

Literature • Cuisine • Fashion • Internet

out in hollywood

by William Horn
Special to Q-Notes

Playing it gay

Daily Variety reports that Hollywood hotshots Will Smith and Nicolas Cage are seriously considering marriage — at least on film. The stars are said to be interested in a new Universal project entitled *I Now Pronounce You Joe and Benny*. Cage is considering the role of a widowed firefighter who is worried about the fate of his children if he were to die. When his character saves fellow heterosexual Smith from a fiery death, he asks him to marry for the insurance benefits. No one has signed on the dotted line yet, and there is no word on how the movie plans to deal with the fact that same-gender marriage is not legal in the US.

Xena: pregnant princess

What could possibly be more shocking than the outrageous adventures we've seen amazonian warrior Xena survive? The fact that Lucy Lawless, the New Zealand beauty who plays her, is pregnant. The Associated Press is reporting that the 31-year-old actress is expecting her second child sometime in October, her first with new husband Rob Tapert. Tapert, executive producer of the hit syndicated (and lesbian favorite) show, and Lawless were married last March. No word yet on how Gabrielle's taking the news.

Will & Grace score

NBC's freshman comedy *Will & Grace* scored its highest rating ever when it moved into its new timeslot on Thursday following *Friends*. More than 19 million tuned in to watch Grace (Debra Messing) and guest star Molly Shannon wrestle (literately) for Will's (Eric McCormack) attention. While audiences can look forward to an entire month of new episodes in May, in reality the show has already wrapped for the season, with all four stars work-

ing on projects throughout most of the summer.

Tears of joy

When the 1999 Pulitzer Prize winners were announced, the award for fiction went to Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*, his third novel, an homage to Virginia Woolf's classic *Mrs. Dalloway*. "I hadn't expected to be celebrating," said Cunningham, who teaches creative writing at Columbia University. "My partner, Ken Korbett, is my mentor and muse and first and most important reader. He's a clinical psychologist and he's with a patient right now, and when he's done, we'll have a good cry and figure out what to do next."

Briefly...

Rupert Everett, who is currently filming *The Next Best Thing* with Madonna, recently told *USA Weekend* that as a gay man he's "very happy being outside of society." He also noted that he "was never one of those homosexuals saying, 'I've got a ticket! Let me in!' I don't think there's anything great about society that you have to be part of it"...It looks like Oscar's newest darling Gwyneth Paltrow and ex-boyfriend Ben Affleck may re-team in a new Miramax film entitled *Bounce*. The movie was written and is set to be directed by Don Roos, the man behind the hugely popular *The Opposite of Sex*...George Michael, who recently performed at a benefit concert in honor of the late Linda McCartney, is currently recording a track entitled "Y2K" which should be released later this year...Producer/director Herb Ross is currently working on an independent feature about an HIV-positive woman and gay man who try to pass as college students in hopes of reliving their more carefree collegiate days, entitled *The Shallow End*. Ross' credits include *Boys On the Side* which featured a lesbian and HIV-positive character and the tear-jerker *Steel Magnolias*...*After Stonewall*, an historical chronicle of gay and lesbian life from the riots to the millennium, has been released on video from First Run Features. It is also scheduled for a national PBS broadcast on June 23. ▼

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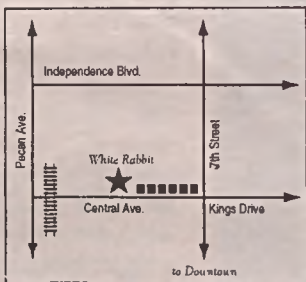
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