

# Denzel exudes action in sci-fi thriller

By Kam Williams  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

ATF Agent Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) is one of the first feds on the scene following an explosion aboard a ferry shuttling members of the military and their families between New Orleans' Algiers and Canal Street piers. Over 500 passengers perish in the fiery inferno, and Doug suspects it to be the work of a terrorist as soon as he discovers traces of a weapon of mass destruction amidst the charred bodies bobbing in the water and washing up along the banks of the Mississippi River.

In fact, he has an uncanny knack for identifying material evidence, since everything he touches seems to fill in another piece of a puzzle that is totally baffling the local police. Then, Carlin's already admirable efforts are augmented immeasurably when he is joined in the investigation by FBI Agent Andrew Pryzwarra (Val Kilmer). For Pryzwarra is privy to a top secret project at headquarters which enables the government to observe anyone anywhere via a complex series of interconnected satellites.

For some reason, the tape-delayed system always shows on the screen events that transpired precisely four



Denzel Washington stars in the sci-fi thriller "Deja Vu."

days and six hours ago. This means that all the authorities have to do to crack the case is point their time machine at the pier from which the ferry embarked and watch until the mastermind (Jim Caviezel) appears.

But the plot thickens when Doug posthumously becomes obsessed with one of the victims, a pretty, young woman named Claire Kuchever (Paula Patton). Upon closer inspection, not

only does he discern that she was dead before the bombing, but that she probably had contact of some sort with the perpetrator. He also becomes smitten with the curvy cutie after watching her undress and take a shower, courtesy of this marvel of modern technology.

So, instead of waiting four days to figure it all out, Agent Carlin comes up with the bright idea of teleporting himself back in time to try to

prevent the attack from ever happening. Of course, the FBI scientists all object, but capitulate after warning Doug that he's risking his life, because the process is yet to be perfected.

This preposterous premise is the point of departure of "Deja Vu," a dialogue-driven, sci-fi adventure directed by Tony Scott. Heavy-laden with pretentious, pseudo-scientific jargon about "worm holes" and "space folding in upon itself," the movie marks the third collaboration between Scott and star Denzel Washington, following earlier outings in "Crimson Tide"

(1995) and "Man on Fire" (2004).

Best described as a cross between "Minority Report" (2002) and "Frequency" (2000), this slight variation on the time travel theme will engage you to the extent that you are able to forgive a script, which repeatedly relies on cartoon physics to explain away every improbable plot development. The movie cleverly mixes the former's "catch a crook before he commits a crime" idea with the latter's more sentimental notion of "going back in order to save a loved one."

The film was shot in The

Big Easy post Katrina, but it generally avoids exploiting the devastation as a backdrop, except for an extended scene through the Lower Ninth Ward. The supporting cast includes Elle Fanning (sister of Dakota) who makes a couple of cameo appearances in an insignificant wraparound role.

Aptly titled, "Deja Vu" is an edge of your seat roller coaster ride, but one you'll be convinced you've been on before.

Very good (3 stars). Rated PG-13 for sensuality, disturbing images, female frontal nudity, intense terror and orbitant violence.

## Black radio pioneer dies

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - John R. Pepper II, co-founder of the first nationwide radio station with programming targeting a Black audience, has died. He was 91.

Pepper died Nov. 20 at St. Francis Hospital after an extended illness, according to Forest Hill Midtown Funeral Home, where services were held Friday.

Still one of Memphis' top stations, WDIA-AM was the first in the South with an all-Black on-air staff. Clear Channel Broadcasting Inc. now owns the station, which reaches five states.

WDIA, which Pepper founded with Bert Ferguson in the 1940s, helped launch the careers of B.B. King and Isaac Hayes, among

others, and eased the way for Blacks throughout the country to break into broadcasting.

Hayes was a member of the station's "teen-town singers," and King, whose real name is Riley King, picked up his stage name while working as a WDIA disc jockey from 1949 to 1955. He was known then as the "Beale Street Blues Boy" and later as simply "B.B."

Pepper also founded what later became Pepper Tanner Advertising Agency.

He is survived by his daughter, Dianne Gilliland of Memphis; two sons, Sam Pepper of Anchorage, Alaska, and John R. Pepper III of Huntingdon, Tenn.; and a granddaughter.

## Snoop arrested yet again

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Snoop Dogg was arrested for investigation of illegally possessing a handgun and drugs as he left NBC Studios after performing on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," police said.

The 35-year-old rapper, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, and two members of his entourage were arrested around 6 p.m. Tuesday after a search of his Diamond Bar home and car, Sgt. Kevin Grandalski said.

Police seized a handgun and some illegal drugs, Grandalski said. The rapper was arrested for investigation of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, possessing cocaine, transporting marijuana and having a false compartment in his vehicle, Grandalski said.

"He was in a car pulling out of the studio" when police stopped him, said Donald Etra, the rapper's attorney.

Etra said he believed Broadus was booked at the jail for investigation of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He made

bail of \$60,000 and was released shortly after 1 a.m. Wednesday, about seven hours after his arrest.

"As of this point, he stands innocent of all charges," Etra said. "The goal tonight was to get him out of jail. The goal tomorrow is to deal with the case."

The rapper is expected to be arraigned Jan. 11, Etra said.

Two acknowledged gang members who are associates of Broadus also were taken into custody, Grandalski said.

Michael Mingo, 33, of Lakewood, was arrested for investigation of possessing burglary tools and Lovell Polk, 36, of Moreno Valley, was arrested for an outstanding warrant, Grandalski said. He did not know the nature of the warrant.

The arrests stemmed from an investigation that followed the rapper's Oct. 26 arrest at Bob Hope Airport after airport police said they found a gun and marijuana in his car, Grandalski said.

"Additional follow-up investigation led detectives to obtaining the search warrant," the sergeant said. He

did not have details.

No charges have been filed in that case but Broadus has a Dec. 12 court appearance for an arraignment.

Etra said the rapper also has a Dec. 4 arraignment in Orange County following his Sept. 27 arrest for investigation of carrying a deadly weapon at John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana.

Security officers said they found a collapsible baton in the entertainer's carry-on luggage. The rapper told deputies at the time of his arrest that the baton was a prop for a movie.

The rapper was convicted in 1990 of cocaine possession and was charged with gun possession after a 1993 traffic stop.

Facing a possible three years in prison, he pleaded guilty in exchange for three years' probation and his promise to make anti-violence public service announcements.

He was acquitted of murder in 1996 following the death of an alleged street gang member killed by gunfire from the vehicle in which he was traveling.

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