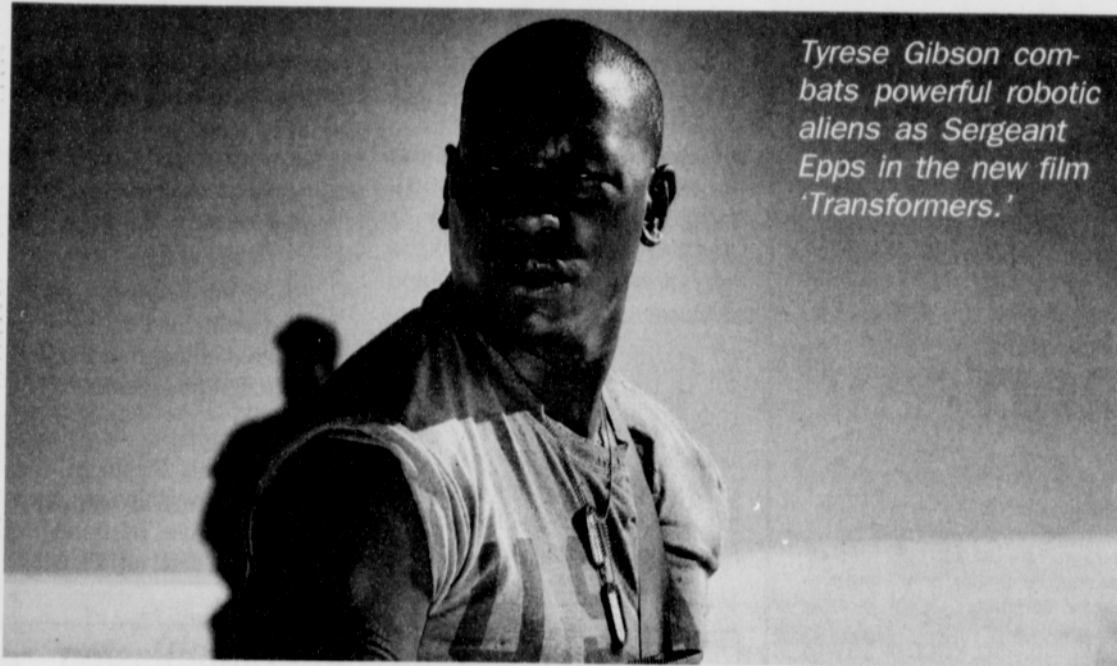


# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Caught in the Middle of Intergalactic War



Tyrese Gibson combats powerful robotic aliens as Sergeant Epps in the new film 'Transformers.'

### Autobots and Decepticons Battle in 'Transformers'

In "Transformers" Tyrese Gibson stars as Sergeant Epps, who discovers that he is one of the first present-day humans to come up against robotic powerful aliens, the heroic Autobots and the evil Decepticons.

The earth is caught in the middle of an intergalactic war between the two races of alien robots. Anthony Anderson portrays Glen, a hacker who strategizes with the military group to come up with a plan of attack to save the world from the battling Transformers.

Also starring as part of the battling military team are Josh Duhamel, Rachael Taylor,

Michael O'Neill, John Turturro and Jon Voight. Paramount Pictures opened Transformers nationwide on Tuesday.

Like every other boy his age, Gibson was a fan of Transformers action figures and a huge devotee of the television series.

"I used to watch the cartoon every day when I got home from school," he says. "Who would have thought a cartoon you loved as a kid would end up being such a milestone in your life as a grown man? It's crazy how things happen."

When Anderson was asked if he was familiar with Transformers action figures, he immediately

broke into song. "Transformers, more than meets the eye, Transformers, robots in disguise!"

Anderson says proudly, "I can sing more of the song. I actually owned Optimus Prime and Megatron when I was growing up. I liked Optimus Prime the best. I played with that guy until he fell apart."

But most important, he and his fellow soldiers are the first line of defense when it comes to defending his country, her people and her allies.

Anderson has appeared in over 20 films and has earned three NAACP Image Award nominations.

## Spice Girls Reunite for Tour

"Girl Power" is back with the announcement that the Spice Girls, who topped charts in the late 1990s, are reuniting for a tour and greatest hits album.

Ginger, Sporty, Posh, Scary and a heavily pregnant Baby Spice told a press conference in London last week that the tour would take place in December and January and would be accompanied by a television documentary about the band.

"Girl power is back, we're going on the road, we're touring the world," Emma "Baby Spice" Bunton said in a promotional video shown to the press before the five girls appeared on stage at London's O2 arena.

The five-member band is the latest in a long line of pop acts to bury past differences and reform, and they will be hoping for suc-



British girl band The Spice Girls (from left) Victoria Beckham, Melanie Chisholm, Gerri Halliwell, Emma Bunton and Melanie Brown pose for the media as they arrive at the Greenwich Royal Observatory in London

cess where many others have failed.

The Spice Girls boasted album sales of 55 million during their me-

teoric career, and hits including "Wannabe" and "Say You'll Be There" topped charts across the globe.

## Oregon Tie to Woods' Baby Picture

(AP) - Tiger Woods and his wife, Elin, didn't want some high-profile celebrity photographer to take the first professional pictures of their new baby.

They picked Gretchen Dow Mashkuri, who lives on a farm east of Salem and doesn't have a Web site or even a business card.

The birth of Sam Alexis Woods was announced June 18 on the golfer's Web site.

Mashkuri told the Statesman Journal newspaper in Salem that her brother's sister-in-law is the Woods' interior decorator.

She was recommended because the new parents wanted someone who is unknown -- and

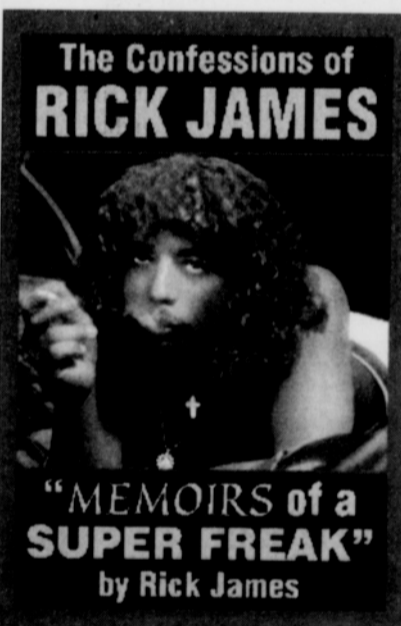


she is a mother of four and lives on a farm.

A contract she signed prohibits her from discussing many details of the job. But she did say she can tell how proud they are to be parents.

Tiger Woods, left, holds his newborn daughter Sam Alexis Woods as wife Elin kisses the baby on the head. Sam Alexis, the first child for Woods and his wife, was born June 18 in Orlando, Fla.

## Unflinching Life of a Super Freak



### Rick James' raw, tell-all confessional

The life of super freaky "King of Punk Funk," Rick James, who miraculously survived numerous trips to hell and back, is told in a new scintillating autobiography.

James penned the revealing, raw, salacious and brutally candid story while incarcerated in California's Folsom State Prison from 1993-1995, and finished shortly before his death.

The result is The Confessions of Rick James - "Memoirs of a Super Freak" by Rick James which promises to be one of the most honest and unflinching looks at life in the fast lane ever written.

James has written the ultimate tell-all confessional with the emphasis on the 'all.' He goes

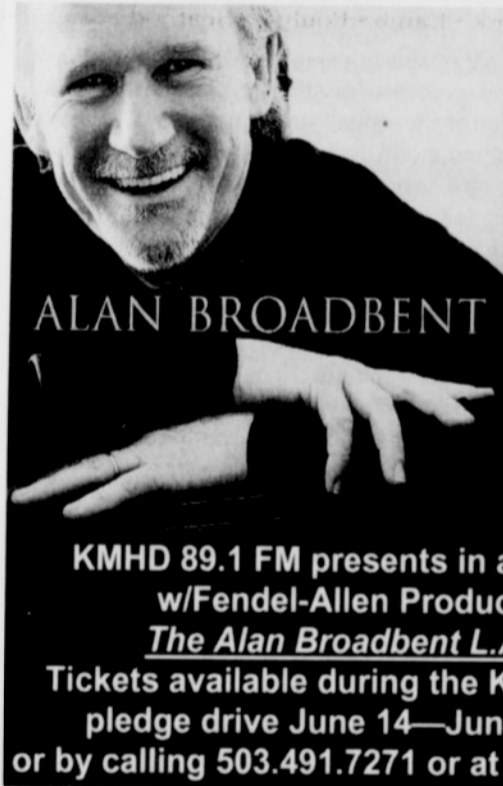
behind the tinsel curtain of fame into the private lives and closely guarded secrets of who did what to whom in bed, on stage and between the legal lines.

In short, the book makes for some very juicy reading by a man who once called himself "the black Marquis de Sade."

Despite James' remarkable musical talents and pioneering accomplishments, he was often better known for his extravagant lifestyle, excessive drug use, kinky sex-capades, and the brutal violence that eventually landed him behind bars. But in his final years, James cleaned up his life and was intent on refocusing his legacy on his music.

Interest remains strong in the larger than life persona who behind it all was merely searching for love.

James died of a heart-attack in August 2004.



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