

Murphy's 'Metro' misses the No. 1 spot

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - The slapstick comedy "Beverly Hills Ninja" debuted in first place at the U.S. box office, earning \$12.6 million to narrowly edge out Eddie Murphy's "Metro."

"Metro" took in \$12.5 million in its debut, followed by "Evita," which earned \$8.6 million over the four-day weekend that included the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

"Evita" won three Golden Globe awards on Sunday, including one for Madonna as best actress in a musical or comedy.



Meanwhile, "Jerry Maguire" was expected to finish the

four-day period—a traditionally slow one for films despite the national holiday—by topping the \$100 million mark. The Tom Cruise comedy placed fourth with \$8.1 million for a six-week total of \$103.4 million. Cruise won the Golden Globe as best actor in a musical or comedy.

Two horror films, "The Relic" and "Scream," tied for fifth place with \$8 million each. The top 10 films and their estimated grosses for Friday through Monday with final figures to be released today:

1. "Beverly Hills Ninja," \$12.6 million.
2. "Metro," \$12.5 million.
3. "Evita," \$8.6 million.
4. "Jerry Maguire," \$8.1 million.
5. "The Relic," \$8 million (tie).
6. "Scream," \$8 million (tie).
7. "Michael," \$7.1 million.
8. "The People vs. Larry Flynt," \$4 million.
9. "Mother," \$3.5 million (tie).
10. "Jackie Chan's First Strike," \$3.5 million (tie).

'Diff'rent Strokes' curse strikes star

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Todd Bridges, child star of the "Diff'rent Strokes" TV show, was arrested for allegedly ramming a friend's car after a fight, police said.

Bridges, 31, was arrested Sunday for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon. He was jailed for five hours before posting \$20,000 bail.

Bridges and a friend, whose name was withheld, were at a shopping center when they got into an argument, said Officer Don Cox.

The friend got in his car and left. Bridges followed and rammed the friend's car somewhere in Culver City and again in the West Los Angeles area, Cox said.

"As a result of that collision, he hit a couple of parked cars,"

Cox said. "Police came by and arrested Bridges. They were called by somebody."

Bridges, who played Willis on the 1978-86 NBC-TV sitcom, has been arrested several times before.

In 1990, he was acquitted of assault with a deadly weapon in the near fatal shooting of a narcotics dealer in Los Angeles. Bridges was earlier acquitted of attempted murder in the case.

Bridges testified in his November 1989 trial that he became depressed and turned to drugs after the sitcom comedy was canceled in 1986.

One of his co-stars on the show, Dana Plato, also had a series of highly publicized run-ins with the law as well as drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Lee, Wallace Foundation at odds over interview

Continued from 6B

gized enough." The Wallace Foundation, formed by the ex-governor's children and supporters to raise money for a museum, has contacted the Richard Nixon Foundation in Yorba Linda, Calif., asking how it dealt with Oliver Stone's movie "Nixon," a fictionalized film critical of the former president.

"With all the media interest of late we're considering copy-righting (Wallace's) image so we can protect it," said Wallace foundation spokesman David Azbell.

The family also has consulted lawyers about a possible lawsuit over the TNT project, Wallace's son said.

Wallace and his family have objected to several scenes in an early script of the TNT movie, including one in which Wallace contemplates suicide after being shot by a would-be assassin in 1972 while campaigning for president.

The shooting left Wallace paralyzed from the waist down, and he is now deaf and suffering from Parkinson's disease. But the former governor denied ever contemplating suicide.

"I haven't guts enough to kill myself," Wallace, 77, said in an interview published Tuesday in The Birmingham News. "You wouldn't commit suicide when you're in your right mind. It would be sinful."

A spokeswoman for TNT refused to say whether Wallace's complaints resulted in changes to the script.

"We are confident that the movie, when presented in its

final form, will fairly portray the historical record through the medium of docudrama," said TNT publicist Karen Flanzbaum.

The movie, directed by John Frankenheimer and starring Gary Sinise as Wallace, is in its second week of production in California. The Alabama Film Office refused to assist in the project, which also has been criticized by current Gov. Fob James.

The dispute with Lee centers around a lengthy interview he filmed with Wallace last year for an HBO documentary about a 1963 church bombing that killed four black girls in Birmingham.

Wallace, then in his first term as governor, condemned the bombing and posted a reward in the case.

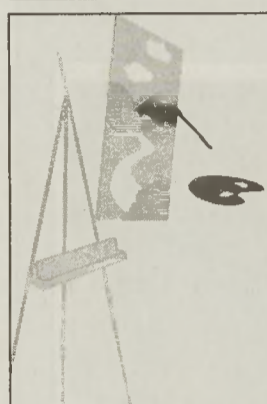
The younger Wallace said Lee asked his father to sign a release allowing "carte blanche" use of the interview, but the family refused. Aides want the use limited to the HBO show, which the younger Wallace called "a worthwhile project."

"This came up when we were still under the impression that the TNT movie was going to be a fair portrayal," said the younger Wallace. "This is not ultra-sensitivity on our part."

Wallace also said Lee acted "uncivilized" and "sullen" during the interview, refusing to speak with people who stood in halls to see him and wearing shorts and a ballcap.

A publicist at the New York office of Lee's company, 40 Acres and a Mule Film Works, did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

What's Up



ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

SPIRIT SQUARE CENTER FOR ARTS & EDUCATION, 345 North College St. "A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie," through Jan. 25, Knight Gallery.

"Crossing Cultural Boundaries: Ashanti Kente Cloth in American Popular Material Culture," through Jan. 25, Atrium cases.

"The Real McCoy: Profiles in African-American Ingenuity," through Feb. 8.

ALL THAT'S JAZZ, Hodges Taylor Gallery, 119 East Seventh St. Tuesday - Friday 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Exhibit features works from numerous African American artists that capture the essence of jazz music in several mediums. Included is Verna Hart's "Jazz Charlotte." Through Jan. 25.

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THE ARTIST, "LOVE 4 ONE ANOTHER CHARITIES TOUR '97", scheduled for 8 p.m. Jan. 17, Charlotte Hornets Training Facility, Fort Mill, SC, has been postponed indefinitely.

If you have information about black entertainment events, meetings, lectures or any other events of interest, send it to *What's Up!* The Charlotte Post, 1531 Camden Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Deadline is 5 p.m. Fridays.

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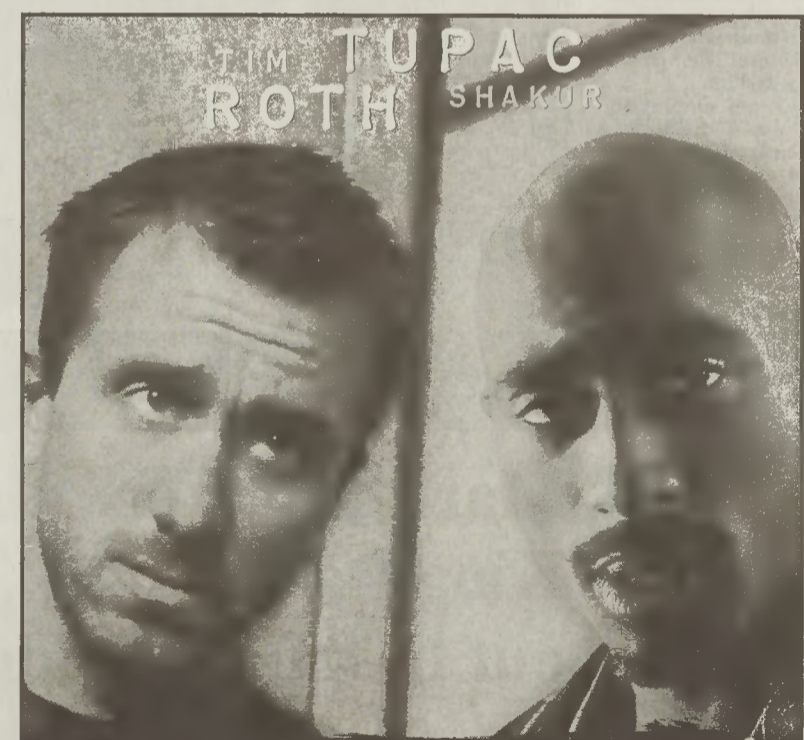
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