

# 'Hair Show' less of a film, more an outlet for Mo'Nique

By Kam Williams  
Sentinel-Voice

Sassy Peaches (Mo'Nique) and sultry Angelle (Kellita Smith) are siblings and salon owners. But that's about all they have in common. For the pair have gone their separate ways since the day Angelle inherited \$75,000 from their grandmother, whose will only left Peaches a Bible and a piece of jewelry.



Mo'Nique, right, is the main draw for "Hair Show," a film about overcoming sibling rivalry. The movie also features Kellita Smith.

As a result of their divergent fortunes, Peaches was left behind in Baltimore where the IRS is now threatening to close her fledgling, neighborhood hairdressing business over an unpaid tax debt.

Meanwhile, her bourgeois sister was able to head for Hollywood and open a fancy salon in Beverly Hills.

Broke, desperate, and on the run from government agents, the trashy, loud-mouthed Peaches embarrasses Angelle by arriving unexpectedly. And not only does she let her roots show in

front of the upscale clientele, but she has the nerve to ask for the money to bail herself out of debt.

As luck would have it, L.A.'s annual Hair Battle Royale is looming over the horizon, and blood proves to be thicker than cornrows as the coiffure competition's \$50,000 top prize gives the estranged sisters enough incentive to bury the hatchet. Peaches needs the cash, and Angelle wants the prestige of defeating her local nemesis, the maniacal Marcella (Gina Torres).

Though Hair Show's plot has little to offer in the way of

surprises, this Mo'Nique vehicle probably represents the best adaptation of the colorful comedienne's irreverent style to the big screen. The jokes mostly come at the expense of the ghetto-Rodeo Drive contrast and at examinations of African-American hair issues, except when Asians are taking it on the proverbial chin.

Just funny enough to recommend, at least for Mo'Nique fans and anybody inclined to check their I.Q. at the ticket booth.

Good (2 stars). Rated PG-13 for sexual content including off-color dialogue.

# Beanie Sigel gets year in prison

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Gangster rapper Beanie Sigel was sentenced to a year in federal prison Friday on a gun-possession charge stemming from a traffic stop.

Sigel, 30, could have received more than three years, but the judge cited the rapper's charity work and drug abuse treatment in taking leniency.

"It is clear that the defendant has made a substantial effort to change his life," said U.S. District Judge R. Barclay Surrick. Prosecutors had argued that Sigel was much like the man he presents himself as in his gritty lyrics: a ruthless, dangerous gangster.

The charges stemmed from a 2002 incident in which Sigel jumped from his car and ran after a traffic stop. But the heavyset rapper did not get far, and allegedly tossed a loaded gun during the short chase. Officers also found prescription drugs and marijuana in Sigel's Cadillac Escalade.

Sigel's rap sheet dates to when he was a teenager and



BEANIE SIGEL

makes it illegal for him to own a handgun.

Pleading for leniency before a courtroom of supporters that included the rap superstar Jay-Z, Sigel acknowledged that he was in a "reckless situation, a dangerous situation" at the time of the incident, but told the judge he was a changed man.

"I'm not the guy that people think I am," he said. Motioning to his children, he said, "I want them to be able to lift their heads up and say, 'That's my dad. That's Dwight Grant. Not Beanie Sigel.'"

Family members and business colleagues told the judge that the rapper has a "positive message" and is a good role

model for kids.

That suggestion irritated prosecutor Curtis Douglas, who quoted lyrics from a song on Sigel's soon-to-be released album, in which the rapper fantasizes about taking vengeance against his enemies by pouring acid on their children and raping their pregnant girlfriends.

"The very idea that this defendant is here as a role model is somewhat repulsive," Douglas said.

The rapper, whose birth name is Dwight Grant, also faces trial in January on charges that he shot and seriously wounded a man outside a Philadelphia bar, and also faces charges that he punched a man in the face.

Sigel was a protégé of Jay-Z, and his records have sold more than 1 million copies. In a sequel to his 2002 movie "State Property," Sigel plays an imprisoned drug dealer.

He pleaded guilty to the gun charge earlier this year. Sigel also must serve two years probation and pay a \$25,000 fine.

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