R&B artist and new pop night's American Music Awards were the bands Creed and the Dixie Chicks, who won two awards

Tim McGraw, who sang a "Tiny Dancer" duet with Elton John at the start of the nationally televised show, left for Nashville with a leading five nominations, before winning favorite male country artist, and Mary J. Blige another absentee - was named Going into the evening Ashanti favorite female hip-hop artist.

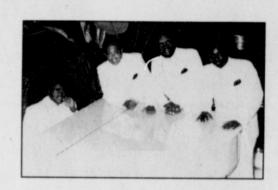
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Pinocchio puppetry

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center and Other Hand Productions will

show four matinee performances of Pinocchio, the classical story of a young puppet's misadventures. The show includes five original songs scored for piano, violin and accordion. Audience participation is included in this production. The IFCC thinks this puppet show is ideal opportunity for grandparents to spend time with their grandchildren who are aged preschool to third grade. Matinees begin at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesdays, Jan. 15 and Jan. 22, and Thursdays, Jan. 16 and Jan. 23. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Tickets ate \$5 and can be ordered by calling 503-823-4322.

Benefit to fund performance venue

Come see flute-playing painters, singing dancers, dancing architects and a great quantity of just plain old musicians at a benefit show for the newly formed and tentatively named 'Rasbliutto Collective.' The idea is to start an independent performance venue for

performance artists in the area. About 15 members of the avantgarde collective will play with Smegma, Super Unity, Linda Austin and Das Yallow Swans at Disjecta on Friday, Jan. 17 at 9 p.m. Admission is a donation of \$5 to \$100 and Disjecta is located at 116N.E. Russell.

IFCC Kwanza celebration show

Over 20 local African American artists are exhibiting textiles, paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, mixed media works and sculptures to reflect on one or more of the seven principles of Kwanza. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdaysfromnoonto4p.m. through January. For more information, call 503-823-2070.

Night of solo and collaborative acts

On Wednesday, Jan. 22 the Mississippi Pizza Pub, located at 3552 N. Mississippi Ave., will open its stage up to an evening of performance art by the newly formed 'Rasbliutto Collective.' Admission is \$5 to \$100 with all donations going towards a fund to get an independent performance venue off the ground.

Go to Paris without leaving Portland

From Jan. 25 to March 23, the Portland Art Museum will feature 'Paris to Portland: Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Masters in Portland Collections.' The show includes 165 works drawn from private collections in the Portland area and has work by Cezanne, Renoir, Monet, Gauguin, Picasso and prints by Toulouse-Lautrec, amongst others. Some of these works have never before been seen in public. On Sunday, Feb. 2 children and adults can come to 'Festival Parisian' to experience activities and entertainment inspired by the art collection. Kids can learn impressionist tissue painting.

