

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Entertainment Briefs

## TAYE DIGGS GUESTS ON 'ALLY McBEAL'

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Taye Diggs wants to be more than a pretty face in a guest spot on the Fox series "Ally McBeal." "I'm hoping they'll let me be a little wild and crazy as opposed to 'sit around and look cute,'" he said in the Dec. 4 issue of People magazine. Diggs, who played Angela Bassett's Jamaican lover in "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," will star in six episodes to begin airing Feb. 12. "I'll be someone's love interest, I'll be singing and I'm a lawyer, but that's all I know," he said.

## RAPPER ODB ARRESTED AGAIN

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Rapper ODB has been arrested on warrants issued after he fled a court-ordered drug rehabilitation center and missed a court hearing. ODB, whose real name is Russell Tyrone Jones, was taken into custody Monday night at a fast-food restaurant in Philadelphia. Jones, a member of Wu Tang Clan, fled from the Pasadena, Calif., drug treatment center, then failed to appear for an Oct. 17 hearing, police said. He was sentenced last November to the treatment program as part of a plea bargain on a charge of making a terroristic threat. He was also placed on three years of probation. Jones pleaded no contest to being a convicted felon in possession of body armor in February 1999 and to making threats at a West Hollywood nightclub in Sept. 1998.

## OPRAH TO INTERVIEW WIDOW OF LATE MISSOURI GOV. MEL CARNAHAN

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Talk show host Oprah Winfrey will interview Jean Carnahan, the widow of Gov. Mel Carnahan who is set to be appointed to the U.S. Senate, for a show set to air in December. "One of the premises of the show is to highlight people who have overcome loss and have showed great personal strength in very difficult times," said Carnahan spokesman Tom Wyche. Mrs. Carnahan's husband died in a plane crash Oct. 16 while running for the U.S. Senate. Also killed were their son, Roger, and longtime aide Chris Sifford. Carnahan, a Democrat, posthumously won a Senate seat in the Nov. 7 election and Missouri's new governor, Roger Wilson, pledged to appoint Mrs. Carnahan to the seat. Mrs. Carnahan, 66, has said she will accept the appointment and plans to travel to Washington to attend Senate orientation and find a home. The interview is set to take place Thursday. Since her husband's death, Mrs. Carnahan has appeared on ABC's "This Week With Sam Donaldson and Cokie Roberts" to speak of her tragedy. She also has been interviewed by several media outlets in Missouri.

## SHAW NOT WORRIED THAT DEPARTURE WILL LEAVE COLOR VOID

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN anchor Bernard Shaw said he's given a lot of thought to how his departure from the network early next year will affect the racial composition of his profession. "But I do not live to work, I work to live. That's why I'm leaving," he told the New York Times Magazine. "And if my departure creates a color void in network news anchordom, so be it." Shaw, 60, who has been with CNN since it began in 1980, said he's always wanted more company from people of color, but thinks women may have an even harder time in the business. "The distraction of a woman journalist having to worry about her hair, her weight, her clothes — as a male, I never have to be concerned about that, about the salt and pepper in my hair," he said. "How many gray-haired newsmen do you see on television? The double standard in this business is disgusting."

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## CBS cancels 'City of Angels' show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a setback for efforts to feature more blacks on network television, CBS is canceling the inner-city medical drama "City of Angels" due to low ratings.

The show, set in a Los Angeles hospital, starred Blair Underwood and Vivica A. Fox along with a predominantly black supporting cast. It also employed many black writers and crew members.

Episodes will air through Dec. 21.

Steven Bochco, an executive producer of "City of Angels" and an Emmy-winner for shows such as "L.A. Law" and "Hill Street Blues," did not return messages Wednesday seeking comment.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People declined to comment on the cancellation announced last Wednesday. The group had negotiated agreements with the major networks to increase minority participation both on and off

screen.

CBS even cited the NAACP's concerns the last time it renewed "City of Angels," despite the program's mediocre ratings.

Network spokesman Chris Ender said last week that the show "did not achieve the ratings that would justify its continuation on our prime-time schedule."

Last week, "City of Angels" ranked 79 out of 133 programs, drawing only about 5.4 million viewers,

according to Nielsen Media Research. The show has drawn similar ratings over the past several months.

"City of Angels" has been a tremendous source of pride for all of us at CBS — both for its dramatic quality and for its role in our ongoing pursuit of diversity on the air," Ender said in a written statement.

The network vowed to continue trying to make itself "as diverse and multicultural as the public we serve."

## Glenn Close deliciously despicable as dastardly dognapper

By Kam Williams

Special to Sentinel-Voice

102 Dalmations ain't bad for a sequel. Based on the classic kiddie book by Dodie Smith, 101 Dalmations (1996) starred Glenn Close as the unscrupulous Cruella De Vil (as in cruel devil, get it?). When we last left Cruella and company, the skunk-haired heiress was being carted off for kidnapping London's cuddly spotted canines. But now, several years later, she's back, having convinced the authorities to grant her an early parole from prison for good behavior.

At the outset, Cruella appears to have been rehabilitated into dog's best friend. She even buys a fledgling dog shelter. But can the Cruella really change her spots? Of course not. Dalmations suddenly start disappearing again as part of a sinister plan to harvest their fur for the sake of fashion. The problem for the police is proving Cruella's responsible. So someone is pilfering puppies, but who?

Most of the actors from the original have been replaced by fresh faces, a factor which the tykes won't notice, anyway. Much of the intended audience wasn't even alive yet at the time of the initial release. What's important is that this clev-



Actress Glenn Close arrives for the world premiere of Disney's "102 Dalmations," at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Close, who plays Cruella De Vil, stopped to pose with one of the Dalmations from the movie.

erly-conceived, thrill-a-minute sequel is entertaining enough to hold a toddler's attention for the duration.

The sequel introduces a new villain played by Oscar nominee Gerard Depardieu (for Cyrano de Bergerac), France's beloved silver screen veteran with over 100 credits to his name. As felonious fashion furrier Jean Pierre Le Pelt, Depardieu conspires with Cruella to heist and harvest the helpless hounds.

Tim McInnerny (Notting Hill) reprises his role as Alonso, Cruella's loyal man-

servant.

Alice Evans (Le Drenier Secret) appears in a new role as Chloe, Cruella's unconvinced probation officer who ultimately teams up with the gullible Kevin (Ioan Gruffudd), the dog shelter manager who gets duped by its new owner.

The real stars of the film, however, are the dalmations

in all their spotted glory.

Top dog, pardon the expression, is the albinoid Oddball, the only all-white pup in the litter. In truth, Oddball was played by 10 different eight week-old dalmations in succession, each summarily replaced at a Menudo-esque thirteen weeks of age due to a career-ending growth spurt.

Their spots were later meticulously removed by artists, frame by frame, during the editing process.

Lima also relied on a computer-generated Oddball during dangerous sequences too risky for his dog-friendly production. In fact, every scene which appears to place animals in jeopardy were simulated. Thus, many, if not most, of the 102 dalmations are animated.

But these special-effects dogs were real enough to fool me, so I suspect that nobody in the appropriate age group will notice either.

Very good (3 stars). Rate G but deserved PG for mean kidnappers, sadistic cruelty and gravity-defying, action-oriented hi-jinks certain to scare some youngsters.

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