

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. 17.

Mari Marrow plays opposite Martin Lawrence in 'National Security'

Mari Marrow plays Martin Lawrence's sexy girlfriend in Columbia Pictures' hilarious, action-packed comedy 'National Security', starring Lawrence and Steve Zahn, opening nationwide on Friday, Jan. 17.

Lawrence plays Earl Montgomery, a cocky L.A.P.D. cadet who would probably be a great cop if he weren't such a show-off. Earl's rebellious attitude gets him thrown out of the police academy and he has to settle for a job as a lowly security guard with "National Security."

After a run-in with an uptight police officer, Hank Rafferty (Zahn), Earl accuses him of harassment. Hank loses his badge, is thrown into jail and eventually winds up working for National Security, as well.

During a usually uneventful night on the job, Earl decides to kill time by engaging in comical sexcapades with his girlfriend, played by Morrow. While the two

are utilizing a vacant office, the business Earl should be securing is being robbed right under his nose. Just as things are getting steamy between them, Earl notices the criminal activity going on outside the door and leaves her handcuffed to a pipe, only to be found by the police the following day.

Most recently known to TV audiences as one of the hosts on the popular BET talk show, 'Oh Drama,' Morrow's first television appearance was on the popular syndicated series Baywatch. She went on to secure a recurring role on ABC's Family Matters, and guest spots on a number of popular shows including The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, The Jackie Thomas Show and M.A.N.T.I.S.

Morrow has gone on to work with some of the industry's most talented actors including Denzel Washington in Virtuosity and Mekhi Pfeiffer in the Acapulco Film Festival winner, 'An Uninvited Guest.'



Ashanti 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)

NEWCOMER ASHANTI BRINGS HOME TWO HONORS

(AP) — The biggest winners turned out to be missing in action 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 hip-hop/R&B artist and new pop artist.

"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 with a leading five nominations, based on record sales and a survey of about 20,000 listeners. Going into the evening Ashanti led with listener support in some of the categories Eminem won, including favorite pop/rock al-

bum and favorite hip-hop/R&B album.

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

Others absent when their names were called at Monday night's American Music Awards were the bands Creed and the Dixie Chicks, who won two awards apiece.

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

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 are \$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 'Rasblitto Collective.' The idea is to start an independent performance venue for performance artists in the area. About 15 members of the avant-garde collective will play with Smegma, Super Unity, Linda Austin and Das Yellow Swans at Disjecta on Friday, Jan. 17 at 9 p.m. Admission is a donation of \$5 to \$100 and Disjecta is located at 116 N.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 Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. through January. For more information, call 503-823-2070.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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 'Rasblitto 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.

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