

# Jewelry heist caper produces few surprises, no interest

By Kam Williams  
Sentinel-Voice

Jewel thieves Max Burdett (Pierce Brosnan) and Lola Cirillo (Salma Hayek) quietly retired to Paradise Island in the Bahamas after successfully swiping two priceless baubles from a set of three gems known as the Napoleon Diamonds. The contented couple enjoy their ill-gotten gains at an exotic beachfront cottage where they reminisce about having pulled-off perfectly-planned heists which left them set for life.

Though they have never been tempted to abandon their idyllic oasis for another big score, an irresistible opportunity comes a-knockin' when the last Napoleon Diamond arrives in port aboard a highly-publicized "Diamond Cruise." However, also new to town is Stan Lloyd (Woody

Harrelson), the frustrated FBI Agent who has been stalking Max and Lola for the past seven years.

Stan works closely, both literally and figuratively, with solicitous Sophie (Naomie Harris), the chocolicious detective assigned to look after the remaining Napoleon. Max and Lola, on the other hand, are soon in cahoots with an altruistic underworld kingpin (Don Cheadle) who wants the rare stone in order to alleviate the suffering of the island's impoverished, indigent population.

As interesting as this intricate set-up might sound, its artless execution by Brett Rattner leaves a lot to be desired. This is particularly disappointing since he's the acclaimed director of the endlessly entertaining *Rush Hour* 1 and 2. But he must be pay-



The multitalented Don Cheadle, right, can't carry the witlessly crafted "After the Sunset."

ing more attention to his next film, *Rush Hour 3*, due out next August. Because by comparison to his other offerings, "After the Sunset" is more tired than inspired.

The insulting repartee is repeatedly witless, the jokes fall flat and the inane plot thins instead of thickens. The production substitutes cleavage for character development, scattering scads of scantily-clad, empty-headed models around who look like they'd wandered in off the set of a gangsta' rap video. When not trading in titillation, the movie is given to a litany of homophobic "It's not what it looks like" jokes.

More like watching a never-ending music video than a feature film.

Fair (1 star). PG-13 for sex, expletives and action violence.

# Tennis star Williams remains keen on fashion career

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Serena Williams still loves playing tennis, although her passion for fashion is undeniable.

"I'm an unbelievable designer. I don't know how I know and just do these things," she said Tuesday.

"I just start sketching and then I just know the colors and I always know the forecast. I know green and purple are going to be hot. I was born to be a designer. I worked hard to be a tennis player, I don't work hard to be a designer."

Williams has created an on-court stir over the years with her skintight outfits, including a leather-looking "catsuit" she wore as a 17-year-old at the U.S. Open. She is now designing outfits that she'll wear next year.

On Nov. 2, she reached a new level of exposure at the London premiere of Pierce Brosnan's new film, "After the Sunset." In an outfit that had a near-topless effect,



Six-time Grand Slam tennis champion Serena Williams poses next to a life-sized cardboard cut out of her advertisement the upcoming WTA Tour Championship tournament at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Williams wore a red gown with strips of sheer fabric that revealed more than just cleavage.

She has her own line of designer clothing called Aneres — her first name spelled backward — that she

plans to sell in boutiques in Miami and Los Angeles.

"I love tennis more than designing because it's actually easier and I don't get nearly as nervous. I'm so nervous when I'm designing," she said. And she hasn't for-

gotten about acting.

"I've had a lot of different offers, interesting offers from TV shows," she said. "If I wasn't playing tennis, I would have something to do every day, but unfortunately, I don't have time for it right now."

## Justin

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bring joy to people, to bring light to dark places in the world," Guarini told *EW* in all apparent seriousness. The relationship with Medina apparently didn't take, though. Last week's press release was issued by "his new management team," the Washington, D.C.-based firm of Westin Rinehart.

On Wednesday, a Westin Rinehart rep said the firm was no longer repping Guarini, and referred questions to a woman named Ina (no last name given) in New York City. Ina did not return a call.

While Guarini's Broadway dream has ended for now, Tamrya Gray's has only

begun. Gray, another first-season "Idol" alum, made her debut Tuesday night in the musical "Bombay Dreams."

Other ex-"Idols" are busy in record stores. New releases by six former contestants are out, or due out, this holiday season: George Huff's "My Christmas EP" (released this week); Clay Aiken's "Merry Christmas with Love" (Tuesday); Fantasia Barrino's "Free Yourself" (Nov. 23); Ruben Studdard's "I Need an Angel" (Nov. 23); Clarkson's "Breakaway" (Nov. 30); and, Diana DeGarmo's "Blue Skies" (Dec. 7). With his schedule freed up, Guarini should have time to sample them all.

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