

Entertainment Briefs

DELLA REESE LAUNCHING CLOTHING LINE

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Della Reese is tired of boring clothes for larger women. So the plus-size actress and singer has started her own clothing line. "It's very difficult for me to find anything with shape or color... some oomph," said Reese, who described herself as 5 feet 2 inches tall and 200 pounds. Reese, 74, has designed her own vividly hued outfits for years. Her line, Della Reese Fashions, will debut April 4 on the Home Shopping Network. "I want to give women the opportunity to have some pizzazz also," said Reese, who starred in TV's "Touched by an Angel." Her line of cocktail, office and casual wear will feature a range of colors. "I like bright yellows, oranges, reds. I like purple and pink, not just purple and purple and purple," she said. Reese is also an activist against diabetes and a church pastor. Four months ago, she received a doctorate in divinity from the University of Metaphysics in Sedona, Ariz.

ICE CUBE TO DEBUT NEW TRACKS AT VEGAS AWARDS SHOW

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) - Ice Cube loves cars — especially his new red Mercedes. But that's not the only reason he's hosting Spike TV's AutoRox awards in Las Vegas. Cube will also perform on the show, doing two new tracks from his upcoming album, "Laugh Now, Cry Later." The program will be taped April 7 and broadcast on April 18. "I thought it was a good opportunity to perform on TV and get the message out there," he said during a chat in his office at Cube Vision studios. The rapper-actor will debut two singles: "Chrome and Paint" and "Why We Thugs." The album will be released June 6. AutoRox recognizes cool cars in categories including Hottest Exotic and Best Luxury Car.

RAPPER COREY MILLER PUT ON HOUSE ARREST

GRETNA, La. (AP) - The rapper who once went by the stage name of C-Murder has been put in a house arrest program to await a retrial on a second-degree murder charge. Corey Miller was freed from jail last week after posting \$500,000 bond on the charge and meeting a \$500,000 bond set by a judge in Baton Rouge on two unrelated charges of attempted murder. Miller was put into a home incarceration program, said Col. John Fortunato, a spokesman for the Jefferson Parish sheriff. During house arrest, Miller will wear a monitor so that authorities can track his whereabouts. He is restricted to his home and can only leave for court-approved appointments with his attorneys. Miller, 35, is charged with the fatal shooting of Steve Thomas, 16, on Jan. 12, 2002, during a fight at a now-closed nightclub in Harvey. A jury convicted Miller, who faced a mandatory life prison sentence without parole, but a judge tossed the conviction after ruling that prosecutors hid the criminal backgrounds of some state witnesses from the defense. Authorities in Baton Rouge allege that Miller tried to shoot a nightclub owner and a security guard on Aug. 14, 2001, after he was told he would have to be searched before entering the club. Since his legal problems began, Miller has changed his stage name to C-Miller.

BOBBY BROWN, NEW EDITION TO REUNITE AT ESSENCE MUSIC FESTIVAL

NEW YORK (AP) - Bobby Brown and New Edition are getting back together — at least for one night, anyway. Brown and the rest of the old-school boy band are scheduled to perform together at the Essence Music Festival, which will be held July 1-3 in Houston. Other performers announced Monday include Diddy, who will host a "Diddy and Friends" show, and singers Jaheim and Chris Brown. Brown left the group, best known for hits like "Mr. Telephone Man" and "Cool It Now," back in the 1980s for his solo career, and since then has only performed with the group sporadically. Other performers already slated for the festival include Mary J. Blige, Steve Harvey, LL Cool J, Earth, Wind & Fire, Yolanda Adams and Maze featuring Frankie Beverly. The Essence Music Festival originated in 1995 in New Orleans and became an annual event, held at the Superdome. But with the Superdome badly damaged from Hurricane Katrina and much of the city's Black population scattered due to the catastrophe, *Essence* — the magazine geared toward Black women — decided to move the festival to Houston temporarily because of the effects of Katrina.

Lee's layered hostage drama flat

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington) hasn't experienced much excitement at work lately. The demoted NYPD detective has been stuck behind a desk since becoming the subject of a corruption scandal in the wake of the disappearance of \$140,000 in cash.

And he has no reason to expect that anything different is in store the steamy summer day that a gang of four bank robbers dressed in overalls emerges from the "Perfectly Planned Painting" panel truck and proceeds to hold up the Manhattan Trust Company. But this is no conventional take-the-money-and-run heist, but an elaborate, surgically-executed scheme designed by Dalton Russell (Clive Owen), the conspirators' cool, calm and collected ringleader.

When Dalton and company deliberately barricade themselves inside the bank with about 50 customers and employees, the place is soon surrounded by a phalanx of cops and a standoff ensues. With his precinct's hostage negotiator out on vacation, it falls to Frazier and his partner, Bill Mitchell (Chiwetel Ejiofor), to ensure the safe release of the kidnap victims.

This is the promising premise of "Inside Man," a multi-layered mystery directed by Spike Lee. Unfortunately, this over-plotted crime caper soon becomes



Veteran Hollywood performers Denzel Washington and Jodi Foster banter in "Inside Man."

bogged down by a boring absence of action or intrigue, as the beleaguered detective and the crafty mastermind engage in a meaningless mental game of cat-and-mouse.

Relying on a psychological cinematic device is advisable only when working with a well-crafted script capable of maintaining a palpable tension throughout the duration. "Inside Man," to the contrary, is marked more by an absence of urgency, which renders the repeated scenes of policemen poised with pistols at the ready ridiculous. They may as well be standing around holding coffee and donuts, given the tame goings-on.

The problems don't stop there either. Inexplicably, the lead characters frequently resort to one-liners and sappy philosophizing. For instance, at one juncture, a frustrated Frazier sarcastically says of his adversary, "I got him right where I want him: standing right behind me with my pants around my ankles." While a joke like that might elicit a big laugh, such comic asides simultaneously do the film a disservice by undercutting the picture's serious tone.

Dalton, on the other hand, pauses to tell the father of an 8-year-old with a Gameboy that violent video games are bad for his son, and to inform another of his captives that

"money can't buy love."

Worse, Spike pulls a few fairly preposterous rabbits out of his hat, bizarre, 11th hour developments that are impossible to anticipate and make no sense.

It's like investing two hours in a whodunit only to discover that a butler who was barely in the picture did it. Worst of all, he squanders the services of a most-talented cast which, besides Denzel, Clive and Chiwetel, includes Jodi Foster, Willem Dafoe and Christopher Plummer.

A potboiler that never even reaches room temperature.

Fair (1 star). R for profanity and violence.

Lato Firm of Timothy C. Williams

ATTORNEY AT LAW



TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL INJURY CASES

- Automobile Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Dog Bites
- Pedestrian & Other Bodily Injuries

892-0000

844 E. Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada

Neither the State Bar of Nevada nor any agency of the State Bar has certified any lawyer identified here as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability.