

Steve Harvey cleans up

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this is funnier because I took my time honing my material and I'm very proud of it."

Though the film is only being shown on 57 screens, including Charlotte, this is bigger than Harvey imagined it would be.

"You can't outplan God," he said. "I thought this was just going to be a DVD. But He

must see something in me."

Harvey is quick to admit that he is still changing and yes he does still curse. "I did a banquet in New York and I wasn't all the way clean. I still curse, I curse every day but that doesn't make me a bad person or a less just man."

Harvey said the difference in him making a change and

a regular guy doing the same thing is that millions of people see him.

"When I mess up, everybody sees it, but if a regular guy does it, only his friends know," Harvey said.

Harvey's morning show can be heard in Charlotte on WBAV (V101.9) from 6 to 10 a.m.

Want to see the movie?

"Don't Trip... He ain't through with me Yet" opens Friday at:

- Starlight Stadium 24 11240 N. US Hwy 29 (11240 N. Tryon St.)
- Carolina Pavilion 22 9541 South Blvd.
- AMC Concord Mills 24 Concord Mills Mall Concord Mills Blvd.

Cross-dressing path to comedy success

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everyone rolling. Or shall we say HE has everyone rolling. Since making the big time as Madea, Perry is sometimes referred to as a she. Not that he's not a man, but he's so dang good at being a woman that viewers forget that he is a man in grandma's clothing.

• Martin Lawrence as Sheneneh and Big Momma. In Sheneneh Jenkins was in the alley surrounded by male muggers, feel sorry for the muggers.

In between his blockbuster hit movies and his edgy stage acts at comedy clubs, Martin Lawrence's Fox sitcom Martin (1992-97) was at the epicenter of his career. One of his trademarks on the show was portraying multiple characters, his most popular being Sheneneh, Martin's across-the-hall neighbor.

Lawrence didn't bother to change his voice for the part switching Sheneneh (pronounced Sha-NAY-NAY) back and forth from her feminine side as a beautician to her

trash-talking demeanor. She proudly drank malt liquor and was not shy about making sexual advances to someone she was attracted to, like Christopher "Kid" Reid of Kid 'n Play in one wild episode.

Not to be outdone by Madea, Lawrence would take dressing in drag a step further with his two "Big Momma" films, which have grossed almost \$200 million combined. In "Big Momma's House" and "Big Momma's House 2," he plays an undercover cop dressed up as the neighborhood's favorite overweight grandmother in order to catch the bad guys.

• Flip Wilson as Geraldine Jones

Out of the comedic genius of Flip Wilson came Geraldine Jones, the sassy and vivacious sistah who contributed to making "The Flip Wilson Show" one of television's most popular from 1970 to 1974.

In one moment, Geraldine could be seen shaking her finger at someone, telling them in her falsetto voice that she

"takes no stuff" and demands respect. She often got it by threatening to call her never-present boyfriend, Killer.

In another moment, she was flirty and actually came across as an attractive woman, making audiences forget who was actually under the disguise.

Geraldine made famous lines like "The devil made me do it!," "You devil, you!," "Don't touch me!," variations of "When you're hot, you're hot!" and "What you see is what you get!" The last axiom would also be the title of a chart-topping rhythm & blues song by the Dramatics.

Geraldine was loosely based on Butterfly McQueen's character in the classic movie Gone With the Wind. Wilson wrote Geraldine's material for the show, careful to not offend or perpetuate stereotypes about women, especially black women. Black female television role models were

very scarce at the time. Wilson's work for Geraldine, along with all of Wilson's comedy, earned great crossover appeal.

Wilson died in 1998 at the age of 64.

• Jamie Foxx as Wanda. Today, it seems that Jamie may have foxed himself into Hollywood and into the hearts of many. But his character Wanda on the hit TV show In Living Color couldn't get into the heart of any man - not even with her big butt. Ironically, this cross-eyed, blond-wearing role as a woman gave Foxx, whose real name is Eric Bishop, his big break.

With neck rolling, finger pointing and pink lips poked out, Wanda's signature line was, "I'll rock your world!"

While it may have been the end of In Living Color and Wanda when the show ended in 1994, it was not the end for Jamie Foxx.

Rapper T.I. adds leading man to growing resume

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he wouldn't do a "Brokeback" role.

"I would never play a gay role or a pedophile," he said. "That's just something I have no interest in learning about."

"ATI" is the story of four teens coming of age in (as if you don't know) Atlanta. As the friends prepare for life after high school, different challenges bring about turning points in each of their lives. The dramas unfold and resolve at the local roller skating rink, Jellybeans.

This is T.I.'s first big screen role. And he says being T.I. is what makes him different from other actor/rappers.

"I bring something to the screen that other people don't," he said. Even if people compare him to other rappers, "I think people compare me to other rappers that they used to like," he said.

He doesn't mind the comparisons, as long as "they compare me to somebody great."

At 25, T.I. has released four albums and been on two labels. While with Arista Records, he released "I'm Serious" - not a chart topper but an underground hit.

T.I. said he asked to be released from the label because the direction the company was going was a little too pop for him.

And T.I. isn't your typical southern rapper. His vocals are laid back, not "crunk" like Lil' John and he doesn't rap about "shakin' it like a salt

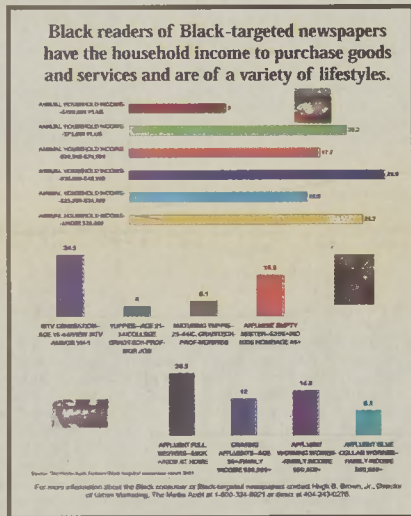
shaker."

"I leave that to those who originated it. They can't do what I do and I don't try to do what they do," he said. "They stay out of my lane and I stay out of theirs unless we collaborate or something."

T.I. is proud of his "ATI" brothers and sisters because it took a lot of hard work for Atlanta to get put on the hip-hop map, he said.

"If you weren't with JD (Jermaine Dupree) or being introduced by the Dungeon Family, you weren't really getting now air play," T.I. said.

Now try turning on the radio without hearing T.I.



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Ne Yo

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n't overshadow something as slick as "Let Me Get This Straight" which is more ghetto-chic than fabulous.

The CD's only other downfall is the preoccupation with sex. Ne-Yo will learn he can be sexy without beating the subject to death.

That aside, "In My Own Words" will be one of the biggest hits of the year and Ne-Yo's rising star is going to be seen worldwide. This kid's got something big.

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